

Mayo Clinic and Phoenix Indian Medical Center forge partnership

Mayo Clinic's team approach to patient care now includes a partnership with the cancer services team at Phoenix Indian Medical Center (PIMC) in Arizona. Once a week, Mayo Clinic physicians from the Division of Hematology/Medical Oncology work with PIMC staff to serve Native American patients who come to the center from areas throughout Arizona, Nevada, Utah and parts of California. Every year, approximately 300 patients visit the weekly hematology-oncology clinic, and many of these people make multiple visits.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for Mayo physicians to work closely with PIMC in providing care for populations indigenous to the western United States," says Tom Fitch, M.D., chair of Mayo Clinic Division of Hematology/Medical Oncology.

By partnering with Mayo Clinic staff to provide hematology-oncology consultation services both in the clinic and by communication and interaction throughout the week, PIMC will be better able to meet its mission to provide quality health care that is uniquely suited to American Indian and Alaska Native people. ■

Jacksonville researchers develop model for key Alzheimer's disease pathology

Researchers at Mayo Clinic Jacksonville have developed a way to create human brain cells in culture that model a key pathology of Alzheimer's disease (AD) and related disorders.

Researchers were led by Li-Wen Ko, Ph.D., of the Department of Neuroscience. Their cell culture system produces human neuronal cells in which a sufficient quantity of the tau protein aggregates within the cells to form filaments with the physical, chemical and biological

characteristics of a group of neurodegenerative disorders collectively called tauopathies.

Their work, published in the November-December 2004 issue of the *Journal of Alzheimer's Disease*, provides researchers with an effective means to determine the role of different mechanisms implicated in the process leading to disease and a cell-based tool to screen potential treatments for AD and other tauopathies. ■



Phoenix Indian Medical Center nurse practitioner Tim Mathews observes Mayo Clinic oncologist/hematologist Donald Northfelt, M.D.'s care of Pauline Vincent, who is from the Ak-Chin Indian Reservation.

Students play piano to raise money for Mayo Clinic

When 11-year-old Alexis Nicholson's grandmother, Bertha Monzures, was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer at Mayo Clinic Rochester, she wanted to do something to help.

Alexis joined forces with her piano teacher, Pat Goldman, and other children in her class to sponsor a piano recital. The children accepted pledges from their families and friends and, as a result, raised more than \$600. All of their earnings were donated for research in pancreatic cancer at Mayo Clinic.

Alexis hopes that Mayo Clinic will be able to find a cure with the money that she raised "I just hope that I will be able to help someone else's grandma, so that they won't have to go through this" ■