

Texas A&M The Battalion

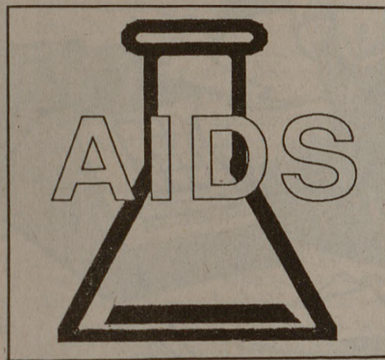
Vol. 87 No. 159 USPS 045360 6 Pages

College Station, Texas

Friday, June 10, 1988

Researchers join with corporation in study of AIDS

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Graphic by M. Rohsner

system, to produce protein more abundantly.

The system was the first to be approved by the FDA for production of these proteins used in AIDS testing.

Summers said that if the clone protein will act in the system the same way as the authentic CD-4, the substance would be extremely cost effective because it produces clone gene proteins abundantly.

"This is what everyone wants — the cheapest way to produce a protein that can be used for a vaccine or a therapeutic product," Summers said.

Dr. Garret Ihlers, professor and head of the department of Medical Biochemistry and Genetics at the A&M College of Medicine, is collaborating with Biophor on a genetic engineering aspect of the experiment, but refused an interview Wednesday.

Biophor researchers also are working with many other people including the Baylor College of Medicine, Nicolau said.

Nicolau said it is important to realize that this research "didn't just appear." He said it is the result of at least 15 years of work.

He said he expects to have some experimental results in four to six weeks. And phase one of the experiment should be "statistically significant" in about four months.

So far research has been encouraging and Nicolau, his colleagues and the collaborating researchers are hopeful, but he said caution is necessary.

Nicolau pointed out that cancer has been killed many times in laboratory settings, but many people are still dying from it.

AIDS patients will be used in tests scheduled to begin next week that will combine the work of Texas A&M researchers with that of Biophor Corp. scientists. The experiments are the result of years of research expected to ultimately lead to a clinical treatment for the disease.

Dr. Claude Nicolau, founder and chairman of the corporation located at the A&M Research Park, said researchers plan to begin experiments in six testing sites, including the Texas Medical Center in Houston and Scott & White Hospitals in Temple. Tests also will be performed in New York, Cleveland as well as France and England.

Twenty Biophor researchers are working to isolate the CD-4 protein from normal human white blood cells. The researchers will insert the CD-4 protein into red blood cell membranes and then inject the composite cell into patients suffering from acquired immune deficiency syndrome.

This "scavenger cell" will hopefully bind to cells infected with the virus, Nicolau said.

"Once bound, this aggregate cell is moved very fast by the circulation through the liver and the spleen — cleaning the system," he said.

Sixty AIDS patients, at various stages of the disease, will be tested — 10 at each hospital.

Nicolau said this technique is not a cure because the number of infected cells would only be decreased in the circulation system of the patient, and the process would only be effective during particular stages of the disease.

Bacteria found in raw oysters worries officials

GALVESTON (AP) — People with liver disease or other immunological deficiencies are being strongly advised against eating raw oysters harvested between April and October because of a potentially deadly bacteria.

The deaths of 20 people in Louisiana and 20 in Florida have been linked to a type of bacteria found in raw or improperly cooked seafood, said Dr. Ralph Morris, Galveston County's health director.

Morris said no deaths in Texas have been attributed to the bacteria — vibrio vulnificus — but about six cases of illness associated with the bacteria have been reported in the state each year since 1986, when it was recognized by health officials.

"At this point, it is probably not a major public health problem in Texas," Morris said. "But I am strongly advising these individuals against eating raw seafood."

Morris made the comment at a Wednesday workshop held in Galveston by the Federal Food and Drug Administration, officials from the county and state health departments, Texas A&M University, the FDA and the oyster industry.

Tom Hulst, president of the Texas Oyster Association, endorsed Morris' warning.

C.L. Standley of Dickinson, president of PISCES, a group representing the seafood industry, said the bacteria is having little effect on the seafood business because it's relatively unknown right now.

The fishermen, he said, fear adverse publicity about the problem could affect their business.

"Anything that involves health and seafood is detrimental to the industry if it's blown out of proportion," he said.

The bacteria can be harmful if it is ingested in raw or partly-cooked seafood or if it comes in contact with a break in the skin, where it can cause infection.

People with liver disease or suppressed immune systems appear to be most prone to infections from the bacteria, which causes blood poisoning, Morris said.

Symptoms of infection include fever, chills, vomiting and abdominal pain.

Bush: Presidential candidate doesn't put any stock in polls

HOUSTON (AP) — Republican presidential candidate George Bush said Thursday he doesn't put much stock in polls showing him behind Michael Dukakis because he is convinced the country doesn't want to swing left politically.

Answering questions at a news conference just after arriving for a Texas state GOP convention, Bush sought to minimize reports of a troubled candidacy. He noted one story depicting him as tense and nervous, and complained to reporters that the depiction was inaccurate.

"Yeah, I don't worry about it," the vice president said when asked to comment on a newly released Texas Poll showing him leading Dukakis in his adopted home state by only 7 percentage points.

"I feel really relaxed about it," he said. "We're not play-acting here. I like fighting back."

Bush presided over the news conference and met briefly with the Hispanic caucus to the state Republican convention before going to the floor of the George R. Brown Convention Center to address the delegates.

With the Bush campaign running very near the limit on the amount of money the candidate can spend before the election cycle switches at nominating convention time in August, the vice president has met increasingly with reporters in recent weeks.

"There's no reason for me to expect that you all are going to write good news; you don't write about the banks that didn't close today," he said.

