

Media Contact: Tony Allen (702) 895-0893  
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## **UNLV NURSING PROFESSOR TO INVESTIGATE ROLE OF INFLAMMATORY CELLS IN MUSCLE RECOVERY**

*Interdisciplinary Study Funded Through Inaugural UNLV  
President's Research Award*

LAS VEGAS—October 3, 2007—UNLV School of Nursing professor Barbara St. Pierre Schneider and an interdisciplinary team of researchers are investigating how macrophages—immune cells critical to the inflammatory response—contribute to muscle injury repair, work that may lead to new therapies that speed muscle recovery and reduce the high cost of rehabilitation.

Macrophages originate in the bone marrow as immature cells, and, upon injury, migrate to injured tissues. Once inside injured tissue, macrophages mature, remove damaged cells and may perform functions that promote muscle cell regeneration. St. Pierre Schneider and colleagues plan to study muscle-related factors that induce immature macrophages to mature, with a goal of gaining a greater understanding of how these inflammatory cells contribute to muscle repair.

The study is one of ten recently awarded by UNLV President David B. Ashley as part of the inaugural President's Research Award (PRA) program. The PRA program was designed to support university research teams in their pursuit of competitive grant funding and stimulate interdisciplinary and multi-university research collaborations.

(more)

St. Pierre-Schneider was awarded \$50,000 for the two-year project and plans to use the results to submit funding applications to the National Institutes of Health and the Department of Defense. The project will also launch laboratory science in the School of Nursing at UNLV.

Collaborators on the project with St. Pierre Schneider include Patricia Bray-Ward, associate professor of research and graduate studies at UNLV; Sheniz Moonie, assistant professor of epidemiology and biostatistics at UNLV; Timothy Koh, associate professor of movement sciences at University of Illinois-Chicago; and Yupu Ma, chief of hematopathology at the Nevada Cancer Institute.

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*UNLV is a doctoral-degree-granting institution of 28,000 students and 3,300 faculty and staff. Founded in 1957, the university offers more than 220 undergraduate, master's and doctoral degree programs. UNLV is located on a 350-acre campus in dynamic Southern Nevada and is classified in the category of Research Universities (high research activity) by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching.*