In the Media

Arizona Public Media

Interdisciplinary Consciousness Conference Celebrates 20 Years

Although consciousness has been studied for thousands of years, it still remains one of the most mysterious concepts in the world.

“(Consciousness is) awareness, having an experience, being aware of your surroundings or yourself…having a phenomenal aspect of existence,” said Stuart Hameroff, MD, director of the University of Arizona Center for Consciousness Studies and professor emeritus of anesthesiology and psychology at the UA. “It could have been that we would be complex behaving entities going around our business without any inner consciousness…”

Since 1994, Dr. Hameroff has been involved in organizing a biannual interdisciplinary conference on the science of consciousness, which opened again this week in Tucson. Toward a Science of Consciousness hosts about 800 scientists, philosophers, experimentalists, artists and students from different backgrounds and perspectives. Read more

MedPage Today

CardioBuzz: A New Vascular Glue?

A novel glue for surgical and minimally invasive cardiovascular procedures turns from a viscous liquid to a tough but flexible “plug” at a flip of the UV light switch, with promising animal model results. The UV light-activated adhesive created a water-tight
seal in seconds that stayed intact in the face of high pressure and flowing blood but biodegrades over time, explained Danny Bluestein, PhD, of New York's Stony Brook University, and Marvin J. Slepian, MD, of the UA Sarver Heart Center in Tucson. "The resultant adhesive is soft and elastic, with material properties akin to underlying tissues, yet with significant adhesive and cohesive strength, providing an increased power of adhesion that is nearly three times as great as that of current commercially available fibrin sealants," they reported in the April 17 issue of the New England Journal of Medicine. Read more

Bio-Medicine

Rural Microbes Could Boost City Dwellers' Health

The greater prevalence of asthma, allergies and other chronic inflammatory disorders among people of lower socioeconomic status might be due in part to their reduced exposure to the microbes that thrive in rural environments, according to a new scientific paper. The article, published in the journal Clinical & Experimental Immunology, argues that people living in urban centers who have less access to green spaces may be more apt to have chronic inflammation, a condition caused by immune system dysfunction.

Article co-authors are Christopher Lowry, PhD, associate professor in the University of Colorado Boulder's Department of Integrative Physiology, Graham Rook, MD, of UCL (University College London) and Charles Raison, MD, of the University of Arizona. Read more

Cronkite News

CDC report: Big Increase in Nicotine Exposure from e-cigarette Liquid

A new report by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention shows a nationwide rise in nicotine exposure from the liquid in e-cigarettes, mirroring increases seen by Arizona's poison control centers. The number of calls nationally rose from one per month in September 2010 to 215 calls per month in February.
2014, according to the study released in early April. The study reported 2,405 exposures related to e-cigarettes in this time period but suggests that the number of cases could actually be higher.

Keith Boesen, PharmD, director of the Arizona Poison and Drug Information Center, said the center recorded two calls in 2012, 25 calls in 2013 and 10 calls so far this year. “Most of the exposures are actually from the liquid itself, like the refill caps, not necessarily the device people are smoking out of,” Dr. Boesen said. “It’s the refill where you have a large concentration or quantity of nicotine in a relatively small container.”

**Tucson News Now**

**UA Children’s Health and Wellness Summer Camps Return**

The Healthy 2 B Me Wellness Camp is bringing kids together to teach them about nutrition, cooking, swim, dance and an all-around healthy lifestyle. The camp is put together by the University of Arizona Mel and Enid Zuckerman College of Public Heath, with help from Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Arizona. Kids ages 7 to 10 and grades 2 through 5 are invited to attend any of the three-week-long day camps. Activities range from cooking to Zumba to swimming, all with the aim of teaching students about wellness. Sun safety, dental health, hygiene and team-building experiences will be provided by teachers and students from Canyon Ranch Center for Prevention and Health Promotion, the College of Public Health and other community leaders.

**Lower Extremity Review**

**Patients as People: Experts Emphasize Personal Approach**

Bijan Najafi, PhD, showed a video in March as part of a presentation at the Diabetic Foot Global Conference (DFCon) in Los Angeles. Dr. Najafi, director of the Interdisciplinary Consortium on Advanced Motion Performance at the University of Arizona, and other presenters throughout the conference, repeatedly underscored the need for clinicians to view each patient as an
individual rather than as one more at-risk diabetic foot. Stability also is important for patient quality of life, noted David Armstrong, DPM, MD, PhD, a professor of surgery and director of the Southern Arizona Limb Salvage Alliance at the UA. Read more

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