

NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release

Contact: Meta Gaertner, College of Veterinary Medicine, 612.624.4752
Ashley Burt, Academic Health Center, 612.624.2449

U OF MN COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE NAMES DAVIES TO LEMAN CHAIR IN SWINE HEALTH AND PRODUCTIVITY

*Chair is considered one of the world's top
swine-related faculty positions*

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (January 10, 2003)—Peter Davies, B.V.S., Ph.D., a globally recognized expert in swine epidemiology and production, has been named to the Allen D. Leman Chair in Swine Health and Productivity at the University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine. The Australian native, who currently holds the Chair in Public Health and Food Safety in the Institute of Veterinary, Animal and Biomedical Sciences at Massey University, New Zealand, will join the University of Minnesota August 1, 2003.

Established in 1995, the Leman Chair is widely considered one of the world's most prestigious faculty positions focused on swine medicine. It is of great significance to swine veterinarians and pork producers in Minnesota. Faculty who hold the position are expected to act as a catalyst for innovation and change within the University of Minnesota swine faculty and the swine industry overall.

“Dr. Davies is a respected world expert in swine epidemiology, especially focusing on Salmonella infections in pigs and pork,” says Jeff Klausner, D.V.M. and dean of the University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine. “He also brings extensive production medicine and international agricultural experience that will be invaluable to the swine industry in this state.”

Davies holds a bachelor of veterinary science degree from Melbourne University and a Ph.D. in reproductive physiology from the University of Sydney. His career includes work as a veterinary practitioner in Australia and the United Kingdom, an agricultural livestock and public health advisor in Brazil, and a veterinary research officer and a senior veterinary officer specializing in swine in Australia.

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Davies also worked as a research associate in swine health at the University of Minnesota, and spent five years as an assistant and associate professor of swine medicine at North Carolina State University. He has received funded grants exceeding \$1.8 million for his research initiatives, written more than 140 scientific papers, and given more than 80 invited presentations worldwide.

“Dr. Davies has immense credibility within the swine industry, and is an accomplished academician who can successfully collaborate within an already strong swine faculty,” says Trevor Ames, D.V.M., M.S., chair, Department of Clinical and Population Sciences. “Given his varied experiences with public health and animal food production issues, he also will add value to the work of the University of Minnesota’s new Center for Animal Health and Food Safety.”

Minnesota is the nation’s third largest pork producer, a position the CVM and its swine faculty have helped the state achieve. The CVM’s Swine Disease Eradication Center is one of the nation’s leading hubs for swine disease control, eradication and outreach, with activities that include an annual international swine disease eradication symposium attended by veterinarians, researchers, and swine producers and industry leaders.

Davies will join the Department of Clinical and Population Sciences full time and serve as a full professor. The Leman Chair was established in 1995 to honor the career of an outstanding CVM faculty member, Allen Leman, D.V.M., Ph.D., and is one of only two endowed chairs in the CVM. Dr. Davies is the second to hold the position.

For more information, visit www.cvm.umn.edu

The Academic Health Center is home to the University of Minnesota’s seven health professional schools and colleges as well as several health-related centers and institutes, including the College of Veterinary Medicine. Founded in 1851, the University is one of the oldest and largest land grant institutions in the country. The AHC mission is to prepare the new health professionals who improve the health of communities, discover and deliver new treatments and cures and strengthen the economy.

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Contact: Sarah Youngerman, Academic Health Center, 612.624.4604
Brenda Hudson, Academic Health Center, 612.624.5680

COMPREHENSIVE BUBONIC PLAGUE INFORMATION AVAILABLE ON UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA WEBSITE

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (January 15, 2003) — In response to today's events at Texas Tech University, where vials containing samples of bubonic plague were reported missing, the University of Minnesota offers comprehensive information on bioterrorism agents, including bubonic plague, on their website www.cidrap.umn.edu/cidrap.

Michael T. Osterholm, Ph.D., M.P.H., is director of the Center for Infectious Disease Research and Public Policy, and professor, School of Public Health, University of Minnesota. Following the September 11 terrorist attacks, Osterholm was appointed to the Secretary's Advisory Council of Public Health Preparedness, Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

The University's Center for Infectious Disease's website is a comprehensive and up-to-the minute source of information on the prevention, control, and treatment of bioterrorism agents, along with practical information on bioterrorism preparedness and planning. In addition to bubonic plague, it includes information on the changing recommendations and developments surrounding smallpox and anthrax vaccination.

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MEDIA ADVISORY For Immediate Release

*Office:
A395 Mayo Memorial Building
612-624-5100
Fax: 612-625-2129*

What: Interprofessional Education and Resource Center open house
When: Friday, January 17, 2003; 10:30 a.m. – noon
Where: 2-241 Phillips-Wangensteen Building, 516 Delaware Street, S.E.
U of MN east bank campus
Contact: Ashley Burt, Academic Health Center, 612.624.2449

U OF MN OPENS INTERPROFESSIONAL EDUCATION AND RESOURCE CENTER

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (Jan. 16, 2003) — The University of Minnesota will hold an open house for the new Interprofessional Education and Resource Center (IERC) on Friday, Jan. 17 from 10:30 a.m. to noon.

“The 10,000-square-foot facility is devoted to the teaching and assessment of students’ diagnostic, communications, and treatment skills that are essential for successful practice,” said Jane Miller, Ph.D., IERC director.

The new facility provides the necessary simulated clinic environment for students in medicine, nursing, pharmacy, public health, dentistry, and veterinary medicine programs, said Miller. Activities in the IERC will include teaching clinical skills, such as patient interviewing, performing diagnostic procedures, good clinical and professional behaviors in a realistic primary care setting, and assessing how well students have learned these skills through structured exams that simulate real patient encounters and are observed by a faculty member.

Some of the features of the 18 IERC exam rooms include:

- Two cameras (one fixed, one 360 degrees) for unobtrusive monitoring of student performance and communication during exams
- Sophisticated diagnostic equipment
- Wireless and wired hubs for full telecommunications capability using laptops

For more information about the open house, contact Mary Kenyon at 612.626.1987.

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NEWS RELEASE **For Immediate Release**

Contact: Ashley Burt, Academic Health Center, 612.624.2449
Barbara Tabor, 651.450.1342

HEART DISEASE AND THE FAMILY TREE ***University of Minnesota researchers look for genes that contribute to cardiovascular disease***

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (January 23, 2003) — If you share certain genetic information with a sibling, parent, or grandparent, is it likely that you'll also share the same diseases? That's the question that University of Minnesota researchers are hoping to answer through a \$10 million grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

The School of Public Health's Division of Epidemiology received the four-year grant to identify and study the genes that contribute to human cardiovascular disease. Researchers will focus in particular on how genetics affect the body's triglyceride levels. A triglyceride is a form of fat that's transported in the blood system.

"Our goal is to discover the genes that play a role in cardiovascular disease so we can target genetic variations with new drug treatments," said Donna Arnett, Ph.D., associate professor in the Division of Epidemiology and lead investigator on the study. "We chose to focus on triglycerides because we've seen a correlation between triglycerides and cardiovascular disease in recent studies conducted at the university and elsewhere."

The NIH study builds on previous research conducted by the university in the 1990s and funded by the National Heart Blood and Lung Institute. Research participants will be pulled from a database that was developed during this earlier study and that's comprised of families from Minnesota and Salt Lake City. Ten people from each family — spanning three generations — will be studied.

Participants will undergo two interventions. The first will focus on fat loading, which requires research subjects to drink a very high fat content milkshake followed by a blood test to measure their triglyceride level three to five hours later.

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“We believe that the body’s response to triglycerides after eating may help explain what makes people susceptible to heart disease,” said Arnett. “This is a new approach and one that we think is more realistic to how people actually live. When people have their cholesterol and triglyceride levels checked, it’s usually done after fasting, which doesn’t accurately represent our lifestyle and it doesn’t address how the body responds to high-fat foods.”

The second intervention focuses on the body’s response to a drug called fenofibrate. Also known as TriCor™, Lipanthyl®, or Lipidil®, fenofibrate is an FDA-approved drug that’s currently being used to treat high triglycerides. Only those participants with a triglyceride level of 115 milligrams per deciliter will be eligible for the drug study. Current medical practice considers a triglyceride level of 150 to be high.

“We already know how fenofibrate works, but we want to identify different genetic pathways and how the body responds to the drug so we can understand why it works better in some people than others,” said Arnett.

The sample population will include 1,200 people who will receive fenofibrate and/or a placebo for 12 weeks. Participants will have their triglyceride levels measured three times during this period.

The research team will use a tool called linkage analysis to select and map different chromosomal markers that will help identify genetic similarities and determine if there’s a connection between the participant’s genes and their responses to the interventions.

According to Arnett, the grant that the University of Minnesota received is one of five NIH grants to explore cardiovascular disease. Arnett’s team has received an additional \$1 million to serve as the administrative coordinating center for all five studies, which include Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Md.; Tulane University, New Orleans, La.; University of Louisiana, Baton Rouge, La.; and the University of Maryland, Baltimore, Md.

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ASSISTED REPRODUCTION TO BE DISCUSSED AT U OF MN SYMPOSIUM *Model bill to be presented*

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (Jan. 27, 2003) —A symposium aimed at tackling the contentious legal and ethical issues surrounding assisted reproductive technologies will be held Jan. 28 at the University of Minnesota.

“Minnesota legislators introduced numerous bills on assisted reproductive technologies in the last legislative session,” said Susan Wolf, J.D., professor at the University of Minnesota Law School, Medical School, and Center for Bioethics and Chair of the Consortium sponsoring the event. “But so far, none of the bills have passed. There are contentious issues around this subject: Should surrogate motherhood be banned? Should embryo donation be allowed? Can we clarify who the parents are of children born from collaborative reproduction? Can you use an individual’s sperm or embryo after he or she dies?”

This session, the debate is set to begin again. Symposium panelist Rep. Kathy Tinglestad has already put forward a new bill in this legislative session.

Wolf and other experts in the field will discuss the laws currently in place in Minnesota and how they compare to the laws in other states in the January 28 symposium. In addition, Wolf will describe a model bill she has drafted. “The goal is to bring Minnesota into the 21st century on these issues,” said Wolf. “Minnesota is lagging behind other states.” The symposium is sponsored by the University of Minnesota’s Consortium on Law and Values in Health, Environment & the Life Sciences.

WHAT: Revamping the Law on Assisted Reproduction:
From IVF to Surrogate Motherhood

WHO: **Alan H. DeCherney, M.D.**, is the director of Reproductive Endocrinology and a professor in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the UCLA Medical Center. He serves as the editor-in-chief of *Fertility and Sterility*.

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John Robertson, J.D., holds the Vinson & Elkins Chair at the University of Texas School of Law at Austin and serves as chair of the Ethics Committee of the American Society for Reproductive Medicine.

Panelists include:

Rep. Kathy Tinglestad is serving her fourth term in the Minnesota House of Representatives and was the chief author of one of last year's bills on assisted reproduction.

Tom Prichard, J.D., M.P.P., is president of the Minnesota Family Council.

Lisa Erickson, M.D., is a board-certified reproductive endocrinologist and infertility sub-specialist at the Center for Reproductive Medicine in Minneapolis.

Sean Tipton is the director of Public Affairs for the American Society for Reproductive Medicine (ASRM), the nation's leading organization for professionals involved in reproductive health care and infertility.

WHEN: TUESDAY, January 28, 2003, 8:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

WHERE: Hubert H. Humphrey Center, University of Minnesota
Cowles Auditorium
301 19th Avenue South, Minneapolis
Ramp parking is available.

To register for this symposium, or for more information, call (612) 625-0055
or visit www.lifesci.consortium.umn.edu/conferences/art.php

This symposium is sponsored by the University of Minnesota's Consortium on Law and Values in Health, Environment & the Life Sciences. Registration is available at the door.

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MEDIA ADVISORY
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WHAT: Public lecture with Dr. Susan Love, adjunct professor of surgery at UCLA and the medical director of the Susan Love, M.D., Breast Cancer Foundation

WHEN: 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, February 4, 2003

WHERE: Ted Mann Concert Hall, University of Minnesota West Bank

CONTACT: Ann Browning, (612) 626-7583, brown222@umn.edu
Center for Interdisciplinary Studies of Writing, University of Minnesota

Good Writing = Strong Medicine: Dr. Susan Love's Rhetorical Prescriptions for Better Health

Free and open to the public

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (January 30, 2003) – The 14th Annual Colloquium sponsored by the Center for Interdisciplinary Studies of Writing will focus on the rhetoric of medicine, featuring a keynote speech by Dr. Susan Love. Dr. Love will address the significance of good writing in the sciences, specifically the public's access to and understanding of medical knowledge and the rhetorical roles of scientists and physicians as they address the public and patients. Love is an author, teacher, surgeon, researcher, activist, and a leading voice in the fight against breast cancer. She is perhaps the most visible advocate for women's health in the United States. She has conducted research on breast cancer and hormone therapy, and has published numerous books and articles on these subjects. Her best-selling *Dr. Susan Love's Breast Book* set the national standard for effective patient communication. Her latest book, *Dr. Susan Love's Hormone Book: Making Informed Choices About Menopause*, is approaching the earlier book in popular sales.

Cosponsors for this event include: Abbott Northwestern Hospital's Piper Breast Center, Academic Initiative and Community Initiative of the University of Minnesota in Partnership with Coca-Cola, Academic Health Center, Center for Advanced Feminist Studies, College of Biological Sciences, College of Liberal Arts Scholarly Events Fund, Consortium on Law and Values in Health, Environment & the Life Sciences, Department of Communication Studies, Department of Cultural Studies and Comparative Literature, Department of English, Department of English Graduate Student Organization, Department of Women's Studies, Graduate and Professional Student Assembly, Novasoy, Office for Multicultural & Academic Affairs, Office for University Women, Office of the Vice President for Research and Dean of the Graduate School, Schochet Center for GLBT Studies, University of Minnesota Medical Auxiliary, Vice President and Vice Provost for Faculty and Academic Programs, Women's Cancer Resource Center.

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U OF MN OPENS ADDITIONAL LOCATION OF THE FAIRVIEW-UNIVERSITY BREAST CENTER

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (January 30, 2003) — The newest addition to the Fairview-University Breast Center will hold an open house today from 4-7 p.m. The new clinics are located at the University of Minnesota Physicians Masonic Cancer Center. Clinics are tailored to provide improved delivery of breast and cancer care to meet patients' needs. The open house will be an opportunity to learn more about the center's latest technology and care available to patients.

WHAT: Open house for the newest location of the Fairview-University Breast Center

WHEN: TODAY, 4-7 p.m.

WHERE: Masonic Cancer Center, University of Minnesota
First Floor
242 Harvard Street, Minneapolis
Ramp parking is available

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U OF MINNESOTA COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE INCREASES ENROLLMENT BY 13 PERCENT

Responds to growing need for food production, public health veterinarians

MINNEAPOLIS/ST. PAUL (Jan. 31, 2003)—The University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine has announced that it will increase annual class enrollment by 13 percent, or 10 students, beginning in fall 2003. The goal is to help the college better meet the growing state and national need for food-animal and public health veterinarians.

The College of Veterinary Medicine (CVM) currently admits and graduates 80 students each year. The last time it increased enrollment was in 2000, when the CVM added four students.

According to CVM Dean Jeffrey Klausner, D.V.M., the increase comes at a time of growing concern about the shortage of food animal veterinarians. At the same time, the nation faces a heightened awareness of threats from emerging infectious diseases, agroterrorism, and food-borne illnesses, Klausner said.

“The demand for veterinarians trained in food animal and public health is fast outpacing the available supply, particularly in light of economic and political changes over the past few years,” Klausner noted. “We’re committed to educating more veterinary students with the qualifications to provide such services.”

The college also remains committed to training veterinarians for careers in companion animal practice, and equine practice. Expanding its enrollment simply enhances the contributions CVM can make to all veterinary practice fields, the dean said.

CVM’s addition of 10 students also reflects its commitment to a “5x7” initiative launched in 2002 by the American Association of Veterinary Medical Colleges. The initiative seeks to train 500 additional public health veterinarians by 2007.

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“Veterinarians have always played a critical role in food production, understanding the transmission of food-borne illness, and evaluating food production and processing practices,” said Klausner. “In addition, they have a keen understanding of zoonotic diseases – that is, animal diseases that can be transmitted to humans.”

As a result, Klausner noted, veterinarians play an important public health role, ranging from developing strategies to prevent illnesses or injuries such as animal bites to developing programs to monitor for agro or bioterrorism threats.

According to Laura Molgaard, D.V.M. and CVM associate dean of academic and student affairs, veterinary colleges nationwide are increasing enrollment. However, the college holds a unique position in furthering animal food production and public health, she said.

“The University has long been a national leader in educating veterinarians to support the complex and changing needs of food producers, from the farm to the table. More recently, we became the second veterinary college in the country to offer a dual D.V.M./M.P.H. (Masters of Public Health) program,” Molgaard said.

Veterinary students who concentrate on food-animal studies typically work with family farmers or for large agricultural producers. Graduates of the CVM’s Doctor of Veterinary Medicine/Master of Public Health program are qualified to pursue careers with local, state, and federal government agencies such as the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

To learn more about educational programs at the University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine, please contact dvminfo@umn.edu, call 612.624.4747, or visit the Web site www.cvm.umn.edu.

The University of Minnesota’s College of Veterinary Medicine improves the health and well-being of animals and people by providing high-quality veterinary training, conducting leading-edge research and delivering innovative veterinary services.

NEWS RELEASE

Embargo: Saturday, Feb. 1, 2003
Contact: Jennifer Gatti, University of Minnesota Cancer Center, 612.508.2108

Office:
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**U OF M CANCER CENTER DIRECTOR RECIEVES LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT
AWARD FOR PIONEERING WORK IN CHILDHOOD LEUKEMIA
*Dr. John Kersey honored for research, leadership, patient care***

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (Feb. 1, 2003) — The American Society of Blood and Marrow Transplantation (ASBMT) has named University of Minnesota Cancer Center Director John Kersey, M.D., recipient of its 2003 Lifetime Achievement Award. This award recognizes Kersey's pioneering work in blood and marrow transplantation and his major contributions to the current understanding of the cellular and molecular basis of childhood leukemia.

"Dr. Kersey has been one of the leaders in our field, especially in the translational science of human acute leukemia," said John Wingard, M.D., ASBMT president. "His lab was one of the first in the country to use monoclonal antibodies to treat leukemia."

In 1975, Kersey and colleagues performed the world's first successful bone marrow transplant for lymphoma. The patient was a 16-year-old boy with a rare form of cancer called Burkitt's lymphoma, which at the time was a fatal disease. That patient is now a husband and father in his 40s and doing well.

Always at the forefront of understanding the role of stem cell transplants for leukemia, Kersey was among the first to recognize that leukemia represents distinct stages of normal lymphocytes, including T-cells. His studies helped explain the mechanisms of basic lymphocyte function and defined the role of total lymphoid irradiation and T-cell depletion for graft-versus-host-disease.

Kersey was a force behind the creation of the University of the Minnesota Cancer Center, which was established in 1991 and designated a Comprehensive Cancer Center by the National Cancer Institute in 1998.

A graduate of Dartmouth College, Kersey earned his medical degree in 1964 at the University of Minnesota Medical School. After an internship, he joined the U.S. Army and served in Kenya, Pakistan, Turkey, and California. From 1968 to 1972 he completed residencies

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in pathology, immunology, oncology, and pediatrics at the University of Minnesota and then joined the faculty. From 1974 to 1995, he was director of the University's Bone Marrow Transplant Program, which trains scientists from around the world.

Kersey has served as president of the International Society of Experimental Hematology and of the American Society for Blood and Marrow Transplantation. He is the author of nearly 500 medical journal articles, including publications in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, *Lancet*, *Science*, *Nature*, *Journal of the American Medical Association*, *Annals of Internal Medicine* and *Cancer*. He is an associate editor of *Blood*, the *Journal of Clinical Immunology*, and *Cancer Research*.

ASBMT is a national professional association that promotes advances in the field of hematopoietic stem cell transplantation and cellular therapy. ASBMT members include clinicians and research investigators throughout the United States and as well as international members from around the world. The annual Lifetime Achievement Award will be presented Feb. 1 at the ASBMT annual meeting in Keystone, Colo., and is supported by a grant from Pharmacia Corporation.

The University of Minnesota Cancer Center is a National Cancer Institute-designated Comprehensive Cancer Center. Awarded more than \$70 million in peer-reviewed grants during fiscal year 2002, the Cancer Center conducts cancer research that advances knowledge and enhances care. The center also engages community outreach and public education efforts addressing cancer. To learn more about cancer, visit the University of Minnesota Cancer Center Web site at www.cancer.umn.edu. For cancer questions, call the Cancer Center information line at 1-888-CANCER MN (1-888-226-2376) or 612-624-2620 in the metro area.

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Brenda Hudson, Academic Health Center, 612.624.5680

SHIFTING IDEAS OF DISABILITY TO BE ADDRESSED AT PUBLIC FORUM

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (February 4, 2003) — A leading authority on the legal and medical issues surrounding disability will lecture at a public forum at the University of Minnesota on Thursday, Feb. 6. Professor Wendy Parmet, J.D., M.P.H., Northeastern University School of Law, will tackle the shifting meanings of disability as part of a series on the Societal Implications of the Life Sciences, co-sponsored by the University's Consortium on Law and Values in Health, Environment & the Life Sciences and Joint Degree Program on Law, Health & the Life Sciences.

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), passed in 1990, has provoked a tremendous amount of litigation and debate over what is meant by "disability," said Parmet. Recent Supreme Court cases have altered the meaning and the protective reach of the ADA, she added.

"Moreover, 'disability' means different things in different contexts," said Parmet. In the last 30 years, three major movements have challenged the role of the medical profession in American life and law: the disability rights movement, the bioethics movement, and a community/public health movement. "Deep tensions among these movements exist. Most notably, the disability rights movement raises profound questions about the bioethics focus on patient autonomy and the public health emphasis on preventing disability," said Parmet.

WHAT: Shifting Visions of Disability: Public Health, Law & Ethics

WHO: **Wendy Parmet, J.D., M.P.H.**, is a professor of law at Northeastern University School of Law and program director of the school's Juris Doctorate-Master of Public Health Program with Tufts University School of Medicine. Her work focuses on discrimination, public health, and health law.

WHEN: THURSDAY, February 6, 12:15-1:15 p.m.

WHERE: Fredrick R. Weisman Museum, University of Minnesota
William G. Shepherd Room
333 East River Road, Minneapolis
Ramp parking is available

For more information, call 612.625.0055 or visit www.lifesci.consortium.umn.edu

NEWS RELEASE

Embargo: Friday, Feb. 7, 2003

Contact: Rebecca Lentz, College of Pharmacy, 612.624.7654
Brenda Hudson, Academic Health Center, 612.624.5680

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**U OF MN STUDY QUESTIONS PROTECTION OF PNEUMONIA VACCINE
Revaccination may be required earlier than previously recommended**

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (Feb. 5, 2003)—Patients who receive the pneumonia vaccine booster shot may be at risk for contracting the disease just one year after getting the booster shot, instead of being protected for life as currently presumed, according to University of Minnesota researchers. The study, published in the Feb. 7 issue of the *Journal of the American Geriatrics Society*, is the first to look at how long patients retain the protection from a revaccination against pneumococcal pneumonia.

“A booster vaccination of patients just once after five years may not be sufficient,” said Thomas Lackner, Pharm.D., lead researcher on the study. “Until now, health care workers have believed the vaccine protects most patients for life after a single vaccination. Current guidelines only call for a single booster shot for certain patients—including elderly people—five years after their first vaccination.”

Patients in the study had as many or fewer antibodies that protect against pneumococcal disease one year after receiving the booster pneumococcal vaccine than they did before, said Lackner, clinical professor at the University’s College of Pharmacy and faculty member at the college’s Institute for the Study of Geriatric Pharmacotherapy. The research raises the question of whether frail, elderly patients, who are most at risk for contracting and dying from pneumococcal infections, should be vaccinated more frequently than current guidelines recommend, he said. Pneumonia is one of the top five causes of death in people over the age of 65, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Most types of pneumonia are caused by pneumococcal bacteria.

Researchers measured the antibody levels of 67 patients in six nursing homes in the Twin Cities and then revaccinated the patients. Researchers measured patients’ antibody levels at one month, six months, and one year after vaccination. Patients in the study showed a substantial rise in protective antibody levels one month after revaccination. But one year after revaccination, those antibody levels had fallen back to—or lower than—initial antibody levels.

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More than 175,000 patients are hospitalized with pneumococcal pneumonia each year, and up to 60 percent of elderly patients die from the disease, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Pneumococcal pneumonia can cause serious complications, including meningitis and heart valve infection. Eighty percent of elderly patients who develop pneumococcal meningitis die.

The study was funded with an unrestricted grant from Wyeth-Lederle Laboratories, which no longer manufactures the pneumococcal vaccine.

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MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (February 5, 2003) — A leading authority on the legal and medical issues surrounding disability will lecture at a public forum at the University of Minnesota on Thursday, Feb. 6. Professor Wendy Parmet, J.D., M.P.H., Northeastern University School of Law, will tackle the shifting meanings of disability as part of a series on the Societal Implications of the Life Sciences, co-sponsored by the University's Consortium on Law and Values in Health, Environment & the Life Sciences and Joint Degree Program on Law, Health & the Life Sciences.

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), passed in 1990, has provoked a tremendous amount of litigation and debate over what is meant by "disability," said Parmet. Recent Supreme Court cases have altered the meaning and the protective reach of the ADA, she added.

"Moreover, 'disability' means different things in different contexts," said Parmet. In the last 30 years, three major movements have challenged the role of the medical profession in American life and law: the disability rights movement, the bioethics movement, and a community/public health movement. "Deep tensions among these movements exist. Most notably, the disability rights movement raises profound questions about the bioethics focus on patient autonomy and the public health emphasis on preventing disability," said Parmet.

WHAT: Shifting Visions of Disability: Public Health, Law & Ethics

WHO: **Wendy Parmet**, J.D., M.P.H., is a professor of law at Northeastern University School of Law and program director of the school's Juris Doctorate-Master of Public Health Program with Tufts University School of Medicine. Her work focuses on discrimination, public health, and health law.

WHEN: THURSDAY, February 6, 12:15-1:15 p.m.

WHERE: Fredrick R. Weisman Museum, University of Minnesota
William G. Shepherd Room
333 East River Road, Minneapolis
Ramp parking is available

For more information, call 612.625.0055 or visit www.lifesci.consortium.umn.edu

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NEWS RELEASE

Embargo: Monday, February 10, 2003, 3 p.m. (CT)

Contact: Brenda Hudson, Academic Health Center, 612.624.5680

Office:
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Fax: 612-625-2129

U OF MN RESEARCH FINDS DRUG EDUCATION PROGRAM MORE EFFECTIVE FOR ADOLESCENT BOYS WHEN PEERS AND PARENTS ARE INVOLVED

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (Feb. 6, 2003) — The Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) Plus program enhanced the effectiveness of the D.A.R.E. curriculum among boys and was more effective than the usual drug education curricula at the middle school level, according to University of Minnesota researchers. The study will be published Feb. 10 in *The Archives of Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine*, one of the *JAMA/Archives* journals.

D.A.R.E. is the most widely used drug use prevention program in the United States, according to several research studies. “Among boys,” said lead researcher and epidemiologist Cheryl Perry, Ph.D., School of Public Health, “those involved in the D.A.R.E. Plus program were significantly less likely than those in D.A.R.E.-only schools or the control schools to show the usual increases in tobacco use, alcohol use, multi-drug use, and violent behavior, and were somewhat less likely to increase current smoking and victimization.”

The D.A.R.E. curriculum provides skills in resisting pressure to use drugs and in handling violent situations. It also focuses on character building and citizenship skills, taught by police officers. The D.A.R.E. Plus program also includes a classroom-based, parental involvement program called “On the VERGE.” VERGE is led by specially trained teachers and peer leaders. D.A.R.E. Plus also includes a smoking prevention theater production, parent postcards, peer-led extracurricular activities, and neighborhood action teams.

The study evaluated the effect of the D.A.R.E. and D.A.R.E. Plus programs on drug use and violence on seventh and eighth graders in 24 schools. Eight of the schools employed the D.A.R.E. curriculum, eight used D.A.R.E. Plus, and eight did their usual drug prevention programs for their seventh grade students.

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The researchers found that there were no significant differences between D.A.R.E. only and the controls in terms of tobacco, alcohol, or marijuana use, or violence for both boys and girls. Among boys, those in the D.A.R.E. Plus schools were less likely than those in control schools to show increases in alcohol use, alcohol use in the past year or past month, tobacco use, current smoking, multi-drug use, and victimization.

Among boys, those in the D.A.R.E. Plus schools were significantly less likely than those in the D.A.R.E.-only schools to show increases in tobacco use behavior and intentions and in violent behavior and intentions, and were marginally less likely to increase current smoking and victimization.

“The D.A.R.E. Plus program demonstrates that a multi-component intervention significantly improved the D.A.R.E. middle and junior high school D.A.R.E. curriculum and became an effective intervention for reducing increases in alcohol, tobacco, and multi-drug use and victimization among adolescent boys,” said Perry.

The sex differences in outcomes require greater exploration, said Perry. “Because boys were at greater risk in general, these results suggest that the intervention was reaching an audience that was at a high risk and that these efforts were warranted.” Prevention programs need to be broadened, she concluded, by including parents, peers, and other community members.

The Academic Health Center is home to the University of Minnesota's seven health professional schools and colleges, including the School of Public Health, as well as several health-related centers and institutes. Founded in 1851, the University is one of the oldest and largest land grant institutions in the country. The AHC mission is to prepare the new health professionals who improve the health of communities, discover and deliver new treatments and cures, and strengthen the economy.

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NEWS RELEASE

Embargo: Monday, February 10, 2003, 4 p.m C.T.

Contact: Brenda Hudson, Academic Health Center, 612.624.5680

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U OF MN RESEARCHERS DISCOVER GENETIC PATHWAY IN LUPUS *Blood test helps in diagnosis and treatment*

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (February 6, 2003)—Researchers at the University of Minnesota have identified the distinct patterns of gene expression found in the blood cells of most people with systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE), a complex, inflammatory autoimmune disease that affects multiple organs. This is the first time such a pathway has been identified in an autoimmune disease, and researchers believe the discovery has the potential to diagnose and guide therapy in patients with severe lupus. The study will be published in the online early edition of the journal *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS)* on Feb. 10.

“For the first time, we not only have a blood test to diagnose lupus,” said Timothy W. Behrens, M.D., professor of medicine, Medical School, and principal investigator, “but we also have the potential to direct therapies in treating this disease.”

In SLE, a person’s immune system begins attacking its own tissues. Organs commonly targeted in SLE include the skin, kidneys, joints, lungs, and the central nervous system. The severity of disease and the response to therapy vary widely between patients, said Behrens, and this leads to significant challenges in the diagnosis and management of lupus. “Identifying the genetic pathway gives us a strong rationale for using treatments that could block this pathway. For instance, drugs that are known to block this inflammatory pathway are also likely to benefit lupus patients whose pathways are affected. We hope our research will lead to the use of this kind of blood test in clinical practice,” he said.

The pathway was identified by the use of a new technique called microarray testing, a powerful emerging technology that allows for simultaneous measurement of thousands of genes per sample. “Cells in the blood turn on, or activate, certain genes, and by using microarray technology, we were able to measure the expression of thousands of genes all at once, rather than one gene at a time,” said Behrens. “The pathway was able to be identified because we could observe the common expression patterns of related genes.”

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Facts on lupus:

- More than one-quarter million Americans have systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE), commonly known as lupus.
- Lupus is extremely difficult to diagnose because it often mimics other illnesses and/or has transient symptoms.
- According to the National Institutes of Health, nine out of ten people who have lupus are women.
- Lupus is three times more common in African-American women than in Caucasian women, and is also more common in women of Hispanic, Asian, and Native American descent.
- In most cases, symptoms first appear in women during their childbearing years (ages 15 to 45).
- Lupus can strike young children, older people, or men.
- Lupus can cause life-threatening damage to major organs such as kidneys, lungs, heart, and nervous systems.
- According to the Centers for Disease Control, the annual number of deaths from lupus rose 60 percent between 1979 and 1998.
- Thousands of Americans die of lupus and its complications annually.

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Contact: Ashley Burt, Academic Health Center, 612.624.2449
Brenda Hudson, Academic Health Center, 612.624.5680

**U OF MN AND MAYO SCHOOL OF HEALTH
ANNOUNCE NEW DEGREE IN RESPIRATORY CARE**
Bachelor of Applied Science is the only degree of its kind offered in MN

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (Feb. 7, 2003) — The University of Minnesota and Mayo School of Health Sciences announce a collaboration to educate students in respiratory care. The new Bachelor of Applied Science in Respiratory Care is the only degree of its kind offered in Minnesota.

"In southeastern Minnesota, health care is one of the largest and fastest growing sectors of our economy," said David Carl, provost at the University of Minnesota-Rochester. "This degree is the next step in our efforts to meet the immediate and future demands for health care education in our region."

The respiratory care program represents the first collaboration between the University of Minnesota and Mayo School of Health Sciences to provide a four-year degree program for students in the field of allied health. The bachelor's degree will be awarded through the University of Minnesota, and a certificate in respiratory care through Mayo School of Health Sciences. The program will begin fall semester 2004 with the admission of junior-level students.

"This degree better prepares individuals to meet the clinical and professional demands of the discipline," said Faith Zimmerman, program director for health sciences at the University of Minnesota-Rochester. "Organization of this degree also addresses the current critical shortage of practicing respiratory therapists and will help to educate new practitioners to offset future anticipated shortages."

