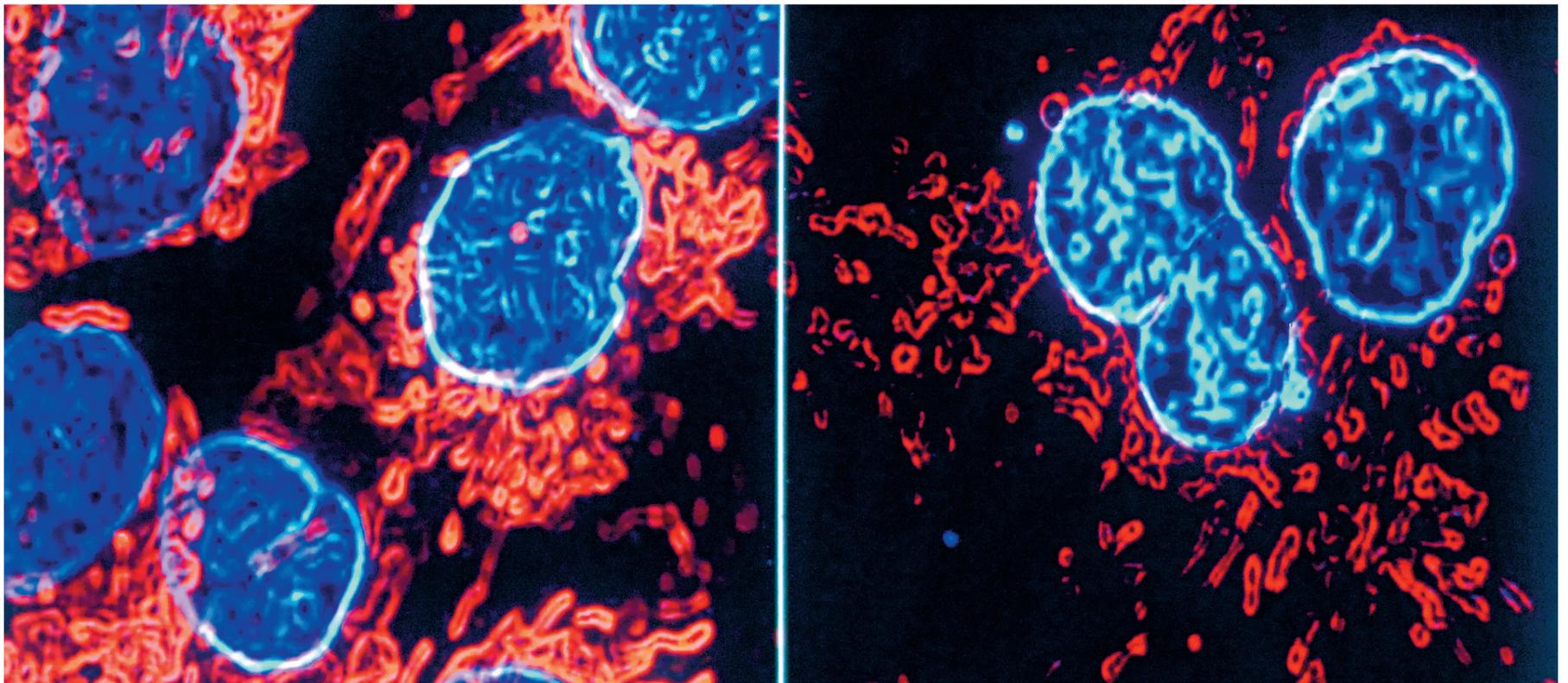


THE GATEWAY

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SUPPLIED

TAKE THAT, CANCER These before and after shots show the effect of DCA, a drug with anti-cancer properties. The treatment is still a long way from human trials, but it's raising eyebrows worldwide.

U of A finds promising cancer drug

While still in early research stages and far from human testing, new compound offers hope of safe, effective treatment for patients

ROBIN COLLUM
News Staff

Researchers at the University of Alberta have opened a new door in cancer treatment by researching the alternate use of a drug that's been around to treat other diseases for decades.

In a paper released this month in the medical journal *Cancer Cell*, a group of scientists from the U of A and the University of Ottawa announced that a molecule previously used to

treat certain genetic conditions has been shown to kill cancer cells and shrink tumours in lab rats.

