Vandana Shiva shared her views on ethical eating as the Center for Ethics’ fall keynote speaker.

Shiva’s food for thought: Eat local, think global

If the old adage “you are what you eat” is true, then some of what Vandana Shiva had to say on “Creating Food Democracy” may have left audience members with a chemical taste in their mouths.

Shiva, a noted physicist, author and internationally renowned justice advocate, links food production with social, ethical and political issues, and calls for dramatic changes in current farming practices.

“Eating is the ultimate ethical act, it is the ultimate political act,” Shiva said, as is an act that ultimately may decide the fate of human health—and the planet.

Shiva made her remarks during a visit to Emory Tuesday, Oct. 17 as the Center for Ethics’ fall keynote speaker. Trained as a scientist, Shiva left academics to start the Research Foundation for Science, Technology and Ecology, and other initiatives formed to protect biodiversity, defend farmers’ rights and promote organic farming.

Shiva’s comments focused mainly on her homeland of India, where about 70 percent of the population lives in rural areas linked to farming. As background, she spoke of the Great Bengal Famine in 1940s that killed 2 million people, and of the courage of a group of Bengali women who faced the police with only brooms as their defense, and said “we will give our lives but we will not give our rice” to the British Empire.

“The most important outcome” of this period of famine, Shiva said, “was the recognition that those who till the land must be the ones who make the decisions about the land, must be the ones who benefit from it.”

Vandana Shiva’s comments focused on the importance of thinking about food from an ethical and political perspective. She spoke about the Great Bengal Famine in the 1940s, which killed 2 million people, and highlighted the courage of Bengali women who resisted British rule.

Shiva emphasized the importance of local food production and the role it plays in social, ethical, and political issues. She called for a shift towards more organic farming and the protection of biodiversity.

Her remarks were part of the Center for Ethics’ fall keynote series, where she shared her views on ethical eating and the role of food in shaping our world.
CAMPUSNEWS

‘Netiquette’ important for effective communication by e-mail

BY KIM URGUHART

E

mail: it’s a love-hate relationship for most. With the advent of the Internet and other technology, e-mail has changed the way we communicate, making it faster and easier—but not always more effective.

In North America, more than 30 billion e-mails are exchanged each day. Emory averages 30 million inbound messages a month. Even if 70 percent of that is unwanted junk mail, it still “means that Emory is getting a lot of e-mail traffic,” said John Ellis, director of client technology services. Academic and Administrative Journal reported. At Emory, e-mail has been the subject of recent Records and Information Management Conference, and a topic of discussion among the President’s Cabinet.

Although Emory has not adopted formal guidelines due to the use of different e-mail systems across the institution and other factors, the goal is to drive toward one common set of guidelines in the future,” said Rich Mendosa, vice president of information technology and chief information officer. E-mail guidelines are in place, however, at Emory Healthcare (EHC). EHC’s e-mail policies, which address appropriate etiquette and are based on best practice policies, are posted on its employee Intranet site, said EHC Information Officer Dedra Cantrell.

“E-mail is a great tool,” Cantrell said, “but the use of it can also be abused.”

And that is why “netiquette”—the contemporary term for the proper way to communicate using e-mail—is so important.

One person who knows this well is Lynn Magee, executive administrative assistant to Provost Earl Lewis. On any given day, Magee may receive about 50 e-mails to Lewis’ 70.

Leads typically stretch from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m., and Magee has begun reserving time on Lewis’ calendar for him to answer all those e-mails. Magee even has her own system of triage, moving messages to files marked “pending,” “completed” or “for discussion.” She also filters the provost’s messages “to see which ones are time sensitive.”

Among her pet peeves: the “little red mark” that flags a message as urgent. “It’s important but it is not always urgent,” Magee said. Avoid marking messages as high priority, urgent or important. Or better yet, “pick up the phone,” Magee said.

Both Magee and Cantrell agree that an e-mail message’s effectiveness is based on how it is written. Sometimes we forget that the tone of an e-mail can come across very differently than how the message might have been received if a real-time dialog occurred.”

Cantrell said. Magee’s advice is to include as much information as possible in the message, while keeping it concise and to the point. One of the most dangerous keys on a computer may be the “send” button. To avoid misunderstandings, Paula Londe, marketing manager for undergraduate admission, recommends re-reading an e-mail message for spelling, tone and grammar before sending it.

