



NOW

Tampa VA/USF help show shingles vaccine works

Stronger version of the chickenpox vaccine cuts incidence and severity of painful nerve and skin infection in older adults



In one of the largest adult vaccine trials ever, researchers have shown that an experimental vaccine against shingles prevented about half (51 percent) the cases of the painful nerve and skin infection. The experimental vaccine — a more potent form of the vaccine routinely used to immunize children against chickenpox — also reduced severity and complications in vaccinated adults who got shingles. The findings appear in the June 2 issue of the *New England Journal of Medicine*, co-author by John Toney, MD.

(Continued on page 4)

STUDENTS VS. FACULTY

Of course the students won. A co-ed squad of first-year medical students wiped out the men of the faculty and staff team May 23. Most the game, the students maintained a 10-point lead, but struck hard at the end to win by 16. They were organized, competitive and scored at will.

The entire class turned out to support their team, fielding cheerleaders and a band. They cheered, they booed, they ate pizza.

But there were highlights for the faculty/staff. Dean Stephen Klasko opened the faculty scoring with a three-pointer. Bryan Bognar got airborne. And Hiram Green's teen-age sons displayed high-speed dribbling (they had been told not to score too much).

Now the faculty-staff team has to serve a picnic lunch to the entire class, and get in shape for next year.

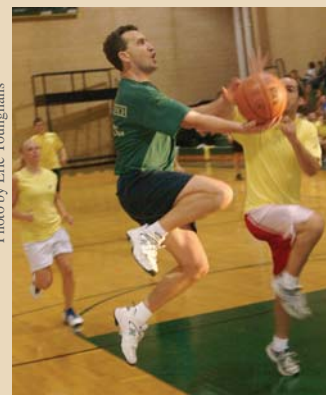


Photo by Eric Youngmans

Partners across the street

USF and UCH signed a formal agreement June 2 to collaborate in creating a world-class center for Tampa Bay's heart patients.

L-R, bottom: Judy Genshaft, USF President; Norm Stein, UCH President. L-R, top: Stephen K. Klasko M.D., Vice President of Health Sciences and Dean of College of Medicine; Brigitte Shaw, CEO of Pepin Heart Hospital & Research Institute; Anne B. Curtis, M.D., Director of the Division of Cardiology, Bob Anderson, Dean of College of Business and Chairman of UCH's board.

For complete story visit: www.hsc.usf.edu



WHAT'S IN THIS ISSUE

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Finding a balance in life is the real secret, says Janice McCaskill.

Fifteen years ago, the respiratory therapist for USF Health was going along in her career just fine when a complete stranger re-introduced her to art and helped fill a void she never knew she had. The key moment came when, a couple of days after complimenting the artwork of a hospital volunteer, McCaskill was handed a brown bag filled with paints, brushes and a small blank canvas.

"The woman told me in a strong German accent, 'Show me what you can do,' and I just stared at her blankly," McCaskill said.

It had been years since she had dabbled in art and even those experiences were limited to teaching young children about art and working with them on some projects.

A few days later, McCaskill showed the woman her work, a single rose of red and pink.

"I didn't think is very good but the woman thought it was beautiful," she said.

For the next eight years, McCaskill spent many of her weekends painting. Her time in front of a canvas helped balance the rest of her life, she said, which included working full-time in an emergency room and raising a family. It also revealed a talent that led her to enter some local art shows. Then another key moment came: She enrolled at USF to earn a bachelor's degree in fine arts. "It took me six years to get the degree but I did it," she said.

The education helped her refine her style and technique, which she calls contemporary folk realism. Her signature effect is the use of vibrant color, which probably reflects her insistence that life is color. A recent affirmation that her work is strong came when she won first-place

runner up in the New York International Art Festival, which hosts festivals in New York, Las Vegas, Los Angeles and Miami. McCaskill won in Miami in February.

The win helped her realize the power of being passionate about her work.

"You have to be passionate about what you do. Passion is life."

Check out some of her work at www.ecinja.com.



