

Researcher finds protein

By MICHELLE STARR
Staff writer

A UNL researcher is studying the protein that might help aid in the prevention of cancer.

For the past three years, Vadim Gladyshev, an assistant professor of biochemistry at UNL, has been working with a protein that helped synthesize selenium. Selenium might be important in preventing cancer and supplementing the cancer patients' diets.

"I think Vadim is on to something very big," said Dolph Hatfield, chief of the section of molecular biology of selenium at the National Cancer Institute at the National Institute of Health in Maryland.

Gladyshev's research might also be a preventative method for those with a high risk of cancer.

The selenium causes the protein to be synthesized in higher amounts. The 14 Kilodalton protein, or 15 KD, which Gladyshev discovered in 1997, may serve as the agent in cancer prevention.

Out of a few possible proteins containing selenium that would fit the description of aiding cancer patients, 15 KD protein is one of them. Gladyshev is trying to find if it is the

"I think he is showing a correlation between 15 KD and prevention of prostate cancer."

DOLPH HATFIELD
National Cancer Institute

protein, and if so, how it works.

"I think he is showing a correlation between 15 KD and prevention of prostate cancer," Hatfield said.

The 15 KD is thought to be the helping protein because high levels have been found in prostate tissues, but in malignant tissues the protein is highly reduced, Hatfield said.

Previous research raised a red flag concerning selenium and the prevention of cancer.

A study in 1997 led by Larry Clark of the University of Arizona gave selenium to half of the 1,300 participants and a placebo to the other half to try to find a link between selenium and skin cancer.

Instead of treating the skin cancer, the research found a 67 percent reduction in prostate cancer, 57 percent reduction in colon cancer, a 35 to 40 percent reduction in liver cancer and a 50 percent reduction in mortality rate, Hatfield said.

Gladyshev then looked for selenium's role in the decrease and found the 15 KD protein.

"Most people don't know its effects yet, but it's becoming more common," Gladyshev said.

Selenium is commonly found in food, and the intake of selenium is easy to obtain, Hatfield said.

One Brazil nut contains a day's supply of selenium, and taking in too much would make the substance a toxin, Hatfield said.

He said he thought cancer patients might want to increase their intake by about 200 to 400 micrograms a day to help supplement their diet.

The exact role of the protein is unknown, and it is only speculation that 15 DK is the correct protein, but the research to date shows promise.

"It certainly would be advisable (for patients) to add selenium in their diet. It could serve as a chemo prevention," Hatfield said.

Kuwaiti women refused right to vote

KUWAIT (AP) - Kuwaiti women lost the chance to become part of the political scene in their oil-rich state Tuesday when Parliament rejected a bill to give them the right to vote and run for office.

The 32-30 vote was the second letdown for women in a week in this conservative society.

On Nov. 23, the all-male legislature killed a decree by the emir granting women political rights because most members believed it was unconstitutional.

Tuesday's bill, proposed by five liberal lawmakers, was seen as an acceptable constitutional replacement but did not win the required approval by a simple majority vote.

Forty-nine lawmakers and 15 Cabinet ministers attended the session.

Ministers have the right to vote in Parliament, and all of them voted for the proposed law. Two Parliament members abstained.

Hundreds of men, who almost filled the galleries of the house, cheered and applauded when the result of the vote was announced. The women, who were seated separately, filed out silently.

"This is not the end. We will continue to fight," Sheikha al-Nisf, a women's rights activist, told The Associated Press.

She said two votes was not a large margin, and one day women would win.

Most pro-government lawmakers voted against the bill, tipping the balance in favor of Sunni fundamentalist Muslims who vehemently oppose women's rights because they do not want women to mix with men.

Although all Shiite members supported women's rights according to their interpretations of Muslim teachings, one, an Iran-educated cleric, abstained.

Adnan Abdul-Samad, a Shiite, voted yes.

But he said many lawmakers voted no because pressure from their constituents turned out to be much stronger than that exerted by the government.

Only 113,000 men are registered to vote, out of a Kuwaiti population of around 793,000. Although Kuwait boasts the only legislature in the Arab Gulf, its 37-year-old democracy is known as that of the "chosen few" because it represents less than 14 percent of Kuwaitis.

Only men over 21 who have held Kuwaiti nationality for at least 20

"Yes, we should broaden the base of democracy, but surely not through women."

AHMED AL-SHRAIAN
tribal lawmaker

years can vote or run for office. Women and members of the armed forces and police are kept out.

