

Students receive Fulbright awards

By ANNA ILIFF
ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

Three UC Irvine students and one alumna have recently been named recipients of prestigious Fulbright awards to fund research and teaching projects in Jordan, Colombia and Germany.

The Fulbright Program, established in 1946 by former Sen. J. William Fulbright of Arkansas, gives U.S. students the opportunity to teach and conduct research in an international setting.

This year, six UC Irvine students were named finalists. The UCI recipients:

ARMAAN ROWTHER

Rowther, a biological sciences major with a 4.0 GPA, will use his Fulbright research grant to conduct public health research and evaluate the effectiveness of merging a computer-aided diabetes education program with existing



Rowther

diabetes testing services for Palestinian refugees in Jordan. Rowther was the 2011-2012 UC Irvine Dalai Lama Scholar, a member of the Campuswide Honors Program, and a member of the UC President's Advisory Council on Campus Climate, Culture, and Inclusion.

SORAYA AZZAWI

Azzawi, a senior majoring in neurobiology and political science, will conduct public health research and explore the psychosocial health conditions of Iraqi refugees in Jordan. Azzawi is the UC Irvine Dalai Lama Scholar for the 2012-13 academic year, a member of the Campuswide Honors Program and has worked with the Olive Tree Initiative, an organization that promotes dialogue regarding the Israeli-Arab conflict. Azzawi said she has also conducted research on long-term memory formation since January 2010.



Azzawi

Hernandez, a political science and music performance major, was selected as one of 25 students nationwide to receive an English teaching assistantship that will allow him to spend 10 months in Colombia. Hernandez is a member of three honor societies and has made the Dean's Honors List for 12 quarters. He is also the co-founder of non-profit group Mentors Empowering and Nurturing through Education, which matches low-income, first generation minority teenagers with college student mentors.

FELIPE HERNANDEZ

Christine Thrasher, a recipient of the Fulbright English teaching assistantship, said she will use her Fulbright award to teach English to German students. She received her bachelor's degree last year in German studies and global cultures and has previously served as a mentor to international students and has prior experience teaching English as a second language. She plans to pursue a graduate degree in multilingual and intercultural education after she completes her project in Germany.



Hernandez

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CHRISTINE THRASHER

Another fun-run event is scheduled for the fall. For additional information, email uciaw@law.uci.edu

UCI IN FOCUS

ULCER BACTERIA'S SECRETS UNLOCKED

By LAUREN STEUSSY
ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

If trying to pronounce "Helicobacter pylori" is already giving you an ulcer, this discovery is for you.

H. pylori, the resilient stomach bacteria behind gastric ulcers and stomach cancer, got a good hard look by a UC Irvine research team led by molecular biology and biochemistry professor Hartmut Luecke.

The team used powerful X-rays to create a 3-D model of a key protein among the thousands that reside in the H. pylori cell. Within the bacterium's cell membrane sits a certain type of protein, characterized by narrow channels at the center. The channels allow the bacteria to locally neutralize the stomach's acidic environment.

Once safe in the stomach, the H. pylori bacteria grow and thrive for decades, creating ulcers and sometimes leading to stomach cancer.

The channel discovery opens up a possible new method of attacking the bacteria by blocking the channel, which Luecke hopes will put an end to the painful ulcers and deadly cancer the bacteria sometimes causes.



PHOTO COURTESY OF HARTMUT LUECKE

Hartmut Luecke led a team that created a model of H. pylori bacteria.

