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As doggie diabetes soars, human treatment may help

Glucose monitoring, drugs now offered to growing numbers of pet patients

By Stephanie Pappas

updated 4/27/2011 2:33:30 PM ET

Just like their human owners, dogs and cats are increasingly likely to be diagnosed with diabetes. And more and more, veterinarians are turning to tools developed for use by diabetic humans to help out our canine and feline companions.

Human drugs have long been used to treat the disease in animals, but now vets are using another human tool, the continuous glucose monitor, to develop treatments for Fido and Mittens. The monitor, which is surgically implanted under the skin, tracks the concentration of a sugar called glucose in the blood. As in humans, pets with high blood glucose levels experience extreme thirst, frequent urination and fatigue. Left untreated, high blood sugar can cause blindness and kidney failure.

Diabetes is on the rise in animals, veterinarian Amy DeClue of the University of Missouri-Columbia wrote in March in the journal Clinics in Laboratory Medicine. Like people with the disease, animals with diabetes have trouble regulating blood sugar on their own, because their bodies do not produce enough insulin, a hormone that lowers blood glucose. Diet and insulin injections can help, but blood sugar levels have to be carefully monitored to make sure the treatments are on track. [Is Fido Fat? Human Diet Tricks Could Help]

Tracking Fido's blood sugar

With a continuous glucose monitor, doctors and their human patients can get a more detailed understanding of how insulin levels respond to drugs, meals and exercise. The same is true of pets, said DeClue and her fellow researchers.

Previously, veterinarians would keep a diabetic dog or cat in the clinic for a day, testing their blood periodically and using the data to determine how much insulin to prescribe. Because veterinary clinics can be stressful for animals, and because insulin levels respond to stress, those numbers were often inaccurate.

"Continuous glucose monitoring, or CGM, is much more effective and accurate than previous glucose monitoring techniques and has revolutionized how veterinarians manage diabetes in dogs," DeClue said in a statement. "The CGM gives us a complete view of what is happening in the animal in their natural setting. For example, it can show us if a pet's blood glucose changes when an owner gives treats, when the animal exercises or in response to insulin therapy."

Growing problem for pets

Diagnoses of diabetes have been increasing recently for both cats and dogs, though no firm numbers are available for felines. A 2003 study published in the *Veterinary Journal* found that dog diabetes cases comprised 19 of every 10,000 vet hospital admissions in 1970. By 1999, that number had jumped to 64 out of 10,000. However, fatalities from diabetes have dropped in that time period, plummeting from deaths in 37 percent of cases to deaths in only 5 percent of cases.

In cats, the disease is linked to obesity, but the connection is not well-established in dogs, which appear to develop a version of diabetes that looks like human Type 1, or juvenile, diabetes. Type 1 diabetes occurs when the pancreas fails to produce insulin. In Type 2, or adult-onset diabetes, the body may produce enough insulin, but the cells fail to recognize the hormone. Cats can get either Type 1 or Type 2 diabetes. [[Type 1 Diabetes: Symptoms and Treatment](#)]

Miniature poodles, bichon frises, keeshonds, Alaskan malamutes and miniature schnauzers are the breeds most at risk for canine diabetes, the researchers wrote.

TIME

The Science of Partying: Why Having Fun Makes You Forgetful

By [John Cloud](#) Wednesday, April 27, 2011 | [109 comments](#)

So you're having fun at a party, and you see a cute possibility across the room. The next day, you remember precisely what that person looks like. But you just can't remember the name — which is frustrating, since there's no way to Facebook your potential future spouse. Why the memory lapse?

It turns out there's a reason for the discrepancy in recall — why you can remember an attractive face but not necessarily the Twitter handle or cell number associated with it. The short answer — published not long ago in a [paper](#) in the journal *Cognition and Emotion* — is that when you're in a good mood, your ability to remember discrete digits is impaired. But other types of memory — for instance, how her eyes were so much prettier than those of her friend's — don't seem to be affected.

The paper, authored by University of Missouri psychologists Elizabeth Martin and John Kerns, tested more than 300 participants in two studies. In the first, 181 college students were randomly divided into two groups. One group watched a 1998 video of Jerry Seinfeld telling jokes about Halloween and the Olympics. The other group had to watch a video about how to install flooring. (If you have intractable insomnia, you can try downloading it here.)