"Are you saying that a woman should be able to go cast her ballot while her husband who works for the military stays home to mind the kids?" asked Ahmed al-Shraian, a tribal lawmaker who voted no.

"Yes, we should broaden the base of democracy, but surely not through women," he said.

Kuwait is the only "Muslim democratic country in the whole world" where women cannot vote, said Abdul-Wahab al-Haroun, one of the five lawmakers who proposed the

bill. "It can't be that the billion Muslims in these countries are wrong, and we are right."

Suad al-Munayes, a 40-year-old businesswoman, told the AP: "I don't know how we are going to enter the 21st century with this kind of mentality."

Not far from her, standing near the gate of the white tent-shaped Parliament building, Hassan al-Azimi, a 36-year-old civil servant, could not understand why women want to bother with politics.

"Men are doing a good job at politics," he said. "Women should stay home and take care of the children."

Johanns: Future rests in child development

■ Governor says early child development would help state's future.

By JOSH KNAUB
Staff writer

Every child counts.

And every minute with a child counts in terms of brain development, state senators, teachers and Board of Education members were told on Tuesday.

Gov. Mike Johanns opened the conference by telling those gathered that Nebraska's near future depended on the state's early childhood development policies.

He said Nebraskans would save nearly \$7 in special education, prison and social program costs for every dollar spent on children under 5.

Johanns said research had shown that children who received attention and education during early childhood were less likely to need help from these programs later in life.

"Whatever your occupation, whatever your interests ... from a ranch in the panhandle to a suburb in Omaha, the education and care of Nebraska's children is very definitely a top priority," Johanns said.

Johanns said those at the con-

ference should find ways to extend the benefits of quality child care to all Nebraska children.

"As responsible stewards of Nebraska's future, I believe it is incumbent upon us to do everything we can to achieve this vision: I believe every child in Nebraska deserves quality child care and a quality education," Johanns said.

Presenters at the conference included doctors, psychologists and childhood development program coordinators from outside Nebraska.

The theme of the conference was practical steps policymakers could take to enhance child care in the state.

One suggestion included in conference materials was the accreditation of good child care programs. Nebraska regulates day-care facilities for health and safety reasons but not for quality of care.

Another option given to participants was better training for child care providers. Presenters pointed out that day-care workers often receive little or no training in early childhood development.

Johanns set the tone for the conference at the beginning.

"The old adage says something like an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure," he said. "I could not agree more, especially in this area."

News Briefs

UNL team places third in programming championship

A University of Nebraska-Lincoln computer programming team placed third in the North Central Regional computer programming championship Nov. 13.

The group - engineering students Joshua Brown, Yixin Guo, Chad Hendry and Jeffrey Iland - was one of 80 teams participating in the regional contest of the Association of Computing Machinery.

Iowa State University won the event and will travel to the world competition in March in Orlando. South Dakota State University placed second.

Nebraska still has a shot at the world contest if chosen for a wild-card slot.

UNL listed as encouraging character development

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln was one of 405 colleges listed in "The Templeton Guide: Colleges that Encourage Character Development."

The listing acknowledges the university's emphasis of the Character Counts! program.

The program connects youth with values called the Six Pillars of Character - trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring and citizenship.

More than 123,000 Nebraskans have participated in the program through 4-H groups, school classroom projects, day campus and one-on-one activities through the University of Nebraska extension program.



The Post & Nickel

Lincoln - 14th & P
Omaha - 132nd & Center
Not valid on Dr. Martens, Lucky, prior purchases or other offers.

Expires 12/31/99

COUPON 15% OFF
Regular Priced Merchandise



Distinctive Clothing, Sportswear and Shoes for Men and Women

Lincoln - 14th & P Omaha - 132nd & Center

Parking Problems? Need a Place to Park?

Guaranteed Parking

Park by Day \$2.00		Park by Month \$25
------------------------------	---	------------------------------

Don't Fight for Parking
Enter at 8th & S Streets, 1 block west of Memorial Stadium
National Garages, Gold's Galleria, Suite 120 • 474-2274

DINE FOR \$2.99

All You Care To Eat
Original Sauce Spaghetti, Plus a Trip To Our Garden Fresh Salad Bar & Two Slices Garlic Cheese Bread

Offer good for Lunch or Dinner. Mon., Tues. & Wed. only. Must present coupon when ordering. Not valid with any other coupon.
Expires 12-15-99
228 N 12th
Lincoln


