NEW MEDICINES FOR THE TREATMENT OF CHRONIC PAIN

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Project Description:

Analgesic drugs like aspirin, ibuprofen, and Tylenol effectively treat acute pain, such as minor cuts, bruises, and headaches. Much more difficult is the treatment of chronic pain, such as with arthritis or lower back pain. Our medical sciences laboratory is studying how chemical changes in the spinal cord and brain might lead to chronic pain. Our approach is to study the body's natural pain-killers, including the endorphins (thought to cause the runner's "high") and other neuropeptides. Our work will contribute to the development of more effective drugs for the treatment of chronic pain. Further information can be obtained on our website: http://www.som.tulane.edu/departments/pharmacology/Faculty/Taylor.htm

Project Objectives:

- 1. Complete a pharmacology (drug research) experiment in rats or mice.
- 2. Analyze neurons in the brain or spinal cord after dissection.
- 3. Learn and utilize some molecular biological techniques.

Prerequisites:

This project is ideal for students considering a profession in the medical sciences. Requires some biological laboratory experience, such as mammalian dissection. Laboratory experience in chemistry a plus.