

The Daily Tar Heel

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UNC finds aging gene

Discovery could lead to better care

BY ANDREW DUNN
STAFF WRITER

A team of UNC biologists has discovered a link between aging and cancer that might have direct effects in improving medical care.

Their report states that a gene known to suppress cancer also has been linked to the aging process.

The gene is responsible for the division of stem cells, thus the regrowth of organ tissue. While greater cell division means slower aging, it also causes a higher risk of cancer.

"Not having (the gene) is a good thing because it causes tissues to regrow better, but it is a bad thing because of the increased risk of cancer," said Norman Sharpless, professor at the School of Medicine and a cancer biologist who co-authored the report.

Three groups of researchers, from UNC, Harvard University, and the University of Michigan, participated in the project. UNC holds the patent for the idea.

Others who contributed to UNC's report include: Dr. Janakiraman Krishnamurthy, a research associate; Matthew Ramsey, a graduate student; and Chad Torrice, a research technician.

The clinical applications of

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Ashcroft spurs political debate

Speech defends Patriot Act, Bush

BY LINDSEY NAYLOR

John Ashcroft, former U.S. attorney general and an architect of the controversial Patriot Act, was welcomed Tuesday evening by crowds of UNC students lining the aisles of Memorial Hall for a picture and a handshake.

When he reached the podium, he received a standing ovation.

For the rest of his speech, he fielded interruptions and accusations from audience members less favorable of his political legacy. One group of students, in a coordinated effort, walked out of the theater in the middle of the speech.

Ashcroft made observations to the more than 1,000 audience members about the evolution of U.S. foreign and domestic policy during the five years since the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

He defended the Patriot Act and other security measures, saying they reflect that freedom and justice are better served when attacks are prevented rather than prosecuted or avenged.

"Sometimes in doing what you do to prevent something, you literally ruin the chance for prosecution," he said. "If that's the case, so be it."



Former U.S. Attorney General John Ashcroft speaks to a full audience in Memorial Hall on Tuesday night. His visit was sponsored by the Committee for a Better Carolina and other organizations, including the Young America's Foundation and the Federalist Society.

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EVENT MARKED BY PROTESTS

DOZENS OF STUDENTS, RESIDENTS TURN OUT TO CONDEMN ACTIONS

BY ELIZABETH DEORNELLAS
ASSISTANT STATE & NATIONAL EDITOR

Angry slogans scrawled on bedsheets in red spray paint.

Dancing students who called themselves "radical cheerleaders" leading satiric chants.

The scene, generated by the presence of John Ashcroft, former U.S. attorney general, on campus started 30 minutes before his 6:30 p.m. speech in Memorial Hall Tuesday night.

"We want to have an open and free exchange of information on college campuses," said Trey Winslett, president of the Committee for a Better Carolina, one of the sponsors of Ashcroft's speech.

The speech also was funded by the Federalist Society, Young America's Foundation and UNC student activity fees.

The total cost of the presentation was more than \$25,000, with \$10,000 coming

from student fees.

Although the approximately 50 students and community members who came to protest Ashcroft's speech don't agree with his politics, they do agree that open debate is vital.

"I am most sort of astonished at the state that things have come to — really I'm appalled at the changes in civil liberties and the so-called war on terror," said Emily Noonan, an anthropology graduate student at UNC.

"It's mostly just being appalled and angry — this is one thing that I can be vocal about."

Noonan said it was encouraging to see other citizens who are concerned about protecting civil liberties.

"I don't think there's been nearly enough vocal opposition."

The "radical cheerleaders," a group of

SEE PROTEST, PAGE 8



Senior Eric Gardner (left) uses a bullhorn to rally the protesters gathered outside Memorial Hall to protest former U.S. Attorney General John Ashcroft's speech.

Experts forecast admissions debate

BY ALLISON NICHOLS
ASSISTANT STATE & NATIONAL EDITOR

Pending affirmative action lawsuits could change the legal landscape of education access in both higher and secondary education nationwide.

