Researcher discovers new weapon to treat brain cancer cells resistant to chemotherapy

By Meghan Cunningham

Patients diagnosed with the most common and most deadly type of brain tumor have few options. Even the most aggressive surgery to remove the glioblastoma multiforme tumor mass leaves microscopic residual tumor cells behind that migrate to another part of the brain and grow again.

Oncologists need a new way to treat this invasive and fast-growing tumor, which doesn’t respond to radiation or chemotherapy, and a University of Toledo researcher might have found it.

Dr. William Maltese, professor and chair of the UT Department of Biochemistry and Cancer Biology in the College of Medicine and Life Sciences, has discovered a new way to kill cells; he calls it methuosis, which is from the Greek for “to drink to intoxication.” Rather than the common cell death method of apoptosis, which can be triggered with radiation and drugs that cause DNA damage, prompting the cell to shrink and disintegrate, this new form of cell death causes the cell to take on liquid until it explodes.

“The average survival rate for adults diagnosed with this type of tumor is only about one and one-half years. Next to pancreatic cancer, this is the most deadly type of cancer, and the current treatments we have are ineffective,” Maltese said. “We need to be aggressive in our research to achieve a breakthrough. There are treatments for other types of cancer that we certainly can improve upon, but we need to make it a priority to find something that works for these patients who now have very few options.”

Unlike apoptosis, this new methuosis cell death pathway does not occur naturally. But Maltese and his research team have found an appropriate drug-like molecule to induce it. A patent application is in process on the compound.

Early lab tests show that methuosis is effective in destroying glioblastoma multiforme cells that have become resistant to the front-line drug, temozolomide, but more research needs to be done to determine if molecules that induce this form of cell death might be useful for treating cancer patients.

Maltese recently received a $1.4 million grant from the National Institutes of Health to continue his research. The next step is to find the best way to target the molecule.

Longenecker recognized as top 10 business professor in global competition

By Bob Mackowiak

Dr. Clint Longenecker, Stranahan Professor of Leadership and Business Excellence in the College of Business and Innovation, finished as one of the top 10 vote-getters in The Economist Intelligence Unit Business Professor of the Year contest.

As a result, he is on the long list for the award and may be one of four finalists invited to London for a live global teach-off.

Longenecker was one of two professors from the United States to make the top 10, besting nominees from other prestigious business schools, including Harvard, Duke, Michigan, Ohio State, Cornell, Pennsylvania (Wharton), Virginia (Darden), Northwestern and Stanford.

“It is wonderful recognition for the UT College of Business and Innovation to be represented in the top 10, especially given the global competition,” Longenecker said. “Our students and faculty know this is a great institution, and now other business schools and organizations around the world have an opportunity to learn more about what we do and how well we do it.

“This was a very competitive process against some of the best business school...
Blackboard upgrade coming spring semester

Over the past year, Blackboard has released two upgrades to its Blackboard 9.1 learning system platform: Service Packs 8 and 9.

Service Pack 8 introduced a number of new features, while Service Pack 9 corrected a number of problems introduced in previous versions.

“Since their initial release, Learning Ventures has monitored other schools as they’ve upgraded to Service Packs 8 and 9, and we’re now confident that we safely can take advantage of the many new features and enhancements that these upgrades offer,” said Dr. Jeff Jablonski, senior educational technologist in Learning Ventures. “We will roll out Service Packs 8 and 9 for spring semester.”

The upgrade will take place Thursday, Dec. 27, starting at 2 a.m. During the upgrade process, Blackboard will be unavailable for most of that day. “Faculty members can rest assured that all of their existing course materials and development work on our current version of Blackboard 9.1 will be carried over to the upgraded version,” Jablonski said.

