Experimental Biology 2015 Featured Research Findings

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BETHESDA, Md., March 25, 2015 – Six scientific societies will hold their joint scientific sessions and annual meetings, known as Experimental Biology (EB), from March 28 – April 1, 2015, in Boston. This meeting, EB 2015, brings together the leading researchers from dozens of life-science disciplines. The societies represented at the meeting will be: the American Association of Anatomists (AAA), the American Physiological Society (APS), the American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (ASBMB), the American Society for Investigative Pathology (ASIP), the American Society for Nutrition (ASN) and the American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics (ASPET).

Below are some programming highlights. For full releases or abstracts, email media@faseb.org.

Natural extract shows promise for preventing breast cancer
Scientists report that rosehip extract significantly reduced the growth and migration of cells from triple negative breast cancer, a particularly aggressive form of cancer that does not respond to most available treatments. The research may lead to a natural way to prevent or aid treatment of triple negative breast cancer.
(Sunday, March 29, 12:30 p.m. EDT)

Secrets of the seahorse tail revealed
Biologists and engineers worked together to gain a new understanding of how the unique grasping tails of seahorses evolved. These prehensile tails combine the seemingly contradictory characteristics of flexibility and rigidity, and knowing how seahorses accomplish this feat could help engineers create devices that are both flexible and strong.
(Tuesday, March 31, 8:48 a.m. EDT)

Oral hepatitis B vaccine could become a reality
Researchers report progress toward perfecting a radical new method of producing vaccines using genetically modified corn. This new approach allows delivery of the hepatitis B vaccine in an edible wafer that requires no refrigeration and would cost less than $1 per dose to manufacture.
(Sunday, March 29, 12:05 p.m. EDT)
Highly processed foods dominate U.S. grocery purchases
The first nation-wide analysis of grocery purchases reveals that highly processed foods are a dominant, stable part of U.S. purchasing patterns and that these foods tend to be higher in fat, sugar and salt. The study included more than 150,000 households and analyzed 1.2 million grocery products.
(Saturday, March 28, 5:00 p.m. EDT)

Ozone air pollution could harm women’s fertility
New research in mice suggests breathing high levels of the common air pollutant ozone could affect women’s ability to conceive. If the findings hold up in people, it might be necessary to add women of reproductive age to the list of groups that need to use special caution on days with high levels of ozone.
(Sunday, March 29, 11:45 a.m. EDT)

New clues to why poor nutrition in the womb leads to obesity later in life
Babies receiving poor nutrition in the womb tend to be smaller at birth, which has been linked to the development of obesity and other health problems later in life. A new study examines how poor fetal nutrition affects protein expression in the fat tissue of adult rats, revealing key differences between males and females.
(Tuesday, March 31, 9:30 a.m. EDT)

Component of red grapes and wine could help ease depression
A new study finds that resveratrol — a natural anti-inflammatory agent found in the skin of red grapes — can reduce depression-related behaviors in rats. The investigators hope their findings will encourage clinical research testing the effectiveness of natural anti-inflammatory agents on depression, which affects approximately 148 million people in the United States.
(Monday, March 30, 12:30 p.m. EDT)

Eating green leafy vegetables keeps mental abilities sharp
Researchers find that older people who ate one to two servings of leafy greens per day had the cognitive ability of a person 11 years younger than those who consumed none. The study also examined the nutrients responsible for the effect, linking vitamin K consumption to slower cognitive decline for the first time.
(Monday, March 30, 11:00 a.m. EDT)

New compounds could offer therapy for multitude of diseases
An international research team demonstrates a way to safely prevent harmful protein aggregation. The findings raise hope that a new class of drugs may be on the horizon for the more than 30 diseases and conditions that involve protein aggregation, including diabetes, cancer, spinal cord injury, Alzheimer’s disease, Parkinson’s disease and amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS).
(Sunday, March 29, 12:05 p.m. EDT)
Neurological diseases share common blood-brain barrier defects
Although stroke, epilepsy, multiple sclerosis, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) and traumatic brain injury each affect the central nervous system differently, a new study finds that they share common defects in the blood-brain barrier that can be traced to a single set of genes. The findings could yield new approaches for treating brain diseases.
(Monday, March 30, 5:00 p.m. EDT)

Researchers identify mechanisms that link compulsive binge eating with hypertension
A new study finds that compulsive binging on foods high in fat and sugar can trigger specific molecular changes that can lead to high blood pressure (hypertension). While others have studied the effects of binge eating on the brain, this study is the first to look at its effects on the expression of specific proteins in the body.
(Monday, March 30, 1:45 p.m. EDT)

New genetic link found for alcohol-related liver cirrhosis
Scientists report that a genetic predisposition might put some alcoholics at increased risk for developing irreversible liver cirrhosis, for which the only treatment is a liver transplant. The new findings could one day help with early diagnosis and treatment of chronic liver disease.
(Saturday, March 28, 2:15 p.m. EDT)

Media Registration
Free registration is available to credentialed representatives of the press, and an onsite newsroom will be available for media. Detailed instructions for individuals who wish to request press passes are available on the website.

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