MS Discovery
Multiple Sclerosis National Research Institute
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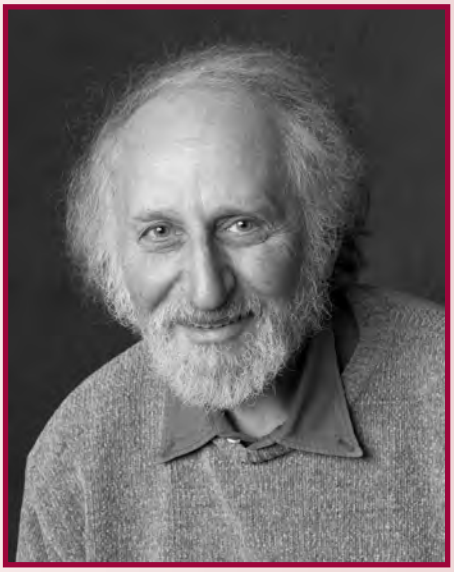
A distinguished pair of researchers, Dr. Eli Sercarz and Dr. Vipin Kumar, join our team.

The Multiple Sclerosis National Research Institute recently received a boost in the organization when two prominent researchers joined the research staff. Dr. Eli Sercarz, 68, and Dr. Vipin Kumar 42, arrived at the Institute in July 2002 after five years with a local San Diego research institute. They bring with them over 30 years of MS research experience.

Sercarz, a native of New York, received his Ph.D. in Immunology at Harvard University in 1960 and held postdoctoral research fellowships at Harvard (1956-1960) and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (1962-1963). Dr. Sercarz also held various positions in the department of Bacteriology (1963-1970), and the department of Microbiology and Immunology at the University of California at Los Angeles. (1970-1997).

Utilizing grants from various sources, Dr. Sercarz has discovered that EAE, an MS-like disease in mice, is brought on by a specific group of immune cells, or T cells, that drive the disease. By investigating these "driver" immune cells, Dr. Sercarz hopes to find the reason that these specific cells induce inflammation and have such a detrimental effect on the brain and spinal cord. He hopes to use these specific T cells to develop a vaccine that might stimulate the regulatory cells and treat humans with new vaccination strategies.

Kumar, a native of India, received his Ph.D. at the Indian Institute of Science in 1986 and held postdoctoral research fellowships at the California Institute of Technology (1987-1991) and the University of California at Los Angeles



Eli Sercarz, Ph.D.

Vipin Kumar, Ph.D.

(1991-1993). Dr. Kumar also held positions in the department of Microbiology at UCLA (1993-1997) and most recently,

"I think it's fantastic. At the Institute we will have the resources and the right people together"

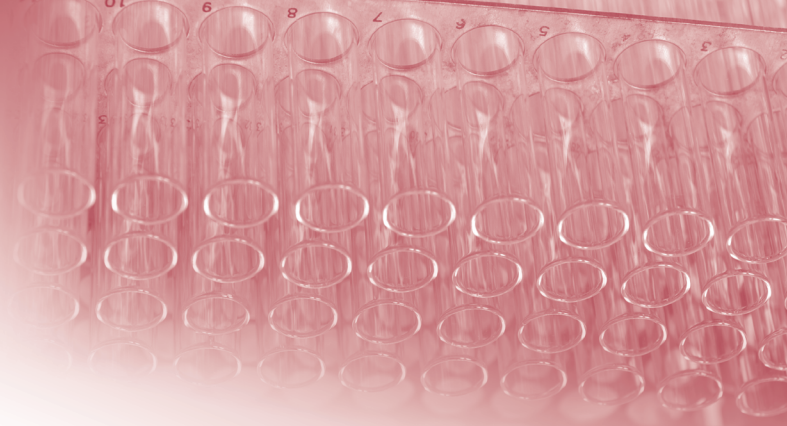
the department of Immune Regulation of the La Jolla Institute of Allergy and Immunology. (1997-2002).

Dr. Kumar is studying immune response in mice that have the capability of spontaneously recovering from EAE, and for clues to harness the natural process of immune regulation. He is identifying the exact genetic blueprint for the regulatory T-cell receptor fragments and working on a way to prompt T cells to display these fragments on their surface. This may someday prove instrumental in designing more effective vaccines against MS.

"I think it's fantastic," said Kumar about his move to the Institute, "With the resources and the right people together who really want to ask difficult and direct questions, we can approach the problem even more aggressively. Hopefully, one day we can help people with MS do better."

Kumar's research will be focusing on two major facets of MS: How the disease is initiated and how it is controlled.

"Studying those aspects of MS and collaborating with others at the Institute will be great," said Kumar. "I'm looking forward to really making a dent in terms of a cure and diagnostic research of the disease."



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Multiple Sclerosis
National Research Institute

Who Contracts MS?

Could you be a possible candidate to contract Multiple Sclerosis?

Scientists have studied different patterns of MS and have taken into account such factors as geography, genes, demographics and socioeconomic status. Although the actual cause of MS is not known, there are a few established observations:

- ***Most people experience the primary symptoms of MS between the ages of 20 and 40.***
- ***MS is five times more prevalent in temperate climates – such as those found in the northern United States, Canada, and Europe – than in other warmer areas.***
- ***Caucasians (especially northern European ancestry) are more than twice as likely as other races to develop MS.***
- ***Women are affected at almost twice the rate of men.***

Help us in our search for better therapeutic treatments, and even a cure, for this disease.

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