Londe still remembers the time when she misspelled the word “thanks” in an e-mail to her boss. The computer’s spell check identified the word and her boss received an e-mail signed: “Thankless, Paula.”

Tips for using e-mail more effectively

• Remember that e-mail is not private. Do not use e-mail for sensitive matters such as negotiating or resolving conflicts.

• Realize that emotions don’t come across in the written language very well.

• Consider the needs of the recipient. Do they need to take action? If so, address it to them. Do they just need to be aware? Then “cc:” them.

• Do not “reply to all” when only the original sender needs to get the reply.

• Be sure that e-mail is the most appropriate communication choice. Sometimes phone calls or face-to-face meetings are more appropriate.

• Keep e-mail short and to the point, and communicate the main point early in the message.

Source: Emory Healthcare, “Using E-mail More Effectively”

EMORYVOICES

What are your e-mail pet peeves?

I hate long, rambling messages.

Gale Gaines

bone marrow transplant nurse

Emory Hospital

I really love getting spam in my campus accounts. It drives me crazy. I just put them in the spam blocker. Also when I use e-mail to deal with spam, I often delete e-mails if I don’t recognize the sender, but sometimes it’s a legitimate e-mail.

William Zinsser

research administrator

Pathology

I really don’t have any e-mail problems.

Marc Pinto

senior history

I get lots of really long e-mails.

George Marsh

senior biology

I just delete the messages.

Bustamante to speak at Emory Oct. 27

Internationally known researcher Carlos Bustamante will speak at Emory on Friday, Oct. 27 at 6 p.m., about the latest developments in his groundbreaking research at the interface of biology, chemistry and physics. Sponsored by the Department of Physics, the lecture, “Recent Developments in the Biophysics of Single Molecules,” will be held in Room 208, White Hall.

Bustamante was selected in 2001 by CNN/Time as one of “America’s Best in Science and Medicine.” He was one of 18 men and women to receive the honor. Bustamante has been a pioneer in the use and development of single-molecule techniques such as Scanning Force Microscopy (SFM), optical tweezers, magnetic tweezers and fluorescence methods, which he and his co-workers use as powerful tools in their studies on the structure, kinetics and thermodynamics of molecular motors and nucleic-acid proteins.

Bustamante currently is a Howard Hughes Medical Institute investigator and professor in the departments of molecular and cell biology, chemistry and physics at the University of California, Berkeley.
Double vision

by Haley Curtis Stevens

Sue Donaldson has combined dual passions of science and nursing into her role as Emory’s new distinguished professor of nursing.

Sue Donaldson, Emory’s new distinguished professor of nursing and interdisciplinary science, has spent her career combining dual passions as a nurse and a physiologist. With her fearless approach to cross-disciplinary research, Donaldson is striving to foster more innovative collaborations among faculty across the University.

“Science, in nursing and physiology, is my intellectual core, but professional nursing is my soul, and I wouldn’t want to give up either,” said Donaldson. Her appointment is primary in the Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing and secondary in the School of Medicine’s physiology department.

Her excitement grows as she explains that “nursing is about treatment of illness and wellness... Nursing practice is bound by what is already known to be therapeutic and the current scope of professional practice. However, science is about discovery and the intellectual freedom to envision a different future,” Donaldson said.

In her career, Donaldson has published more than 50 scholarly papers and won several national research and service awards, including recognition from the National Institutes of Health National Center as a Nursing Research Distinguished Scholar. In addition, she has been elected a fellow of the American Academy of Nursing and a member of the Institute of Medicine of the National Academies.

Donaldson’s work includes the fields of heart contraction and cardiac health, aging, injury and physical activity, exercise/sports medicine and muscle recovery. In her research, Donaldson focuses on understanding the cellular and molecular basis of skeletal muscle function and adaptation. Her most recent project examines the adaptive state of leg skeletal muscle in human stroke survivors with chronic mobility impairment and gait.

Donaldson began her career path at an early age. By high school, she knew that she wanted to become a scientist. “I fell in love with it right then and there in 10th-grade science class,” Donaldson said.

Her science teacher knew Donaldson had an aptitude for mathematics and science and encouraged her to get an advanced degree in physiology. She warned Donaldson, however, that funding might be difficult to acquire for basic science research, and recommended that she consider obtaining an additional degree in a health profession.