INSIDE
Leaders discuss the importance of access to education.

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The issues of opportunity, accessibility and race are needed to prevent a backward slide.

"We have to think about what we're doing collectively," said Joshua Wyner, vice president of programs at the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation, which grants scholarships.

Julius Chambers, director of

UNC's Center for Civil Rights, explained his vision for the use of affirmative action in America.

"It's that we're trying to encourage a number of select colleges and universities to add as one of the factors they consider in admissions whether the student has attended a diverse high school."

He said UNC's success at ensuring that educational opportunities are available to all North Carolinians, while still maintaining impressive rankings, is a major achievement.

"I think it's one of the most progressive institutions around."

The conference emphasized that pending cases could have widespread national repercussions.

SEE ADMISSIONS, PAGE 8

UNC professor offers insight to Afghanistan

Reynolds helps draft election law

"They needed experience of how elections work in other parts of the world."

BY ASHLEE SADLER
STAFF WRITER

The U.S. Constitution was written as a basic outline for democracy more than 200 years ago, and now a UNC professor is helping fashion similar documents overseas.

For 16 years, Andrew Reynolds, a professor of political science, has worked in about 25 countries — such as Afghanistan, Lebanon and Mongolia — helping to institute election laws for fledgling democracies.

In August, Reynolds took his third trip to Afghanistan, returning just one day before the fall semester began.

He said his visit showed worsening conditions in the country.

"It's increasingly insecure in the capital," he said. "It's a lot more difficult to move around in

ANDREW REYNOLDS, POLITICAL SCIENCE PROFESSOR

Kabul. It's better than the countryside, but even more fragile now than when I was there before."

Reynolds also visited Afghanistan in 2004 and 2005.

During his third visit, Reynolds helped draft an election systems law for the country's next parliamentary elections.

"It was necessary for them because the first national system elections were last year — and it didn't work very well," he said. "They needed experience of how elections work in other parts of the world."

Reynolds said he practiced many techniques to influence policymaking, including meeting with new members of parliament and lecturing at the University of Kabul.

"For me, speaking to all those

different groups helps me find out what specific needs Afghans have," he said.

Reynolds also spoke to past leaders — many of whom are warlords and drug lords. In particular, he talked to Rashid Dostum, a major warlord who controls part of northern Afghanistan.

"I've had to work with him about democratic issues — but he's known to be one of the biggest human rights abusers in the country," Reynolds said.

"It's hard when you have to work with those individuals who are war-crime perpetrators."

Reynolds said he's able to relay his experiences to enhance the classes he teaches, especially his first-year seminar, "Designing Democracies."

"Students like to hear the



COURTESY OF ANDREW REYNOLDS
Andrew Reynolds, seen here in the Panjshir valley in August 2006, helped draft an election systems law for Afghanistan.

behind-the-scenes stories," he said. "It makes it more real. They see the realities of how hard it is to create complex democracy in this (chaotic) state."

Freshman Jon Kersting, who is enrolled in Reynolds' seminar, said hearing about Reynolds' ground-

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CORRECTION

Due to reporting errors, the Monday front page story, "Orange County residents take pause to reflect on U.S. tragedies" states that Vivette Jeffries-Logan delivered "pony peace prayer." She delivered a Saponi peace prayer. Also, the Occaneechi tribe name was misspelled. The Daily Tar Heel apologizes for the errors.

announcement

WE'RE HIRING

Want to join the nation's top college newspaper? If the answer is yes, your application is due today by 5 p.m. Drop them off in Union 2409.

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THE SEXY PICK

Coach John Bunting announces that redshirt freshman Cameron Sexton will start under center Saturday against Furman, replacing Joe Dailey.



this day in history

SEPT. 13, 1988 ...

Col. J. Harry Stow says enrollment in UNC's ROTC program dropped 50 percent since the spring because 37 university units are slated for closure or consolidation.

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