The group, led by U of A's Dr Evangelos Michelakis, has shown that the generic drug dichloroacetate (DCA) induces death in cancer cells by improving mitochondrial function in the cells. Mitochondria, the major energy-producing units in cells, are also in charge of regulating cell death. Scientists have known since the 1930s that mitochondria in cancer cells

don't work properly, but it was thought that this was an irreversible result of the cancer.

Until now, no one had discovered that the mitochondria could be restored to their previous function.

"The development of cancer is associated with mitochondrial dysfunction," explained Dr Sebastien Bonnet, the U of A post-doctoral student who was the first author of the paper and conducted most of the experiments. "By restoring the mitochondrial function with DCA we

were able to decrease the tumour size, kill the cancer cells and block the growth of cancer."

"When we inject the cancer cells into rats, we see the first effect within a week. It's a slow process, but the tumour size decreases steadily, and goes like that as long as we've been testing."

DCA has been used since the 1970s to treat other conditions and diseases, but its use hadn't been considered for cancer treatment until now.

PLEASE SEE **DCA** ♦ PAGE 5
ALSO READ **FREHNER** ON PAGE 8

Grant Mac looking overseas for students and studies

LACINA DESJARLAIS
News Writer

All university students, at least the ones who go to class, know what a lecture theatre is like, but what if your new lecture theatre could be the world? This is the question that Grant MacEwan College's new Director of International Education, David McLeod, is asking students.

With the new year just beginning, McLeod and his colleagues in the Department of International Education are planning to extend the College's reach beyond Canadian borders and into unfamiliar territory. Their plans include attracting more international students, as well as expanding programs that would create increased opportunities for Grant MacEwan students to spend time studying overseas. McLeod hopes to have much of the groundwork for the expansion laid by this spring,

with a broader range of opportunities and international programs available to students by the end of 2007.

"Ultimately it would be great for every student to be able to spend a year studying abroad or at least for them to have the chance to interact with more international students here."

DAVID MCLEOD

While the U of A may have an excellent international studies program in place, McLeod says that Grant MacEwan

isn't modelling their new programs and ideas exclusively after those being implemented at the University. McLeod explained that expanding educational opportunities into global territory isn't a new concept, and that what they're trying to do is integrate the best of what is already being done with the best of their new ideas to create a brighter future.

"We're not modelling our programs after any other institution exclusively but there are so many programs in the world that it's hard to do something that no one else is doing," McLeod said. "I'm not looking at what [the U of A] is doing and trying to carbon copy it over here; however, if I learn that the U of A is doing something particularly interesting and it's working there, I would be a fool not to look at."

When asked about his vision for the future of international studies at Grant

MacEwan, McLeod said that he had hopes to form new relationships with more of the world's reputable universities and colleges, enabling greater numbers of international exchanges to occur.

Another key point in his plan is to introduce more visiting professors into the College's staff to bring a greater range of teaching styles and perspectives into the mix.

McLeod, a firm believer in the benefits of international education, stated that students had much to gain from the increased presence of international students on campus.

"When you bring students onto campus from abroad, you also have the opportunity to be bringing into the classroom people with different life experiences and different educational backgrounds to challenge some of the familiar ways of thinking and ideas

that are shared in classrooms here," McLeod explained. "Those different perspectives really help to enhance many of the programs, particularly liberal arts and science. The more diverse the student body is, the more diverse the opinions in the classroom will be."

McLeod says that not only is he concerned with academics, but is also focused on helping students to become more aware of the world around them and the new ways of doing things being explored internationally everyday.

"The goal for all students is to make the international less foreign. I want them to see that what they're learning and studying is a part of something larger, that they are a part of something larger," he said. "Ultimately it would be great for every student to be able to spend a year studying abroad or at least for them to have the chance to interact with more international students here."

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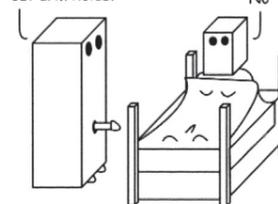


Battle of the classes

The *Gateway* goes undercover in some of the U of A's largest lecture halls to see which courses make the grade.

FEATURE, PAGE 28

Can I at least cut arm holes?



Dick out of a box

Some people wear bags on their heads to conceal their identity. Others go a little bit further with it.

COMICS, PAGE 35