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MU dog study may hold Parkinson's clue

By Janese Silvey

A team of veterinary and medical researchers at the University of Missouri has targeted a mutation in brain cells that causes a certain neurological disease in Tibetan terrier dogs.

But a funny thing happened on the way to converting that finding to humans. That mutation is in the same genetic strand thought to cause a rare hereditary form of Parkinson's disease. The finding could hold the key to future prevention and treatment of acquired Parkinson's — the more typical version of the disease seen in old age.

Dennis O'Brien, a veterinary professor at MU, has been studying the disease for a decade with the help of Gary Johnson, an associate professor of veterinary pathobiology who has been mapping the genetics of the dogs. The question is why some dogs acquire the neurological disease at about 5 or 6 years of age and others don't.

The disease surfaces after unusable protein materials build up in brain cells. In normal functions, proteins break down, and the materials are recycled to become building blocks for new proteins. When a mutation prevents that from happening, those materials pile up and block new proteins.

The disease can have frustrating consequences for owners of Tibetan terriers, medium-size shaggy dogs. Mainly, it causes loss of coordination and dementia-like problems, O'Brien said.

Lynn Steinhaus of Columbia had a Tibetan terrier named Topper, a healthy pet until about age 5, when he began losing muscle control and became more skittish. Topper suffered seizures, too, before he was euthanized in 2009.

"This is a really hard disease for dog owners to go through," Steinhaus said. "Those seizures are just terrible."

Using DNA samples from Topper and other dogs affected by the disease, researcher Fabiana Farias, Johnson's doctoral student at MU, found the mutation responsible for hindering the recycling of protein material and causing the disease.

That's good news for breeders. Now, using a cheek swab from dogs, breeders can send DNA samples to labs to test for the mutated gene. That will tell them which pups have two copies of the mutant gene and will develop the disease and which are simply carrying the recessive trait. By not allowing two carriers to mate, breeders can control whether future dogs are prone to the disease.

Oregon Daily **Emerald**

University's low faculty salaries inhibit hiring opportunities

Rock-bottom rankings indicate a student boom lacking reciprocating professor growth

Stefan Verbano | News editor

Published: Tuesday, April 19, 2011

Despite the University's strong financial reserves, positive revenue streams and high research activity, its faculty members are frequently among the lowest paid of all Association of American Universities instructors.

According to Oregon University System audited financial statements, the University's reserve assets topped \$50 million in 2010 — equal to pre-recession holdings — yet the school's faculty salaries still make up the rock bottom of the higher education heap. Compared to a group of eight other peer institutions, including the Universities of Washington and Virginia, average University faculty pay during the 2009-10 school year ranked ninth at \$81,500 — almost \$10,000 below the next-lowest school, Indiana University at Bloomington, which paid its teachers \$90,800 on average.

The University fares even worse when compared with nationwide wage standards for post-secondary education. Compared to all AAU schools, University faculty salaries ranked dead last — 60th out of 60 — during the 2008-09 school year with an average compensation of \$73,300, while the second-lowest wages came from the University of Missouri at an amount of \$81,600. This number is the mean of average salaries from four different University faculty categories, including full-time professors (\$99,800), associate professors (\$72,400), assistant professors (\$66,400) and instructors (\$45,000).

More than ten years ago, this paradigm was no different. According to a report prepared by the American Association of University Professors, University faculty salaries ranked dead last again during 1995-1996, ranking 30th out of 30 at an average of \$46,800. Comparatively, the University of Kansas came in 29th that year with an average compensation rate of \$52,600.

Throughout her 19 years of teaching music on campus, Anne McLucas, professor emerita at the University's School of Music and Dance, has seen talented faculty members pass over the University time and time again due to its dismal pay.

"We do very well in research. We do really miserably in salaries, and we regularly lose people over that," McLucas said. "We lose some of our best people (because) we get outbid. People get tired of working for less than what they're worth."

A member of the organizing committee for the Eugene local of the American Federation of Teachers, McLucas has worked as both a low-level instructor and a self-described administrator as the music school dean from 1992 to 2002. As a member of the school's "middle management," the august professor often had to attract new faculty members to campus by advertising Eugene's community feel, all the while knowing they could net much higher wages elsewhere.

