The West Texas Angelus

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Popular Catholic Web site content put out in book, sent to pastors

By Chaz Muth
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON — In the 10 years since Creighton University in Omaha, Neb., began offering ministry guidance and aids on its Web site, the technology has exploded and so has the audience of the Catholic Web site, which received more than 21 million hits in the past year.

The site has become so popular that a Catholic publishing house in Chicago has published some of the content in book form and sent a complimentary copy to every Catholic parish in the U.S.

"I know that it may sound a little odd that a book would come out of stuff from a Web site, and not the other way around," said Jesuit Father Andy Alexander, one of the founders of the Web site that inspired the book. "But we're hoping to expand our audience, and this book will help, especially if parishes begin using it."

The book, "Praying Lent: Renewing Our Lives on the Lenten Journey," is a guide for Catholics about how to celebrate an often misunderstood season.

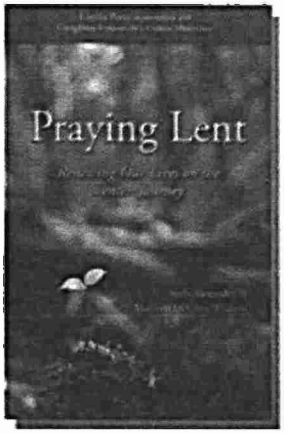
Father Alexander and Maureen Waldron — staff members of the Jesuit-run university's Collaborative Ministry Office — set up the Creighton University Web site in 1998 to provide daily reflections for the faculty and staff to help them understand the school's mission.

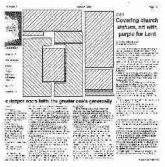
During Lent that year the daily reflections focused on the 40 days leading up to Easter and provided information about what that period means to Catholics and what the church expects from them.

"At the end of Lent of 1998, when we first went online with daily reflections, a woman wrote to us and said she was visiting Hong Kong and heard about our site from a priest from Baltimore and told us how much our post

(Please See **CREIGHTON**/19)

Fr. Andy Alexander and Maureen McCann Waldron.





Printing imperfections present during scanning

HEALTH & MEDICINE WEEK

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Hyperplasia

Data on hyperplasia published by researchers at Creighton University, Medical Department

2009 MAR 23 - (NewsRx.com) -- "Internal mammary artery (IMA) coronary artery bypass grafts (CABG) are remarkably resistant to intimal hyperplasia (IH) as compared to saphenous vein (SV) grafts following aorto-coronary anastomosis. The reason behind this puzzling difference still remains an enigma," scientists in the United States report.

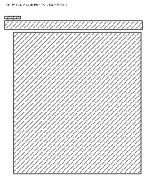
"In this study, we examined the effects of IGF-1 stimulation on the PI3K-AKT/PKB pathway mediating proliferation of smooth muscle cells (SMCs) of IMA and SV origin and the specific contribution of phosphatase and tensin homologue (PTEN) in regulating the IGF-1-PI3K-AKT/PKB axis under these conditions. Mitogenic activation with IGF-1, timedependently stimulated the phosphorylation of PI3K and AKT/PKB in the SV SMCs to a much greater extent than the IMA. Conversely, PTEN was found to be significantly more active in IMA SMCs. Transient overexpression of PTEN in SMCs of SV and IMA inhibited AKT/PKB activity and upstream of AKT/PKB, caused a reduction of IGF-1 receptors. Downstream, PTEN overexpression in SV SMCs induced the transactivation of tumour suppressor protein p53 by down-regulating the expression of its inhibitor MDM2. However, PTEN overexpression had no significant effect on MDM2 and p53 expression in IMA SMCs. PTEN overexpression inhibited IGF-1-induced SMC proliferation in both SV and IMA. PTEN suppression, induced by siRNA transfection of IMA SMCs diminished the negative regulation of PI3K-PKB signalling leading to greater proliferative response induced by IGF-1 stimulation. Thus, we show for the first time that early inactivation of PTEN in SV SMCs leads to temporally increased activity of the pro-hyperplasia PI3K-AKT/PKB pathway leading to IH-induced vein graft occlusion," wrote A.K. Mitra and colleagues, Creighton University, Medical Department.

The researchers concluded: "Therefore, modulation of the PI3K-AKT/PKB pathway via PTEN might be a novel and effective strategy in combating SV graft failure following CABG."

