The Lord is like a strong tower, where the righteous can go and be safe.
Proverbs 18:10

ISSN 2651-821X
DIYARYO KABITENYO
Nagmamalasakit sa lalawigan
Entered as FIRST CLASS MAIL at Imus Post Office with Business Mail Permit No. IC-19-06-249
Vol. 23 No. 16 June 8-14, 2020 P 10.00

Be alert, stand firm in the faith, be brave, be strong.
1 Corinthians 16:13

Cavite churches prepare for resumption of public masses

Churches in Cavite have begun preparations for the resumption of public masses should the province be placed under modified general community quarantine (MGCQ) starting June 16.

Bishop Reynaldo Evangelista of the Diocese of Imus said that parish priests in Cavite cities and towns have put in place precautionary measures in place following the guidelines set by the government's coronavirus task force.

"All the parish priests in 82 parish in 7 cities and 16 towns of Cavite are putting markings on all

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Photo shows the repatriated overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) who arrived at the Iloilo International Airport last May 28, 2020. The Department of Health-Center for Health and Development (DOH-CHD) 6 (Western Visayas) on June 4, 2020 said four more repatriated OFWs tested positive for coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19), bringing the total cases of the region to 121. One of them stayed in Cavite. (Photo courtesy of OWWA 6)

4 more OFWs in W. Visayas, 1 of them stayed in Cavite, positive for Covid-19

The Department of Health-Center for Health and Development (DOH-CHD) in Region 6 (Western Visayas) announced last June 4 that four repatriated overseas Filipino workers (OFWs), one of them stayed in Cavite, were tested positive of the coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19), bringing the total cases in the region to 121.

As of June 4's health bulletin, the region already has a total of 42 repatriates who tested positive for the disease.

Dr. [illegible] Almasan, DOH-CHD 6's regional epidemiologist, said in a [illegible]

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DIYARYO KABITENYO

ISSN: 2651-821X

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DIYARYO KABITENYO is published weekly and circulated throughout the province of Cavite. It has its editorial and business offices at Block 13 Lot 1 ... Subdivision, ... City of Imus, Cavite. It is registered at the Department of Trade and Industry ...

Subscription Rate: / Advertising Rate: Commercial / Legal

papi
Publishers Association of the Philippines, Inc.

(4... from page 1)

virtual presser, the confirmed cases are a 45-year-old male from Bacolod City; 31-year-old female from Murcia, Negros Occidental; a 23-year-old male from Mandurriao; and a 33-year-old female from Molo, all in Iloilo City.

These positive cases were recorded out of the 248 results released by the Western Visayas Medical Center (WVMC) sub-national laboratory, and the 20 results released by Teresita L. Jalandoni Provincial Hospital (TLJPH) Molecular Laboratory last June 4.

"They are all considered repatriated. Some arrived in March, (and) some in April. They have stayed long in Manila. Although the PCR (polymerase chain reaction test) in Manila turned out negative, probably due to their long stay, they were exposed," he said.

The confirmed case from Bacolod City traveled to England and went home to Manila on April 23. Although he was tested negative for Covid-19 on May 12, Alonsabe said he was re-tested as he had contact with a Covid-19 positive case during his stay in Manila.

He arrived in Bacolod City on May 20 and was swabbed on the same date, he said.

The new case from Mandurriao in this city, meanwhile, came from Dubai on March 17. He also stayed with family members in Cavite and returned home to Iloilo on May 28.

Alonsabe said he had clearance to go home as he tested negative on May 24 but his repeat testing in Iloilo on May 28 turned out positive.

Also, a repatriate, the confirmed case from this city's Molo district arrived in Manila from the United States last April 16. He also tested negative before his trip to Iloilo but was tested positive when re-tested on his May 28 arrival.

Meanwhile, the case from Murcia, Negros Occidental was among the first batch of laboratory results released by TLJPH Molecular Laboratory.

Alonsabe said she is an OFW from Hong Kong who arrived in Manila on March 28. She arrived in Bacolod City on June 1 and her swab sample was collected on June 2, he said.

All of the new cases in the region are asymptomatic and are on facility quarantine.

The DOH-CHD 6 also confirmed that a 33-year-old female patient from Janiuay town, Iloilo, also a repatriated OFW, is five months pregnant.