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New Respiratory Care program, page 2

Students enrolling in this program can pursue their entire degree in Rochester. Course work will be completed at the University of Minnesota-Rochester campus, while clinical requirements and some course work will be fulfilled at Mayo Clinic. Students must complete liberal arts and health sciences requirements before engaging in respiratory care courses and clinical education. The program is also designed to allow current respiratory care practitioners who hold an associate's degree or a certificate to obtain a bachelor's degree.

A brief program formally announcing the respiratory care degree will occur on Monday, Feb. 10, at 10 a.m. in room 1013 on the 10th floor of the Siebens Education Building, Mayo Clinic campus, 100 Second Ave. S.W., Rochester.

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NEWS RELEASE

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Claudia Kanter, School of Dentistry, 612.625.0402

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Fax: 612-625-2129

U of MN SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY RANKS FIRST IN RESEARCH FUNDING BY NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF DENTAL AND CRANIOFACIAL RESEARCH (NIH)

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (Feb.11, 2003) — The University of Minnesota School of Dentistry ranks first among 49 dental schools for fiscal year 2002, according to a recent announcement by the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (part of the National Institutes of Health). In fiscal year 2001, the University's dental school was 11th out of 44 schools ranked. The rankings are based on the number of NIDCR dollars awarded to fund new research and programs.

"We are extremely pleased by the NIDCR's recognition," said, Peter J. Polverini, D.D.S., D.M.Sc., dean, School of Dentistry. "The ranking shows that the University of Minnesota School of Dentistry is recognized by the scientific community as a leader in dental research and education."

Total NIDCR funding to the School of Dentistry increased from \$3.74 million in 2001 to just over \$11.1 million in FY 2002.

Examples of current awards to the School of Dentistry include:

- A three-year grant to fund a phase three, multi-center, clinical trial, led by periodontist Bryan Michalowicz, D.D.S., to determine if non-surgical therapy for pregnant women with gum disease reduces the incidence of preterm birth.
- A five-year grant, awarded to Mark Herzberg, D.D.S., periodontology, to create the Minnesota Craniofacial Research Training (MinnCResT) program. The first of its kind in the nation, MinnCResT is a regional program for advanced training in craniofacial (head and face) and oral health research. MinnCResT fellows can pursue advanced degrees (i.e. Ph.D., M.S., combined MD/Ph.D, combined D.D.S./Ph.D. (*pending*), and traditional post-doctoral research) with graduate faculty who provide interdisciplinary training opportunities.
- A five-year grant awarded to Jim Fricton, D.D.S., (TMJ and Orofacial Pain Clinic), to develop NIDCR's registry and repository, which will function as a centralized collection point for information and biological specimens on patients with Temporomandibular Joint (TMJ – jaw joint) implants.
- A four-year grant to Eric Schiffman, D.D.S., (TMJ and Orofacial Pain) to assess the reliability and validity of diagnostic criteria for temporomandibular disorders.

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University of Minnesota School of Dentistry, page 2

The University of Minnesota School of Dentistry is the state's only dental school, graduating dentists, hygienists, specialists, and researchers committed to education, research, and service to benefit the profession and the community it serves.

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MEDIA ADVISORY

For immediate release

When: Friday, February 28, 2003, 8 a.m.- 4.15 p.m.
Where: Edinburgh USA, Event & Conference Center
8700 Edinbrook Crossing, Brooklyn Park, MN
Contact: Sheran McNiff, Transdisciplinary Tobacco Use Research Center, 612.627.1857
Brenda Hudson, Academic Health Center, 612.624.5680

Office:
A395 Mayo Memorial Building
612-624-5100
Fax: 612-625-2129

EXPERTS EXPLORE THE LATEST WAYS TO DECREASE TOBACCO HARM *Reducing Tobacco Use in Minnesota: Research Into Action*

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (February 13, 2003) —Research on new, potentially less harmful tobacco products will be presented at a conference on Feb. 28, sponsored by the University of Minnesota's Cancer Center and BlueCross BlueShield of Minnesota. Researchers, policy makers, tobacco-use specialists, health care providers, and community and state leaders will participate in the one-day conference.

“There is general agreement that the best way of decreasing tobacco harm is for people to quit smoking,” said Dorothy Hatsukami, Ph.D., director of the Transdisciplinary Tobacco Use Research Center at the University of Minnesota. “But there are some people who can't quit or who are not willing to quit. One of the things explored at this conference is whether or not tobacco harm can be reduced without completely eliminating tobacco and nicotine use.”

Some of the other topics discussed at this conference will be increasing tobacco tax, reducing secondhand smoke, ethnic and racial considerations, smoke-free workplace policies, and counter-marketing campaigns. There will be breakout sessions in the afternoon that will give participants a chance to explore their areas of interest in more detail.

This program meets continuing medical education accreditation requirements for physicians and nurses. For further details about the conference, including directions and a complete list of sessions and participants, visit the web site at:

<http://www.med.umn.edu/cme/brochures2003/tobacco2003/tobaccobro2003.html>

Editors note: Interviews with experts can be arranged for media.

The Academic Health Center is home to the University of Minnesota's seven health professional schools and colleges as well as several health-related centers and institutes, including the Transdisciplinary Tobacco Use Research Center. Founded in 1851, the University is one of the oldest and largest land grant institutions in the country. The AHC mission is to prepare the new health professionals who improve the health of communities, discover and deliver new treatments and cures, and strengthen the health economy.

— end —



NEWS RELEASE

Embargo: Sunday, Feb. 16, 2003; 1300 C.T.

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Contact: Brenda Hudson, Academic Health Center, 612.624.5680

U OF MN RESEARCHERS IDENTIFY PROTEIN THAT CAUSES CELL NUCLEOLI TO DISASSEMBLE *Protein used during cell development important in cloning technique*

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (Feb. 14, 2003) — Researchers at the University of Minnesota have identified the protein responsible for disassembly of donor nucleoli in the context of nuclear cloning. Although it was already known that nucleoli, essential structures for protein synthesis, normally disassemble or disappear for a period of time in the early animal development and also during nuclear cloning, it was not known until this study what causes this phenomenon. Researchers hope the identification of the protein will lead to advances in cloning techniques and potential therapies. The study will be published in the journal *Nature Cell Biology* on Feb. 17 (www.nature.com/ncb)

“The nucleolus, one of the largest structures found within the cell’s nucleus, contains numerous proteins that have essential roles in cell biology, for cancer, stem cells, and aging,” said lead researcher Nobuaki Kikyo, M.D, Ph.D., assistant professor of medicine, Stem Cell Institute. “By understanding how the nucleolus disassembles and reassembles, we hope to learn more about normal cell development, the roles of specific proteins, and their impact on human diseases.”

In the cloning process, the genetic material is removed from an egg cell, and then the nucleus containing the genetic material from a somatic (or body-associated) cell is transplanted into the egg cell. Kikyo and his team recreated the normal procedure by mixing somatic cell nuclei and protein extract from frog eggs to purify the proteins responsible for nucleolar disassembly. Kikyo identified the proteins, FRGY2a and FRGY2b, that disassemble nucleoli without help of other proteins. The nucleoli are later reassembled as they normally would be.

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U of MN identifies protein, page 2

“The study shows that FRGY2 proteins may be able to transform adult cells into something more like embryonic cells—young and actively proliferating cells with flexibility to turn into many types of cells,” said Kikyo. “Furthermore, this work shows that it is possible to dissect the very mysterious process – cloning – with a biochemical approach and identify key players in it.”

The Academic Health Center is home to the University of Minnesota's seven health professional schools and colleges as well as several health-related centers and institutes, including the Stem Cell Institute. Founded in 1851, the University is one of the oldest and largest land grant institutions in the country. The AHC mission is to prepare the new health professionals who improve the health of communities, discover and deliver new treatments and cures, and strengthen the health economy.

—end—

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Media Advisory **For immediate release**

Contact: Jennifer Gatti, University of Minnesota Cancer Center, 612.508.2108

U OF MN CANCER CENTER PRESENTS SPECIAL EXHIBIT AT THE SCIENCE MUSEUM OF MINNESOTA

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (February 17, 2003)—The University of Minnesota Cancer Center presents “Cancer and the Human Body” at the Science Museum of Minnesota from noon to 4 p.m. on Saturday, February 22. The special program is free with regular Science Museum exhibit hall admission.

This hands-on exhibit educates museum visitors about cancer—a disease that affects nearly 14,000 Minnesotans every year—and showcases current research at the University of Minnesota Cancer Center. Visitors will explore a variety of cancer-related topics, including:

- Testing their levels of carbon monoxide, an ingredient found in tobacco smoke that could lead to strokes and heart attacks.
- Learning how genetically modified mice help advance the understanding of cancer.
- Examining real human tissues—such as lungs, livers and ovaries—and comparing healthy tissues to those affected by cancer.
- Learning about clinical trials underway at the University of Minnesota and how researchers discover new treatments for people who have cancer.
- Discussing cancer questions with top University of Minnesota researchers.

WHAT: Cancer and the Human Body

WHO: University of Minnesota Cancer Center and the Science Museum of Minnesota

WHEN: SATURDAY, February 22, 2003, noon- 4 p.m.

WHERE: Science Museum of Minnesota
120 W. Kellogg Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55102
Ramp parking is available

-end-



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Contact: Ashley Burt, Academic Health Center, 612.624.2449
Brenda Hudson, Academic Health Center, 612.624.5680

U OF MN PROGRAMS OFFER FREE TREATMENT FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH EATING DISORDERS ***Eating Disorders Awareness Week is Feb. 23-March 2***

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (Feb. 17, 2003) — In the state of Minnesota, more than 25,000 adolescent girls and young women are affected by the eating disorders anorexia nervosa and bulimia nervosa. The University of Minnesota's Eating Disorders Research Program and Neuroscience Research Group offer free treatment to individuals suffering from these eating disorders.

"Eating disorders represent a major public health concern in this country, particularly among young women," says Scott Crow, M.D., associate professor of psychiatry at the University of Minnesota. "Research conducted here at the University has shown that the mortality rate for anorexia nervosa is at least 12 percent, the highest mortality rate for any mental illness. This is a serious problem."

The Eating Disorders Research Program and the Neuroscience Research Group, both in the University of Minnesota Medical School's Department of Psychiatry, have received several grants from organizations such as the National Institutes of Health, the National Institutes of Mental Health, and the National Institute of Diabetes, Digestive, and Kidney Diseases. Both programs are conducting numerous studies. The Eating Disorders Research Program has studies on the symptoms of bulimia nervosa, binge eating disorder, bone density in girls under the age of 16 who have anorexia, and nutrient intake in binge eating disorder. The Neuroscience Research Group is investigating novel drugs aimed at reducing the urges to binge and purge and at restoring the feeling of fullness after meals. They are also conducting a study investigating bulimia nervosa as a gastrointestinal disorder.

—more—

WHAT: Eating Disorders Awareness Week

WHO: **Scott Crow, M.D.**, is an associate professor in the Medical School's Department of Psychiatry at the University of Minnesota. He is the principle investigator of the Eating Disorders Research Group's bulimia treatment study and the group therapy binge eating disorder study.

Nancy Raymond, M.D., is an associate professor in the Medical School's Department of Psychiatry at the University of Minnesota. She is the principle investigator of the Eating Disorders Research Group's study on nutrient intake in binge eating.

Patricia Faris, Ph.D., is an associate professor in the Medical School's Department of Psychiatry at the University of Minnesota. She is the principle investigator of the Neuroscience Research Group's study investigating bulimia nervosa as a gastrointestinal disorder.

Boyd Hartman, M.D., Hastings Professor of Psychiatry, and **Elke Eckert, M.D.**, professor, both work in the Medical School's Department of Psychiatry at the University of Minnesota. They are co-principle investigators of the Neuroscience Research Group's study investigating bulimia nervosa as a gastrointestinal disorder.

William Meller, M.D., and **S.W. Kim, M.D.**, are co-investigators on the Neuroscience Research Group's study on bulimia nervosa as a gastrointestinal disorder.

WHEN: Feb. 23 through March 2, 2003

For more information on the **Eating Disorders Research Program**, call 612.627.1991.

To find out more about the **Neuroscience Research Group**, call 612.626.4034, or send an e-mail to eating@umn.edu. Additional information can also be found on the Web site, www.eating.umn.edu

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Fax: 612-625-2129*

U of MN SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH OFFERS FIRST-OF-ITS-KIND CERTIFICATES TO PREPARE PUBLIC HEALTH WORKFORCE

MINNEAPOLIS/ST. PAUL (Feb. 17, 2003)—The University of Minnesota Board of Regents Friday approved three programs leading to academic credit certificates in public health. The certificates – the first of their kind focusing on matters of public health preparedness – can be earned in the following areas:

- Preparedness, response and recovery
- Food safety and biosecurity
- Occupational health and safety

These certificate programs were developed in response to a call by such national organizations as the Institute of Medicine and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention since Sept. 11, 2001, for public health workforce development and preparedness in the face of urgent threats.

The certificates are designed for health and human service professionals who have completed baccalaureate degrees who wish to develop additional academic credentials and keep current on the latest developments in the field of public health.

“We are pleased to respond to the national need for a public health workforce adequately trained for the kinds of threats we face today,” said Mark P. Becker, dean, School of Public Health. “The vote by the University regents assures individuals interested in lifelong learning opportunities that the courses are of the highest academic standard and fully supported and accredited by the University.”

Students interested in pursuing one of the certificates can do so in a variety of ways: by taking courses at the School of Public Health’s three-week Public Health Institute in May, by taking regular day school courses, or by taking some courses online. The certificates are awarded after taking 12-18 credits worth of courses specific to one of the three areas of focus. Courses include Exposure to Environmental Hazards, Principles of Risk Communication, Food Safety Risk Management, and Public Health Law.

-more-



Professionals interested in learning more about the new certificate programs should call Debra Olson, associate dean for Public Health Practice Education at (612) 626-5665 or (800) 774-8636, or visit www.php.umn.edu.

For more than 50 years, the University of Minnesota School of Public Health has been an international leader in education, research, and service aimed at preventing disease, promoting health, and improving health care.

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Ashley Burt, Academic Health Center, 612.624.2449

**U OF MN DENTAL STUDENTS TREAT EXPECTANT MOTHERS
AND SCHOOLCHILDREN AS PART OF "GIVE KIDS A SMILE" DAY**

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (Feb. 18, 2003)—University of Minnesota dental students will offer free dental care to expectant mothers and elementary schoolchildren in support of Give Kids a Smile Day on Friday, Feb.21.

At Green Elementary School, 3416 4th Ave. S., Minneapolis, 26 dental students will visit classrooms to talk about oral health and conduct dental screenings for children. Classroom presentations will begin at 8:30 a.m., followed by dental screenings.

At the Community-University Health Care Clinic, 2001 Bloomington Ave., Minneapolis, dental students will examine expectant mothers for gum disease, clean their teeth, and instruct them on the importance of good oral health during pregnancy. This event runs 8.30 a.m. to noon.

Research has found that during pregnancy, hormonal increases exaggerate the way gum tissues react to irritants in dental plaque resulting in a bacterial build-up that causes gum disease. This condition in expectant moms is linked with an increased incidence of pre-term birth, a health risk for babies that can lead to eye, ear, breathing, and nervous system problems, as well as learning and behavioral problems later in life.

The University of Minnesota School of Dentistry received a three-year, \$7.5 million grant from the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research, the dental branch of the National Institutes of Health, to conduct research to determine if non-surgical therapy for pregnant women with gum disease reduces the incidence of pre-term birth. Bryan Michalowicz, D.D.S, director of the Minnesota Oral Health Clinical Research Center at the University of Minnesota, is the principal investigator for the study.

—end—

NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release

Contact: Mary Pattock, University of Minnesota School of Nursing, 612.624.0939
Ashley Burt, Academic Health Center, 612.624.2449

IS IMAGE PART OF THE NURSING SHORTAGE PROBLEM? *Journalist to address nurses on "becoming visible"*

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (Feb. 20, 2003) — "Nursing is little known and understood," says journalist and author Suzanne Gordon, and this phenomenon leads to distorted stereotypes of nurses—as physician's handmaid, self-sacrificing angel of mercy, sex object, or even shrew. How to replace the stereotypes with an authentic, professional image—one that is more attractive to young people seeking a career in health care—will be the subject of Gordon's keynote talk at a nursing conference next week.

"Day of Dialogue: Advancing Nursing's Influence" will be held Thursday, Feb. 27, at the Sheraton Midway Hotel, 400 Hamline Ave. N., St. Paul, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Gordon will speak at 9 a.m.

The conference is sponsored by the University of Minnesota School of Nursing, Katharine J. Densford International Center for Nursing Leadership, and Minnesota Colleagues in Caring.

Joanne Disch, Ph.D., R.N., FAAN, executive director of the Densford Center, says it is critical to correct the stereotypes. "Nursing is a wonderful profession. It gives you the opportunity to be both intellectually challenged and know you are making a difference in people's lives. That's something few occupations offer."

Nurses topped the list in two recent Gallup polls measuring the public's perception of honesty and ethics in the various professions, and are universally acknowledged to be the backbone of the health care system. But their approach to holistic healing through caring, as opposed to healing exclusively through medicine, is not well understood as a specialized skill requiring specialized training, experience, and skills.

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School of Nursing, page 2

Gordon says the result is that nurses are vulnerable to being miscast as junior or cheaper doctors, or even doctors' assistants, when in fact they practice an independent healing art that overlaps with but is different from medicine.

In a commentary in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, the director of the *American Association of Colleges of Nursing* pointed to poor image as a disincentive to attracting an adequate supply of baccalaureate-educated nurses. In the June 14, 2002 issue, Geraldine Bednash, Ph.D., R.N., FAAN, wrote that focus groups conducted by the AACN revealed that many secondary-school guidance counselors and students do not view nursing as the intellectual endeavor it is.

Gordon is a health-care commentator on Minnesota Public Radio's *Marketplace*, and the co-editor of *From Silence to Voice: What Nurses Know and Must Communicate to the Public*. She is the author of *Prisoners of Men's Dreams* and *Caregiving: Readings In Knowledge, Practice, Ethics and Politics*. She is a frequent contributor to the *Boston Globe* and *Los Angeles Times* and is a popular lecturer on health care.

Registration is \$60 for one person, \$50 per person for a group of three or more from the same organization, and \$30 for full-time students.

The Academic Health Center is home to the University of Minnesota's seven health professional schools and colleges, including the School of Nursing, as well as several health-related centers and institutes. Founded in 1851, the University is one of the oldest and largest land grant institutions in the country. The AHC mission is to prepare the new health professionals who improve the health of communities, discover and deliver new treatments and cures, and strengthen the health economy.

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Brenda Hudson, Academic Health Center, 612.624.5680

U OF MN OPENS CLINIC TO PROVIDE HEALTHCARE TO UNINSURED *Opening of Phillips Neighborhood Clinic marks National Cover the Uninsured Week*

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (March 10, 2003)—The University of Minnesota opens the Phillips Neighborhood Clinic during National Cover the Uninsured Week, March 10-16. The clinic will provide high-quality, affordable health care to uninsured and underinsured people living in the Phillips Neighborhood. The clinic opens on Monday, March 10 at 6 p.m. at the Oliver Presbyterian Church, 2647 Bloomington Ave. S., Minneapolis.

“The number of Minnesotans living without safe and stable shelter has tripled in the last decade and, with welfare reform, a slowing economy, and the state budget crisis, this situation will surely worsen. The challenges these individuals face in staying healthy and alive are staggering,” says John Song, M.D., M.P.H., M.A.T., medical director of the Phillips Neighborhood Clinic and assistant professor in the Center for Bioethics at the University of Minnesota’s Medical School. “We all have a responsibility to promote the health of all our neighbors, but this responsibility is greater for those of us who work and learn at a publicly funded university. This clinic and the service we will provide is a part of our fulfillment of this responsibility.”

The Phillips Neighborhood Clinic, run by volunteers in the health professions, will offer patients basic health screening, acute medical care services, physical therapy, and referrals to other health-care providers. Medical interpreters will be on site to aid in communication. No one will be denied care for lack of ability to pay.

“The Phillips Neighborhood Clinic is the result of a three-year collaborative process of identifying needs, working with the community, and building relationships. It is truly a student-driven initiative, informed by the voices of our community,” says Eric Meininger, M.D., clinic coordinator for Phillips Neighborhood Clinic.

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“It is timely that we will be opening during Cover the Uninsured Week. The greatest health-care need in this time of economic instability is for those people who are living on the edge. They don’t have time or can’t afford to get sick. We exist to provide accessible, culturally appropriate health care services.”

The clinic initially will be open on Monday evenings from 6-9 p.m., with a possibility for longer hours in the future. The Phillips Neighborhood Clinic is a partnership between the University of Minnesota Academic Health Center, the Community-University Health Care Center, the Center for Health Interdisciplinary Programs, and the Oliver Presbyterian Church.

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EXPERT ADVOCATES ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AT U OF MN LECTURE

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (March 10, 2003) — Robert D. Bullard, Ph.D., director of the Environmental Justice Resource Center at Clark Atlanta University, will discuss the connection between poverty, pollution, and public health on Tuesday, March 11. “Despite significant improvements in environmental protection over the past several decades, millions of Americans continue to live in unsafe and unhealthy physical environments,” says Bullard. “If a community happens to be poor, powerless, or inhabited largely by people of color, it receives less environmental protection than the larger society.” Bullard will discuss how public participation, community empowerment, pollution prevention techniques, and other strategies can ensure public health.

WHAT: Poverty, Pollution, and Public Health: Strategies for Building Just and Sustainable Communities

WHO: **Robert D. Bullard**, Ph.D., is the director of the Environmental Justice Resource Center and a professor of sociology at Clark Atlanta University. He is an expert on environmental justice, poverty and pollution, and social equality.

WHEN: TUESDAY, March 11, 12:15-1:15 p.m.

WHERE: Fredrick R. Weisman Museum, University of Minnesota
William G. Shepherd Room
333 East River Road, Minneapolis
Ramp parking is available

For more information, call 612.625.0055 or visit www.lifesci.consortium.umn.edu

This lecture, free and open to the public, is part of the Lunch Series on the Societal Implications of the Life Sciences. Sponsors of this lecture are the University's Consortium on Law and Values in Health, Environment & the Life Sciences and Joint Degree Program in Law, Health & the Life Sciences.

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U OF MN MEDICAL SCHOOL INTRODUCES NEW MASTERS PROGRAM

***Expanding role of computers in healthcare creates need
for medical professionals to be trained in health informatics***

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (March 12, 2003) — The increased use of computer technology in medicine creates a need for medical professionals to understand computer science and use it to develop better information systems. The University of Minnesota will start a new masters of health informatics this fall to meet this growing demand. Health informatics uses the principles and practices of computer science to address health care problems. This graduate program will train medical professionals to develop information systems that lead to more effective health care decisions and actions.

The role informatics plays in modern medical care continues to expand. Physicians, pharmacists, dentists, nurses, and veterinarians make constant use of computer-based information systems to maintain patient records, order and carry out treatment programs, review and monitor patients, and collect payment for their services. Most medical professionals in practice today have no training that enables them to understand and cope with the onslaught of technological developments or to guide and control the use of the technologies in their profession. The new health informatics program will educate health professionals in the application of computer science principles to address health care problems.

“Health care environments are inordinately rich in information but poor in tools for effectively applying it. Medical errors, runaway costs, and exhausted clinicians are symptoms of this problem. Health informatics focuses on solving information management and presentation problems to improve patient care,” says Donald Connelly, M.D., division director for health informatics at the University of Minnesota. “The primary goal of this program is to get new and established clinicians up to speed with informatics tools and insights so they can help their organizations improve patient care.”

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The University is currently accepting applications for the masters of health informatics program. Enrollment will be limited to 10 full-time and 15 part-time students. The full-time program takes one year to complete and the part-time program can take up to three years to finish. Some of the specific areas of training include education on the depth and breadth of information technology applications in medical care, database application building and design, and training to develop information technology solutions to health care problems through system analysis.

For more information, visit www.hinf.umn.edu/MHI

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**U OF MN CONFERENCE TO DISCUSS
GENETIC TESTING AND DISABILITY INSURANCE**

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (March 13, 2003) — Genetic testing is changing the insurance environment, including crucial disability insurance. Insurance companies are increasingly interested in genetic information to help determine eligibility and premium rates, the impact of which has not been explored in-depth in regards to disability insurance. “Since disability insurance is a very important part of how individuals protect their income in the event of becoming disabled, the use of genetic testing and the information it yields in disability insurance will affect many of us,” says Jeffrey Kahn, Ph.D., M.P.H., director of the University of Minnesota’s Center for Bioethics. A conference on March 14 will explore the ethical, legal, and policy issues raised by the use of genetic testing in determining disability insurance.

- WHAT:** Genetic Testing and the Future of Disability Insurance: Ethics, Law & Policy
- WHO:** **Paul Steven Miller, J.D.**, commissioner of the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, will deliver the keynote address. As commissioner, he has served on the President’s Committee on the Employment of People with Disabilities and on the Presidential Task Force on Employment of Adults with Disabilities. Miller also served as a member of the interagency working group, which drafted the Presidential Executive Order on Genetic Discrimination and Privacy. He has written many articles on discrimination issues and the civil rights of people with disabilities.
- WHEN:** FRIDAY, March 14, 2003
- WHERE:** McNamara Alumni Center, University of Minnesota
200 Oak St. SE., Minneapolis
Ramp parking is available

For more information, call 612.624.9440 or visit www.bioethics.umn.edu

This event is sponsored by the University of Minnesota’s Center for Bioethics, the Joint Degree Program in Law, Health and the Life Sciences, and the Office of Continuing Medical Education.

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U OF MN RESEARCHERS SPEAK ON ORGAN TRANSPLANT

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (March 14, 2002) — Marshall Hertz, M.D, professor of medicine at the University of Minnesota, and Soon Park, M.D., associate professor of surgery at the University of Minnesota, will describe the science and innovation behind organ transplantation during a panel discussion on March 17. An organ transplant donor will also be a part of the panel to address the human aspect of donating. The panel will be moderated by Dennis Douda, news anchor for WCCO. The Wayzata Community Church is hosting the panel.

WHAT: Organ Transplants: The Science and the Human Component

WHO: **Marshall Hertz**, M.D., is the medical director for the lung transplant program at the Fairview-University Transplant Center. He is also a professor of medicine at the University of Minnesota.

Soon Park, M.D., is an associate professor of surgery and director of the lung transplant and the HeartMate ventricular assist device programs at the University of Minnesota.

WHEN: MONDAY, March 17, 7:30-9 p.m.

WHERE: Wayzata Community Church
125 E. Wayzata Blvd., Wayzata

For more information, call 952.473.8877

—end—



MEDIA ADVISORY

For immediate release

What: Match Day for fourth-year medical students
When: Thursday, March 20, 2003, 10:30 a.m.
Where: Great Hall, Coffman Memorial Union, East Bank Campus,
University of Minnesota, Minneapolis
Contact: Brenda Hudson, Academic Health Center, (612) 624-5680

FOURTH YEAR MEDICAL STUDENTS LEARN RESIDENCY PLACEMENT

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (March 19, 2003) — At 11 a.m. tomorrow, more than 200 fourth-year medical students at the University of Minnesota will learn for the first time which residency program they will enter and where they will begin the final phase of their medical education. The event, known as “Match Day,” takes place at medical schools around the country and is considered a rite of passage.

“It’s an exciting day for these students, to finally learn where their residencies will take them after working so hard for the past four years,” said Greg Vercellotti, M.D., senior associate dean for education. “We’re confident their education at the University will serve them well in this next stage of their medical careers.”

These residents will be among the first to work under new duty hours rules, recently approved by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME), which will become effective July 1. In addition to existing requirements that all programs provide residents one 24-hour day free every seven days, and that residents be on call no more than one night in three, both averaged over four weeks, the following provisions will also be effective:

- A maximum of 80 hours per week averaged over four weeks
- Ten hours off for rest and personal activities between duty periods and after call
- Twenty-four hours maximum continuous on-site duty with up to six additional hours permitted for patient transfer and other activities

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Match Day 2003, page 2

- No new patients after 24 hours of continuous duty
- Resident time spent in the hospital during at-home call is counted toward the 80 hours
- In-house “moonlighting” is counted toward the 80 hours

Students and faculty will be available for interviews.

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GOODBYE DOG COLLAR. HELLO MICROCHIP. U of Minnesota offers canine microchip ID service during College of Veterinary Medicine April 6 Open House

MINNEAPOLIS/ST. PAUL (March 24, 2003) — Pet identification has reached a new era. Gone are dog collars with little metal tags that break and are easily lost, and in their place is a safe, permanent form of identification called the canine microchip.

Dog owners can take advantage of this new technology during the University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine (CVM) annual Open House Sunday, April 6. The events runs from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and is free and open to the public.

Attendees also can enjoy food and beverages, gather information at 60 animal-related exhibits, view demonstrations, and take behind-the-scenes tours of the Veterinary Teaching Hospital and The Raptor Center on the University's St. Paul campus.

"The open house is an entertaining and educational way for families to learn more about the College of Veterinary Medicine and animal care," said Jeffrey Klausner, DVM and dean of the college. "Whether you're interested in our hospital's services, a career in veterinary medicine, or the injured birds of prey we rehabilitate, the Open House is a great way to go behind the scenes and learn what we do."

For the first time, the CVM Open House will include a canine microchip implant clinic, from noon to 4 p.m. A microchip offers an unalterable means of identification. A tiny chip is implanted between the dog's shoulder blades that contains a unique number. The number and owner information are registered with the microchip manufacturer. If someone finds a lost pet, an animal shelter and many veterinarians can scan the chip and obtain the information to call the owner.

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During open house, dog owners pay a reduced fee of \$30 for the implant and pet registration. The microchips will be provided only while supplies last. Proceeds will benefit the Veterinary Teaching Hospital's Companion Animal Fund, which provides grants to help qualified clients pay for the treatment of their companion animals.

Other activities include:

- Horseshoeing and goat-milking demonstrations
- Dog obedience demonstrations
- Raptor Center presentations
- Discussions about the Veterinary Medicine admissions program, including a veterinary student panel, at 12:30 pm and 2 p.m.
- A silent auction

The College Veterinary Medicine is located at 1365 Gortner Ave. on the St. Paul campus, near the Minnesota State Fairgrounds. Signs will be posted directing people to free parking on the St. Paul campus. The open house is sponsored by the Student Chapter of the American Veterinary Medical Association and organized by first-year veterinary students.

For more information about the college or the open house, call 612.624.4747, or visit the Web site at www.cvm.umn.edu.

The College of Veterinary Medicine improves the health and well-being of Minnesota's animals and people by providing high-quality veterinary training, conducting leading-edge research, delivering innovative veterinary services, and furthering critical public health initiatives.

www.cvm.umn.edu

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GROWTH OF COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY GENERATES NEW APPROACH TO THE STUDY OF BIOLOGY *U of MN hosts symposium to educate people about bioinformatics*

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (March 27, 2003) — The rapid growth of computer technology in the last decade has sparked the creation of bioinformatics. This interdisciplinary research area uses computer and information sciences to solve biological problems. The University of Minnesota will host a symposium aimed at educating people working in the fields of computer, information, and biological sciences about bioinformatics. The symposium will be held on Friday, March 28 at the McNamara Alumni Center at the University of Minnesota. A live webcast of the event can be accessed on the website, www.binf.umn.edu.

WHAT: Bioinformatics Symposium: Building Bridges

WHO: **Patsy Babbit**, Ph.D., is an associate professor in the School of Pharmacy at the University of California, San Francisco. She works in the Departments of Biopharmaceutical Sciences and Pharmaceutical Chemistry where she develops bioinformatics tools to conduct research.

WHEN: FRIDAY, March 28, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

WHERE: McNamara Alumni Center, University of Minnesota
Memorial Hall
200 Oak St. S.E., Minneapolis
Ramp parking is available

For more information, please visit www.binf.umn.edu.

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**EXPERTS TO DISCUSS THE LIMITS OF
BIOMEDICAL PRIVACY AT U OF MN CONFERENCE**

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (April 1, 2003)—Debate over the privacy of individuals' medical information continues to rage. New federal rules about privacy are going into effect in April under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act. Yet in Minnesota and the nation, it is not clear how to reconcile individuals' privacy rights with the need for public health research, genetic research, and preparation for bioterrorism and other mass disasters. A conference being hosted by the University of Minnesota's Consortium on Law and Values in Health, Environment & the Life Sciences and the Joint Degree Program in Law, Health & the Life Sciences on April 3 will feature the nation's leading experts on these issues. During lunch, Minnesota's Attorney General, Mike Hatch, will discuss protecting privacy.

WHAT: The Limits of Personal Privacy: Biomedical Information in Public Health, Population Genomics, and Mass Disasters

WHO: **Mike Hatch**, J.D., Minnesota Attorney General
Prof. George Annas, J.D., M.P.H., chair of the Department of Health Law, Bioethics & Human Rights at Boston University
Janlori Goldman, J.D., director of the Health Privacy Project, Washington, D.C.
Prof. Lawrence Gostin, J.D., L.L.D., director of the Center for Law & the Public's Health at Johns Hopkins University and Georgetown University
Prof. Kathy Hudson, Ph.D., director of the Genetics and Public Policy Center at Johns Hopkins University

WHEN: THURSDAY, April 3, 2003, 8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

WHERE: Hubert H. Humphrey Center, University of Minnesota
Cowles Auditorium
301 19th Ave. S., Minneapolis
Ramp parking is available

For more information, visit www.lifesci.consortium.umn.edu/conferences/privacy.php or call 612-625-0055. Advance registration encouraged.

