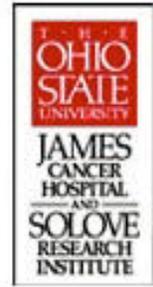


Extra Progressline

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BERRIES CUT COLON CANCER RISK IN RODENTS

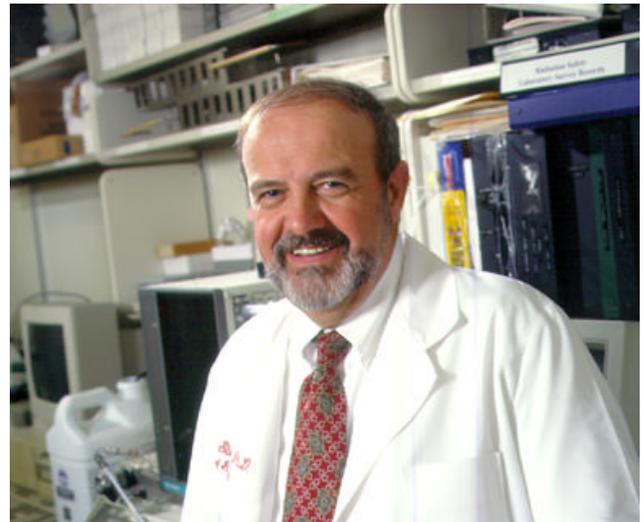
Ohio State University scientists studying the natural chemopreventive properties of strawberries and black raspberries have reported more findings that support a food-based approach to cancer prevention.

Gary Stoner, Ph.D., associate director for basic research in The OSU Comprehensive Cancer Center (CCC), and other OSU collaborators recently conducted a study in which freeze-dried black raspberries (or berry powders) inhibited colon cancer by about 50 percent when added to the diets of rodents that had been chemically treated with carcinogens.

The study was an extension of earlier research by the Stoner lab and collaborators in which freeze-dried strawberries and black raspberries prevented carcinogen-induced esophageal cancer in rodents by 50 to 70 percent.

Dr. Stoner, a member of the CCC's Cancer Prevention and Control Program and holder of the Lucius A. Wing Chair in Cancer Research and Therapy, said one of the effective agents in these berries is ellagic acid, a natural substance that stimulates the activities of enzymes which detoxify carcinogens. Ellagic acid is also an antioxidant that reduces oxidative DNA damage in tissues and cells. However, he added, the researchers realize that the

inhibitory activity of the berries cannot be solely attributed to ellagic acid, so they are working to identify other active compounds in the berries and to examine the mechanisms potentially responsible for their chemopreventive properties. They also plan to conduct clinical trials to determine whether these berries prevent cancer development in the human esophagus and colon.



Gary Stoner, Ph.D., associate director for basic research in The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center, leads important studies that support a food-based approach to cancer prevention.

Dr. Stoner credited the College of Pharmacy and the College of Food, Agricultural and Environmental Sciences for their collaboration with his laboratory in this food-based research. For the recent colon cancer study in rodents, he particularly acknowledged Keith Harris, a Ph.D. candidate in food science and technology who was heavily involved in the project.

"The fact that colon cancer is the second leading cause of cancer-related mortality worldwide underscores the importance of this research," Keith said. "The results of this study are exciting because they emphasize the influence of diet on colon cancer risk and are a first step toward examining the effects of a single food (black raspberries) on human colon cancer."

"Based on the inhibition of cancer seen in the animal model," he added, "further studies will be conducted to examine the effects of black raspberries on cancer-related markers in human clinical trials. This study and others like it raise the possibility that specific dietary modifications may someday be used as a tool to prevent cancer."

Regarding another recent study, Dr. Stoner said strawberry and black raspberry extracts prepared by John Cassady, Ph.D., dean of the College of Pharmacy, and Nan-Jun Sun, Ph.D., also of the College of Pharmacy, have been shown to inhibit carcinogen-induced cell transformation *in vitro*. Researchers are now identifying individual compounds in the berries that may be responsible for this chemopreventive activity.

All of this collaborative research has led to the creation of an American Berry Cooperative in Ohio which consists of more than 150 farmers who are attempting to expand the state's berry industry, in part, on lands formerly used for growing tobacco.

TELECONFERENCE LED BY CCC RESEARCHERS

Michael Caligiuri, M.D., and Pierluigi Porcu, M.D., both of The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center, discussed novel treatment approaches for lymphoma during an Oct. 20 globally networked teleconference for health-care professionals. The hour-long teleconference was presented by Cancer Care, Inc. and the Cure for Lymphoma Foundation (CFL). The program was made possible by educational grants from Genentech BioOncology and IDEC Pharmaceuticals Corporation.

More than 700 physicians, nurses and other health-care professionals participated in the teleconference, during which Drs. Caligiuri and Porcu discussed lymphoma diagnosis, staging and risk stratification, and new targeted treatments such as monoclonal antibodies, vaccines and antisense. The speakers also discussed clinical trials, symptom management, doctor/patient communication and quality-of-life issues.

Dr. Caligiuri, associate director for clinical research in the CCC and holder of John L. Marakas Nationwide Insurance Enterprise Foundation Chair in Cancer Research, said a major point he and Dr. Porcu hoped to make is the importance of getting a second opinion when diagnosed with lymphoma, a general term used to describe various cancers of the lymphatic system.

"Patients diagnosed with lymphoma should be sure to get a second opinion, and preferably their treatment, from a physician whose clinical practice is limited exclusively to lymphoma," Dr. Caligiuri said. "The complexity of this disease would suggest that, in many instances, a general oncologist treating many types of cancer cannot provide the same level of care as a true lymphoma expert."

SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH ACCREDITED

The Ohio State University School of Public Health is now fully accredited through the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH) for a three-year period. It is the 28th accredited school of public health in the country. Ronald L. St. Pierre, Ph.D., interim dean for public health, was notified of the school's first-time accreditation via a phone call from CEPH Executive Director Pat Evans. Dr. St. Pierre expected written notification to arrive soon.

"The maximum term of accreditation for first-time schools is five years; we received three years," he said. "We will be required to respond to the 'partially met' designation for Criterion 5B in the form of an interim report. Upon acceptance of our response, we will be granted the additional two years." He said attention and corrective action toward this criterion are already under way and expressed confidence that the school will receive the maximum term of accreditation.

Dr. St. Pierre said the school, part of The OSU College of Medicine and Public Health, will benefit greatly from accreditation. "This allows us to interact with the other 27 schools, which represent some of the most prestigious universities and health-service centers in the U.S.," he explained. "Accreditation also provides additional opportunities for research funding for faculty, as well as stipend and training support for students that is not available to unaccredited schools. It certainly enhances our ability to attract good faculty and the best and brightest students."

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