

# ATS Grants Funded

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The second award issued to ATS is a Phase I grant from the National Institute of Dental & Craniofacial Research. This \$134,000 award will support research to develop an expression system using Substance P as the targeting agent. The purpose of this six-month study is to demonstrate that an expression plasmid can be introduced into Substance P receptor-bearing neurons and that the protein can be observed. If this is successful, then other expression systems will be tested for delivery of bioactive molecules that could diminish the transmission of the chronic pain signal.

Dr. Patrick Mantyh (University of Minnesota) is collaborating with ATS on this project. His laboratory will be testing the system on spinal cord neurons. Dr. Mantyh has been an important collaborator in the

development of Substance P-Saporin (SP-SAP), a targeted toxin currently being tested in toxicology/safety studies as a possible therapeutic for chronic pain.

Since it's first SBIR grant was funded in 1994, ATS has received nearly three million dollars in support for research to develop innovative new products. The SBIR program is a valuable resource for small companies to be able to expand and enhance their in-house R&D efforts. ATS appreciates the ability to collaborate with some of the finest academic institutions and their scientists to meet the goals of these SBIR projects and meet the needs of research scientists throughout the world.



**Matthew Kohls,  
Sr. Research Associate,  
cooks up something  
interesting in the  
fermentor.**

## Upcoming Events

Society for Neuroscience (SFN)  
San Diego CA • November 10 - 15, 2001  
Booth #2247

3rd Forum of European Neuroscience (FENS)  
Paris France • July 13 - 17, 2002

## Surfing to Help Spinal Cord Injuries

On Saturday, September 22, I attended the Tony Mezzadri Surf Contest in Ocean Beach, California. A number of years ago Tony, surfing at the Ocean Beach pier, was paralyzed with no movement in his legs and limited movement in his hands and arms. The Ocean Beach community rose to help Tony and this contest has

been held yearly since 1994. The proceeds from entry fees, T-shirt sales, raffles, a spaghetti dinner, and donations from sponsor companies were originally to help Tony with this catastrophic event, but now enough money is collected that funds go to support spinal cord research. Dr. Mark Tuszynski's laboratory at UC San Diego has benefited from thousands of dollars of contributions. Advanced Targeting Systems has been a donor to this event for the past four years. The surf contest is a wonderful grass roots effort in which we are proud and happy to participate. Unlike last year's monstrous ten-foot surf that was striking the bottom of the pier, this year there was three- to four-foot surf that allowed the contestants to have fun and show their stuff. At the end, money goes to a great cause in supporting work by an excellent scientist.

by Doug Lappi



**Contestants at the Tony Mezzadri  
Surf Contest hang five (left) and  
shoot the Ocean Beach Pier (above)  
in support of spinal cord research.**