He pointed out some of the new features the upgrade will offer:

- Enhanced user interface: The upgraded version of Blackboard will include an interface that’s both new and familiar to users while providing a cleaner, more modern interface familiar to users while providing support for most popular pedagogical methods.
- Automated re-grading: One of the most requested features in Blackboard has been automated re-grading of tests and quizzes. With automated re-grading, faculty can drop, give full credit, change point values or change which answer is marked correct for any question and the system instantly will re-grade all submitted assessments.
- Negative marking: This feature will allow faculty to apply negative point values to certain incorrect answers to discourage students from guessing or choosing egregiously wrong answers on multiple-choice tests.
- Task-based navigation: This feature will allow faculty members to easily jump from one course to another so that they can perform similar tasks across multiple courses.
- Standards and goals alignment: This is a new set of tools that enables direct editing, creation, alignment and reporting on standards, objectives and goals. Faculty will be able to measure student performance against standards taught and gain greater insight into the achievement of specified learning outcomes.
- Activity and performance reporting: Standards reporting—includes student views against standards, as well as a standard-centric view of aggregated student performance.
- Course-embedded assessment: There will be more types of reports available for rubric-based assessment.
- Enhanced standards support: Blackboard has increased its commitment to open standards so that materials can be shared more easily across different platforms.

Those who would like to learn more about the new features introduced in Service Pack 8 should watch the webinar titled “What’s New in Blackboard Learn, Release 9.1 SP8 for Higher Ed Educators” at http://utole.do/blackboard.

Or see the Service Pack 8 at a glance summary at http://utole.do/blackboardpdf.

For questions or more information, contact Learning Ventures at UTLV@utoledo.edu or call 419.530.8835 and ask to speak with one of the instructional designers or educational technologists.

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professors in the world, and I am very appreciative that our university, students and alumni base were actively engaged in the selection process. I want to thank all those who participated in the process and let people know that this has been a very humbling and rewarding experience. I feel very fortunate and honored to be eligible for the teach-off in London on a world stage to spread the word about the College of Business and Innovation and The University of Toledo,” he said.

The award, presented by The Economist and sponsored by Hult International Business School, was created to find and recognize the best business professor in the world.

Longenecker was nominated by some of his former students. Go to businessprofessoraward.com and click on his photo to read comments posted by some of his students.

The UT graduate and former Rocket football player has been a faculty member here for more than 30 years. During his career, he has received more than 40 awards for his outstanding leadership, teaching, research and service.

For the teach-off, four professors will be flown to London where they will present a short lecture to a live classroom audience and online. The presentation will be on a topic of their choice, and at the end viewers will vote and the winner will be announced live and receive the title of Economist Intelligence Unit Business Professor of the Year as well as $100,000.

Survey to improve work environment for UTMC physicians, employees

Physicians and employees at The University of Toledo Medical Center now have the chance to voice their opinions on their work environment.

The survey, delivered by Press Ganey, will measure employee satisfaction and engagement.

All UTMC employees will receive a hard copy of the survey along with a PIN number, which they can use to complete the survey online at surveymapressganey.com.

UTMC departments with participation rates of 90 percent or higher will be entered to win a gift basket. After the deadline, three departments will be awarded gift baskets with treats to be shared among the staff.

Surveys will be confidential and take about 15 minutes to complete. Employees and physicians must have their surveys postmarked and in the mail or submitted online by Monday, Dec. 24.

Press Ganey does not release any information regarding whether or not employees or physicians have completed the survey.

Completed surveys will be processed by Press Ganey employees who will analyze the data and determine how UTMC employees feel about their work environment.

For questions, contact Melissa Foos, analyst in experience of care at UT Medical Center, at melissa.foos@utoledo.edu.

Correction

Mulford Librarian Jim Garrett’s last name was incorrect in a story about the Instructions to Authors Database that appeared in the last issue.
Headquartered in Paris, the international higher education ranking agency Eduniversal endeavors to provide information for students that enables them to make the right decision regarding the choice of their future studies anywhere in the world.

Eduniversal defines a business school’s international reputation “as its capacity to enhance the prestige of a student — and therefore improve his employment prospects — in his country of study and abroad.”

“By providing a serious and reliable reference that reflects the international dimension of the 1,000 Best Business Schools in the world, Eduniversal serves as an essential tool for students, human resource professionals, and deans and directors from all corners of the world,” said Martial Guiette, CEO and founder of Eduniversal.