Both groups were then given a test called the [Running Memory Span \(RMS\)](#) task. The RMS test asks participants to recall the final six digits from a list of 12 to 20. The participants hear the numbers on headphones at a rate of four per second.

The group that watched the Seinfeld video scored significantly higher than the other group did on a questionnaire that reliably measures good mood. But they scored significantly worse on the RMS task. Why? For the same reason that when you're listening to your new favorite album in the kitchen, you forget how many cups of flour you already put in the cookie dough. And if you ask your kid while he's playing his favorite video game to call you at 5 p.m., don't be surprised if you don't hear from him until 6 (or not at all). Happiness is the enemy of recollection.

But that's only half the story. The Missouri researchers conducted a second experiment with 104 students. These participants were asked to complete the Eriksen flanker task, a famous test you

can complete [here](#). In that task, participants are required to identify a letter or symbol in the center of a random assortment of other letters or symbols. (The flanking letters or symbols are called, predictably, flankers.) For example, you might be shown the string 8766325. You would be required to enter the digit 6 to get a correct score. The faster you get the right answer in a series such strings, the higher you score overall.

The Missouri team found that those in a good mood — the students who watched Seinfeld — were no worse at completing the flanker task than those who watched the boring video. In other words, being happy doesn't interfere with the ability to concentrate on an image central to one's attention. The implication here is that even if you're encircled by friends, hearing your favorite song and enjoying a nice beverage, you have no trouble filtering out other people in order to hone in on the one you like.

The Missouri research helps explain why meeting new people at a party can be so exasperating: you know exactly who looks attractive, but once you meet that person, you can't quite remember his or her particular four-one-ones. (Previous research has found the opposite: if you are asked to write about a negative event in your life, you are more likely to do well at working-memory tasks.)

The research does comport with common sense: if you're not distracted by a happy event, you have a greater cognitive capacity to remember specific details. The practical implications here are simple: when going to a party, *never* forget your phone. When you talk to those tantalizing potential mates, be sure to input their digits before saying good night.



Over Spending: 4 Lies That Lead to Debt Problems

By [Dan Kadlec](#) | Apr 28, 2011 | [0 Comments](#)

Understanding financial concepts like credit and budgets is critical to long-term success with money. But equally important, it seems, is recognizing (and controlling) the impulses that lead you to buy things you don't need.

People with debt problems tend to share a common costly trait: they have unrealistic expectations for how material things will make their life better. That is the chief finding of a new study, *Materialism, Transformation Expectations, and Spending: Implications for Credit Use* by Marsha Richins and Myron Watkins, marketing professors at the University of Missouri.

The authors found that people who wind up deep in debt often got there because they expected "unreasonable degrees of change in their lives from their purchases." The authors also concluded "these beliefs are fallacious for the most part, but nonetheless can be powerful motivators for people to spend."

Studies like this complicate what has become a global quest to raise personal financial literacy through programs in schools and communities and at work. We need to do more than simply lay out the nuts and bolts of saving and investing. We also must examine the psychology of why we buy all the stuff we buy. It's not a bad idea to ponder your own behavior in this regard.

The study identifies four types of unrealistic expectations common to over spenders. These expectations are much less evident in folks who do not have debt problems. Here, then, are four lies that people tell themselves when buying things they don't need:

- **It'll make me a better person** Many over spenders believe a purchase will literally change them into a better person. One woman in the study was certain that cosmetic dental surgery would improve her looks and quickly render her more confident and successful.
- **People will like me more** Over spenders may believe that a purchase will make it easier for them to connect with others. One woman in the study wanted to buy a house so that she could entertain and be more social, and thus find more friends.

- **I'll be more fun** Some believe that a purchase will make them more fun and fulfilled. A man in the study wanted a mountain bike because then, he figured, he'd become more adventuresome and interesting.
- **I'll make me more effective** The typical over spender believes that a purchase will make them better at a certain pursuit. Several in the study said that a new car would make them more independent and self-reliant.

See the pattern? Heavy users of credit have a greater tendency to believe that the product makes the person. Which, of course, is backwards. A cyclist may need a new bike; a new bike does not make a cyclist. You can't buy personal transformation in a store.

Sure, whiter teeth may give you a confidence boost and a new house might make you more social — for a while. But it won't last if that's not who you really are. It's far more likely that the guy with the new bike will never take it out of his garage than turn it into a passion.

