



"Fulfilling the Promise" is a special AAMC initiative highlighting the collaboration between U.S. medical schools and teaching hospitals, and the National Institutes of Health (NIH). 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 extraordinary advances in medical research and the very best health care.

If you missed the recent Fulfilling the Promise Capitol Hill briefing on "Managing Infectious Disease—Prevention, Pandemics and Prognosis" with featured speakers:

- Anthony Fauci, M.D., Director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease
- John Treanor, M.D., Professor of Medicine, Microbiology and Immunology, University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry; Principal Investigator, NIH clinical trial of a prospective avian flu vaccine.

You can view the Webcast at: [www.aamc.org/research/ftp/briefings.htm](http://www.aamc.org/research/ftp/briefings.htm)

## Below are examples of laboratory research and patient studies highlighted at the briefing:

### Progress on avian flu vaccines

A network of seven medical schools and teaching hospitals, supported by the NIH's National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, is leading the nation's effort to evaluate new vaccines for avian flu. Numerous clinical trials with this vaccine are currently being conducted in healthy adults, healthy seniors, and children. Preliminary results of the initial trial show promise that the vaccine is safe, and when administered at high doses, causes immune responses in most recipients that will protect against avian flu.

For information: [www.urmc.rochester.edu/pr/current\\_research/bird\\_flu/index.cfm](http://www.urmc.rochester.edu/pr/current_research/bird_flu/index.cfm)

The seven institutions are:

- Baylor College of Medicine
- University of Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center
- Saint Louis University Health Sciences Center
- University of California, Los Angeles, Center for Vaccine Research
- University of Maryland School of Medicine
- University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry
- Vanderbilt University Medical Center

### Rotavirus vaccine developed

With NIH support, researchers at the **Cincinnati Children's Hospital**

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

Watch for information  
about the next  
Hill briefing in:

**Summer 2006**

See how the NIH  
budget supports  
medical research

[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:  
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### 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 96 academic and scientific societies. Through these institutions and organizations, the AAMC represents 109,000 faculty members, 67,000 medical students, and 104,000 resident

**Medical Center** have discovered a vaccine for rotavirus infections, the most common cause of fatality due to severe diarrhea and vomiting in infants and young children. The vaccine, already offered in Europe, Latin America, and parts of Southeast Asia, will become available in the United States in 2008. With global immunization, this vaccine could prevent 50,000 hospitalizations in the United States and the loss of more than 600,000 lives worldwide each year.

physicians.

For information: <http://www.cincinnatichildrens.org/about/news/release/2006/2-rotavirus-vaccine>

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## Other pioneering NIH-funded research underway at U.S. medical schools and teaching hospitals:

### Clues to Alzheimer's disease

Researchers at **Georgetown University School of Medicine** have a new theory on why Alzheimer's disease patients have trouble performing even the simplest memory tasks. A study conducted at the institution found that neuron receptors that bind to the transport molecules known to play a role in the disease's development and a brain chemical necessary for memory are closely situated, thus potentially creating interference and clogging the binding sites.

For information: <http://explore.georgetown.edu/news/?ID=12895>

### Treatment for multiple myeloma

A study of more than 500 myeloma patients by researchers at the **University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences** revealed that individuals who received more intensive regimens of melphalan-based chemotherapy, before and after bone marrow transplants, had higher remission and overall survival rates. Melphalan is an alkylating agent that interferes with the growth of cancer cells. Multiple myeloma is one of the least curable cancers.

For information: [http://www.uams.edu/update/absolutenm/templates/news\\_release\\_andrea.asp?articleid=4752&zoneid=35](http://www.uams.edu/update/absolutenm/templates/news_release_andrea.asp?articleid=4752&zoneid=35)

### Detecting IBD

Physicians at the **University of Virginia School of Medicine** have successfully tested a new, painless, non-invasive early-detection technique for inflammatory bowel disease (IBD). Tiny microbubbles—about the size of red blood cells—are coated with antibodies to specific molecules that are overproduced and overactive during intestinal inflammation. The bubbles attach themselves to these molecules, allowing ultrasound to detect them, making it easier to evaluate inflammation.

For information: [www.healthsystem.virginia.edu/internet/news/archives06/crohns\\_disease\\_microbubbles.cfm](http://www.healthsystem.virginia.edu/internet/news/archives06/crohns_disease_microbubbles.cfm)

### Obesity, asthma linked

Scientists at the **University of Washington School of Medicine** have discovered a new link between asthma and obesity. In analyzing 1,001 identical and 383 fraternal same-sex twin pairs, a genetic association between asthma and obesity emerged, suggesting that the same genetic factors may cause both conditions.

For information: [www.uwmedicine.org/Global/NewsAndEvents/](http://www.uwmedicine.org/Global/NewsAndEvents/)