She arrived in Manila on May 19 and traveled to Iloilo last May 28.

"They have discussed this with municipal health officer and they opted that the patient will stay in the quarantine facility because she is asymptomatic, rather than bringing the patient to the hospital. They are worried that the patient might get other diseases in the hospital," he said.

The region's recoveries remain at 84 while deaths at 10. (PNA)

(CAVITE... from page 1)

benches, sanitizers, alcohol, foot bath at the entrance of the church, thermal scanners – same as other gadgets used in IATF protocols," Evangelista said.

Cavite has a population of 3.67 million based on the 2015 census. In 2010, it had the second largest Catholic population in the country, after Cebu.

Churches in areas under MGCQ are allowed to hold mass services at 30% seating capacity.

Ushers and lay people will help ensure that mass attendees observe social distancing and other rules inside and outside the church.

The Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) has suggested to add more mass schedules to keep churches from getting too crowded. Anticipated masses will start at 12:00 noon of Saturdays for this purpose.

Aside from physical distancing and mandatory wearing of masks, communion will be given to a mass attendees' hand instead of placing it in the latter's mouth.

Each church in the province has a different way of applying the physical distancing requirement on the pews. Some have seats are numbered to match the number of people who would be allowed in, while other churches are putting up barriers between seats.

Churches will impose one-way movement of people heading to the entrance and the exit to avoid people bumping into each other.

In a message to Caviteños, Evangelista said what he had observed since the coronavirus lockdown in mid-March was that "the people are praying more often, many families pray together, attending mass via social media livestream during the past 13 Sundays of lockdown."

Republic of the Philippines
OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL CIVIL REGISTRAR
Indang, Cavite

In the matter of Change of First Name in the Certificate of Live Birth (SECPA) of

MARIE ANN H. MATEO

CFN-0002-2020

MARIAN M. [illegible]
Petitioner

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

There is a petition filed for the change of first name in Civil Registry Form No. 1A (SECPA) of **MARIE ANN H. MATEO** from **"MARIE ANN"** to **"MARIAN"**.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that any interested person is [illegible] to notify this office and show cause why the same should not be granted.

Let this NOTICE be published at least once a week for two (2) consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation as [illegible] under Section 5 of Republic Act No. [illegible].

(Sgd.) **MERCI A. CHAVEZ**
Municipal Civil Registrar

DIYARYO KABITENYO - June 1 & 8, 2020

DEED OF EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF ESTATE WITH SPECIAL POWER OF ATTORNEY

NOTICE is hereby given that the estate of the deceased **ANTONIO A. DONES** who died already a widower on February 16, 2020 at the Divine Grace Medical Center, City of General Trias, Cavite, consisting of [illegible] deposits in the following bank accounts:

Bank of the Philippine Islands EPZA, Rosario	[illegible]	P 66,921.93
Bank of the Philippine Islands EPZA, Rosario	[illegible]	[illegible]

has been adjudicated and extrajudicially settled by and among his heirs in equal shares per [illegible] [illegible]

1. To PROCESS and FACILITATE the settlement of ESTATE of our late father ANTONIO A. DONES;
2. To CLAIM, SUBMIT and EXECUTE papers and documents necessary to release the above deposits;
3. To SIGN and EXECUTE all documents necessary for purposes of the foregoing; and
4. To DO any and ALL acts necessary for the purpose;

on February 21, 2020 in [illegible], Cavite, Philippines before Notary Public Atty. [illegible] [illegible] Doc. No. 174; Page No. 37; Book No. XXXX; Series of 2020.

(Sgd.) All Heirs

Publication: DIYARYO KABITENYO
Date: June 1, 8 & 15, 2020

Scientists engineer human cells with squid-like transparency

Octopuses, squids and other sea creatures can perform a disappearing act by using specialized tissues in their bodies to manipulate the transmission and reflection of light, and now researchers at the University of California, Irvine have engineered human cells to have similar transparent abilities.

In a paper published June 2, 2020 in Nature Communications, the scientists described how they drew inspiration from cephalopod skin to endow mammalian cells with tunable transparency and light-scattering characteristics.

