

premise straight from "Cabin Fever" quite a story that manages to give the viewer a vein of shock that is itself on its standard originality: a group of people fighting for their lives in a remote cabin.

iller is all too real. Instead of the "boogey" often found in horror, this is a thriller that bustles and thrills with its flesh-eating bacteria. The disease is spread by contact and destroys tissue. The disease consists of spreading the disease.

group of fun-seeking people take a vacation from the woods. Obviously, the "Evil Dead" is a creepy little cabin.

ely unknown actor "Meets World" "ever" has its share of... hindered by... the audience... eccentric... racist old man... kid. These characters... that has as much...

into their cabin, their... man with a... their car, and... of the bacteria... must find a way... spreading contagion...

effects, the virus... great to the students... but their reaction... of its potential... to self-preservation... dled with plot holes... balance through, the... does not leave audi... ine these discrepan... ver, and by that time... over by the out... en to appreciate.

Robert Saucedo

Junice Mints can't wait for Popcorn

camp out has nights in a tent

# SCI|TECH

THE BATTALION

Page 5A • Thursday, September 18, 2003

## 'Smart tattoo' makes life easier Diabetics can measure glucose without pricking finger

By Kyle Ross  
THE BATTALION

Researchers at Texas A&M are developing technology that will give diabetics a new way to monitor their glucose levels. A "smart tattoo" that changes color intensity depending on glucose levels is being developed by Gerard Cote, associate professor for the Department of Biomedical Engineering at A&M.

The National Institute of Health states that more than 100 million people worldwide are afflicted with diabetes, 17 million of whom are from the United States. About 19 percent of all deaths in the United States are diabetes-related, making it the sixth leading cause of death among people aged 25 years or older. Cote said he hopes his technology will help people manage their glucose levels, effectively preventing the progression of diabetic complications such as eye, kidney, heart and nerve disease.

"It is actually fluorescent particles that we hope to implant underneath the skin," Cote said.

The particles are polyethylene glycol beads that have a fluorescent coating. Glucose displaces the fluorescent molecules, therefore when the glucose level is low, the fluorescence is high.

It is recommended that glucose levels be checked six or more times a day. Currently, diabetics have to test their blood sugar level using finger-prick instruments. Because of the pain and inconvenience of testing, many diabetics fall short of correctly monitoring their glucose levels. The "smart tattoo" would eliminate the need for such invasive devices.

Nicole Parish, a 25-year-old Bryan High School teacher and 20-year diabetic, says she greatly dislikes the current glucose monitoring methods.

"I hate, I hate, I hate checking my blood sugar. I hate pricking my finger all day long. For me it's the hardest thing to deal with having this disease," Parish said.

But the days of finger-pricking may soon be coming to an end. Once the fluorescent beads are implanted, according to Cote, the change in glucose levels would be detected noninvasively by an external device that may be as small as a watch.

A sensor examines the light emitted from the tattoo. The higher the intensity of the light, the higher the glucose level. Cote said he feels that the varying intensity of the displaced fluorescence will be just as accurate as current monitoring devices.

The idea, Cote said, is that the particles, along with the external device after calibration, would replace the finger-sticking instrument for the day-to-day readings.

One of the features of this technology that allows it to work is its fundamental difference from common ink tattoos.

"A normal tattoo is made of ink particles that get taken up by the cells, and our particles are intended to be in the interstitial space, not in the cells," Cote said.

