

Blood type doesn't matter when transplanting organs in babies

CATHERINE SCOTT
News Staff

Thanks to new research, the littles patients awaiting organ transplants now have a greater probability of finding a donor.

Dr Lori West, a pediatric cardiologist and the director of cardiac transplantation research at the U of A, explained that the immune system of a baby doesn't yet produce the proper antibodies to reject the blood of another type—thereby allowing successful organ transplants of mismatched blood types. She said that babies typically start to develop antibodies at about six months, but, if the transplant is done early enough in the baby's life, the organ is completely functional.

Normally, a person with blood type-O will produce anti-A and anti-B antibodies, which means that the patient will reject an organ from a donor with type-A or type-B blood. But West explained how, in the case of infants, their bodies will adapt to accommodate a different blood type.

"If you transplant [a] baby of blood group-O with the heart of a baby who's blood group-B, the little baby does make anti-A antibodies, but never makes anti-B antibodies," West said.

In infants, West has found the success rate of an organ transplant with

a matching blood type to be equal to that of an organ with a mismatched blood type. However, rejection based on blood type isn't the only worry when it comes to organ transplants.

"It made all the difference in the world at being able to offer a parent the possibility of a transplant and the possibility that there is a likelihood of a donor being found for their child."

**DR LORI WEST,
PEDIATRIC CARDIOLOGIST**

"Even if the blood groups matched, they'd still need immune-suppression [medication] because everything else about the heart is foreign," West explained.

According to West, there's a wider pool of organ donors available to infants in need of organ transplantation, thanks to this discovery. During her previous work in Toronto, she said that the mortality of those waiting for hearts fell from 50 per cent to less than ten per cent after they started performing the procedure. She added that the

primary motivation for the research was the imminent need for organs for babies who would otherwise die.

Infants are a very high-risk group when it comes to organ transplants. The organ has to fit in the infant's small body, the infant must be in stable condition and the infant must already be at a hospital capable of performing the particular transplant required in order to receive the organ on time.

"They were a very compelling group of patients to work with because they had so few options," West affirmed.

Before, West said it was very tough to have to break it to the parents that an organ transplant is absolutely necessary for their baby, while reminding them that the probability of receiving a compatible organ was very low. But with this new type of transplant being available, parents will receive more optimistic news.

"It made all the difference in the world at being able to offer a parent the possibility of a transplant and the possibility that there is a likelihood of a donor being found for their child," West said.

The first baby to receive an incompatible blood transplant that West worked with in 1996 is now a healthy eleven-year-old boy. West is still researching the age limit for performing these transplantations, as it's still unknown.

Finance) Chris Cunningham stated that heating and cooling in SUB has always been "wonky," but as long as they are diligent about watching it and informing RATT's managers, it shouldn't be a big problem. He also stated that RATT was formerly open year-round and cooling was never an issue.

Cunningham opted not to discuss specifics of future plans for the Powerplant at this time, but stated that there would be information regarding the future of the space released by the end of the term.

For more information on the decision to close the Powerplant over the summer, please see Gateway article by Ryan Heise on Thursday, 5 April.

Lastly, VP (Academic) Amanda Henry was asked about what the Executive is doing with the now-defunct Arts Students Association (ASA). Henry stated that there would be an Arts town hall meeting held on 29 March at 4pm at an undecided location to discuss what happened to the ASA and the process of creating a new body that she hopes will be in place over the summer.

SUGREEN LIGHTS THERED

A motion was passed to go in camera and reopen discussion on next year's budget principles. Council came ex camera approximately 45 minutes later.

On the table was whether or not council should add an amendment to the budget principles regarding whether or not the SU should run a deficit next year. A deficit, wouldn't exceed \$25 000 and would take the place of either budget cuts or fee increases. A similar amendment had been debated by Council several weeks ago, and was defeated.

While some councillors urged that making cuts in order to contain costs was better than running a deficit, Power pointed out that cuts have already been made, and many have been tabled that Council hasn't passed. Science Councillor Steven Dollansky, supported by many other councillors, furthered the argument against cuts by raising the point that the SU's services offered to students are by-and-large the most important aspect of

the SU and that budget cuts serve only to hinder this.

Power also shot down other concerns about the issues that may arise if the SU is unable to pay the deficit off in the future. She stated that an answer to dealing with a deficit wouldn't come in the short term, but would rather be something that next year's Executive would look at over the course of their year in office through close inspection of SU costs.

After more debate, the amendment to run a \$25 000 deficit if needed was passed and the budget was approved.

GUARANTEED WAY TO FILL THESE SEATS

Pharmacy Councillor Joe Blais moved that Council adopt a new policy regarding teacher evaluations. The main point covered was that the dates that evaluations are to be conducted should be listed on course syllabi and that students should be given a minimum of two weeks notice if this date is to be changed. After little debate, Council passed the motion.

