

## THE GATEWAY

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## colophon

The Gateway is created using Macintosh computers, HP Scanjet flatbed scanners, and a Nikon Super Cool Scan optical film scanner. Adobe InDesign is used for layout. Adobe Illustrator is used for vector images, while Adobe Photoshop is used for raster images. Adobe Acrobat is used to create PDF files which are burned directly to plates to be mounted on the printing press. Text is set in a variety of sizes, styles, and weights of FENICE, Joanna, Kepler and Whitney. The Manitoban is the Gateway's sister paper, and we love her dearly, though "not in that way." The Gateway's games of choice are Mario and Sonic at the Olympic Games and UR MR GAY.

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## Goal to work with other departments

DIABETES • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Collaboration is also a priority for Gill as the director of the institute.

"I'm here to provide an environment where people with a lot of different lenses can view the research differently and come up with new solutions to the disease, both type 1 and 2."

Gill previously had close scientific connections to Rajotte, as they had been collaborating with their research teams for over 15 years.

When Rajotte personally offered Gill the opportunity to succeed him as the ADI scientific director, Gill jumped at the opportunity.

"The good news for me was that these people were exactly who I thought they were, in a good way," Gill said. "There's a lot of excitement and community support."

The ADI will work with other medical research centers on campus as well, especially the Manzanowski Heart Institute, in an effort to share findings.

"There's not one simple snap-in solution," Gill said. "The overall cure is probably going to be a series of smaller solutions to a very large problem."

"Lead the world to finding a cure—that's our mission," Rajotte said. "By having all these people working under one roof, we have a really good shot at achieving that goal."

## Bat saliva takes bite out of strokes

BRYAN SAUNDERS  
News Staff

A vampire bat's bite may not make anyone immortal, but it could prolong the lives of stroke patients by improving their rates of recovery.

The University of Alberta Hospital recently took part in an international, double-blind study that examined the effects that administering a component of vampire bat saliva had on stroke patients' recovery rates. Dr Ashfaq Shuaib, a neurologist and clinical director of the Stroke Program at the U of A, explained that bat saliva contains an anti-clotting agent called desmoteplase, which can be used to dissolve the blood clots in the brain that cause strokes.

"Right now, [the treatment for these clots] is a drug called Tissue Plasminogen Activator (tPA), and we use that in our hospital probably 150 times a year. Somebody comes in with a stroke [that happened within the last] three hours, we do a brain scan, and if the brain looks otherwise good, then we put the drug in," Shuaib explained.

However, tPA can't be used longer than three hours after a stroke, as the risks associated with using it begin to seriously outweigh any potential benefits.

As Shuaib pointed out, this problem is even worse, as not everyone gets to the hospital within three hours of suffering a stroke.

"We get 700 to 800 strokes [per year] at this hospital, and about 20 per cent of them get treated with the



LAUREN STIEGLITZ

**BATS BEAT BLOOD CLOTS** Research shows bat saliva could be used as a balm.

drug tPA. This is, in all likelihood, the highest number anywhere in the world, but it's still pretty bad: only one in five people are being treated. So, we're constantly looking for newer treatments [that can be used] beyond the [first] three hours."

The desmoteplase of vampire bats, which a company in Germany is now able to manufacture synthetically, could be one such treatment, he said.

"Desmoteplase has two advantages. One is that it's more clot specific. Where there's a clot, that's where it focuses. It is 10 000 times more specific for [blood clots] than tPA. And secondly, it doesn't have that neuronal toxicity that tPA has."

Original research done in Germany proved very promising, Shuaib explained, and this is one of the reasons the U of A decided to participate in a larger-scale study in which desmoteplase was given to patients who came in 3–9 hours after having a stroke.

"Those [first] studies showed a very

potent effect. [Of patients given] a placebo, 20 per cent of the patients made a full recovery. [Of those given desmoteplase], 60 per cent made a full recovery," he said.

However, the international follow-up study in which the U of A participated had similar but much less impressive results: 40 per cent of the placebo group recovered, compared to 45 per cent of those given desmoteplase. Still, Shuaib is confident that the study will go on and future improvements in methodology will lead to improvements in these results.

Shuaib suggested that recovery rates could be easily improved if people simply went to the hospital as soon as they recognized symptoms of a stroke.

"Most individuals feel that if they have a stroke, there's not much they can do about it. There's this nihilistic approach out there that, 'Oh, it's too late.' [But] if someone comes in within the first hour to three hours of a stroke, we can do quite a lot for them."

## STREETERS

Compiled and photographed by  
Steve Smith and Krystina Sulatycki

As you may be aware, Maclean's magazine recently released its annual university rankings.

## What new criterion would you favour adding to the Maclean's rankings?

Sean Wagner  
Engineering IEwen Lavoie  
Science IIIMike Brayall  
Grad Studies IMikala Abbott  
Arts II

"Best internet connection, because [gestures wildly with laptop] I've got nothing here!"

"They should rank them on STDs. Whichever university has the highest number of STDs in residence." [The highest number of STD cases, or the greatest variety of STDs?] "Both. There should be two new categories, and your risk of getting each STD. However many categories that is."

"The quality of the food. It would have to be everything available."

"Probably how cold it is in the winter. If the temperature really sucks, it would be a horrible, horrible thing."

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