

#THEATER

Special Children Present Theatrical Performances

A 40-day theatre workshop 'Taare Zameen Par, Saare Stage Par' was organized by the Jaipur based Tamhankar Theatre Academy for the all-round development of the special children of 'Rays'.



Tusharika Singh
Freelance writer and city blogger

ink City's well known NGO Rays - Aasha Ki Ek Kiran' has been treating and caring for HIV-infected and affected children in Rajasthan since 2010. An initiative that started with just two HIV-positive children, now has two homes in Jaipur where 50 such children are being given the necessary support and care to lead a happy and healthy life. During their recent summer vacation, a 40-day theatre workshop entitled 'Taare Zameen Par, Saare Stage Par' was organized by the Jaipur based Tamhankar Theatre Academy for the all-round development of the special children of 'Rays'.

The closing ceremony of the presentation-oriented theatrical workshop was recently held at Ravindra Manch where the special children who took training at the workshop enthralled the audience by giving spectacular performances of several plays.

Workshop for All-round Development
In the theatre workshop, children were taught all nuances of theatre along with its practise. They were also trained in solo acting, playlet, street play, pantomime, etc. Along with this special emphasis was given to the personality development of the children during the workshop so that they can benefit in their student life as well. Apart from acting the participants were also taught in detail about lighting schemes, sound and music, costumes, amphitheatre, stage concept, etc.

Throwing light on the objective of organizing this workshop, the Director of Rays, Captain Gurinder Virk, who is also the patron of Tamhankar Theatre Academy, said, "Earlier people used to regularly watch play. However, with the onslaught of cinema and OTT, the art form of theatre is dying a slow death. It is important to keep this art form alive and for this the Academy takes several initiatives and performs plays all across the country. The objective of organizing this workshop for the children of Rays is to instill in them confidence



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Anjali Sharma
Senior Journalist & wildlife enthusiast

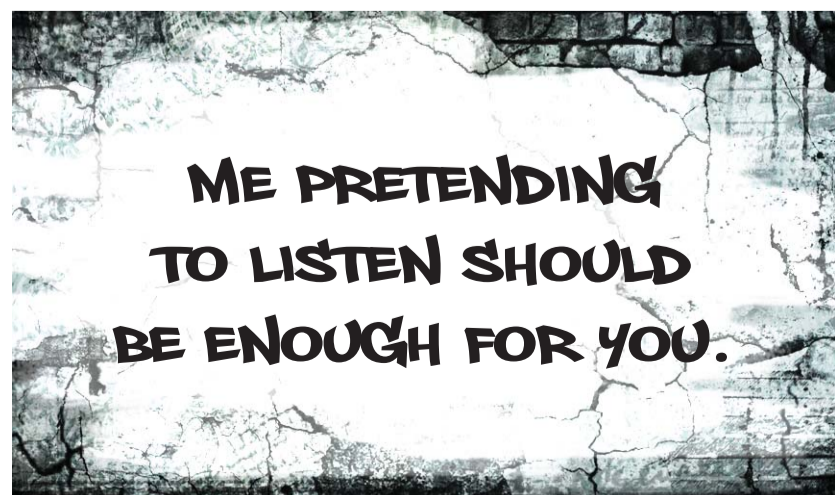
The Year was 1590. Akbar suddenly became gravely unwell. He had dysentery and high temperature. His condition did not become better even after 2-3 day. It only seemed to worsen with time.

Meanwhile the corridors of mughal court were ripe with conspiracy and regime change theories. Salim and Murad started gathering their supporters in case Akbar would die. A clash for the throne was inevitable as Akbar had not appointed a successor to himself. Daniyal was too young at 18 years to take over the throne but still his father in laws were also actively gathering support for his cause to ascend the throne, the most important of them being Abdul Rahim. Everyone in the mughal court was vying for an advantageous place in the likely change of politics, betting and some trying to realign full time. The prime question was: who to support in war of succession so that they can get maximum benefits.