Photos by Eric Youngmans

(((In the News)))



Anne Curtis, MD, the new chief of cardiology, was featured in the May 2005 *Cardiology News*. Dr. Curtis, recently elected president of the Heart Rhythm Society, discussed the importance of training physicians how to implant cardioverter defibrillators.

Prominent advance stories ran in the May 8 *Tampa Tribune* and May 10 *St. Petersburg Times* about Medicine and Music: The Mind and Life of George Gershwin, featuring physician-pianist Richard Kogan, MD. The event was sponsored by the *USF Health Sciences Center and Tampa General Hospital*.

Stuart Brooks, MD, professor of public health who specializes in environmental toxins, was among experts interviewed for a May 9 *Newschannel 8* piece on the potential link between pesticides and several newborns with birth defects. All the newborns were born to mothers from a small Immokalee migrant camp. Dr. Brooks was also featured on a May 20 *Bay News 9* segment about new technology to study breathing problems, including using nitric oxide to help predict respiratory infections.

Neurologist Juan Sanchez-Ramos, MD, commented on the use of experimental stem cell transplantations for the treatment of ALS in China May 10 on *Fox 13 News*.

Anesthesiologist Rafael Miguel, MD, program director of pain medicine, discussed the use and misuse of the drug methadone as a painkiller for a May 15 cover story in the *St. Petersburg Times*.

Jeffrey Nadler, MD, infectious diseases specialist, comment on the rise in HIV among the elderly May 15 on *WB-38 News Central*.

James Mayer, MD, associate professor of obstetrics and gynecology, was a featured guest May 17 on *Fox 13's Good Day Tampa Bay*, where he discussed a USF study looking at a nonhormonal medication for postmenopausal women suffering with hot flashes. The study was also featured on a *Bay News 9* segment.

Pediatrician Sharon Dabrow, MD, discussed the importance of eye examinations for young children May 17 on *Fox 13 News*.

Research at the *USF Center for Aging and Brain Repair* using stem cells from umbilical cord blood and other non-embryonic sources was featured May 24 on *ABC Action News Ch. 28*. Center director Paul Sanberg, PhD, DSc, was interviewed about the potential of cell therapies for treating neurological diseases like stroke and ALS.

Deanna Wathington, MD, family practitioner, appeared on a May 22 *W-38 News Central* segment discussing a faculty-supervised team initiative by USF Health Sciences Center students to provide physicals and wellness counseling to local inner-city youngsters enrolled in the National Youth Sports Program.

Compiled by Anne DeLotto Baier, abaier@hsc.usf.edu

HSC faculty at leadership summit on women & heart disease

Health Sciences Center faculty and staff joined 20 community and university leaders May 11 for a half-day summit focusing on ways to improve cardiac care among women in the Tampa Bay area's underserved populations. The "Heart Beat" workshop was sponsored by WUSF Public Broadcasting and the National Center for Outreach, public television's service arm that seeks to foster community participation to raise awareness and effect change.

HSC participants included Theresa Beckie, PhD, associate professor of nursing; Anne Curtis, MD, professor of medicine and director

of the Division of Cardiology; Suzanne Jackson, program director of the College of Medicine's Office of Diversity Initiatives; and Mary Webb, PhD, associate professor of nursing.

The goal of the workshop was to create an action plan that would maximize the use of public broadcasting to better educate viewers about the prevention, detection and treatment of women's heart problems.

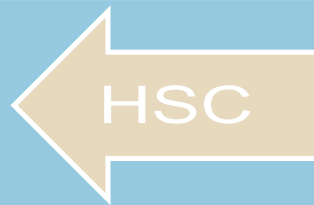
Heart disease is the leading cause of death among women, claiming more lives than the next seven causes of death combined. It is the number one killer of African-American women between the ages of 45 and 64.

DID YOU KNOW?

350,000 Outpatient visits with USF Physicians in 2003-04



HEALTH



NIH names USF a clinical trial center for Eye Study <<<

The USF Department of Ophthalmology will be a clinical center for the MUST (Multicenter Uveitis Steroid Treatment) Trial sponsored by the National Institutes of Health. The primary objective of the MUST Trial is to compare the efficacy of an intraocular device which slowly releases steroid into the eye to traditional therapy with systemic medicines taken by mouth in the treatment of severe uveitis. Patients will be followed for one to four years, depending on when they join they study.

