



DIANA CASSADY IS WORKING TO INCREASE ACCESS TO FRESH FRUITS AND VEGETABLES IN LOW-INCOME AND URBAN AREAS.

HOW DO WE ENSURE THE HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OF ALL PEOPLE?

A BETTER URBAN DIET **DIANA CASSADY HAS BECOME SOMETHING OF A MATCHMAKER. THE PUBLIC HEALTH SCIENCES RESEARCHER IS INTENT ON LINKING LOW-INCOME, INNER-CITY RESIDENTS**

with more and better fresh produce, known to help prevent serious health problems.

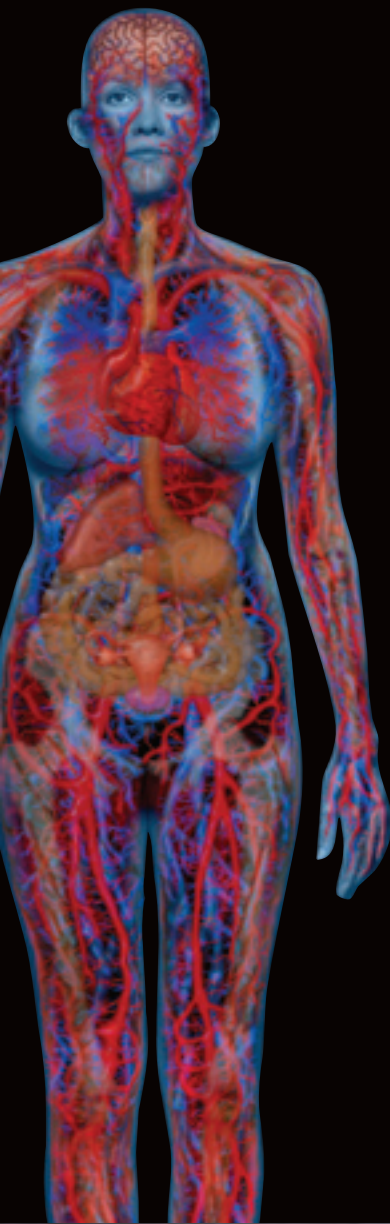
“Residents of lower-income and minority neighborhoods in many urban areas face a double bind that limits their access to fresh, healthy food, especially fresh fruits and vegetables,” Cassady said. “Not only are full-service supermarkets scarce in many inner-city areas, but many residents lack cars to get to supermarkets in town.”

Undaunted, Cassady launched several research projects. One helped the owner of a small neighborhood grocery store in Sacramento provide customers with a greater selection of fresh fruits and vegetables by installing a refrigerated display case and increasing space for produce.

In another study, Cassady showed that inner-city supermarkets could boost their profits and community service by offering shoppers free shuttles to and from the markets, where they can obtain a greater selection of fresh produce.

In yet another study, she demonstrated that after-school programs can significantly improve children’s overall diets by replacing high-fat snacks with more fruits and vegetables.

Because research has shown that produce-rich diets help protect against illnesses such as heart disease and certain cancers, Cassady hopes to identify practical ways for getting these amazing everyday foods onto consumers’ tables.



HOPE FOR THE INCURABLE STEM CELL RESEARCH OFFERS HOPE OF NEW TREATMENTS FOR DISEASES AND CONDITIONS FROM DIABETES AND PARKINSON'S TO CANCER, HEART FAILURE

and spinal injuries. As one of only two centers in the country funded by the National Institutes of Health to translate human stem cell research into therapies, UC Davis is at the leading edge with investments in people, training and facilities. UC Davis is attracting funding—such as \$2.6 million to train young physicians and scientists in stem cell research, one of the first grants by the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine, established by Proposition 71. It is hiring people like Jan Nolte, from Washington University, St. Louis, who will lead the School of Medicine's stem cell program, and her colleague

Gerhard Bauer who will run a new, ultraclean lab so that experimental treatments can be moved quickly to patients. The university is building facilities: A 100,000-square-foot facility on the School of Medicine campus is being renovated for stem cell research space. And it is working with partners: With the Shriners Hospital of Northern California, the campus has established the Institute for Pediatric Regenerative Medicine, led by neurology professor David Pleasure, to look for new ways to promote wound healing and tissue regeneration in children.



INTERDISCIPLINARY ALLIANCE ILLUMINATES AVIAN FLU

THE DEADLY H5N1 AVIAN INFLUENZA HAS INFECTED BIRDS IN 48 COUNTRIES, KILLED ALMOST 150 PEOPLE AND HAS THE POTENTIAL TO BECOME A GLOBAL PANDEMIC.

Now the disease has become the focus of four UC Davis researchers—a wildlife health expert, a poultry veterinarian and two physicians—who have combined their expertise to better inform the public about bird flu. "There was an awareness that each of us, whether in poultry, wildlife or human health, was seeing the same train heading down the track straight toward us," said Walter Boyce, the School of Veterinary Medicine's Wildlife Health Center director. "It became clear that questions and answers cut across disciplines and species, and that we could help each other"—and by doing so, help the country

prepare. Boyce, UC Cooperative Extension veterinarian Carol Cardona and UC Davis Medical Center physicians Warner Hudson and Christian Sandrock joined forces in August 2005. They have since logged hundreds of interviews with the media, elected officials, health-care providers and community groups. The inter-disciplinary team is also preparing a "Flu School" curriculum to update health professionals and the public on avian influenza, and Boyce and Cardona are working to secure funding for a center devoted to research and testing of influenza viruses in animals and humans.

ABOVE, FROM LEFT: WARNER HUDSON, WALTER BOYCE, CHRISTIAN SANDROCK AND CAROL CARDONA ARE COLLABORATING TO RAISE AWARENESS ABOUT AVIAN FLU.

JAN NOLTE (LEFT) AND GERHARD BAUER ARE LOOKING FOR NEW WAYS STEM CELLS CAN HELP WITH PATIENT TREATMENT.

