

Medical centers beginning study on drug for strokes

United Press International

ST. PETERSBURG BEACH, Fla. — Five major medical centers have begun a study of a substance researchers hope will be the first effective way to prevent paralysis and brain damage caused by stroke, a Texas neurologist said.

Treatment with prostacyclin, a substance first described in 1976 by three researchers who later won the Nobel Prize, reversed paralysis when administered to a 33-year-old man a few hours after he suffered a stroke, Dr. Frank M. Yatsu said.

The substance is not available to the public, he said, but could eventually offer hope to

stroke patients who otherwise would recover much more slowly or not at all.

"There is no good, reliable, predictable treatment for stroke," Yatsu said in remarks released Tuesday. "The use of prostacyclin has at least opened the door."

Ideally, he said, prostacyclin would have to be administered within minutes of a stroke — before impaired blood flow permanently damages brain cells.

Current treatments for stroke include blood thinners and surgery but these are not always effective, he said.

The American Heart Association has estimated 500,000 Americans suffer stroke each year. In 1981, the latest year

for which statistics are available, more than 164,000 died. Others suffered effects ranging from weakness to paralysis.

In a study of 12 stroke victims at the University of Texas Health Science Center, Yatsu said, six benefited from doses of prostacyclin and six did not.

The "most dramatic" case was that of the 33-year-old man who recovered his speech and use of his right side after a dose of the substance, the neurologist said.

He said it is possible prostacyclin hastens recovery rather than preventing debilitating effects.

Yatsu, professor and chari-

man of the center's neurology department, said investigators in Poland studied 10 patients treated with prostacyclin and found all recovered — even when treatment was administered as long as three to five days after a stroke had left them severely weakened.

Because of the two studies, the drug's manufacturer, Upjohn Co., has asked five institutions to begin a large-scale study of the substance, Yatsu told an American Heart Association Science Writers Seminar.

The University of Texas Medical School at Houston, is included among the centers participating in the study.

Commissioner criticized

United Press International

AUSTIN — The Mexican American Legislative Caucus said Wednesday it is seeking "further clarification" from education Commissioner Raymon Bynum about his remarks linking Hispanic students to low college entrance test scores in Texas.

The group of Hispanics decided to write Bynum a letter, asking him to further explain his comments that an "influx of Hispanics" caused Texas average test scores to drop over the past decade.

"We cannot let the albatross of lower entrance examination

scores be hung around the neck of Hispanics across the state instead of where it belongs — around the neck of the educational system," said Rep. Gonzalo Barrientos, D-Austin, chairman of the caucus.

Some Hispanics have called for Bynum's resignation because of his comments.

Corrigan travels to Arab seminar

By ROBIN BLACK

Staff writer

Dean Corrigan, dean of the College of Education at Texas A&M, said he is impressed with the "commonality of problems" in education confronting both the United States and Arab nations on the Persian Gulf.

Corrigan, who is a member of the governor's "blue-ribbon" panel on education, attended the seminar on teacher education in the Arab Gulf states in Qatar Jan. 7-9.

Qatar was one of the nine Gulf states represented at the seminar by their respective educational leaders.

"It was amazing (to me) to find that we're all facing the same problems in education, even though we speak different languages, have different lifestyles and are separated by being on the other side of the world," he said.

The state of Iran was invited to the conference but did not attend.

Corrigan was invited to speak at the conference by the president of the University of Qatar, Dr. Mohamed Ibrahim Kazem.

Kazem is a member of the International Council for Teaching, which helps to coordinate regional seminars such as the one held in Qatar earlier this month.

Corrigan outlined for the participants the crucial issues in contemporary teacher education:

- the need for a strong "know-

ledge base" in teacher preparation programs;

- the need for an effective "quality control" system to ensure continuing teacher competence;

- the need to achieve a professional status for the field of teaching.

The three-day conference, which was sponsored by the Arab Bureau of Education for the Gulf States, the University of Qatar and the International Council for Teaching, was held at the Sheraton Hotel in Doha, Qatar.

The hotel was constructed especially for the Arab Gulf States Summit Conference.

Since the bulk of the conference was conducted in Arabic, four translators were flown in from Cairo, Egypt especially for Corrigan and the other three English-speaking educators.

Corrigan, one of three Americans invited to speak at the seminar, said he was surprised at the similarity of problems facing educators there and in the United States.



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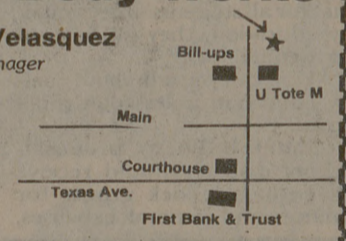
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