

# HEALTH & WELLNESS

## Healthbeat

### Professor named to board of Inter-American Society of Hypertension

K. Bridget Brosnihan, Ph.D., professor of surgical sciences-general at Wake Forest University School of Medicine has been appointed to the board of trustees of the Inter-American Society of Hypertension (IASH).

She will serve a two-year term. Brosnihan, a researcher at the Hypertension and Vascular Disease Center, is also professor of physiology and pharmacology at the school of medicine.

The IASH is a nonprofit organization devoted to the understanding, prevention and control of hypertension and vascular diseases. Its membership includes prominent scientists and physicians from 20 different countries in the Americas as well as Europe, Australia and Asia.

### Vocational Rehabilitation wins grant to expand services

RALEIGH — The N.C. Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) has received a two-year, \$700,000 grant from the Federal Department of Labor to increase the division's efforts to assist persons with disabilities in preparing for and achieving employment.

The efforts will center on the state's system of 107 JobLink Career Centers, where a number of agencies, including VR and the Employment Security Commission, coordinate their services to job seekers and their potential employers.

"The new funds will be used to increase the capacity of staff at the centers to offer counseling, guidance, training and other services," said VR Director George McCoy. "The number of North Carolinians being served at the centers is growing steadily, so these funds couldn't have come at a better time."

Under the project, regional coordinators will design and implement comprehensive training for JobLink staff, and the Model Employer Development (MED) program, now in use by VR, will be expanded for use by other agencies at the centers.

Under VR, the MED program's objectives are to provide employers with pre-screened, qualified applicants; on-site consultation and follow-up services; and information in areas such as workplace accessibility, accommodations and employment tax credits.

Last year, the division assisted 8,757 North Carolinians with disabilities in finding jobs. The agency provides counseling, training, education, medical, transportation and other support services to persons with physical or mental disabilities.

### Paul Ciener Memorial Blood Drive is set for July 30 in Kernersville

The American Red Cross invites all eligible donors to participate in the third annual Paul Ciener Memorial Blood Drive on July 30. The drive will be held at Ciener-Woods Ford, 1330 N.C. Highway 66 South, from 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The drive's namesake, Paul Ciener, was the original owner of the dealership. He was an avid blood donor and sponsored at least one blood drive each year at the dealership.

His passion for the blood program was so evident to those around him that his son David decided to continue the tradition after his father's death.

David now sponsors the Paul Ciener Memorial Drive every July in his father's memory.

"My father developed a passion for giving blood, never knowing the need he someday would have. His dedication rubbed off on the people around him. He motivated his employees and associates by personally encouraging each one to donate," David Ciener said. "The blood you donate could someday help save someone's loved one, maybe even one of your own."

To schedule an appointment to donate at this drive or to find a drive near you, call 724-0511.

The blood supply remains critically low two weeks after an appeal to the public for blood donations. All blood types are needed, but the most immediate need in our region is for types O and B. Call today to make your life-saving donation.

### Medical Center Burn Unit studies burns related to children's clothing

The Burn Unit at Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center has joined the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission and about 115 burn centers nationwide in a project to collect data about serious clothing-related burns to children under age 15.

The Consumer Product Safety Commission's new National Burn Center Reporting System is a cooperative effort of the Burn Unit at Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center, the American Burn Association, Shriners Hospitals for Children and the National Association of State Fire Marshals.

Under the new system, burn centers that treat children will report to the commission any incidents in which a child's clothing is believed to play a part in a burn injury. "We report any incidents that include the ignition, melting or smoldering of wearing apparel worn by children," said Dorrna Joyner, trauma/community outreach coordinator at the medical center.

When a participating burn center reports an incident to the Consumer Product Safety Commission, the commission investigates circumstances surrounding the burn injury. The information is logged into the commission's epidemiological databases.

"This tool will give safety experts much needed information that was previously not available to better document and understand the nature and cause of clothing-related burn injuries to children," Joyner said. "We share the Consumer Product Safety Commission's goal to keep families safe from fires."

The National Association of State Fire Marshals also is participating by retrieving and preserving for the commission children's clothing involved in burn injuries.

The Burn Unit at Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center serves central and western North Carolina and Virginia. It has eight beds and treats at least 150 patients each year.