—end—



Contact: Ashley Burt, Academic Health Center, 612.624.2449
Brenda Hudson, Academic Health Center, 612.624.5680

**U OF MN LECTURE ON LIMITING BASIC RIGHTS
IN ORDER TO CONTROL INFECTIOUS DISEASE**

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (April 7, 2003) — Infectious disease, whether it occurs naturally (like SARS) or results from bioterrorism, may pose grave threats to the community, requiring public health interventions that impose some limits on basic rights. How severe and certain the threat must be before limits may be imposed and which approaches to rights restrictions are most effective have been debated for more than a hundred years. Ronald Bayer, Ph.D., professor of sociomedical sciences at Columbia University, will address these issues in a lunchtime lecture at the University of Minnesota on April 9. State Epidemiologist Harry Hull, M.D., and Steven Miles, M.D., of the University's Center for Bioethics, will respond to Bayer's lecture.

WHAT: Restrictions on Privacy, Autonomy & Liberty: Lessons from Infectious Disease Control

WHO: **Ronald Bayer**, Ph.D., professor of sociomedical sciences at Columbia University School of Public Health

Harry F. Hull, M.D., State Epidemiologist and Division Director for the Minnesota Department of Health, Division of Infectious Disease Epidemiology, Prevention and Control

Steven Miles, M.D., professor of medicine at the University of Minnesota's Medical School and faculty member in the Center for Bioethics

WHEN: WEDNESDAY, April 9, 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

WHERE: University of Minnesota Law School
Mondale Hall, Room 25
229 19th Ave. S., Minneapolis
Lot parking is available

For more information, call 612.625.0055 or visit www.jointdegree.umn.edu

This lecture, free and open to the public, is part of the Faegre & Benson Lecture Series on Law, Health & the Life Sciences and co-sponsored by the University of Minnesota's Consortium on Law and Values in Health, Environment & the Life Sciences and Joint Degree Program in Law, Health & the Life Sciences.

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Practitioners contact:

Julie Bewick, Fairview Pharmacy Services, 612.672.7008
Brian Isetts, College of Pharmacy, 612.624.2140

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA AND FAIRVIEW HEALTH SERVICES PROGRAM REDUCES HEALTHCARE COSTS, IMPROVES MEDICATION SAFETY

MINNEAPOLIS (April 10, 2003) –A Fairview Health Services and University of Minnesota program proven effective at reducing healthcare costs and improving patient safety in medication use will be highlighted tomorrow during a national convention on managed care.

Fairview Collaborative Practice of Pharmaceutical Care employs specially trained pharmacists who meet with patients, consult with physicians and review the patients' medications and supplements. The program has resulted in improved patient safety, clinical effectiveness of medication and cost savings.

During the Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy 15th Annual Meeting, which will be held in Minneapolis, three of the program's coordinators will present "Clinical and Economic Consequences of a Collaborative Approach to Drug Therapy Management." The seminar will be held at 11:45 a.m. April 11 at the Minneapolis Convention Center.

The speakers are: Brian J. Isetts, associate professor at the University of Minnesota College of Pharmacy and faculty liaison to the pharmaceutical care program, Michael J. Frakes, pharmaceutical care specialist at Fairview Pharmacy Services and Robert J. Cipolle, director of the Peters Institute of Pharmaceutical Care at the University of Minnesota College of Pharmacy.

More than 2,000 people are expected to attend the annual meeting.

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U of MN and Fairview Health Services Program, page 2

Fairview Pharmacy Services and the University of Minnesota College of Pharmacy established a partnership in 1999 and implemented the collaborative pharmaceutical care program in six Fairview Clinics. Fairview Riverside Medical Center merged with the University of Minnesota Hospitals and Clinics in 1997.

The Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy has about 5,000 members affiliated with more than 600 health care organizations. More information can be found at www.amcp.org.

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**“HEALTH PROFESSIONALS AS ACTIVISTS”
GLOBAL HEALTH FORUM HOSTED BY U OF MN
*World Health Organization advisor to give keynote address***

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (April 11, 2003) — The University of Minnesota hosts its annual Global Health Forum on Saturday, April 12. The theme is “Health Professional as Activists.” The event is free and open to the public.

Devra Davis, senior advisor to the World Health Organization and author of *When Smoke Ran Like Water: Tales of Environmental Deception and the Battle Against Pollution*, will deliver the keynote address on “Environmental Activism.”

Presentation topics include:

- Testing a sustainable water chlorinator in Nicaragua
- Global perspectives on the privatization of water
- Developing pharmacies in rural areas
- The effect of U.S. drug policy on health in Colombia
- HIV/AIDS experiences among Latino people in Minneapolis
- Access to essential medications
- Refugee camps in the Middle East
- Child labor
- International tobacco policies.

WHAT: Global Health Forum: Health Professionals as Activists

WHEN: SATURDAY, April 12, 8:45 a.m.-4:15 p.m.

WHERE: University of Minnesota, Humphrey Institute, 301 19th Ave. S., Minneapolis

The event is sponsored by the CHIP (Center for Health Interdisciplinary Programs) Students' International Health Committee, with additional support from the University's Student Activities Office, Academic Health Center, College of Pharmacy, School of Dentistry, School of Nursing, School of Public Health, The Minnesota Student Association's Diversity Education Fund, the St. Paul Board of Colleges, the Hennepin Medical Society, the Minnesota Medical Foundation, and International Medical Education and Research.

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U OF MN PHYSICIAN ELECTED PRESIDENT OF THE AMERICAN COLLEGE OF SPORTS MEDICINE *First primary care doctor to be named president*

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (April 14, 2003)—William Roberts, M.D., FACSM, associate professor in the Department of Family Practice at the University of Minnesota Medical School, has been elected president of the American College of Sports Medicine (ACSM). The ACSM is an organization that promotes and integrates scientific research, education, and practical applications of sports medicine and exercise science to maintain and enhance physical performance, fitness, health, and quality of life. Roberts is the first family practice and primary care physician to be elected to the position.

“I hope to focus on the potential for primary care and especially family practice for providing sports medicine services in the community and the benefits of exercise at any level for all patients,” says Roberts. “Exercise is cheap medicine for obesity, heart disease, and diabetes. Primary care is in a position to carry the message to the front lines of patient care.”

In addition to his role as president of the ACSM, Roberts is also the medical director of the Twin Cities Marathon, a member of the Sports Medicine Advisory Committees for the Minnesota State High School League and the USA Soccer Cup Tournament, and a consulting physician for the USA Track and Field Team Minnesota. Roberts is a family practice physician at the University of Minnesota’s Family Practice Residency Clinic, Phalen Village Clinic, 1414 Maryland Ave. E., St. Paul. To schedule an appointment, call 651.772.3461.

For more information on the ACSM, go to www.ACSM.org

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Ashley Burt, Academic Health Center, 612-624-2449

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SOCIETY FOR ADOLESCENT MEDICINE HONORS DR. LINDA HOLM BEARINGER

University of Minnesota Professor is First Nurse to Receive Award

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (April 14, 2003) – University of Minnesota professor, Linda Holm Bearinger, Ph.D., R.N, F.A.A.N., has received the prestigious 2004 Wyeth-Ayerst Visiting Professor in Adolescent Medicine Award from the Society for Adolescent Medicine (S.A.M).

The award recognizes Bearinger's national and international leadership in teaching in the field of adolescent health and in mentoring new colleagues.

Bearinger is the first nurse to receive the award in its 18-year history. It provides financial support from Wyeth-Ayerst for Bearinger to educate a group of health care providers—who would not otherwise be able to benefit from her expertise—about adolescent health.

S.A.M. is a worldwide, multidisciplinary organization of health professionals involved in adolescent health and well-being. Bearinger has been an active member for over a decade, including a three-year appointment on the society's board of directors—only the second nurse to hold that position in the organization, in which 80 percent of members are physicians.

National, international lecturer and consultant

Bearinger has lectured nationally and internationally on a wide range of adolescent health topics, especially youth development, resilience among vulnerable youth and strategies for longitudinal community-based research.

Her work emphasizes the issues youth face in their families, schools, and communities. As principal investigator of research on vulnerable youth populations, she has received funding from the National Institutes of Health (National Institute of Nursing Research, National Institute of NIMH, and National Institute of NICHD) for longitudinal studies on the long-term consequences of adolescent abortion, youths' sexual behaviors, pregnancy and STDs, adolescent substance use, and youth development with urban American Indians.

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She consults with a number of national and state agencies. She is currently resource advisor to the World Health Organization and UNICEF, where she helps translate and disseminate research into the areas of policy, education and practice, and also to create and evaluate youth development initiatives in 16 nations.

Advocate for Nursing Perspectives

Bearinger has been a leader in introducing nursing perspectives into the field of adolescent research. Ten years ago she organized and launched S.A.M.'s first Nursing Research Forum, creating opportunities for nurses to collaborate on adolescent health research. She was the only nurse among 150 experts in adolescent health to participate in the 2001 Clinton White House Conference on Teenagers, which she had been invited to help organize. As a nurse-researcher she has brought in more than \$15 million for training and research in adolescent health at the University of Minnesota.

"I have been a long-time advocate for expanding the diversity of disciplines and leadership within S.A.M., and am honored to be recognized in this way," she said.

Bearinger holds appointments in the University of Minnesota School of Nursing, Medical School Department of Pediatrics, and School of Public Health. She teaches grant writing and public speaking, and how to translate research from all the health disciplines into practice, health promotion, and the development of vulnerable young people. She currently directs the MCHB-funded Center for Adolescent Nursing at the University of Minnesota School of Nursing, offering master's and doctoral preparation in public health nursing with a focus on adolescents.

She holds a Ph.D. in educational psychology from the University of Minnesota, a master's degree in public health from the University of Colorado-Denver, and a bachelor's degree in nursing from St. Olaf College, Northfield.

The University of Minnesota School of Nursing is the world's oldest continuing university-based school of nursing. A national leader in nursing research, it ranks 14th among eligible nursing schools in 2001 grants from the National Institutes of Health. Approximately 200 undergraduate and 300 graduate students are enrolled in the School's B.S.N., M.S. and Ph.D. programs.

The Academic Health Center is home to the University of Minnesota's seven health professional schools and colleges, including the School of Nursing, as well as several health-related centers and institutes. Founded in 1851, the University is one of the oldest and largest land grant institutions in the country. The AHC mission is to prepare the new health professionals who improve the health of communities, discover and deliver new treatments and cures, and strengthen the health economy.

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BEARINGER**

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—more—



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Media Note: Members of the media are invited to attend an open house 3:30 p.m., Thursday April 24 at Fairview-University Medical Center, University Campus, in the hospital lobby. Please contact Tonya Femal at 612-626-3351 for more information.

Contact: Ashley Burt, Academic Health Center, 612.624.2449
Ryan Davenport, Fairview, 612.672.4164
Tonya Femal, Center for Minimally Invasive Surgery, 612.626.3351

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (April 22, 2003) — The University of Minnesota Department of Surgery, in collaboration with Fairview-University Medical Center, has opened a Center for Minimally Invasive Surgery (CMIS) that will provide a complete foundation for minimally invasive surgical advancement through education, training, and research initiatives. Employees will have the opportunity to visit the newly remodeled operating rooms, called endosuites, during an open house Thursday, April 24.

Minimally invasive surgical techniques allow surgeons to operate through tiny incisions, or ports, using specifically designed instrumentation. Patients experience less pain, have minimal scarring, and are able to recover more quickly than if they had an open procedure.

The center is under the leadership of Michael Maddaus, M.D., professor of surgery in the division of cardiovascular and thoracic surgery, and Sayeed Ikramuddin, M.D., associate professor of surgery in the division of general surgery. "This center demonstrates our broad commitment to the field of minimally invasive surgery," said Maddaus. "We are providing the highest level of training and education that will ensure the future success of our surgeons and surgical residents."

Four of the operating rooms at Fairview-University Medical Center have been transformed into endosuites, rooms specifically designed with state-of-the-art equipment and devoted entirely to minimally invasive surgical procedures, including video monitors, telephones, and transmitters. The operating rooms are also fitted with technology that allows surgeons to control the operating room with simple voice commands, and advanced telecommunication equipment that enables surgeons located anywhere in the world to communicate with one another.

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"This gives us a wonderful opportunity to combine our talents and resources," said Gordon Alexander, M.D., president, Fairview-University Medical Center. "We are looking forward to this exciting new endeavor."

The CMIS is also in the process of developing a Surgical Education Training Center, which will provide teaching labs equipped with simulators where medical residents can practice minimally invasive surgical techniques. Research into new techniques, like the use of robotics, will take place in the Experimental Surgical Services lab. From there, University faculty, residents, and students will be able to record and take photos of procedures happening in the endosuites for future educational purposes.

"This is really the future of surgery," said Ikramuddin. "Soon we will see more and more procedures performed through minimally invasive means."

"This is an exciting time for the Department of Surgery," said David Dunn, M.D., Ph.D., surgery department chair. "This center will provide an enormous benefit to patients, and will put the University of Minnesota on the map as a leader in this ever-expanding field."

The opening will be celebrated with a gala event 6 p.m., Monday April 28, at the McNamara Alumni Center on the East Bank Campus. Preceding the gala event on the future of minimally invasive surgery will be a symposium entitled "Showcase for Surgical Innovation." Center directors Maddaus and Ikramuddin will be presenting, as well as industry leaders including those from Ethicon Endo-Surgery, Stryker Endoscopy, and Intuitive Surgical.

For more information on the symposium and gala celebration, visit http://www.surg.umn.edu/MIS_Announcement.htm or call 612-625-8980.

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NEWS RELEASE **For immediate release**

*Office:
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What: Melanoma Monday offers free skin cancer screenings
When: Monday, May 5, 2003, 8 a.m. – 3 p.m.
**Where: U of M, Phillips-Wangensteen Building, Room 4-175
516 Delaware St, Minneapolis**
Contact: Brenda Hudson, Academic Health Center, 612.624.5680

EXPERTS SAY SKIN CANCER IS ON THE RISE; THIRTY-TWO CASES IDENTIFIED AT LAST YEAR'S SCREENING

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (April 24, 2003) — The University of Minnesota department of dermatology will offer free skin cancer screenings as part of the annual **Melanoma Monday**, May 5 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. The event, organized by the American Academy of Dermatology, is designed to raise awareness of skin cancer and encourage regular skin examinations.

“People don’t think skin cancer is something that will happen to them,” said Stephen Tan, M.D., instructor in dermatology. “Cases of Melanoma are on the rise, and people who are even the slightest bit concerned about anything unusual should come in. It’s free and it only takes a few minutes. At last year’s screening, we identified at least thirty-two presumed skin cancers, including some melanomas.”

Melanoma is the deadliest form of skin cancer, but can be treated if caught early. Cases can appear anywhere on the body, but is most common on areas most exposed to the sun, such as the back and shoulders for men and legs for women. Doctors say to watch for moles that change in size, color or shape. “An asymmetrical mole, a darkly pigmented mole, or one with an irregular border should raise a red flag,” said Tan. “A mole does not have to be raised to be dangerous. In fact, the flat, dark lesions are often more atypical.”

“People need to be especially careful during the spring and summer months,” said Peter Lee, M.D., assistant professor of dermatology. Lee says it’s important to wear a sunscreen with a sun protection factor (SPF) of at least 15, even if you’re only outdoors for short periods of time.

The service will be offered on a first-come, first-serve basis, and is free to the general public. For further information, please contact (612) 625-4605.

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TREATMENT FOR PATHOLOGICAL GAMBLERS MAY BE WITHIN REACH *U of MN researcher receives grant to study promising new drug treatment*

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (April 30, 2003) — The National Institutes of Health has awarded a \$464,463 grant to Suck Won Kim, M.D., director of the Impulse Control Disorders Clinic in the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Minnesota Medical School, to conduct the only gambling study of its kind in the nation. The study will determine whether or not the drug naltrexone is effective in treating pathological gambling disorder (PGD). Currently, there are no established drug treatments for this disorder.

Naltrexone has shown promise in treating urges associated with PGD. Three preliminary studies conducted by Kim found the drug to be effective in treating PGD patients with severe urges. The NIH grant will be used to conduct a dose study. Kim and colleagues will attempt to find the optimal dose that most effectively controls gambling urges.

Naltrexone has been tested in the past to treat other behavior disorders, such as obsessive-compulsive disorder and eating disorders. So far, the results from these clinical trials have been inconclusive. Results from Kim's study may shed light on possible treatment for these disorders. "The implications from our study extend from PGD to other impulse control disorders, including compulsive shopping, kleptomania, and possibly alcoholism," says Kim.

Kim and his colleagues are currently looking for research subjects to take part in this dose study. People who suffer from PGD are encouraged to call **612.627.4879** and find out more information about participating.

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STUDY PROBES USE OF ANTIEPILEPTIC DRUGS IN NURSING HOMES
Surprising Number Placed on Medications After Admission

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (May 5, 2003)—More than 10 percent of residents in nursing homes are taking antiepileptic drugs, though only 5 or 6 percent suffer from epilepsy. This discrepancy has raised some eyebrows in the medical community because these drugs are expensive, tricky to prescribe effectively and safely, and carry potential side-effects that can negatively impact a patient's quality of life.

A new study by the University of Minnesota of 500 nursing homes across the country found that most of these patients were already on antiepileptic drugs at admission, though a significant number were prescribed the drugs in the first three months after they entered a nursing home.

It is not surprising that many elderly are taking antiepileptic medications, note the authors of the study, published May 5 via *Wiley InterScience* in the on-line edition of the *Annals of Neurology*, the scientific journal of the American Neurological Association.

"Contrary to the popular belief that the occurrence of epilepsy is greatest among newborns and infants, the onset of this condition is actually highest among people over the age of 65," said lead author Judith Garrard, Ph.D., a professor at the University of Minnesota School of Public Health in Minneapolis.

"What has not been fully realized until recently is the extent to which these drugs are being used by elderly nursing home residents," Garrard said.

Antiepileptic drugs (AEDs) are effective in preventing seizures, and they are also prescribed for conditions such as bipolar depression, pain generated in nerve fibers, and some behavioral problems associated with dementia.

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However, the use of AEDs is complicated and often calls for the input of a specialist who can determine which drug should be used. It is also important to note that some AEDs can have side-effects such as poor coordination, confusion, or sedation, and some may interact adversely with other types of medication, said Garrard.

It has been noted in previous research that AED use is much higher among nursing home residents than among elderly in the general population. As part of a grant from the National Institutes of Health to study AED use in the elderly, Garrard and her colleagues sought to find out whether the majority of nursing home patients taking AEDs were already on the medications before entering the home, or whether they were later prescribed the drugs.

The researchers studied the records of more than 10,000 elderly in more than 500 nursing homes around the country. They found that 8 percent of nursing home residents had been taking AEDs on admission to the homes, but they were surprised to find that another 3 percent were placed on AEDs within three months of admission.

"This is surprising since many primary care providers assume that few, if any, medications are initiated after an elderly person enters a nursing home," said Garrard.

Of the patients already taking AEDs before admission, 60 percent were taking the drugs for seizures. Conversely, only 20 percent of those placed on AEDs after admission received the drugs to prevent seizures.

"This is a foundation, and from here we hope to identify the most appropriate AED treatments for seniors and to use this information to help physicians, nursing home providers, patients, and families design more individualized care," said Garrard.

Article: "Antiepileptic Drug Use in Nursing Home Admissions," by Judith Garrard, PhD, Susan Harms, RPh, MPH, PhD., Nancy Hardie, MS, MPH, Lynn E. Eberly, PhD, Nicole Nitz, MS, Patricia Bland, MS, Cynthia R. Gross, PhD, and Ilo E. Leppik, MD, *Annals of Neurology* online edition, May 5, 2003.

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What: Internationally recognized environmental and personal health expert offers insight into mind-body healing
Who: Michael Lerner, Ph.D.
Contact: Kristin Smith, Center for Spirituality and Healing, (612) 624-7669

U OF MN HOSTS PERSONAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH PROGRAM

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (May 6, 2003) — Health care professionals, community members, and University faculty and students are invited to attend “Why Personal and Environmental Health Are Inseparable in the 21st Century,” a lecture highlighting the emerging environmental health movement. Sponsored by the University of Minnesota’s Center for Spirituality and Healing, the annual Ruth Stricker Mind-Body Lecture is slated for Wednesday, May 7, from 3:30-5 p.m., on the University’s West Bank campus. The annual lecture features leaders in mind-body medicine.

Internationally recognized mind-body expert Michael Lerner has spent more than 10 years engaged with the emerging environmental health movement. In this lecture, he proposes that personal health is increasingly inseparable from public health and that we are witnessing a movement that will make environmental public health one of the most critical human rights issues of our time. The lecture will include discussion of the impact of humankind on the global environment and what citizens can do to preserve both our personal health and that of the earth. Dr. Lerner’s work was featured on Bill Moyer’s award-winning PBS series, “*Healing and the Mind*.” He is author of the bestseller “*Choices in Healing: Integrating the Best Conventional and Complementary Approaches to Cancer*.”

Attendees are invited to join Lerner for a reception and book signing following the free lecture. Reservations are required.

The Center for Spirituality and Healing at the University of Minnesota is a nationally recognized leader in integrative medicine, bringing together biomedical, complementary, cross-cultural and spiritual aspects of care. For reservations, call 612-624-9459. For information about the Center, visit www.csh.umn.edu.

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DAVID SATCHER TO SPEAK AT U OF MN MEDICAL SCHOOL GRADUATION

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (May 7, 2003) — David Satcher, M.D., Ph.D., former surgeon general of the United States, will speak at the University of Minnesota Medical School Graduation on Friday, May 9, at 2 p.m. The graduation ceremony will be held in Northrop Memorial Auditorium, 84 Church Street S.E., Minneapolis..

Satcher was sworn in to a four year term as the 16th surgeon general of the United States in February 1998. He also served as assistant secretary for health from February 1998 to January 2001, making him only the second person in history to have held both positions simultaneously.

“I want to make public health work for all groups in this nation,” says Satcher. During his term as surgeon general, Satcher led the department’s effort to eliminate racial and ethnic disparities in health. He also also released surgeon general’s reports on tobacco and health, mental health, race and ethnicity, suicide prevention, oral health, sexual health, responsible sexual behavior, youth violence and prevention, and obesity.

Satcher is currently the director of the new National Center for Primary Care at the Moorehouse School of Medicine in Atlanta, Ga. He is also a member of the board of directors for Johnson & Johnson.

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NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Jennifer Gatti, University of Minnesota Cancer Center, 612-508-2108
Ashley Burt, Academic Health Center, 612-624-2449

U OF MN CANCER CENTER RESEARCHERS TESTING BREAST CANCER VACCINE *Participants needed for clinical trial*

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (May 7, 2003) — University of Minnesota Cancer Center researchers are evaluating a new breast cancer vaccine that is created with a patient's own cancer cells. The study, led by Elena Chiorean, M.D., and Jeffrey Miller, M.D., will determine if the Large Multivalent Immunogen (LMI) vaccine given with the drug Interleukin-2 is effective in treating patients with operable stage II and III breast cancer.

Patients with these types of breast cancer are usually treated with chemotherapy to prevent recurrences. However, some cancers can overcome or become resistant to treatment, allowing tumor growth to spread.

"New strategies are needed to improve patient outcomes and prevent disease recurrences after chemotherapy," said Chiorean, assistant professor of medicine, Medical School, and a member of the University's Cancer Center. "Because of the success we have had in a laboratory setting, we are hoping that this breast cancer vaccine can immunize a patient against her own tumor. We hope to prevent relapse by this approach, but we first need to determine whether this type of vaccine will provoke an immune response. If successful, then additional testing will be needed to determine if the vaccine can prevent recurrence to benefit women with breast cancer."

The vaccine is created by extracting proteins from a patient's breast tumor cells and attaching them to microscopic immunization beads. The vaccine is then injected back into the patient in an effort to trigger the immune system to destroy cancer cells. Generating the LMI vaccine from the patient's own cancer cells provides an opportunity to re-expose the immune system to critical cancer-specific proteins. In current clinical studies, the LMI vaccine has shown promise in treating patients with melanoma and renal (kidney) cell carcinoma.

Interleukin-2, a protein made naturally in the body, will be given along with the vaccine to activate the body's immune cells and enhance their ability to recognize and destroy tumors.

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Breast Cancer Vaccine – 2

According to the American Cancer Society, breast cancer is the second most common cancer among women and will cause an estimated 39,800 deaths this year in the United States. Women who have had cancer of one breast are at significant risk of getting cancer in the other breast.

Since the vaccine is made directly from the tumor, participants must have stage II or III breast cancer with appropriate processing of the tumor specimen at the time of surgery. Vaccine cannot be prepared from fixed tissues after surgery. After appropriate treatment with chemotherapy and radiation therapy, the vaccine will be administered at least a month after completing all other treatments for breast cancer. People who are interested in participating in this breast cancer vaccine study can call 1-888-CANCER MN (1-888-226-2376) or 612-624-2620 in the metro area. This study is funded by the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation.

The University of Minnesota Cancer Center is a National Cancer Institute-designated Comprehensive Cancer Center. Awarded more than \$80 million in peer-reviewed grants during fiscal year 2002, the Cancer Center conducts cancer research that advances knowledge and enhances care. The center also engages community outreach and public education efforts addressing cancer. To learn more about cancer, visit the University of Minnesota Cancer Center Web site at www.cancer.umn.edu. For cancer questions, call the Cancer Center information line at 1-888-CANCER MN (1-888-226-2376) or 612-624-2620 in the metro area.

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EBOLA EXPERTS TO SPEAK AT U OF MN COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE GRADUATION

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (May 9, 2003) — Nancy K. Jaax, M.D., D.V.M., and Jerry Jaax, D.V.M., key participants in the Washington, D.C.-area ebola virus outbreak in 1989, will speak at the University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine graduation on Saturday, May 10, at 7 p.m. The graduation ceremony will be held in Northrop Memorial Auditorium, 84 Church Street S.E., Minneapolis.

In 1989, the Jaaxs led a containment team that neutralized a potentially deadly outbreak of ebola at the primate facility in Reston, Va. Their involvement formed the basis for the *New York Times* best-selling book *The Hot Zone*.

Nancy K. Jaax is the former chief of the Pathology Division at the U.S. Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases (USAMRIID) at Fort Detrick, Md., and consultant to the Army Surgeon General for Veterinary Pathology. The majority of her research and publications have focused on the pathogenesis of high hazard viruses.

Jerry Jaax is the associate vice provost for research compliance and university veterinarian at Kansas State University, where he is responsible for university-wide compliance with regulatory laws and guidelines for animal care and use programs, research involving human subjects, and recombinant DNA activities and biosafety. He is currently the principal investigator on several high-profile Federal homeland security projects.

The Academic Health Center is home to the University of Minnesota's seven health professional schools and colleges, including the College of Veterinary Medicine, as well as several health-related centers and institutes. Founded in 1851, the University is one of the oldest and largest land grant institutions in the country. The AHC prepares the new health professionals who improve the health of communities, discover and deliver new treatments and cures, and strengthen the health economy

. —end—



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Minneapolis, MN 55455*

Media Advisory

For immediate release

*Office:
A395 Mayo Memorial Building*

612-624-5100

Fax: 612-624-2128

- What:** Ground breaking for the University of Minnesota Physicians Radiation Therapy Center
- When:** THURSDAY, May 15, 12:30 p.m.
- Where:** Fairview Lakes Regional Medical Center, 5200 Fairview Dr., Wyoming, Minn.
- Contact:** Ashley Burt, Academic Health Center, 612.624.2449

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA PHYSICIANS AND FAIRVIEW WORK TOGETHER TO IMPROVE CANCER CARE IN THE LAKES REGION *New radiation therapy center will provide convenient, high-quality care*

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (May 12, 2003) —University of Minnesota Physicians will begin construction this month on a radiation therapy center at Fairview Lakes Regional Medical Center in Wyoming, Minn. In an effort to enhance the convenience of medical services for cancer patients in the Lakes Region, the facility will offer radiation therapy using state-of-the-art equipment operated by University of Minnesota Physicians staff.

University of Minnesota radiation oncologists will travel to Wyoming to provide high quality medical care to cancer patients. “Cancer patients have enough stress without the added burden of traveling long distances to receive their radiation therapy treatments. This is an excellent opportunity for cancer patients to receive the latest in radiation therapy treatment without the inconvenience of traveling too far beyond their hometowns.” says Kathryn Dusenbery, M.D., radiation oncologist and chair of the University of Minnesota’s Department of Therapeutic Radiology.

The University of Minnesota Physicians Radiation Therapy Center is a collaborative effort between the University of Minnesota, Fairview Lakes Regional Medical Center, and the community to provide full service cancer care to the residents living in this area of Minnesota. It is estimated that more than 400 patients will be treated with radiation therapy at this facility annually.

Construction of the University of Minnesota Physicians Radiation Therapy Center will begin in mid-May 2003, with completion targeted for winter 2004.

—end—

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Contact: Ashley Burt, Academic Health Center, 612.624.2449

**FEDERATION OF STATE MEDICAL BOARDS ELECTS UNIVERSITY OF
MINNESOTA PROFESSOR AND PHYSICIAN CHAIR-ELECT**

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (May 14, 2003) — Doris C. Brooker, M.D., associate professor and senior physician in gynecology and obstetrics at the University of Minnesota Medical School, was recently elected Chair-elect of the Federation of State Medical Boards.

The Federation is a national organization representing the 70 state medical boards of the United States and its territories. Acting on behalf of its membership, the Federation's mission is to continually improve the quality, safety, and integrity of health care in the United States through the development and promotion of high standards for physician licensure and practice.

Brooker has been a member of the Federation's Board of Directors since 1997 and served as vice president in 2002-03. She previously served on the Federation's Editorial Committee, which is responsible for establishing editorial policy for the organization's flagship publication, the *Journal of Medical Licensure and Discipline*.

Board certified in anatomic and clinical pathology, Brooker has a distinguished record of service in the Minnesota medical community. She was a member of the Minnesota Board of Medical Practice for 12 years, serving as its president in 1997. Brooker chaired the board's Complaint Review and Licensure committees, co-chaired the board's Joint Task Force on AIDS and Hepatitis B, and served as a member on the board's Public Policy Committee. In 1998, she was awarded the Governor's Certificate of Commendation for her service, dedication, and leadership to the Minnesota Board of Medical Practice.

As a leading advocate for state women's health care legislation, Brooker was named Minnesota's Woman Physician of Year in 1990. She was active in the passage of the 1994 Health Professional Service Diversion Program, 1995 legislation banning female sexual mutilation, the 1996 Professional Sexual Misconduct statute and the 1996 Minnesota Maternity Stay legislation. She also received the Governor's 1995 Women's Leadership Award for Excellence in Women's Health. In addition, Brooker is the 2003 honoree at the Minnesota Medica "Speaking of Women's Health Conference."

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Brooker earned her medical and master's of science degrees from Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wis. She held residency positions at Harvard University and the University of Minnesota, Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, and completed a post-doctoral fellowship in Obstetrics and Gynecology at Johns Hopkins University.

Brooker is associate professor and senior physician in Gynecology and Obstetrics at the University of Minnesota Medical School in Minneapolis. She is on staff of the Fairview-University Health Care System and is associate director of the Ob-Gyn Diagnostic Laboratory.

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NEWS RELEASE

Embargo: Monday, May 19, 2003, 2p.m. C.D.T.

Contact: Ashley Burt, Academic Health Center, 612.624.2449
Sarah Youngerman, Academic Health Center, 612.624.4604

Office:
A395 Mayo Memorial Building
612-624-5100
Fax: 612-625-2129

U OF MN STUDY FINDS EAR PROBLEMS DECREASE OVER TIME FOLLOWING EAR TUBE PLACEMENT

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (May 15, 2003) — Problems associated with chronic otitis media with effusion (OME, inflammation of the middle ear) decrease annually after placement of ear tubes to relieve the symptoms of OME, according to an article in the May issue of *The Archives of Otolaryngology Head & Neck Surgery*, one of the *JAMA/Archives* journals.

“Ear drum and middle ear problems are associated with OME, especially in children who have chronic ear problems,” said lead researcher Kathleen A. Daly, Ph.D., senior research associate, otolaryngology, at the University of Minnesota. OME is often treated by the placement of tubes through the eardrum to help drain excess fluid, making it difficult to separate the effects of the disease from effects of treatment.

Daly and colleagues investigated the incidence and prevalence of middle ear problems and eardrum problems in children with OME who had ear tubes placed. The researchers studied 140 children for an average of eight years after ear tube placement. The children ranged from 6 months old to 8 years old.

The researchers found that the annual incidence of ear problems was greater during three to five years of follow-up than six to eight years of follow up.

“The annual incidence of sequelae [problems] decreased during follow-up,” said Daly. “This finding parallels decreasing incidence of OME and tube placement as children mature and demonstrates that sequelae are more likely to develop during active acute and chronic OME. The cumulative effect of incidence resulted in few ears free of sequelae by eight years of follow-up.”

“Although the risk of OM [otitis media] decreases with age, sequelae that result from disease and/or tube treatment remain prevalent. These conditions may put children at risk for continuing middle ear problems as they grow into adolescence and adulthood,” write the authors.

—end—

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Media Advisory

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*Office:
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- What:** Ground breaking for the University of Minnesota Physicians Radiation Therapy Center
- When:** TODAY, May 15, 12:30 p.m.
- Where:** Fairview Lakes Regional Medical Center, 5200 Fairview Dr., Wyoming, Minn.
- Contact:** Ashley Burt, Academic Health Center, 612.624.2449

**UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA PHYSICIANS AND FAIRVIEW WORK TOGETHER
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New radiation therapy center will provide convenient, high-quality care

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Construction of the University of Minnesota Physicians Radiation Therapy Center will begin in mid-May 2003, with completion targeted for early 2004.

