

# features

## Adult leukemia cure linked to antibodies

**United Press International**  
NEW YORK — Genetically engineered antibodies, especially designed to zap abnormal cells, may advance the treatment of adult leukemia and spark progress similar to that seen in treatment of childhood leukemia.

The hope comes from Dr. Curt I. Civin, assistant professor of pediatrics and oncology at the Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions in Baltimore.

He said one of the keys to dramatic improvements in curing childhood leukemia in the past decade has been the ability of researchers to diagnose variations in certain kinds of leukemia so doctors know exactly which cell types become abnormal.

The so-called subtyping had taken place only in acute lymphocytic leukemia, the most common childhood type.

Civin believes his investigations should lead to a similar understanding of acute

myelogenous leukemia (AML) and custom-designed treatments.

AML accounts for only 10 percent to 20 percent of all leukemias in children. But it constitutes about 80 percent to 90 percent of adult leukemias.

Advances in curing children with leukemia, now at about 60 percent success rate, have been credited largely to drugs designed to rub out lymphocytic cells. Those are the cells that turn cancerous in acute lymphocytic leukemia.

Civin hopes that pace will go on once subtyping of AML disease becomes as well established.

"To subtype AML, we need to know much more about the myeloid cells, the bone marrow cells which become cancerous," he said.

"By knowing more about which subtypes of myeloid cells become cancerous, and at what stage in their maturation they are arrested, we should be able to improve therapy."

In AML, myeloid cells seem to stop maturing at a point in their growth. The normal cells are replaced by the arrested growth abnormal cells.

Given uses genetically engineered monoclonal antibodies to accomplish the subtyping. Developed in his laboratory, these tailor-made antibodies match receptors — antigens — on the surface of myeloid cells.

He believes the research might lead to one or more of the following:

- Development of drugs to wipe out only the affected cells, sparing normal ones.

- Discovery of tumor-specific antibodies to serve as markers only for cancerous cells.

- Development of drugs that might be piggybacked onto tumor-specific antibodies, so the drugs are carried only to cancer cells.

But at this point, he cautions these are only theoretical possibilities.

## Painless eye surgery possible with new laser

**United Press International**  
CHICAGO — Doctors say a new "cold" laser that explodes issue instead of burning it opens the way for a new era of eye surgery. It's painless, takes seconds and patients can go back to work that day.

Dr. Manus Kraff, an ophthalmic surgeon at Northwest Hospital — one of six centers in the nation to receive the \$130,000 laser last fall — calls the laser an exciting new development in the field of ophthalmology.

"What we used to have to do was to go in with a knife at the operating table and make a slit or an opening in there," said Kraff, who also is president of

the American Intra-Ocular Implant Society.

"Now we focus a light in there and the light literally explodes that tissue. It vaporizes it, or atomizes it, and makes that opening."

The laser can treat patients with cataracts and diabetic hemorrhages and may be able to help doctors prevent some blindness.

The "cold" laser is so called because it delivers its energy in pulses and creates practically no heat as do conventional argon lasers widely used in eye surgery. The new laser is known as the LASAG neodymium: YAG laser. YAG — yttrium alu-

minum garnet — is the crystal in the laser.

This particular laser was developed by Dr. Franz Fankhauser, an ophthalmic surgeon in Bern, Switzerland, and was demonstrated last week at a University of Illinois Department of Ophthalmology symposium.

In Europe, the laser already is used to cut scar tissue and adhesions and treat diabetic hemorrhages. Fankhauser has been investigating the treatment of glaucoma.

Kraff said the laser will probably be more useful in the prevention of certain types of blindness than in the actual treatment of blindness.

## Parents paying high price

# Smugglers reunite families

**United Press International**  
HONG KONG — Parents desperate to be reunited with their children are hiring smugglers to get the youngsters illegally out of China into Hong Kong.

But it can be dangerous for the children.

The smugglers, known locally as "snakeheads," sneak the children past barbed wire barriers and armed patrols along the border, or bring them in by sea to be reunited with parents who fled their homeland to find new homes.

"I have seen some of these children tucked under the floorboards of a leaking sampan, frightened out of their lives, in some cases drugged so that they won't make a noise and be detected," said Police Commissioner Roy Henry.

"And then if they are detected, they're abandoned by the racketeers and left either to drown because the racketeers have jumped over the side, or to wander in a confused state of mind not knowing where they

are, not knowing what they are doing."

Nearly 4,000 children, averaging only 6 years old, have been smuggled into Hong Kong since October 1981, when Hong Kong revised its immigration laws and no longer granted illegal immigrants permanent residence.

That change reduced the influx of Chinese from hundreds of thousands in 1979-80 to a trickle of a few thousand a year.

Now many of those who entered Hong Kong before the

cutoff want to be reunited with children they left behind in China. But getting permission from Chinese authorities is difficult.

Immigration authorities are secretive about the law, applying to illegal immigrants, apparently to discourage the smuggling.

The general policy for immigrants — children and adults alike — is to send them back from whence they came. But with minors, authorities said, each case is judged on its own merits.

# Bronco a bowler's heaven

**United Press International**  
DALLAS — In the south part of town, literally on the other side of the tracks, is a little bit of bowling paradise: the Bronco Bowl, 72 lanes of hardwood heaven, and it could be argued that bowling is just its sideline.

"It's got the works," said Richard Babb, a Safeway clerk who bowls at the Bronco a couple of times a week.

One marquee out front, the biggest of three that sports a giant bowling ball and pin, is less

modest about what the Bronco offers. "World's Finest Recreation Center," it brags, and that might not be an overstatement.

For the record, the 180,000 square-foot building offers 72 lanes of bowling (with automatic or "Magic Scoring"), a golf driving range, three batting cages, an archery range with six targets, 31 pool tables, a barber shop, a beauty salon, a nursery, video games, a snack bar, a private club and a 2,500 seat auditorium that offers a variety of

shows and exhibitions, including one weekend of full contact karate in early March.

The facility opened in 1960 in the Oak Cliff section of mostly black south Dallas — not the part of town frequented by its owners, the billionaire Hunt brothers, Nelson Bunker, W. Herbert and Lamar.

Lamar Hunt said the Bronco was built by the brothers as a

business enterprise. He has been no silver mine.

Manager Don Stryker, a former pitcher in the White Sox organization, said the Bronco keeps from 250 bowling balls on hand.

"Friday and Saturday are the biggest nights," Stryker said, "and if the weather's bad, business is really good."

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