Breaking down a defense

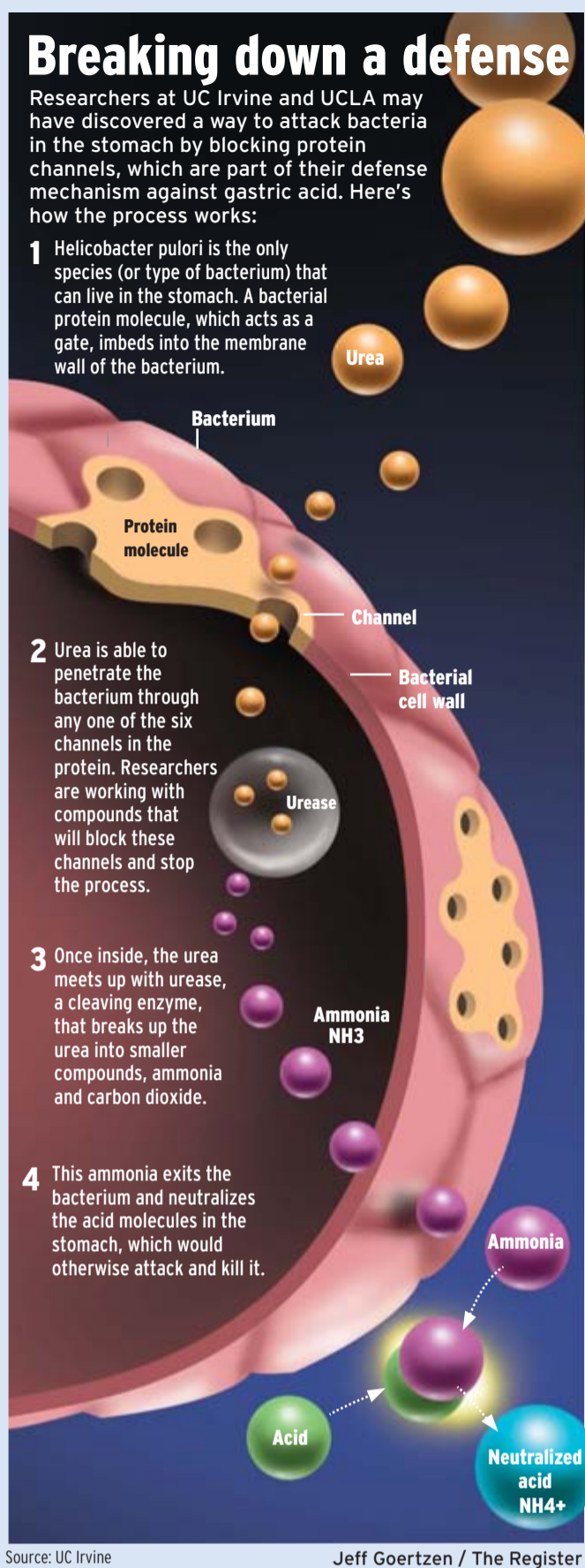
Researchers at UC Irvine and UCLA may have discovered a way to attack bacteria in the stomach by blocking protein channels, which are part of their defense mechanism against gastric acid. Here's how the process works:

1 Helicobacter pylori is the only species (or type of bacterium) that can live in the stomach. A bacterial protein molecule, which acts as a gate, imbeds into the membrane wall of the bacterium.

2 Urea is able to penetrate the bacterium through any one of the six channels in the protein. Researchers are working with compounds that will block these channels and stop the process.

3 Once inside, the urea meets up with urease, a cleaving enzyme, that breaks up the urea into smaller compounds, ammonia and carbon dioxide.

4 This ammonia exits the bacterium and neutralizes the acid molecules in the stomach, which would otherwise attack and kill it.



Source: UC Irvine

Jeff Goertzen / The Register

HOW IT WORKS

Q. What is an ulcer?

A. An ulcer is a sore in the stomach's lining or the first part of the small intestine, the National Library of Medicine states. It is usually accompanied by a burning stomach pain.

Q. How are they treated now?

A. Treatment or therapy currently involves a combination of antibiotics, but the regimen has a failure rate greater than 20 percent, and the resistance is growing. There are also significant side effects.

Q. How will this discovery help cure stomach cancer?

A. It might lead to the discovery of a drug that could eradicate the infection in a targeted way, with fewer side effects and with lower failure rates.