—end—



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Contact: Ashley Burt, Academic Health Center, 612.624.2449
Sarah Youngerman, Academic Health Center, 612.624.4604

CDC DIRECTOR JULIE GERBERDING TO GIVE COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS AT THE U OF MN SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH GRADUATION

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (May 16, 2003) — Julie Gerberding, M.D., M.P.H., director of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), will speak at the University of Minnesota School of Public Health Graduation on Monday, May 19, at 5 p.m. The graduation ceremony will be held in McNamara Alumni Center, 200 Oak Street S.E., Minneapolis.

Gerberding became the director of the CDC in July 2002. Prior to that she was the acting deputy director of the National Center for Infectious Diseases where she played a major role in leading the CDC's response to the anthrax bioterrorism events of 2002. Most recently, she has been a key member of the worldwide team of public health experts working to respond to the outbreak of severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS).

Gerberding's areas of scientific interest encompass infection prevention and health-care quality promotion among patients and their health-care providers. She has authored or co-authored more than 120 peer-reviewed publications and textbook chapters and contributed to numerous guidelines and policies relevant to HIV prevention, post-exposure prophylaxis (prevention of infection immediately after a needlestick or sexual exposure to HIV), management of infected health-care personnel, and health-care-associated infection prevention and control. She has faculty appointments at Emory University and the University of California at San Francisco.

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Media Advisory

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*Office:
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612-624-5100
Fax: 612-625-2129*

What: Information about speech and hearing
When: Monday, May 19-Friday, May 23, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.
Where: Phillips-Wangensteen Building, University of Minnesota
Second floor, 516 Delaware St. S.E., Minneapolis
Contact: Ashley Burt, Academic Health Center, 612.624.2449
Sarah Barker, Department of Otolaryngology, 612.625.8437

LOOK AND LISTEN FOR THE SIGNS OF HEARING LOSS *May is Better Hearing and Speech Month*

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (May 16, 2003) —It is estimated that 28 million Americans have a hearing loss that can be treated with medical care. As part of Better Hearing and Speech Month, the departments of Audiology and Speech Pathology at the University of Minnesota are sponsoring a free information booth on campus. Members of the community are invited to find out about speech, voice, and hearing health and treatments and to pick up giveaways and prizes during the week of May 19-23 at the University of Minnesota.

“Even a very slight hearing loss can have an impact on your daily life. Hearing loss is treatable. There is no reason for anyone to miss all the important sounds of life,” says Melissa Oblander, M.A.-C.C.C.-A., audiologist at the Lions 5M Hearing Center, a University of Minnesota Physicians clinic.

Audiologists recommend that people ages 45 and over have an annual hearing checkup. Below are some of the warning signs of hearing loss:

- Frequently ask people to repeat themselves
- Often turn your ear toward a sound to hear it better
- Understand people better when you wear your glasses or look directly at their faces
- Lose your place in group conversations
- Keep the volume on your radio or TV at a level others say is too loud
- Have pain or ringing in your ears

To talk to an audiologist about hearing concerns, or to make an appointment for a hearing test, call the Lions 5M Hearing Center at 612.626.5775.

—end—

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Brenda Hudson, Academic Health Center, 612.624.5680

612-624-5100

Fax: 612-625-2129

**IS YOUR JOB MAKING YOU FAT?
University of Minnesota releases
guidelines for healthy food in the workplace**

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (May 27, 2003) — Donuts at the breakfast meeting, rich chocolate cake for a co-worker's birthday, pasta salad soaked in oil for the lunch seminar: the state of nutrition in the workplace is grim. That is why faculty at the University of Minnesota School of Public Health have developed guidelines for offering healthy foods at meetings, seminars and catered events. These directions for serving healthy food at the office aim to steer the American workforce toward a healthier path.

"There is an epidemic of obesity in our country. Two out of every three adults is overweight or obese. That is a big problem," says Mary Story, Ph.D., R.D., professor in the University of Minnesota's School of Public Health and co-author of the guidelines. "These guidelines will be a free and easy tool employers can use to encourage healthy eating habits at work."

The guidelines include suggestions for shaping healthy eating in the workplace, alternative options for food served at meetings and seminars, comparisons of healthy versus unhealthy foods, and caloric and fat information on popular food and beverage items. Some of the suggestions include offering healthy food choices at breakfasts, lunches, dinners and receptions. Also, the guidelines suggest not providing food at mid-morning or mid-afternoon meetings, presentations and seminars, a suggestion that seems like an obviously healthy one, but would be a major shift in culture for some workplaces. This recommendation has never been made before by nutrition experts.

When it is necessary to serve food during work functions, the guidelines provide specific recommendations on what should be placed on peoples' plates. Some examples include offering salads with dressings on the side and low-fat or fat-free dressings. Serving sandwiches on whole grain breads and serving lean meats such as poultry and fish are among the recommendations.

Rather than serving fruit tarts, pies or cobblers for dessert, it is advised that fresh fruit be offered.

—more—



Guidelines for healthy food in the workplace, Page 2

In developing the workplace nutrition guidelines, the University of Minnesota used food recommendations based on the Dietary Guidelines for Americans issued in the year 2000 by the U.S. Departments of Health and Human Services and of Agriculture.

To view the a copy of the guidelines, visit

http://www.ahc.umn.edu/ahc_content/colleges/sph/sph_news/Nutrition.pdf

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NEWS RELEASE

Embargo: Wednesday, May 28, 2003

Contact: Brenda Hudson, Academic Health Center, 612.624.5680

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FEMALE SMOKERS WHO QUIT FARE BETTER THAN MALES
Study published in American Journal of Epidemiology

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (May 27, 2003) —Women who quit smoking have greater improvements in lung function than their male counterparts, according to results from the Lung Health Study. The study, coordinated by the University of Minnesota, is published in the June issue of the *American Journal of Epidemiology*.

The five-year, 10-center study investigated almost 6,000 individuals and analyzed the changes in lung function by gender, treatment group, and three smoking history categories: sustained quitters, intermittent quitters, and continuing smokers.

“People who quit smoking showed a beneficial increase in lung function,” said John Connett, Ph.D., head of the division of biostatistics in the University’s School of Public Health and one of the study’s principal investigators, “but women showed a greater improvement than did men.”

The study found that women in the category of sustained quitters “gained a striking percentage of lung function over the course of the study compared with men, whose lung function remained unchanged,” said Connett. “Even women categorized as intermittent quitters lost less lung function than their male counterparts.” The observed gender effects persisted even after adjustment for such potentially confounding factors as baseline lung function, smoking level, age, and body mass index.

At the beginning of the study, all participants had some level of lung function impairment or chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). COPD is the fourth leading cause of death in the United States and death from COPD among women has doubled since the 1980s, largely due to the effects of cigarette smoking.

—more—



“Previous studies have found that women seem to be more susceptible to the effects of smoking than men, but there is no clear explanation why,” said Connett. “This study provides further confirmation that both continuing to smoke and quitting smoking affect women and men differently and that women have even more to gain from cessation in terms of respiratory health than do men.”

In the study lung function was measured by forced expiratory volume in one second (FEV1), or the amount of air an individual can expel in one second. Typically, if airways are narrowed due to conditions such as COPD, the FEV1 level is lower.

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*Office:
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Contact: Ashley Burt, Academic Health Center, 612.624.2449
Elizabeth Patty, University Pediatrics Foundation, (612) 626-1143

**PROCEEDS FROM ANNUAL WINEFEST
BENEFIT U OF MN DEPARTMENT OF PEDIATRICS**

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (May 28, 2003) — The University Pediatrics Foundation (UPF) will host its eighth annual WineFest May 30 and 31 at the Minneapolis Convention Center. Proceeds from the event support research and services at the University of Minnesota's Department of Pediatrics.

Activities for WineFest begin with Friday evening's Grand Tasting, which features more than 300 wines from around the world and hors d'oeuvres from various Twin Cities' restaurants, including Biaggi's, California Café, Napa Valley Grille, and Fhima's.

Saturday's events include a black-tie dinner emceed by Amelia Santaniello, WCCO Television, and Frank Vascellaro, KARE 11 Television. The Fine Wine Dinner features both silent and live auctions, with the live auction hosted by Sotheby's. The evening will conclude with the Grape Stomp Dance Party featuring live music by Boogie Wonderland.

WineFest has to date raised more than \$3 million dollars for the Department of Pediatrics. Premier sponsors of this year's events include Juntunen Group and UnitedHealth Foundation. Other organizations will be recognized for their contributions to the UPF, including Clear Channel Communications, Inc.

WHAT: Eighth Annual WineFest
WHO: University of Minnesota Department of Pediatrics
WHEN: Friday, May 30, 6:30-9:30 p.m., and Saturday, May 31, 6:00 p.m.-midnight
WHERE: Minneapolis Convention Center
1301 2nd Ave. S., Minneapolis

To order tickets or for more information, call 612.626.4020, or visit the website at www.theWineFest.com

—end—



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—end—



Media Advisory

Embargo: Saturday, May 31, 2:00 p.m., C.D.T.

*Office:
A395 Mayo Memorial Building*

*612-624-5100
Fax: 612-625-2129*

Contact: Ashley Burt, Academic Health Center, 612.624.2449

SLEEP DISTURBANCES PREVALENT IN SURVIVORS OF CHILDHOOD CANCER *University of Minnesota to present findings at the American Society of Clinical Oncology 2003 Annual Meeting*

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (May 30, 2003) — Fatigue and sleep disturbance are common in survivors of childhood cancer. Survivors report these symptoms years after receiving cancer therapy. Daniel Mulrooney, M.D., University of Minnesota Department of Pediatric Hematology and Oncology, will present these findings on Saturday, May 31, from 2 to 5:30 p.m. at the American Society of Clinical Oncology 2003 Annual Meeting in Chicago.

“We know that fatigue is recognized as a late effect of cancer therapy, however this is the first time that survivors of childhood cancer have been examined for fatigue and sleep disturbance problems,” says Mulrooney. “Years after these people have been treated for cancer, they are experiencing these problems. Whether this is a result of the cancer or the treatment will be examined in forthcoming studies.”

WHAT: The University of Minnesota will present research findings on sleep disturbances in survivors of childhood cancer at the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) 2003 Annual Meeting

WHO: **Daniel Mulrooney, M.D.**, University of Minnesota Department of Pediatric Hematology and Oncology

WHEN: Saturday, May 31, 2-5:30 p.m.

WHERE: McCormick Place Convention Center, 2301 S. Lake Shore Dr., Chicago, IL

—end—

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Embargo: Sunday, June 1, 10:15 a.m., C.D.T.

*Office:
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Fax: 612-625-2129*

Contact: Ashley Burt, Academic Health Center, 612.624.2449

**SKIN CANCERS TYPICALLY FOUND IN OLDER ADULTS ARE
BEING FOUND IN SURVIVORS OF CHILDHOOD CANCER**
*University of Minnesota to present findings at the
American Society of Clinical Oncology 2003 Annual Meeting*

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (May 30, 2003) — Nonmelanoma skin cancers typically seen in older individuals are being detected in childhood cancer survivors at younger ages than the general population. Joanna Perkins, M.D., University of Minnesota Department of Pediatric Hematology and Oncology, will present these findings on Sunday, June 1 at 10:15 a.m. at the American Society of Clinical Oncology 2003 Annual Meeting in Chicago.

“Increased risk of nonmelanoma skin cancer has been observed among radiation-exposed populations; however, little research exists on nonmelanoma skin cancer in childhood-cancer survivors,” says Perkins. “The next stage of our research is to determine why this is occurring.”

- WHAT:** The University of Minnesota will present research findings on skin cancer in survivors of childhood cancer at the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) 2003 Annual Meeting
- WHO:** **Joanna Perkins, M.D.**, University of Minnesota Department of Pediatric Hematology and Oncology
- WHEN:** Sunday, June 1, 10:15 a.m.
- WHERE:** McCormick Place Convention Center, 2301 S. Lake Shore Dr., Chicago, IL

—end—



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Media Advisory

Embargo: Tuesday, June 3, 10 a.m., C.D.T.

*Office:
A395 Mayo Memorial Building
612-624-5100
Fax: 612-625-2129*

Contact: Ashley Burt, Academic Health Center, 612.624.2449

**STUDIES CONDUCTED AT THE U OF MN REVEAL THE NEED
FOR BETTER LUNG CANCER DETECTION TECHNOLOGY
*University of Minnesota to present findings at the
American Society of Clinical Oncology 2003 Annual Meeting***

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (June 2, 2003) — Lung cancer detection technology is not as accurate or reliable as doctors would like it to be. In a study conducted at the University of Minnesota, doctors found that 40 percent of patients undergoing treatment for presumably curable lung cancer were actually in more advanced stages of the disease. “This study shows how poor the technology for lung cancer detection is,” says Robert Kratzke, M.D., University of Minnesota Department of Medicine.

Developing more accurate detection technology for lung cancer was the goal of another study conducted by Kratzke. Preliminary data on immunohistochemical detection, a test that uses antibodies to detect which stage of lung cancer a patient is in, is promising. The rate of lung cancer detection in the lymph nodes doubled when using this measure. Kratzke will present the findings on both of these studies on Tuesday, June 3 at 10 a.m. at the American Society of Clinical Oncology 2003 Annual Meeting in Chicago.

- WHAT:** The University of Minnesota will present research findings on lung cancer detection technology at the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) 2003 Annual Meeting
- WHO:** Robert Kratzke, M.D., University of Minnesota Department of Medicine
- WHEN:** Tuesday, June 3, 10 a.m.-noon
- WHERE:** McCormick Place Convention Center, 2301 S. Lake Shore Dr., Chicago, IL

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Twin Cities Campus

Office of Communications

*Mayo Mail Code 735
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Minneapolis, MN 55455*

NEWS RELEASE

Academic Health Center

*Office:
A395 Mayo Memorial Building*

Contact: Brenda Hudson, Academic Health Center, 612.624.5680
Lisa Vesel, Fairview Range Regional Health Service, 218.362.6468

*612-624-5100
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**U OF MN AND NORTHEAST MINNESOTA COMMUNITIES COLLABORATE ON
BOOSTING HEALTH CARE IN THE REGION**
Northeast first of two regions targeted by health education grant

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (June 3, 2003) — The University of Minnesota, in conjunction with communities and health care providers in the state's northeast region, announce a collaborative effort to address shortages in rural health professions workforce through an education grant. Minnesota Area Health Education Center (AHEC) is a federal-state matching funds grant aimed to distribute the education of healthcare students in medically underserved areas of the state. Northeast Minnesota is the first regional area of focus for Minnesota AHEC. The Northeast AHEC Center will be based in Hibbing and announced at a news conference on Wednesday, June 4 at 11 a.m. at Hibbing Community College, 1515 East 25th Street.

“Building on the strengths of the communities in northeast Minnesota and the University,” said Barbara Brandt, Ph.D., Minnesota AHEC program director and assistant vice president for education at the University's Academic Health Center, “the Northeast AHEC Center will help promote existing rural health programs and develop interdisciplinary educational opportunities throughout the region.” The region includes the counties of Cook, Lake, St. Louis, Koochiching, Itasca, Aitkin, Carlton, Pine, and Kanabec, as well as the Mille Lacs, Fond Du Lac and Bois Forte Indian Reservations.

Hibbing was selected as the regional host community following a series of community meetings and forums. “We are extremely pleased to be a part of this opportunity to improve health care in northeast Minnesota,” said Rick Wolff, mayor of Hibbing, “and look forward to further developing our existing relationships with the University and the health care community.” In addition to the city of Hibbing, partners include Hibbing Community College and Fairview Range Regional Health Services.

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“Behavioral health will be one area we focus on,” said Richard Dinter, M.D., COO of Fairview Range Regional Health Center. “This will allow Northeast AHEC to target resources toward community and health professional awareness about behavioral and mental health concerns in the region.”

“We’re building on a history of collaboration with the University,” said Tony Kuznik, president of Hibbing Community College, “as we strengthen health professions educational opportunities in the region.” One example of this is Hibbing Community Dental Clinic, he said, which educates dental and dental hygiene students. The Clinic, which has served thousands in the area, opened in 2002.

A national search for a director of the Northeast AHEC Center will begin later this month, said Brandt.

The Minnesota AHEC grant is made through the Health Resources and Services Administration, Bureau of Health Professions. Through regional partnerships, Minnesota AHEC will work to nurture an interest in health careers among youth; identify and support students with an interest in rural health; further develop an infrastructure for disciplinary, interdisciplinary, and community-based rotations; and support health professionals at the regional level with professional development opportunities. Minnesota AHEC was funded in September 2002. The three-year matching funds grant provides an opportunity to develop regional AHEC centers in northeast and southern Minnesota. Development of the Southern Minnesota AHEC will begin summer 2003. Future efforts will focus on other areas of the state including Northwest and Southeast Minnesota.

The Academic Health Center is home to the University of Minnesota's seven health professional schools and colleges as well as several health-related centers and institutes. Founded in 1851, the University is one of the oldest and largest land grant institutions in the country. The AHC prepares the new health professionals who improve the health of communities, discover and deliver new treatments and cures, and strengthen the health economy.

—end—

NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Brenda Hudson, Academic Health Center, 612-624-5680
Jennifer Gatti, University of Minnesota Cancer Center, 612-508-2108

U OF MN CANCER CENTER RESEARCHERS FIND MUCH HIGHER INCIDENCE OF SOME CANCERS IN MINNESOTA HMONG POPULATION

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (June 6, 2003) — Researchers at the University of Minnesota Cancer Center have found that the Hmong population in Minnesota have significantly higher incidence of nasopharyngeal, stomach, liver, and cervical cancers compared with other Minnesotans. The study will be published June 15 in *Cancer* and is available online at www.interscience.wiley.com.

Led by Julie Ross, Ph.D., associate professor of pediatrics and a member of the University's Cancer Center, the researchers analyzed data from the Minnesota Cancer Surveillance System, which serves as the population-based cancer registry for the state. They evaluated cancer incidence in the Minnesota Hmong population, determined by Hmong surnames, during the 12-year period from 1988-1999. Surnames that could include individuals from other Asian populations were excluded.

Using a ratio of documented cancer cases to expected cancer cases, the researchers found that the Hmong are nearly 40 times more likely to develop cancer of the nasopharynx (the area in the back of the nose and upper throat) and eight times more likely to develop stomach or liver cancer compared with Minnesota's overall population. They also found significantly decreased ratios for prostate and breast cancers, Hodgkin's disease, and melanoma in the Hmong population. The results of this study are similar to those found in a 1997 California study that evaluated cancer incidence in that state's Hmong population.

"The cancers that we found to be prevalent in Hmong Minnesotans—stomach, cervical, nasopharyngeal, and liver—are associated with infections that are widespread in certain parts of Asia," said Ross. "Therefore, our findings are not very surprising. The most important thing is how we use this information to help lower the incidence of these cancers in the Hmong population."

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According to Ross, this study has great implications for cancer screening and early detection in the Hmong population.

“Because we now know that this population has much higher incidence of certain cancers, some of which are rare in the state’s overall population, we can start working on developing and implementing culturally sensitive screening programs,” said Ross.

Next to California, Minnesota has the highest population of Hmong residents in the United States. The 2000 census indicates that approximately 42,000 Hmong live in Minnesota, more than half of whom reside in Saint Paul. However, community leaders and state officials have previously stated that census data on the Hmong population may be unreliable because of a language barrier or a lack of full disclosure in the census.

Co-authors of this study are Yang Xie, M.D., William Kiffmeyer, Ph.D., Sally Bushhouse, Ph.D., and Leslie Robison, Ph.D.

The University of Minnesota Cancer Center is a National Cancer Institute-designated Comprehensive Cancer Center. Awarded more than \$70 million in peer-reviewed grants during fiscal year 2002, the Cancer Center conducts cancer research that advances knowledge and enhances care. The center also engages community outreach and public education efforts addressing cancer. To learn more about cancer, visit the University of Minnesota Cancer Center Web site at www.cancer.umn.edu. For cancer questions, call the Cancer Center information line at 1-888-CANCER MN (1-888-226-2376) or 612-624-2620 in the metro area.

—end—

Media Advisory

For immediate release

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What: Weaver Symposium on the Development of Drugs for Rare Diseases
Who: **Abbey Meyers**, president of the National Organization for Rare Disorders
Marlene Haffner, director of orphan product development for the FDA
Stephen Groft, director of the Office of Rare Diseases for the NIH
When: WEDNESDAY, June 11, 8 a.m.-3 p.m.
Where: Hubert H. Humphrey Center, Cowles Auditorium, 301 19th Ave. S., Mpls.
Contact: Ashley Burt, Academic Health Center, 612.624.2449
Rebecca Lentz, College of Pharmacy, 612.624.7654

**NATIONS' LEADING EXPERTS IN RARE-DISEASE
DRUG DEVELOPMENT MEET AT THE U OF MN**
*Symposium is kick-off to the school's new initiative to
do more research in rare-disease drug development*

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (June 9, 2003) — Federal officials, researchers, and industry leaders will meet to discuss ways to improve funding for the discovery of drugs to treat rare diseases. The University of Minnesota College of Pharmacy will host the Weaver Symposium on the Development of Drugs for Rare Diseases on Wednesday, June 11, at the Humphrey Institute.

“People with rare diseases are often left without any therapies,” says Marilyn Speedie, Ph.D., dean of the College of Pharmacy. “We are working to create more opportunities to develop orphan drugs that can treat these people. The Weaver Symposium is the kick-off for this initiative.”

The Weaver symposium marks the first step in the College of Pharmacy's move toward orphan drug development. The College of Pharmacy has established the Weaver Endowed Chair in Development of Drugs for Rare Diseases, which is scheduled to be filled in 2004. The person selected for this chair will head up the Center for the Development of Drugs for Rare Diseases, a new center in the College of Pharmacy that aims to be a focal point for all rare disease research taking place at the University of Minnesota.

For more information about the symposium or to register, call 612.625.1158 or visit www.pharmacy.umn.edu/WeaverChair

—end—

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Contact: Ashley Burt, Academic Health Center, 612.624.2449

U OF MN FACULTY HONORED FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO HEALTH RESEARCH

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (June 17, 2003) — Four University of Minnesota researchers will be awarded the highest recognition of research excellence from the Academic Health Center (AHC) on Tuesday, June 17. The AHC Academy for Excellence in Health Research recognizes faculty who have contributed to the quality of the University of Minnesota through nationally and internationally recognized health-related research.

“The individuals being recognized have performed cutting-edge research crucial to the development of new drugs and therapies. Their research has transformed the fields in which they work,” says Frank Cerra, M.D., senior vice president for health sciences at the AHC.

WHAT: University of Minnesota Academy for Excellence in Health Research

WHO: **Jay N. Cohn, M.D.**, is widely cited as “the father of contemporary therapy for heart failure.” His extensive research over the last 40 years has led to current understanding of cardiovascular disease management.

Ashley T. Haase, M.D., has been a principal figure in HIV research since the virus was first identified and has been instrumental in determining the origination and development of HIV and other lentiviruses.

Horace H. Loh, Ph.D., is recognized internationally for his contributions to addictive disease research, particularly opiate addiction. His research has led to the development of new and better drugs for pain relief.

Philip S. Portoghese, Ph.D., is recognized around the world as an expert on opioid receptors. His research has been critically important to understanding pain management and the addiction and tolerance to morphine-like pain relievers.

WHEN: TODAY, June 17, 4-6 p.m.

WHERE: Coffman Memorial Union, University of Minnesota
Campus Club
300 Washington Ave. S.E., Minneapolis

—end—

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Contact: Ashley Burt, Academic Health Center, 612.624.2449

U OF MN TO HONOR PROFESSOR FOR LIFETIME SERVICE TO CHILDREN

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (June 18, 2003) — The University of Minnesota Department of Pediatrics will present the Gold-Headed Cane Award to Alfred Michael, M.D., for his distinguished lifetime service to children. This award is recognized by local physicians as one of the top honors a doctor can receive. Michael will accept his cane on Wednesday, June 18, at the Pediatric Resident Recognition Dinner.

“I am very honored to receive this award. For me, it reflects a long-term commitment to kids and to children’s programs—the golden thread that connects clinical and academic efforts,” says Michael.

Michael has been a professor at the University of Minnesota Medical School for more than 40 years. He is recognized as an international leader in research and treatment of kidney diseases. He served as the dean of the Medical School for seven years. Michael founded the Viking Children’s Fund, a pediatric research resource for the Department of Pediatrics that is supported by the Minnesota Vikings.

WHAT: University of Minnesota to present Gold-Headed Cane Award in recognition of distinguished lifetime service to children

WHO: Alfred Michael, M.D., professor, University of Minnesota Medical School

WHEN: TODAY, June 18, 7 p.m.

WHERE: Metropolitan
5418 Wayzata Blvd.
St. Louis Park, MN

—end—

NEWS RELEASE **For Immediate Release**

Contact: Ashley Burt, Academic Health Center, 612.624.2449
Molly Portz, Academic Health Center, 612.625.2640

U OF M MEDICAL SCHOOLS, SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH SURPASS \$500 MILLION FUND-RAISING TARGET

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (June 19, 2003)—Raising more money in a seven-year period than in the entire 100-plus year history of the Medical School, the Minnesota Medical Foundation announces that the Medical/Public Health portion of the University of Minnesota's fund-raising effort—Campaign Minnesota—has surpassed its \$500 million campaign goal.

The drive to benefit the University's medical schools and School of Public Health is part of the overall University of Minnesota fund-raising effort to generate \$1.3 billion in private support. The campaign began in July 1996 and closes on June 30, 2003. To date, more than \$1.6 billion has been committed.

"We are indeed very, very grateful to everyone who has made Campaign Minnesota a glorious achievement," said Barbara Forster, chair of the Medical/Public Health campaign. "This gratifying success has resulted from a truly world-class collaboration between University and Academic Health Center faculty and administrators, numerous volunteers, skilled and compassionate development officers, and most of all, thousands of generous benefactors who have embraced this effort and recognized its importance to our community."

Originally set at \$300 million, the Medical/Public Health goal moved to \$400 million, and finally was raised to \$500 million. The seven-year, \$500 million goal represented a near tripling of fund-raising production (on an annual basis) from what was raised in 1995. Despite the challenging economy during the past two years, the Minnesota Medical Foundation posted near-record fund-raising totals.

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“The generosity of more than 60,000 benefactors during some difficult economic times says a great deal about the confidence people have in what the Academic Health Center is all about,” said Frank Cerra, M.D., senior vice president for health sciences. “These generous individuals, corporations, and organizations have invested in the work of our faculty scientists—believing with good reason that the U is where new therapies, preventions, and cures will be developed to improve the lives of generations to follow.”

Among the highlights of the Medical/Public Health Campaign Minnesota:

- Established 37 new endowed faculty positions with an additional 16 chairs/professorships pledged through deferred gifts, which help to retain talented faculty and attract new faculty. In just one example, Catherine Verfaillie, M.D., was named to one of those endowed chairs, playing a key role in retaining Verfaillie and establishing the renowned U of M Stem Cell Institute.
- Raised more than \$50 million for cancer research.
- Raised \$31 million for research in neuroscience and disorders affecting the brain, including Alzheimer’s, Parkinson’s, Ataxia, ALS (Lou Gehrig’s disease), and muscular dystrophy.
- Raised \$29 million for children’s health research.
- Raised more than \$25 million for cardiovascular and pulmonary health research. Established the Lillehei Heart Institute.
- Raised nearly \$12 million for diabetes research.
- Raised \$4.7 million for macular degeneration research; \$4.3 million for international health; and \$3.6 million for women’s health.
- Raised \$22 million for medical student scholarships--nearly two-thirds of medical students receive support--and almost \$7 million for graduate medical education.

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“We are deeply gratified that so many benefactors have chosen to support our medical schools and School of Public Health with their gifts,” said Robert Bruininks, president of the University of Minnesota. “Campaign Minnesota has proven to be a resounding affirmation of the confidence alumni, friends, faculty, and many others have in the University of Minnesota. Our generous donors have expressed a strong desire to enhance the health and well-being of our community, and to do this via the talents and expertise of our faculty and students. There is no doubt this campaign will have an incredible impact on the future of our University and our state.”

Benefactors, volunteers, faculty, and members of the community will celebrate the successful effort at a campaign-ending gala on Saturday, June 21st at the McNamara Alumni Center.

The Academic Health Center is home to the University of Minnesota's seven health professional schools and colleges as well as several health-related centers and institutes. Founded in 1851, the University is one of the oldest and largest land grant institutions in the country. The AHC prepares the new health professionals who improve the health of communities, discover and deliver new treatments and cures, and strengthen the health economy.

-end-

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Jennifer Gatti, University of Minnesota Cancer Center, 612.508.2108

U OF M CANCER SYMPOSIUM SHOWCASES LATEST RESEARCH, PROVIDES HOMECOMING FOR THREE DECADES OF STUDENTS

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (June 25, 2003) — During the past 30 years, the University of Minnesota has trained students and fellows in the biology and therapy of leukemia, immunodeficiency, and related diseases under the leadership of John Kersey, M.D, director of The Cancer Center at the University of Minnesota, and his colleagues. Kersey's former students and fellows are now national and international leaders in major research institutions and industry throughout the world.

On Friday June 27 and Saturday June 28, these world-class experts will gather for a very special event: "Biology and Therapy of Leukemias and Other Cancers." This symposium represents a reunion of many of these trainees and provides an opportunity to learn about their latest research accomplishments. The program will be attended by many of Minnesota's leading medical professionals and oncologists. It is also open to the media.

"The advances we've made over the last 30 years are astounding," said Kersey. "This symposium gives us a terrific forum to reflect on what we've learned, share current, groundbreaking cancer research, and provide a homecoming for some very dear old friends."

Scheduled topics include: heat shock proteins as cancer vaccines, new therapies in pediatric cancer, advances in treating infant leukemia, umbilical cord blood and stem cell transplantation, and gene therapies in the treatment of cancer.

For additional details about this scientific symposium, including directions and a complete list of sessions and participants, please call (612) 624-8484.

The Cancer Center at the University of Minnesota is a National Cancer Institute-designated Comprehensive Cancer Center. Awarded more than \$80 million in peer-reviewed grants during fiscal year 2002, The Cancer Center conducts cancer research that advances knowledge and enhances care. The Cancer Center also engages community outreach and public education efforts addressing cancer. To learn more about cancer, visit The Cancer Center website at www.cancer.umn.edu. For cancer questions, call The Cancer Center Information Line at 1-888-CANCER MN (1-888-226-2376) or 612-624-2620 in the metro area.

-end-



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Molly Portz, Academic Health Center, 612.625.2640
Diana Harvey, School of Public Health 612.625.7134

**FOURTH OF JULY GRILLING SHOULD START WITH IRRADIATED HAMBURGER
*U of MN Infectious Disease Expert Calls Irradiated Hamburger Safe***

MINNEAPOLIS/ST. PAUL (July 2, 2003) — Twice as many people will grill hamburgers, chicken, and steaks during the Fourth of July weekend than watched the last Super Bowl. Steaks and burgers are two of the more common choices for grilling, but beef can harbor harmful bacteria. Consumers can greatly reduce their likelihood of contracting a foodborne illness by choosing irradiated hamburger. July, August, and September are months that typically have an increase in the number of *Escherichia coli* O157:H7 (commonly known as *E. coli*) and Salmonella cases.

“We know that irradiating hamburger kills at least 99.9 percent of the time two of the most common causes of food borne illness— *E. coli* O157:H7 and Salmonella bacteria,” said Michael T. Osterholm, director of the University of Minnesota’s Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), 900,000 cases of illness, 8,500 hospitalizations, and 352 deaths could be avoided if just 50 percent of raw meat and poultry consumed in the United States were irradiated.

The CDC estimates that each year 62,000 people are infected with *E. coli* O157:H7 through contaminated food and approximately 50 people die. Eating non-irradiated, undercooked ground beef causes many of these illnesses. In addition, the CDC estimates that about 1.3 million cases of Salmonella poisoning attributed to food are reported each year and kill about 550 people each year. Children, the elderly, and people with compromised immune systems are most likely to suffer severe Salmonella and *E. coli* O157:H7 infections.

Irradiated hamburgers are currently widely available in approximately 7,000 grocery stores nationwide. Consumer studies have shown that the taste of irradiated foods is not significantly changed and some studies have shown that people prefer the taste of irradiated burgers.

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The safety of the food irradiation process has been established by more than 90 years of research, including rigorous and intensive studies in the last 40 years examining the safety and wholesomeness of irradiated foods. Because irradiation reduces harmful pathogens and improves food safety, the process has been reviewed and endorsed by major national and international scientific, technical, and professional organizations, including: World Health Organization (WHO), Food and Drug Administration (FDA), United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), American Medical Association (AMA), American Dietetic Association (ADA), European Commission – Scientific Committee on Food (EC-SCF), and others.

Despite the benefits of consuming irradiated foods, some groups raise hypothetical concerns about the possibility of irradiated foods causing harmful health effects. Experts from the WHO, USDA, FDA and many other scientific organizations have found no evidence that irradiated food is toxic, carcinogenic, or in any way harmful or hazardous to human health.

“While eating irradiated hamburgers can greatly reduce the chance of getting a foodborne illness, it is not a substitute for safe and sanitary food processing and manufacturing. It is also not a substitute for good personal and kitchen hygiene. It is one more tool we have in our food safety arsenal,” said Osterholm. “My advice to backyard grillers this weekend is use irradiated hamburger – and give yourself that peace of mind.”

For more information, go to: <http://www.cidrap.umn.edu>

—end—

Note: CIDRAP receives funding from various public and private organizations and institutions, including non-restricted support from SureBeam Corporation, Ecolab, and IBA, companies involved in food irradiation.

NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Brenda Hudson, Academic Health Center, 612.624.5680

**U of MN RECEIVES TWO NIH GRANTS TO PURSUE
INNOVATIVE HIV/AIDS RESEARCH**

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (July 7, 2003) — Two National Institutes of Health (NIH) grants will help University of Minnesota researchers study why some HIV/AIDS patients do not respond to current treatments, with the hope of improving treatment for those patients. The two NIH grants, totaling \$3 million, will enable University researchers to expand their studies of scarring and fibrosis of lymph nodes to learn how it prevents repair of damage to the immune system caused by HIV.

Last year, University researchers led by associate professor of medicine, Timothy W. Schacker, M.D. and Regents Professor of Microbiology Ashley T. Haase, M.D., demonstrated that the portion of the lymph nodes called the T cell zone is significantly damaged by HIV, causing chronic inflammation and fibrosis and potentially preventing the immune system from improving in some people with HIV-1 infection, even with aggressive anti-retroviral therapy.

“The grants will be used to continue our studies on the role of lymph node fibrosis and scarring in HIV-infected people and to determine how this might open new treatment options for these patients,” said principal investigator Schacker. The study will recruit 30 HIV-positive individuals and will involve sampling the participants’ lymph nodes at specific intervals over three years.

“We already know that the portion of lymph nodes called the T cell zone is significantly damaged by HIV,” said Schacker. “We are now interested in quantifying structural damage in the lymph nodes in order to determine whether there may be ways to reverse the damage.”

“Currently, most treatment strategies for HIV/AIDS focus on stopping the virus from replicating itself in the body, which is essential to begin the process of healing and repairing of the immune system,” said Schacker. “But it does not happen for everyone, and we believe this may be due to the structural damage.”

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The findings suggest that therapies targeting the damage from inflammation and accumulation of scar tissue might enhance current antiviral therapy, he said. "In the current clinical study, we hope to find out if measuring the amount of fibrosis in lymph nodes will enable physicians to more accurately stage the disease and predict the response to standard therapies," said Schacker.

For further information on this study, or to enroll, please contact Dr. Schacker at 612-625-7920.

—end—

NEWS RELEASE

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MCGUIRE FOUNDATION COMES FORWARD AS PRIVATE FUNDER OF THE U OF MN TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH FACILITY

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (July 10, 2003) — The University of Minnesota's Academic Health Center announced today that the critical \$10 million in private funding necessary to move ahead with plans for the Translational Research Facility (TRF) has been committed by the William W. McGuire and Nadine M. McGuire Family Foundation. Long viewed as a top priority for researchers and clinicians at the University, the project received state funding in the most recent legislative bonding bill, contingent on the successful attraction of private funds.

"This gift from the McGuire Family Foundation was critical to the success of our efforts to gain state bonding authority for a Translational Research Facility," said Frank Cerra, M.D., senior vice president for health sciences at the University of Minnesota Academic Health Center. "Our future success as an institution will depend on the willingness of private individuals to invest in our work as that will provide the necessary margin of excellence."

William McGuire, M.D., spokesperson for the Foundation, said: "The significance of the Translational Research initiative for the University of Minnesota, coupled with the tremendous potential of these research applications to cure diseases and advance the health of people worldwide, make support of this effort a top priority for us. Improving the process of moving scientific breakthroughs toward effective medical treatments is a critical need, and we are proud to help the University, the Medical School, and its scientists enhance their efforts and leadership in this area. There are highly regarded, world-class researchers and medical professionals here, and we believe this initiative will help them realize their full potential. That will ultimately benefit all society."

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The researchers housed in the TRF will translate discoveries in the lab into therapies that will make a difference in the lives of patients. This translational research is exemplified by Jeffrey Miller, M.D., researcher in the Cancer Center at the University of Minnesota, who is working on treating cancer patients with the use of a vaccine that, after surgery or chemotherapy, would encourage the patient's own immune system to fight a return of cancer. Through collaboration with immune-system specialists and other cancer experts Miller is working to translate cancer discoveries in the lab to cancer cures for patients. Other researchers are working on treatments for diseases such as hemophilia and Alzheimer's.

The TRF will be 95,850 square feet, allowing space for 33 researchers and their staff. Construction on the TRF is scheduled to begin this November with a completion date set for early 2005.

The \$10 million gift from the McGuire Family Foundation is the second largest gift from a single donor to the University of Minnesota Academic Health Center. Recent gifts to Campaign Minnesota through the Minnesota Medical Foundation total over \$500 million and have endowed nearly 40 faculty chairs. The TRF is critical to meeting the need for research space for some of these chairs.

The William W. McGuire and Nadine M. McGuire Family Foundation, established in 1996, provides philanthropic support to nonprofit initiatives in the arts, sciences, and educational fields.

The Academic Health Center is home to the University of Minnesota's seven health professional schools and colleges as well as several health-related centers and institutes. Founded in 1851, the University is one of the oldest and largest land grant institutions in the country. The AHC prepares the new health professionals who improve the health of communities, discover and deliver new treatments and cures, and strengthen the health economy

—end—

NEWS RELEASE
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Contact: Molly Portz, Academic Health Center, 612.625.2640
Brenda Hudson, Academic Health Center, 612.624.5680

**U OF MN CONSORTIUM WINS NIH GRANT TO EXPLORE ETHICAL ISSUES
RAISED BY GENETIC MAPPING**
The International HapMap Project creates potential for discrimination

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (July 10, 2003) — The University of Minnesota Consortium on Law and Values in Health, Environment & the Life Sciences has been awarded a half-million dollar grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH). The project will explore the ethical and legal issues raised by the International HapMap Project (IHP), an effort to create a haplotype map of the human genome.

As part of the Human Genome Project, the IHP will be a significant tool for establishing the genetic bases of susceptibility to certain diseases, vulnerability to environmental toxins, and drug metabolism and response.

The HapMap project will generate genetic information based on samples taken from four population groups: Yorubas in Nigeria, Japanese, Han Chinese, and U.S. residents with ancestry from northern and western Europe. The primary issue the consortium will tackle is that the same researchers and clinicians who will be using this new genetic information are also required by federal regulations to use government-mandated social categories of race and ethnicity to collect population-based data.

The grant will explore the myriad ways in which these two schemes of classification may collide in practice, presenting the danger that social categories of race and ethnicity will be mistaken for biological categories and thereby fuel race- and ethnicity-based stigma and discrimination. The NIH-funded research will provide recommendations on how to handle and reconcile these social and biological classifications in the areas of medical and scientific research and practice.

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Contact: Ashley Burt, Academic Health Center, 612.624.2449

U OF MN DOCTOR NAMED FIRST CHAIRHOLDER OF THE AMERICAN RED CROSS CHAIR IN TRANSFUSION

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (July 16, 2003) — Jeffrey McCullough, M.D., professor in the University of Minnesota Medical School's Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathology and director of the University's transfusion medicine programs and the Clinical Cell Therapy Laboratory, has been named chairholder of the new American Red Cross Chair in Transfusion Medicine. The chair was established through the long-standing partnership between the University of Minnesota and the American Red Cross, North Central Blood Services. This partnership aims to expand research, development, and education in the area of transfusion medicine.

"The establishment of this chair is consistent with our commitment to helping save lives," says Kim Stecher, chief executive officer of the American Red Cross, North Central Blood Region. "We look forward to working with Dr. McCullough and his team as they make significant advances in the field of transfusion medicine."

McCullough is a national leader in blood banking and transfusion medicine. His research is focused in several areas, including blood cell therapy, the use of new cell isolation and separation techniques, and creating novel blood components for patient therapy through advances in cell culture using hematopoietic growth factors..

"We are extremely grateful for the generous support of the American Red Cross, North Central Blood Services in establishing this chair," says Deborah Powell, M.D., dean of the University of Minnesota Medical School. "The innovative research that will be conducted in the area of transfusion will impact current and future generations."

The Academic Health Center is home to the University of Minnesota's seven health professional schools and colleges as well as several health-related centers and institutes. Founded in 1851, the University is one of the oldest and largest land grant institutions in the country. The AHC prepares the new health professionals who improve the health of communities, discover and deliver new treatments and cures, and strengthen the health economy

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For immediate release

Contact: Ashley Burt, Academic Health Center, 612.624.2449

U OF MN DOCTOR RECEIVES MCKNIGHT PRESIDENTIAL ENDOWED CHAIR

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (July 18, 2003) — Kamil Ugurbil, Ph.D., director of the University of Minnesota Medical School's Center for Magnetic Resonance Research, has been appointed a McKnight Presidential Endowed Chair. Ugurbil is being recognized for his contributions to the fields of radiology and neuroscience.

Ugurbil is a renowned experimental nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopist and magnetic resonance imaging scientist. He and his colleagues were one of the first groups that simultaneously demonstrated that magnetic resonance imaging can be used to obtain images of neuron activity in the brain. This discovery has revolutionized brain research and has developed into the most commonly used approach for investigating brain function in humans.

"Kamil Ugurbil is a very gifted scientist, who pushes the envelope of technology," said Charles Moldow, M.D., senior associate dean in the Medical School, "but at the same time works extremely well and enthusiastically in the clinical arena."

The McKnight Presidential Endowed Chairs are assigned at the president's discretion and intended to attract or retain the best faculty in fields of critical importance across the university. Competition for outstanding faculty is intense nationwide because they help attract other talented faculty and graduate students and build strong research and teaching programs.

The McKnight Foundation supports efforts, primarily in Minnesota, to strengthen communities, families, and individuals, particularly those in need; contributes to the arts; encourages preservation of the natural environment; and promotes scientific research in selected fields.

The Academic Health Center is home to the University of Minnesota's seven health professional schools and colleges as well as several health-related centers and institutes. Founded in 1851, the University is one of the oldest and largest land grant institutions in the country. The AHC prepares the new health professionals who improve the health of communities, discover and deliver new treatments and cures, and strengthen the health economy.

—end—

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MEDIA ADVISORY
For Immediate Release

Contacts: Molly Portz, Academic Health Center, 612-625-2640
Jan Williams, College of Veterinary Medicine, 612-624-6228

**U OF MN VET MED SCHOOL TO HOST VISITORS FROM CHINA, SIGN
EDUCATION AGREEMENT**

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (July 22, 2003) – The University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine (CVM) will host four veterinary medicine professors from China, including Wang Ming, the dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine at China Agricultural University. The Chinese professors will tour the college and sign an agreement to establish a veterinary science education and research collaboration with the University. The education agreement between the colleges will increase teaching, training, and research opportunities for students and professors.

“We’re looking forward to working with our colleagues from China,” said Jeffrey Klausner, D.V.M., dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine. “Our collaboration will strengthen veterinary science education and research at both colleges.”

Other guests at the collaborative agreement ceremony will include representatives of the University’s China Center, the University of Minnesota Office of International Programs; and CVM leadership.

What: Tour and signing of education collaboration agreement by the deans of the University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine and China Agricultural University College of Veterinary Medicine.

When: 11:45 a.m., Thursday, July 24, 2003

Where: Kernkamp Room, Veterinary Medical Hospital
1365 Gortner Avenue, University of Minnesota St. Paul Campus

-end-



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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Contact: Jan Williams, College of Veterinary Medicine, 612-624-6228
Molly Portz, Academic Health Center, 612-625-2640

U OF MN COLLEGE OF VET MED NAMES NEW CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (July 24, 2003) – The University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine (CVM) has named David J. Miller chief operating officer. Miller will oversee finance, operations, human resources, and information systems for the Veterinary Medical Center, Veterinary Diagnostic Lab, and 17 departments and centers within the CVM.

Miller was previously chief executive officer for Behavioral Health Services at Blue Cross Blue Shield of Minnesota. Prior to that, he was vice president, southwest region, for Blue Cross Blue Shield of Minnesota.

“David’s extensive experience as a health care executive will be a real asset to the college,” said Jeffrey Klausner, dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine.

Miller has a master’s degree in hospital and health care administration from the University of Iowa and a bachelor’s degree in business from the University of Minnesota.

The University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine improves the health and well-being of animals and people by providing high-quality veterinary training, conducting leading-edge research, delivering innovative veterinary services, and leading and supporting critical public health initiatives. For more information, visit www.cvm.umn.edu.

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MEDIA ADVISORY
For Immediate Release

Contacts: Molly Portz, Academic Health Center, 612-625-2640
Shelby Williams, Minnesota Area Health Education Center, 612-624-1946

**U OF MN SPONSORED COMMUNITY LISTENING SESSION TO DISCUSS
RURAL HEALTH WORKFORCE AND EDUCATION**

What: Listening session to discuss the development of the Southern Regional Area Health Education Center (AHEC) – a community-based partnership between the University of Minnesota and communities across southwest/central Minnesota.

When: Tuesday, July 29, 2003
10:30 am

Where: Rice Memorial Hospital
Rice Auditorium
301 SW Becker Avenue
Willmar

Who: This event is open to the public. Frank Cerra, Senior Vice President for Health Sciences and Barbara Brandt, Assistant Vice President for Education from the University of Minnesota Academic Health Center will be available to provide an overview of Minnesota AHEC activities.

Why: This listening session is designed to provide information and seek input on the development of a regional concept to address health professions workforce challenges and community-identified health needs.

Registration is not required, but is recommended. Please contact Shelby Williams at will0861@umn.edu or 612-624-1946 to confirm your participation.

-end-



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Shelby Williams, Minnesota Area Health Education Center, 612-624-1946

**U OF MN SPONSORED COMMUNITY LISTENING SESSION TO DISCUSS
RURAL HEALTH WORKFORCE AND EDUCATION**

What: Listening session to discuss the development of the Southern Regional Area Health Education Center (AHEC) – a community-based partnership between the University of Minnesota and communities across southwest/central Minnesota.

When: Tuesday, July 29, 2003
2:00 pm

Where: Southwest State University
Charter Hall, Room 217
1501 State Street
Marshall

Who: This event is open to the public. Frank Cerra, Senior Vice President for Health Sciences and Barbara Brandt, Assistant Vice President for Education from the University of Minnesota Academic Health Center will be available to provide an overview of Minnesota AHEC activities.

Why: This listening session is designed to provide information and seek input on the development of a regional concept to address health professions workforce challenges and community-identified health needs.

Registration is not required, but is recommended. Please contact Shelby Williams at will0861@umn.edu or 612-624-1946 to confirm your participation.

-end-



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Contact: Molly Portz, Academic Health Center, 612.625.2640
Ashley Burt, Academic Health Center, 612.624.2449

**U OF MN VETERINARY DIAGNOSTIC LAB CHOSEN BY CDC AS
MONKEYPOX TESTING SITE**

U of MN is only U.S. lab approved to test animals for virus

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (July 31, 2003) — The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announced today that the University of Minnesota's Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (VDL) was chosen as the national testing site to screen for the monkeypox virus in animals. The CDC has been handling the testing since the outbreak in early June. The VDL has the same state-of-the-art molecular technology as the CDC labs, enabling the University lab to accommodate the high volume of testing samples.

The University is the first veterinary diagnostic lab to be selected as a full member of the CDC's Laboratory Response Network (LRN). This inclusion gives the University access to CDC protocols, immediate emerging disease information, and coordinated communications.

"Membership in the CDC's LRN provides the University a great opportunity to rapidly diagnose and prevent diseases transmissible from animals to people," said laboratory director Jim Collins, D.V.M., Ph.D.

Another factor contributing to the selection is that the VDL has the appropriate facility classification, Biosafety Level 3. It has the required airflow inside the lab to contain the virus and prevent contamination of other samples or laboratory areas.

The VDL is working in partnership with the Minnesota Department of Health in development of the testing program to meet the national demand for animal testing. As part of the current protocol for handling suspect animal specimens, pet owners and veterinarians are instructed to contact their state department of health, which then transports the specimens to the CDC for testing. The state departments of health and veterinary diagnostic laboratories will now

-more-



send the animal specimens to the University. Instructions for safe transport are found on the CDC web site at www.cdc.gov or the veterinary college's www.cvm.umn.edu.

“Minnesota is in a great position to highlight our veterinary diagnostic capabilities nationally and demonstrate the importance of an effective collaboration between public health and veterinary laboratories,” said Norman Crouch, Ph.D., director of the Minnesota Public Health Laboratory.

Although no recent cases of monkeypox in humans have been reported, appropriate testing must be conducted on all of the nearly 800 animals in the April 9 shipment from Africa. The shipment included the infected Gambian rat responsible for the recent outbreak.

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MEDIA ADVISORY For Immediate Release

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Shelby Williams, Minnesota Area Health Education Center, 612-624-1946

U OF MN SPONSORED COMMUNITY LISTENING SESSION TO DISCUSS RURAL HEALTH WORKFORCE AND EDUCATION

- What:** Listening session to discuss the development of the Southern Regional Area Health Education Center (AHEC) – a community-based partnership between the University of Minnesota and communities across southwest/central Minnesota.
- When:** Monday, August 4, 2003
2 pm
- Where:** Trafton Science Center, Room C 124
Minnesota State University-Mankato
(During proceedings of the 2003 Minnesota Rural Summit)
- Who:** This event is open to the public. Frank Cerra, Senior Vice President for Health Sciences and Barbara Brandt, Assistant Vice President for Education from the University of Minnesota Academic Health Center will be available to provide an overview of Minnesota AHEC activities.
- Why:** This listening session is designed to provide information and seek input on the development of a regional concept to address health professions workforce challenges and community-identified health needs.

Registration is not required, but is recommended. Please contact Shelby Williams at will0861@umn.edu or 612-624-1946 to confirm your participation.

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What: Free skin-cancer screenings at Senior PGA 3M Championship
When: THURSDAY, August 7-SUNDAY, August 10, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
Where: Tournament Players Club of the Twin Cities, 11444 Tournament Players Club Parkway, Blaine, Minn.
Contact: Ashley Burt, Academic Health Center, 612.624.2449

**U OF MN DERMATOLOGISTS PROVIDE FREE
SKIN-CANCER SCREENINGS AT PGA 3M TOURNAMENT**
*U of MN and 3M hope to raise awareness about
one of the most common forms of skin cancer*

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (August 5, 2003) — The University of Minnesota Department of Dermatology will offer free skin-cancer screenings and information at the 18th hole of the Senior PGA 3M Tournament being held at the Tournament Players Club in Blaine. Screenings will take place daily Thursday, August 7-Sunday, August 10 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The University of Minnesota Department of Dermatology and 3M Pharmaceuticals want to raise awareness about one of the most common forms of skin cancer that can be extremely difficult to detect if people are unaware of the warning signs. Actinic keratosis (AK) is caused by cumulative sun exposure. It affects more than 10 million Americans. AK appears as rough, red, scaly patches, crusts, or sores on the top layer of the skin. Left untreated, AK may progress to squamous cell carcinoma, the second leading cause of skin cancer deaths in the United States.

The skin-cancer screening event will offer practical information about treating and preventing AK to tournament attendees. The event is part of 3M's new educational initiative to benefit dermatology residency programs and local communities through a national skin cancer screening effort.

—end—

NEWS RELEASE

Embargo: Monday, Aug. 11, 2003 3 p.m., C.T.

Contact: Rebecca Lentz, College of Pharmacy, 612.624.7654
Ryan Davenport, Fairview Health Services, 612.672.4164

STUDY SHOWS PHARMACIST-PHYSICIAN PARTNERSHIP REDUCES HEALTH CARE COSTS, BAD DRUG INTERACTIONS *Fairview Health Services and U of M validate collaborative care approach*

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (Aug. 6, 2003) — Pharmacists working with physicians to monitor and maintain patients' drug therapies may reduce drug-related illnesses and the \$177 billion spent annually to correct those problems, a study published today reports.

Pharmacists trained in pharmaceutical care, the practice of identifying, resolving, and preventing drug therapy problems that adversely affect patients' care, can safely solve patient medication problems, including potentially dangerous drug interactions, by using the collaborative care approach, according to the study published today in the *Archives of Internal Medicine*. A pharmacist-physician partnership is one type of collaborative care, which is increasingly offered in health care settings.

The study, which examined the collaborative care approach of pharmaceutical care, was conducted by researchers from the University of Minnesota College of Pharmacy and Fairview Health Services. The study, which judges the quality of care delivered by pharmacists, is the first to use the same quality-assurance process physicians employ.

"Not only did patients, pharmacists, physicians and other health care providers work together to identify and resolve an average of 2.3 drug therapy problems per patient, but physicians agreed with more than 94 percent of all clinical decisions made by pharmacists to help patients achieve their treatment goals and resolve drug therapy problems," says Brian Isetts, Ph.D., B.C.P.S., lead researcher on the study.

-more-



Pharmaceutical care, page 2

The percentage of patients who had the desired effect from their drug therapy increased from 74 percent during their initial visits to the pharmaceutical care clinic to 89 percent at their latest visit. The study also found pharmacists were able to resolve the drug-therapy problems without directly involving the patients' physicians in many cases. For example, pharmacists increased compliance by making complicated drug regimens more understandable and more manageable for the patient.

A 12-member panel of physicians and pharmacists reviewed randomly selected patient records from the pharmaceutical care clinics. Panelists agreed with the pharmaceutical care providers' evaluations in 94.2 percent of the cases and disagreed in only 2.2 percent of the cases. "The decisions made by pharmaceutical care practitioners working in collaboration with physicians to provide drug therapy management services are clinically credible," the researchers wrote.

There were 5,897 drug therapy problems that were resolved among the 2,524 patients in Fairview's Pharmaceutical Care Program. The most common problems pharmaceutical care providers found were the need for additional therapy, adjustment of incorrect doses, patient compliance with medication orders, adverse drug reactions, and ineffective drug therapy.

Each of the 2,524 patients had an average of 6.5 medical conditions and took an average of 8.2 medications. The most frequent drug therapy problems were in treatments for osteoporosis, asthma, nutritional supplements, hypertension, and hypothyroidism.

Previous studies show that pharmacists working with physicians can prevent errors and reduce drug costs. In 1995 the cost of drug therapy problems in the U.S. health care system was around \$76 billion. By 2000, that cost had increased to \$177 billion.

-more-

Pharmaceutical care, page 3

The pharmaceutical care clinics, a collaboration between pharmacists and physicians, exist at six Fairview clinics in the Minneapolis and St. Paul area. The program began in 1999, and all patients treated at the six clinics can receive pharmaceutical care services regardless of their ability to pay or their health insurance status.

Pharmacists complete a 120-hour, eight-week, 50-patient certificate preparation program in pharmaceutical care provided by the Peters Institute of Pharmaceutical Care at the University of Minnesota College of Pharmacy. The program focuses on a philosophy of practice and process of care and prepares pharmaceutical care practitioners to identify, resolve and prevent drug therapy problems.

The Academic Health Center is home to the University of Minnesota's seven health professional schools and colleges, including the College of Pharmacy, as well as several health-related centers and institutions. Founded in 1851, the University is one of the oldest and largest land-grant institutions in the country. The AHC mission is to prepare the new health professionals who improve the health of communities, discover and deliver new treatments and cures, and strengthen the health economy.

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What: 13th Annual Minnesota Medical Foundation Golf Classic
When: Monday, August 11, 8 a.m. and 1 p.m. tee times available
Where: Midland Hills Country Club, 2001 Fulham St., St. Paul
Registration: \$225 entry fee, register on-line at www.mmf.umn.edu/events or call Emily Heagle at 612.624.9161

Contact: Ashley Burt, Academic Health Center, 612.624.2449

TEE OFF FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH AND EDUCATION MMF Golf Classic to benefit U of MN Medical School

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (August 7, 2003) — The annual Minnesota Medical Foundation (MMF) Golf Classic benefits medical research and education at the University of Minnesota medical schools in the Twin Cities and Duluth. The MMF Golf Classic will take place on Monday, August 11 at the Midland Hills Country Club in St. Paul.

Registration for the MMF Golf Classic includes 18 holes of golf with cart (scramble format), continental breakfast, lunch, and an evening banquet. There will be on-course competitions throughout the day with opportunities to win prizes like gift certificates for Twin Cities restaurants, the Midland Hills pro shop, foursome golfing at other local private golf courses, and Gopher football tickets.

This year marks the 13th Annual Minnesota Medical Foundation Golf Classic. This event has raised more than \$540,000 for medical education and research in the past 12 years.

—end—



NEWS RELEASE

Embargo: Monday, August 11, 2003, 3 p.m. C.T.

Contact: Brenda Hudson, Academic Health Center, 612.624.5680
Ashley Burt, Academic Health Center, 612.624.2449

Office:
A395 Mayo Memorial Building
612-624-5100
Fax: 612-625-2129

ADOLESCENTS TEASED ABOUT THEIR WEIGHT MAY BE MORE LIKELY TO HAVE SUICIDIAL THOUGHTS AND ATTEMPT SUICIDE

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (August 8, 2003) — Adolescents teased about their weight have low self-esteem, are unsatisfied with their bodies, and may contemplate and attempt suicide more than their peers who are not teased, according to a University of Minnesota study to be published in the August issue of *The Archives of Pediatrics & Adolescent Medicine*.

“Bullying and hate-speech have come under scientific and public scrutiny in recent years, but little research has focused on weight-based teasing,” said lead author Marla Eisenberg, M.P.H., Sc.D., at the University’s School of Public Health. “Weight-based teasing by peers is widespread, especially for overweight individuals, and has been identified as a risk factor for eating disorders. Given the importance placed on body size in the United States, weight-based teasing may pose a serious threat to the health and well-being of young people.”

In the study, Eisenberg’s team determined the associations of weight-based teasing and body satisfaction, self-esteem, depressive symptoms, suicidal ideation (thinking about committing suicide), and suicide attempts among a large group of adolescents.

The researchers surveyed 4,746 adolescents in grades 7 to 12 at public middle schools and high schools in the Minneapolis-St. Paul metropolitan area about their eating habits, health, mental health, and experiences with teasing. The researchers also obtained the heights and weights of the adolescents they surveyed.

The researchers found that of students who completed the surveys (82 percent), 30 percent of adolescent girls and 25 percent of adolescent boys were teased by peers, and 29 percent of the girls and 16 percent of the boys were teased by family members. Approximately 15 percent of the girls and 10 percent of the boys reported being teased by both peers and family members.

—more—



The researchers also found that teasing about body weight was consistently associated with low body satisfaction, low self-esteem, high depressive symptoms, and thinking about or attempting suicide. Compared with teasing from a single source or no teasing, teasing from both peers and parents was associated with a higher prevalence of emotional health problems. The effect of the teasing remained the same, regardless of whether the adolescents were actually overweight or not.

“Of particular concern,” said Eisenberg, “are the alarming rates of suicidal ideation and attempts associated with weight-based teasing, which are two to three times as high among those who were teased compared with those not teased. Physicians and other health care providers and health educators should recognize the potential importance of weight-based teasing for their young patients and actively counter unrealistic norms regarding body weight and shape.”

EDITOR’S NOTE: For more information or a copy of the article, contact JAMA/Archives at 312/464-JAMA (5262).

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—end—

NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release

- What:** Mini Medical School to begin fall 2003 session
When: *Registration:* Begins Tuesday, September 9
Classes run: Mondays, October 13 through November 17, 6-8:30 p.m.
Where: Classes will be held in the Molecular and Cellular Biology Building, Room 3-120, 420 Washington Avenue, Minneapolis
Registration: on-line at www.ahc.umn.edu/MiniMed or by phone 612.625.8608, registration fee is \$40
Contact: Ashley Burt, Academic Health Center, 612.624.2449

FALL SESSION OF MINI MED COMING SOON *Six week session designed to give community members a glimpse of medical school*

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (August 8, 2003)- Members of the community with an interest in health are invited to attend a crash course in medicine at the University of Minnesota's Mini Medical School. This six session program taught by University of Minnesota professors is designed to familiarize people who do not have medical backgrounds with basic medical concepts and health information. Classes run every Monday night from 6-8:30 p.m. for six weeks starting on October 13.

Class topics for the fall 2003 session include **Environmental Health, Prescription Drugs, Death and Dying, Sexuality, Emerging Infections, and Vaccines and Immunology.** Expert faculty in each of these areas will teach classes and answer questions.

For the past three years, faculty from the University have presented the very latest information on topics ranging from women's health to bioterrorism. The classroom setting offers a unique opportunity for the community to learn about these important issues.

Space is limited, and seats fill fast. Those interested are encouraged to register on line at www.ahc.umn.edu/MiniMed. Those who do not have access to the Internet, please call Brian Shekleton at 612.625.8608. The \$40 fee may be paid by check or money order and must be received by October 10th to guarantee a spot.

—end—



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Contact: Ashley Burt, Academic Health Center, 612.624.2449

U OF MN OFFERS FREE MEDICATION TO TYPE 2 DIABETICS UNTIL 2008 ***New study examines how to reduce the risk*** ***of cardiovascular disease in Type 2 diabetics***

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (August 11, 2003) — People with diabetes have two to four times more risk for cardiovascular disease than the rest of the population. In an effort to determine whether or not controlling blood sugars, cholesterol, and blood pressure can reduce the risk for cardiovascular disease in Type 2 diabetics, the University of Minnesota is conducting a study sponsored by the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute. Members of the community afflicted with Type 2 diabetes are invited to participate in this study and will receive free medication until 2008.

“Cardiovascular disease is a dangerous and life-threatening side effect of Type 2 diabetes. It is crucial that we find the best way to prevent this complication from happening,” says Betsy Seaquist, M.D., professor in the University of Minnesota’s Medical School and principal investigator of the study. “This study is an excellent way for us to identify the best way to reduce cardiovascular disease in patients with diabetes. In addition, the free medications will help participants lower their own out-of-pocket expenses for health care for several years. Since many patients find the costs of taking care of their diabetes to be overwhelming, participants will directly benefit from taking part in the study.”

In addition to free medication, blood glucose monitors, and test strips, participation in this study will provide patients with regular medical follow-up, patient education, counseling for healthy lifestyle changes, blood sugar, blood pressure, and blood cholesterol control. Participants should be 55 years of age or older with no history of heart disease, or 40 years of age or older with a history of heart attack, stroke, heart surgery, or other heart disease. Study sites are available across the Twin Cities.

For more information on participating in this study, call Mike Mech at 612.624.6101 or e-mail mechx003@umn.edu.

—end—



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U OF MN OFFERS FREE MEDICATION TO TYPE 2 DIABETICS UNTIL 2008 ***New study examines how to reduce the risk of cardiovascular disease in Type 2 diabetics***

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (August 12, 2003) — People with diabetes have two to four times more risk for cardiovascular disease than the rest of the population. In an effort to determine whether or not controlling blood sugars, cholesterol, and blood pressure can reduce the risk for cardiovascular disease in Type 2 diabetics, the University of Minnesota is conducting a study sponsored by the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute. Members of the community afflicted with Type 2 diabetes are invited to participate in this study and will receive free medication until 2008.

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In addition to free medication, blood glucose monitors, and test strips, participation in this study will provide patients with regular medical follow-up, patient education, counseling for healthy lifestyle changes, blood sugar, blood pressure, and blood cholesterol control. Participants should be 55 years of age or older with no history of heart disease, or 40 years of age or older with a history of heart attack, stroke, heart surgery, or other heart disease. Study sites are available across the Twin Cities.

For more information on participating in this study, call Mike Mech at **612.624.6101** or e-mail [**mechx003@umn.edu**](mailto:mechx003@umn.edu).

—end—



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Contact: Molly Portz, Academic Health Center, 612.625.2640
On-site contact: Barbara Friedman, Cochlear Implant Program, 612.802.4764

U OF MN COCHLEAR IMPLANT PROGRAM ANNUAL PICNIC

What: Annual Cochlear Implant Picnic to celebrate the 400th patient milestone

When: Sunday, September 14
11 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Where: North Mississippi Park
5114 North Mississippi Drive
Minneapolis

Who: Families and recipients of cochlear implants. At one time profoundly deaf, the recipients of this “bionic ear” are now fully integrated with hearing peers.

Interviews available: Isabella Rowe, youngest bilateral cochlear implant recipient, and her parents will be attending the picnic and available to discuss her progress one year after the surgery.

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Media Advisory **For immediate release**

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- What:** “How Universities Can Partner With Underserved Communities” lecture
Who: Americo Bracho, M.D., M.P.H., director of Latino Health Access
When: Wednesday, September 10, noon-1 p.m.
Where: Coffman Union Theater, first floor, Coffman Memorial Union,
300 Washington Ave. S.E., Minneapolis
Registration: Not required, FREE and open to the public
Contact: Ashley Burt, Academic Health Center, 612.624.2449

LECTURER TO ADDRESS IMPROVING HEALTH CARE ACCESS IN UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES *Expert in Latino health issues to speak at the U of MN*

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (September 8, 2003) — University of Minnesota visiting scholar Americo Bracho, M.D., M.P.H., executive director of Latino Health Access, a center for health promotion and disease prevention in Santa Ana, Calif., will discuss improving health care access to underserved communities in a special lecture on Wednesday, September 10 from noon to 1 p.m.

Bracho created Latino Health Access in Santa Ana in an effort to assist the Latino community with the multiple health needs facing it. This center takes a unique approach to health care by facilitating community involvement in the development of health programs and education. The program trains community health workers as leaders of wellness and change. Bracho will describe how this model can improve the quality of health care in underserved communities. Institutions like the University of Minnesota can use this as a guide to serve populations with limited health-care access.

“It is apparent from the growing rate of uninsured individuals in our country that we have a health-care system in crisis,” says Nancy Baker, M.D., family practice professor at the University of Minnesota Medical School. “If Universities work with underserved communities and assist them in developing programs that involve community members and make them part of the solution, health-care access will surely improve.”

