Case and UHC Embark on Imaging Project to Unlock Secrets of Drug-addicted Brain

A new grant of $4.1 million will allow substance abuse researchers at the Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine and University Hospitals of Cleveland to add a powerful new weapon in their arsenal to understand and fight drug abuse. A contract from the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) will fund the purchase of a magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) instrument that will reveal areas of the brain stimulating the desire for drugs and for drug abuse. Continued on page 2

New Brand Identity and Nickname for University

Case Western Reserve University decided to phase out the CWRU acronym because it is more difficult to say and has very low name recognition outside of the Northeast Ohio region. And most of today’s students at the university and medical school shorten the name simply to Case.

In the coming year, our readers will notice a new look in the logo of the university and the School of Medicine, and changes in the look of our publications to reflect the new identity. But rest assured, that the full name of the university and the medical school remains Case Western Reserve University, continuing to reflect the fine traditions of the two excellent institutions that federated in 1967 to form the university that we know today. On second and subsequent references, articles in this newsletter will refer to Case instead of CWRU. Future issues of MedLines and other publications from the medical school, as well as its Web site, will show this new look, which reflects the dynamic learning and research environment of Case Western Reserve University and the School of Medicine.

To learn more about the identity, visit the Web site www.case.edu and click on “New Case” and “Identity Presentation” on the lower left of the screen.

-The Editor
Kevin D. Cooper, M.D., was named president-elect of the Society for Investigative Dermatology (SID) at its annual business meeting held in Miami Beach, Fla. He will begin his term as president in 2004.

Cooper is currently chair of the Department of Dermatology at Case Western Reserve University and University Hospitals of Cleveland. He directs the Skin Diseases Research Center and is a professor of dermatology, oncology and pathology. He earned his M.D. from the University of Florida, College of Medicine, in Gainesville. He completed his residency in dermatology at the Oregon Health Sciences University in Portland, Ore., and an immunodermatology fellowship at the NIH. Cooper’s areas of interest include psoriasis, atopic dermatitis, autoimmunity, cutaneous immunobiology, UV and solar effects, and immunomodulatory therapy.

Founded in 1938, the SID has more than 2000 members worldwide. The SID publishes the Journal of Investigative Dermatology, the premier journal dedicated to research in cutaneous biology. SID is dedicated to the advancement and promotion of the sciences relevant to skin health and disease through education, advocacy and scholarly exchange of scientific information.

Joseph R. Calabrese, M.D., professor of psychiatry at the School of Medicine and director of the Mood Disorders Program at University Hospitals of Cleveland, presented several lectures around the world recently, including the Spier Psychopharmacology Congress in Capetown, South Africa, where he spoke on “New Developments in the Treatment of Bipolar Depression” and “Treatment of Rapid Cycling Bipolar Depression;” and the European College of Neuropsychopharmacology in Prague, Czech Republic, speaking on “Finding a Balance in the Treatment of Bipolar Disorder” and poster presentations on the “Legal Complications of Bipolar Disorder Accompanied by Alcohol, Cannabis, or Cocaine Abuse or Dependence,” “Substance Use Disorders and Their Treatment Response in Dual Diagnosis Bipolar Disorder,” “Effects of Lithium and Lamotrigine on Body Weight After 18 Months in Bipolar I Disorder” and “A 20-Month, Double-Blind, Maintenance Study of Lithium Versus Divalproex Monotherapy in Bipolar I and II Disorder Accompanied by Rapid Cycling.”

In the past academic year, Case medical students received several awards from the American Academy of Neurology, the major US society dedicated to neurology. Graduating student Adam Ueberroth received the AAN Medical Student Prize for Excellence in Neurology. Andrew Doersch, a second-year student, and Dolly Padovani, an M.D.-Ph.D. student (see Aug. 2003 issue), both received scholarships to attend the AAN annual meeting in Hawaii. David Rometo received a summer research scholarship and will be working with Lynn Landmesser, Ph.D., chair of neurosciences.

Case Researchers Receive $4.9 Million Grant to Continue Study of Children Prenatally Exposed to Cocaine

During the next five years, Case Western Reserve University psychologist Lynn Singer, Ph.D., and her research collaborators will track one of the largest groups of cocaine-exposed children in the nation at 9, 10, 11 and 12 years of age. These children will be compared to children not exposed to cocaine to assess the risks of prenatal exposure to cocaine and to assess the role of the environment on the outcome of drug-exposed children at school age.

These children have been followed since birth. In prior studies of this group of children, the researchers found that prenatal cocaine exposure was associated with poorer fetal growth, neonatal attentional abnormalities, less developed cognitive skills at 2 years, and poorer general knowledge/arithmetic and visual spatial skills at 4 years.

This continuation of their research is supported by a new $4.9 million grant from the National Institute on Drug Abuse, one of the National Institutes of Health. The grant will take the researchers up to their 14th year of funding.

Singer is a professor at the Case School of Medicine, and interim provost and university vice president at Case. Her collaborators include Barbara Lewis, Ph.D., associate professor of pediatrics, Betsy Short, Ph.D., associate professor of psychology, Sandra Russ, Ph.D., professor of psychology, Lester Kirchner, Ph.D., assistant professor of pediatrics, Sonia Minnes, research associate, and Mee Young Oh-Min, research associate, all of Case, and Nancy Klein, professor at Cleveland State University.