Following her advice, Donaldson received her bachelor’s degree in nursing while on a full academic scholarship at Wayne State University in 1965. Donaldson stayed there to complete her master’s of nursing a year later. For her thesis, Donaldson immersed herself in her first hands-on experience in scientific research.

“Most everyone did a survey for their thesis. Not me. I set up a physiology lab in the Wayne State University College of Nursing and conducted an experimental study,” said Donaldson.

After earning her master’s degree, Donaldson ventured cross-country to the University of Washington in Seattle where she obtained a doctoral degree in physiology and biophysics as a fellow of the Federally funded United States Public Health Service Nurse Scientist Program. It was here, through interdisciplinary science seminars, that Donaldson first learned to appreciate and ponder science, both as a whole and in its different specialties.

“The Nurse Scientist Program allowed me to consider the range of behavioral and biological sciences while I was becoming a physiologist and biophysicist,” Donaldson said.

“I got me thinking about the philosophical side of science and the unique aspects of each discipline. I was fascinated.”

After her Ph.D., Donaldson received her first faculty appointment at the University of Washington and—in only four short years—became associate professor in the schools of medicine and nursing. Holding dual faculty positions in both physiology and nursing departments has been something she has done ever since.

Donaldson later went to Rush University for six years and then onto the University of Minnesota for 10 years, where she was professor of physiology and the Cora Meldrath Siehl Chair for Nursing Research, the first nationally endowed research chair of its kind in nursing.

In 1994, Donaldson joined the faculty at Johns Hopkins University, where she was a professor of physiology in the School of Medicine and professor of nursing in the School of Nursing. At Hopkins, she served as dean of the School of Nursing for seven years and ran a campaign that raised an impressive $32 million for the school and for the first building on campus solely dedicated to the Johns Hopkins School of Nursing.

After some time, though, she was ready for a change and found Emory to be just what she was looking for.

“I think Emory is a perfect match for me. It has respect and passion and I resonate with that,” Donaldson said. “I like the University Strategic Plan, and the Nell Hodgson School of Nursing is very global. I am very interested in being part of the Predictive Health Initiative here at Emory.

“Plus, the campus is gorgeous. It’s like walking in a park. It makes you want to be on campus. It makes you want to be on campus,” she laughed. “I absolutely love it here.”

In her spare time, Donaldson likes to play the violin, an instrument that she has been practicing since grade school, and to sew. And sewing together various disciplines across campus is just what she plans to do. With her dual specialty, Donaldson sees science and nursing as just one of the many links that Emory-campus researchers can make.

“A well-educated scientist should know more than the essence of one discipline. I want to link the science in nursing to other basic and biomedical sciences, and Emory has tremendous resources to do it,” she said.

Donaldson feels researchers who collaborate across fields can provide new insight into scientific problems.

“It is as simple as taking the time to talk to other researchers, listening to their questions and answers, and noticing other faculty on campus who would be good collaborators,” said Donaldson, who sees interdisciplinary research as an opportunity for unique discoveries and an exciting venue for scientific training.

“It is very important to build bridges within academia so that we are prepared to go to the world beyond and address issues in their full context,” Donaldson said. “Academic science has a responsibility beyond building the knowledge of separate disciplines that includes the shaping of interdisciplinary knowledge that is useful to society.”

The benefits of this cross-disciplinary research, she noted, are huge.

“It is a payoff to people and to humankind and to the government, which invests in science,” said Donaldson.

When asked about the secret to her success, Donaldson credits it to good timing, excellent mentors, passion and a positive attitude. Donaldson added with a smile, “I would do everything over again.”
**EmoryReport**

Largest-ever Homecoming celebration has something for everyone

**EAGLE UPDATE**

**Emory’s fall sports season is in full swing, and the Eagles have fared well thus far. The following is a brief update on how the squads are progressing and what the future may hold.**

**Volleyball**

Despite being hampered by injuries which have forced numer- ous lineup changes, Head Coach Jenny McDowell and her club posted a 13-7 record through the first 20 matches of the campaign. The Eagles have been ranked among the nation’s top 15 teams from the start of the year and held down the No. 12 position in an Oct. 2 poll conducted by the Sports TV/AVP Volleyball Coaches Association. With 2005 NCAA Player of the Year Court- ney Rose sidelined with an injury and veteran stalwarts Dan Huff- man and Janet Bunning missing parts of the year with ailments, the Eagles have had a number of players step up and fill the void left by those absences.