You know people like that, right? They have tons of unused stuff in the attic, and they may still be paying for much of it. The more you believe that happiness is for sale the more likely you are to end up with debts you cannot repay.

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Facebook comments in response to E. Patrick Johnson visit removed

By Michael Davis

April 27, 2011 | 5:52 p.m. CDT

COLUMBIA – MU administrators took down a thread from its official Facebook page on Tuesday after students complained about anti-gay remarks.

The comments were in response to a visit by E. Patrick Johnson, chair of the department of performance studies at Northwestern University, and his presentations that occurred Monday and Tuesday nights. The presentations were titled "Pouring Tea: Black Gay Men of the South Tell Their Tales" and "In Search of Countess Vivian: Queerness and the Making of Southern History." The events were presented in conjunction with MU's Pride Month and co-sponsored in part by the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Resource Center, among other campus groups and organizations.

The Facebook advertisement for the presentations received more than 90 comments, according to an MU Facebook message posted Wednesday.

"Some of the comments were offensive to Mizzou students and fans. Comments that violated our posting policy – those that contained profanity or personal attacks, for example – were removed swiftly. Those that did not, remained on the Facebook page for more than 24 hours," the message stated. One such comment that sparked a heated response was from Missouri state Rep. Kathie Conway, R-St. Charles.

"Really?? This is educational?," Conway wrote. "Just what is the percentage of the population that this could possibly apply? .0001%?" Conway could not be reached for comment. Mary Jo Banken, executive director of the MU News Bureau, said the university took down the posts in response to complaints by students who found the comments offensive.

"While we ordinarily would have merely edited those comments that were offensive, we decided to take down all the postings because we thought the original post had served its purpose," Banken said. "And that was to inform anyone that would have been interested in attending the lecture."



MU smoking ban means lights out for smokers

A full ban may be hard to enforce

BY DAVID CAWTHON

APRIL 28, 2011 | 12:00 A.M. CST

After a full day of classes, Jamon Kimbrough and his friends smoke on the steps of Speakers Circle. It's one of the MU German and social work major's favorite spots. Embers and the remnants of apple and cherry shisha rest atop a bowl in a 3-foot violet hookah. In a few months, more smokers might call this spot their own, too, as it will be one of few remaining havens for smokers on campus.

An email from Chancellor Brady Deaton delivered the news: On July 1, the second phase of the campus smoking ban will begin. After that day, smokers can only light up at 20 locations scattered across campus or on the top floors of parking garages and other surface parking areas. It's a steppingstone from the current policy, which requires smokers distance themselves 20 feet from university buildings. The third and final phase will begin Jan. 1, 2014, when MU will become a completely smoke-free campus. It will join more than 500 other universities across the country in implementing an all-out smoking ban.

However, questions have been bouncing around about how the new policy will be enforced. On the **Smoke-Free Mizzou website**, a compliance section asks employees and students to approach violators of the ban and ask them "in a kind and compassionate way" to extinguish their cigarettes. Jackie Jones, MU Vice Chancellor for Administrative Services, says violators won't be fined, and campus police will not be actively involved in enforcing the ban.

Kimbrough says he will test the limits before he abides by the new policy, and he plans to smoke on the way to class in the fall. He has no plans to quit. "I don't imagine I'll see much of the student population saying, 'Please put out your cigarette — I want to enjoy my sunshine,'" Kimbrough says. No one has ever asked him to put out his cigarette on campus, but he says he would if asked.

MU sociology and psychology major Lauren Bird says though the new policy will create a healthier environment, she questions how it will be enforced. She says she wouldn't tell someone to snuff a cig. "People won't police themselves," says Bird, a nonsmoker. "What authority do students have to stop someone from smoking?"

But Jones says she has faith that people will respect the new policy. "Since we have been through the phase of the 20-foot rule, which is all outdoors, I don't necessarily think it will change that much in terms of people's willingness to comply," Jones says.

MU political science major Wilson Adams lights up just outside Ellis Library after completing an exam. For him, smoking is a stress reliever. "I think they are trying to get people to quit, but it's a good thing," he says. There are plenty of adequate resources around campus to help smokers kick the habit, should they be willing. The MU Wellness Center provides one-on-one sessions as well as free patches and gum.