"For millennia, people have been fascinated by transparency and invisibility, which have inspired philosophical speculation, works of science fiction, and much academic research," said lead author Atrouli Chatterjee, a UCI doctoral student in chemical & biomolecular engineering. "Our project – which is decidedly in the realm of science – centers on designing and engineering cellular systems and tissues with controllable properties for transmitting, reflecting and absorbing light."

Chatterjee works in the laboratory of Alon Gorodetsky, UCI associate professor of chemical & biomolecular engineering, who has a long history of exploring how cephalopods' color-changing capabilities can be mimicked to develop unique technologies to benefit people. His team's bio-inspired research has led to breakthrough developments in infrared camouflage and other advanced materials.

For this study, the group drew inspiration from the way female Doryteuthis opalescens squids can evade predators by dynamically switching a stripe on their mantle from nearly transparent to opaque white. The researchers then borrowed some of the intercellular protein-based particles involved in this biological cloaking technique and found a way to introduce them into human cells to test whether the light-scattering powers are transferable to other animals.

This species of squid has specialized reflective cells called leucophores which can alter the how they scatter light. Within these cells are leucosomes, membrane-bound particles which are composed of proteins known as reflectins, which can produce iridescent camouflage.

In their experiments, the researchers cultured human embryonic kidney cells and genetically engineered them to express reflectin. They found that the protein would assemble into particles in the cells' cytoplasm in a disordered arrangement. They also saw through optical microscopy and spectroscopy that the introduced reflectin-based structures caused the cells to change their scattering of light.

"We were amazed to find that the cells not only expressed reflectin but also packaged the protein in spheroidal nanostructures and distributed them throughout the cells' bodies," said Gorodetsky, a co-author on this study. "Through quantitative phase microscopy, we were able to determine that the protein structures had different optical characteristics when compared to the cytoplasm inside the cells; in other words, they optically behaved almost as they do in their native cephalopod leucophores."

In another important part of the study, the team tested whether the reflectance could potentially be toggled on and off through external stimuli.

Antibiotic-destroying genes widespread in bacteria in soil and on people

The latest generation of tetracyclines – a class of powerful, first-line antibiotics — was designed to thwart the two most common ways bacteria resist such drugs. But a new study from researchers at Washington University in St. Louis and the National Institutes of Health (NIH) has found that genes representing yet another method of resistance are widespread in bacteria that live in the soil and on people. Some of these genes confer the power to destroy all tetracyclines, including the latest generation of these antibiotics.

However, the researchers have created a chemical compound that shields tetracyclines from destruction. When the chemical compound was given in combination with tetracyclines as part of the new study, the antibiotics' lethal effects were restored.

The findings, available online in Communications Biology, indicate an emerging threat to one of the most widely used classes of antibiotics — but also a promising way to protect against that threat.

"We first found tetracycline-destroying genes five years ago in harmless environmental bacteria, and we said at the time that there was a risk the genes could get into bacteria that cause disease, leading to infections that would be very difficult to treat," said co-senior author Gautam Dantas, PhD, a professor of pathology and immunology and of molecular microbiology at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis. "Once we started looking for these genes in clinical samples, we found them immediately. The fact that we were able to find them so rapidly tells me that these genes are more widespread than we thought. It's no longer a theoretical risk that this will be a problem in the clinic. It's already a problem."

In 2015, Dantas, also a professor of biomedical engineering, and Timothy Wencewicz, PhD, an associate professor of chemistry in Arts & Sciences at Washington University, discovered 10 different genes that each gave bacteria the ability to dice up the toxic part of the tetracycline molecule, thereby inactivating the drug. These genes code for proteins the researchers dubbed tetracycline destructases.

But they didn't know how widespread such genes were. To find out, Dantas and first author Andrew Gasparrini, PhD — then a graduate student in Dantas lab — screened 53 soil, 176 human stool, two animal feces, and 13 latrine samples for genes similar to the 10 they'd already found. The survey yielded 40 additional possible tetracycline-destructase genes.

Then they cloned some of the genes into E. coli bacteria that had no resistance to tetracyclines and tested whether the genetically modified bacteria survived exposure to the drugs. E. coli that had received supposed destructase genes from soil bacteria inactivated some of the tetracyclines. E. coli that had received genes from bacteria associated with people destroyed all 11 tetracyclines.