"As a dean I had to sell that," McLucas said. "I got people to take \$30,000 cuts to come here because they wanted to raise their kids in a nice, friendly place. But there is a limit to which you cannot go."

Additionally, the professor finds it particularly disturbing that all University employees are not seeing the same financial hardships equally. According to OUS data, upper-level administrative costs have risen 63 percent from 2006 to 2010, while instructional expenses have increased by only 22 percent.

"We are starving," McLucas said. "We can't pay our faculty any more salaries, yet we are growing class sizes, students are paying more tuition, and administration (members) have grown by 19.8 percent and faculty (members) only by 7.2 percent. There really is money, it is just a matter of priorities."

University Office of Institutional Research data shows the student-to-faculty ratio on campus has increased from 16.24 in 2007 to 17.57 in 2008 to 18.24 in 2009. Since 2005, the student head count has increased by 10 percent, while the number of faculty members has decreased by 2 percent.

"Who is it that teaches the students? It's not the administration," McLucas said. "We educate the kids, which should be the most important thing. Given all of that, I think we are undervalued."

The former dean also said this trend of underrating faculty work could become worse if University President Richard Lariviere's now-shelved governance and finance restructuring plan known as the New Partnership is passed next year.

"I am a little suspicious that if we go off on our own without oversight, but with a hand-chosen board of overseers, (we) could be manipulated in such a way that the administration could do what it likes and run it pretty much as a business," McLucas said. "If we are run as a business, then the faculty will lose out."

Though she plans to retire at the end of next year, the music professor hopes her advocating for higher compensation will improve the lot of faculty members for years to come.

"I would love to see that as a legacy to the rest of the faculty, to the rest of my faculty," McLucas said. "I would love to see them get their fair share."



Why North Carolina, far from Tornado Alley, took brunt of big outbreak

North Carolina averages 19 tornadoes a year. More than 60 hit the state over the weekend, part of a 'family' of 243 tornadoes that spun across the South, killing at least 43.

By [Patrik Jonsson](#), Staff writer
posted April 18, 2011 at 12:20 pm EDT

Atlanta

In Sanford, N.C., a heads-up store manager is credited with saving 70 frightened shoppers as a tornado ripped off the roof of a Lowe's hardware outlet. In Raleigh, N.C., a tornado found its favorite victim, tearing apart most of a trailer park.

In Bertie County, N.C., 11 people died as twisters – progenies of an epic clash of atmospheric fronts – split trees, toppled cars, and blew apart homes, as Gov. Bev Perdue said, as if they were paper doll houses.

A rival to the "Super Tuesday" tornado outbreak in February 2008 that killed 56 people across four Southern states, this weekend's storm spawned 243 tornadoes from Oklahoma to Virginia. At least 45 people died during the tornado outbreak. North Carolina saw the greatest human toll, with 22 confirmed dead, and search and rescue teams still combing a huge impact area for more victims.

Hundreds more were injured, many seriously, as a "family" of twisters spun out of a severe disturbance caused by a fast-moving, low-level front being undercut by colder winds coursing through the upper atmosphere.

The severity and type of storm – it's rare for North Carolina to see large, visible Tornado Alley-type twisters – is linked to a strong Pacific-born La Niña system confronting the same north Atlantic "oscillation" that has produced two unusually cold and snow-filled Southern winters in a row. The last such super storm in North Carolina came in the spring of 1984, which spawned 20 twisters and killed 43.

"This was an amazing event," says Anthony Lupo, a tornado expert at the University of Missouri, in Columbia. "You had 120 tornado reports from Maryland down to South Carolina in one day, and they were pretty well focused on North Carolina. This is probably going to top 1984 as their worst event."

"The difference between this storm system and what you typically see in that part of the world is that typically these storms will be hidden by rain," adds Mr. Lupo. "These storms were visible, where the rain curtain gets detached from the tornado."