BLOW YOUR SAVINGS IN ONE PLACE

Power and Henry moved that Council adopt a policy for asking the Board of Governors to lobby the provincial government to roll tuition back to levels that students can save during the summer months. Concerns about a rollback affecting the quality of instruction and idea of whether lobbying for more targeted funding was a better option were raised. After a short debate, the motion passed and was referred to the External Policy Committee.

IMPROVING STUDENTS' SHELTER

Cournoyer moved that Council adopt a policy to advocated to the Government of Alberta to provide more funding to promoting affordability for student housing. This included covering property taxes, a one-time injection to cover deferred maintenance fees and capital funds toward the development of additional student housing. Many councillors were pleased to see non-tuition-based issues surrounding affordability being addressed and the motion easily passed.

www.su-venues.ca

A SERVICE OF YOUR STUDENTS' UNION FOR U OF A STUDENTS, STAFF AND ALUMNI.

NEW 2007 MENU AND FOODS

<h3>RATT</h3> <p>HEY! new hours</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MON - WED 11 AM TO 1 AM LAST CALL AT MIDNIGHT • THURS 11 AM TO 2 AM LAST CALL AT 1 AM • FRI 11 AM TO 3 AM LAST CALL AT 2 AM • SAT 3 PM TO 3 AM LAST CALL AT 2 AM 	<h3>THE POWERPLANT</h3> <p>BAR HOURS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • THURS - FRI 11 AM TO 2 AM • SAT 8 PM TO 2 AM <p>RELAXATION SPACE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MON - WED 8AM - 8PM • POWERPLANT BREAKFAST 8AM TO 11AM • POWERPLANT DINNER (MENU SERVICE): 2PM TO 6PM (MON - WED) • 2PM TO MIDNIGHT (THURS-FRI) • POWERPLANT COFFEE HOUSE MON TO FRI 8AM TO 6PM
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oh...and don't forget

happy hour:

RATT >> MONDAY TO FRIDAY >> 2-6 PM
draught pint and jug specials >>>>>

powerplant >> THURS AND FRI >> 2-6 PM

>> UPCOMING @

Ratt

OILER GAMES

DON'T FORGET:
RATT GIVES AWAY A PAIR OF TICKETS 1/2 HOUR BEFORE EVERY HOME GAME.
ALL PAY-PER-VIEW OILER GAMES WILL BE SHOWN AT RATT.

OILER FANS:
RATT WILL STILL BE AIRING THE LAST FIVE GAMES OF THE SEASON.

FLAMES FANS:
YOU ARE ALL WELCOME TO ENJOY ANY TELEVISED FLAMES GAMES IN RATT - INCLUDING POSSIBLE PLAYOFFS. LUCKY STIFFS.

>>> RATT AND MOLSON CANADIAN WILL BE GIVING AWAY A PAIR OF TICKETS TO EVERY HOME GAME. DRAWS ARE MADE 1/2 HOUR BEFORE EACH GAME <<<

MOLSON canadian jugs are \$9.75 during the game. canadian bottles are \$3.

MONDAY, APRIL 2 7PM

NCAA FINAL FOUR CHAMPIONSHIP GAME AT RATT. SOME AMERICAN SCHOOL WILL FACE SOME OTHER AMERICAN SCHOOL. ONE WILL WIN.

POWERPLANT BUFFET

STILL GOING STRONG AT LUNCH

EVERY DAY FROM 1130AM TO 2PM

DON'T FORGET

TUESDAY IS ROAST BEEF DAY!

GREAT, HOT FOOD

STARTING MAY 1

RATT WILL BE YOUR CAMPUS BAR OPEN FOR BUSINESS THIS SUMMER. ENJOY THE SUMMER VIEW UPSTAIRS.

RATT IS OPEN ALL SUMMER

COUNCIL FORUM

Compiled by Ryan Heise

Students' Council meets every second Tuesday in the Council Chambers in University Hall at 6pm. Council meetings are open to all students. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 3 April.

QUESTION PERIOD

Science Councillor Theresa Chapman asked Students' Union Vice-President (External) David Cournoyer whether or not the release of the federal government's budget will impact postsecondary education now or in the future. Cournoyer responded by stating that most of the federal grants go towards graduate studies and research rather than undergrads. However, he did list some significant figures that the government provides to PSE such as \$800 million per year to the Canada Social Transfer earmarked for postsecondary education, as well as the elimination of the \$4000 limit on annual contributions to registered education savings plans (RESPs) and an increase to the lifetime contribution limit of RESPs.

Cournoyer was then asked about state of the U-Pass following the recent vote in favour of the referendum on 8 March. He said that he has been attending a number of meetings with the University as well as with Edmonton Transit System regarding how to distribute the U-Pass stickers to students next September.

President Samantha Power was questioned about what work had to be done on the new Coke contract since the passing of the Coke plebiscite. She said that the contract had been finalized prior to the plebiscite and that there wasn't much left to do save signing it.

Concerns were raised regarding the temperatures in RATT after Council decided to close the Powerplant over the summer and keep SUB's seventh-floor bar open instead. VP (Operations and