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University News

WUSTL to lead new international Alzheimer's disease research network:

The Alzheimer's Disease Research Center at Washington University School of Medicine will lead a six-year, \$16 million international research collaboration dedicated to understanding inherited forms of Alzheimer's disease. The National Institute on Aging will fund the project.



John C. Morris, M.D., (right) the Harvey A. and Dorismae Hacker Friedman Distinguished Professor of Neurology and director of the Alzheimer's Disease Research Center, serves as principal investigator for the newly created Dominantly Inherited Alzheimer's Network.

Mildred Lane Kemper Art Museum to highlight mid-century modernism in 2008-2009:

Recent years have seen a resurgence of interest in mid-century modernism, an influential design aesthetic that flourished between the mid-1930s and the mid-1960s. During the 2008-09 academic year the Mildred Lane Kemper Art Museum will host two major loan exhibitions –

Birth of the Cool and *Eero Saarinen: Shaping the Future* – exploring both the breadth and the cultural impact of mid-century modernism through such mediums as painting, sculpture, architecture, interior design, film, music, and the graphic arts.

DBBS: 35 years -1,000 grads:

The Division of Biology and Biomedical Sciences united two campuses and revolutionized biomedical training and research. Now it charts a bold new direction for the 21st century. The Washington University model, founded in 1973, was so successful that it became the international standard for teaching the biological and biomedical sciences.

Research

Weekends slow weight loss:

Subjects on strict diet and exercise programs tend to lose weight more slowly than expected because of increased eating during the weekends, according to a study by researchers at Washington University School of Medicine. Past research had confirmed that people tend to gain weight during the holidays, but this is the first study to demonstrate that increased caloric intake isn't just a problem during the holidays.

Keeping hands where you can see them alters perception:

A group of psychologists led by Richard A. Abrams, Ph.D., professor of psychology in Arts & Sciences, have shown that humans more thoroughly inspect objects when their hands are near the object, giving new insight into the wiring of the brain. These findings could lead to rethinking current rehabilitative therapy techniques and prosthetic design, and may lend scientific support for recently enacted California legislation barring the use of hand-held cell phones while driving.

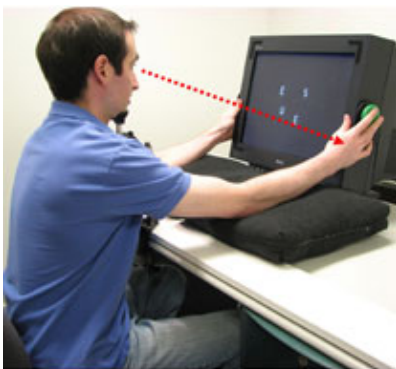


Image courtesy of Richard A. Abrams

Participants in the study were asked to search for the letters S or H among groups of letters displayed on a computer monitor. When they found the letter, the subjects responded by pressing one of two buttons, located either on the sides of the monitor or on their laps. The subjects' search rate was slower when their hands were on the side of the monitor than on their laps

An alternative to chemotherapy for pediatric brain tumors:

An interdisciplinary team of researchers led by Karen L. Wooley, Ph.D., the James S. McDonnell Distinguished University Professor in Arts & Sciences, is a step closer to delivering cancer-killing drugs to pediatric brain tumors similar to the tumor affecting Senator Ted Kennedy. Such tumors are often difficult to completely remove surgically; and chemotherapy, while effective at treating tumors, often harms healthy cells, leading to severe side effects, especially in young children. In an effort to solve this problem, the Wooley lab has developed polymeric nanoparticles that can entrap doxorubicin, a drug commonly used in chemotherapy, and slowly release the drug over an extended time period.

Features

First U.S. incision-free procedure for obesity performed at Washington University:

Doctors at Washington University School of Medicine have performed the first non-surgical procedure in the United States that restricts the size of the stomach to treat obesity. The investigational procedure was performed under direct endoscopic visualization with specialized instruments passed into the stomach through the mouth. The first U.S. patient received the treatment on July 23 at Barnes-Jewish Hospital in St. Louis.

McCain, Obama similarities on oil, gas, energy only go so far, expert suggests:

President Bush's call for Congress to end its decades-old ban on offshore oil and gas drilling has highlighted key differences in the big-oil platforms of presumptive Republican and Democratic presidential nominees John McCain and Barack Obama. But when it comes to big-picture energy policies, Obama and McCain are similar in some ways but not others, suggests William Lowry, professor of political science in Arts & Sciences and an environmental politics expert.

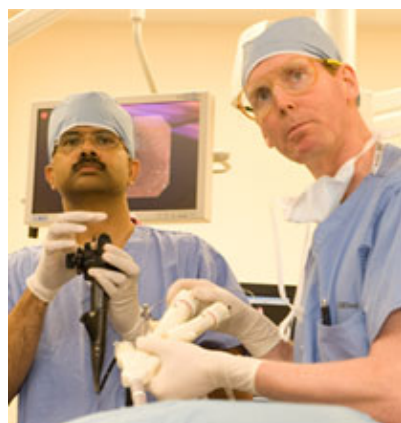


Photo by Tim Parker

Sreenivasa Jonnalagadda, M.D., and J. Christopher Eagon, M.D., performing the first TOGA® procedure in the United States.

Baseball diamonds: the lefthander's best friend:

The game was designed to make a lefty the "Natural," according to David A. Peters, Ph.D., the McDonnell Douglas Professor of Engineering in the School of Engineering & Applied Science and über baseball fan. Peters is a mechanical engineer who specializes in aircraft and helicopter engineering, and he has a different approach to viewing America's favorite pastime. "Ninety percent of the human population is right-handed, but in baseball 25 percent of the players, both pitchers and hitters, are left-handed," says Peters, "There is a premium on lefthanders for a number of reasons."

Kudos

Morgen Leonard-Fleckman, a senior pole vaulter from Seattle, Washington, was named to the ESPN the Magazine College Division Academic All-America first team, as selected by the College Sports Information Directors of America. She graduated summa cum laude in May with a degree in chemistry.

Heard on Campus

"As a private institution, we have the independence to be able to determine our own objectives and philosophy and to follow through toward them. We have settled on quality education as our goal. We have made tremendous progress toward it....In this emphasis in quality we are trying — and doing — nothing which was not in our tradition from the beginning."

— Carl Tolman, eleventh Chancellor of the University, from his Commencement address, June 4, 1962

Kerri Morgan, instructor in the Program in Occupational Therapy, was named to the U.S. Paralympic Track Team and will compete in the 2008 Paralympic Games in Beijing.

T.S. Park, M.D., the Shi Hui Huang Professor of Neurological Surgery, has received the H. Richard Winn, M.D., Prize, the highest honor of the Society of Neurological Surgeons.

About @Washington University in St. Louis

This newsletter is prepared by Special Development Communications Projects staff in Alumni and Development Programs. It is intended to provide a brief summary of what is happening at the University. Alumni, parents, and friends of the University for whom we have valid e-mail addresses automatically receive @Washington University in St. Louis.

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