

FDA endorses drug to treat Alzheimer's

ROCKVILLE, Md. (AP)—A drug for treating Alzheimer's disease won endorsement by a federal advisory panel Thursday, a step away from making it the first government-approved drug for the incurable brain disorder.

Members of the Food and Drug Administration committee said new studies had shown positive, though small effects in Alzheimer's patients.

"This is a baby step, but it is in the right direction," said panel member Gary M. Oderda of the University of Utah.

The advisory committee's 10-0 vote sends the matter to the FDA.

The vote came after a daylong meeting during which researchers analyzed two new studies using the drug called tacrine. Warner-Lambert Co. plans to market it under the brand name Cognex.

The drug had twice been rejected by the advisory committee earlier.

Panel experts said during the meeting that the drug had shown "statistically significant" benefits in long-term tests.

Alzheimer's disease is a progressive, incurable disorder of the brain in which patients gradually lose intellectual function and eventually die. The cause of the disease is not known

and there is no cure.

If approved, tacrine would be the first drug to directly treat the disorder.

Nancy Smith, an FDA statistician who analyzed a new drug trial conducted by Warner-Lambert, said that at the end of 30 weeks patients who were taking tacrine scored higher on Alzheimer's disease tests than did patients who were not taking the drug.

She said the improvement amounted to several points on the Alzheimer's disease assessment scale. The rating measures intellectual performance on a scale of 0 to 70, with lower numbers marking improvement.

Some UNL buildings to stay open

By Juliet Oseka
Staff Reporter

For some students at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, spring break won't be spent in exotic destinations. For those staying in Lincoln, some campus facilities will be open.

The Recreation Center will close at 9 p.m. today. The hours from Saturday to March 27 will be 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. On March 28, the rec center will be open from 9 a.m. to 11 p.m.

The Recreation Center on East Campus will be open until 6 p.m. today and will be closed Saturday and Sunday. The hours Monday through Friday will be 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. It will be closed on March 27, and will resume regular hours, noon to 10 p.m., on March 28.

Mabel Lee Hall will be closed today through March 28.

The Administration Building will remain open during the break with its regular hours of 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The hours of the Nebraska Union will change over spring break. The union will open at 7 a.m. through March 27. The building will close today at 6 p.m., and the information desk will close at 3 p.m. The union will be closed over the weekend. On Monday and Tuesday, the building

will close at 6 p.m. The union will close at 10 p.m. on Wednesday and 7 p.m. on Thursday and Friday.

The union will resume regular hours on March 29.

The East Union will close at 5 p.m. today and remain closed over the weekend. It will open at 6:45 a.m. and close at 5 p.m. Monday through Wednesday. On Thursday and Friday, the union will open at 7:30 a.m. and close at 5 p.m. The East Union will be closed March 27 and 28 and will resume regular hours on March 29.

The University Health Center will be closed Saturday morning, with regular services Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. But no evening services will be available on Tuesday evening. On March 27, the health center will have regular hours from 8 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. The Urgent Care division will be open as usual.

The East Campus Health Center will be closed from Saturday until March 29, when it will resume regular hours.

Love Library will close at 5 p.m. today. The hours on Saturday will be 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The library will be closed on Sunday, but will be open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. On Saturday, it will resume

regular hours.

C.Y. Thompson will close at 5 p.m. today and remain closed Saturday and Sunday. The hours will be the same as Love Library's on Monday through Friday. On March 27, the hours will be 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and on March 28, the hours will be noon to midnight. The other branch libraries will follow the hours of C.Y. Thompson but will be closed March 27 and 28.

The computer lab in Andrews Hall will be open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday. From Monday to Friday, the hours will be 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. On March 27, the hours will be 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and 12 noon to 10 p.m. on March 28. The computer labs in Sandoz and Selleck halls will be closed Saturday through March 27. But computers in room 7006D in Selleck Hall will be available 24 hours a day through spring break.

The computer lab in Henzlik Hall will be open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday. The computer lab in the Nebraska Union will be open only during building hours Saturday through March 28.

The residence halls will close at 10 a.m. on Saturday and reopen at 1 p.m. March 28.

NEWS BRIEFS

Drains to lengthen life of Burnett roof

From Staff Reports

Students in Burnett Hall may have noticed a little tromping around and the smell of glue this week as construction workers installed five new roof drains.

Richard Hoback, University of

Nebraska-Lincoln maintenance manager, said Burnett's roof had been ankle deep with water at times.

The drains are intended to extend the life of the roof, he said.

The project started last fall, but the wet, icy winter stopped its completion until this week. The

project was completed Wednesday.

Hoback said the project was funded by LB309, a bill that has been around for 10 to 15 years and is designed to provide additional funding for maintenance not in the general budget.

UNMC Outpatient Care Center opens

From Staff Reports

After two and a half years of construction, a new addition called the Outpatient Care Center opened Tuesday at the University of Nebraska Medical Center.

The six-level, 266,500 square-foot building, located at 44th and Emile streets in Omaha, houses nine outpatient clinics, six hospital departments, a surgery suite with

eight operating rooms, a central sterile-supply facility, a gift shop and a loading dock and warehouse. The roof will be used for Sky Med landings later this spring.

The new clinic, which will see about 700 patients a day, has a five-level parking structure to handle the traffic. The parking garage, which opened in 1990, has an additional entrance to separate emergency traffic from other traffic.

Total cost for the parking garage and the new clinic is \$46 million and will be funded by revenue from University Hospital and University Medical Associates.

The former clinic building will be converted into office space and teaching areas. The renovation should be done in about a year.

The public is invited to attend an open house and wellness fair on April 25 from 1 to 4 p.m.

Regents

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should have interviews and a final candidate selection by Dec. 1, 1993.

But even if the new president is selected by that target date, that person may have other responsibilities to fulfill first, Wilson said.

That is why there is a proposal to keep Messing in office until the new president begins, Wilson said.

It allows a "sliding ending date" sometime between Jan. 1 and July 1, 1994, Wilson said.

Other proposals to be voted on Saturday include:

- Approval to change the name of the School of Health, Physical Educa-

tion and Recreation to the Department of Health and Human Performance.

- Approval to accept a bid to begin construction of a hazardous waste facility on East Campus, which would be used to store laboratory chemicals.

- Approval of a tuition rate increase for high school independent study courses.

He said there was a need to integrate low- and moderate-income families with suburban society.

"We need to talk about socioeconomic integration," he said. "We need dispersion of poor people in these communities. We need to take all the resources that we have available, put them in a funnel, then spread them out over the private sector."

The first step to meeting that objective, he said, is to provide opportunities for people to reach their goals. "Public housing is supposed to be transitional — not cradle-to-grave, from generation to generation," he said. "It's a way of life that nobody should have to endure."

Lane

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didn't control them," Lane said. "They were controlled by the gangs."

Along with the Chicago police, Lane initiated "Operation Clean Sweep," storming the gang-controlled buildings to pave the way for renovation and repair.

Then Lane and his staff went to work employing a self-help attitude, helping residents get off welfare and attracting working families to the area.

"We redeveloped these buildings, not as housing, but as public housing, period," Lane said.

But Lane's work has just begun.

Water

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ice jam Thursday on the Platte River. The blasts have loosened some of the ice, but it didn't affect the Lincoln efforts.

Jerry Obrist, chief engineer of the Lincoln Water System, said the dynamite wasn't responsible for any of the dike progress.

The priority for Lincoln officials now is to restructure and secure the 48-inch pipe, and to assure Wednesday's progress is not damaged.

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