Sophomore setter Madison Rothbart has directed Emory’s offense with a steady hand and has earned praise from the University Athletic Association’s leaders in assists. Freshmen Hillary Buren and Alyssa Gross have emerged as key contributors from their hitting positions, which bodes well, not only for this season, but for the future as well. Sophomore Maggie Baird has been a model of consistency as well.

**Fall games**

**Home:**
- Oct. 28, 2006, West Georgia University
- Nov. 3-4, 2006, NCAA Championshhip, Pittsburgh, Pa.
- Nov. 9-11, 2006, NCAA Division III Regionals, Locust Trail
- Nov. 16-19, 2006, NCAA Division III Finals, Salem, Va.

**Men’s and women’s cross country**

Head Coach John Curtin and his cross country teams have been building toward the second half of the season with several events such as the University Athletic Association Championships, the NCAA South/Southeast Regionals and NCAA Championships. The women’s squad is ranked No. 18 in the nation as it heads into the second half of the season. An experienced group led by senior Amy Dilliance and juniors Lauren Shores and Krista Jones has earned the Eagles to a first-place per- formance at the Great American Cross Country Festival and second-place finishes at high-profile competitions such as the Uni- versity of the South Invitational and Alabama’s Crimson Classic, testifying to the team’s talent.

The team’s main has had its share of fine moments, also, high- lighted by a first-place finish at the Great American Cross Country Festival and fifth-place effort at the Crimson Classic. Senior Rob Leffingwell and junior Michael Rothbart are two upperclassmen who look to lead Emory in the second half of the season.

**Fall games**

**Home:**
- Nov. 11, 2006, NCAA South/South- east Regionals
- Nov. 29, 2006, NCAA National Cham- pionships, West Chester, Ohio

**Men’s soccer**

Under the direction of 19th-year Head Coach Mike Rubesch, the Emory men’s soccer team rattled off wins in its opening nine games and was ranked as high as ninth in the nation. The Eagles captured their own Emory Tournament, registering a decisive 4-1 win over No. 7-ranked College of New Jersey, and a 2-1 overtime decision against Christopher Newport. Emory also got off to a good start in University Athletic Association play with a tight 1-0 triumph at Washington University.

Senior goalkeeper Keith Mehan, along with classmates Mathew Kaufman and Brandon Rust, led a stingy defense that has allowed just seven goals through the Eagles’ first 11 encounters. Mehan had notched five shut- outs while Kaufman and Rust led a tenacious group of backs who make it tough for the opposition to get good scoring chances. Offensively, Emory had received good numbers from sophomores Patrick Carver, Pat McFarland and senior Chad Chambers, with 13 goals and 18 assists between them.

**Fall games**

**Home:**
- Oct. 27, 2006, Western Reserve University
- Nov. 5, 2006, Carnival Mellon University, Pittsburgh, Pa.

**Women’s soccer**

The Emory women’s soccer team battled through early-season inju- ries and, with a record of 6-4-1 through 11 contests, has posi- tioned itself for a strong run in the second half of the year.

With a record of 1-2, the Eagles, led by Head Coach Sue Patberg, showed what they were capable of, running off a four- game win streak that saw them outscore the opposition by a 15-2 margin.

Junior Ali Sullivan ranks as the club’s top point producer with six goals and four assists for 14 points while sophomore Joyce Lam has chipped in 10 points on three goals and four assists. The Eagles have been dominant in most of their games and hold an edge in shot attempts.

Defensively, senior Amy Francisovich has posted three shutouts and is closing in on the school’s all-time mark for wins as a goalkeeper. Senior defenders Laurel O’Neal and sophomore Leanna Racine have contributed throughout the year with rock- solid play.

