Isoflavone genistein may negate effect of common breast cancer drug

By Jim Barlow
News Bureau Staff Writer

Isoflavone-enhanced dietary supplements containing genistein may negate the tumor-fighting effects of tamoxifen, a commonly prescribed medication for women battling estrogen-dependent breast cancer, according to new findings that appeared in the May 1 issue of the journal Cancer Research.

The research was led by William G. Helferich, a professor of food science and human nutrition at Illinois. In a pre-clinical study, researchers divided 66 mice, with their ovaries removed, into six groups to monitor the effects of estrogen and various amounts of tamoxifen and genistein, an estrogen-competing substance found in legume plants. Estrogen and tamoxifen implants were put into the mice, and estrogen-dependent breast cancer cells were injected. Before adding genistein to the diet, the tamoxifen had stopped tumor growth. The addition of genistein resulted in enhanced growth of estrogen-dependent tumors and increases in estrogen-responsive gene markers.

Blood concentrations of genistein in these mice were similar to those levels that people can get by consuming isoflavone-rich dietary supplements, Helferich said.

“Previous studies in rodents have suggested that exposure to genistein early in life may prevent or delay breast cancer,” Helferich said. However, in a series of studies published last year, Helferich’s laboratory demonstrated that various dietary products containing genistein can stimulate the growth of estrogen-dependent human breast tumors implanted into adult mice.

“This new study takes our previous findings a step further,” Helferich said. “These results raise concern about consuming isoflavone supplements in conjunction with tamoxifen in post-menopausal women who have estrogen-dependent breast cancer.”

SEE ISOFLAVONE, PAGE 2

Multimillion-dollar grant to fund more research into speech disorder

By Melissa Mitchell
News Bureau Staff Writer

Research on stuttering conducted during the past 13 years at Illinois has produced a wealth of new knowledge about the cause, onset, early characteristics, and developmental course of the disorder. And, according to Ehud Yairi, professor of speech and hearing science and director of the Stuttering Research Project at Illinois, that work has resulted in a re-examination of traditional therapeutic strategies for treating young children who stutter.

Now, thanks to a $4 million grant from the National Institutes of Health-National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders, Yairi and his colleagues hope to further expand the existing knowledge base on stuttering. The project, which seeks to identify subtypes of stuttering, includes 11 scientists from Illinois, Northern Illinois University, Purdue University, Eastern Illinois University, University of Chicago, University of Iowa, University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee and Purdue University.

Yairi said the new grant “is the largest in the country in terms of funding, and quite likely, in the scope and level of activities.” As principal investigator, the Illinois professor will provide leadership for the entire project, which will explore four sets of factors that are believed to play a role in the onset and development of childhood stuttering. Areas to be examined and individuals heading the studies are language function, Ruth Watkins, Illinois; epidemiology, Nicole Ambrose, Illinois; motor/physiological functions, Patricia Zebrowski, Iowa; and psychological factors, Ellen Kelly, Purdue.

“In many respects, stuttering is a disorder of early childhood,” Yairi said, noting that close to 80 percent of children who stutter begin by age 3 1/2. “However, most children—at about 75 percent—develop normal speech fluency within about four years of stuttering onset. That alters the traditional model,” he said, which held that children who did not receive intervention continued to get worse. In fact, Yairi said, Illinois researchers have found that “the majority is getting better and bet-

SEE STUTTERING, PAGE 2

Research funded A $4 million grant from the National Institutes of Health-National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders will fund research on stuttering. Ehud Yairi, professor of speech and hearing science and director of the Stuttering Research Project at Illinois, is the principal investigator for the project, which includes 11 scientists.

Diversity committee announces recommendations

By Sharita Forrest
Assistant Editor

Measures for bolstering access for persons with disabilities and for underrepresented minorities were among the recommendations outlined by the Diversity Initiatives Planning Committee in its first report, which was released May 1.

