



## **CEDARS-SINAI MEDICAL TIP SHEET: Mar. 23, 2001**

### **RESEARCHERS AT CEDARS-SINAI'S MAXINE DUNITZ NEUROSURGICAL INSTITUTE FIND FOUR MORE GENES THAT MAY PLAY A ROLE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF MALIGNANT BRAIN TUMORS**

Using technology that enables them to analyze 18,000 genes in a single experiment, researchers at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center's Maxine Dunitz Neurosurgical Institute have identified four genes that may play a role in the development of certain types of malignant brain tumors. The research, reported in the February issue of the *International Journal of Oncology*, may facilitate earlier detection of "glial" tumors and eventually allow scientists to devise new approaches to preventing and treating these often-devastating cancers.

### **P.K. SHAH, CHAIRMAN OF CARDIOLOGY, CO-CHAIRS THE GREAT HEART DIET DEBATE (ATKINS VS. ORNISH) AS 30 CEDARS-SINAI SPECIALISTS PARTICIPATE IN AMERICAN COLLEGE OF CARDIOLOGY'S ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC SESSION**

Thirty researchers, cardiologists or other specialists from Cedars-Sinai Medical Center made presentations and chaired sessions at the 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Scientific Session of the American College of Cardiology. While most presentations were highly scientific, offering detailed insights into complex subjects of primary interest to physicians and researchers. At least one meeting, held both educational and entertainment value, and required two respected cardiologists to serve as referees in a debate of two highly controversial and polar-extreme "heart-healthy" diets.

### **PHYSICIAN-SCIENTIST OFFERS EXPERTISE ABOUT HOW RESEARCHERS ARE ABLE TO IDENTIFY DISEASES FROM THE GENETIC SEQUENCES OF THE HUMAN GENOME**

The recent publication of the first sequence and map of the human genome makes official the promise of a new era in medicine. The maps will enable physicians to understand disease at the genetic level, ultimately providing new treatments for patients. Yet, amidst all the excitement, interpreting genetic sequences will take time. Enter Dr. Julie Korenberg, a medical geneticist at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, who, in collaboration with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, developed a tool that is helping researchers all over the world link disease with the corresponding genetic sequences emerging from the human genome. The tool, called a bacterial artificial chromosome (BAC) map, involves linking bacteria that produce clones of specific portions of DNA to landmarks seen under a microscope, so that scientists can locate defective genes.

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To pursue any of these story ideas, please call 310-423-4767. Thank you.