

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR THE GOOD HEALTH OF NEVADA

Nationally known scientist to lecture at Bierkamper Convocation

Lynne Williams, medical school information
January 18, 2000

MEDIA ADVISORY

The Seventeenth Annual George C. Bierkamper Student Research Convocation will be held tomorrow, Wednesday, January 19 from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. in the Manville Auditorium. The convocation will include presentations of original research conducted by the University of Nevada School of Medicine graduate students, medical students, and medical residents.

The Distinguished Lecture, "Approaches to In Utero Therapy," will be presented by Esmail Zanjani, Ph.D., professor of internal medicine/physiology at Nevada's School of Medicine, and senior research career scientist for the Veterans Administration Medical Center. Dr. Zanjani is an internationally known scientist who pioneered the technique for transplanting fetal stem cells into developing fetuses in order to correct genetic defects before birth, especially deficiencies of the immune system – such as "bubble babies." Since the first transplant, done nearly a decade ago to correct an enzyme deficiency causing Hurler's Syndrome, approximately 80 in utero transplants have been done and reported. The success rate has varied with the disease or defect. However, for deficiencies of the immune system – about six cases – it has been 100 percent successful.

For further information, call Lynne Williams, 784-8059.

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