

World and Nation

Recent findings may lead to new treatment for AIDS

WASHINGTON (AP) — Scientists think they have discovered how some people fight off the virus that causes AIDS, a finding they say could lead to a new approach to treatment as well as to an explanation why some infected people don't get the fatal disease.

Researchers at the University of California, San Francisco, said Thursday that the discovery may point to a way of using the immune system that is attacked in AIDS — acquired immune deficiency syndrome — to counterattack the disease without using toxic antiviral drugs.

In a report to be published Friday in the Dec. 19 issue of the journal Science, a team led by Dr. Jay A. Levy said a sub-group of white blood cells called suppressor T-cells appear able to control the virus in cell

cultures by keeping it from reproducing.

The researchers said these cells appear to be at work in several patients who have been infected with the virus for up to four years.

These patients either have not gotten AIDS or, if they already were infected, their disease seems to be in remission.

If the suppressor T-cells prove to control the virus in humans, the researchers said, it may be possible to boost the number of these cells to stop the virus from reproducing and arrest progress of AIDS.

"This is the first indication that individuals have in themselves a means of controlling the virus," Levy said in a telephone interview. "This discovery could be the first step toward an effective therapy for AIDS, using a

person's own immune cells rather than drugs that are toxic to the body.

"The drama of this observation is that we are finding people who are antibody-positive, meaning they are infected, and we can't get virus from their blood and they seem to improve all by themselves.

"We now have a mechanism that could explain this."

The AIDS virus attacks another group of T-cells, called helper T-cells, which govern the other components of the immune system.

The virus penetrates the helper T-cells, reproduces, and destroys its host cells as it spreads to other cells.

In this way, the AIDS virus, variously known as HTLV-3, HIV or LAV, cripples the disease-fighting immune system, leaving sufferers vulnerable to numerous infections and cancers that lead to death.

More than 28,000 Americans have been diagnosed with the incurable infectious disease, half of whom have died.

Levy, with Drs. Christopher Walker, Dewey Moody and Daniel Sittes, found that suppressor T-cells, whose normal job is controlling the production of antibodies by other cells, appear to emit an unknown substance that keeps the virus from reproducing after invading the helper cells.

When certain suppressor T-cells that have a protein on their surface called CD8 were removed from blood cultures, the virus started to grow in the remaining blood cells, the scientists reported.

But when the suppressor T-cells were put back into the cultures, reproduction of the virus was suppressed, they said.

The suppressor cells do not destroy the virus or kill the host cells.

Almost 600 AIDS cases now classified as heterosexual

ATLANTA (AP) — Almost 600 previously unexplained AIDS cases have been reclassified as heterosexually transmitted, doubling the percentage to 4 percent of such cases, government researchers said Thursday.

By 1991, one researcher said, heterosexual cases could make up nearly 10 percent of AIDS cases.

The national Center for Disease Control also reported that the AIDS case count in the United States stands at 28,098, twice the number reported 13 months ago. Fifty-six percent of the victims are dead.

The CDC said it now can reclassify 571 AIDS cases — all in apparently heterosexual, non-drug-using people who were born outside the United States in areas such as Haiti and central Africa, where heterosexual contact is the chief way of spreading the disease.

Evidence indicates heterosexual transmission in those cases, the CDC said, because some of the patients have other sexually transmitted diseases and because some male AIDS patients reportedly have been with prostitutes.

Court affirms Hasenfus conviction

MANAGUA, Nicaragua (AP) — A revolutionary appeals court on Thursday confirmed the guilty verdict and 30-year prison sentence imposed on American mercenary Eugene Hasenfus.

The decision upheld the Nov. 15 decision by the three-member People's Revolutionary Tribunal convicting Hasenfus of helping to airlift weapons to U.S.-backed Contra

the three-member appeals court, Arwengol Cuadra Lopez, said after the ruling was read. "The defendant, Eugene Hasenfus, must serve the maximum penalty of 30 years."

The People's Revolutionary Tribunal, made up of a lawyer, a truck driver and a laborer, found Hasenfus guilty of violating public order and security, criminal association and terrorism.

The case was reviewed automatically by the higher court, known as the Superior People's Revolutionary

Tribunal. The higher court was composed of Cuadra, who is a lawyer, and a carpenter and a clerk.

The tribunal system, which is outside the regular law courts, was created by the Sandinista government to try those defendants considered counterrevolutionaries.

Hasenfus, 45, of Mariette, Wis., was captured Oct. 6, one day after a plane ferrying weapons to the Contras was shot down by army troops in southeastern Nicaragua. He was the only survivor out of a crew of four.

Show Your Support for the Aggies!



Make sure your name is on the Eagle's Official Cotton Bowl 12th Man Roster

It's easy and it's FREE!

Here's all you do:
• Call 776-7355 between 8:00 a.m. and 5:30 p.m., Monday through Friday or 8:00 a.m. and noon on Saturday.
• When you reach our operator, say "Go, Aggies."
Then tell us your name - give us the correct spelling. It's that easy and there's no cost to you. The Eagle will publish your name in a big COTTON BOWL Special Section on Tuesday, December 30th. Sorry, no companies. Only the name of an individual will be taken over the phone. If you would like to compile a list of names, bring it to the Eagle building located at 1729 Briarcrest Drive. Lists must be typed or neatly written. The Eagle reserves the right to refuse any name.

Don't be left off the list!

CALL 776-7355

Bryan - College Station

IT'S FREE! **Eagle** IT'S FREE!

* * * * *

BEAT THE CHRISTMAS RUSH!

We're Going To Have A Few Apartments Available For The Spring Semester, So Come By Today And Make Your Selection. Lease Early And Receive December Rent Free!

Sausalito 693-4242	Sundance 696-9638
Village Green 693-1188	East Gate 696-7380

* * * * *

AGGIES!

RING IN THE HOLIDAY SEASON SAFELY ...



DON'T DRINK AND DRIVE

Alcohol Awareness Program
845-5826

MSC SPRING LEADERSHIP TRIP

SPOTLIGHT ON THE ARTS

- Bask in the spotlight on a whirlwind cultural adventure in Dallas, April 3 - 5, 1987.
- Indulge in musicals, symphonies, plays, opera, art exhibits, and more!
- Dine with dynamic former students and learn business savvy and social etiquette.
- Round out your college career while making a smooth transition from student to professional.
- Form lasting friendships with other outstanding seniors.

Applications available
Jan. 19 - Feb. 6 in
MSC 216 and the Pavillion.