Kimbrough and his friend, sophomore Bruce Dooley, a nonsmoker, examine the designated smoking areas on the front page of the *The Maneater*. Pointing to Schurz Residence Hall, Dooley says the policy could force students to venture alone at night to smoking areas. The nearest smoking zone to Schurz is a loading dock about a football field away. "I don't like the idea of how the administration is trying to change the way smokers live their lives," Dooley says.

After fielding surveys, forums and numerous questions during the past few years, Jones says people at MU told her it's time for the next step.

"I guess if there's an indication that the policy does not reflect what the collective feeling of the campus is, we should revisit it," Jones says. "That's what we've always been willing to do."

- Contact an editor with corrections or additional information



UM to pay \$688,000 for learning website

The **University of Missouri System** is paying an outside consultant more than \$688,000 to help develop a systemwide website for online learning.

The Board of Curators' three-member executive committee approved the expense during a conference call yesterday.

The firm, IntraSee, unveiled a preliminary version of the UM e-portal last month that describes itself as "one-stop shopping for all" UM online courses. The site, <http://online.umsystem.edu>, includes a page of faculty resources, such as interactive learning objects, videos and an electronic library.

Developers will now refine the website based on preliminary feedback and will ask students and faculty members in coming weeks for their ideas and feedback, UM spokeswoman Jennifer Hollingshead said.

The portal is part of a system-wide effort to improve online education at the four UM campuses.

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Emmett Till's relatives speak about his legacy

By Michael Davis

April 27, 2011 | 11:17 p.m. CDT

COLUMBIA — One of Simeon Wright's first statements to a packed house at the Reynolds Alumni Center echoed through the hushed second-floor ballroom.

"I have a story to tell," Wright said. "I am an eyewitness."

The men and women in the crowd on Wednesday night were all witnesses to the true and powerful story of the life and death of 14-year-old Emmett Till, the young black boy from Chicago who came to the South and sparked a change in the civil rights movement.

In an event sponsored by the Legion of Black Collegians and the Missouri Student Association, Wright and Till's cousin, Wheeler Parker Jr., came to tell a story more than 50 years old.

Till visited the Wright family in Mississippi in 1955. Wright, Till's second cousin, spoke with excitement about what he would show Till when he came to Mississippi that summer.

"If you lived in the South, you were so excited when someone from the North came," Wright said. "We wanted to show Emmett that Mississippi had highlights."

Till would see very little. In fact, after a few days in Mississippi, he would never see anything again.

Coming from the North, Till did not know the social customs of the South. One day, Till, Wright and Parker Jr. visited Bryant's Grocery and Meat Market in Money, Mississippi. When he came out of the store after shopping, Till whistled at Carolyn Bryant, a white woman and co-owner of the store with her husband, Roy Bryant.

"When Emmett whistled, it was like an alarm. We couldn't believe that he did it," Parker Jr. said. "Still, it's not something you should get killed for."

Soon after the incident, Wright, Parker Jr. and Till were disturbed in their beds late one night by two white men — one of them Roy Bryant — asking for the young Chicagoan. Till followed them, not expecting what would happen next.

"He went with them willingly, because they said they were going to bring him back," Parker Jr. said.

However, Till never came back. Days later, a young fisherman found his body in a river, beaten and shot to death.

Wright said Till "loved to make you laugh. He wanted to laugh, and he wanted you to laugh."

The trial of the two men accused of killing Till began with optimism. Wright believed there would be a conviction, but that did not happen. The two men were found not guilty.

Parker Jr. made the reason clear Wednesday night why they tell the story of their young relative and his tragic death.

"We don't tell these stories to start up any animosity or bad will," he said. "We tell these stories to tell history and the truth."

"He didn't die in vain because we are here because of him," he said.

Wright began the night saying that he hoped the story would make the students in the crowd interested in practicing law.

To Wright, the story of Till's death not only changed his life but the life of the civil rights movement.

"It didn't start the civil rights movement. It transformed it," Wright said. "It brought white men, white women, Jews and Gentiles together."



West Boulevard kids get peek at MU life

By **JANESE SILVEY**

They live in a college town, but for a lot of Columbia schoolchildren, the **University of Missouri** is a world away. Yesterday, a group from West Boulevard Elementary School got a chance to experience that world firsthand.

About 40 West Boulevard fourth-graders spent the day on campus as part of a tour sponsored by the Graduate Professional Council with help from the Association of Black Graduate and Professional Students.

The goal was to get the kids thinking about how they, too, can someday come to college, said Graham McCaulley, GPC vice president.