"The scary thing is that one of the tetracycline destructases we found in human-associated bacteria – Tet(X7) — may have evolved from an ancestral destructase in soil bacteria, but it has a broader range and enhanced efficiency," said Wencewicz, who is a co-senior author on the new study. "Usually there's a trade-off between how broad an enzyme is and how efficient it is. But Tet(X7) manages to be broad and efficient, and that's a potentially deadly combination."

In the first screen, the researchers had found tetracycline-destructase genes only in bacteria not known to cause disease in people. To find out whether disease-causing species also carried such genes, the scientists scanned the genetic sequences of clinical samples Dantas had collected over the years. They found Tet(X7) in a bacterium that had caused a lung infection and sent a man to intensive care in Pakistan in 2016.

Tetracyclines have been around since the 1940s. They are one of the most widely used classes of antibiotics, used for diseases ranging from pneumonia, to skin or urinary tract infections, to stomach ulcers, as well as in agriculture and aquaculture.

Sea snail, human insulin hybrid could lead to better diabetes treatments

Nearly a century after insulin was discovered, an international team of researchers including University of Utah Health scientists report that they have developed the world's smallest, fully functional version of the hormone, one that combines the potency of human insulin with the fast-acting potential of a venom insulin produced by predatory cone snails. The finding, based on animal studies, could jumpstart the development of insulin treatments capable of improving the lives of those with diabetes.

"We now have the capability to create a hybrid version of insulin that works in humans and that also appears to have many of the positive attributes of cone snail insulin," says Danny Hung-Chieh Chou, Ph.D., a U of U Health assistant professor of biochemistry and one of the study's corresponding authors. "That's an important step forward in our quest to make diabetes treatment safer and more effective."

The study appears in Nature Structural and Molecular Biology.

As cone snails slither across coral reefs, they are constantly on the prowl for prey. Some of these fish-hunting species, such as Conus geographus, release plumes of toxic venom that contain a unique form of insulin into the surrounding water. The insulin causes fish blood glucose levels to plummet, temporarily paralyzing them. As the fish flounders, the snail emerges from its shell to swallow the subdued victim whole.

In earlier research, Chou and colleagues discovered that this venomous insulin had many biochemical traits in common with human insulin. Plus it appears to work faster than the swiftest-acting human insulin currently available.

Faster-acting insulin would diminish the risk of hyperglycemia and other serious complications of diabetes, says Helena Safavi, Ph.D., a study co-author and an assistant professor of biomedical sciences at the University of Copenhagen in Denmark. It also could improve the performance of insulin pumps or artificial pancreas devices, which automatically release insulin into the body as needed. "We want to help people with diabetes to more tightly and rapidly control their blood sugar," she says.

In pursuit of their goal, the researchers found that insulin derived from cone snail venom lacks a "hinge" component that causes human insulin to aggregate or clump together so it can be stored in the pancreas. These aggregates must break up into individual molecules before they can begin to work on blood sugar, a process that can take up to an hour. Since cone snail insulin doesn't aggregate, it is in essence primed and ready to work on the body's biochemical machinery almost immediately.

Intrigued, the researchers began to investigate ways to transform the insulin that cone snails use as a weapon into a different form: one that people who have Type 1 diabetes could use to rapidly restore equilibrium in their bodies.

"We had the idea of making human insulin more snail-like," says Safavi, who is also an adjunct professor of biochemistry at U of U Health. "So, we sought to basically take some of the advantageous properties from the snail and graft them onto the human compound."

The researchers thought this was possible because cone snail insulin essentially has the same basic structure or "backbone" as human insulin. However, they faced a dilemma: the snail's insulin is far less potent than human insulin. In fact, the researchers suspect that humans would require 20 to 30 times more of the cone snail insulin to lower their blood sugar levels.

In this new study, Chou and colleagues sought to overcome these problems. First, they used structural biology and medicinal chemistry techniques to isolate four amino acids that help the snail insulin bind to the insulin receptor. Then, they created a truncated version of a human insulin molecule without the region responsible for clumping.

COVID-19 could be a seasonal illness with higher risk in winter

A study conducted in Sydney during the early epidemic stage of COVID-19 has found an association between lower humidity and an increase in locally acquired positive cases. Researchers discovered a 1 percent decrease in humidity could increase the number of COVID-19 cases by 6 percent.