The committee examined existing programs, policies and facilities on the Urbana campus and offered several recommendations for promoting an inclusive environment for people of all races, genders, sexual orientations, physical ability, religion and country of origin.

The committee recommended that diversity among academic professionals in central and campus administration be increased and administrators be held accountable for fostering diversity among faculty/staff members and programming.

The diversity criteria also should be incorporated into the annual review process for deans, directors and department heads, the committee suggested.

The committee also recommended that the administration retire Chief Illiniwek, saying that the Chief is a racially divisive symbol and a hindrance to recruiting and retaining faculty members and students of color.

In addition, the recruitment and retention of female faculty and staff members is hampered by a lack of affordable, high-quality child care on campus and legislative guidelines, the committee said in its report. The committee asked university administrators to push for legislative
STUTTERING, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ter. “And for reasons yet to be deter-
mised, girls stand a better chance for what he terms “natural recovery.”

Also notable, Yairi said, is that “our findings show that genetic factors play an
important role, not only in the cause of stuttering but also in the recovery and
consistency pathways.”

The new project’s investigators will employ many tests and experimental
tasks for children who stutter, for those
who don’t, and for parents of both groups.
After the data are analyzed,

We hope to have initial indications for
differentiating among people who stutter,
and for identifying risk factors for
chronic, persistent stuttering as well as
clinical predictors for those who re-
cover,” Yairi said.

Other ongoing projects at the Illinois
Stuttering Research Program include
Yairi’s longitudinal studies of preschool-

dage children who stutter and normally
fluent children; Ambrose’s work that
seeks to identify a possible genetic cause;
speech and hearing science professor
Adile Proctor’s study on the incidence of stuttering in African-American chil-
dren; and speech and hearing science professor Ken Watkin’s use of imaging
techniques to examine the structural
characteristics of brains of stutters.

DIVERSITY, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

changes allowing the university to supplement its existing research-oriented
child care centers with additional facil-
ities. The committee also recommended
extending health benefits to unmarried
same-sex and unmarried opposite-sex
domestic partners of employees. In an
addendum to the report, the committee
stated that health insurance should also
be implemented campuswide, the com-
mittee said.

Likewise, increasing the prevalence
of persons with disabilities among stud-
ents and the campus’s workforce should
also become a priority for university
administrators, the committee said in its
report. The committee recommended
that the university increase course offer-
ings addressing disability issues and, as
well as designate a portion of the campus
reserve fund for underwriting disability
accommodation expenses for faculty and
staff members.

The current system of addressing and
funding accommodations on the depart-
mental level taxes limited localized re-

resources and leaves accommodation re-
quests to the discretion of unit heads, the

report said. The committee suggested
that an academic professional position
be established to coordinate accommo-
dations for faculty/staff members with
disabilities.

Some recommendations made in the
report already had been implemented on
campus, including initiating a com-
memorative program for the 50th anni-
versary of Brown vs. the Board of Edu-
cation.

The committee also had recom-

mended that the university offer contra-
ceptive coverage for female faculty and
staff members through its employee
health plans. In February, a program
was initiated on campus that allows fe-
male Urbana campus employees to fill
prescriptions for certain oral contracep-
tives at no charge through McKinley
Health Center.

The Diversity Initiatives Planning
Committee is chaired by James D.
Anderson, professor and head, educa-
tional policy studies. The committee
stated that the university should institute
changes allowing the university to

allow these changes to be implemented
with the support of university
administrators.

The committee also had recom-

mended that the university offer con-
ceptive coverage for female faculty and
staff members through its employee
health plans. In February, a program
was initiated on campus that allows fe-
male Urbana campus employees to fill
prescriptions for certain oral contracep-
tives at no charge through McKinley

Health Center.

The Diversity Initiatives Planning
Committee is chaired by James D.
Anderson, professor and head, educa-
tional policy studies. The committee
stated that the university should institute
changes allowing the university to

allow these changes to be implemented
with the support of university
administrators.

