

Upgrading Your Culture

The December 17, 1993 issue of *Nature* contains a product review of the latest cell and tissue culture lines for cell culture/separation, toxicity testing, assorted media and media supplements, pre-coated coverslips, and reagents.

Award Offered For Researchers Engaged In Developing Alternatives To Animal Research

Miles Berkeley, Inc. will again award \$25,000 to researchers or research institutions engaged in developing alternatives to animal research.

There is no formal application form. To apply, submit a description of the work being done (or contemplated), a detailed description of how the grant funds would be utilized, and an assessment of the work's potential to replace an animal test.

Submit applications by June 15, 1993 to: Citizens' Humane Commission, C/o Animal Care Services, 2313 Second St., Berkeley, CA 94710.

Predicting The Risk Of Breast Cancer

Breast cancer is the second most lethal form of cancer, next to lung cancer, of women in the United States.

Martin Yaffe, a medical physicist at the University of Toronto in Canada, has applied a digital technique to a mammogram in order to calculate breast density, which is linked with the risk of developing cancer.

The breast is composed of two main types of tissue, adipose or fat tissue which appears dark on a mammogram, and fibroglandular tissue which appears white. The dense fibroglandular tissue is associated with a higher risk of breast cancer.

Yaffe examined a group of women diagnosed with breast cancer and a control group of women without cancer. The research team found a statistically significant difference in breast density and texture between the two groups. Women found to be at high risk could be advised to have more frequent breast screening examinations.

World Congress On Alternatives & Animal Use 11/14-19/93

The Congress, a consortium of scientists representing Australia, Europe, North

America, and the Pacific Rim will consist of five days of lectures, workshops, round-table discussions covering issues of alternatives and animal use in education, testing, research, and ethics.

The purpose of the Congress is to develop a realistic understanding of the validity and status of alternatives and to review the progress made toward refining, reducing, and replacing the use of animals in education, testing, and research.

Contact: WORLD CONGRESS, Office of Continuing Education, Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions, 720 Rutland Avenue, Turner 20, Baltimore, MD 21205-2195 (410) 955-2959 or FAX: (410)955-0807.

National Science Teachers Association Convention, April 1-4, 1993 in Kansas City, MO. (202) 328-0974.

Joseph F. Morgan Research Foundation, Current Trends: *In Vitro* Skin Toxicology and Eye Irritancy Testing, April 21-23, 1993 in Ottawa, ON, Canada. (613) 594-8226.

Congress on Cell and Tissue Culture, June 5-9, 1993 in San Diego, CA. (410) 992-0946.

Volume 6 Of Humane Innovations & Alternatives Is Now Available

Humane Innovations and Alternatives is a refereed journal which is seeking manuscripts from 1 to 10 pages from scientists, veterinarians, and animal care workers for its seventh volume.

Contact: Dr. Manny Bernstein, Editor, 45 Glenwood Road, Saranac Lake, NY 12983. (518) 891-4140.

New Fetal Tissue Graft Studies Show Promise In Reversing Parkinson's Disease

One of President Clinton's first orders of business was to lift the ban on fetal tissue transplantation research.

Three new studies by D. Eugene Redmond, *et al.* of Yale University School of Medicine; Curt R. Freed of the University of Colorado Health Science Center in Denver; and Hakan Widner of the University Hospital in Lund, Sweden have indicated that fetal tissue transplantation can ameliorate Parkinson's symptoms.

Fetal tissue transplantation research also has shown promise in Huntington's and diabetes research.

CURRENT USE OF ALTERNATIVES IN BIOMEDICAL & BEHAVIORAL RESEARCH & TESTING

Effect Of Hypertension & Kidney Damage On African-Americans. *JAMA*, 268(21):3085-91, 12/2/92.

Kidney dialysis centers estimate that the renal failure of roughly one-third of all new dialysis patients arises from damage caused by hypertension. However, the renal benefits of lowering blood pressure are, for some unknown reason, not applicable to African-Americans.

The hypertension-kidney damage connection was investigated by a research team led by W. Gordon Walker of Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. The team measured concentration of a waste protein, creatinine, in the blood of 5,524 hypertensive men of all races.

The same treatments effectively controlled blood pressure among the men, most of whom were white. However, the blood creatinine concentration of blacks continued to rise despite reductions in blood pressure, indicating kidney damage.

Re-Arranging Molecules. *Science*, 259(5091):64-66, 1/1/93.

Researchers at Scripps Research Institute in La Jolla, California have produced complex chiral, using a process which can greatly affect how a molecule function, using nonchiral starting materials.

There are plans to use this process to produce starting compounds for the pharmaceutical industry. It is hoped that it will provide shortcuts to the development of new drugs, including the anticancer drug, taxol.

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