



"Fulfilling the Promise" is a special AAMC initiative highlighting the collaboration between the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and academic medicine. As research engines of the U.S. health system, the nation's medical schools and major teaching hospitals are awarded more than half of all NIH grants to scientists through its extramural research program. For more than 60 years, this powerful partnership has provided the public with access to advances in medical research and the very best health care."

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[www.aamc.org/ftp](http://www.aamc.org/ftp)

## Pioneering NIH-funded research under way at U.S. medical schools and teaching hospitals:

### Memory loss is related to testosterone level

Researchers at **Oregon Health & Science University** discovered that men undergoing treatment for prostate cancer suffer memory loss faster than healthy men. Men going through testosterone deprivation therapy, a common prostate cancer treatment, experience significant word retention drops after only two minutes when compared to others not in treatment. Based on a study of 30 individuals, 14 of whom were undergoing therapy, scientists believe the quick memory loss indicates that a lack of testosterone adversely affects the hippocampus and its ability to control memory. For information: [www.ohsu.edu/news/2004/102104forget.html](http://www.ohsu.edu/news/2004/102104forget.html)

### Kidney development through fruit fly eyes

The same combination of proteins that creates the honeycomb pattern found in the eyes of fruit flies also creates the delicate filtering structures of the human kidney, according to research from the **Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis**. This finding provides a new understanding of how individual cells find their niche during organ development and also means that the fruit fly eye can now become a fast, inexpensive system for gaining insight into how kidneys develop in mammals and why development sometimes goes awry. For information: [mednews.wustl.edu/news/page/normal/5371.html?emailID=5584](http://mednews.wustl.edu/news/page/normal/5371.html?emailID=5584)

### Asians have highest iron levels

Results of the largest and most diverse screening study of hemochromatosis and iron overload ever conducted show that Asians and Pacific Islanders have the highest levels of iron in their blood of all other ethnic groups involved in the study - African Americans, Caucasians, Hispanics, and Native Americans. Elevated iron levels in the blood are sometimes associated with accumulations of iron in vital body organs, which can lead to an increased risk of diabetes, arthritis, sexual dysfunction, liver disease and liver cancer, and heart disease. This study was conducted by medical researchers at **Howard University, University of Alabama at Birmingham, University of California Irvine, Wake Forest University, and University of Minnesota Academic Health Center**. For information: [www.ahc.umn.edu/news/releases/ironoverload042705/home.html](http://www.ahc.umn.edu/news/releases/ironoverload042705/home.html)

### Treating rheumatoid arthritis

**University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill** researchers have discovered that rheumatoid arthritis patients who are treated with methotrexate have a higher risk of developing or reactivating cancer and Epstein-Barr virus. For information: [www.unc.edu/news/archives/nov04/arthritis11704.html](http://www.unc.edu/news/archives/nov04/arthritis11704.html)

### Gut check shows stomach diversity

The universe of microbes that lives in a person's stomach may be nearly as unique as his/her fingerprint, according to researchers at the **Stanford University School of Medicine** who have embarked on the early stages of exploring the intestinal ecosystem. Researchers conducted the most extensive study to date surveying the inhabitants of the lower digestive

## Next Hill Briefing Oct. 21, 2005

Research on Alzheimer's and other age-related diseases

## Previous Briefings

**The Human Genome & Cancer**  
Francis Collins, M.D., Ph.D., NIH  
Victor Velculescu, M.D., Ph.D., Johns Hopkins

## The Partnership between NIH and Academic Medicine

Elias Zerhouni, M.D., NIH  
Jordan J. Cohen, M.D., AAMC

[See the Webcasts >>](#)

## NIH Investment in Medical Research

In 2004, the NIH invested \$13 billion in research at U.S. medical schools and teaching hospitals.  
[www.aamc.org/ftp/nih.htm](http://www.aamc.org/ftp/nih.htm)

## Medical Firsts

Search for medical research contributions made by academic institutions in your state or district. Go to:  
[www.aamc.org/innovations](http://www.aamc.org/innovations)

## About the AAMC

The Association of American Medical Colleges is a nonprofit association representing all 125 accredited U.S. and 17 accredited Canadian medical schools; nearly 400 major teaching hospitals and health systems, including 68 Department of Veterans Affairs medical centers; and 94 academic and scientific societies. Through these institutions and organizations, the AAMC represents 109,000 faculty members, 67,000 medical students, and 104,000 resident physicians.

## Contact Us

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tract; they found up to 395 unique bacterial species in a single person. For information: [mednews.stanford.edu/releases/2005/april/Gutcheck.html](http://mednews.stanford.edu/releases/2005/april/Gutcheck.html)

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