The committee also had recom-

mended that the university offer con-
ceptive coverage for female faculty and
staff members through its employee
health plans. In February, a program
was initiated on campus that allows fe-
male Urbana campus employees to fill
prescriptions for certain oral contracep-
tives at no charge through McKinley

Health Center.

The Diversity Initiatives Planning
Committee is chaired by James D.
Anderson, professor and head, educa-
tional policy studies. The committee
stated that the university should institute
changes allowing the university to

allow these changes to be implemented
with the support of university
administrators.
The Champaign-Urbana Mass Transit District has announced changes to its campus service during the summer. The 21 Quad Limited and the 23 Shuttle East are the main routes for summer campus bus service. In addition, campus routes do not operate on all-campus holidays, including May 27 and July 4.

MTD bus service
Changes to summer bus routes
The Champaign-Urbana Mass Transit District has announced schedule changes for its campus service during the summer. The 21 Quad Limited and the 23 Shuttle East are the main routes for summer campus bus service. In addition, campus routes do not operate on all-campus holidays, including May 27 and July 4. For complete route information, call 384-8188 or visit the MTD Web site at www.cumtd.com.

CCSO and OIR
GradeBook workshop is June 7
Faculty members and teaching assistants may attend a free hands-on workshop on using Campus GradeBook from 1 to 3 p.m. June 7 in 70A Wohlers Hall, formerly known as ComWest. (The Instructional Computing Lab is in the basement.) No prior knowledge of Campus GradeBook is necessary. However, it is assumed that workshop participants will have basic computing knowledge.

Campus GradeBook is a secure, computerized record-keeping system that allows instructors to enter, calculate and post student grades. Students may then view their grades online. GradeBook was developed by the Computing and Communications Services Office and is maintained and supported by CCSO and the Office of Instruc-tional Resources.

To reserve a space for June 7, contact OIR’s Division of Measurement and Evaluation at 333-3490 or e-mail dmsteele@uiuc.edu. For more information about Campus GradeBook, visit www.uiuc.edu/ccso/gradebook or www.uiuc.edu/dme/Gradebook.

School of Art and Design
Summer art school
The UI’s School of Art and Design offers art classes for students ages 4 1/2 through high school and for adults through its Summer Art Enrichment Program. Class for grades preschool through fifth will meet for two weeks, Monday through Thursday, and for grades six through 12, for one week, Monday through Thursday. Classes begin June 10 for preschool/kindergarten students, and end Aug. 1 with students in 8th grade.

Registration fee is $60. A creative art class for adults also will be offered this summer. Participants in this class will explore a variety of art tools and media in creating art. Classes meet from 9 a.m. to noon, July 29-Aug. 1. Course fee is $60.

For further information or to get a registration form, contact Carole Smith at 333-1652 or cssmith2@uiuc.edu.
achievements

A report on honors, awards, offices and other outstanding achievements of faculty and staff members

Jan. 17, 2002

Inside Illinois

The National Intramural-Recreational Sports Association has announced its 2002 award winners and UI’s Division of Campus Recreation was recognized in several categories.

The division’s Spring 2002 Guide received a second-place Creative Excellence Award in the category of Graphic Communications. Faculty Publications. The guide was produced by Emmi Moon, assistant director for media communications.

The student referendum campaign, with staff liaison Kristin Duitsman, assistant director of member services, received a second-place Creative Excellence Award in the category of Comprehensive Publications Program. Duitsman also received the 2002 Student Affairs Outstanding Staff Award. She was recognized at an April 23 reception.

“2 Ways to Cycle” poster, designed by student-employee Gabriel Horton, won a first-place Creative Excellence Award in the student category.

communications

Jay Rosenberg, professor of journalism, won the Marvin Felheim Special Jury Award for his international debut at the Sundance Film Festival.

engineering

Harry Hilton, a senior research specialist at the National Center for Supercomputing Applications and professor emeritus of aeronautical and astronautical engineering, presented a paper at the 27th Dayton-Cincinnati American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics Aerospace Science Symposium that was selected for the Best-Paper Award in structures/solid mechanics.