"Their school is right around the corner from campus, yet their dreams are so much further away," graduate student Anthony James said. "We want to inspire them and put it in their minds that this is something they can achieve."

During the school day, the students toured Ellis Library, the MU Student Center and historical spots on campus. They also explored a residential hall and had lunch on campus.

Another highlight was an afternoon stop at Stankowski Field, where the kids had a chance to toss a football around with Missouri running back Jared Culver

Culver, a junior from Chicago, told them about his career plans — to play pro football in the NFL — but said he also is earning a degree in sports management in case that doesn't pan out. "Always have a backup plan," Culver advised the youngsters.

The tour coincided with West Boulevard's theme this year that encourages all students to consider college. Getting that message across will be easier now that the children have had a chance to "understand all that college means," said fourth-grade teacher Becky Elder.

"West Boulevard has done a wonderful job closing the achievement gap, but we want to continue to raise the standard," she said. "We want them to not just do well in fourth grade but to keep looking at their futures."

In addition to showing them the more entertaining sides of college life, McCaulley also took the children to the financial aid office, where administrators explained how they could find ways to pay for college, and into a classroom, where they experienced a mock Fisheries and Wildlife Studies class.

Fourth-grader Dane Cross, who wants to someday study computer engineering, said he enjoyed the trip.

"I would say I learned a lot about how we can just kinda follow what we want to do and eventually come to college," he said.

Although there are no current plans to make the tour an annual event, McCaulley said he would like to see other MU student groups consider providing tour opportunities for Columbia elementary schools

"They live and go to school a mile or two from Mizzou, but a lot of them never step foot on campus," he said. "This early exposure lets them see campus is safe and accessible to them."

Reach Janese Silvey at 573-815-1705 or e-mail jsilvey@columbiatribune.com



Other hospitals accommodate visiting family members

By **JODIE JACKSON JR.**

Boone Hospital Center and **University of Missouri Health Care** typically make special arrangements for family members who visit patients after hours. Both hospitals have visiting hours specific to various units and facilities.

MU Health now is revising its policy.

"The new policies will reflect our current practices in which visiting hours are determined on a case-by-case basis based on what is best for the individual patient," MU Health spokeswoman Mary Jenkins said in an email response to questions.

Boone Hospital spokesman Jacob Luecke said he spent two nights in that hospital in August after his wife gave birth to their daughter.

"We encourage this, as the best health outcomes often come to the patients and families who are active participants in healing and take an ownership stake in their care," Luecke wrote in an email.

Obama certificate resolves the birther issue ... or does it?

*By STEVE KRASKE
The Kansas City Star*

MU MENTION PAGE 2

With Wednesday's long-awaited release of his original long-form birth certificate, President Barack Obama now hopes the pesky "birther" issue is behind him.

Not likely.

"The hardliners are still going to say it was manufactured," warned U.S. Rep. Emanuel Cleaver, a Kansas City Democrat. "There's no way to put an end to it."

And as if on cue, Donald Trump — who had fueled much of the recent birther furor — greeted the news with yet another challenge: Now he wants to see copies of Obama's college records.

"I heard that at Columbia (University), he wasn't a very good student. he then gets to Harvard," Trump told reporters. "How do you get into Harvard if you're not a good student? ... I don't know why he doesn't release his records."

Others joined Obama in proclaiming that the issuance of the long-form certificate will help the president move past an issue that has received increasing attention in recent weeks. After a special request from the White House, Hawaii made an exception to its rules by releasing Obama's official Certificate of Live Birth that showed Obama was born there.

"We don't have time for this kind of silliness," Obama told reporters at the White House. "I've been puzzled at the degree to which this (story) just kept on going."

Obama said his preference is not to comment on "sideshow" issues. But, he added, the nation has "some enormous challenges out there." Meeting those will be tough if the public "remains distracted."

The birth certificate, which can be viewed online, states that the president was born at Honolulu's Kapiolani Hospital on Aug. 4, 1961. Birthers had challenged that, contending that Obama had been born overseas and that the president was ineligible to serve in the White House.

Questions surrounding Obama's birth had sparked a book and numerous investigations, including one by CNN and another by Trump.

Following release of the certificate, Trump crowed that he had "accomplished something nobody else was able to accomplish."

Others, though, said Obama's surprise move actually undermined the real estate tycoon.