**Fall games**

**Home:**
- Oct. 27, 2006, Western Reserve University
- Nov. 29, 2006, Carnival Mellon University, Pittsburgh, Pa.
- Dec. 10, 2006, Averett University

**Other fall games**

**Men Swimming**

**Home:**
- Oct. 28, 2006, Wartburg College
- Nov. 18, 2006, Limestone College
- Nov. 29, 2006, NCAA Championship, Greensboro, N.C.
- Dec. 6, 2006, University of the South

**Mens Basketball**

**Home:**
- Nov. 25, 2006, LaGrange College
- Nov. 26, 2006, Maryville College
- Nov. 29, 2006, Oglethorpe University
- Dec. 6, 2006, University of the South

**Women’s Basketball**

**Home:**
- Nov. 29, 2006, Oglethorpe University
- Dec. 6, 2006, University of the South
- Dec. 9, 2006, Tennessee Temple University
- Dec. 11, 2006, Agnes Scott College
- Dec. 29, 2006, Illinois Wesleyan University
- Dec. 30, 2006, Averett University

**Golf**

**Home:**
- Oct. 28, 2006, Oglethorpe University 
Trachoma study in Sudan shows SAFE strategy works

BY MERYL BAILEY

Children in the United States may not give grape-flavored cough syrup a second thought, but in Eastern Equatoria, Sudan, children look forward to their yearly dose of an antibiotic that tastes like bananas. The medicine, azithromycin, is one part of a strategy designed to prevent blinding trachoma, a bacterial eye disease and leading cause of preventable blindness in the world.

A recent program evaluation by the Carter Center Trachoma Control Program showed that simple measures applied at the community level can nearly eliminate the devastating disease in one of the most neglected regions of the world.

The evaluation results, published in the August 2006 issue of the medical journal The Lancet, centered on the SAFE strategy – surgery, antibiotics, facial cleanliness and environmental improvement – the four-pronged approach to controlling trachoma endorsed by the World Health Organization.

After three years of intervention using the SAFE strategy in communities in southern Sudan, prevalence of active trachoma and uncleared faces was reduced by up to 92 percent and 87 percent, respectively. The program was implemented with support of the Lions Clubs International Foundation in four districts with a combined population of almost 250,000 people.

“The evaluation data provide hope that if the strategy can be implemented with such success in southern Sudan, an area with limited resources, little infrastructure, and difficulties in access and insecurity, the strategy can be used to effectively wipe out the disease in all countries where it is found,” said Paul Emerson, technical director of the Carter Center Trachoma Control Program and co-author of the Lancet paper.

Caused by bacteria, trachoma is prevalent in poor, rural communities that lack access to basic hygiene, clean water and adequate sanitation. The disease is easily spread throughout a community via contact with dirty clothes, hands and flies that are attracted to eyes.

“These disease factors have been aggravated by the prolonged civil conflict in Sudan. In fact, the trachoma situation in southern Sudan is dire, with one of the highest prevalence rates of blinding trachoma in the world,” said Jeremiah Ngonzi, co-author of the paper and Carter Center consultant.

The path to blindness from trachoma is slow and painful as repeated infections cause the eyelids to scar and turn inward allowing the eyelashes to scrape against the cornea. If left untreated, eyelashes constantly scratch the surface of the cornea leading to scarring and irreversible blindness.

For millions of people tortured by the end stages of the preventable disease, the world permanently fades from view, one painful blink at a time.

Young children who rub their eyes with unclean hands and whose faces are constantly wiped by their mothers’ skirts, bear the heaviest burden of active trachoma infections and are the main source of infection for other people.

The study raises opportunities for future research on the collateral health benefits that the SAFE strategy can provide for children in trachoma-endemic areas of southern Sudan and elsewhere around the world.

“One just has to imagine how useful it is for people to have a yearly dose of a systemic antibiotic, plus hygiene promotion, plus access to water and sanitation, and imagine what effect that also is having on diarrheal diseases, infection with worms, pneumonia and other communicable diseases. We can have a powerful effect on health and development through the vehicle of trachoma control,” said Emerson.

The produce of the land.

She spoke of India’s subse- quent history, including the rise of the “Green Revolution” in the 1960s and 70s—an agricultural transformation that led to increased production marked by continued expansion of farming areas, double-cropping existing farmland and using seeds with improved genetics.

In Shiva’s opinion, however, the Green Revolution “was really about deploying weapons of mass destruction into producing our food system. When the markets ran out for selling biological or chemical weapons, for making explosives from crop byproduct new for nitrogen fertilizers called pesticides.” To adapt rice and wheat to chemicals, dwarf varieties were created to circumvent problems with native seed becoming “too big, too fat,” in response to these fertilizers, and started the dependency on external agents, she said.