## Study raises possibility of safe breast-feeding for HIV mothers

BY EMMA ROSS  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PARIS — New research has raised the possibility of safer breast-feeding for HIV-positive mothers in the developing world, experts said July 15.

Programs aimed at preventing mother-to-child transmission of the AIDS virus in poor countries involve treatment during pregnancy and only up to one week after childbirth. That halves the risk of the babies getting HIV, but many of those gains are lost when the infants later contract the virus through breast-feeding.

Experts say findings presented July 15 at the biggest AIDS research conference of the year indicate that giving babies a daily AIDS drug from birth through the entire breast-feeding period could reduce the rate of HIV infection through breast milk significantly.

Women with HIV in developed countries are advised not to breast-feed, even though doctors believe that potent drug combinations can drastically reduce the risk of spread from mother to baby.

However, specialists said persuading mothers in poor countries not to breast-feed is impractical on a wide scale: They can't afford or find infant formula and women who do not breast-feed are stigmatized because such unusual behavior raises suspicions of HIV infection.

"Obviously, it would be much better to treat the mothers," said the study's investigators, led by Dr. Joep Lange of the University of Amsterdam Academic Medical Center. "If you don't treat the mothers, they will die...You end up with an intervention that maybe gives you 25 percent efficacy at the most; you are creating orphans, so it's all not very effective."

"Fortunately the scaling up of access to care is now taking place. You have to see this as an intermediate stage," he said, explaining that the study aimed to deliver a simple treatment for the children to reduce the risk of HIV spread through breast milk.

He said up to 15 percent of babies born to HIV-infected mothers get the virus through breast-feeding and that in their study, in which all 397 infants were given syrup containing one of two common AIDS drugs, the rate was about 1 percent.

The study is the first to demonstrate that giving babies antiretroviral medications for up to six months can prevent them from contracting HIV from their mothers through breast milk.

In the study, in which the women were given standard treatment for preventing mother-to-child transmission, 30 babies were infected with HIV by the time they were 6 months old. The majority of those — 24 — had been born HIV positive.

Dr. Francois Dabis, a professor of epidemiology at the French national AIDS research agency who was not connected with the study, said the findings were encouraging but that more research is needed before such a strategy should be widely adopted.

"In this study they limited breast-feeding to about three to four months, which is relatively

See HIV on C4

## Wake Forest researchers look at caffeine withdrawal

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Researchers at Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center think they may have discovered the reason for caffeine-withdrawal headaches. The same phenomenon could cause false results in a test designed to diagnose strokes.

Paul Laurienti, M.D., Ph.D., and colleagues published their findings recently in *Radiology*. Laurienti is an assistant professor of diagnostic radiology.

Caffeine affects both the brain cell receptors and the blood vessel receptors in the brain. It acts as a stimulant, blocking inhibitory signals and increasing brain cell activity. Caffeine also decreases the amount of blood flow to the brain.

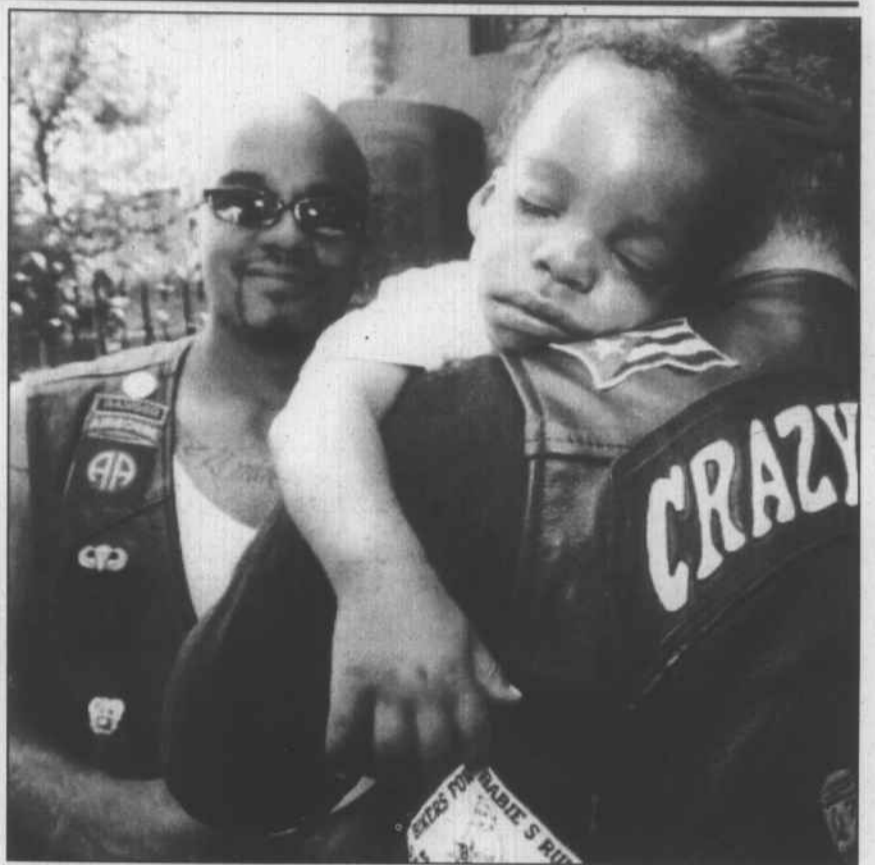
Withdrawal from caffeine intake in heavy caffeine users causes an increased amount of blood flow to the brain. That phenomenon can cause false results in tests used to predict