Classification by Eduniversal as an excellent school is based on two essential elements: the internationalization criteria — which includes accreditations, such as by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business; rankings by publications such as Business Week and The Wall Street Journal; membership in international associations; and university studies — and the vote by 1,000 business school deans around the world. Every dean’s vote was transformed into a recommendation rate that students and others in the academic field can use to evaluate and compare the academic institutions.

“We are very excited by this prestigious ranking, which validates the high quality of our faculty and students, as well as the significance of our curriculum at all levels,” said Dr. Thomas Sharkey, interim dean of the College of Business and Innovation. “Not only has the UT College of Business and Innovation again been recognized by this international organization, but we are honored to have advanced to the next level as an excellent school.”

“Furthermore, we completely agree with Eduniversal’s emphasis on the importance of a business school improving a student’s employment prospects. This is a primary focus in our college, and an area in which we perform extremely well, with a more than 85 percent job placement rate for our graduating students, even during recent challenging economic conditions,” he said.

The results officially were announced at the annual Eduniversal convention in Lima, Peru, this fall.

The College of Business and Innovation also is a member of the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business, a recognition earned by only 5 percent of all business schools in the world, and consistently is acknowledged as one of America’s Best Business Schools by The Princeton Review.
Submissions sought for Health Science Campus Artist Showcase

Friday, Dec. 7, is the deadline to apply for consideration to be included in the 2013 Health Science Campus Artist Showcase.

Mulford Library is accepting submissions from faculty, staff and students in the health sciences — nursing, medicine, pharmacy and health professions — as well as UT Medical Center employees.

Electronic images of artwork should be sent to mulfordartshow@gmail.com.

Submission guidelines and details can be found at libguides.utoledo.edu/hscart.

The eighth annual Health Science Campus Artist Showcase will be on display from Jan. 23 through March 18 on the fourth floor of Mulford Library.

Diana Attie, UT professor emeritus of art, will be the guest speaker at the artist reception, which will take place Friday, Feb. 1, from 4 to 6 p.m.

For more information, contact Jodi Jameson, an instructor in the College of Nursing and librarian at Mulford Library, who is a member of the artist showcase committee, at jodi.jameson@utoledo.edu or 419.383.5152.

HENDRICK’S GIFT: Jon Hendricks, UT Distinguished Professor of Jazz, contributed an original song, “The Gift,” that is featured on this year’s Holiday Wishes 2, a two-disc set that is for sale for $15 at area Panera Bread restaurants and online at Amazon and iTunes. All proceeds from the CDs go to Make-A-Wish Ohio, Kentucky and Indiana to benefit children in the 21-county northwest Ohio area. Leading the way on the fundraising project is UT alumnus Michael S. Miller, editor-in-chief of Toledo Free Press. In addition to Hendricks, other local musicians who contributed seasonal selections include Pat Dailey, Mannheim Steamroller, Candice Coleman, Voodoo Libido, Tatiana Owens, Skoobie Snaks, Hepcat Revival, Sheri LaFountaine, The Wanna Bees and The Sanderlings.
Works by faculty members of the Department of Art are on display through Sunday, Dec. 9, in the Center for the Visual Arts Gallery on the Toledo Museum of Art Campus.

The free, public exhibition titled “UT Art Faculty Show” can be seen Monday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Pieces on display reflect the fall semester theme of “Reclaim + Collaborate.”

“Nocturne,” mixed media, by Dan Hernandez

“Unraveling Her Green Square,” conté crayon, pastel, collagraph, by Mania Dajnak

“Close Encounters,” oil on canvas, by Greg Jones

“Sitting on the Cliffs With Dad,” ceramic, smoke-fired, by Karen Roderick-Lingeman

“Amphoria Series: Amphora #3,” porcelain, nichrome, stoneware, by Adam Shiverdecker

Photos by Daniel Miller
Magen David Adom Israeli relief drive reaches UT

By Casey Cheap

The impact of the violence between Israel and Hamas was not only felt in Gaza, but around the world and at The University of Toledo.

Max Gold, a UT senior majoring in philosophy, is organizing a local donation drive in conjunction with Magen David Adom, a rapid-response team that provides Israel with disaster relief, emergency medical response and blood services.