While the Green Revolution convinced many that “a technologically magical miracle had taken place,” Shiva said it’s the same increase in rice and wheat which “her attributes to increased land and irrigation for rice and wheat—could have occurred without chemicals.

“The idea that you have to introduce more chemicals and miracle seeds in order to make productivity grow, in order to make rural incomes grow, is just not true....”

—Vandan Shiva, physicist, author and justice advocate

Shiva from page 1

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Preserving chimpanzee populations: a vital resource for medical advancements

With only about 1,000 chimpanzees available for Unomedical and behavioral research and a dwindling population in the wild, Yerkes National Primate Research Center Director Steve Ross facilitated an international meeting at the center earlier this month to discuss strategies to preserve the population for both species survival and as a vital resource for medical advancements. Experts predict in just a few decades the only remaining chimpanzees will be those in captivity, mainly in the United States, further straining the international research community’s ability to study the animal recognized as the one most closely related to humans.

During the two-day meeting, the chimpanzee-research experts discussed the ever-decreasing numbers of both captive and wild chimpanzees and the need to stabilize the population and the continued role chimpanzees should hold in addressing national health priorities such as HIV/AIDS, monocular antibodies, hepatitis C and aging-related conditions, including Alzheimer’s disease and other cognitive decline.

“Due to both their genetic similarities and differences as compared to humans, chimpanzees are a vitally important global resource for biomedical research and the development of therapeutic intervention,” Zola said. “With the availability of the human and chimpanzee genomes, researchers now can study genetic changes that make humans more vulnerable to certain diseases. This information will help us advance scientific understanding of human disease and further research to provide improved treatments and prevention.”

—Stephanie McNicoll

Bone marrow stem cells treat recent heart attack patients in clinical trial

BY HOLLY KORSCHUN

P

atients who recently have suffered an acute heart attack are being recruited for a new clinical trial at the Emory University School of Medicine clinical study. The trial will use stem cells generated within the bone marrow to grow new blood vessels to improve circulation around the heart and enhance its function.

Although many patients recover at least partially from heart attack, 70 percent suffer permanent damage because the artery blockage causing the attack keeps oxygen from reaching parts of the heart muscle. As a result, there are no available treatments to restore the function of damaged heart muscle.

Almost all patients recover at least partially from heart attacks, recent studies show that when muscles do not receive enough oxygen, the body makes growth factors that stimulate the bone marrow to release progenitor or stem cells that can develop into new blood vessels and help repair damaged ones.

In the Emory Phase I/II clinical trial, researchers are harvesting a population of stem cells from patients’ bone marrow and using a cell separation technique to sort out an enriched population of cells containing a high number of progenitor cells. The cells will be re-infused into the patients through cardiac catheterization. The study will determine whether providing a concentrated quantity of these specialized cells can improve heart muscle function. The cell separation is performed by Amoyce, a biotech company that funded the clinical trial.

The study will enroll patients who have had acute heart attacks within the previous four to five days. Study participants already will have received the standard of care for their condition, including cardiac catheterization, angioplasty and implantation of a stent in the blocked artery. Patients then will be randomized to receive the stem cell treatment or to be placed on a control group receiving no additional treatment. The study also will test different doses of the stem cell therapy to determine which dose is most effective.

The clinical trial is directed by Emory cardiologist Ashok Quyyumi and Emory Winship Cancer Institute hematologist and oncologist Edmund Walder. The trial is taking place at three medical centers in the U.S., including Emory Crawford Long Hospital and Texas Heart Center at the University of Texas at Houston. Atlanta patients who received their initial heart attack treatment at other facilities may enroll in the study at Emory Crawford Long.

“By delivering progenitor cells locally to the area where they are most needed, we hope to make a major improvement in treatment of patients who were not able to receive bone marrow cells due to limitations of their anatomy or their condition,” said Quyyumi. “By developing this therapy, we hope to make a major improvement in treatment of patients who were not able to receive bone marrow cells due to limitations of their anatomy or their condition.”

—By Holly Korschun

Parkinson’s impacts brain’s touch and vision

BY HOLLY KORSCHUN

A

lthough Parkinson’s disease (PD) is most commonly viewed as a “movement disorder,” scientists have found that the disease also causes widespread abnormalities in touch and vision—effects that have now been verified using functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) of the brain. The new findings, by scientists at Emory School of Medicine and Zhejiang University Medical School in Hangzhou, China, were presented at a recent Society for Neuroscience meeting in Atlanta.