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Twin Cities Campus

Office of Communications
Academic Health Center

Mayo Mail Code 735
420 Delaware Street S.E.
Minneapolis, MN 55455

NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release

Office:
A395 Mayo Memorial Building
612-624-5100
Fax: 612-625-2129

Contact: Ashley Burt, Academic Health Center, 612.624.2449

U OF MN STUDY FINDS PEOPLE ARE CONSUMING LESS TRANS-FATTY ACIDS ***Findings may help explain the decrease in coronary heart disease in the U.S.***

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (September 9, 2003)—People are eating less trans-fatty acids than they were two decades ago, according to research conducted at the University of Minnesota published in this month's *Journal of the American Dietetic Association*. In recent years, concern has arisen about the potential health hazards of trans-fatty acids in the American diet. Predominantly found in hydrogenated vegetable oil, trans-fatty acids adversely affect health and provide no known benefits to health. This study may partially explain the decrease in coronary heart disease in the United States since the late 1960s.

Results of this study come two months after the Food and Drug Administration announced that it will require food manufacturers to include trans-fatty acids amounts on all nutrition labels. "Americans are making great strides in improving cardiovascular health by consuming less trans-fatty acids. Awareness of the harmful effects caused by these acids is critical to improving health," says Lisa Harnack, Dr.P.H., M.P.H., associate professor of epidemiology at the University of Minnesota School of Public Health and principal investigator of the study. "This study magnifies the fact that there are good and bad choices people can make concerning fat and oil consumption in their diets."

Little previous research had been done on trans-fatty acid intake in the United States. This study examined trends in trans-fatty consumption from 1980-1982 to 1995-1997 using data collected as part of the Minnesota Heart Survey, a population-based study in a large urban area of cardiovascular risk factors, morbidity, and mortality.

View the full article with results at www.adajournal.org

The Academic Health Center is home to the University of Minnesota's seven health professional schools and colleges as well as several health-related centers and institutes including the School of Public Health. Founded in 1851, the University is one of the oldest and largest land grant institutions in the country. The AHC prepares the new health professionals who improve the health of communities, discover and deliver new treatments and cures, and strengthen the health economy

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What: National Institutes of Health awards University of Minnesota grant to study stress reduction in solid organ transplant patients

Who: Cynthia Gross, Ph.D., College of Pharmacy and School of Nursing, Mary Jo Kreitzer, Ph.D., R.N., Center for Spirituality and Healing and School of Nursing

Contact: Ashley Burt, Academic Health Center, (612) 624-2449
Rebecca Lentz College of Pharmacy, (612) 624-7654
Kristin Smith, Center for Spirituality and Healing, (612) 624-7669

**UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA AWARDED \$2.1 MILLION TO STUDY
IMPACT OF YOGA AND MEDITATION ON PATIENTS**

MINNEAPOLIS/ST. PAUL (September 9, 2003) – A year-long pilot exploring the impact of mindfulness-based stress reduction on solid organ transplant patients has led to the award of a five-year, \$2.1 million grant from the National Institutes of Health to conduct a larger clinical trial. The trial will compare two approaches to symptom management after transplant surgery.

Studies reveal anxiety, depression, and sleep disturbances are among the many symptoms that kidney, pancreas, heart, lung and liver transplant patients experience post-surgery. These symptoms are often in response to such stresses as income loss, physical limitations, fear of organ rejection, susceptibility to illness, and high medical costs. These symptoms may continue for years.

Principal investigator Cynthia Gross, Ph.D., professor of Pharmacy and Nursing, and co-principal investigator Mary Jo Kreitzer, Ph.D., R.N., Director of the Center of Spirituality and Healing and associate professor in the School of Nursing, will conduct the “Wellness in Transplant” study. One symptom management approach, Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction, will teach patients to use gentle yoga exercises and mindfulness meditation, a technique popularized by best selling author and integrative medicine expert, Jon Kabat-Zinn. The other approach, Living a Healthy Life with Chronic Conditions, was developed at Stanford University and is an innovative peer-led education program emphasizing exercise, diet, and communication with health care providers.

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Grant award continued, page 2

The study will enroll 150 solid organ transplant recipients from Fairview-University Medical Center, Hennepin County Medical Center, and other health systems. Researchers will evaluate anxiety, depression, sleep disturbances, objective sleep changes, quality of life, and use of health care services at 6- and 12-month follow-ups. Prior to the grant award, Gross and Kreitzer completed a pilot study that showed mindfulness-based stress reduction helped to reduce transplant-related stresses.

The College of Pharmacy, the only school of pharmacy in Minnesota, offers its program on the Twin Cities and Duluth campuses. Founded in 1892, the College of Pharmacy educates pharmacists and scientists and engages in research and practice to improve the health of the people of Minnesota and society.

A nationally recognized leader, the Center for Spirituality and Healing oversees the university's efforts to integrate complementary care and healing practices into patient care, research, and health sciences education. For more information, call 612-624-9459 or visit www.csh.umn.edu

The Academic Health Center (AHC) is home to the University of Minnesota's seven health professional schools and colleges, including the College of Pharmacy, as well as several health-related centers and institutions. Founded in 1851, the University is one of the oldest and largest land-grant institutions in the country. The AHC mission is to prepare the new health professionals who improve the health of communities, discover and deliver new treatments and cures, and strengthen the health economy.

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MEDIA ADVISORY For Immediate Release

Contact: Molly Portz, Academic Health Center, 612-625-2640

U OF MN HEALTH CAREERS CENTER OPENS

MINNEAPOLIS/ST. PAUL (September 10, 2003) – The new University of Minnesota Health Careers Center has its official opening today. The Health Careers Center provides information on traditional and emerging health professions to both prospective and current students, through a variety of educational experiences. In addition to learning about different health careers, students can acquire key information on pre-requisite courses, admission criteria and suggestions for strategies on being a successful applicant.

“The Health Careers Center provides a central place for students, faculty, and the public to get the latest information on a career path into a health career,” says Judy Beniak, R.N., M.P.H., director of the center. “Given the current workforce shortages in health careers, our aim is to encourage students to consider and explore careers in health care. The center will provide these students with the tools to be successful.”

The Health Careers Center offers students exposure to real-life health careers through an emphasis on experiential opportunities like shadowing, volunteering, internships, and mentoring. Students can visit the Health Careers Center at Moos Tower to take advantage of career planning resources or visit the Web site at www.healthcareers.umn.edu.

The Health Careers Center is a University partnership, jointly funded by the College of Liberal Arts, College of Human Ecology, Institute of Technology, College of Biological Sciences, the Academic Health Center, Office of the Senior Vice President of Health Sciences, and the Office of the Associate Vice Provost of Undergraduate Education.

WHAT: University of Minnesota Health Careers Center Open House

WHEN: Wednesday, September 10
1:30 p.m.- 3:30 p.m.

-more-



1:30 p.m. welcome by Frank Cerra M.D. , Senior Vice President for Health Sciences

1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. office tours and exhibits

WHERE: 2-565 Moos Tower
515 Delaware Street SE
Minneapolis

This event is open to the public.

-end-

NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release

Contact: Rebecca Lentz, College of Pharmacy, 612.624.7654

MEDICATION LEVELS TEND TO BE ERRATIC IN ELDERLY PATIENTS WITH EPILEPSY *Adverse effects or seizures could potentially occur*

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (Sept. 11, 2003) — University of Minnesota researchers studying epilepsy in the elderly have found that the level of medication in patients' blood is more erratic than initially believed, potentially exposing patients to adverse effects or break-through seizures.

Researchers will present those and other early results—including the significant role gender plays in absorption of antiepileptic drugs—during the International Geriatric Epilepsy Symposium that begins Friday in Coral Gables, Fla.

Researchers at the University of Minnesota College of Pharmacy are using the largest grant in the history of the school to study the use of antiepileptic drugs in seniors. Through a \$7 million grant from the National Institute of Neurological Diseases and Stroke, a division of the National Institutes of Health, researchers seek to improve the quality of life for seniors with epilepsy and those receiving antiepileptic drugs as treatment for other diseases.

Epilepsy is defined as a chronic condition characterized by two or more recurrent, unprovoked seizures. Its onset in seniors is most often caused by stroke. Antiepileptic drugs are also used to treat other conditions, such as tremors and aggressive behavior disorders.

Researchers will continue to study epilepsy in the elderly and pursue potential causes for these results throughout the duration of the five-year grant.

They've found that 1 in 10, or 10 percent, of nursing home residents takes an antiepileptic drug. In the community as a whole, not the nursing home community, 1 to 2 percent of people take an antiepileptic drug. Researchers wondered whether patients were put on antiepileptic drugs after entering the

—more—

nursing home or whether they began taking antiepileptic drugs after admission to the nursing home. They discovered 7 percent of residents were already on an antiepileptic drug when they entered the nursing home. Another 3 percent began taking an antiepileptic drug after entering the nursing home.

Early results show that patients often had a wide range of blood levels of the antiepileptic drugs. On some days, patients had concentrations much higher than what's considered normal of the antiepileptic drug in their blood, while on other days they had much lower than normal concentrations. Researchers need to further study this to determine if any problems are associated with the range of concentration. A very high concentration may expose patients to adverse drug effects while a very low concentration may expose patients to break-through seizures.

Early results also show that as people age, there is a marked difference in how men and women metabolize antiepileptic drugs. Women appear to require higher doses of the antiepileptic drugs to achieve the same level of medication in their blood than men require.

Researchers are also studying how patients older than 65 years old absorb and eliminate phenytoin, the most commonly prescribed antiepileptic drug for elderly patients.

Initial findings show that drug absorption is more erratic in the elderly than in younger adults. The amount of the antiepileptic drugs absorbed into the blood stream ranges from 40 percent to 100 percent in the elderly. Older adults also eliminate the drug from their bodies more slowly than younger adults and require more than four weeks for the medication to be completely eliminated from the body. At the same time, the elderly need more time to experience the full effects of the drug regimen. Researchers have published some of these results.

Researchers are using an innovative technique in which a nonradioactive tracer dose of phenytoin is injected. This allows researchers to study the complete process of absorption and elimination of the drug without interrupting the patients' therapy.

Researchers say the use of phenytoin in healthy, community-dwelling adults may require more careful dosing than when the drug is used in younger adults.

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Contact: Mary Pattock, School of Nursing, 612.624.0939
Molly Portz, Academic Health Center, 612.625.2640

U OF MN SCHOOL OF NURSING DEAN TO STEP DOWN *Doubled research funding and enrollment during her tenure*

MINNEAPOLIS/ST. PAUL (September 15, 2003) – Sandra R. Edwardson, dean of the University of Minnesota School of Nursing, today announced she will step down from her position next summer. She will take a one-year administrative leave to pursue her own research interests, then return to the faculty. She has served as dean since 1991.

“Dean Edwardson is an effective leader who has responded to the challenges in the profession of nursing and has led the school into one of the top 10 in the country,” said Frank Cerra, M.D., senior vice president for health sciences. “I have enjoyed working with her and her wisdom will be missed. I wish her the best in this transition.”

One of Edwardson’s goals was to strengthen the school’s research programs—essential to attracting excellent faculty and research funding. Her strategy was to create three centers of research excellence – in gerontology, child and family health promotion research, and American Indian research and education.

The strategy was successful. Research funding for the school more than doubled, and the school has developed national prominence in those areas. This year, nearly a third of all the federal Maternal and Child Health Bureau’s educational grants went to University of Minnesota School of Nursing research programs. Funding from private sources responded to the invigorated programming as well, increasing endowments by more than \$15 million.

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Responding to the changing need for nurses, Edwardson more than doubled the number of nursing students. New education programs were established, including public health nursing, several nursing specialties, and a 16-month post-baccalaureate program that gives people with non-nursing degrees a jump-start into nursing practice and a master's degree in nursing.

During her term the school developed a "bridge" program to foster doctoral scholarship among American Indian students, and opened nursing programs in several locations around the state: an undergraduate satellite program in Rochester, and other programs in Mankato, northeast, and southeast Minnesota. The school developed innovative teaching programs, and became known as the campus leader in distance-education.

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The School of Nursing is one of seven schools and colleges in the Academic Health Center, one of the most comprehensive education and research facilities for health professionals in the nation, fostering interdisciplinary study and research.

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MEDIA ADVISORY

For Immediate Release

Contact: Molly Portz, Academic Health Center, 612-625-2640
Dawn Fish, Diabetes Institute, 612-626-0450

PILOT WITH TYPE 1 DIABETES BEATS THE ODDS, BRINGS IN THE DOUGH

MINNEAPOLIS/ST. PAUL (September 16, 2003) – The University of Minnesota’s Diabetes Institute for Immunology and Transplantation (DIIT) has been granted \$100,000 to research cross-species transplantation of insulin-producing islet cells. The check will be personally delivered by pilot Douglas Cairns, the first person with Type 1 diabetes to fly around the world.

This is a personal and professional feat for Cairns and all who have Type 1 diabetes. When diagnosed 15 years ago, Cairns was forced to halt his military flight instructor career, and told there was no hope of flying an airplane again. Through persistence and advocacy, however, he ultimately regained his pilot’s license. He recently completed a round-the-world trip to raise money and awareness about the need for diabetes research, and is planning yet another.

“I wanted to show that a licensed pilot with type 1 diabetes can fly safely and point out that diabetes should not limit the scope of people’s dreams and ambitions,” said Cairns.

The gift from the Children with Diabetes Foundation, Colorado, will be used to conduct preclinical research into successful transplantation of insulin-producing islet cells from pigs to primates. It is widely believed that cross-species transplantation, or xenotransplantation, using tissue and organs from pigs for human needs will eventually succeed.

The University of Minnesota is the world’s pioneer of successful pancreas transplantation and subsequent transplantation of only the insulin-producing islet cells of the pancreas. The University’s DIIT has achieved a 90 percent success rate in its current human clinical islet transplant trials, leading the world in successful transplantation using a single infusion of islet cells.

WHAT: Douglas Cairns lands at the Holman Field, the downtown St. Paul airport

WHERE: Holman Field Airport, St. Paul,
270 Airport Road, next to the Air National Guard office

WHEN: Thursday, September 18
11:00 a.m.

INTERVIEWS AVAILABLE: 11:00 – 11:30 a.m. or by request



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Contact: Brenda Hudson, Academic Health Center, 612.624.5680

U of MN ANNOUNCES APPOINTMENTS IN MEDICAL SCHOOL'S DEPARTMENT OF PEDIATRICS

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (Sept. 17, 2003)—Two interim appointments have been announced in the Medical School's pediatrics department at the University of Minnesota. David Cornfield, M.D., has been appointed as the department's interim head. Patricia Ferrieri, M.D. will serve as interim director of the Pediatric Infectious Diseases Division. Both positions were previously held by Scott Giebink, M.D., who died last month.

"We're very grateful to Doctors Cornfield and Ferrieri for accepting these positions of responsibility during a period of transition in the Department of Pediatrics," said Deborah Powell, Medical School dean. "I'm certain their leadership will prove invaluable both to the department and the school."

Cornfield, a professor in Pediatrics and Physiology, was previously director of Pediatric Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine. He received his medical degree from the University of Wisconsin and completed his residency at The Children's Mercy Hospital in Kansas City, Mo. His fellowship training was in pediatric pulmonology and critical care medicine at the University of Colorado School of Medicine. At the University of Minnesota, he has served as program director, Pediatric Emergency Medicine, and vice-president, Pediatric Clinical Service Unit.

Ferrieri is a professor of laboratory medicine and pathology and pediatrics at the University's Medical School and director of the Clinical Microbiology Laboratory at Fairview-University Medical Center. She is a graduate of the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine. An active attending member of the Pediatric Infectious Disease Division, she also is an internationally and nationally recognized expert on pathogenesis of encapsulated bacteria, such as group B *Streptococcus* and *Streptococcus pneumoniae*.

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Contact: Brenda Hudson, Academic Health Center, 612.624.5680

U of MN ANNOUNCES NEW HEAD OF THE DEPARTMENT OF NEUROSURGERY

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (Sept. 18, 2003)—Stephen J. Haines, M.D., has been named head of the Department of Neurosurgery at the University of Minnesota. Haines comes to Minnesota from the Medical University of South Carolina, where from 1997 to the present he was chairman of the Department of Neurological Surgery and, since 1999, co-director of the Neuroscience Institute. For 15 years prior to that, he was head of the Division of Pediatric Neurosurgery at the University of Minnesota Medical School, and at various times held professorships in the neurosurgery, otolaryngology, and pediatrics departments.

“Dr. Haines brings his expertise and experience to a department that has consistently ranked among the top in the country,” said Deborah Powell, Dean of the Medical School. “We all look forward to welcoming him back to Minnesota as head of the Department of Neurosurgery.”

Haines research focuses on pediatric neurosurgery and surgery of the skull base. It has been supported by the National Institutes of Health, the American Heart Association, and the Minnesota Medical Foundation, among others. Haines belongs to many professional associations, including the American Academy of Neurological Surgeons, the Society of Neurological Surgeons, and the World Federation of Neurosurgical Societies.

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U OF MN LECTURE TO DISCUSS ETHICAL USE OF ANIMALS FOR RESEARCH

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (September 19, 2003)—In the last several decades, more and more people have started questioning how animals are used in science and agriculture. “The growth of scientific knowledge about animals appears to pose a fundamental paradox: the more we learn about animals, the less clear it is that we can use them simply as objects to satisfy our curiosity,” says Dale Jamieson, Ph.D., professor at Carleton College and guest lecturer at the University of Minnesota. Jamieson will discuss how to think about animals from a scientifically informed and morally sensitive perspective on Monday, September 22, 12:15-1:15 p.m. at Coffman Memorial Union.

WHAT: Science, Ethics, and the Animal Protection Movement

WHO: **Dale Jamieson**, Ph.D., is the Henry R. Luce Professor in Human Dimensions of Global Change at Carleton College and an adjunct scientist in the Environmental and Societal Impacts Group at the National Center for Atmospheric Research. He is the editor of *A Companion to Environmental Philosophy* and author of *Morality's Progress: Essays on Humans, Other Animals, and the Rest of Nature*.

WHEN: MONDAY, September 22, 12:15-1:15 p.m.

WHERE: Coffman Memorial Union, University of Minnesota
Mississippi Room
300 Washington Ave. S.E., Minneapolis
Ramp parking is available

This event is free and open to the public. To register or for more information, please call 612.625.0055 or e-mail lawvalue@umn.edu or visit www.lifesci.consortium.umn.edu.

This lecture, free and open to the public, is part of the Lunch Series on the Societal Implications of the Life Sciences. Sponsors of this lecture are the University's Consortium on Law and Values in Health, Environment & the Life Sciences and Joint Degree Program in Law, Health & the Life Sciences.

—end—



NEWS RELEASE

EMBARGO: 11:30 AM (CDT) Saturday, September 20, 2003

Contact: Molly Portz, Academic Health Center, 612.625.2640

COMBINING OSTEOPOROSIS DRUGS PRODUCES NO ADDED BENEFIT

MINNEAPOLIS/ST.PAUL (September 20, 2003) – Combining two types of drugs prescribed for osteoporosis, parathyroid hormone (PTH 1-84) and alendronate (marketed as Fosamax) does not improve bone density any better than either single drug alone, according to a study conducted at four academic medical centers in the United States, including the University of Minnesota.

The study randomly assigned 238 postmenopausal women to one of three daily treatments for one year: parathyroid hormone (PTH 1-84), alendronate (marketed as Fosamax), or both. Since daily administration of parathyroid hormone acts primarily to promote bone formation and alendronate works primarily by inhibiting bone resorption, many researchers in the bone-density field have speculated that the combination of the two drugs would produce larger gains in bone density. However, findings of this study found no evidence to support this hypothesis.

“New approaches to the treatment of osteoporosis are needed, especially given the recent evidence concerning the risks of hormone therapy (estrogen plus progestin),” says Kristine Ensrud, M.D., M.P.H., an investigator in the study and a professor of Medicine at the University of Minnesota and Minneapolis VA Medical Center.

Osteoporosis is an age-related condition that results in low bone density and an increased risk of fractures. It is responsible for 1.5 million fractures annually in the United States.

First year findings from the study will be presented at the American Society for Bone and Mineral Research in Minneapolis on September 20 and published in the *New England Journal of Medicine* on September 25.

-end-

NEWS RELEASE

Embargo: 3 p.m. (CT), Tuesday, September 23, 2003

Contact: Todd Matthews, The Cancer Center, 612.624.6165
Molly Portz, Academic Health Center, 612.625.2640

ALMOST HALF OF CHILDHOOD CANCER SURVIVORS REPORT SIGNIFICANT HEALTH PROBLEMS AS ADULTS

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (Sept. 22, 2003)—Childhood cancer survivors face considerable health issues in adulthood: 44 percent of adult survivors cite moderate to severe problems with anxiety, pain, general health, mental health, routine functions, or regular activity, according to a study in the September 24 issue of *The Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA)*. This nationwide study, coordinated by researchers at The Cancer Center at the University Minnesota, is the largest and most comprehensive assessment of long-term survivors of childhood cancer ever undertaken.

The study also reveals that, despite the large number of survivors affected by adverse health, 88 percent of all patients still reported that they considered their health to be good, very good, or excellent.

Les Robison, Ph.D., professor of pediatrics, is lead investigator for the Childhood Cancer Survivor Study (CCSS), a collaborative, multi-institutional study coordinated through The Cancer Center that follows more than 20,000 individuals who survived five or more years after treatment for cancer, leukemia, tumor, or similar illness diagnosed during childhood or adolescence between 1970 and 1986.

In this report, Robison teamed with Melissa M. Hudson, M.D., of St. Jude Children's Research Hospital and other colleagues, to compare the health status of long-term survivors of childhood cancer and their siblings and to identify factors associated with adverse outcomes.

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Health status was assessed in 9,535 adult survivors of the most common forms of childhood cancer, including leukemia, brain tumors, Hodgkin's disease, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, bone tumors, soft-tissue sarcoma, kidney tumors, and neuroblastoma. A randomly selected cohort of the survivors' siblings (N=2,916) served as a comparison group. Six health status domains were assessed: general health, mental health, functional status, activity limitations, cancer-related pain, and cancer-related anxiety/fears.

The researchers found that survivors were significantly more likely to report adverse general health (2.5 times more likely), mental health (80 percent more likely), activity limitations (2.7 times more likely), and functional impairment (5.2 times more likely), compared with siblings.

"Important study findings include the general health as perceived by adults surviving childhood cancer is very good with only 10.9 percent reporting fair or poor health, [yet] long-term adverse effects in specific aspects of health were relatively common, as reflected by 43.6 percent of the cohort reporting impairment in one or more of the health domains evaluated in the study, and factors associated with impaired health status included being female, not completing high school, having a household income less than \$20,000, and having a diagnosis of bone tumor, central nervous system tumor, sarcoma, or Hodgkin disease," the authors write.

"Lingering cancer-related anxiety and fears were more common in long-term survivors of Hodgkin disease, sarcomas, and bone tumors, possibly reflecting a greater appreciation of their vulnerability to cancer-related health risks. Primary care doctors should anticipate health deficits in these clinical and sociodemographic groups when evaluating adults who are childhood cancer survivors and be prepared to address physical and psychosocial [abnormalities] adversely impacting health status," the authors conclude.

(*JAMA*. 2003;290:1583-1592. Available post-embargo at jama.com)

Editor's Note: This work was supported by a grant from the Department of Health and Human Services and funding to the University of Minnesota from the Children's Cancer Research Fund. Dr. Hudson is supported by a Cancer Center Support (CORE) grant from the National Cancer Institute and by the American Lebanese Syrian Associated Charities (ALSAC).

The Cancer Center at the University of Minnesota is a National Cancer Institute-designated Comprehensive Cancer Center. Awarded more than \$80 million in peer-reviewed grants during fiscal year 2003, the Cancer Center conducts cancer research that advances knowledge and enhances care. The center also engages community outreach and public education efforts addressing cancer. To learn more about cancer, visit the University of Minnesota Cancer Center Web site at www.cancer.umn.edu. For cancer questions, call the Cancer Center information line at 1-888-CANCER MN (1-888-226-2376) or 612-624-2620 in the metro area.

News Release

For Immediate Release

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Molly Portz, Academic Health Center, 612.625.2640

LEADER IN STEM CELL CARDIOLOGY RESEARCH APPOINTED TO MEDTRONIC BAKKEN CHAIR IN CARDIOVASCULAR REPAIR *Doris Taylor Adds to Genomics and Stem Cell Expertise in Minnesota*

MINNEAPOLIS/ST.PAUL (September 23, 2003) — The University of Minnesota today announced Doris Taylor, Ph.D., as the holder of the Medtronic Bakken Chair in Cardiovascular Repair. Dr. Taylor is a recognized and published leader in the field of cell and gene therapies, including adult stem cell therapies, for the treatment of cardiovascular disease.

Drawing upon the expertise of two University organizations – the Biomedical Engineering Institute and the Stem Cell Institute — Taylor will direct research that leverages both traditional biomedical engineering technologies in fields such as electromechanics, biomaterials, and sensors and emerging molecular and cellular biological technologies. Taylor will focus the work toward the discovery and development of novel cardiovascular therapies. Her interest is in the convergence of traditional medical devices and breakthroughs in biosciences that accelerate the transition from basic scientific research to practical clinical applications. Her academic appointment is as a professor of physiology and medicine.

“The University of Minnesota provides incredible synergies that allow researchers and clinicians in this field to find and test a treatment and then, if it is right, to move it towards clinical applications that will benefit patients,” said Taylor. “This appointment is a chance to work with leading stem cell researchers as well as top-notch cardiologists and surgeons who intimately understand cardiovascular disease and its devastating consequences. The time is right to pursue the tremendous promise of new approaches to treat the number-one killer in America.”

The University conducted an international search to recruit a scientist for the endowed chair, which is supported by more than \$8 million in endowments and programmatic commitments, the largest components of which come from Medtronic and the Medtronic Foundation for the Chair, University matching funds, and investment income.

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“This is a highly specialized field of research,” said Frank Cerra, M.D., senior vice president of health sciences at the University. “We believe the University can provide Dr. Taylor with the breadth of resources, both inside the University and in the Minnesota biotech community, that will advance her work in stem cell and genomics research. More importantly, we know that faculty, students, and patients will benefit from her incredible dedication to translating basic science into real treatment options.”

The Medtronic Bakken Chair is named for Earl E. Bakken, one of the world’s pre-eminent biomedical visionaries and technological innovators. Bakken, now retired and living in Hawaii, founded Medtronic in 1949 and invented the first wearable, transistorized heart pacemaker in collaboration with University surgeons in 1957. “Earl Bakken believes that problems can be solved by thinking outside of the box and approaching them from many angles,” said Taylor. “It is an honor to fill a chair in his name and work to create new, as of yet unrealized, pathways to treating disease.”

“Faculty recruits like Dr. Taylor to the University further the position of Minnesota as a world leader in the field of genomics and stem cell research,” said Deborah E. Powell, M.D., dean of the Medical School. “Public-private partnerships provide us with significant leverage to pursue the boundaries of stem cell research and genomic medicine.”

Taylor comes to the University of Minnesota from Duke University Medical School, where she is an associate professor in the Department of Medicine, Division of Cardiology. She received her Ph.D. in Pharmacology from Southwestern Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center and did her postdoctoral training in Molecular Biology at Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Department of Microbiology and Immunology in Bronx, N.Y. Among other academic responsibilities, Taylor is currently co-chair of the International Society for Heart & Lung Transplantation Cell Therapy Tissue Engineering Council and on the scientific committee and jury of the Grand Prix Lefoulon-Delande Foundation at the Institut de France.

—end—

MEDIA ADVISORY/SATELITE FEED

Embargoed until 3p.m. (CT) Tuesday, September 23, 2003

**ALMOST HALF OF CHILDHOOD CANCER SURVIVORS REPORT
SIGNIFICANT HEALTH PROBLEMS AS ADULTS
*Yet Positive Attitudes Prevail***

WHAT: A video news release about the adult health problems faced by childhood cancer survivors. Nearly half of adult cancer survivors cite moderate to severe problems with anxiety, pain, general health, mental health, routine functions or daily activities according to a study in the September 24 issue of the *Journal of American Medicine (JAMA)*. The study also found that despite health problems, survivors are thriving on the power of positive thinking.

This nation-wide study, coordinated by researchers at The Cancer Center at the University Minnesota, is the largest and most comprehensive assessment of long-term survivors of childhood cancer ever undertaken.

WHO: Kevin Oeffinger, M.D., a University of Texas researcher and clinician and two patients discussing their health issues. The patients discuss their current health concerns and positive outlook on cancer survival.

VNR ELEMENTS: Doctor and patient interviews, B-roll and SOTs

INTERVIEW OPPS: University of Minnesota Cancer Center experts involved with the study. Contact Todd Matthews.

CONTACTS: **Media**
Todd Matthews (612.624.6165) or Molly Portz (612.625.2640)

Technical
Morning feed 212.682.5200
Afternoon feed 323.930.1030

SATELLITE INFO: **Feed Date:** Tuesday, Sept. 23, 2003
Feed Times: 8:00 - 8:30 AM (CT), 1:00 - 1:30 PM (CT)
Coordinates: Telstar 6 (C), Transponder 11
Downlink Frequency: 3920 Vertical/Audio: 6.2/6.8

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UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

News Release

Twin Cities Campus
For immediate release

Office of Communications
Academic Health Center

Mayo Mail Code 735
420 Delaware Street S.E.
Minneapolis, MN 55455

Contact: Rebecca Lentz, College of Pharmacy, 612.624.7654
Ashley Burt, Academic Health Center, 612.624.2449

Office:
A395 Mayo Memorial Building
612-624-5100
Fax: 612-625-2129

U OF MN COLLEGE OF PHARMACY ANNOUNCES WEAVER MEDAL RECIPIENTS *Julie K. Johnson and the late Darwin Zaske receive annual award*

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (Sept. 25, 2003) — The University of Minnesota College of Pharmacy will award the Lawrence C. And Delores M. Weaver Medal to Julie K. Johnson, R.Ph., executive vice president of the Minnesota Pharmacists Association (MPhA) and the late Darwin Zaske, Pharm.D, a College of Pharmacy professor who pioneered the practice of clinical pharmacy and treatments for burn patients.

Johnson, who graduated from the University of Minnesota College of Pharmacy in 1981, heads the MPhA, the largest pharmacy professional organization in the state.

Zaske was a professor at the College of Pharmacy from 1975 until his death in May 2003. He also was director of pharmaceutical services from 1978 to 1995 at St. Paul-Ramsey Medical Center (now Regions Hospital) in St. Paul.

Since 1996, the University of Minnesota College of Pharmacy has annually awarded the Lawrence C. And Delores M. Weaver Medal for distinguished contributions to the College of Pharmacy in the areas of pharmacy education, research and/or outreach. The college will hold an award ceremony and reception Nov. 20, 2003.

Johnson was instrumental in convincing lawmakers to pass a revised Minnesota Pharmacy Practice Act in 1999, which allows pharmacists to enter into collaborative practice agreements with physicians. She chaired the Pharmacy Practice Task Force during her tenure as president of MPhA in 1995.

She's served as executive vice president of MPhA since 2001. She's also co-owner and pharmacist-in-charge of Blomberg Pharmacy in Falcon Heights and an assistant professor at the College of Pharmacy.

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“Julie Johnson has a remarkable record as a pharmacist, pharmacy educator and pharmacy leader. She has contributed enormously to the college by helping lead change in the profession and by working directly with students in the classroom and in her pharmacy,” says Marilyn Speedie, Ph.D., dean of the University of Minnesota College of Pharmacy. “She is an outstanding recipient of the Weaver medal and joins other distinguished pharmacists, educators and leaders who have received this award over the past several years.”

Before accepting her current position at MPhA, Johnson taught courses at the College of Pharmacy on over-the-counter medications and community management. She also was a preceptor for fourth-year college students at her pharmacy.

Johnson served as the program coordinator for the College of Pharmacy Alumni Society mentorship program. The University of Minnesota Alumni Association modeled its mentorship program after the college’s. She received the 1994 National Volunteer of the Year Award from the UMAA.

In 2000, she received the Bowl of Hygeia award given by Wyeth-Ayerst for service to patients and the community. In 1997, she received the Harold R. Popp Award for outstanding services to the profession of pharmacy.

She served as president of MPhA in 1995. Johnson was also voted the College of Pharmacy 1994 Teacher of the Year and the College of Pharmacy 1985 Syntex Preceptor of the Year.

“Julie has proven to be a tireless advocate of patient care through her efforts in practice, association work, legislative affairs and education,” the nomination letter stated. “While many can claim involvement, and a few have clearly distinguished themselves as leaders, there are very few who have demonstrated the commitment, dedication and concern shown by Julie Johnson.”

Zaske advanced the concept of individualized drug therapy, a movement that greatly advanced the then-emerging discipline of clinical pharmacy. Zaske pioneered the post-doctoral training program for clinical pharmacists. More than 50 residents and fellows, who practice and conduct research worldwide, studied under Zaske. He was a founding member and elected fellow

of the American College of Clinical Pharmacy, and the American College of Clinical Pharmacology.

Zaske was known nationally and internationally for his work on individualized antibiotic therapy for burn patients. In 1976, Zaske was co-author on a groundbreaking study that determined that burn patients often required much higher doses of antibiotics than previously thought to successfully treat infections. The results from the study, which he co-authored with College of Pharmacy Professor Ronald Sawchuk, led to the standard protocol now used in the treatment of burn patients.

“His many contributions to the professional literature literally saved and improved the quality of patient lives,” the nomination letter stated. “Much of what is accepted today as the discipline of clinical pharmacy practice was pioneered by Zaske in the late ’70s and early ’80s.”

He established one of the first and largest programs in the United States that offered specialized postdoctoral fellowship training and later postdoctoral residency training.

He earned his undergraduate and doctor of pharmacy degrees from the University of Minnesota, published more than 100 scientific manuscripts and contributed to more than 20 textbooks. His pioneering work contributed greatly to the outstanding reputation of the College of Pharmacy.

