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KAMPUS KRONIKLES

By ZENA McBRIDE

Transplants could be the solution for ligament injuriesBY JIM WELLS
Gauntlet Staff Writer

A doctor at the University of Calgary's Heritage Medical Research Centre is studying the knees of rabbits in an effort to discover a way to transplant knee ligaments in people. Dr. Cy Frank and 12 assistants have been studying how knee ligaments work for the last year, and Frank said he believes they are on the brink of a transplant operation that could revolutionize sports medicine in Canada.

The researchers are working with rabbits because the knee ligaments of rabbits resemble those of humans, except that rabbits have only one ligament per knee while humans have four.

A severe knee ligament injury can end a professional athlete's career, and can ruin an amateur's weekend football game or ski trip, Frank noted. Approximately 10,000 people in Calgary suffer from severe knee ligament injuries.

"Ligament injuries are still one of the biggest unsolved problems in sports medicine," he said.

Frank, 36, said he became dissatisfied with the treatment available for knee ligament injuries after he seriously damaged one of his knees several years ago.

The transplantation of a knee ligament from one person to another has never been attempted in Canada, although it has been tried in the US. But Frank says not enough research has yet been done for the operation to be performed safely.

"Until I'm convinced that the operation is foolproof, I'm not prepared to do anything to people that I wouldn't have done to myself," he said.

"There would have to be pretty convincing proof that something is going to work short-term, do no harm and hopefully do some good before I would consider subjecting a person to the operation," he added.

Ligaments are tissue fibres that bond bone to bone and provide about ten per cent of the support in a joint. Muscles provide the other 90 per cent.

Frank is studying the medial collateral ligament, which attaches the thigh bone (femur) to the shin bones (tibia and fibula), the two bones in the lower leg.

The medial ligament runs on the inside of the knee and, along with the posterior collateral ligament on the outside of the knee, prevents side-to-side movements of the joint.

Craig Gattinger, a physiotherapist at the Olympic Saddledome's sports clinic, said he is excited about the possibilities the new operation may bring. "If they (people with knee injuries) want surgery, if they want a

stable joint, this may be an outlet for them," Gattinger said.

But Gattinger remained cautious. "Before we can subject the human body to someone else's ligament, we've got to be sure that it will provide enough strength to maintain itself after a year of wear and tear," Gattinger said.

Frank and his research team, who are funded by grants from the Alberta Heritage Foundation, are primarily interested in learning how normal ligaments perform and what they are made of.

The team is also researching the amount of exercise and immobilization needed to heal the injured part of a ligament and are trying to understand what happens to the tissue during the healing.

In Ontario and in other countries, artificial ligaments are being implanted, but according to Frank, it is hard to come up with an artificial material to replace the original.

Dacron, teflon or steel implants have been tried, but human ligament tissue is more effective in the long term, Frank said.

"Some of the artificial materials are turning out to be disastrous," Frank noted. "In Europe about five years ago, there was a wave of enthusiasm over carbon implants. They implanted literally thousands; now people are coming back with their knees as bad as before."

Reprinted with permission from *The Gauntlet*, University of Calgary, February 26, 1987

And now a word from our rivals...BY IAN JACK
Varsity Staff Writer

The recently released *President's Report on Industrial Renewal* is a gold-mine of U of T trivia. So get ready to amaze and astound your friends with these little tidbits:

- Only four US universities, and one British school, have a greater full-time population than U of T.
- U of T is responsible for over \$250 million in research and development every year, and is outspent in Canada only by the National Research Council, Agricultural Canada, and Bell-Northern Research.
- U of T offers 66 doctoral programs, 19 of which are not offered elsewhere in Canada.
- Erindale and Scarborough Colleges—in the west and east—and the Dunlop Observatory—in the north—all lie exactly 32 kilometres from the downtown campus.
- U of T has seven affiliated religious colleges—Emmanuel, Knox, Regis, St. Augustine's, Wycliffe, and the divinity colleges affiliated with St. Michael's and Trinity Colleges.
- U of T reached full capacity in 1975.

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EXAMINATION SCHEDULE**FACULTIES OF ARTS, EDUCATION, FINE ARTS, SCIENCE**

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING CHANGES TO THE EXAMINATION SCHEDULE DATED: FEBRUARY 12, 1987

CHANGE TO READ**Anthropology**

AS 1110.06C Wednesday, April 22 12noon - 3:00pm Curtis I

English

AS 1010.03M(W) Thursday, April 16 9:30am - 11:30am Ross S203

History

AS 3200.06A Wednesday, April 29 12noon - 3:00pm Curtis G

Physical Education

AS/SC 3020.03M(W) Friday, May 1 12noon - 3:00pm Curtis I
AS/SC 3020.03N(W) Friday, May 1 12noon - 3:00pm Curtis I

Psychology

AS/SC 3140.03S(W) Friday, April 24 12noon - 3:00pm Curtis H,K
AS/SC 3450.03M(W) Tuesday, May 5 12noon - 2:00pm Stedman D

ADD**Psychology**

AS/SC 3450.03Q(W) Tuesday, May 5 12noon - 2:00pm Stedman D

Social Science

AS 1010.06A Monday, April 27 7:00pm - 10:00pm Stedman A
AS 1820.06A Friday, May 1 8:30am - 10:30am Ross N203
AS 2700.06A Thursday, April 16 7:00pm - 10:00pm Curtis I

Sociology

AS 3350.03M(W) Friday, May 1 12noon - 2:00pm Curtis F

DELETE**Chemistry**

SC 3160.03(W) Thursday, April 23

Earth and Atmospheric Science

SC 3130.03(W) Thursday, April 23

English

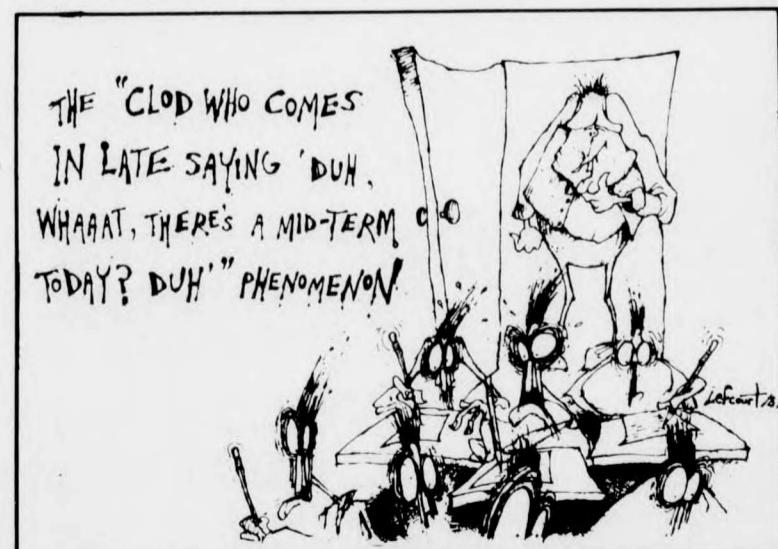
AS 2010.06A Thursday, May 7
AS 3010.06A Wednesday, May 6
AS 3110.06A Friday, April 24
AS 3140.06A Wednesday, April 22
AS 4150M.03(W) Thursday, April 23
AS 4210A.06 Wednesday, May 6

French

AS 2100.06A Monday, May 4

Sociology

AS 3200.06A Wednesday, May 6



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