Uveitis is inflammation of the uvea, the part of the eye that contains the iris, the ciliary body and choroid (the membrane in the eye between the retina and sclera).

The drug/device being tested is called a Retisert. Each Retisert is a rectangular plate with a small button on one end containing the steroid fluocinolone acetonide. The device is sewn into the eye so the button projects into the middle of the eye. The other end is attached by sutures to the wall of the eye. Half the patients will receive the Retisert. They will be compared to patients treated with systemic immunosuppressive agents such as steroids and antimetabolites.

The trial is coordinated by the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health. Dr. Pavan is collaborating with Scott Pautler, MD, a former USF resident and a community



ophthalmologist whose patient base helped increase the number of potential patients for the study.

In addition to the NIH study, the USF Department of Ophthalmology was selected for four other clinical trials.

Pfizer, Inc. recently added USF to its list of clinical sites testing a periocular drug

USF Gynecologists

investigate non-hormonal medication for women suffering from hot flushes

The USF Gynecological Ultrasound and Research Service is taking part in a new international study of a medication for treating hot flushes in postmenopausal women.

This hot flush trial, which will include clinical centers in Australia, Europe, and north, Central and Latin America, is the first global study to investigate the efficacy of the new drug Serotonin 2 Blocker (S2B) for the treatment of hot flushes. Several selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs) and other similar compounds have been investigated to manage hot flushes, confirming the role of the serotonergic system [1, 2, 3].

Many women experience hot flushes, the most characteristic menopausal symptom, during and after the menopause. Hot flushes are sudden sensations of heat in the head, neck, upper chest and back and may be accompanied by sweating, flushing, palpitations and anxiety.

“The most used effective treatment for hot flushes is hormone therapy in the

form of estrogens alone or in combination with progestagens,” said James Mayer, MD, associate professor of ob/gyn and lead investigator for the USF part of the study.

“However, hormone therapy is not an acceptable treatment option for all women, and non-hormonal treatments are being investigated as alternatives for the treatment of hot flushes. We hope that USF’s participation in this research study will help contribute to the management of hot flushes.”

Women may qualify for this study if they are between 40 and 65 years of age, postmenopausal for a minimum of six months, experiencing moderate to severe hot flushes, and are willing to take three months of S2B, a non-hormonal treatment.

All participants who qualify for the study will receive confidential medical examinations, blood tests and study medication. All inquiries will be treated in the strictest confidence.

For more information about the study, please call 813-259-8680.

called AG-013958 for wet macular degeneration.

Eyetech Pharmaceuticals, Inc., and Pfizer, Inc., are testing the use of Macugen, an anti-VEGF (vascular endothelial growth factor)

molecule, for treating diabetic macular edema. This trial will start in August.

Allergan, Inc., is sponsoring two clinical trials to test the effectiveness of an implantable intravitreal drug delivery system containing steroid in the treatment of macular edema. Both trials have just recently been initiated at USF.



Dr. John Curran appointed by Gov. Bush to committee

Florida Governor Jeb Bush has appointed John Curran, MD,

executive associate dean for COM Academic Affairs, as a member of the Annual Report on Graduate Medical Education Committee.

2nd Annual Cahill Lecture Spinal Surgery: Developmental to Degenerative

The Department of Neurological Surgery and Rehabilitation Medicine is sponsoring the second annual David W. Cahill, MD, lecture at 9 a.m. June 25 in the Tampa General Hospital MacInnes Auditorium.

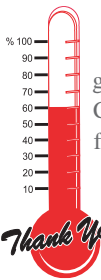
There will be a welcome breakfast at 8:30 a.m.

This year's speaker will be Paul A. Montalbano, MD, who completed his neurosurgery residency training at USF in 2000



under the mentorship of Dr. Cahill. Dr. Montalbano, who is currently in private practice in Boise, ID, will present "Spinal Surgery: Developmental to Degenerative."