Meanwhile Akbar's condition did not seem to improve after 3-4 days, with the best of treatment available to a Badshah. Akbar was in terrible pain and suffering from

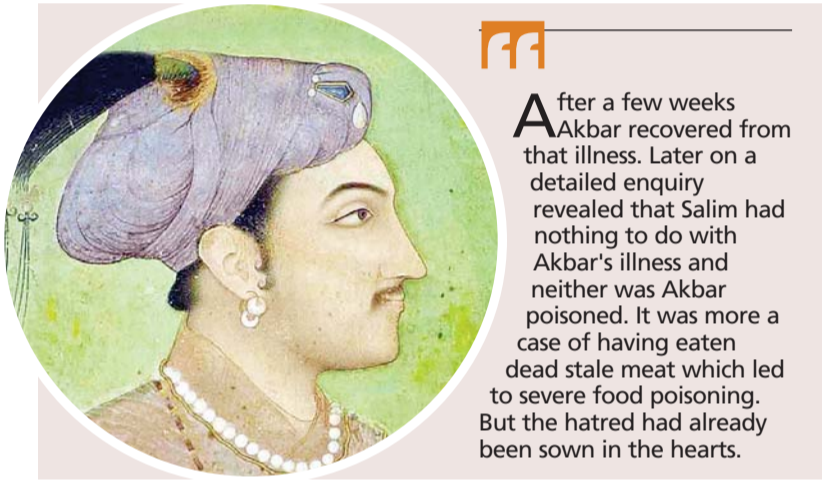


THE WALL



Akbar & Salim's Sour Relationship

#AKBARNAMA



On the occasion of the closing ceremony of the workshop, three plays - 'Tab Ramenge Devta', 'Aasha Ki Ek Kiran' and 'Dil Ki Dukaan' were staged. Children between the ages of 4 to 16 years rendered the theatrical performances. The speciality of this function was that all the work was done by the children.

The programme began with the play, 'Tab Ramenge Devta' presented in a street style by the children. In this play based on the theme of women empowerment, all facets of nukkad natak were showcased. It was written by Hemchandra Tamhankar and directed by Arshiya Parveen.

Following this, the short play, 'Aasha Ki Ek Kiran' was staged. It was written and directed by senior theatre artiste R. Anurag. The play was based on the experiences of the children. They presented their imagination and ideas through the play. After this, the children performed a pure-life comedy-drama, 'Dil Ki Dukaan' based on a fantasy. It was an adaptation of famous playwright Rajendra Kumar Sharma's well-known play, 'Dil Ki Dukaan'. The play was directed by Arshiya Parveen. The special children displayed their talent in the function and entertained the audience to the fullest.

The best performing children in the workshop were also awarded during the function. Rajasthan State Social Welfare Board President Dr Archana Sharma was present as the Chief Guest on the occasion. Also present at the event were patrons and supporters of the NGO as well as parents of the children.

deceptions. One day Abul Fazl, Chronicler of Akbarnama came to meet Akbar and suggested that may be Akbar has been poisoned by a loved one. Akbar did what was sad and obvious; he admonished Salim who was present there saying that could he not wait few more years to ascend to the throne and that he has stooped to poison his own father. Salim was shocked. He was very hurt that his father could believe that he could think of and had made an attempt on his own father's life leading to his current illness. In the room, a few of Akbar's ministers and family members were present. Akbar admonishing him in front of everyone. He left the room unable to control his tears.

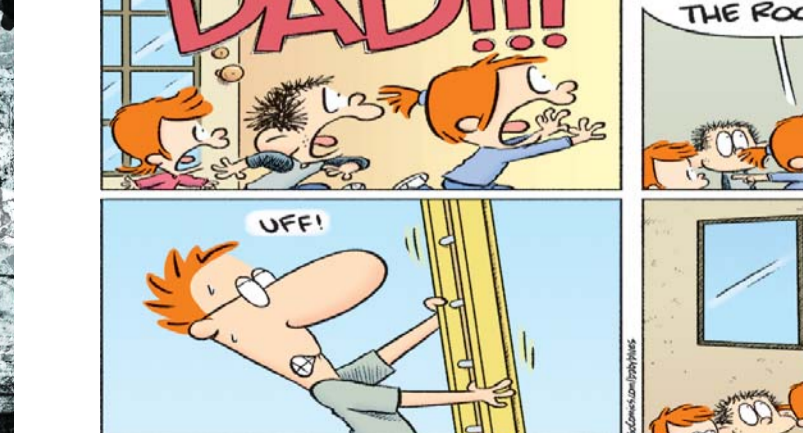
After a few weeks Akbar recovered from that illness. Later on a detailed enquiry revealed that Salim had nothing to do with Akbar's illness and neither was he the cause of his death. Akbar recovered from that illness. Later on a detailed enquiry revealed that Salim had nothing to do with Akbar's illness and neither was he the cause of his death.