Tales of heroism and close escapes emerged Monday as residents took stock of the damage and victims began putting their lives back together. At the Lowe's in Sanford, a store manager who shuttled 70 shoppers into a windowless area in the back of the store is being credited with quick thinking that probably saved lives. Even so, the tornado rolled one man through an aisle like a bowling ball. No one was seriously hurt, however.

"Luckily we got everybody to the back before it hit us, but as it was hitting us, we were kind of running and the roof was kind of peeling off," the manager, Michael Hollowell, told ABC News Radio.

In Dunn, N.C., a tornado ripped a baby out of his cousin's arms as a trailer home came apart. The baby was found alive on top of a nearby wood pile. "I seen him leave my arms. That's how strong the wind was," Jonathan Robinson told reporters.

The storm destroyed more than 60 homes in North Carolina and at least 100 others were heavily damaged. One damaged home belonged to Audrey McKoy of Bladen County, N.C., who described a "Wizard of Oz"-like scene as she watched a tornado turn and head straight for her home.

Ms. McKoy told the Associated Press that it took her and her husband a few minutes after the twister blew over to realize that their home had been completely turned around, and was now sitting in their backyard.

Mr. Lupo, the University of Missouri tornado expert, said the deep dips of cold air into the South that have chilled the region over the past two winters likely played a role in Saturday's vicious super cell storm, as well.

"There's definitely a connection there, that if you have more cold air intrusions further into the South, the more likely it is that you're going to get one of these things to just really fire up a lot of storms."



Missouri secretary of state, bankers to talk personal finance at MU symposium

By Associated Press

4:02 a.m. CDT, April 19, 2011

COLUMBIA, Mo. (AP) — **Missouri Secretary of State Robin Carnahan will join a group of bankers and financial planners Wednesday at a University of Missouri personal finance symposium.**

Carnahan will discuss the state's role in financial markets at a 12:30 p.m. talk at the third annual symposium. Other speakers will address changes to estate tax laws, investment strategies and debt reduction.

The event begins at 9:30 a.m. and is open to the public through advance registration. The university's Personal Financial Planning Department and the Mid-Missouri Estate Planning Council are sponsors. More details can be found online at <http://pfp.missouri.edu/news.html#symposium> .

Forbes

Finding Money in Newspaper Archives

Apr. 18 2011 - 9:17 pm | 409 views | 0 recommendations | 0 [comments](#)

The New York Times launched a pay wall in March, asking avid readers to subscribe. There was much ado made of this decision, but the New York Times already had another pay wall in place – not just in Canada, but around millions of articles in its library.

Media companies are looking for revenue, and increasingly they're looking for it in their own archives. The Times and Wall Street Journal digitized their archives a decade ago, but many smaller papers haven't yet, which has made libraries a hot topic — at least it was a hot topic at a conference held last week at the University of Missouri called the Newspaper Archive Summit.

News libraries contain a rich trove of history, of interest to everyone from genealogists to historians to casual readers. So the idea, of course, is to charge those readers for access to the library. “Whether you can monetize it or not is the question,” says Victoria McCargar, a former editor at the L.A. Times, and now a digital preservation consultant.

The question is crucial for people who love old news, because what can't be monetized may get trashed. When Hearst's Seattle Post-Intelligencer closed in 1999, its library with decades worth of reporting on that city was shoved into a soggy room in an underground parking garage. Other news libraries from all media have met similar fates. When ABC News (Disney owns ABC) closed its Washington Bureau library, the clip file there got recycled.

Libraries or “morgues” of the 1,400 or so daily newspapers in the U.S. seem increasingly less useful inside newspapers. These reference libraries typically contain files of clippings that include articles and photographs published by the paper, as well as articles and photos librarians clipped from elsewhere, including from tiny, short-lived publications. The files were meant to help reporters quickly research topics. While they're of less interest to reporters, they still interest people outside the newsroom.

The easiest way for a newspaper to make money off its library might be to sell the contents for a one-time benefit. Dealers will cut up the collections and sell them piecemeal, as described in [this](#) New Yorker article on how the British Library offloaded its collection of newspapers. (If you try to read this article, you'll discover it's in the New Yorker's digital archives and behind a pay wall.)