The College of Pharmacy, the only school of pharmacy in Minnesota, offers its program on the Twin Cities and Duluth campuses of the University of Minnesota. Founded in 1892, the College of Pharmacy educates pharmacists and scientists and engages in research and practice to improve the health of the people of Minnesota and society.

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NEWS RELEASE

Embargo: 3:00 p.m. C.S.T., Tuesday, September 30, 2003

Office:
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Contact: Ashley Burt, Academic Health Center, 612.624.2449

INNOVATIVE U OF MN VIRTUAL CLINIC TO BE FEATURED IN JAMA
U of MN is at the leading edge of using a
computer-simulated clinic to educate medical students

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (September 30, 2003) — The University of Minnesota’s Virtual Clinic is a web-based primary care clinic designed to broaden and improve the learning experience for medical students. This creative new program is highlighted in tomorrow’s *Journal of the American Medical Association* in a feature on academic innovations.

The Virtual Clinic allows students to participate in the ongoing care of imaginary patients. The patients and medical cases are created by doctors who teach at the Medical School and are intended to illustrate interaction with patients, major medical conditions, and principles of medicine. Each Wednesday students log on to a Web site where they find medical records for a list of “patients” waiting for treatment in a primary care clinic. Students have access to the person’s medical record, which includes health history information, laboratory results, medications ordered, and imaging such as X-rays.

“This gives students context for the materials they have in class,” says Catherine Niewoehner, M.D., professor at the University of Minnesota School of Medicine and director of the Minnesota Virtual Clinic. “One of the major stumbling blocks for medical education in the past has been a lack of communication between courses in a given year and courses in the preceding years. The Virtual Clinic provides ongoing communication between different subjects and medical specialties.”

The University of Minnesota’s Virtual Clinic is one of only a few such programs in the United States or the world. “The University of Minnesota is probably at the leading edge in using a simulation system to bring clinical activity in line with the sciences basic to medicine,” says Deborah Danoff, M.D., associate vice president of medical education at the Association of American Medical Colleges.

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Students follow patients through each course during their undergraduate education and continue seeing them into the second through fourth-year curricula. “Establishing relationships with patients and caring for them over the years is much more rewarding than I ever thought it would be,” says Jim Pacala, M.D., associate professor of family medicine and community health at the University of Minnesota School of Medicine. “I hope the students will get an idea of what it is like.”

The Academic Health Center is home to the University of Minnesota’s seven health professional schools and colleges as well as several health-related centers and institutes. Founded in 1851, the University is one of the oldest and largest land grant institutions in the country. The AHC prepares the new health professionals who improve the health of communities, discover and deliver new treatments and cures, and strengthen the health economy

—end—

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

*Office:
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Contact: Molly Portz, Academic Health Center, 612.625.2640
Lynn Blewett, SHADAC, 612.626.4739

U OF MN CENTER WEIGHS IN FOR MORE ACCURATE PICTURE OF HEALTH INSURANCE DISPARATIES

MINNEAPOLIS/ST. PAUL (September 30, 2003) – Influenced by research by the University of Minnesota’s State Health Access Data Assistance Center (SHADAC) the U.S. Census Bureau changed how it estimates the significance of health insurance coverage differences across years and between demographic groups for its report, released today, *Health Insurance Coverage: 2003*. The research demonstrated a significant discrepancy in past reports in how the Census Bureau estimated standard errors and significance tests for health insurance coverage.

The standard of evidence necessary for the Census Bureau to conclude that there was a significant increase of uninsurance from 2001 to 2002 was significantly improved as a result of SHADAC research. SHADAC is working with the Census Bureau to conduct further research to improve the estimates.

“SHADAC is committed to helping states improve the use of data to inform health policy,” says Lynn Blewett, Ph.D., M.A., director of SHADAC. “In the case of the Census Bureau estimates, it is critical for state policymakers to be able to distinguish real change in insurance coverage dynamics from random fluctuation due to survey error.”

SHADAC is a national expert on issues relating to health insurance coverage. The center helps states gain access and use U.S. Census Bureau data to influence health policy. When the data is unavailable, SHADAC works to improve survey design and data collection for state policymakers.

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SHADAC/page 2

To further the discussion of health insurance data collection, SHADAC is hosting a national audio conference with Charles T. Nelson, assistant division chief of the Housing and Household Economics and Statistics Division, U.S. Census Bureau, to discuss its new estimates and methodology for estimating health insurance coverage. The audio conference will be held on October 1, 2003, at noon CDT. For more information on the event, contact Kirsten Nobbe at SHADAC (612-624-4802).

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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Contact: Molly Portz, Academic Health Center, 612-625-2640

U OF MN PROFESSOR RECEIVES LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD IN GENETIC COUNSELING

MINNEAPOLIS/ST. PAUL (October 1, 2003)—Bonnie LeRoy, M.S., C.G.C., director of the genetic counseling graduate program at the University of Minnesota, recently received the highest award given to a genetic counselor by her peers. The Natalie Weisberger Paul award is given annually to a genetic counselor who demonstrates exceptional lifetime leadership qualities in the profession of genetic counseling.

LeRoy began her career as a genetic counselor at the University of Minnesota in 1981, and became the director of the Graduate Program in Genetic Counseling in 1989. LeRoy has established herself nationally as a leader in genetic counseling, serving as Secretary of the American Board of Genetic Counseling from 1998-2001. In January 2001 she was elected president of the board, which is responsible for setting national standards for genetic counseling. She was president of the National Society of Genetic Counselors and has served on numerous national advisory boards, including boards at the National Institutes of Health.

Besides her primary areas of interest in education and clinical preparation of genetic counseling professionals, Leroy's research focuses on the psychosocial and ethical issues involved with the provision of genetic counseling services. She was a co-investigator on a three-year study to assess the professional and ethical challenges specific to the practice of genetic counseling and to identify the strategies that have been successful in meeting these challenges. She was also awarded funding to develop a helping skills manual and counseling videotape to be used in national graduate programs in genetic counseling.

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LeRoy has published extensively about the genetic counseling process and ethical challenges associated with genetic counseling. Her most recent publication (2003) is a genetic counseling textbook that focuses on the psychosocial skills needed by practicing genetic counselors. As a recognized leader in her field, LeRoy is a highly sought speaker locally and around the country.

-end-

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NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release

Who: U of M Medical School Class of 2007
What: White Coat Ceremony
When: Saturday, Oct. 4, 2003, 1 p.m.
Where: Northrop Memorial Auditorium
Contact: Ashley Burt, Academic Health Center, 612-624-2449

U OF M MEDICAL STUDENTS RECEIVE WHITE COATS

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (Oct. 2, 2003) — University of Minnesota medical students will receive their white coats during a ceremony to honor their commitment to the profession on Saturday, October 4 at 1 p.m. in Northrop Memorial Auditorium.

“This is a day to celebrate what it means to be a physician,” said Medical School Dean Deborah Powell, M.D. “The respect that society assigns to the physician is related to the professional values and responsibilities of this calling. The compassion, kindness, expertise and humanity of future physicians require that these values be taught and modeled by us.”

Speaking to the Class of 2007 on what it means to be a professional is Fred Lyon, M.D., who graduated from the University of Minnesota Medical School in 1957. John Song, M.D., a Medical School faculty member and member of the Center for Bioethics, will speak on the topic of “Altruism and Professionalism.” This class also welcomes author and talk show host Barbara Carlson who will talk about the patient and physician relationship.

This will be the seventh White Coat Ceremony at the University of Minnesota Medical School. Arnold Gold, M.D., Columbia University, established the White Coat Ceremony to impress upon students, physicians, and the public the important symbolic role the white coat plays in patient-doctor interactions. Each student will receive an Arnold P. Gold Foundation pin to symbolize commitment to provide compassionate and competent care.

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NEWS RELEASE

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Contact: Molly Portz, Academic Health Center, 612.625.2640
Brenda Hudson, Academic Health Center, 612.624.5680

U OF MN DESIGNATED NATIONAL CENTER OF EXCELLENCE IN WOMEN'S HEALTH

MINNEAPOLIS/ST. PAUL (October 3, 2003)—The University of Minnesota has been designated a National Center of Excellence in Women's Health by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Women's Health.

A National Center of Excellence in Women's Health designation is a formal commitment to women's health research, clinical care, education, community outreach, and development for women faculty. Institutions must demonstrate in a competitive process the ability to focus on all facets of women's health. The University was chosen because of its superiority in five key areas: clinical care, education, research, leadership development, and outreach. This award puts the University of Minnesota in the company of other highly successful academic institutions previously funded such as Harvard University, the University of Pennsylvania, the University of California at San Francisco, and the University of California at Los Angeles.

"This is truly an interdisciplinary effort including the schools of Nursing, Public Health, Pharmacy, and Medical School, Duluth campus and community partners, that will allow us to share superb university resources across the state," said Anne Taylor, M.D., associate dean of faculty affairs and co-director of the program. "Our faculty, affiliate hospitals, and community partners allow us to address women's physical, psychological, and social health—in rural and urban settings, and among the diverse cultural and geographic populations across the state. Because women are the key health managers in families, improvement in women's health in Minnesota will strengthen family and community health."

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Examples of collaborative work include developing a network of all women's health services across disciplines and institutions, so that physicians can easily access the most appropriate treatment for patients, developing culturally sensitive women's health care best practices to use across the state, working with community partners to find out the most efficient ways of providing patient education, and making the university's cutting edge women's health research available more widely to all Minnesota women.

Resources and support for this program come from multiple schools in the Academic Health Center—Medical School, School of Nursing, School of Public Health, and College of Pharmacy—affiliate hospitals, community partners, and special programs such as the Rural Physician Associate Program, the Center of Excellence in American Indian and Minority Health, Pilot City Health Clinic, and Community-University Health Care Clinic.

“The University has historically been a leader in women's health issues,” said Deborah Powell, M.D., dean of the Medical School. “Now all the expertise from around the University will be centralized and focused on delivering to the women of Minnesota the absolute best health care possible.”

The director of the program is Nancy Raymond, M.D., an associate professor of psychiatry. Anne Taylor, M.D. a professor of medicine/cardiology and associate dean for faculty affairs and Dan Landers, M.D. professor of obstetrics, gynecology, and women's health are co-directors of the program. Professors from the Medical school, School of Nursing, and School of Public Health are leading other program components.

-end-

NEWS ADVISORY **For Immediate Release**

Contact: Mary Pattock, School of Nursing, 612-624-0939
Molly Portz, Academic Health Center, 612.625.2640

U of MN School of Nursing Launches Health Disparities Project Ten Minnesota Health Care Organizations Participate

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (October 6, 2003) — Could the size of a clinic examining room help a sick person heal?

Yes, if that patient happens to be Hmong and the room needs to accommodate several family members who will be involved in the patient's health care and decision-making.

But many health care-providers aren't aware of cultural differences like this one that can play a critical role in healing.

Twenty Minnesota nursing leaders will gather at a four-day meeting sponsored by the University of Minnesota School of Nursing October 7 through 10 to launch changes to health care environments that will ultimately lead to improved health outcomes for local multicultural communities. The event will be held at the Oak Ridge Center, Chaska, Minn. Results of the yearlong project, Improving Health Care Environments for Multicultural Communities, will be made to other Minnesota health care organizations.

Reporters interested in attending the event or interviewing participants should call Mary Pattock at the School of Nursing, 612-624-0939.

"There is a great disparity between the health status of white and non-white communities in Minnesota," says Joanne Disch, Ph.D., R.N., executive director of the school's Katherine J. Densford International Center for Nursing Leadership, which is sponsoring the event. "At this conference, we'll introduce local nursing leaders to specific cultural differences we have in our community, and work together to develop clinical and organizational strategies to bridge them. Then we'll meet at intervals over almost a year to track progress and measure success. "

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Nurses are uniquely positioned to make these changes, Disch says, because their role in health care is to address patients holistically, including the social systems and environment that can play a determining role in their health status.

The training portion of the project is supported by contributions from Edwards Memorial Trust, Anna Heilmaier Charitable Foundation, and Children's Hospitals and Clinics. Its unusual evaluation feature is supported by a generous contribution from the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Minnesota Foundation.

Participants are nursing leaders who have authority to implement changes in hospitals and residential care centers. They represent five metro area health-care organizations—North Memorial Hospital, Fairview, HealthEast, Hennepin County Medical Center, Children's Hospital—and five rural health care organizations—Allina clinics in Owatonna and Buffalo, Austin Medical Center, Rice Memorial Hospital, and the ACMC clinic in Willmar.

The University of Minnesota School of Nursing is the world's oldest continuing university-based school of nursing. A leader in nursing research, it ranked 14th among 600 eligible nursing schools in 2001 grants from the National Institutes of Health. Approximately 200 undergraduate and 300 graduate students are enrolled in the School's B.S.N., M.S., and Ph.D. programs. It is the only school in Minnesota to award a nursing Ph.D., and it has the largest graduate program at the University of Minnesota. As the state's nursing flagship, the school cultivates leadership, producing 55 percent of the faculty in Minnesota's public and private nursing schools, advanced practice nurses, and nurses who can assume leadership positions.

The Academic Health Center is home to the University of Minnesota's seven health professional schools and colleges as well as several health-related centers and institutes including the School of Nursing. Founded in 1851, the University is one of the oldest and largest land grant institutions in the country. The AHC mission is to prepare the new health professionals who improve the health of communities, discover and deliver new treatments and cures, and strengthen the health economy.

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Contact: Ashley Burt, Academic Health Center, 612.624.2449
Lisa Vesel, Fairview Range Regional Health Services, 218.362.6468

NORTHEAST MN AREA HEALTH EDUCATION CENTER NAMES DIRECTOR *New director to serve as liaison between U of MN and region to address health-care needs*

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (Oct. 7, 2003) — After a highly competitive nationwide search, Brendan L. Ashby, M.P.H., C.H.E.S., has been selected to direct the Northeast Minnesota Regional Area Health Education Center (AHEC), a federal/state-funded program that aims to educate health professions students in medically underserved areas of the state. Ashby will serve as a liaison between communities of Northeastern Minnesota and the University of Minnesota to address rural health work force concerns through the partnership AHEC provides.

Ashby will be working closely with communities across the region to identify the best strategies for addressing the area's health-care needs. Ashby enters this position with experience as a program director for AHEC of Southwest Oregon where he was a highly successful leader in the development of new programs and training. His work was instrumental in securing grant funding to support health work force initiatives.

“Initial energy for Northeast Minnesota Regional AHEC will be placed on bringing together diverse stakeholders, melding their resources, and embracing new ideas to address the challenges of health care in rural Northeast Minnesota,” says Ashby. “Moreover, the process of constructing a working governing board to jump-start the AHEC is currently in development.”

Ashby's office is in Hibbing, the regional host community for the Northeast Minnesota Regional Area Health Education Center. Hibbing was selected as the host community last June following a series of community meetings and forums. The region Ashby will be working with includes the counties of Cook, Lake, St. Louis, Koochiching, Itasca, Aitkin, Carlton, Pine, Kanabec, and Mille Lacs, Fond Du Lac, and Bois Forte Indian Reservations.

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“We are pleased to have such an experienced and capable person as the director of the Northeast Minnesota Regional AHEC,” says Richard Dinter, M.D., M.M.M., chief operating officer of Fairview Range Regional Health Services. “The present and impending crisis in the rural shortage of skilled health-care workers necessitates all of us being involved in the solution. AHEC will allow consolidation of scarce resources.”

“Brendan’s highly successful leadership at AHEC of Southwest Oregon is a testament to his abilities and skills. We are extremely fortunate to have such an experienced director working to bridge the gaps in rural health care here in Minnesota,” says Barbara Brandt, Ph.D., Minnesota AHEC program director and assistant vice president for education at the University of Minnesota’s Academic Health Center.

The Minnesota AHEC grant is made possible through the Health Resources and Services Administration, Bureau of Health Professions. Through regional partnership, Minnesota AHEC works through the University of Minnesota and with communities to nurture an interest in health careers among youth; identify and support students with an interest in rural health; further develop an infrastructure for disciplinary, interdisciplinary, and community-based rotations; and support health professionals at the regional level with professional development opportunities. Minnesota AHEC was funded in September 2002. The three-year matching funds grant provides an opportunity to develop regional AHEC centers in northeast and southern Minnesota. Development of the Southern Minnesota AHEC is in progress. Future efforts will focus on other areas of the state including Northwest and Southeast Minnesota.

The Academic Health Center is home to the University of Minnesota’s seven health professional schools and colleges as well as several health-related centers and institutes including the Area Health Education Center. Founded in 1851, the University is one of the oldest and largest land grant institutions in the country. The AHC prepares the new health professionals who improve the health of communities, discover and deliver new treatments and cures, and strengthen the health economy.

—end—

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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Contact: Mary Pattock, School of Nursing, 612.624.0939
Molly Portz, Academic Health Center, 612.625.2640

FEDERAL GRANT ADDRESSES MINNESOTA NURSING SHORTAGE *Funds U of MN School of Nursing and five health care partners to help new nurses*

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (October 14, 2003)—A new federal grant to the University of Minnesota School of Nursing addresses one of the causes of the state's nursing shortage: difficulties encountered by newly minted nurses as they move from classroom to work.

The \$226,000 first-year grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, was awarded to the University of Minnesota School of Nursing and its partners: Mercy Hospital in Moose Lake; Dakota County Public Health; Fairview University Medical Center, Minneapolis; Methodist Hospital, St. Louis Park; and North Memorial Medical Center, Robbinsdale.

HRSA recommends two subsequent years of funding, contingent on grant progress and funding availability.

New nursing graduates hired in one of the five work settings will participate in a nursing residency program in which they will be mentored individually by senior nurses and receive additional instruction on matters ranging from professional role development to providing care to culturally diverse patients.

"The leap from the classroom to the workplace is huge—a culture shock," says Ann Jones, director of Undergraduate Studies at the University of Minnesota School of Nursing. "This program will help new graduate nurses make that transition."

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By helping new nurses be successful in the first months of their professional lives, the project should improve nurse retention, Jones says. It will also help the five health care partners recruit diverse nurse applicants by offering a more attractive workplace.

Strengthening support systems for newly hired nurses is a strategy proposed by many national groups. This program creates a new partnership between nursing education and practice in Minnesota that builds on collaborative work over the last five years. Its goal is to develop a nurse resident model that can be used across the state.

Because the five workplaces are so varied, the program will help nurses in diverse settings deliver culturally competent care to an increasingly diverse patient population. The sites include a rural 31-bed hospital, a public health department, an urban academic health care center, an independent hospital, and a hospital within an integrated care system.

The grant is funded through the Nursing Reimbursement Act, which became law in 2002 and was funded in 2003.

The University of Minnesota School of Nursing is the world's oldest continuing university-based school of nursing. A leader in nursing research, it ranked 14th among 600 eligible nursing schools in 2001 grants from the National Institutes of Health. Approximately 200 undergraduate and 300 graduate students are enrolled in the School's B.S.N., M.S., and Ph.D. programs. It is the only school in Minnesota to award a nursing Ph.D., and it has the largest graduate program at the University of Minnesota. As the state's nursing flagship, the school cultivates leadership, producing 55 percent of the faculty in Minnesota's public and private nursing schools, advanced practice nurses, and nurses who can assume leadership positions.

The School of Nursing is one of seven schools and colleges in the Academic Health Center, one of the most comprehensive education and research facilities for health professionals in the nation, fostering interdisciplinary study and research.

—end—

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NEWS RELEASE

Embargo: 12:01 CT Monday, October 20, 2003

Contact: Molly Portz, Academic Health Center, 612.625.2640
Sheran McNiff, Transdisciplinary Tobacco Use Research Center, 612.627.1857

CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE AND QUITTING SMOKING: ARE NICOTINE REPLACEMENT PRODUCTS SAFE FOR THESE PATIENTS?

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (October 16, 2003) — Should doctors offer nicotine replacement products to their patients who smoke and have been diagnosed with cardiovascular disease (CVD)? “Yes,” say researchers from the University of Minnesota’s Transdisciplinary Tobacco Use Research Center and Cancer Center.

In an article to be published in the Oct. 20 issue of the *American Journal of Cardiovascular Drugs*, Anne Joseph, M.D., M.P.H., and Steven Fu, M.D. write: “quitting smoking rapidly reduces the risk for cardiovascular events.” The article describes the best approaches in helping cardiac patients quit, which include using nicotine replacement products. They add: “Nicotine patches have been studied extensively in patients with stable CVD and have been shown to be safe. Bupropion SR (Zyban) has relatively few cardiovascular side effects and may be especially useful for patients with CVD; its safety is currently being studied.”

After thorough review of existing scientific literature on smoking cessation therapies for patients with CVD, Joseph and Fu suggest that one of the first things physicians should do is to develop a way to systematically identify patients with CVD who smoke. This could be accomplished by routinely asking all patients if they smoke and advising their smoking patients to quit through behavioral counseling, medications, or both. “Behavioral counseling and pharmacologic (nicotine replacement and non-nicotine medications) treatments double or triple long-term cessation rates and should be offered in combination to all patients with CVD who smoke,” said Joseph and Fu.

Joseph and Fu conclude that simple change in office and hospital routines, such as screening, encouraging smokers to quit, and offering behavioral counseling “will substantially improve the identification, treatment, and outcomes of patients with CVD who use tobacco.”

Editors note: Interviews with experts can be arranged for media.

The University of Minnesota Cancer Center is a National Cancer Institute-designated Comprehensive Cancer Center. Awarded more than \$70 million in peer-reviewed grants during fiscal year 2002, the Cancer Center conducts cancer research that advances knowledge and enhances care. The center also engages community outreach and public education efforts addressing cancer. To learn more about cancer, visit the University of Minnesota Cancer Center Web site at www.cancer.umn.edu. For cancer questions, call the Cancer Center information line at 1-888-CANCER MN (1-888-226-2376) or 612-624-2620 in the metro area.



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Media Advisory
For immediate release

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- What:** U of MN and Mayo Announce Next Steps in the Minnesota Partnership for Biotechnology and Medical Genomics
- When:** Friday, October 17, 11:45 a.m.-1 p.m.
- Where:** Radisson Metrodome Hotel, Regents Room, 615 Washington Ave. S.E., Minneapolis
- Contact:** Sarah Youngerman, Academic Health Center, 612.624.4604
Ashley Burt, Academic Health Center, 612.624.2449
Chris Gade, Mayo Clinic, 507.284.5005

U OF MN AND MAYO ANNOUNCE NEXT STEPS IN BIOTECHNOLOGY PARTNERSHIP

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (Oct. 16, 2003)—Officials from the University of Minnesota and Mayo Clinic will provide an update on the direction of the Minnesota Partnership for Biotechnology and Medical Genomics on Friday, Oct. 17 at 11:45 a.m. at the Radisson Metrodome Hotel.

Partnership leaders recently presented their business plan to the governor and have selected nine finalists for the first group of joint research projects. At the meeting, they will discuss with community leaders and media these recent developments and next steps.

The University of Minnesota and Mayo Clinic recently announced an historic partnership to bring the benefits of biotechnology and medical genomics to Minnesota. This partnership will build upon Minnesota's national and international reputation for health care excellence and increase the partners' sizable economic impact on the state.

"Biotechnology and medical genomics will significantly improve the diagnosis and treatment of disease and also offer new breakthroughs in fields such as agricultural production and food safety," says Frank Cerra, M.D., senior vice president for health sciences at the University of Minnesota. "We've already seen examples of the potential and success of biotechnology and medical genomics in areas like stem cells research, showing that certain types of adult stem cells can be transformed into virtually any cell type."

"Minnesota has the potential to emerge as a leader in biotechnology and medical genomics. On a scale similar to how computers have changed our economy and the lives of most people, advances in biotechnology and medical genomics should rank among the most important breakthroughs in history," says Hugh Smith, M.D., chair, Mayo Clinic Board of Governors.

—end—



Twin Cities Campus

Office of Communications
Academic Health Center

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420 Delaware Street S.E.
Minneapolis, MN 55455

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Office:
A395 Mayo Memorial Building

612-624-5100

Fax: 612-625-2129

Who: Frank Cerra, M.D., senior vice president for Health Sciences, Academic Health Center

Marilyn Speedie, Ph.D., dean, College of Pharmacy, University of Minnesota

Stephen Hoag, Ph.D., senior associate dean, College of Pharmacy, Duluth

Kathryn A. Martin, chancellor, University of Minnesota Duluth

What: College of Pharmacy, Duluth Grand Opening

When: Wed., Oct. 22 at 11 a.m.

Where: Weber Music Hall, University of Minnesota Duluth, 1151 University Drive, Duluth

Contact: Rebecca Lentz, College of Pharmacy, 612.624.7654; pager 612.527.1244

COLLEGE OF PHARMACY, DULUTH TO HOLD GRAND OPENING
Expansion will help address severe shortage of pharmacists in Minnesota

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (Oct. 17, 2003) — The University of Minnesota College of Pharmacy, Duluth will hold its grand opening Oct. 22, 2003 to celebrate an expansion that will help address the severe shortage of pharmacists in the state.

The College of Pharmacy, Duluth has 52 first-year students whose curriculum will emphasize providing pharmaceutical care in medically underserved Greater Minnesota.

“The college is acutely aware of the need to educate pharmacists for all the communities of the state,” says Marilyn K. Speedie, Ph.D., dean of the University of Minnesota College of Pharmacy. “We are pleased to have the opportunity to do so.”

The event will begin at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 22, 2003 in Weber Music Hall on the University of Minnesota Duluth campus. Tours of the college will follow the event.

“We are excited about the challenge of placing pharmacists in underserved areas of the state,” says Stephen Hoag, Ph.D., senior associate dean for the College of Pharmacy, Duluth. “The program will emphasize opportunities and advantages of rural practice, and we expect to be successful in serving Greater Minnesota. Our new students are outstanding and show considerable leadership abilities. We have been impressed with the level of support from UMD and the community.”

—more—



This is the first branch expansion of the College of Pharmacy in its 110-year history. The University of Minnesota College of Pharmacy is the only pharmacy school in the state.

The college has 164 first-year students, including 52 on the Duluth campus. There were 572 applicants for the Class of 2007, the largest number of applicants in the college's history.

The College of Pharmacy, Duluth has hired eight faculty members and plans to hire an additional 10 this year. Some classes are taught jointly to both campuses via distance learning technology. The College of Pharmacy is a four-year program. Students are accepted into the four-year program after completing at least two years of undergraduate education. The second year of the Duluth pharmacy program will be added in 2004, with the third and fourth added in the following two years. Each class will have about 50 students.

This is the second time UMD has worked with the Academic Health Center to establish health professional programs to serve the needs of Greater Minnesota. The University of Minnesota Medical School offers classes on the UMD campus.

The Duluth location serves several purposes, including educating students in Greater Minnesota, making it more likely they will practice in the region. Minnesota had the highest aggregate demand in the country for pharmacists between 1999 and 2001. In October, Minnesota had among the highest demand for pharmacists in the country.

The Duluth pharmacy program is housed in the Kirby Plaza Building. The college will move to the Life Sciences Building when that renovation is complete, which is expected by fall of 2005 or spring of 2006.

Initially, funding was slated to come from the AHC Education Endowment, which was funded with tobacco settlement funds, and tuition. During the last legislative session, however, the endowment money was earmarked to pay down the state's debt. The recurring funding for the expansion will come from 6.5 cents per pack of the existing cigarette sales tax. Private donors have also played a significant role in funding the expansion.

The College of Pharmacy offers its program on the Twin Cities and Duluth campuses. Founded in 1892, the College of Pharmacy educates pharmacists and scientists and engages in research and practice to improve the health of the people of Minnesota and society.

The University of Minnesota is an equal opportunity educator and employer.

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Chris Gade, Mayo Clinic, 507.284.2430

*612-624-5100
Fax: 612-625-2129*

News Release

For immediate release

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA AND MAYO CLINIC HIGHLIGHT PROGRESS AND NEXT STEPS IN BIOTECHNOLOGY PARTNERSHIP

MINNEAPOLIS / ROCHESTER (Oct. 17, 2003) — Officials from the University of Minnesota and Mayo Clinic today shared an update on the significant progress of the Minnesota Partnership for Biotechnology and Medical Genomics, highlighting the selection of nine research project finalists and submission of the Partnership's business plan to Minnesota Gov. Pawlenty.

"When the Partnership was announced in April 2003, we committed to delivering a business plan to the Governor in October. We have passed that milestone and now are stepping out to educate Minnesotans about the potential impact of the Partnership's work on the lives of people in Minnesota and beyond," said Frank Cerra, M.D., senior vice president for health sciences at the University of Minnesota Academic Health Center.

During the 2003 session, the Minnesota Legislature and Gov. Pawlenty took the first step by providing \$2 million in state funds to launch joint research projects focused on improving health care, including the diagnosis and treatment of cancer, heart disease and neurological diseases. That initial state investment was combined with \$1 million each from the University of Minnesota and Mayo Clinic to advance the Partnership's introductory research phase.

More than 30 research proposals were submitted by Mayo Clinic/University of Minnesota teams in response to the Partnership's initial request for proposal (RFP), which was sent to all faculty at the Mayo Clinic and at the University's Twin Cities and Duluth campuses. These 34 proposals involved 128 University investigators representing 12 colleges, and 121 Mayo Clinic investigators. Nine finalist projects were chosen in late September, representing research in the following areas: cancer (four projects), cardiovascular disease (two), neurologic diseases (one), obesity (one), and rheumatic afflictions (one).

"Our review of the 34 research proposals showed an impressive range of research interests and an even higher level of quality research that holds significant potential for improving lives," said Hugh Smith, M.D., chair, Mayo Clinic Board of Governors. "We're thrilled with the progress of the partnership, especially the true spirit of meaningful collaboration that has already emerged between our two organizations. We are confident that

Minnesota's reputation for quality health care, and advanced medical diagnosis and treatment will be enhanced over the long-term."

A group of 10 researchers, five from Mayo Clinic and five from the University of Minnesota, selected the nine finalists based on the following criteria:

- The project is a joint one that neither Mayo Clinic or the University of Minnesota could do alone.
- The research will advance the understanding of a disease or disease process, or addresses an issue in disease prevention, diagnosis or therapeutics.
- Cancer, cardiovascular disease and neurologic disease are the preferred areas of focus for the research.
- The research includes novel applications of recent advances in biotechnology, genomics, proteomics and bioinformatics to significant issues in human health.
- The project is expected to result in a successful grant application from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) within two years.

Research teams from Mayo Clinic and the University of Minnesota involved in the finalist projects will develop a complete research proposal by Dec. 1, 2003. Those proposals will be reviewed by an external panel of distinguished scientists. Awards will be announced by Feb. 1, 2004. Those that are not funded through the Partnership are being encouraged to submit their research proposals for potential federal funding.

Having presented a business plan to Gov. Pawlenty on Oct. 7, the Partnership will begin meeting with business and civic leaders throughout the state. The first round of meetings will be held today, Friday, Oct. 17, in Rochester and the Twin Cities. Subsequent meetings in November will focus on other areas of Greater Minnesota, including the Arrowhead region, northwestern Minnesota and the central/southwestern part of the state.

The University of Minnesota and Mayo Clinic announced this historic partnership in April 2003 to bring the benefits of biotechnology and medical genomics to the State of Minnesota. This partnership will build upon Minnesota's national and international reputation for health care excellence, as well as maintain a sizable economic impact on the state.

"Biotechnology and medical genomics will significantly improve the diagnosis and treatment of disease and also offer new breakthroughs in fields such as agricultural production and food safety," said Dr. Cerra. "We've already seen examples of the potential and success of biotechnology and medical genomics in areas like stem cell research, showing that certain types of adult stem cells can be transformed into virtually any cell type."

"Minnesota has the potential to emerge as a leader in the rapidly exploding field of biotechnology and medical genomics. On a scale similar to how the use of technology has changed our economy and the lives of most people, advances in the field of biotechnology and medical genomics should rank as one of the most important breakthroughs in history," said Dr. Smith.

For more information on the Minnesota Partnership for Biotechnology and Medical Genomics, including summaries of the finalist research projects, visit www.mayouminnesotapartnership.org.

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MEDIA ADVISORY **For immediate release**

Contact: Molly Portz, Academic Health Center, 612-625-2640

PUBLIC HEALTH IN THE AGE OF TERRORISM TO BE EXAMINED AT U OF MN CONFERENCE

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (October 22, 2003) — Noted authority on bioterrorism Michael Osterholm will keynote the first of a four-part series of free public events by the University of Minnesota School of Public Health. The event is part of the fourth annual School of Public Health Roundtable series, which traditionally focuses on a current public health issue and links University research with public health practice in the community. This year's Roundtable series is "Global Health Issues—Minnesota Perspectives."

Osterholm, director of the University's Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy, will moderate a panel discussion by experts on the issue of human rights and civil liberties in the age of terrorism. The event will take place on Friday, Nov. 7.

The Roundtable series will continue in 2004 with these topics:

- February 20—The International AIDS Crisis
- April 2—A Global Commitment to Nicotine Reduction
- June 4—Cultural Barriers to Preventive Health Care

WHO: Michael Osterholm is a professor in the School of Public Health at the University of Minnesota. He has served as a Special Advisor to Secretary Tommy G. Thompson on issues related to bioterrorism and public health preparedness. Osterholm has been a national leader detailing the growing concern regarding the use of biological agents as catastrophic weapons targeting civilian populations.

WHEN: FRIDAY, Nov. 7, 8:30-10:30 a.m.

WHERE: Coffman Memorial Union Theater
300 Washington Ave. S.E., Minneapolis
Parking is available adjacent to the union

HOW: Register by calling 612-624-7440 or online at www.cpheo.umn.edu/roundtable.
The event is free and open to the public.

—end—



NEWS RELEASE

Embargo: Monday, October 27, 2003; 3 p.m. C.D.T.