Hilton presented the paper, titled “Failure probability and survival time analysis of dynamic creep buckling of viscoelastic columns,” in March.

The criteria for winning were best presentation and best new research investigations and results. The award will be presented at a May 22 honors dinner in Dayton.

Marvin R. Paulsen, professor of agricultural and biological engineering, received the Anderson Research Award at the 2002 NC-213 Annual Meeting on Marketing and Delivery of Quality Cereals and Oilseeds in Domestic and Foreign Markets. The award, sponsored by the Andersons Co., is given in recognition of outstanding accomplishments in grain quality research.

Patrick Chapman, Farzad Kamalabadi and David Libberty, all professors of electrical and computer engineering, have each received the Faculty Early Career Development Award, one of the National Science Foundation’s most prestigious awards for young faculty members.

The awards recognize and support the early-career-development activities of those teacher-scholars who are most likely to become the academic leaders of the 21st century. Awardees are selected on the basis of creative, career-development plans that effectively integrate research and education within the context of the mission of their institution.

Chapman is receiving nearly $375,000 over five years to develop new power electronic converters that combine multiple energy sources in an optimal way. In addition, Chapman will develop ECE courses, and will integrate energy-related topics into existing courses, educating students about problems with alternative energy sources.

Kamalabadi is receiving nearly $428,000 over five years to develop, implement and integrate space- and ground-based optical and radio techniques for remote sensing and imaging of space phenomena. He also will introduce space remote sensing and imaging concepts and methodologies to engineering students through new ECE courses.

Labovitz is receiving $375,000 over five years to design and develop hybrid control algorithms for nonlinear dynamical systems. He also will develop new ECE courses, including hands-on instructional labs.

medicine

Richard Mintel, adjunct professor of biochemistry and assistant dean for instruct.

SEE ACHIEVEMENTS, Page 3

calendar

of events

May 16 to June 9

Entries for the calendar should be sent 15 days before the desired publication date to Inside Illinois Calendar, News Bureau, 807 S. Wright St., Urbana, IL 61801; mc-314, or to insidelii@uiuc.edu. More information is available from Marty Yeakel at 333-1085. The online UIUC Events Calendar is at www.uiuc.edu~ucalendar/ cal.html.

activities

The “2 Ways to Cycle” poster, designed by student-employee Gabriel Horton, won a first-place Creative Excellence Award in the student category.

music

Midweek Artspeak.

The “2 Ways to Cycle” poster, designed by student-employee Gabriel Horton, won a first-place Creative Excellence Award in the student category.

Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago

Closed through May 17.

School of Music

“Living in a Material World: Art of the ‘80s”

On view May 17.

Through July 31.

The 2nd Annual Campus Recreation Center Symposium that was selected for the Best-Paper Award in structures/ solid mechanics.

Hilton presented the paper, titled “Failure probability and survival time analysis of dynamic creep buckling of viscoelastic columns,” in March.

The criteria for winning were best presentation and best new research investigations and results. The award will be presented at a May 22 honors dinner in Dayton.

Marvin R. Paulsen, professor of agricultural and biological engineering, received the Anderson Research Award at the 2002 NC-213 Annual Meeting on Marketing and Delivery of Quality Cereals and Oilseeds in Domestic and Foreign Markets. The award, sponsored by the Andersons Co., is given in recognition of outstanding accomplishments in grain quality research.

Patrick Chapman, Farzad Kamalabadi and David Libberty, all professors of electrical and computer engineering, have each received the Faculty Early Career Development Award, one of the National Science Foundation’s most prestigious awards for young faculty members.

The awards recognize and support the early-career-development activities of those teacher-scholars who are most likely to become the academic leaders of the 21st century. Awardees are selected on the basis of creative, career-development plans that effectively integrate research and education within the context of the mission of their institution.

Chapman is receiving nearly $375,000 over five years to develop new power electronic converters that combine multiple energy sources in an optimal way. In addition, Chapman will develop ECE courses, and will integrate energy-related topics into existing courses, educating students about problems with alternative energy sources.

