



The newsletter of the...

American Foundation for Aging Research

AFAR

Volume 5: Issue 2

Fall 2005

The American Foundation for Aging Research is solely dedicated to granting scholarships and fellowships to innovative young scientists utilizing cutting-edge technology to study age-related diseases.

Message from The President:

AFAR is thrilled to receive a \$105,000 grant from the North Carolina GlaxoSmithKline Foundation (see news release). **Help us match this wonderful award!** Now is the perfect time to contribute in addition to the renewal of your annual support.

We have enclosed an envelope for the purpose of giving AFAR a special contribution in honor of someone or to match the NC GSK award.

By doing so, you enable AFAR to give financial aid to student-researchers. Since 1979, AFAR has provided several hundred thousand dollars to deserving and promising undergraduate, graduate and medical students involved in research on age-related diseases and the biology of aging. These students have investigated age-related cancers, neuro-degeneration, immunology, biology of cell cycle and cell death, neuro-endocrine interactions and many other subjects. Several students supported by your donations are listed in this issue.

The cost of education and the cost of science have increased significantly. We ask you to give generously for young students whose research will impact our lives in the predictable ways of new therapies and therapeutics, and in ways we cannot imagine that will enhance the healthfulness of our lives.

For all the students, AFAR thanks you. They look to you as their heroes; for with your support, their education, conviction to find answers to age-related health problems, and career dreams become all the more real.

May you have a happy Thanksgiving and Holiday Season.

Paul F. Agris

In This Issue.....

Recent Fellowship Awardees.....	page 2
Shingles Relief Is on The Way.....	pages 2-3
GlaxoSmithKline Foundation Grant.....	page 3
Ways to Give.....	page 4

Dreams come true; without that possibility, nature would not incite us to have them.

—John Updike

Northwestern University

It is an honor to have received an award from AFAR. My research is focused on improving the treatments available to the growing number of Alzheimer's disease patients. My interest is in identifying the underlying cause of Alzheimer's disease by focusing on the earliest events that fail in the brain's neurons. The support of AFAR is helping me address these questions that I hope will improve the lives of our aging population

Chandler Robinson, Northwestern University

I am very honored to be the recipient of an AFAR research award and hope that my research on the potential cancer fighting drug Tetrathiomolybdate (TM) lives up to the high expectations of the foundation. Receiving this award has bolstered my own confidence in my research and has inspired me to work even harder towards determining the mechanism by which TM functions. I hope through my research I am able to give back not only to AFAR, but also to the rest of society. Aging research is very important to the health of this nation. Not only has it led to an increase in the life expectancy of the average American, but it has also led to an improved standard of living in this country.

Ansuman Satpathy, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

I would sincerely like to thank AFAR for funding my undergraduate research projects. As a result, not only have we made significant strides in understanding the development of chronic inflammatory diseases, but I have been able to discover my own passions as an aspiring physician-scientist. Also, I have no doubt that this distinction has played a role in allowing me to obtain research positions at Harvard University, the University of London, and in my acceptance to an MD/PhD program which I will be starting next fall. I am extremely grateful for your support so early in my career, and hopefully this research will lead to great results for diabetic patients as well as those suffering from



Brent Kelly



Chandler Robinson



Ansuman Satpathy

Shingles Relief Is on The Way

Researchers have found that an experimental vaccine against shingles (zoster vaccine) prevented about half of the cases of shingles--a painful nerve and skin infection--and dramatically reduced its severity and complications in vaccinated persons who got the disease.