Unfailing Misconceptions
Although Murad and Salim were contenders for the throne, this treatment brought the brothers close when they were repeatedly sent to separate missions they were getting their own personal appreciation from their father and started getting close and corresponding with each other regularly. They bonded over their love for drinks and hatred for Abul Fazl and Akbar's courtiers-in-chief at mughal court in general even before leaving for separate missions. Murad went a step further and in his will wanted his child's guardian to be Salim rather than Akbar, who was still alive. Murad was 29 years old when he died.

Salim on the other hand went to war against Rajputana from 1591 to 1597. In 1598, he came back to Agra and refused to go back to war as he felt he was needed more in Agra. Again Akbar asked him to attack Mewar in 1599; he left unwittingly but did not reach Mewar but stopped at Ajmer and turned back to attack Agra treasury. Later after reaching Agra outskirts he changed his mind and left for Allahabad where he set up a parallel court. Salim never forgave Abul Fazl for those false accusations against him. He kept that incident and few others in his mind, and finally took his revenge by killing

Abul Fazl in 1602. Salim had this tendency that whenever someone accused him of anything, he would sulk and go into a silent mode, rather than clarify or prove that he had nothing to do with those incidents. His enemies often took advantage of this and used his emotional reactions to situations rather than clever practical reactions to hurl accusations at him at every other given opportunity in the mughal court.

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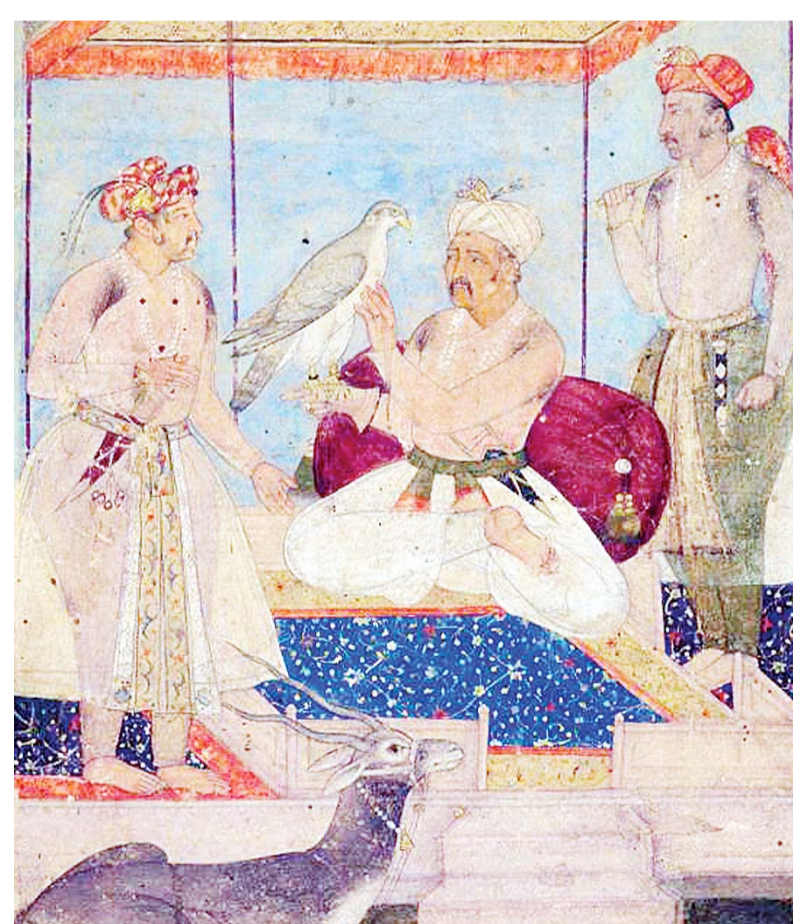


stayed very long time away from family in war fields etc. So there was definitely a communication gap between father and son. That helped Akbar's coterie and Salim's enemies to create a wider wedge between father and son at every given opportunity. Salim also rarely bothered to clarify any accusations against him. Maybe he felt his father should not have believed in any accusations against him and trusted him, and thus he never clarified facts with him before assuming to be guilty. Whatever the reason for the miscommunication between father and son, Salim's enemies enjoyed benefits from these misunderstandings between father and son.

