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MIKEOTTO

GET YOUR ASS INFORMED For coverage of the annual SU candidates debate see page 3. Still not convinced? Let some former hacks give you their take in this year's SU Election Dissection on pages 11-13.

U of A researchers find potential HIV treatment

LOGAN BANADYGA
News Writer

Scientists at the University of Alberta have uncovered a human gene that stops the spread of HIV, potentially opening the door to new treatments in the battle against AIDS.

The team of researchers, led by molecular virologist Dr Stephen Barr, a post-doctoral fellow in the Department of Medical Microbiology and Immunology, first identified the gene—known as TRIM22—as a possible antiviral protein three years ago.

TRIM22 is one of hundreds of genes turned on by interferons, chemicals produced by our immune system to combat viral infections.

"It's been known for a long time that interferon treatment of cells can block HIV infection, but nobody really knew how or what the genes were that were involved," Barr explained.

"We found that TRIM22 was turned on quite a bit in response to interferons [...], and our later studies showed that [it] actually blocked [HIV] by trapping the virus within cells so it can't get out to infect other cells."

According to Barr's study, published last week in the journal *Public Library of Science Pathogens*, TRIM22 interacts with the major protein that is required for HIV assembly, and this interaction, Barr said, somehow blocks the assembly of the virus.

"These results are very exciting [...] because they show that our bodies have a gene that is capable of stopping the spread of HIV," he explained.

Although HIV replication can be blocked at earlier stages in the virus' life-cycle, this is the first time that an antiviral protein has been shown to interfere specifically with the later stage of HIV assembly. The unique activity of TRIM22, Barr explained, identifies a new strategy for treating HIV infection.

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DR STEPHEN BARR
MOLECULAR VIROLOGIST

"The goal would be to basically harness this antiviral activity," he said, noting that the ultimate, but long-term, goal of his research is the development of new drugs and vaccines capable of halting the spread of HIV and the onset of AIDS.

"If we can find ways to slow the release of virus so that it can't infect other cells, that has the potential of slowing or preventing the onset of AIDS in patients," he continued.

PLEASE SEE HIV ♦ PAGE 5

Samuel stung by DIE Board again

A counter-complaint was shot down, allowing a new complaint against Samuel to go to a hearing last night, with a ruling expected this morning

RYAN HEISE
Deputy News Editor

More controversy has arisen for SU presidential hopeful Bobby Samuel as a second complaint against him has been filed to the SU's Discipline, Interpretation, and Enforcement Board.

The initial complaint, which was brought forward by former SU councillor Brock Richardson in early February, revolved around a pamphlet Samuel produced prior to the election period that was deemed by the DIE Board to be pre-campaigning and a conflict of interest. In its ruling, the DIE Board placed "an injunction on Mr Samuel against using the design of the pamphlet, including the slogan and textual contents, or any portion or derivative thereof, for the purpose of any future political campaign."

The most recent complaint focused on this point, as Richardson claimed that Samuel's campaign materials clearly violate this ruling.

"Most of the textual contextual content is spot-on verbatim or a derivative, and for me there's two problems with this," Richardson explained. "The first problem is that Mr Samuel is continuing, through his campaign material, to piggyback off of the press and the help that he got from the University of Alberta Students' Union design department to put out the first pamphlet. The second reason I bring forth the complaint is because this is yet another example in a pattern of



MIKEOTTO

BIG BROTHER Former SU Prez Chris Samuel argues his brother's case last Thursday.

poor judgement by Mr Samuel, where he's shown no regard for the rules of the Students' Union, the bylaws of the Students' Union, [and] the conventions of the Students' Union."

Samuel filed a counter-complaint, claiming that Richardson's complaint

should go through the SU's chief returning officer rather than DIE Board. The complaint was heard last Thursday, with Samuel's brother Chris—who was SU president in 2001/02—appearing to argue the case.

PLEASE SEE DIE BOARD ♦ PAGE 2

Inside

News	1-6
Opinion	7-9
Feature	11-13
Sports	20-23
A&E	24-26
Comics	27
Classifieds	28



The hack attack is back

Get the low-down on the SU elections from these weirdos. Steve Kirkham was there, too, but had to leave to save the Internet.

FEATURE, PAGE 11-13



Bears golden again

The Bears volleyball team proved their mettle in Laval this weekend, beating Winnipeg for CIS gold.

SPORTS, PAGE 21