

Warped

by Scott McCullar



Colds

New findings could make virus vaccines possible

**Associated Press**  
 WASHINGTON — Scientists said Wednesday they have finally mapped one of the tiny viruses that cause the common cold, raising hopes for vaccines or other drugs to fight any number of life-threatening or merely pesky viral ailments.

The findings could lead to new progress against diseases ranging all the way from sniffles to multiple sclerosis to leukemia and perhaps even to the mysterious and deadly AIDS virus, the lead researcher, Purdue University Prof. Michael Rossmann, said.

He said there was great scientific significance in his group's ability to put together a three-dimensional map of a human virus — the first time such a viral code has ever been cracked — making it possible to study exquisitely tiny interactions

within the body. However, he made it clear that drug-counter applications of his findings are still hopes rather than realities.

Rossmann said there actually may never be a one-shot vaccine for colds because they can be caused by more than 100 different viruses.

However, he said, "it may be possible to find a cure for the cold that may not be along the lines of a classic vaccine" — a drug, for example, that would attack not the virus itself but would involve the site where the virus attaches to healthy cells.

As for broader significance, an official of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases said in an interview that Rossmann's findings were "a good basic piece of information."

"It takes a lot of pieces to put to-

gether something of clinical importance," added William Allen, a virology program officer for the federal institute, which helped pay for the research.

He said Rossmann and Dr. Robert Gallo of the National Cancer Institute were already setting up an experiment aimed at mapping leukemia-linked viruses using the same high-technology processes used on

the cold virus. The virus that apparently causes acquired immune deficiency syndrome, or AIDS, could eventually be part of that effort, though success in that area "is very speculative," Allen said.

Rossmann said he was mostly concerned with understanding viruses, but he also said the new results made a drug against colds "much more possible, absolutely."

Air Force announces astronauts selected for March shuttle flight

**Associated Press**  
 SPACE CENTER, Houston — Air Force Undersecretary Edward C. Aldridge Jr. has been named to fly on a secret military space shuttle mission next March, joining five astronauts and an Air Force major on the first flight to be launched from Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif., officials announced Wednesday.

Aldridge, 47, a former aerospace executive, will serve as a payload specialist aboard space shuttle Discovery when it is launched March 20 carrying a secret payload.

In a statement released by an Air

Force spokesman at the Johnson Space Center, Aldridge is quoted as saying, "It's a great honor for any American to fly on the symbol of the success of the American space program."

"I'm thrilled at the opportunity and thrilled at the prospects that I will be able to apply what I have learned to expanding U.S. efforts in space."

The Air Force also announced that Maj. John B. Watterson, 36, will fly on the mission as a payload specialist.

The two join National Aeronau-

tics and Space Administration astronauts Robert Crippen, the mission commander, and Guy Gardner, Dale Gardner, Jerry Ross and Mike Mulane on the flight.

Aldridge has been Air Force undersecretary since 1981. His job includes the supervision of the military space program.

He earlier held a variety of jobs in the Department of Defense, including two years as deputy assistant secretary of Defense for strategic programs, and a term as an adviser to the Defense secretary.

Aldridge also has held management positions with Douglas Aircraft Co., LTV Aerospace Corp., and the Systems Planning Corp.

Born in Houston, Aldridge is a graduate of Texas A&M and holds a master of science degree from Georgia Tech.

Watterson, a native of Garden City, N. Y., who grew up in Littleton, Colo., is a graduate of Virginia Military Institute and the Air Force Institute of Technology. He is a systems engineer who was named to the U.S. Air Force Manned Spaceflight Engineer program in 1980.

Discovery's launch from Vandenberg will be the first space shuttle mission into a polar orbit, a flight path that carries the craft over the entire globe in a matter of days.

'Killing Fields' star recounts real-life refugee experiences

**Associated Press**  
 DALLAS — Haing Ngor played a Cambodian photographer captured by Khmer Rouge troops in the movie, "The Killing Fields," but his real-life experience as a refugee fleeing oppression is more horrifying, he says.

Speaking to the World Anti-Communist League conference in Dallas, Ngor said that before he left his homeland in 1979, he was captured and tortured three times. His wife and child were among the estimated millions of Cambodians who died under Khmer Rouge rule, he said.

"I believe that God let me survive so that I could bear witness against these atrocities," he said.

The league is holding its annual meeting in Dallas. About 300 participants will listen to speeches from freedom and resistance movement fighters from more than a half-dozen countries and attend workshops to discuss the fight against communism.

Ngor, a doctor in Los Angeles who spoke to the group Tuesday, described "crimes against the Cambodian people."

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