

[Home](#)

Sections

- [Front](#)
- [Campus](#)
- [Sports](#)
- [State & Local](#)
- [Intrigue](#)
- [Opinion](#)
- [Classifieds](#)
- [Online](#)

Issues

- [November 2, 2006](#)
- [October 26, 2006](#)
- [October 19, 2006](#)
- [October 12, 2006](#)
- [more...](#)

Navigation

- [About the new site](#)
- [Message Boards](#)
- [Contact Us](#)
- [recent popular content](#)
- [recent posts](#)

User login

Username: *

Password: *

[Log in](#)

- [Create new account](#)
- [Request new password](#)

Syndicate



[Home](#)

Auburn researcher finds new way to treat diabetes

Section: [Campus](#)



By David Ingram
Staff Writer

Type 2 diabetes, the most common and most deadly type of diabetes, kills more than 200,000 Americans yearly.

Suresh Mathews, an assistant professor in Auburn's poultry scier department, works with graduate students on formulas and conduct research on combating this illness.

A common and noticeable symptom of Type 2 diabetes is excess weight gain that eventually leads to obesity in older people.

Mathews

After Mississippi, Alabama has been recognized as the second fattest state in the union.

For more than a decade, Mathews has researched ways to approach and combat diabetes that could lead to a cure for the disease.

Fetuin, a protein found in all humans and animals, is a molecule made by the liver an transferred into the bloodstream.

The problem is that some diabetes patients show resistance to their insulin, according Mathews' research. As they grow older, patients' reaction to insulin decreases.

Mathews has researched lab rats that have had the fetuin protein removed from their bloodstream.

When fetuin is removed, the rats have shown as significant improvement in insulin response.

Taking out fetuin is known as "gene knock-out."

When gene knock-out occurs, the mice have shown little gain in weight and overall improved health.

Mathews' research has proved fruitful — he has received grants from the American Diabetes Association.

"The one ultimate goal we are working on here is to find a cure for diabetes and new targets to treat the disease," Mathews said.

The rate of obese Americans has been steadily rising for the past 20 years. With the i in obesity, comes the rise in diagnoses of diabetes.

"This (diabetes) is a problem that is not going away. If people continue to have high-f: diets with little or no exercise to offset that diet, we will have a real problem," he said.

Three graduate students assist in Mathews' research.

Edmond Huan, a graduate student in nutrition and food science, is the newest additio to Mathews' team.

"It's very important that we are doing this research because it does affect so many people," Huan said.

"We take this research one step at a time, but at the same time we look at our overall goal."

Mathews and his team are in the office every day for about 10 hours working and doii research.

"There is only so much we can do. Yes, we can help combat the disease and help patients, but people are going to have to help out in realizing obesity problems early on, Mathews said.

[add new comment](#)