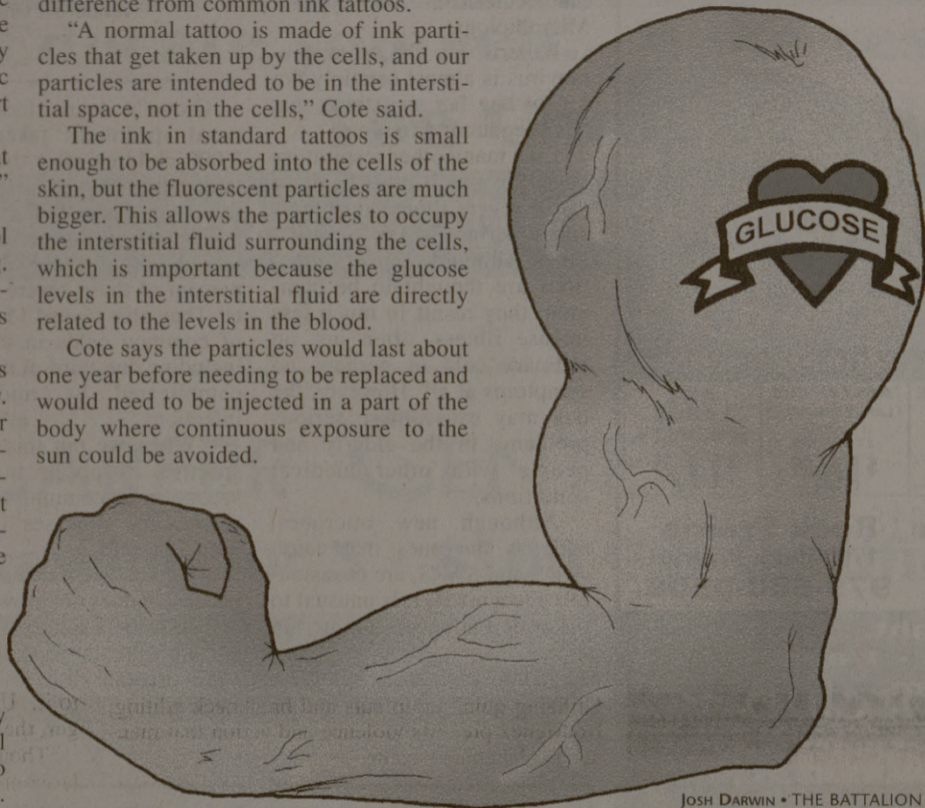
The ink in standard tattoos is small enough to be absorbed into the cells of the skin, but the fluorescent particles are much bigger. This allows the particles to occupy the interstitial fluid surrounding the cells, which is important because the glucose levels in the interstitial fluid are directly related to the levels in the blood.

Cote says the particles would last about one year before needing to be replaced and would need to be injected in a part of the body where continuous exposure to the sun could be avoided.

Cote acquired his idea for this technology when he was attending a conference where a doctor, who removes tattoos with lasers, joked that "it would be nice to have a tattoo that actually did something."

"I was working in the glucose monitoring area and so I thought why not a glucose monitor," Cote said. "We have since got funding from NSF-REU Interdisciplinary Chemistry Research Program, Texas ARP (Advanced Research Program), and most recently NASA to further the idea."

In the end, it is up to the individual to decide what glucose monitoring method he or she prefers. But as Parish said, compared to endless finger-pricking, "getting a little tattoo would be a small price to pay."



JOSH DARWIN • THE BATTALION

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Chem 101 Test Review	Magnuson/ Natawitz Wed Sept 24 10pm-12am			
Chem 101 Test Review	Heising Thu Sept 25 6pm-8pm	Conway Thu Sept 25 8pm-10pm	Soriaga Thu Sept 25 10pm-12am	Peck Thu Sept 25 12am-2am
Chem 227	Part 1 of 3 Mon Sept 22 5pm-7pm	Part 2 of 3 Tue Sept 23 5pm-7pm	Part 3 of 3 Wed Sept 24 5pm-7pm	
Info 303	Part 1 of 4 Mon Sept 22 4pm-6pm	Part 2 of 4 Tue Sept 23 4pm-6pm	Part 3 of 4 Wed Sept 24 4pm-6pm	Part 4 of 4 Thu Sept 25 6pm-8pm
Info 305	Part 1 of 4 Sun Sept 21 10pm-1am	Part 2 of 4 Mon Sept 22 12pm-2pm	Part 3 of 4 Tue Sept 23 10pm-12am	Part 4 of 4 Wed Sept 24 6pm-8pm
Math 141	Part 1 of 4 Sun Sept 21 7pm-10pm	Part 2 of 4 Mon Sept 22 8pm-10pm	Part 3 of 4 Tue Sept 23 8pm-10pm	Part 4 of 4 Wed Sept 24 8pm-10pm
Mgmt 211	Test Review Thu Sept 25 5pm-8pm	Check www.4.0andGo.com tomorrow for the following class schedules: Acct209, Biol 113/114, Econ 202, Info 364, and Mktg 309/321		
Mgmt 363	Test Review Mon Sept 22 7pm-10pm			
Phys 218	Part 1 of 3 Mon Sept 22 10pm-12am	Part 2 of 3 Tue Sept 23 6pm-8pm	Part 3 of 3 Wed Sept 24 4pm-6pm	
Phys 218 Test Review	Bassichis Sun Sept 21 2pm-4pm			

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