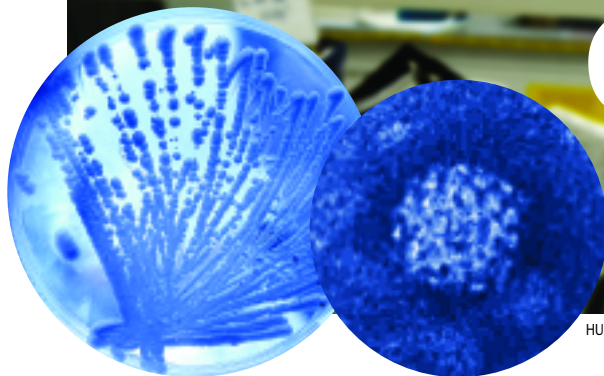


NEBRASKA CENTER FOR VIROLOGY

# UNL Virologist Working on Cancer Cure



HUMAN PAPILLOMAVIRUS GENERATED IN YEAST (LEFT). DETAIL OF HUMAN PAPILLOMAVIRUS TAKEN WITH AN ELECTRON MICROSCOPE (RIGHT).

**W**ith cervical cancer the second leading cause of cancer deaths in women worldwide, Peter Angeletti, assistant professor of virology, is looking for ways to control or kill the virus that causes it.

Ninety-five percent of the 500,000 new cervical cancer cases each year are caused by 14 of the 200 existing strains of the human papillomavirus (HPV), the most

common sexually transmitted virus.

With a 5-year, \$603,000 grant from the National Institutes of Health, Angeletti is researching the virus' life cycle so more effective drugs can be developed to interrupt it. The virologist arrived at UNL a year ago from the McCordle Laboratory of Cancer Research at the University of Wisconsin, where he and others developed a way to grow the virus in yeast.

In his lab at the Beadle Center, Angeletti uses the quicker, cheaper homegrown version of HPV to conduct experiments, switching to infected human cells to confirm the results.

“Developing a drug that can kill the virus is best, but we may have to settle for control,” he said. “If we can control the virus, we can reduce or completely abolish the risk for cervical cancer.” ■