Since 1929, Magen David Adom — which means “Red Star of David” or literally “Red Shield of David” — has provided both the Israeli military and civilians with medical relief, most notably on the front lines during Israel’s War of Independence, the Six-Day War and the Yom Kippur War.

Because there is a current end to hostilities, Gold is fundraising for the replenishment of desperately needed supplies.

“This event is meant to help give relief to Israel’s first responders by raising money for the replenishment of desperately needed supplies,” Gold said. “I think it’s a wonderful opportunity for The University of Toledo community to look to see the brave men and women beyond the military conflicts we see on the news each day.”

Gold’s goal for UT is to help Magen David Adom raise at least $1,000, which is about the cost of sponsoring a fully stocked first-responder bag.

“We are going for at least one bag and with everyone’s help, we may be able to supply them with more,” said Cari M. Immerman, director for the Magen David Adom region that represents Ohio, Kentucky, Michigan and Western Pennsylvania. “Every fully stocked bag helps Magen David Adom save lives.”

Mandated by the Israeli government, the organization is funded through private donations.

“Magen David Adom was able to respond so quickly during the eight days of violence in Israel because they were prepared and ready, fully stocked with supplies and all of their team members — EMTs, paramedics, social workers and volunteers — were well-trained,” said Cari Margulis Immerman, Magen David Adom director for Ohio.

Students and faculty and staff members interested in making donations can contact Gold at maxwell.gold@utoledo.edu or go to http://saving-lives.afmda.org and search for Maxwell Gold.

Gold said he will accept donations for Magen David Adom through spring semester.

Gain more Rocket pride at utoledogear yard sale

By Samantha Watson

If you have T-shirts representing other universities, now is the perfect time to trade them in and gain some more Rocket pride.

At this year’s utoledogear yard sale, attendees are encouraged to donate shirts from other universities in return for a free T-shirt supporting The University of Toledo. Donated T-shirts will be given to the Salvation Army to help those in need.

The yard sale will take place Wednesday, Dec. 5, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Student Union South Lounge.

Representatives from utoledogear and the Rocket Shop, which is located in Savage Arena, will be at the sale with discounted merchandise available for purchase.

To look at merchandise, visit utoledogear.com.

Those looking to buy at the yard sale may use cash or credit; Rocket Cards will not be accepted.

Researcher

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The UT research team also will investigate the most effective way to treat the tumor, which could include local delivery at the surgery site when the tumor is removed or with a specific drug formula that can be given intravenously and is able to get through the blood-brain barrier.

to only induce the cell death in tumor cells and not normal cells. Biomarker research aimed at identifying the specific tumor proteins that are targeted by the death-inducing molecule will help to achieve this goal, Maltese said.
UTC3 in home stretch; thank-you event Dec. 7

By Kim Goodin

There’s still time to improve the human condition through this year’s University of Toledo Community Charitable Campaign (UTC3).

With the campaign wrapping up at the end of December, pledges total about $125,000. The goal is $175,000.

“We’re in the midst of the busiest shopping time of the year,” said Vicki Riddick, senior wellness officer and chair of UTC3. “Many of us are spending generously on gifts, decorations and events connected to the holidays. I’m hoping there’s a portion of all of our budgets that can go toward the UTC3 campaign so we can make this a true season of giving.”

The campaign is specific to the UT community and targets four local federations: the United Way of Greater Toledo, Northwest Ohio Community Shares, Community Health Charities of Ohio and EarthShare of Ohio. These organizations represent hundreds of local and international charitable organizations across the globe.

Members of the UT community can explore their giving options on the UTC3 website at bit.ly/UTCCC. By entering a user code and a password supplied in emails sent to each employee, users view a variety of organizations and match their giving preferences with charities that reflect their philanthropic passions.

Although about 10 percent of the UT community has donated to this year’s campaign, Riddick hopes a majority of faculty, staff and students will pledge, regardless of the donation amount. Donations may be made online at bit.ly/UTCCC, using passwords provided in emails distributed to those who haven’t yet donated.

