Notebook

Arizona-tested antivenin gets FDA approval for sale

A new snake antivenin tested at Arizona poison centers will be on the market soon.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved the use of Anavip as a new rattlesnake antivenin. It will join the drug CroFab, which has been the sole drug available since 2000.

Both drugs were part of clinical trials at the Arizona Poison and Drug Information Center at the University of Arizona College of Pharmacy in Tucson and the Banner Poison and Drug Information Center at Banner University Medical Center Phoenix.

Anavip won't be available until October 2018, but both poison centers are developing a research study to help physicians determine the best use of the two antivenins when both are available for hospitals to purchase.

Dr. Steven Curry, director of medical toxicology at Banner University Medical Center Phoenix, said Arizona is the ideal location to conduct this work.

"Arizona is home to 13 species of rattlesnakes, and our poison centers help in the treatment of more than 200 bites a year," he said. "Physicians with our center treat between 55 and 80 patients annually and consult on many more cases. This will provide us a good base for research on how to best use the snake antivenins."

Closer Look

3,000
Poisonous snake bites recorded each year by the American Association of Poison Control Centers

200
Rattlesnake bites reported to Arizona poison centers each year (the actual number could be as high as 350 because not all are reported)

10
Americans who die each year as a result of snakebites, with Arizona having the highest per-capita death rate

3-5
Days of hospitalization generally required for snakebite treatment

$100,000
Treatment costs for snakebites

Source: Arizona Poison and Drug Information Center, University of Arizona College of Pharmacy

Jobs

Top Health Care Jobs That Don't Require a Four-Year Degree

Six of CareerCast's top 15 jobs that don't require a four-year college degree are in the health care industry. It's not impossible to succeed in the workplace without a college degree, said Tony Lee, publisher of CareerCast.

"An entrepreneurial spirit and specialized training can help overcome the lack of a four-year degree," he said. The six jobs:

DENTAL HYGIENIST
Annual median salary: $70,210
Projected hiring outlook: 33%

PERSONAL TRAINER
Annual median salary: $31,720
Projected hiring outlook: 13%

MEDICAL RECORDS TECHNICIAN
Annual median salary: $34,160
Projected hiring outlook: 22%

RESPIRATORY THERAPIST
Annual median salary: $55,870
Projected hiring outlook: 19%

REGISTERED NURSE
Annual median salary: $65,470
Projected hiring outlook: 19%

SKIN CARE SPECIALIST
Annual median salary: $26,640
Projected hiring outlook: 40%

Source: CareerCast.com

Number to Know

$1.7 million
Amount given by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in Affordable Care Act funding to three new health centers in Arizona to deliver comprehensive primary health care services. This was part of $101 million in funding to 164 new health centers in 33 states and two U.S. territories to increase access for nearly 650,000 patients.

People

ASU's Charles Arntzen Named Most Creative in Business

Fast Company's annual 100 Most Creative People in Business included Arizona State University Biodiesel Institute researcher Charles Arntzen as the No. 1 honoree for his leadership role in developing ZMapp, a serum produced by tobacco plants to fight Ebola.

"I never anticipated we would get ZMapp into human testing for another three or four years, and suddenly the urgency of the situation in West Africa was upon us," he said.

More than 10,000 people have died from Ebola in West Africa because there is no vaccine or cure. When two American missionaries were infected, Dr. Kent Brantly and missionary nurse Nancy Writebol were the first to receive ZMapp, even though it had never been tested in humans before.

Within 24 hours, Brantly was walking again, and both have fully recovered.

"It's been a creative wonderland within the Biodiesel Institute that has allowed us to chase ideas that maybe initially, sounded a little crazy, but bring together the parts to make them a reality," he said.