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THE GYROLOG

THE GYRO CLUB OF EDMONTON

August 2001

President

Larry Dobson
Res. 444-5111

On August 7th, 1st Vice President **Victor Jagoldas** welcomed 26 Gyros to lunch. **Roger Russell** led the group in Cheerio and **David Burnett** asked the blessing.

1st Vice-President

Victor Jagoldas
Res. 434-2438

Mort Morter reported that he was not aware of any illness in the club.

2nd Vice-President

Roy Bennett
Res. 987-2403

The following Gyros celebrated birthdays in August: **Bruce Foy, Walter Yakimets, Peter Fairbridge, Al McClure, Allan Douglas, Dave Duchak, and Rick Korzan.**

Imm. Past President

Bruce Foy
Res. 436-7142

John Ross reported on an article in the Journal about our former member, Dick Mandlis, who is taking part in new trials for a drug to help people with kidney transplants.

Secretary

Geoff Brewer
Res. 444-6080

Gord Robertson introduced the guest speaker, Bob Layton, the news director at 630 CHED. Bob is spearheading the drive for a new police helicopter and reported on the process of convincing the police commission to approve the lease. The helicopter, one of the quietest models, is now in service. **Tony Sheppard** thanked Bob for his interesting and informative talk.

Treasurer

John Stroppa
Res. 469-6133

Dave Duchak won a free lunch, and a popular winner he was.

Directors

Dick Nichols
Res. 476-3221
Ted Hagemann
Res. 435-2833
Fred Schulte
Res. 434-0925
Peter Fairbridge
Res. 435-5629

Many thanks to **Gord Robertson**, who does most of the work in producing the Gyrolog, for also taking notes at the August 7th meeting that I was unable to attend.

Gyrolog

Editor-In -Chief

Gordon Rennie
Res. 488-2856

On August 21, 2001, **Past President Bruce Foy** challenged **Gord Rennie** for the title of 'retread' as he stepped up to the plate to chair the meeting. **Mike Matei** led us in Cheerio and **Barrie Walker** asked the blessing.

Editor

Allan Douglas
Phone/Fax 433-5409

There were 26 Gyros in attendance and **David Burnett** introduced his long time friend Ernie Berkus.

Bruce Foy reported that there were 145 participants at the District VIII Convention at Castlegar that was hosted by their seven-member club. Newly elected International

President Larry Brawn and about two-thirds of the international executive attended the convention. The **Dobsons, Foys, Glassfords and Larsons** attended from our club. **Bruce** stated it was a great convention and Regina won the man mile award.

There will be a \$5.00 increase in International fees as a result of a decision made by the International Executive.

Mort Morter reported that **John Pedden** is undergoing more tests and we wish him well.

John Ross introduced Ed Jones from Habitat for Humanity who was the guest speaker. The organization provides low income housing for people who could not otherwise afford it. They are able to get an interest free mortgage based on their own sweat equity. Their mortgage payments go into a fund to finance other homes. In Edmonton they built four homes this year. David Burnett thanked the speaker who drew **Ernie Siegel's** name for a free lunch.

Upcoming Events: ATTENTION PHONERS Ted Hagemann is away until Xmas.

Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday September 4th and the guest speaker will be our own **Ernie Siegel** who will tell us about his recent trip to Turkey and provide us with some history about that interesting part of the world.

On Friday September 7th there is the Sherwood Park quad club mixed golf tournament that is being organized by **Allan Warrack** and **Marty Larson**. There are about 16 golfers from our club committed and if you want to join the group contact one of the two. The cost for golf and a steak dinner is \$55 and the dinner only for \$25. It will be held at the Legends Golf club and the ladies will tee off starting at 12:00 p.m. with the men to follow.

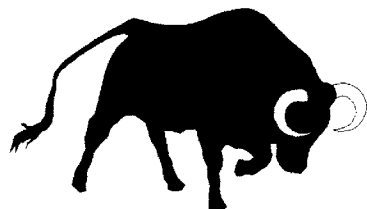
The next Gyrettes meeting will be on Tuesday September 11th with cocktails at 6:00 and dinner at 7:00. Cost is \$17 and the speaker will discuss "Writing our memories".

On Sunday October 14th, **John Stroppa** has arranged for an afternoon at the races starting at 1:00 p.m. in the Spectrum Suite at Northlands. There is an extensive buffet. Cost is \$22 for Gyros, spouses, Gyrettes and a guest. Others are not subsidized and the cost is \$26.50. If you are interested, contact **John** at 469-6133.

This year Founders Night will be a mixed event to be held at the Mayfair on Tuesday October 16, 2001. Since this is our club's 80th anniversary we would like to have a great turnout. The event will be subsidized and 3rd **International Vice-President Dennis Moffat** will officiate.

Same Old Bull

Allan



Retired city farmer first in line to test new kidney transplant drug

GEOFFREY VANDERBURG
Journal Staff Writer
EDMONTON

A 63-year-old Edmonton man is set to become the first kidney transplant patient to test a drug that purports to prevent organ rejection while causing fewer nasty side effects than other medications.

"It doesn't really matter whether I'm first or 10th, I'm just glad to be able to partake in the trials," said Richard Mandlis, who had a kidney transplant in 1998.

"I was very fortunate to get a transplant and somebody paid dearly for me to be able to have one. If the next step is to find a better drug to stop kidneys from being rejected, then I think I should give it a try."

Mandlis, a retired farmer and retailer, applied about three months ago to be part of the trials. He was tested at University Hospital on Thursday and will start taking ISAtx247, developed by Edmonton-based Isotechnika, within a few days.

Research on animals and healthy volunteers in the first stage of trials suggests ISAtx247 has the potential to eliminate side effects such as headaches, swollen gums and unwanted hair growth caused by the cyclosporine that transplant patients now take to prevent organ rejection. "If they can cut some of

these things out by having a better drug, more potent with less side effects, I think it's good for everybody," Mandlis said.

Isotechnika announced Thursday that Mandlis is the first of 120 patients at 13 transplant sites around North America who will be enrolled in the study.

Health Canada approved the second phase of clinical trials in May. The patients, who must have received their new kidneys at least six months before the three-month trial, will be taken

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Richard Mandlis

off cyclosporine and put on ISAtx247. Phase 3 in 2002 will see the drug administered at the time of transplantation to about five times as many patients.

Health Canada has also given the green light to begin testing the drug on patients with psoriasis and rheumatoid arthritis.

Isotechnika president Dr. Randall Yatscoff said the drug has the potential to improve a patient's quality of life as well as decrease health-care costs.

"This is no question a significant improvement over the present medications to prevent organ rejection after transplantation," he

said. "Seeing this drug being actually given to patients is a major milestone."

Dr. Sandra Cockfield, medical director of the kidney transplant program at University Hospital, said researchers hope to determine whether the apparent benefits of ISAtx247 on animals and volunteers will translate to transplant patients.

"For the first time, it seems as though there is a cyclosporine compound that still has the anti-rejection effect but does not seem to have the same side effects," she said. "The question we want to answer is, if we start to look at using this drug in transplant patients, are we going to see the same benefits?"

Cockfield said the purpose of clinical research is to get experience working with new drugs.

"It's nice when you're first, but the most important thing is what happens when we have enough patients to really tell how people are doing," she said. "You can't really tell how this drug is going to perform based on a single patient or 10 patients."

Mandlis, an Isotechnika shareholder, said he realizes his participation in the drug trial comes at a risk. "The risk would be that by changing my medication to something new, it may cause the kidney to reject. That would be a huge down side for me. But I feel there's a good chance everything will go the right way."