But it's better for society if a paper can donate the collection in exchange for a tax write-off, says Leigh Montgomery, who is the librarian at the Christian Science Monitor, and the News Division chair for the Special Libraries Association. That's because intact newspaper libraries are

organized and of real value to researchers. While many newspapers are available on microfilm, they often aren't indexed, so it's impossible to quickly search for a name or topic.

Some bigger news organizations like the Times have turned archives into an ongoing profit center. The database company ProQuest digitized old New York Times stories from 1851 on. ProQuest manufactured (i.e. scanned, indexed, etc.) and paid the up-front costs, and it sells the archive in the library market. From those sales, ProQuest generates royalties for the Times.

The New York Times also creates a second revenue stream by selling its historical archive via nytimes.com, says ProQuest Vice President Chris Cowan. (Indeed, I recently went to the Times' site and paid \$4 for an article that I referenced [in this story](#) on a trading pioneer.) Ironically, the digitizing has imperiled the physical originals, now housed at the University of Texas Dolth Briscoe Center for American History. That center is reevaluating whether to keep those space-hogging originals.

A newspaper could potentially monetize the collection more by showcasing old stories and photos to engage readers. "A huge part of media now is engagement," says the Christian Science Monitor's Montgomery.

Google has tried using news archives to feed its content and indexing machine. Google started archiving newspapers as part of a project launched in September 2008. This list of what's archived is available [here](#). But some believe it has stopped digitizing articles. A Google spokesperson said she couldn't comment on rumors or speculation. Google's site says its news archive is "a way to make unique and historically valuable newspaper archives available online."

As it may have discovered, turning news libraries into money has its challenges. First, newspapers don't own everything in their archives. Freelance writers and photographers may own the copyright on their work, even if done years ago. And archives contain other material that they can't exploit online.

Also, some newspapers have more readers and potential demand than others. ProQuest has digitized 29 papers, and they're all key national and international titles or major regional papers. "We classify them in tiers of value in the research market," says Cowan. "As you get farther and farther down in circulation size, there's less chance you've got of being able to get a good return on your investment." Preserving those smaller libraries requires a reliable source of funding, or even could federal or state tax breaks, said McCargar, who also points out that digitizing the libraries doesn't guarantee their safety.

Their safety is important because no-one can really say what's of value until someone goes looking for it. Last July I was researching Fred Hertz, who had co-owned a cattle futures brokerage firm in the 1970s, for a book called [The Futures](#). People who knew him told me that he had died a colorful death, and I wanted more detail so went looking for news accounts. I started online and with public libraries close to where he lived in St. Joseph, Missouri. But after I struck out there, I looked to the nearest big city and its newspaper, the Kansas City Star, now owned by the McClatchy Company. The library there had a file on Hertz, and the research director emailed me a number of articles from the file, including reports that showed Hertz's

death was even more colorful than I'd heard. Reportedly Hertz had fought with his wife at their grand home, complete with a swimming pool and tennis courts, and she shot him as he drove away – or rather as he drove his blue Mercedes into a tree. Another bullet “was found lodged in the floor of the master bedroom,” read one clip. The articles were rich with details, rich enough to make someone like me willing to pay for them.

The Modesto Bee

modbee.com

UCD gets \$2.6 million grant to fight bovine respiratory disease

By Darrell Smith - dvsmith@sacbee.com

UC Davis researchers were awarded a \$2.6 million grant by the U.S. Department of Agriculture to help stave off deadly pneumonia in beef and dairy cattle, university officials announced Monday.

Pneumonia, or bovine respiratory disease, ravages cattle. The leading cause of death among beef and dairy cattle, the disease claims more than 1 million animals a year and a loss of \$692 million, say University of California, Davis officials.

The UC Davis team, headed by animal genomics specialist Alison Van Eenennaam, won the funding as part of a five-year, \$9.2 million USDA project to reduce the incidence of pneumonia in cattle. UC Davis will join researchers at Texas A&M, Washington State, Colorado State and New Mexico State universities and the University of Missouri in the project.