"It paints Donald Trump as a little less serious than I think he would want to be painted early on in his presidential run," said Jackson County Executive Mike Sanders, a Democrat.

About one in four Americans said Obama "probably" or "definitely" was born in another country, a survey this week by USA Today and Gallup showed.

The same poll concluded that 38 percent of Americans said the president had definitely been born in the United States, with 18 percent saying he probably was.

It was against that backdrop that the president released the long-form birth certificate. He also did it on the same day that news broke of his plans for an extensive reorganization of his national security team, with the CIA director Leon Panetta being named to succeed Robert Gates as defense secretary, and Gen. David Petraeus, now the top U.S. commander in Afghanistan, named as CIA director.

The timing was curious to Bill Lacy, who heads the Dole Institute of Politics in Lawrence. The Petraeus hiring was a coup for Obama, Lacy said. Instead of a focus on that good news, the release of the birth certificate overshadowed it.

"It's not smart politics to have this particular announcement occur the same day you name David Petraeus to the CIA," said Lacy, who once worked for President Ronald Reagan.

The administration said it released the long-form birth certificate when it received the document. The president had dispatched a personal lawyer to pick up copies after Hawaiian officials finally agreed to release it.

"I think most people are a little surprised that it happened at this point and not any earlier," said Peverill Squire, a political scientist at the University of Missouri-Columbia.

But Obama probably achieved his goal of clearing the political decks so he can focus on bigger issues, such as the budget deficit, said former Kansas congressman Todd Tiahrt, a Republican.

"It was a smart thing for him to do it, just to stop all the noise," Tiahrt said.

Cleaver and others, however, are concerned that its release will only fuel more vitriol.

“When I first heard it, I thought, ‘Well, finally he’s going to do this, and I hope he does it with the understanding that this is not going to stop it,’ ” Cleaver said. “The hardliners are still going to say it was manufactured. There’s no way to put an end to it It’s not going to help him. Those guys are not going to believe. We’re living in a new society ... that is fact-free.”

The president, Cleaver added, is almost “stepping down to their level.”

New BPA report linked to industry

German study says chemical is safe

By Susanne Rust, California Watch

April 27, 2011 | [\(22\) Comments](#)

Warning: Chemicals in the packaging, surfaces or contents of many products may cause long-term health effects, including cancers of the breast, brain and testicles; lowered sperm counts, early puberty and other reproductive system defects; diabetes; attention deficit disorder, asthma and autism. **A decade ago, the government promised to test these chemicals. It still hasn't.**

Four authors of a new report concluding that bisphenol A is safe have ties to companies and groups that benefit from the controversial chemical.

The report was written by the Advisory Committee to the German Society for Toxicology, the country's national association of toxicologists.

One of the authors is a current employee of Bayer Schering Pharma AG, the largest producer of bisphenol A, or BPA, in Europe. Another has received funding from the global BPA industry group, BPA Global, in the past. Another runs a "consultancy for the industry." And another calls himself a "leading toxicologist in the chemical and pharmaceutical industry" who is currently "developing and shaping" toxicology in Germany and Europe.

"It's just the same old industry nonsense," said Frederick vom Saal, a University of Missouri endocrinologist who has spent more than a decade researching the health effects of the chemical. "This was organized and funded by Bayer, the largest maker of BPA in Europe. They are simply protecting their product."

In 2007, the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel examined nearly 260 scientific studies that looked at the health effects of BPA on laboratory animals with spines. They found 80% of the studies showed harm, and the vast majority of those were published by government and academic scientists. The studies that found the chemical safe were mostly funded by the chemical and plastics industries, or written by scientists with connections or affiliations with those industries.

This new study states the source of study funding is not important and to suggest otherwise is "naive." The report concludes, "the available evidence indicates that BPA exposure represents no

noteworthy risk to the health of the human population," and describes the controversy as "journalistic."

Jan Hengstler, the lead author of the review, said his nine-person team, the advisory committee to the toxicology society, did not receive funding for the work. He said the committee is made up of elected members of the society, and they represent academia, industry and government "in order to guarantee a broad range of toxicological competence."

The paper appears in the journal *Critical Reviews in Toxicology*, a peer-reviewed scientific journal.

BPA has been found in the urine of 93% of Americans. It has been linked to neurological defects, diabetes, breast and prostate cancer, and heart disease.

