



PRESS RELEASE

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**FOR RELEASE: Friday, September 1, 2006**

**NIH Awards \$1.6 Million to Dr. Vivian Cody**  
***HWI Scientist to Use Funds to Design More Effective Drugs***  
***To Treat Patients with AIDS-related Pneumonia***

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) has made a \$1.6 million grant to Dr. Vivian Cody, principal research scientist at the Hauptman-Woodward Medical Research Institute, Inc. (HWI). Over the next four years, Cody's group will use this grant to continue their study of opportunistic pathogens that affect people with compromised immune systems. Patients with AIDS or those on dialysis or receiving chemotherapy are more susceptible to certain types of pneumonia. Cody's research is aimed at understanding how compounds are recognized by the target enzyme from these pathogens so that more effective drugs can be designed for the treatment of those infections to help improve the quality and longevity of immune-compromised patients.

Cody said, "There is still a great need to have new drugs for the treatment of opportunistic pneumonia that is prevalent in patients with AIDS or who are immune-compromised. This is particularly important as drug-resistance becomes more common, thereby reducing the effectiveness of current therapies."

"We are working with medicinal chemists and toxicologists to complement our structural studies of these opportunistic pathogenic enzyme targets so that we can understand how to design new compounds that are more selective and have fewer side effects."

In addition to her position at HWI, Cody holds faculty positions at the University at Buffalo's School of Medicine, Department of Structural Biology, as well as within the Department of Biophysics at Roswell Park.

She received her Ph.D. in chemistry at the University of Cincinnati and her bachelor's degree in chemistry from the University of Michigan.

***About Hauptman-Woodward Medical Research Institute***

Celebrating 50 years of exceptional scientific research, HWI is an independent, non-profit facility specializing in the area of fundamental biomedical research known as structural biology. Our team of more than 70 staff members is committed to improving human health by studying the causes of diseases, as well as potential therapies, at their basic molecular level. We are located in the heart of the Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus in downtown Buffalo, New York, in a new state-of-the-art structural biology research center at 700 Ellicott Street. For more information, visit HWI's website at [www.hwi.buffalo.edu](http://www.hwi.buffalo.edu) or call 716-898-8600.