Scientists studying PD previously have focused on the brain’s motor and premotor cortex, but not the somatosensory or the visual cortex. But Emory neurologist Krish Sathian and colleagues had discovered earlier, through tests of tactile ability and vision, that the PD patients have sensory problems with touch. They designed a study using fMRI to investigate if these brain changes underly sensory abnormalities.

Sathian’s research group studied six patients with moderately advanced PD and six age-matched healthy controls. After documenting the typical movement problems of PD and ruling out dementia and sensory problems in the PD patients, they administered a common test of tactile ability and vision, but not the somatosensory problems with touch. They then designed a study using fMRI to investigate if these changes underly sensory abnormalities.

fMRI. This technology measures activations of neurons in different areas of the brain by means of variations in blood flow as an individual does a particular task. The fMRI scans showed that the PD patients had much less activation of the somatosensory areas in the brain cortex than did the healthy controls. The scientists also were surprised to find similar widespread differences in the visual cortex, even though the task involved touch, not vision.

“Our finding that the visual cortex is affected in Parkinson’s disease, while surprising, makes sense because the motor and sensory cortices are intimately involved in the sense of touch,” Sathian noted. “Although the reasons for this are uncertain, they may involve a process of mental visualization of the tactile stimulus and may also reflect a multisensory capability of the visual cortex.”

Sathian said the study shows that the traditional boundaries between brain systems involved in touch and vision, and between those involved in sensation and movement, are artificial constructs that break down with more in-depth study. From a practical standpoint, it shows that patients with PD and other movement disorders have considerable problems in addition to movement control. “These problems need to be appreciated in caring for these patients and in designing new strategies for treatment and rehabilitation,” Sathian emphasized.

—By Holly Korschun

Scholarship & Research

More than 250 international HIV/AIDS researchers representing 13 countries assembled in Atlanta earlier this month to present the latest findings in primate virology, immunology, pathogenesis, vaccines, therapeutics and genomics at the 24th Annual Symposium on Nonhuman Primate Models for AIDS, hosted by the Yerkes National Primate Research Center. Each year, one of the eight national primate research centers hosts this meeting to foster the collaborative and interdisciplinary study of HIV and AIDS using nonhuman primate models.

This year’s meeting is the premier forum for the presentation and exchange of the most recent scientific advancements in AIDS research using nonhuman primate models and is co-sponsored by the National Institutes of Health and the Association of PRIMATES.

Nonhuman primates are critical to our efforts to develop and test treatments for HIV and AIDS. The scientific interaction and collaboration fostered in this conference each year leads to researchers applying the latest findings to their research programs. Such knowledge-sharing is accelerating efforts to find the answers we need to stop this devastating disease.

Researchers at Yerkes, in collaboration with the Emory Vaccine Center, are working to develop therapeutic vaccines to slow or eradicate the progression of the international HIV/AIDS epidemic. This is just one component of the center’s extensive microbiology and immunology research. For more information, visit the center’s new Web site at www.yerkes.emory.edu.

—Stephanie McNicoll

Yerkes Research Center hosts leading international AIDS symposium

From Redmond Lollar, Emory University School of Medicine

The Emory University School of Medicine has hosted its 24th Annual Symposium on Nonhuman Primate Models of AIDS. Each year, one of the eight national primate research centers hosts this meeting to foster the collaborative and interdisciplinary study of HIV and AIDS using nonhuman primate models. This year’s meeting was sponsored by the Nat...
The Dooley Derby rolled into the Dobbs Center on Oct. 13 to raise awareness about alternative energy sources and Emory’s own sustainability vision, while also giving Emory and Georgia Tech students an opportunity to show off their soapbox prowess. Themed “Who Needs Oil?,” the event relied on gravity alone to fuel its speedsters. Several local and national groups attended the Derby to provide participants and spectators with information on alternative energy sources.

One for the dogs: Oxford’s POOCH fosters local canines

All canine members of the Emory community and their humans are invited to Oxford College’s second annual PawFest on the Oxford campus Quad from 2-4 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 29.

PawFest is a celebration of our canine companions in order to raise awareness about pet adoption. The event is sponsored by POOCH (Pets of Oxford Community Hotline), a student-run, on-campus foster program for dogs awaiting adoption.