Mitra and colleagues published their study in the *Journal of Cellular and Molecular Medicine* (Temporal PTEN inactivation causes proliferation of saphenous vein smooth muscle cells of human CABG conduits. *Journal of Cellular and Molecular Medicine*, 2009;13(1):177-187).

For additional information, contact D.K. Agrawal, Creighton University, School Medical, Dept. of Biomedical Science, CRISS II Room 510, 2500 California Plaza, Omaha, NE 68178, USA.

The publisher's contact information for the *Journal of Cellular and Molecular Medicine* is: Wiley-Blackwell Publishing, Inc., Commerce Place, 350 Main St., Malden 02148, MA, USA.



Keywords: United States, Omaha, Angiology, Cardiology, Coronary Artery Bypass Graft, Coronary Artery Disease, Coronary Disease, Heart Bypass Surgery, Heart Disease, Hyperplasia, Medical Device, Molecular Medicine, Phosphatase, Restenosis, Saphenous Vein, Surgery, Surgical Technology, Vein Graft, Creighton University, Medical Department.

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Life Sciences

New life sciences research from Creighton University, Medical Department described

2009 MAR 23 - (NewsRx.com) -- "A novel Klebsiella pneumoniae carbapenemase (KPC) variant, designated bla(KPC-5), was discovered in a carbapenem-resistant Pseudomonas aeruginosa clinical isolate from Puerto Rico. Characterization of the upstream region of bla (KPC-5) showed significant differences from the flanking regions of other bla(KPC) variants," scientists in the United States report.

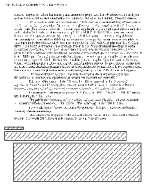
"Comparison of amino acid sequences with those of other KPC enzymes revealed that KPC-5 was an intermediate between KPC-2 and KPC-4, differing from KPC-2 by a single amino acid substitution (Pro(103)- > Arg), while KPC-4 contained Pro(103)- > Arg plus an additional amino acid change (Val(239)- > Gly). Transformation studies with an Escherichia coli recipient strain showed differences in the properties of the KPC variants. KPC-4 and KPC-5 both had pIs of 7.65, in contrast with the pI of 6.7 for KPC-2. KPC-2 transformants were less susceptible to the carbapenems than KPC-4 and KPC-5 transformants. These data correlated with higher rates of imipenem hydrolysis for KPC-2 than for KPC-4 and KPC-5. However, KPC-4 and KPC-5 transformants had higher ceftazidime MICs, and the enzymes from these transformants had slightly better hydrolysis of this drug than KPC-2. KPC-4 and KPC-5 were more sensitive than KPC-2 to inhibition by clavulanic acid in both susceptibility testing and hydrolysis assays," wrote D.J. Wolter and colleagues, Creighton University, Medical Department.

The researchers concluded: "Thus, KPC enzymes may be evolving through stepwise mutations to alter their spectra of activity."

Wolter and colleagues published their study in *Antimicrobial Agents and Chemotherapy* (Phenotypic and Enzymatic Comparative Analysis of the Novel KPC Variant KPC-5 and Its Evolutionary Variants, KPC-2 and KPC-4. *Antimicrobial Agents and Chemotherapy*, 2009;53(2):557-562).

For more information, contact N.D. Hanson, Creighton University, School Medical, Dept. of Med Microbiology, Center Research Antiinfect & Biotechnology, 2500 California Plaza, Omaha, NE 68178, USA.

Publisher contact information for the journal *Antimicrobial Agents and Chemotherapy* is: American Society Microbiology, 1752 N St. NW, Washington, DC 20036-2904, USA.



Keywords: United States, Omaha, Life Sciences, Pulmonology, Infectious Disease, Pneumonia, Antimicrobial Resistance, Drug Resistance, Therapy, Treatment, Escherichia coli, Klebsiella pneumoniae, Antimicrobials, Pharmaceuticals, Drug Development, Enzymology, Drug Therapy, Chemotherapy, Creighton University, Medical Department.

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Life Sciences

New life sciences research from Creighton University, Medical Department described

2009 MAR 23 - (NewsRx.com) -- "A novel Klebsiella pneumoniae carbapenemase (KPC) variant, designated bla(KPC-5), was discovered in a carbapenem-resistant Pseudomonas aeruginosa clinical isolate from Puerto Rico. Characterization of the upstream region of bla (KPC-5) showed significant differences from the flanking regions of other bla(KPC) variants," scientists in the United States report.

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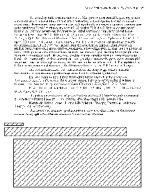

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