But Bush said he was shifting his campaign into a more aggressive posture, aimed at spelling out more clearly the differences between himself and Dukakis, the certain Democratic nominee.

During the news conference, Bush said among other things that he does not speak Spanish — and wishes he did, since Dukakis speaks it. But the vice president noted that he has a Mexican daughter-in-law, and said several members of the family do speak the language.

Israeli soldiers kill 1, injure 4 in clashes

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israeli soldiers killed one Palestinian and wounded four on Thursday, one of the most violent recent days in the occupied lands. Arabs mounted another general strike to begin the seventh month of their rebellion.

At least 203 Palestinians have been killed and more than 5,000 injured since the uprising began Dec. 8, and 5,000 Arabs are in prison. An Israeli soldier and a Jewish settler also have been slain.

Stores were closed and public transport halted Thursday in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, and in Arab east Jerusalem, but the army said many Palestinians ignored the general strike.

A 40-year-old Arab motorist died of a heart attack after his car was stoned as he passed the Dheishe refugee camp near Bethlehem, the army said. Israel radio said camp residents stoned several Arab-owned cars, apparently to enforce compliance with the strike.

The radio, quoting military officials it did not identify, said Thursday was one of the most violent days

Arab summit supports uprising against Israelis

ALGIERS (AP) — An Arab summit called to discuss the PLO-guided rebellion against Israeli rule in the West Bank and Gaza Strip ended Thursday with agreement by rich Arab nations to subsidize the uprising.

Eight delegation chiefs, including those of the four wealthiest nations, devised a formula in a two hour meeting for subsidies to the Palestinians and to Syria and Jordan, which are in the forefront of the confrontation with Israel.

In a communique issued at the end of the three-day summit, the 21 Arab League members again designated the Palestine Liberation Organization as the "sole legitimate representative" of

the 5 million Palestinians. They also agreed to oppose any peace initiative that bans PLO participation and to demand an international peace conference giving equal status to all concerned parties, including the PLO.

Sources close to the delegates said Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates agreed to "specific sums" that would be provided for the uprising and to Syria and Jordan.

Chief PLO spokesman Bassam Abu Sharif told reporters that the Arab leaders agreed to keep the precise sums a secret to avoid showing their hand to the Israelis.



Photo by Jay Janner

Wrong way

A driver goes the wrong way on Ireland Street, a one way street on the north side of campus. The

street is closed for construction of the new parking garage and will be closed until August.

Radical Korean students struggle with riot police

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — Thousands of radical students screaming "Skin the Yankees!" bombarded riot police with firebombs and rocks Thursday. Orange flames engulfed dozens of officers but others quickly doused the fire.

Scores of policemen and students were injured. Officers with burns or blood pouring from cuts were dragged away by comrades or slumped exhausted against walls.

Student leaders said at least five protesters were hurt seriously.

Students took two captured officers away with their hands tied and their fate was not known. Police made scores of arrests.

Before the battle, radicals gathered at Yonsei University in Seoul to prepare for a 30-mile march to the border Friday for talks with students from communist North Korea about forcing reunification of the divided peninsula.

The government has declared the march illegal. Running clashes were reported in at least eight provincial cities between police and students trying to reach the capital for the march.

Eight thousand riot police in green combat fatigues and visored helmets fired thousands of tear gas bombs as 20,000 students stormed off the Yonsei campus in Seoul, and more volleys came from 15 armored vans. Other students trying to reach the campus joined the fray.

The protest was bitterly anti-American. Radical leaders blame the United States for the peninsula's division in 1945, and several violent anti-American protests have occurred in the past month.

Fighting ended after dark and about 6,000 students remained on the Yonsei campus for an overnight vigil.

Thursday's violence was the most serious since last summer. The march scheduled for Friday marks the first anniversary of the start of riots that forced the government to agree to elections and reforms.

South Africa extends state of emergency

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (AP) — President P.W. Botha on Friday morning extended the nationwide state of emergency for a third year, according to a presidential statement.

The statement came two days after blacks ended their biggest and longest general strike. The extension takes effect on publication Friday in the government gazette.

Botha said despite success in curbing violence and unrest, he believed ordinary laws were still inadequate to ensure public order and safety.

"It is indeed the aspiration of the government that conditions will change to such an extent that the declared state of emergency can be

lifted," Botha said in the statement.

"Intimidation and terror are aimed at undermining the political, economic and social activities of all our communities. It is also being employed to disrupt our courts and legal procedures," he said.

There were no immediate details of any possible changes in the emergency regulations, which allow sweeping powers of detention, outlaw many forms of peaceful anti-government protest, and restrict freedom of speech, press and assembly.

More than 2 million blacks stayed away from work, school and shops from Monday to Wednesday.

Before the report of an agreement, Sharif denied reports that Arab leaders had rebuffed the PLO's demand for funds to run the uprising. "There is no truth to the report."

Yasser Arafat, the PLO chairman, told the summit earlier in the week that the rebellion was costing his organization more than \$50 million a month in relief, compensation for wages lost by strikers and medical expenses for injured rioters.

Confidence sources said the PLO agreed in preliminary discussions to reduce its annual requirements to \$300-\$400 million.

juries is unjustified in dispersing protests. The army will not say whether it uses such ammunition.

Israeli military officials in the West Bank said many students and Palestinians who work in Israel ignored the strike.

Arab doctors said soldiers killed Ahmed Hassan Hawari, 17, with a bullet in the head in Sebastiya village near Nablus. The army said Hawari was standing on a terrace and an officer shot him when the youth raised a large rock, apparently to throw at soldiers.