

Drug stimulates body to control chronic pain

United Press International
CHICAGO — Chicago Medical School researchers say a treatment that stimulates the body's natural pain-killing powers may relieve chronic pain, a major problem for modern medicine.

Key to the treatment is a drug called d-phenylalanine (DPA), which is an effective stimulant to enkephalins, the body's natural pain-killing chemical.

"This is a completely new mechanism for dealing with pain, but further studies are needed to test its effectiveness," said Dr. Reuben Balagot, head of anesthesiology at the medical school. Balagot is conducting extensive tests with Dr. Seymour Ehrenpreis, chief of pharmacology.

Treatment provided relief to six of nine chronic pain sufferers who experienced low back pain, the effects of whiplash, muscle inflammation, nerve damage and osteoarthritis and were unable to be freed from pain by any other treatment, the researchers said.

Several of the patients continued to be free from pain after treatment was discontinued. Pain returned but was milder for the others, Balagot said.

In the experiment, DPA, a synthetic amino acid, was given to the patients in 200-milligram capsules three or four times a day for one to two weeks.

The drug blocks the activity of two enzymes that break down the body's enkephalins. With the

two enzymes inactivated, pain-killing enkephalins manufactured by the body increase in greater quantities and act to deaden the pain, Balagot said.

"DPA completely knocked out the painful headaches from whiplash injuries and eliminated the pain from osteoarthritis but did not have much effect on rheumatoid arthritis pain," Balagot said. But he added low back pain sufferers also experienced a marked decline in discomfort.

DPA produced significant pain reduction in 70 percent of 200 mice tested, he said. And when the mice were given a combination of DPA and aspirin, all experienced a greater pain tolerance.

Birth control vaccine?

United Press International
DENVER — A birth control vaccine so effective that one shot a year would prevent pregnancy could be available within the decade, predicts a researcher who has already developed a vaccine that works on baboons.

Dr. John M. Stewart, a biochemist at the University of Colorado Medical Center, said a vaccine for men or women could be developed in five to 10 years and the vaccines would probably not involve risks associated with birth control pills.

The scientist said his colleague on the project, Dr. Vernon C. Stevens of Ohio State University, has used vaccines based on Stewart's formula to prevent pregnancy in baboons.

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tion, said Stewart, but it would not reduce the sex drive.

He said another vaccine, for women, would inhibit a hormone essential for development of the embryo.

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The hormone, human chorionic gonadotropin, known as HCG, does several things vital to maintaining pregnancy. It causes production of a chemical to keep the uterus healthy and also coats the embryo. The coating may chemically prevent the mother from rejecting the tiny organism as a foreign substance, said Stewart.

Built from amino acids, the basic units of protein, the vaccine would make women immune to their own HCG, said Stewart. Embryos would die within a few days of conception.

"The woman might have a delayed menstruation, if she could detect anything at all," said Stewart.

The vaccine for men would follow roughly the same principles as the vaccine for women, said Stewart.

Sperm must mature before they can fertilize eggs and a hormone known as FSH helps them reach maturity. Stewart and his colleagues

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believe a vaccine can spur the production of antibodies to FSH. The antibodies go to work and sperm will be immature and weak to penetrate the egg, he said.

Pageant contestants now individualists

United Press International
ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. — Miss Pennsylvania's interested in parapsychology, Miss Vermont's on a crusade for homosexual rights and Miss Kansas is gearing up to run for the presidency. But they all want to be Miss America.

Fifty hopefuls Monday began a hectic week of rehearsals, news conferences and briefings to prepare for the annual pageant that will end Saturday night with the selection of America's reigning beauty queen.

Miss America contenders are usually accused of having the individuality of a Barbie Doll, but this year's crop is different.

Miss Pennsylvania, Charmaine Kowalski, 22, of State College, wants to be a doctor who treats both psychological and physiological symptoms.

She also said Sunday she has premonitions — in at least one dream, she was crowned Miss America, and in another she en-

visioned a room at the Hermitage Hotel in Atlantic City.

"I couldn't believe it, but I am sure I will be there," she said.

Miss Vermont, Lisa Valente, 20-year-old aspiring actress from Middlebury, wants more freedom for homosexuals.

"Some of my best friends are gay and I wouldn't think of putting them down. They are super people," she said. "I think before we put them down, they should know some of them."

Miss Kansas, Lori Ann, 20, of Salina, said she wants to be president in 15 years.

Miss California, Christina, 23, of Chula Vista, said if it were for the pageant she would be employed. Proposition 13 was her job as a music-camp coordi-

Rural training may be solution to nurse shortage

United Press International
STEPHENVILLE — Rural hospitals in the state have traditionally found it difficult to attract and keep registered nurses — especially urban nurses accustomed to the night life and cultural attractions of big cities.

But the solution to the dilemma, says a Tarleton State University official, is simple: if nurses are trained in a rural environment, they are much less likely to leave for work at a city hospital.

Dr. Lamar Johanson, head of Tarleton's Biological Science department, said "Our premise was simple. We felt if you took nursing students out of a rural area and trained them in one, the chances would be good they'd stay in a rural area. From what we've seen so far, the idea is working."

The University offers an associate nursing degree as part of a two-year program. Of its first graduating class this spring, 83 percent of the nurses went to work in rural Texas hospitals.

"The only reason we got into the nursing business in the first place was because so many small country hospitals needed RNs," said Johanson.

He also reports doctors have been enthusiastic about the program, aimed at filling the nursing needs of rural Texas hospitals.

"We've gotten 100 percent sup-

port from the medical community in rural areas," said Johanson, noting really need the nurses.

He said another key factor in the program is limiting class size so nurse trainees get more individual attention.

Christine Bonds, assistant professor at TSU, said small classes are what students like best about the program. "We really like the individual attention they're able to get here."

She was formerly dean of nursing at the University of Texas at Paso.

"Individualized attention is important to any nursing program," she said. "We try to have a ratio of at least one professor to five students."

In addition to classroom instruction, the nursing students are part of their training at seven hospitals — located at Waco, Stephenville, Clifton, Ranger, Weatherford, Mineral Wells and Brownwood.

"Students drive to one of the hospitals," said Johanson. "A student nurse may live in Weatherford and have to commute to the Waco Hospital in Waco two weeks."

"We know our students are committed. Who else would commute four hours to a hospital, work 12 hours, and then drive home to begin studying for the next week's classes?"

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ANNOUNCES EFFECTIVE

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New Operating hours will be from 8 a.m.-8 p.m., Monday - Friday.

"First Day Signs Ups" will be changed from 1:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

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Students Can Sign Up For Long Distance Service This Week In The MSC Lobby

Dormitory room telephones are restricted to local telephone service.

If you want to add long distance calling privileges to your room telephone you should sign up at our desk in the lobby of the Memorial Student Center, Wednesday, August 30, through Friday, September 15 between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m.

When requesting this service, please remember:

1. Bring your roommate when signing up--one student must be designated account manager to be responsible for paying your account.
2. If you should change rooms, notify our office so we can change your account. If unchanged, you will be responsible for long distance calls made from your telephone.
3. No deposit is required unless past paying habits warrant a deposit.

If you have other questions, stop at our desk.



GENERAL TELEPHONE

MSC Craft shop

Registration for our Fall Craft Workshops begin Sept. 11 at 10:00 a.m. at the MSC Craft Shop, and will continue until individual classes fill. We're located in the MSC basement, so why not come down and see us.

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