Have you given yet?



HSC is getting closer to making its goal for the 2005 Faculty/Staff Charitable Campaign. So far 269 faculty and staff members have contributed \$165,293 toward the HSC goal of \$249,500.

That's 66 percent of the goal!

But only 14 percent of HSC faculty and staff have participated.

There's still time for more: The campaign ends June 30. To make your contribution, contact your area rep. They are Dr. Joan Gregory for nursing, Dr. Peter Gorski for public health, and Drs. John Sinnott and Steven Specter for medicine.

For more information or to make an online contribution, go to www.usf.edu/fssc or call Laura Waddel at (813) 974-4812.

OSCARS award



Celebrating the OSHA OSCAR award to USF SafetyFlorida under the new OSHA Consultation flag that will be awarded to companies earning OSHA's Safety and Health Achievement Recognition Program award are (l-r) Bob Nesbit, Program Manager, USF OTI Education Center; Charlene Vespi, Associate Director, USF SafetyFlorida; Bob Graham, OSHA Region IV Consultation Program Manager; Yuan Wang, Safety and Health Compliance Specialist, USF SafetyFlorida; Jim Cook, Assistant Director-Safety Supervisor, USF SafetyFlorida; E. Tyna Coles, Deputy Director, Cooperative and State Programs, OSHA; Bob Pavlik, Assistant Director-Health Supervisor, USF SafetyFlorida; and Paula White, Director, Cooperative and State Programs, OSHA.

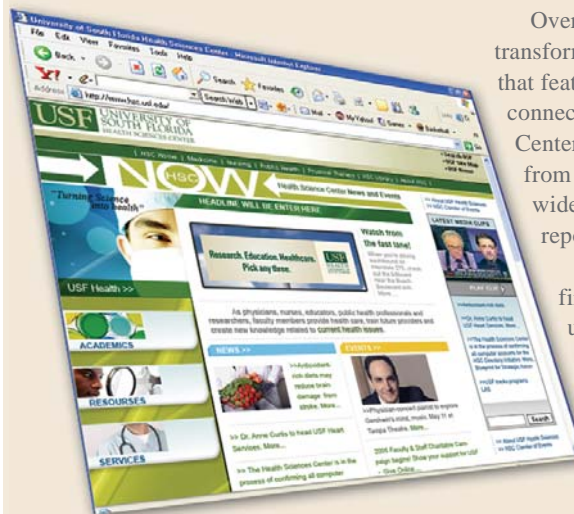
Vaccine against shingles *(Continued from page 4)*

The Shingles Prevention Study was a Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Cooperative Study in collaboration with the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) and Merck & Co., Inc. More than 38,500 men and women, age 60 or older, participated at 22 sites across the United States, including 16 VA medical centers and six clinical sites coordinated through NIAID. **The James A. Haley Veterans' Hospital, an affiliate of the University of South Florida Health Sciences Center and the only site in Florida, enrolled 1,200 participants.**

"This landmark study has important implications for the prevention of shingles and a complication called postherpetic neuralgia, pain originating in damaged nerves that plagues some older people for months, even years, after an attack of shingles," said Dr. Toney, associate professor of medicine in the Division of Infectious Diseases at USF and director of health care epidemiology at James A. Haley Veterans' Hospital.

"The vaccine worked and was safe. It reduced the incidence of shingles by half. Even the vaccinated people who developed shingles got milder cases and experienced less neuralgic pain than those receiving placebo."

Keep your eyes on the Web >> www.hsc.usf.edu



Over the summer the HSC web site will be transformed into a dynamic, integrated news site that features an innovative launching point for connecting with the USF Health Sciences Center. The audiences who come to our site are from internal and external arenas and vary widely in their purpose. Students, faculty, reporters and donors are just a few examples.

The new site aims to meet all of their first-page needs with current news regularly updated to keep up with the pulse of the HSC. All the while, the site will allow each audience to easily navigate to the core information they are seeking.

The HSC and its colleges are diverse and very busy. The new site should reflect the energy we feel here every day.