Employees who donated at least $120 to the campaign will receive email invitations to a special thank-you open house Friday, Dec. 7, at the Cavern on Scott Park Campus. The event is similar to the celebratory breakfast held in past years, but has been streamlined to accommodate employees’ schedules.

“Feedback from past years has been that some people just don’t have time to come to a formal program,” said Sandra Manton, executive assistant to the chief financial officer and vice president for finance, and a member of the UTC3 steering committee. “This year’s event is more casual. Employees can come when their schedules allow, get some breakfast, and mingle with friends. The important thing is saying thank you to all who donated to UTC3.”

There also will be a brief presentation about the campaign. Rocky and Rocksy, UT’s mascots, will be on hand as well.

In memoriam

Dr. Ahmad M. Farhoud, Toledo, associate professor of engineering technology, died Nov. 15 at age 49. He received three degrees from UT: a bachelor of science degree in electrical engineering in 1985, a master of science degree in 1987 and a doctorate in 1992. Farhoud began teaching at his alma mater in 2000 when he joined the Engineering Technology Department as an assistant professor. Six years later, he received tenure and was promoted to associate professor. Farhoud also served as an undergraduate adviser for electrical engineering technology. In 2004, he received the College of Engineering’s Outstanding Teacher Award.

Lynne R. King, Maumee, a former volunteer at UT Medical Center, died Nov. 19 at age 77.

COLORFUL CATCH: Doctoral ecology student Carson Prichard held up a rainbow trout he caught in the Ottawa River on UT’s Main Campus. Nick Bryan, a graduate student in ecology, also caught a rainbow trout. The recent catches show that this species has begun using this part of the Ottawa River, according to Bryan, who is a teaching assistant in the Department of Environmental Sciences. Trout are indicators of good water and habitat quality in rivers, and until now were not seen at UT, he said. The trout are examples of the improved aquatic habitat from the Ottawa River restoration project, which began earlier this year with help from a $235,000 grant from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency and a $111,000 grant from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

UTC News is published for faculty, staff and students by the University Communications Office weekly during the academic year and periodically during the summer. Copies are mailed to employees and placed in newstands on the Main, Health Science, Scott Park and Toledo Museum of Art campuses. UT News strives to present accurate, fair and timely communication of interest to employees. Story ideas and comments from the UT community are welcome. Send information by campus mail to #949, University Communications Office, Vicki Kroll. E-mail: vicki.kroll@utoledo.edu. Fax: 419.530.4618. Phone: 419.530.2248. Mailing address: University Communications Office, The University of Toledo, Toledo, OH 43606-3390.

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Santa Claus, alien trek through solar system in holiday program

Children often look for Santa Claus riding in his sleigh pulled by reindeer in the nighttime sky Christmas Eve, but what if they spotted a flying saucer?

See “The Alien Who Stole Christmas” at The University of Toledo Ritter Planetarium and see what happens!

Produced by the Brevard Community College Planetarium and Observatory, the program shows St. Nick on an adventure with his new friend, Mr. Freep, as they visit planets in the solar system.

In addition, discover what stars are visible in the winter sky.

Viewers will have the chance to see the holiday program shown with the Spitz SciDome XD projector, which uses more than 6.5 million pixels and the entire hemisphere of the 40-foot dome.

“The Alien Who Stole Christmas,” recommended for children 4 to 10, will be shown Saturdays at 1 p.m. through Dec. 22.

“Tales of the Maya Skies” is playing Friday nights through Dec. 21 at 7:30 p.m.

As many know, Dec. 21, 2012, marks the day some believe the Maya predicted the world would end, and the film will touch on this phenomenon.

Produced by Chabot Space & Science Center, “Tales of the Maya Skies” inspires and educates through its description of the Maya’s accurate astronomical achievements and how astronomy connected them to the universe.

Admission is $7 for adults and $5 for children 4 through 12, seniors, and UT students and employees; children 3 and younger are free.

For more information, call Ritter Planetarium at 419.530.2650 or its 24-hour information hotline at 419.530.4037.

Listen to “The Relevant University”
Monday, Dec. 3, at 7 p.m. • AM 760 WJR
Topic: College students preparing for careers through internships and co-ops