The German study examined more than 5,000 scientific papers conducted on the health effects of BPA. The group's mission, according to the paper, was to "contribute to a balanced and well-founded resolution of the seemingly deadlocked situation" and to offer "an independent judgment."

"After careful consideration, we came to the conclusion that the recent governmental responses of some countries do not have a scientific basis but are politically motivated," Hengstler said.

Other scientists aren't buying that.

The report is "rife with scientific errors and misrepresentations, and it ignores or dismisses some of the best science available to date on BPA's effects," said Pete Myers, CEO and chief scientist of Environmental Health Science, a nonprofit environmental group based in Charlottesville, Va.

Sarah Vogel, a researcher with Johnson Family Foundation, who has studied the bisphenol A controversy for several years, said she thought the paper was "odd." However, she was reluctant to call the research industry-influenced.

"I don't think anything is that simple," she said. "They declare in the report that they haven't had any external funding."

Instead, she said it appears to be "more of a reflection of a shared disciplinary background and a shared way of thinking."

Vogel said she'd like to see a review conducted by scientists without any vested interests.

She said there's a deep rift between the scientific disciplines of toxicology and endocrinology, hinging on the theory that some chemicals - including bisphenol A - may behave more like hormones than traditional toxins, and therefore may affect health and development at very low concentrations. Toxicologists don't believe that theory. Endocrinologists do.

BPA was originally developed as a synthetic form of estrogen but quickly became more valued as an ingredient in the manufacturing of the clear, hard plastic known as polycarbonate. It is also used in the lining of food and beverage cans and has been detected in other food packaging containers, including those labeled "microwave safe."

When heated, or exposed to acidic or caustic substances, BPA is known to leach out of containers into food.

In June 2009, the Statistical Assessment Service, or STATS, a group that calls itself an unbiased media watchdog, surveyed members of the Society of Toxicology and found that most U.S. toxicologists don't believe BPA is a toxin, and that they think the media has hyped the issue.

That same summer, the Endocrine Society released a report citing its concern over the chemical and urged the federal government to ban it from children's products.

The Center for Media and Public Affairs, the parent organization of STATS, has a history of working for corporations trying to deflect concerns about the safety of their products. In the mid-to-late-1990s, the organization was contracted, at least twice, by the giant tobacco company Philip Morris to monitor media coverage. In an email from the Tobacco Institute's files at the University of California, San Francisco, dated Feb. 18, 1999, Philip Morris' vice president, Vic Han, said the company donated money to the center "over the last several years."

The group also is largely funded by ideological groups with a deep anti-regulatory bent, including the Sarah Scaife Foundation, the American Enterprise Institute, the Heritage Foundation and the Cato Institute.

STATS touted this latest BPA review as a "toxic setback for anti-plastic campaigners."

The North American Metal Packaging Alliance, the trade industry for food packagers, agreed.

"It is imperative that public policy be constructed on a foundation of sound science and comprehensive toxicological assessments, rather than on the basis of fear," wrote John Rost, chairman of the industry group, in a statement. "These authors, who have no interest in the issue other than seeing that the science is objectively evaluated, now reaffirm what regulatory experts across the globe have stated consistently - BPA poses no risk to human health, including infants and children."

With the public rancor over the chemical, BPA has made its way into both national and international political consciousness.

In March of this year, Chinese health officials recommended banning the chemical from products made for children and infants. Canada banned it last year, and the German Environmental Agency recommended that manufacturers find alternatives to bisphenol A in their products.

A bill that would ban the use of BPA in bottles, cans and food packaging products was approved by the California Legislature's Environmental Safety and Toxic Metals Committee on Tuesday.

Yet others have deemed the chemical safe, including the European Union's Food Safety Authority. However, in November the European Commission, the executive branch of the European Union, issued a ban on the chemical in baby bottles.

In November, the World Health Organization released a report suggesting that the research so far is not strong enough to indict BPA. However, there are enough indications, it said, to warrant more work.

Both the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences are actively investigating the chemical, and will release their findings in the next few years.

Further, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has called BPA a "chemical of concern." And the FDA reversed its position on BPA safety in January 2010, saying it was concerned about the chemical's effects on fetuses, infants and children.

Former Journal Sentinel reporter Susanne Rust is now an environment reporter for California Watch, a nonprofit, nonpartisan investigative reporting organization. In 2009, Rust and fellow Journal Sentinel reporter Meg Kissinger were finalists for the Pulitzer Prize in investigative reporting for their work on BPA. Rust is co-author, along with Kissinger and reporter Cary Spivak, of the series "Chemical Fallout," which won numerous national investigative and environmental reporting awards.



ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

Missouri to study black bears in southeastern area

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CAPE GIRARDEAU, Mo. • The Missouri Department of Conservation has started research on black bears in southeast Missouri.

The department says the study will provide information about such things as the bears' movement patterns, population, habitat preferences and overall numbers.

Conservation officials began a similar study last year in southwestern Missouri with the University of Missouri-Columbia and Mississippi State University.

The department said Wednesday the research will involve trapping and tranquilizing the bears to allow biologists to take measurements and samples. The bears will also be radio-collared with GPS monitors so biologists can track their movements.

Landowners in southeastern Missouri and the Ozarks who have seen bears on their property are being encouraged to contact the Conservation Department for possible participation in the study.

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

Periodical cicadas of 2011 expected to emerge in May

By [Katrina Ball](#)

April 27, 2011 | 12:00 a.m. CDT

COLUMBIA — The countdown is on.

Columbia is only weeks away from experiencing an event not seen — or rather, heard — since 1998. It will be loud, stinky and, for some, even frightening. This deafening chorus is imminent as the warmer days of May approach.

Prepare yourselves — the periodical cicadas are coming.

Brood 19, or the Great Southern Brood, of periodical cicadas is scheduled to emerge en masse throughout central and northern Missouri next month, Gene Kritsky, editor-in-chief of *American Entomologist*, said.

Thousands of cicada nymphs will crawl out of the ground when the soil reaches about 65 degrees. The nymphs will climb trees, shed their skins and begin the noisy process of searching for a mate. The males will sing from about 10 a.m. until dusk every day for weeks before they die off, Kritsky said. Historically, 13-year cicada broods emerge around May 15, Kritsky said. His date is an estimate and subject to change depending on temperatures and rainfall.

“Cicada emergence is really all tied to the soil’s temperature,” Kritsky said. When the cicadas do emerge, certain areas of Columbia could experience a deafening chorus.

“In places where there are older, well-established trees, you could get up to 85 decibels,” Kritsky said. “To put that in perspective, when a jet is flying overhead that is usually between 60 and 70 decibels.”

Individual cicadas are not tremendously loud, said Johannes Schul, an MU biology professor. But since they will emerge in such large numbers and gather in groups, Schul said, there is no doubt the cicadas will produce an “enormous chorus” throughout Columbia.

“It won't damage anyone's hearing,” Schul said. “If we were exposed to those levels of noise for years at a time, then we might face an effect, but this outbreak is short and will not have any adverse health effects aside from stressing a few people out.”

How loud the chorus will be depends on the concentration of cicadas and how suitable an area is for mating. Areas that have undergone development in the last 13 years may not see any cicadas emerge.

“If a developer has come in and knocked down all of the trees in the area since the last emergence, then the only cicadas you will see are the ones who fly in,” Kritsky said. Newer developments aren't necessarily safe from the cicada onslaught, Kritsky said.

“Although cicadas may not emerge there, they are attracted to young trees in full sun surrounded by low-lying vegetation, similar to the kinds of trees you see in newer developments,” Kritsky said. “The cicadas will seek out these kinds of trees and congregate there in large clusters.”

Large clusters of cicadas, or leks, are particularly fond of small trees such as crab apples, elms or Bradford pears, Kritsky said. Periodical cicadas survive on a strategy of satiating their predators. They emerge in such large numbers that there will always be some left over to reproduce. After a while, predators get tired of eating the cicadas and leave them alone.

“If you walked outside and found the world swarming with Hershey Kisses, eventually you would get so sick of Hershey Kisses that you would never ever want to eat them again,” Kritsky said. The sight and sound of the cicadas will stick around for four to six weeks while the insects mate and the females lay eggs in slits cut into the branches of small trees before their life cycle comes to an end.

“When they die off, they start decaying, and since it is hot it can get really stinky,” Kritsky said. **MU is scheduled to hold the 13th International Meeting on Invertebrate Sound and Vibration near the end of the cicadas' life cycles. The meeting will take place June 4 to 7 and attract nearly 100 researchers, professors and students from around the world, Schul said.**

The meeting is held every two or three years and covers anything related to sound and vibration communication by invertebrates.