The event will feature a Halloween parade and several contests, including “cleverest trick,” “biscuit catch” and other fun activities, as well as speakers on pet adoption and foster programs.

POOCH, now in its fifth year, never lacks for student volunteers who are responsible for feeding, walking and playing with the dogs waiting for a home, and helping out with weekend adoption fairs.

Foster dogs are housed in the POOCH Palace on Oxford’s campus—an 8-by-8-foot shed with a fenced yard. The Palace is home for up to two adoptable dogs at a time, and most residents have been rescued by Pound Puppies and Kittens, a local nonprofit, animal-rescue organization. Current POOCH residents Maxie and Moe (a female beagle/setter mix and male Jack Russell mix) will be on hand and available for adoption.

Since the program was co-founded by Sandi Schein, director of Oxford’s Counseling Center, and Gayle Doherty, Oxford associate professor of physical education and dance, 17 dogs have been fostered, 11 of which were adopted out directly from POOCH.

All pets attending PawFest should be leashed and have their shots up to date. Humans are expected to pick up after their dogs, and are encouraged to bring bags with them. For more information, call 770-784-8394.
PERFORMING ARTS
TUESDAY, OCT. 24
Concert

Film

Concert
"Kesler Reformation Concert." Timothy Albrecht, organist, the New Trinity Baroque Orchestra, and the Emory University Concert Choir, performing; Eric Nelson, conductor. 8 p.m. Emerson Concert Hall, Schwartz Center. Donations at door. 404-727-1218.

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 25
Film
"Pickpocket." Robert Bresson, director. 7:30 p.m. 205 White Hall. Free. 404-727-6761.

FRIDAY, OCT. 27
Concert and Poetry Reading

Concert
"The Magic Begins." Emory Symphony Orchestra, performing. 8 p.m. Emory University Concert Hall, Schwartz Center. Free. 404-727-5050.

MONDAY, OCT. 30
Film
"Pandora's Box." G.W. Palst, director. Don Saliers, piano, accompaniment. 7 p.m. 205 White Hall. Free. 404-712-9118.

THURSDAY, OCT. 26
Surgical Grand Rounds
"Reconstructive Plastic Surgery: Flaps, Grafts and Tissue Transfers from Pretoria to Peoria." Eric Elwood, University of Illinois College of Medicine at Peoria, presenting. 7 a.m. Emory Hospital Auditorium. Free. 404-712-2196.

Biomedical Research Lecture
"Structural Basis for Targeting HIV-1 Gag Proteins to the Plasma Membrane for Virus Assembly." Jamil Saad, Howard Hughes Medical Institute, University of Maryland, presenting. Noon. Pitt Auditorium, Woodruff School of Nursing. Free. 404-727-5960.

Environmental Studies Lecture
"Saving Middle-earth: Linnaeus, Darwin, and J.R.R. Tolkien's Environmental Discourse." Jonathan Evans, University of Georgia, presenting. 4 p.m. 205 White Hall. Free. 404-727-7904.

Clinical Ethics Lecture

Environmental Studies Lecture

Reformation Day at Emory
"Luther and the Poor?" is the theme for this year’s Reformation Day Tuesday, Oct. 24, at Emory’s Cannon School of Theology. Robert Franklin, presidential distinguished professor of social ethics at Emory, will preach at an 11 a.m. chapel service. The day will also include lectures by James Curran, dean of Emory’s Rollins School of Public Health, and Carter H. Lindberg, professor emeritus of church history at Boston University and a mentor to generations of Reformation and contemporary scholars, as well as an organ lecture and recital with Timothy Albrecht, professor and university organist. The Reformation Day concert will culminate in an 8 p.m. concert in the Schwartz Center for Performing Arts, which will feature Albrecht, Eric Nelson, associate professor of choral conducting and literature and director of choral studies, and the Emory Concert Choir, as well as the New Trinity Baroque Orchestra.

All Reformation Day events are free and open to the public. Last year’s concert attracted more than 600 devotees of the music, so attendees are advised to arrive early to guarantee seating.

In keeping with the day’s theme, attendees are asked to bring a pair of socks to be distributed to the poor in Atlanta by Candle’s Social Concerns Network. For additional information, go to www.pitts.educ2006.edu.

For online event information, visit www.events.emory.edu.