

University briefs

UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO



An 11-member team, led by researchers at the University of Western Ontario, has secured \$3.3 million from the Canadian Institute of Health Research to help improve fertility treatments. The researchers will look for ways to improve the quality of eggs, sperm, and embryos used in assisted reproductive technology, ultimately improving embryo implantation techniques. The study also involves researchers from the University of Toronto and the University of Calgary. For more information, contact Marcia Daniel at mdaniel@uwo.ca.

UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA



A group of University of British Columbia researchers will spend the next four years treating 120 people suffering from a subtype of obsessive-compulsive disorder. The disorder is characterized by persistent, unwanted, and repugnant thoughts. The cause is unknown, but symptoms deteriorate with stress. Researchers will be testing the effectiveness of two different therapies. For more information, contact the department of public affairs at publicaffairs@ubc.ca.

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO



University of Toronto researchers are heading an international collaboration to develop innovative strategies for educating youth about HIV/AIDS prevention. The project, called Gendering Adolescent AIDS Prevention (GAAP), involves participatory research designed to tailor prevention messages to the different social and political contexts faced by youth around the globe. For more information, contact Jessica Whiteside at: jessica.whiteside@utoronto.ca.

MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY



Memorial University of Newfoundland launched *MDcme.ca*, an online portal for CME for Canadian physicians. The Web site will offer a broad range of accredited courses covering a variety of therapeutic areas, including diagnostic and patient management skills. Other services offered will include access to medical libraries and networking opportunities for physicians. The site is being developed in conjunction with six other Canadian medical schools. For more information, contact Miranda Bradley at miranda.bradley@edelman.com.

UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY



Dr. Samuel Weiss and a team of researchers at the University of Calgary found proof that in female mice prolactin stimulates production of new brain cells in one part of the brain during pregnancy. The discovery that neurogenesis can be stimulated in only one part of the brain has now led researchers to explore whether the migratory route can be re-mapped to aid stroke treatment. For more information, contact dpunt@ucalgary.ca.

UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA



Dr. Alan Wilman, a University of Alberta researcher, is trying to develop a less invasive way of obtaining information about what's going on inside a blood vessel. Dr. Wilman, a physicist, designs magnetic resonance imaging techniques and is trying to refine the techniques using double- and triple-strength magnetic fields. He hopes his work will help prevent deaths by aiding in diagnosing conditions, such as heart attacks and strokes. For more information, contact the office of public relations at (780) 492-2325.