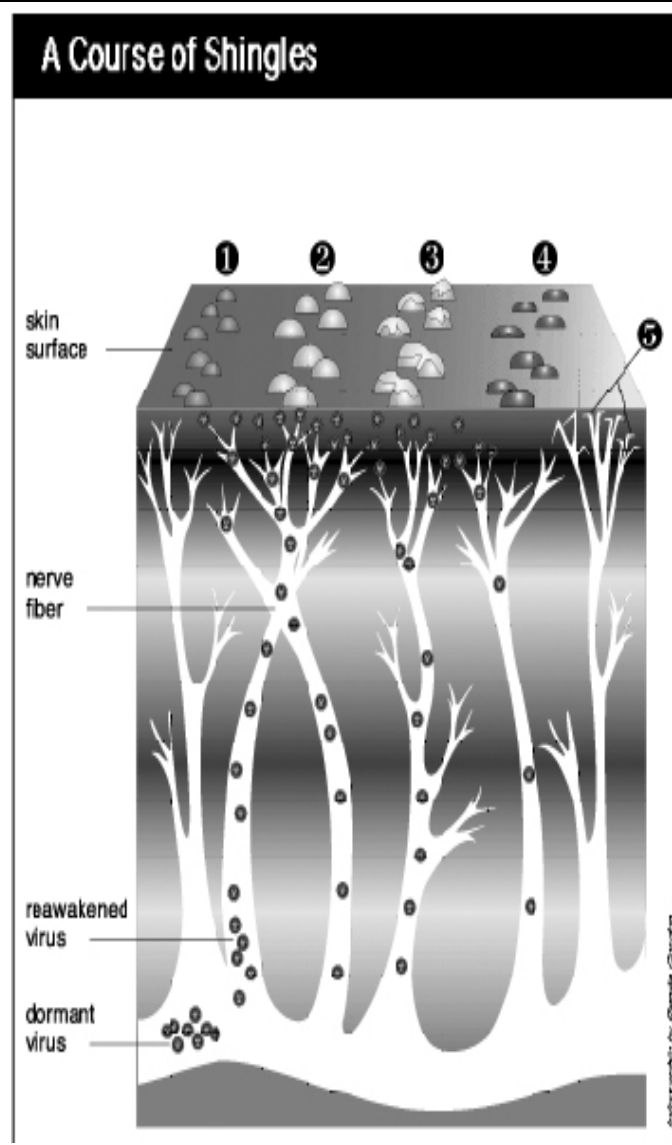
"This is very promising news for older persons," says Stephen E. Straus, M.D., director of the National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine (NICAM), who participated in the design, oversight and conduct of the trial. "These striking results indicate for the first time that we can use a vaccine to prevent shingles, one of the most common and debilitating illnesses of aging. And among vaccine recipients who did get shingles, the episodes generally were far milder than they otherwise would have been."

Shingles, also known as herpes zoster, is caused by reactivation of the virus that causes chickenpox.

Once the chickenpox infection has run its course, the virus is not eliminated; rather, it retreats to clusters of sensory nerve cells usually located near the spinal cord, where the virus persists in a dormant state. As immunity weakens with advancing age, the virus can reactivate, multiply in and damage sensory nerve cells to cause pain. It then migrates to the skin, causing the blistering rash of shingles.

Anyone who has had chickenpox, which includes most adults in the United States, could develop shingles, although not all will. The two major risk factors are increasing age and declining immunity.

Hopefully in the near future the vaccine will reduce, if not eliminate, the pain associated with the disease that one million Americans experience every year.



If you want a copy of the 2004 audit, IRS Tax Return, or have any questions about the American Foundation for Aging Research, please feel free to write or email us at Afar_Office@ncsu.edu

GlaxoSmithKline Supports Aging Research in NC

Important research on aging and related diseases in North Carolina is getting a boost, thanks to a partnership between AFAR, North Carolina State University and the North Carolina GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) Foundation.

The NC GSK foundation has provided a \$105,000 grant to AFAR. Over the next five years, the grant will fund 35 fellowships and scholarships to graduate and professional students, as well as undergraduate students at public and private institutions in North Carolina.

Since Americans are living longer and leading more active and productive lives, the health of older Americans is getting more and more attention.

“For a decade, scientists and administrators of GlaxoSmithKline in Research Triangle Park have generously recognized and supported AFAR’s efforts, and we are very grateful to have further recognition with this grant from the NC GSK Foundation,” said Dr. Paul F. Agris, professor of biochemistry and president/founding board member of AFAR.

Dr. Agris said a better understanding of disease relationships to aging will allow improved therapies for seniors, allowing them higher quality of life as they age.

The many ways to contribute to a healthful, productive and longer life, and to the education of innovative scientists who will show us the way:

- Direct giving in honor or memory of someone special
- Endowed giving to establish a perpetual scholarship or fellowship
- Bequest to AFAR inserted in will
- Contribution of securities or real estate
- Deferred giving in which income is retained for life by the contributor, and AFAR is the beneficiary of the principal from an insurance or annuity

If you would like to be removed from our mailing list please contact us at: 919 515-5679, via e-mail at afar_office@ncsu.edu or use enclosed envelope to mail us your request.

American Foundation for Aging Research
Biochemistry Department
North Carolina State University
Campus Box 7622
Raleigh, NC 27695-7622