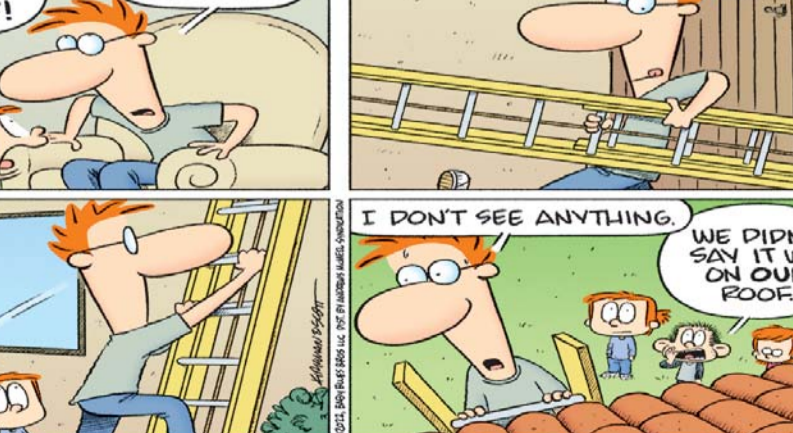
The Turning Point

Salim waited almost more than a decade after Abul Fazl accused him of poisoning Akbar and then finally gave orders to Bundela Raja Bir Singh to kill Abul Fazl. Abul Fazl went to Deccan to meet Daniyal and while returning, near Madhya Pradesh, was attacked and killed by Bir Singh Bundela. Salim crowned Bir Singh, Maharaja Orcha the King of Madhya Pradesh after he became the Emperor and allowed him grants to build temples at Mathura and few other places. This was a reward by Salim for killing Abul Fazl to Bir Singh and his family. Salim even married a princess of Bundela clan. Thus enmity of Abul Fazl and Salim ended on a bloody note. Abul Fazl may have felt that to keep the interest of his master Akbar alive for himself, he can go on instigating Akbar against Salim and Salim would not dare act against it as he had Akbar's blessings. Anyways if he read Akbarnama you can realize that Abul Fazl was one of those courtiers who did everything to

please his master rather than speak the truth, as a good adviser should actually do. Salim waited patiently unlike his real nature in other matters of showing anger and acting immediately without much planning and biding his time to take the ultimate revenge. With Abul Fazl's murder Salim sent a clear message of warning out to all his enemies in the mughal court (which he had in plenty among his own relatives and courtiers) that he shall not hesitate to act decisively against anyone even when they have Akbar's blessings or have been Akbar's favourites. Akbar's blessings and protection shall not make Salim's