Contact: Molly Portz, Academic Health Center, 612.625.2640

U OF MN STUDY FINDS VARIATIONS IN POPULAR HERBAL PRODUCTS MAY HARM CONSUMERS

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (October 23, 2003) – When consumers self-medicate with over-the-counter herbal products, they may unknowingly ingest ingredients substantially different from those recommended by health researchers, according to a University of Minnesota study. Findings also suggest that patients who report use of herbal products to their physicians may not be able to accurately describe the ingredients or label-recommended dosage because the products for the same herb may greatly differ from product to product.

Led by Judith Garrard, professor in the School of Public Health, the study examined variations in label information of products for each of the 10 most commonly purchased herbs: echinacea, St. John's wort, Ginkgo biloba, garlic, saw palmetto, ginseng, goldenseal, aloe, Siberian ginseng, and valerian. Products for each of the 10 herbs were surveyed in a sample of 20 retail stores in a large metropolitan area, including health food stores, pharmacies, discount stores, and grocery stores. The findings of the study are published in the October 27, 2003 edition of the *Archives of Internal Medicine*.

Researchers found a total of 880 different products for the 10 herbs in the 20 stores. In comparing products for each herb, researchers found that the label ingredients varied widely, as did the label-recommended daily dose. They also found that the label ingredients for each herb differed in many respects from scientific information in an academic textbook based on current research. Specifically, among the 880 products, 37 percent were either not consistent with the textbook or the label information was insufficient for any decision to be made. Price per label-recommended daily dose was a significant predictor of consistency with the textbook, but store type was not.

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“The results of this field study illustrate some of the difficulties the public faces in choosing among myriad products of commonly used herbs,” said Garrard. “Because of the lack of clinical trials and outcome studies, health care providers face an even more daunting task in advising patients about the responsible use of herbal preparations and other dietary supplements.” Compounding the problem is that it can be medically harmful to take some popular herbal products with certain prescription drugs.

Although the goal of the field study was to evaluate labeling information, there is still important information that was beyond the scope of this research. Even with a clear definition of species and plant parts, neither the physician nor the consumer can be certain that the product described on the label accurately describes the contents of the container without a laboratory analysis.

While labeling has remained largely within the purview of the FDA, most advertising falls under the jurisdiction of the Federal Trade Commission (FTC). In limiting the regulatory role of the FDA, the intent of the U.S. Congress may have been to enable consumers to have unrestricted access to alternative products. But this study suggests that the FDA’s relaxation of herbal labeling policies may be grounds for concern.

“Without adequate and timely information, the consumer is at the mercy of an increasingly entrepreneurial industry,” said Garrard. “There needs to be a better way for physicians, and their patients alike, to ‘level the playing field.’ One way would be for the federal government to improve, not relax, the standards for labeling of dietary supplements.”

Co-authors of the study are Lynn E. Eberly, Ph.D., Susan Harms, R.Ph., M.P.H., Ph.D., and Amy Matiak, Pharm.D. of the University of Minnesota.

-end-

The Academic Health Center is home to the University of Minnesota’s seven health professional schools and colleges as well as several health-related centers and institutes including the School of Public Health. Founded in 1851, the University is one of the oldest and largest land grant institutions in the country. The AHC prepares the new health professionals who improve the health of communities, discover and deliver new treatments and cures, and strengthen the health economy.

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Twin Cities Campus

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Contact: Ashley Burt, Academic Health Center, 612.624.2449

OVERHAUL OF SYSTEM TO PROTECT HUMAN RESEARCH SUBJECTS TO BE URGED AT U OF MN LECTURE

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (Oct. 27, 2003)—The rights and interests of human research subjects have typically been supported by three pillars: responsible investigators and funders, oversight by institutional review boards, and informed consent. A lecture at the University of Minnesota on Wednesday, Oct. 29, will reexamine this system and argue that it is inadequate.

Jeremy Sugarman, M.D., M.P.H., M.A., director of the Center for the Study of Medical Ethics and Humanities in the Duke University School of Medicine, will urge fundamental changes in the system of oversight. Prof. Jeffrey Kahn, Ph.D., M.P.H., director of the Center for Bioethics at the University of Minnesota, and Prof. Catherine Jordan, Ph.D., professor of pediatrics and neurology at the University of Minnesota, will offer commentary after Prof. Sugarman's lecture.

WHAT: Solutions to the Crisis in Human Subjects Research: From Pillar to Post?

WHO: **Jeremy Sugarman**, M.D., M.P.H., M.A., professor of medicine and philosophy at Duke University, is the founding director of the Center for the Study of Medical Ethics and Humanities in the Duke University School of Medicine.
Commentators:

Jeffrey Kahn, Ph.D., M.P.H., director of the Center for Bioethics; professor in the Department of Medicine, School of Medicine; Division of Health Services Research and Policy, School of Public Health; and Department of Philosophy, at the University of Minnesota.

Catherine Jordan, Ph.D., assistant professor of pediatrics and neurology, School of Medicine, at the University of Minnesota.

WHEN: WEDNESDAY, Oct. 29, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

WHERE: Coffman Memorial Union, University of Minnesota
Mississippi Room
300 Washington Ave. S.E., Minneapolis
Ramp parking is available

This event is free and open to the public. For more information, please call 612.625.0055 or e-mail lawvalue@umn.edu or visit www.lifesci.consortium.umn.edu.

—end—



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Contact: Ashley Burt, Academic Health Center, 612.624.2449
Molly Portz, Academic Health Center, 612.625.2640

GOV. PAWLENTY BREAKS GROUND FOR THE U OF MN TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH FACILITY Gov. Pawlenty proclaims Nov. 4 Translational Research Day

What You'll See: University cheerleaders and pep band musicians will provide background for a digging crew, including Gov. Pawlenty, at the groundbreaking for the University of Minnesota's Translational Research Facility (TRF). Eight-year-old Molly Nash, whose cord blood transplant was the first to successfully treat rare Fanconi anemia, will also be on hand with a miniature shovel. This is the first public appearance she has made since she received the life-saving cord blood transplant three years ago at the U of Minnesota.

When: TUESDAY, Nov. 4, 11 a.m.

Where: Lions Research Building, University of Minnesota, 2001 6th St. S.E., Mpls
*Media can park behind the Lions Research Building near the service road

Who: **Gov. Tim Pawlenty**
Frank Cerra, M.D., senior vice president for health sciences at the University of Minnesota Academic Health Center
Robert Bruininks, president of the University of Minnesota
William McGuire, M.D., CEO of United Health Group
Molly Nash, cord blood transplant recipient
Catherine Verfaillie, M.D., director of the Stem Cell Institute
John Wagner, M.D., pediatric hematologist at the U of MN

What: In the TRF, researchers will translate basic science discoveries from the lab into clinical care and patient cures. Molly Nash's story is an excellent example of how translational research bridges the gap between laboratory discoveries and patient treatment. The Translational Research Facility received state funding in the most recent legislative bonding bill, contingent on the successful attraction of private funds. The William W. McGuire and Nadine M. McGuire Family Foundation donated the critical \$10 million in private funding necessary to move ahead with plans for the TRF.

—end—



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Fax: 612-625-2129*

- What:** Groundbreaking for the Translational Research Facility
When: TUESDAY, Nov. 4, 11 a.m.
Where: Lions Research Building at the University of Minnesota, 2001 6th St. S.E., Minneapolis
*Media can park behind the Lions Research Building near the service road
Who: **Gov. Tim Pawlenty, Frank Cerra**, senior vice president for health sciences at the University of Minnesota Academic Health Center, **Robert Bruininks**, president of the University of Minnesota, **William McGuire**, CEO of United Health Group, **Molly Nash**, cord blood transplant recipient, **Catherine Verfaillie**, director of the Stem Cell Institute, **John Wagner**, pediatric hematologist at the U of MN
Contact: Ashley Burt, Academic Health Center, 612.624.2449
Molly Portz, Academic Health Center, 612.625.2640

GOV. PAWLENTY PROCLAIMS "TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH DAY" AT U OF MN GROUNDBREAKING OF THE TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH FACILITY

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (Nov. 3, 2003) — Gov. Tim Pawlenty will declare Nov. 4 Translational Research Day at the groundbreaking for the University of Minnesota's Translational Research Facility (TRF). The TRF will act as a bridge between basic science and clinical application by translating discoveries from the lab into therapies for patients.

John Wagner, M.D., pediatric hematologist at the University of Minnesota Medical School, will share stories that demonstrate how translational research makes a difference for patients.. Molly Nash will be on hand to help break ground. She received the first umbilical cord transplant to successfully treat Fanconi anemia at the University of Minnesota three years ago.

Long viewed as a top priority for research and clinical staffs at the University, the TRF received state funding in the most recent legislative bonding bill, contingent on the successful attraction of private funds. The William W. McGuire and Nadine M. McGuire Family Foundation donated the critical \$10 million in private funding necessary to move ahead with plans for the TRF.

—end—



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Contact: Ashley Burt, Academic Health Center, 612.624.2449
Molly Portz, Academic Health Center, 612.625.2640

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U OF MN RECEIVES \$1 MILLION TECHNOLOGY GRANT TO EXPAND ASSISTED LIVING SERVICES FOR THE ELDERLY *Grant will address lack of affordable health care services through telemedicine*

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (Nov. 5, 2003) — Elderly people living in some of the poorest regions of the state will have improved access to health care services due to a \$1 million grant the University of Minnesota received from the U.S. Department of Commerce. The Virtual Assisted Living Umbrella for the Elderly (VALUE) telemedicine program will combine videoconferencing technology, Internet access, and home monitoring devices to provide assisted living services to frail elderly persons living independently in their home communities. These individuals will be able to retain the benefits of remaining at home, in familiar neighborhood surroundings, while having access to needed resources. The impact of the VALUE program in supporting participants ability to remain in an independent living situation will be studied.

“The growing demand for assisted living services, an aging but increasingly independent population, and shortages of professional health care workers are converging to limit access to affordable assisted living services,” says Stanley Finkelstein, PhD., professor of laboratory medicine and pathology at the University of Minnesota’s Medical School. “We have an opportunity to use these technologies to bring health services directly into the homes of elderly people who otherwise would not have access to such services.” Finkelstein and Stuart Speedie, Ph.D., also a professor of laboratory medicine and pathology, are principal investigators for this study.

VALUE will include two clinical partners that serve both urban and rural Minnesota. Volunteers of America of Minnesota serves some of the poorest neighborhoods in Minneapolis; TriCounty Hospital in Wadena serves three of the poorest rural counties in the state.

—more—



VALUE telemedicine program, Page 2

Both partners are in areas with an increasing elderly population and limited numbers of affordable assisted living facilities. The partners will install central monitoring sites, train staff, recruit subjects, install VALUE units in the elderly subject's homes, train subjects, and conduct videoconference visits. The University of Minnesota will direct the study and evaluate the program through a randomized trial.

VALUE is supported by a grant from the Department of Commerce's Technology Opportunities Program (TOP), and matching funds from industry partners NONIN Medical, Inc., and QRS Diagnostic, LLC and from clinical partners Volunteers of America-Minnesota and Tri-County Hospital. TOP promotes the widespread availability and use of digital network technologies in the public and non-profit sectors. TOP awards grants for model projects demonstrating innovative uses of network technologies. The organization then shares the lessons learned from these projects to ensure the benefits are broadly distributed across the country, especially in rural and underserved communities.

The Academic Health Center is home to the University of Minnesota's seven health professional schools and colleges as well as several health-related centers and institutes. Founded in 1851, the University is one of the oldest and largest land grant institutions in the country. The AHC prepares the new health professionals who improve the health of communities, discover and deliver new treatments and cures, and strengthen the health economy

—end—

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NEWS RELEASE **For Immediate Release**

Contact: Jan Williams, College of Veterinary Medicine, 612.624.6228
Molly Portz, Academic Health Center, 612.625.2640

U.S.D.A. APPROVES U OF M TEST FOR JOHNE'S DISEASE *New Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory Test is Faster, Less Expensive*

MINNEAPOLIS/ST.PAUL (November 5, 2003)—The University of Minnesota Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory has received U.S. Department of Agriculture approval to offer a new rapid and low cost diagnostic test for Johne's disease.

Johne's disease is a bacterial infection (*Mycobacterium paratuberculosis*) causing intestinal inflammation in ruminants—cattle, sheep, and goats. It poses a significant threat to Minnesota's dairy and beef production industries resulting in major economic losses in infected herds. It is estimated that overall 25 percent of Minnesota dairy herds are infected and 40 percent of large dairy herds with more than 300 milk cows are infected.

"Controlling Johne's disease is one of Minnesota's top agricultural priorities," says Jim Collins, director of the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory in the College of Veterinary Medicine. "We have been working closely with the Minnesota Board of Animal Health, U.S. Department of Agriculture and Minnesota livestock producers to fight this serious and growing problem."

The new DNA-based polymerase chain reaction test developed by University of Minnesota scientists Kay Faaberg and Carrie Wees enables the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory to test hundreds of animals at a time, takes only 48 hours to complete compared to 4 months for the standard test, and is affordable for livestock producers. The test is available only at the University of Minnesota Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory.

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“We have made great progress, but it isn’t enough. Our intention is to further increase the speed and reduce the cost of the test,” said Jeffery Klausner, dean of the Veterinary College. “We won’t be satisfied until Johne’s disease is well on the way to being controlled in Minnesota.”

The Minnesota dairy industry generates \$1 billion each year from milk production. In addition, beef production from dairy and beef cattle operations generate another \$800 million in gross farm income.

-end-

The College of Veterinary Medicine improves the health and well-being of animals and people by providing high-quality veterinary training, conducting leading-edge research and delivering innovative veterinary services.

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- What:** University Pediatrics Foundation Party in the Park
When: Sunday, November 9, 2003
4-6 p.m. Mall of America VIP Shopping
6-9:30 p.m. Camp Snoopy Festivities
Where: Mall of America's Camp Snoopy, 5000 Center Court, 60 E. Broadway,
Bloomington, Minn.
Registration: \$80 for adults, \$30 for children, FREE for kids three and under
Call 612-624-6900 for tickets and information.
- Contact:** Ashley Burt, Academic Health Center, 612.624.2449

2003 PARTY IN THE PARK TO BENEFIT U OF MN PEDIATRICS

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (Nov. 6, 2003) — Enjoy unlimited access to many Camp Snoopy attractions and fabulous food while supporting important research and service at the University of Minnesota's Department of Pediatrics. The University Pediatrics Foundation Party in the Park will be held Sunday, November 9, at Camp Snoopy in the Mall of America.

This annual event is an opportunity for the entire family to skip the lines and ride select Camp Snoopy attractions, bid on one-of-a-kind auction items, dine on delicious park fare, enjoy live entertainment including the always popular Peanuts show, and see an indoor fireworks display. Tickets also include a VIP shopping package, which includes a Mall of America coupon book and special same-day shopping offers. *Cities 97's* Brian Turner "B.T." will be the evening's host.

The Department of Pediatrics at the University of Minnesota Medical School has a long and distinguished history of research, innovative treatments, and clinical practice. A known leader in children's health, it is home to many of the great "firsts" in pediatric medicine: the first successful pediatric bone marrow transplant for immune deficiency, the first kidney biopsy performed on a child, and the first successful pediatric open-heart surgery.

Party in the Park is open to the public. For more information or to order tickets, call the University Pediatrics Foundation at **612.624.6900**.

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MEDIA ADVISORY
For immediate release

Contact: Molly Portz, Academic Health Center, 612-625-2640

**PUBLIC HEALTH IN THE AGE OF TERRORISM TO BE EXAMINED AT
U OF MN CONFERENCE**

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (November 6, 2003) — Noted authority on bioterrorism Michael Osterholm will keynote the first of a four-part series of free public events by the University of Minnesota School of Public Health. The event is part of the fourth annual School of Public Health Roundtable series which traditionally focuses on a current public health issue and links University research with public health practice in the community. This year's Roundtable series is titled, "Global Health Issues—Minnesota Perspectives."

Osterholm, director of the University's Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy, will moderate a panel discussion of experts around the issue of human rights and civil liberties in the age of terrorism. The event will take place on Friday, Nov. 7.

The Roundtable series will continue in 2004 with these topics: February 20—The International AIDS Crisis, April 2—A Global Commitment to Nicotine Reduction, June 4—Cultural Barriers to Preventive Health Care.

WHO: Michael Osterholm is a professor in the School of Public Health at the University of Minnesota. He has served as a Special Advisor to Secretary Tommy G. Thompson on issues related to bioterrorism and public health preparedness. Osterholm has been a national leader detailing the growing concern regarding the use of biological agents as catastrophic weapons targeting civilian populations.

WHEN: FRIDAY, Nov. 7, 8:30-10:30 a.m.

WHERE: Coffman Memorial Union Theater
300 Washington Ave. SE, Minneapolis
Parking is available adjacent to the union

HOW: Register by calling (612)624-7440 or online at www.cpheo.umn.edu/roundtable.
The event is free and open to the public.

—end—



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Contact: Ashley Burt, Academic Health Center, 612.624.2449

LECTURER AT U OF M TO ADDRESS HOW GLOBALIZATION THREATENS BIODIVERSITY

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (November 14, 2003)—“The rapidly growing but fundamentally unstable phenomenon of economic globalization is an overwhelming threat to the biodiversity of the planet,” says David Ehrenfeld, M.D., Ph.D., professor at Rutgers University and guest lecturer at the University of Minnesota. Ehrenfeld will share his predications about the fate of biodiversity in a lecture at the University’s St. Paul campus on Monday, November 17, at 12:15 p.m.

WHAT: Globalization and Biodiversity

WHO: **David Ehrenfeld**, M.D., Ph.D., is a professor of biology in the Department of Ecology, Evolution, and Natural Resources at Rutgers University. He is the founding editor of the international scientific journal *Conservation Biology*. He has studied the behavior and sensory physiology of animal orientation and navigation in sea turtles. He has published research papers on this subject and also on various aspects of conservation.

WHEN: MONDAY, November 17, 12:15-1:15 p.m.

WHERE: Borlaug Hall, University of Minnesota
Room 335
1991 Upper Buford Circle, St. Paul
Ramp parking is available

This event is free and open to the public. To register or for more information, please call 612.625.0055 or e-mail lawvalue@umn.edu or visit www.lifesci.consortium.umn.edu.

This lecture, free and open to the public, is part of the Lunch Series on the Societal Implications of the Life Sciences. Sponsors of this lecture are the University’s Consortium on Law and Values in Health, Environment & the Life Sciences and Joint Degree Program in Law, Health & the Life Sciences.

—end—



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Contact: Molly Portz, Academic Health Center, 612.625.2640

SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH DEAN NAMED ASSISTANT VICE PRESIDENT FOR PUBLIC HEALTH FOR THE U OF M

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (November 17, 2003) — Mark P. Becker, Ph.D., dean of the University of Minnesota School of Public Health, has been appointed Assistant Vice President for Preparedness and Emergency Response for the University of Minnesota.

The position was created as part of a larger campus-wide emergency preparedness plan developed following the events of September 11, 2001. The role of the Assistant Vice President for Preparedness and Emergency Response is designed to provide for campus-wide coordination and planning for emergent public health issues such as SARS, influenza, and other infectious disease outbreaks or bioterrorism.

“Significant progress has been made recently toward increasing the University’s emergency response capabilities,” said Frank Cerra, M.D., University of Minnesota senior vice president for health sciences. “Dr. Becker’s role will be to ensure that public health issues affecting the University community are addressed effectively. He has shown solid leadership abilities and I am pleased he has agreed to expand his responsibilities to encompass these important issues.”

Becker was named Dean of the University of Minnesota School of Public Health in January 2001. Becker’s professional commitments include serving on the Commissioner’s Terrorism and Health Task Force at the Minnesota Department of Health and on the Academic Centers for Public Health Preparedness Advisory Committee for the Association of Schools of Public Health (ASPH). He also serves on the boards of the HealthPartners Research Foundation and the Minnesota Medical Foundation and on the advisory board of the Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy.

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“I am honored to accept these new responsibilities and pleased that the University has developed its preparedness plans with such an emphasis on ensuring the health of the University community,” said Becker.

The Academic Health Center is home to the University of Minnesota's seven health professional schools and colleges, including the School of Public Health, as well as several health-related centers and institutes. Founded in 1851, the University is one of the oldest and largest land grant institutions in the country. The AHC prepares the new health professionals who improve the health of communities, discover and deliver new treatments and cures, and strengthen the health economy.

NOTE: Dr. Becker's photograph (electronic version) and curriculum vitae are available upon request.

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PARENTS EXPLAIN WHAT IT IS LIKE TO HAVE A CHILD HOSPITALIZED TO U OF M MEDICAL STUDENTS AND STAFF

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (November 25, 2003) — A panel of five parents will discuss what it is like to have a sick child in the hospital. University of Minnesota medical staff and students will be in the audience to gain a deeper understanding of what parents with sick children need from medical practitioners. The Panel of the Parent Advisory Group will meet on Wednesday, Nov. 26, at noon at the Mayo Memorial Building, 420 Delaware St., S.E., Minneapolis.

“Parents of children and adolescents who have been in the hospital can really teach medical staff a lot,” says Ted Thompson, M.D., professor of pediatrics at the University of Minnesota and facilitator of the panel discussion. “These people can share with doctors what is good and what needs to be improved from the perspective of the parent.”

- WHAT:** What Is It Like, As a Parent, to Have a Child Hospitalized?
- WHO:** Panel of the Parent Advisory Group from Fairview-University Childrens' Hospital. Facilitated by Ted Thompson, M.D., professor of pediatrics at the University of Minnesota
- WHEN:** WEDNESDAY, Nov. 26, noon-1 p.m.
- WHERE:** Mayo Memorial Building, University of Minnesota
Todd Amphitheatre, C-231
420 Delaware St. S.E., Minneapolis

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Contact: Ashley Burt, Academic Health Center, 612.624.2449

RISKS OF MEDICAL DEVICE RESEARCH TO BE DISCUSSED AT U OF M

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (Dec. 1, 2003)—Most of the discussion on research ethics focuses on clinical trials using drugs. E. Haavi Morreim, Ph.D., professor of bioethics at the University of Tennessee, will lecture on the ethical issues that arise when medical devices are tested in clinical trials. Morreim will explore how device trials can blur the lines between research, innovation, and treatment. “These trials can challenge accepted approaches to ethics and accountability in clinical research,” says Morreim. This lecture will take place on Wednesday, Dec. 3 at Coffman Memorial Union, 300 Washington Ave. S.E., at 11:30 a.m.

WHAT: Medical Devices: A Different Twist on the Ethics and Law of Research Protections

WHO: **E. Haavi Morreim, Ph.D.**, is a professor of bioethics and professor of health services and policy research at the University of Tennessee’s College of Medicine. She is the author of two books and over a hundred publications in journals of law, medicine, and ethics.

Commentators:

Kenneth Liebman, Esq., partner, at Faegre & Benson LLP.

Prof. Susan Foote, J.D., associate professor and the division head of the Division of Health Services Research and Policy, School of Public Health, at the University of Minnesota.

WHEN: WEDNESDAY, Dec. 3, 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

WHERE: Coffman Memorial Union Theater, University of Minnesota

300 Washington Ave. S.E., Minneapolis
Ramp parking is available

This event is free and open to the public. To register or for more information, please call 612.625.0055 or e-mail lawvalue@umn.edu or visit www.lifesci.consortium.umn.edu.

—end—



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What: “Optimal Healing Environments: Their Domains and Science” lecture
Who: Wayne Jonas, M.D., director, Samueli Institute for Information Biology
When: Thursday, December 4, 4– 5:30 p.m.
Where: Cancer Center Research Building, #450
425 East River Road, East Bank Campus, Minneapolis
Registration: Not required, FREE and open to the public

Contact: Ashley Burt, Academic Health Center, 612.624.2449
John Halstrom, Center for Spirituality and Healing, 612.624.2141

LECTURER TO DISCUSS OPTIMAL HEALING ENVIRONMENTS
Expert in Integrative medicine to speak at the U of MN

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (Dec. 2, 2003) — Wayne Jonas, M.D., first director of the Office of Alternative Medicine at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) from 1995 until 1998 and current director of the Samueli Institute for Information Biology, will discuss “Optimal Healing Environments: Their Domains and Science” at a special lecture on Thursday, Dec. 4 from 4 to 5:30 p.m.

As interest in complementary and alternative medicine continues to grow, consumers, health care providers, administrators, institutions, and third-party payers are interested in exploring the nature of healing and factors that contribute to health and well-being. Jonas has identified components that contribute to optimal healing environments--healing spaces, healing relationships, health promotion, integrated health care strategies, a focus on wholeness and energy, as well as intention and self-awareness. Are such factors critical in optimizing future healthcare models?

Jonas has served on numerous university, government, and private foundation committees including chair of the Program Advisory Council for the NIH Office of Alternative Medicine and director of the World Health Organization’s Collaborating Center for Traditional Medicine. He also served on the White House Commission for Complementary and Alternative Medicine Policy.

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Optimal Healing Environment, Page 2

Complementing his traditional medical education, Jonas is trained in a variety of integrative therapies. He has authored over 100 publications, lectures around the world, and sits on the editorial boards of seven peer-reviewed journals. Jonas is certified by the American Board of Family Practice, the American Board of Homeotherapeutics, and the National Board of Medical Examiners.

The Academic Health Center is home to the University of Minnesota's seven health professional schools and colleges as well as several health-related centers and institutes, including the Center for Spirituality and Healing. Founded in 1851, the University is one of the oldest and largest land grant institutions in the country. The AHC prepares the new health professionals who improve the health of communities, discover and deliver new treatments and cures, and strengthen the health economy

—end—

MEDIA ADVISORY/SATELLITE FEED/INTERVIEW OPPORTUNITY
Embargo: Monday, December 8, 3 p.m. C.S.T.

Contact: Molly Portz, Academic Health Center, 612.625.2640

**U OF M DOCTOR PART OF NIH STUDY TO HELP PREMATURE BABIES
WITH SEVERE VISION LOSS**

What: An important clinical trial, sponsored by the National Eye Institute (NEI), a part of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), has provided doctors with improved prognostic indicators and treatment options for retinopathy of prematurity (ROP), a blinding disease that affects premature, low birth-weight infants.

Because it follows an unpredictable course, ROP presents doctors with difficult treatment decisions. In many infants, the disease spontaneously regresses and spares vision. In some infants, however, ROP progresses, resulting in serious visual impairment. ROP is one of the leading causes of severe vision loss in infants and young children.

Who: Steve Christiansen, M.D., University of Minnesota, Department of Ophthalmology
Available for interview Monday and Tuesday

Background: B-roll footage is available by calling 301-496-5248

Feed date: December 8 and 9

Feed time: 12 p.m. (noon) – 12:15 p.m. C.S.T.

Coordinates: AMC 9/Transponder 18 DL 4060

AMC 9 is located where AMC 2 was at 85 degrees West in the US Domestic Arc

The National Institutes of Health, National Eye Institute, funded the 26-center study.

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Fax: 612-625-2129*

What: Southern Minnesota Area Health Education Center (AHEC) host community discussion
When: Wednesday, December 10, 11:30 a.m.-3 p.m.
Where: Redwood Area Community Center, 901 Cook St., Redwood Falls, Minn.
Contact: Ashley Burt, Academic Health Center, 612.624.2449

COMMUNITIES GATHER TO DETERMINE HOST COMMUNITY FOR SOUTHERN MINNESOTA AREA HEALTH EDUCATION CENTER

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (Dec. 8, 2003) — Communities that have expressed interest in hosting the Southern Minnesota Area Health Education Center (AHEC) will share their visions for leadership of the Southern Minnesota AHEC on behalf of the region Wednesday, December 10 at 11:30 a.m., at the Redwood Area Community Center.

AHEC is a federal/state cooperative agreement that aims to educate health professions students in medically underserved areas of the state. The community selected to host the Southern Minnesota AHEC will take leadership for collaborating with other communities in the region to promote existing health programs and bring community and University interests together to address health care workforce concerns in the region.

Community representatives from Mankato, Marshall, Montevideo, and Willmar will each give a 25-minute presentation outlining their community's strengths. Officials from the University of Minnesota's Academic Health Center (AHC) will be on hand to listen to communities, answer questions, and make recommendations on the host location. That announcement will be made public on Monday, December 15.

Designation will depend on four critical success factors: 1) strengths, such as community support and involvement and connections to the University, 2) resources, such as education and training facilities, student housing, established community health networks, and office space, 3) experience with collaboration and regional involvement, through regional partnerships, leadership roles, organizational participation, and facilitation of regional activities, 4) creativity and innovation, such as examples that demonstrate unique approaches to problem solving and creative use of resources.

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NEWS RELEASE

Embargo: 5 a.m. C.S.T., Tuesday, Dec. 9, 2003

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Fax: 612-625-2129*

Contact: Ashley Burt, Academic Health Center, 612.624.2449

PEOPLE WITH BONE/MUSCLE PAIN TEND TO BE SEVERELY VITAMIN D DEFICIENT

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (Dec. 8, 2003) — People with persistent, non-specific musculoskeletal pain should be screened regularly for vitamin D deficiency, the leading study in tomorrow's *Mayo Clinic Proceedings* reports. Research conducted at the University of Minnesota found that 93 percent of all subjects with non-specific musculoskeletal pain were vitamin D deficient.

A study of 150 children and adults at the University of Minnesota found that 100 percent of African-American, East African, Hispanic, and Native American subjects were vitamin D deficient. In addition, all study patients under age 30 were vitamin D deficient. Of these, 55 percent were severely deficient. Five patients unexpectedly had no vitamin D at all.

“These findings are remarkably different than what is taught in medical school. We would expect vitamin D deficiency in old persons or housebound persons,” says Greg Plotnikoff, M.D., M.T.S., professor at the University of Minnesota's Center for Spirituality and Healing and lead researcher on the study. “We found the worst vitamin D deficiency in young persons—especially women of childbearing age. We were stunned to find no vitamin D at all in five patients who had been told their pain was ‘all in their head.’ This study supports more routine testing for vitamin D deficiency.

“This pain is the most common type of complaint seen by primary care doctors. Patients with this type of pain should be tested for vitamin D deficiency,” says Plotnikoff. Vitamin D deficiency is associated with significant risks for osteoporosis, hypertension, diabetes, cancer, and auto-immune diseases such as multiple sclerosis. It also is harmful for developing fetuses and causes rickets in children.

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Vitamin D deficiency, Page 2

According to the Nov. 12, 2003 edition of the pain management issue of the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, unsuccessfully treated pain costs \$61.2 billion per year.

An unrelated study in the December issue of *Psychosomatics* found that 37 percent of physician visits are for symptoms of no known cause, most frequently unexplained back, head, arm, and leg pain. A trial to assess management of persistent, non-specific pain by prescription of vitamin D replenishment is recommended by Plotnikoff.

The Academic Health Center is home to the University of Minnesota's seven health professional schools and colleges as well as several health-related centers and institutes including the Center for Spirituality and Healing. Founded in 1851, the University is one of the oldest and largest land grant institutions in the country. The AHC prepares the new health professionals who improve the health of communities, discover and deliver new treatments and cures, and strengthen the health economy.

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NEWS RELEASE

Embargo: 12:01 a.m. C.S.T., Monday, December 15, 2003

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Contact: Ashley Burt, Academic Health Center, 612.624.2449

WILLMAR SELECTED AS HOST COMMUNITY FOR SOUTHERN MINNESOTA AREA HEALTH EDUCATION CENTER

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (December 12, 2003) — Officials at the University of Minnesota Academic Health Center announce Monday that Willmar has been selected as the host community for the Southern Minnesota Area Health Education Center (AHEC).

AHEC is a federal/state cooperative agreement that aims to educate health professions students in medically underserved areas of the state. Willmar will take leadership for collaborating with other communities in the region to promote existing health programs and to bring community and University interests together to address health care workforce concerns in the region.

Willmar was selected as the host community based on its strong, broad-based community support, regional vision, and entrepreneurial energy. The community demonstrates the capacity and experience to successfully foster partnerships and opportunity throughout the region.

While Willmar will serve as host community, AHEC looks forward to developing priority relationships with several health-care facilities in the region. According to University of Minnesota Academic Health Center officials, Montevideo demonstrated incredible vitality in their commitment to economic development through health care. The community exemplifies excellence in rural care and will be a focus for future interdisciplinary health professions training. Open Door Health Clinic, located in Mankato, will also be an educational partner, providing health-professions students opportunities to work with under- and uninsured populations in southern Minnesota. In addition, Marshall demonstrated great knowledge of health and education models and will be an excellent site for University of Minnesota students.

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“Collaboration is the key to a successful partnership that addresses the health workforce and community-identified health needs of the region,” says Barbara Brandt, Ph.D., Minnesota AHEC program director and assistant vice president for education at the University of Minnesota’s Academic Health Center. “We will begin work immediately to establish a regional presence for AHEC in Willmar and across the region, ensuring that Southern Minnesota AHEC works with every community in order to share in the development of this resource.”

Community representatives from Mankato, Marshall, Montevideo, and Willmar each gave a 25-minute presentation outlining their community’s strengths at a meeting last Wednesday in Redwood Falls. Officials from the University of Minnesota’s Academic Health Center selected Willmar as the host community following this meeting.

“Based on last week’s meeting, it’s clear there is significant dedication in southern Minnesota to preparing the next generation of doctors, advanced practice nurses, pharmacists, dentists, veterinarians, public health and other health professionals for practice in this region,” says Brandt.

The Academic Health Center is home to the University of Minnesota’s seven health professional schools and colleges as well as several health-related centers and institutes. Founded in 1851, the University is one of the oldest and largest land grant institutions in the country. The AHC prepares the new health professionals who improve the health of communities, discover and deliver new treatments and cures, and strengthen the health economy

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