File Photo

Not having your morning caffeine may affect the way your brain functions.

See Caffeine on C4



Ismael Mones looks on as fellow biker Mike Guilloty, both of the Crazy Pistons Motorcycle Club, holds a sleeping Hale House tot.

## Bikers give diapers to renowned Hale House

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

NEW YORK, N.Y. — The eighth annual "Bikers for Babies" recently roared into Harlem bearing gifts of diapers for the Hale House children.

Approximately 300 motorcyclists arrived in front of Hale House and unloaded — assembly-line style — a flatbed truck filled with hundreds of boxes of donated baby diapers.

The bikers started their run at the Crazy Pistons Motorcycle Club in Williamsburg, Brooklyn, and rode across the Williamsburg Bridge, up Manhattan to 125th Street, where they cruised through the Harlem neighborhood to Hale House. A welcome station greeted them with banners, photo displays from past years and cold water for the riders.

"We are delighted to see such incredible — and repeated — support from these biker clubs and Bikers for Babies," said Dr. Lawrence Davenport, executive director of Hale House. "Their charitable works are truly valued by Hale House and this community."

In addition to the Crazy Pistons, biker clubs repre-



Lobo of the Taino Tribe Motorcycle Club stacks diapers.

sented included the Unknown Bikers, the Forbidden Ones and the Taino Tribe.

The "Bikers for Babies" run was created by Ralph Figueroa and Pernell Chance and has been delivering baby diapers to Hale House since 1995.

Hale House Center Inc. was incorporated by "Mother" Clara Hale in 1972 to care for babies affected by drugs, illnesses and other circumstances affecting their moth-

ers' or families' ability to care for them.

Over the decades, hundreds of children have found sanctuary in Mother Hale's brownstone in Harlem. Today, Hale House — with a new leadership team in place — continues to be an important part of the community, providing a warm, loving, nurturing home for infants and young children, and support for families in need.

## Local Mental Health Association gets grant

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

The Mental Health Association in Forsyth County was recently awarded a \$3,500 grant from the Morgan Stanley Foundation, according to Andy Hagler, executive director of The Mental Health Association in Forsyth County.

The funds will be used to provide operating support for the association's: teen and adolescent support group, SPEAK OUT!; Lending Library and Resource Center; and representative payee services, a budget/bill paying service for persons with mental illness who are unable to manage their Social Security or disability funds.

The grant is made on behalf of the volunteer efforts of Kathy Acton, a Morgan Stanley employee in Winston-Salem and a member of the governing board of The Mental Health Association in Forsyth County. Acton has served as a volunteer with

The Mental Health Association in Forsyth County for more than five years in several capacities. She began her volunteer work with the association through its court assistance program. Acton began serving on The Mental Health Association's governing board in 1999. Acton was board president from July 2001 to June 2003. She currently serves as the association's past president.

"Kathy is passionate when it comes to mental health issues, is 'hands-on,' and her exemplary leadership has resulted in creating greater awareness, heightening sensitivity and educating our community about mental illness," Hagler said. "We are very fortunate to have Kathy on our team."

The Morgan Stanley Foundation grant represents support from all of the business units within Morgan Stanley, including Discover Financial Services and Van Kampen Investments.