The research led by Professor Michael Ward, an epidemiologist in the Sydney School of Veterinary Science at the University of Sydney, and two researchers from partner institution Fudan University School of Public Health in Shanghai, China, is the first peer-reviewed study of a relationship between climate and COVID-19 in the southern hemisphere.

"COVID-19 is likely to be a seasonal disease that recurs in periods of lower humidity. We need to be thinking if it's winter time, it could be COVID-19 time," said Professor Ward.

The study is published June 2, 2020 in Transboundary and Emerging Diseases.

Further studies — including during winter in the southern hemisphere — are needed to determine how this relationship works and the extent to which it drives COVID-19 case notification rates.

Previous research has identified a link between climate and occurrence of SARS-CoV cases in Hong Kong and China, and MERS-CoV cases in Saudi Arabia, and a recent study on the COVID-19 outbreak in China found an association between transmission and daily temperature and relative humidity.

"The pandemic in China, Europe and North America happened in winter so we were interested to see if the association between COVID-19 cases and climate was different in Australia in late summer and early autumn," Professor Ward said.

"When it comes to climate, we found that lower humidity is the main driver here, rather than colder temperatures," Professor Ward said. "It means we may see an increased risk in winter here, when we have a drop in humidity. But in the northern hemisphere, in areas with lower humidity or during periods when humidity drops, there might be a risk even during the summer months. So vigilance must be maintained."

Professor Ward said there are biological reasons why humidity matters in transmission of airborne viruses.

"When the humidity is lower, the air is drier and it makes the aerosols smaller," he said. "When you sneeze and cough those smaller infectious aerosols can stay suspended in the air for longer. That increases the exposure for other people. When the air is humid and the aerosols are larger and heavier, they fall and hit surfaces quicker."

Professor Ward and his team studied 749 locally acquired cases of COVID-19 – mostly in the Greater Sydney area of the state of New South Wales – between February 26 and March 31. The team matched the patients postcodes with the nearest weather observation station and studied the rainfall, temperature and humidity for the period January to March 2020.

The study found lower humidity was associated with an increased case notifications; a reduction in relative humidity of 1 percent was predicted to be associated with an increase of COVID-19 cases by 6 percent.

"This means we need to be careful coming into a dry winter," Professor Ward said, adding that the average humidity in Sydney is lowest in August.

"Even though the cases of COVID-19 have gone down in Australia, we still need to be vigilant and public health systems need to be aware of potentially increased risk when we are in a period of low humidity," Professor Ward said. "Ongoing testing and surveillance remain critical as we enter the winter months, when conditions may favour coronavirus spread."

Professor Ward said the study was limited to cases contracted in the summer months mostly in and around Sydney, so further research is needed in the months to come and further afield. In winter, cooler temperatures may be also be a factor.

Gene discovery in fruit flies 'opens new doors' for hearing loss cure in elderly

Scientists at UCL have discovered sets of regulatory genes, which are responsible for maintaining healthy hearing. The finding, made in fruit flies, could potentially lead to treatments for age-related hearing loss (ARHL) in humans.

Globally one third of people (1.23 billion people) aged over 65 experience hearing impairments, and while there are thought to be more than 150 candidate genes which may affect hearing loss, there is no unified view on how to use these to develop novel preventive or curative hearing loss therapies.

In the study, published in Scientific Reports, researchers at the UCL Ear Institute assessed the hearing ability of the common fruit fly (Drosophila melanogaster) across its life span (around 70 days*), to see if their hearing declines with age.

The fruit fly is a powerful model in biology and its ear shares many molecular similarities with the ears of humans, which make it an ideal tool for the study of human hearing loss. However, so far, no study had assessed the fruit flies' hearing across their life course.

Using advanced biomechanical, neurophysiological and behavioural techniques**, the researchers found that the antennal ears of fruit flies also display ARHL, with nearly all measures of sensitive hearing starting to decline after 30 days of age.

With this knowledge, the researchers turned their interest to the time before flies developed ARHL: they wanted to know if there were any 'age-variable' genes in the flies' Johnston's Organ (their 'inner ear'), which have kept the ears healthy for 30 days of their lives.

Using a combination of molecular biology, bioinformatics and context analysis, the researchers identified a new set of transcriptional regulator genes: these are so called 'homeostasis genes', meaning they are the genetic actors, so they control the activity which keeps the ear sensitive.

