

Hospital flu cases on the rise as U.S. becomes older, grayer

CHICAGO — The number of people hospitalized in the United States because of the flu has climbed substantially over the past two decades to an average of more than 200,000 a year, in large part because of the aging of the population, a government study found.

Severe cases of the flu can result in pneumonia, dehydration or a worsening of chronic medical conditions and can be life-threatening.

Coming just as doctors are receiving the first supplies of this year's flu vaccine, the study demonstrates that the ailment is not trivial, and underscores the importance of prevention, said lead researcher William Thompson of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The annual average of 226,054 hospitalizations a year is almost double the CDC's previous esti-

mate, partly because it includes data from more recent years when more severe virus strains prevailed, and partly because the researchers used a broader category of flu-related illnesses to reach the new estimate.

The findings were published in Wednesday's *Journal of the American Medical Association*. The nationally representative findings are based on records from about 500 hospitals from 1979 through 2001.

Annual flu shots have been recommended for people 65 and older since the 1960s and for those 50 and older since 2000, but only about two thirds of older adults get vaccinated.

Annual shots also are recommended for all children ages 6 months to 23 months; women who will be pregnant during flu season; and people with chronic health problems including heart disease, diabetes and asthma.

ROADMAP

yet to be precisely defined by NIH.

One goal shared by the Roadmap initiative and the University is to create new research teams consisting of members from varied fields.

James Anderson, chairman of the department of cellular and molecular physiology, served as chairman of the task force, which examined research programs at several other institutions. He said UNC is trying to match NIH requests with the strengths of UNC researchers.

Juliano said he wants the faculty to become aware of opportunities for multidisciplinary research. Starting in October, the committee will sponsor symposia for researchers in a wide range of disciplines.

Juliano said research often can be highly specific and complex work but that it can be streamlined by "tackling big problems by merging peoples' skills, abilities and resources."

One Roadmap goal is to speed the transition of research from the lab to the clinic, thereby improving medicine, Juliano said.

Another Roadmap aim is promotion of nanotechnology; on campus, researchers in chemistry, physics and biology can work together to create new ways to treat diseases like cancer on a cellular level.

But these advancements aren't something that will happen overnight, Juliano said. "It's a matter of slowly laboring away in the field and seeing what grows up."

Contact the University Editor at udesk@unc.edu.

PLAYBOY

sibly pursue acting in the future. She also hopes to pose again for *Playboy*.

Nick Morris, a 2003 UNC graduate, said he got a copy of this year's ACC *Playboy* edition signed for his friend.

Morris said he ruined his friend's copy of the 1998 ACC edition while on a trip to the University of Virginia in high school.

"I spilled a drink all over it, and

I vowed to get a copy of the next one," he said.

Morris said he is driving to UVA on Friday to get signatures from models in the ACC edition who will be signing there. He then plans to send the magazine to his friend.

Morris asked Gery to sign: "To Jeff, thanks for the memories."

Gery will be hosting a launch party at 10:30 p.m. Oct. 1 at Spice Street.

Contact the City Editor at citydesk@unc.edu.

PERRY

"loose nukes" under control. Enriched plutonium, uranium and nuclear bombs should be guarded as well as the gold in Fort Knox.

And other nations must be prevented from getting nuclear weapons. The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons is a good start, he said, but it has loopholes that Iran and North Korea have exploited. He added that the most imminent danger comes from North Korea.

This small nation, which the

Bush administration has classified as an "axis of evil" power, feels threatened by the United States — a feeling that has been amplified by the war with Iraq, Perry said.

Finally, the risk of accidental nuclear launch must be eliminated by engaging Russia in talks to take nuclear weapons down from high alert.

Perry emphasized the need for diplomacy with other nations in order to deal with the threat of terrorist attacks as well as the necessity of addressing the social and economic disparities that drive people to support terrorist activi-

ties in their communities.

"The willingness to cooperate is being frayed by the unilateral action taken in so many fields," he said.

"We can win battles unilaterally, but we cannot win the war without international cooperation."

"The United States should engage allies, listen carefully to their views and work hard to accommodate them," Perry said.

"I do not believe this is mission impossible."

Contact the State & National Editor at stntdesk@unc.edu.

CAMPAIGN

the Chapel Hill-Carrboro Chamber of Commerce.

An active, healthy community will enhance the town's national reputation, Nelson said. By focusing on greenways and encouraging walking through the program, the town will attract a creative class of people and reduce health insurance costs, he said.

Other endeavors in the Go Chapel Hill program include Safe

Routes to School, which is being piloted at Ephesus Elementary School; the National Walk to School Day on Oct. 6; and the 10,000 Steps Program.

The safe routes program encourages students to ride a bike or walk versus taking a car, said Ellen Young of the Orange County Health Department.

A new Orange County recreation map that outlines outdoor recreation areas also has been created in conjunction with the program, said Maria Hitt

of the Orange County Health Department.

"I think it's fantastic," 80-year-old Chapel Hill resident Eva Metzger said of the Go Chapel Hill program.

Metzger, an avid walker, said she has wanted more walking space and recreation opportunities in the community for years.

She said the program will help people get the exercise they need.

Contact the City Editor at citydesk@unc.edu.

THE Daily Crossword

By Gregory E. Paul

ACROSS

1 Manhattan Project project
 6 Glenn of the Eagles
 10 For both sexes
 14 Liquefy
 15 "Damn Yankees" siren
 16 Up to the task
 17 Sitcom group
 19 Explorer Zebulon
 20 L. Michaels' show
 21 Sphere
 22 Stood by
 24 Wildebeest
 25 Standing tall
 26 Meditating moodily
 30 Lifted
 34 Rivulet
 35 Western lily
 37 Snail trail
 38 Eager
 39 Miscue
 41 Mongolian desert
 42 Rescues
 44 Nap
 45 One Baldwin
 46 Personal points of view
 48 Summer drink
 50 Monopoly piece
 52 Mo. for Leos
 53 Pitcher
 56 Banned insecticide
 57 Dribble catcher
 60 Time period
 61 Golf course group

DOWN

1 NYPD alerts
 2 Bask too much
 3 Spoken
 4 Part of MD
 5 Surpassing
 6 Muff
 7 Actor Ely
 8 Dana of "Baretta"
 9 God of the Hebrews
 10 Political roundtable group
 11 Final notice, briefly
 12 Actress Sommer
 13 Act
 18 Injury showing discol-

oration
 23 Crack shots
 24 Mongolian group
 25 Chinese appetizer
 26 Word with band or ring
 27 Adversary
 28 1964 A.L. Rookie of the Year
 29 Geek
 31 Larger and deeper fiddle
 32 Fix securely
 33 Clear frost
 36 Seepage

40 Created anew
 43 Pack compactly
 47 Commits theft
 49 Beginning
 51 Actor Flynn
 53 Return to liquid
 54 Pueblo people
 55 Felt regret
 56 Carpe...!
 57 ___ Mawr College
 58 Little devils
 59 Eight bits
 62 Sch. in Tahlequah, OK
 63 Time period

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