Kamalabadi is receiving nearly $428,000 over five years to develop, implement and integrate space- and ground-based optical and radio techniques for remote sensing and imaging of space phenomena. He also will introduce space remote sensing and imaging concepts and methodologies to engineering students through new ECE courses.

Labovitz is receiving $375,000 over five years to design and develop hybrid control algorithms for nonlinear dynamical systems. He also will develop new ECE courses, including hands-on instructional labs.

Richard Mintel, adjunct professor of biochemistry and assistant dean for instruct.

SEE ACHIEVEMENTS, Page 3

calendar

of events

May 16 to June 9

Entries for the calendar should be sent 15 days before the desired publication date to Inside Illinois Calendar, News Bureau, 807 S. Wright St., Urbana, IL 61801; mc-314, or to insidelii@uiuc.edu. More information is available from Marty Yeakel at 333-1085. The online UIUC Events Calendar is at www.uiuc.edu~ucalendar/ cal.html.

activities

The “2 Ways to Cycle” poster, designed by student-employee Gabriel Horton, won a first-place Creative Excellence Award in the student category.

music

Midweek Artspeak.

The “2 Ways to Cycle” poster, designed by student-employee Gabriel Horton, won a first-place Creative Excellence Award in the student category.

Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago

Closed through May 17.

School of Music

“Living in a Material World: Art of the ‘80s”

On view May 17.

Through July 31.

The 2nd Annual Campus Recreation Center Symposium that was selected for the Best-Paper Award in structures/ solid mechanics.

Hilton presented the paper, titled “Failure probability and survival time analysis of dynamic creep buckling of viscoelastic columns,” in March.

The criteria for winning were best presentation and best new research investigations and results. The award will be presented at a May 22 honors dinner in Dayton.

Marvin R. Paulsen, professor of agricultural and biological engineering, received the Anderson Research Award at the 2002 NC-213 Annual Meeting on Marketing and Delivery of Quality Cereals and Oilseeds in Domestic and Foreign Markets. The award, sponsored by the Andersons Co., is given in recognition of outstanding accomplishments in grain quality research.

Patrick Chapman, Farzad Kamalabadi and David Libberty, all professors of electrical and computer engineering, have each received the Faculty Early Career Development Award, one of the National Science Foundation’s most prestigious awards for young faculty members.

The awards recognize and support the early-career-development activities of those teacher-scholars who are most likely to become the academic leaders of the 21st century. Awardees are selected on the basis of creative, career-development plans that effectively integrate research and education within the context of the mission of their institution.

Chapman is receiving nearly $375,000 over five years to develop new power electronic converters that combine multiple energy sources in an optimal way. In addition, Chapman will develop ECE courses, and will integrate energy-related topics into existing courses, educating students about problems with alternative energy sources.

Kamalabadi is receiving nearly $428,000 over five years to develop, implement and integrate space- and ground-based optical and radio techniques for remote sensing and imaging of space phenomena. He also will introduce space remote sensing and imaging concepts and methodologies to engineering students through new ECE courses.

Labovitz is receiving $375,000 over five years to design and develop hybrid control algorithms for nonlinear dynamical systems. He also will develop new ECE courses, including hands-on instructional labs.

medicine

Richard Mintel, adjunct professor of biochemistry and assistant dean for instruct.

SEE ACHIEVEMENTS, Page 3

calendar

of events

May 16 to June 9

Entries for the calendar should be sent 15 days before the desired publication date to Inside Illinois Calendar, News Bureau, 807 S. Wright St., Urbana, IL 61801; mc-314, or to insidelii@uiuc.edu. More information is available from Marty Yeakel at 333-1085. The online UIUC Events Calendar is at www.uiuc.edu~ucalendar/ cal.html.

activities

The “2 Ways to Cycle” poster, designed by student-employee Gabriel Horton, won a first-place Creative Excellence Award in the student category.