DID YOU KNOW?

- H. pylori is the most common cause of peptic ulcers.
 - At least half the world's population carries H. pylori.
 - Ulcers are not caused by stress, but stress can make symptoms worse.
 - People who are infected have to take more than 80 tablets during a two-week span to get rid of the ulcer.
 - In China, about 300,000 people die of stomach cancer annually; worldwide, about 750,000 die of the cancer.
- Source: Hartmut Luecke, National Institutes of Health

LOOKALIKES: Friends found the pair

FROM PAGE 1

Student Union to track down the elusive Sweeting, who's a self-described hermit.

Hanging out on campus on a rare night out at 4 a.m., Sweeting, a fifth-year Chinese studies student, was with friends in an engineering and computing trailer. A woman sitting behind him kept staring and then interrupted to show them a photo of Yaqubi on her cellphone.

"It was like staring right into the mirror," Sweeting said.

She took down his information, and Sweeting didn't think anything more of it.

A few days later, the pair were studying at the Student Center courtyard. Yaqubi's friends told him his twin was nearby, and Yaqubi cautiously approached Sweeting's table.

"He goes, 'Dude!' And I go, 'Dude!' " Sweeting said. Yaqubi recently posted a photo of the pair on social website Reddit, where it quickly made the front page as the site's users voted it up the ranks. While Yaqubi was in a lecture, his phone was inundated with text messages as friends saw

the snapshot online. Sweeting is taller, and his hair is a bit wavier, but both

"It's this weird feeling like, if I looked at photos of his life, I'd feel like I was in some of these events."

HAMID YAQUBI, ON HIS RESEMBLANCE TO ANTHONY SWEETING

laugh easily and are usually smiling. Overall, the two aren't that similar physically - but the facial resemblance is uncanny, and some Photoshop users have swapped their faces to show it.

"It was probably one of the easiest face swaps I've ever done," said John Weaver, a Reddit user who works in video production.

Neither student thought his lookalike would be someone of different backgrounds. Though he's full Afghan, Yaqubi's siblings are fair-skinned, and he has cousins with red hair and green eyes.

"It's this weird feeling like, if I looked at photos of his life, I'd feel like I was in some of these events," said

Yaqubi, a fourth-year materials science engineering student.

They didn't spend too much time together since Sweeting was studying for a final that was starting in 30 minutes. So far, there aren't any plans for pranks on friends or TV interviews.

But Francois Brunelle - a French Canadian photographer who's taken portraits of doppelgängers for several years - has his eye on them, Yaqubi said.

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5K run funds students' service

By ANNA ILIFF
ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

Students, alumni, faculty, staff and community members participated in the first 5K Run/Walk for Justice at UC Irvine on April 7. The event raises funds for stipends for UC Irvine law students who commit to unpaid summer positions at organizations that provide services for underrepresented communities.

Participants took three laps around the campus and Aldrich Park to complete the route and received a T-shirt and complimentary refreshments.

The event is one of several hosted by UC Irvine School of Law to raise the funds. In March, the school hosted its annual Community Trivia Quest at the Hilton in Costa Mesa.

In total, UCI Law has raised more than \$40,000 for student stipends this summer, said Mary Germain, assistant director of annual giving and alumni relations for UC Irvine School of Law.

Another fun-run event is scheduled for the fall. For additional information, email uciaw@law.uci.edu



PHOTOS: JEFF ANTENORE, FOR THE REGISTER

UC Irvine law professors Jonathan Glater and Jennifer Chacon push their kids Max and Maya Glater-Chacon in the 5K Run/Walk For Justice.



Kessa Palchikoff and father Jay Palchikoff of Corona del Mar stretch and lace up their shoes before the start of the event.



Tami Bui, left, a 2002 UCI graduate, and Shirley Kim, who is considering attending the UCI School of Law, run together.



From left, UCI School of Law staff members Charles Cannon, Elizabeth Schroeder and Anna Davis walk together.