For researchers, one of the principle advantages of the fruit fly model is that it allows for easily testing the roles of individual genes by either increasing their function (overexpression) or silencing them (RNAi interference). Exploiting these tools, researchers also found that manipulating some of the homeostasis genes could prevent the flies from getting ARHL.

Lead author Professor Jorg Albert (UCL Ear Institute) said: "While many studies have been conducted into the hearing function of fruit flies, ours is the first to look at the mechanistic and molecular detail of their auditory life course.

"Our new discovery that fruit flies experience age-related hearing loss and that their gene auditory health is controlled by a particular set of genes, is a significant breakthrough. The fact that these genes are conserved in humans will also help to focus future clinical research in humans and thereby accelerate the discovery of novel pharmacological or gene therapeutic strategies.

"Building on our findings from Drosophila, we have already started a follow-up drug discovery project designed to fast-track novel treatments for human ARHL."

Dr Ralph Holme, Executive Director of Research at Action on Hearing Loss, said: "We urgently need to find effective treatments able to prevent or slow the loss of hearing as we age.

"Hearing loss affects 70% of people aged over 70 years old, causing people off from friends and family.

"Action on Hearing Loss is proud to have been able to support this exciting research that has identified genes involved in maintaining hearing.

"It not only advances our understanding of why hearing declines with age, but importantly also opens the door to the future development of interventions to prevent it."

*At 25 degrees, one day for a fruit fly is equivalent (approximately) to one year for a human.

**Techniques: Laser Doppler Vibrometry (biomechanics), Compound Action Potential (CAP) recordings (neurophysiology), sound-induced locomotor activity (behaviour).

DIYARYO KABITENYO
Nagmamalasakit sa lalawigan
Vol. 23 No. 16 June 8-14, 2020 P 10.00

Pulmonary embolism and COVID-19

Researchers at Henry Ford Health System in Detroit say early diagnosis of a life-threatening blood clot in the lungs led to swifter treatment intervention in COVID-19 patients.

In a new study published recently in the journal Radiology, researchers found that 31 percent of patients found to have a pulmonary embolism, or PE, were diagnosed in the Emergency Department, the entry point for patients being admitted to the hospital.

In Europe, research has shown that most cases of PE were diagnosed in patients admitted to the intensive care unit after being on a ventilator for several days.

In the Henry Ford study, researchers say 72 percent of PE diagnoses were in patients who did not require "ICU-level care," suggesting that timely diagnosis and use of blood thinners could have played a role in the treatment process.

"Based on our study, early detection of PE could further enhance and optimize treatment for patients first presenting in the Emergency Department," says Pallavi Bhargava, M.D., an infectious diseases physician involved in the study. "We advise clinicians to think of PE as an additional complication early on during the admission of patients whose symptoms and lab results point to that condition."

Thomas Song, M.D., a radiologist and the study's senior author, says a timely pulmonary CT angiography made the difference in the PE diagnosis. "We recommend CT angiography because a traditional CT scan may not pick up the blood clot," Dr. Song says.

In addition to the early detection finding, other key highlights emerged from the retrospective study of 328 COVID-19 patients who underwent a pulmonary CT angiography between March 16 and April 18 at Henry Ford's acute care hospitals. 22 percent of patients were found to have a pulmonary embolism.

Patients with a BMI (body mass index) of 50 or higher are nearly three times more at risk for developing a pulmonary embolism. The ideal BMI for adults is 18.5 – 24.9.

Scientists find a switch to flip and turn off breast cancer growth and metastasis

Researchers at Tulane University School of Medicine identified a gene that causes an aggressive form of breast cancer to rapidly grow. More importantly, they have also discovered a way to "turn it off" and inhibit cancer from occurring. The animal study results have been so compelling that the team is now working on FDA approval to begin clinical trials and has published details in the journal Scientific Reports.

The team led by Dr. Resat Izadpanah examined the role two genes, including one whose involvement in cancer was discovered by Tulane researchers, play in causing triple negative breast cancer (TNBC). TNBC is considered to be the most aggressive of breast cancers, with a much poorer prognosis for treatment and survival. Izadpanah's team specifically identified an inhibitor of the TRAF/HP2 gene, which was proven to suppress the growth and spread (metastasis) of TNBC in mouse models that closely resemble humans.