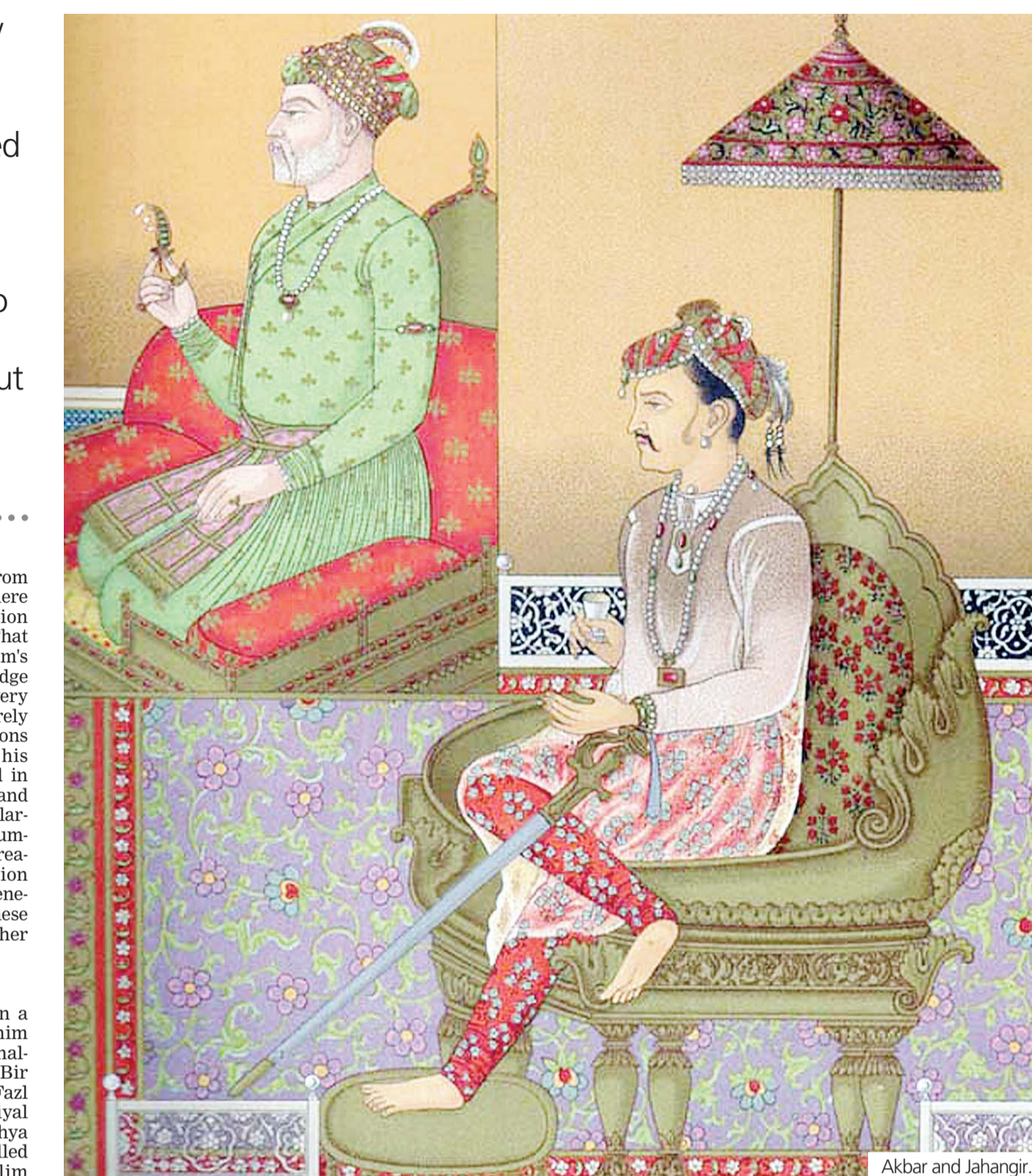


enemies immune to any attacks or guarantee of no retrIBUTIONS from Salim in future like it had happened till 1602. Thus with one stone Salim killed many birds by this one act of his. Thus Abul Fazl's murder was a turning point in mughal history.



Fashion Day

The idea of style and fashion has been around for centuries. Perhaps even when humans first began to wear clothes, the cave women would see who had the nicest-looking fur pelt! From Ancient Rome, fashion and dress have been a vital part of high society. Of course, royal courts in Europe were known for their high fashion influences. Fashion Day offers anyone and everyone the opportunity to wear what they like, whether serious or playful, and express themselves however they choose.



Akbar and Jahangir.

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Unhealthy Relationship

Mughal court was filled with such sycophants who enjoyed instigating father against son or brothers against a brother and enjoying the benefits of those enmities. Surprisingly Salim and his brothers had a more healthy relationship except on some occasions like Akbar's grave illness in 1590, unlike the other generation mughal siblings. Salim, Murad and Daniyal although were instigated against each other by their rela-

tives and coterie, still they maintained a healthy relationship till the end and never really were after each other's life like other generations of mughal siblings. Credit must be given to them for maintaining a healthy relationship and not letting others drive a wedge in their relationship although constant instigation must have taken place. Salim often searched and sent exotic and beautiful animals to Daniyal who was an animal lover wherever wars and work took him or Daniyal often sent him poetry he had written in leisure times to elicit his opinion on them. Salim even praises Daniyal's poetry long after he died in Jehangirnama and remembers Daniyal's love for animals after seeing an exotic breed of horse in his

autobiography. Murad and Salim too communicated often with each other although one was in Malwa and the other in Rajputana. Murad knew of Salim's love for paintings and sent him unique paintings or drawings about nature and animals. It was only a few months before Akbar's death that finally the father and son reconciled. Till then Salim's enemies and Akbar's courtiers had a field day for several years or even decades as father and son were not really on talking terms or avoided communicating to each other. Thus in their ego clashes or individual personalities decades went away without proper communication and misunderstandings continued. Same issue happened between Salim and Khusraru, and Salim and Khurram

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later on. Decades of being away from his children because of wars and other duties or revolt it was ensured that Salim and his sons also never had a father and son relationship ever. For all purposes Khusraru and Khurram considered Akbar as their father as Salim was an absentee father mostly in their lives. Further Akbar pitching father and sons as contender for same throne never helped to build any relationship between Salim and his sons. Khusraru and Khurram were brought up in Akbar's household rather than by Salim's wives in Salim's household. The seeds of hatred and revolt during Salim's regime by his sons were sown decades back.

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#CARDIOLOGY

Heart Attacks In Women

Because of this disparity, women are more likely than men to report heart disease symptoms that appear out of the norm, experience delayed treatment for heart disease, and even have undiagnosed heart attacks.

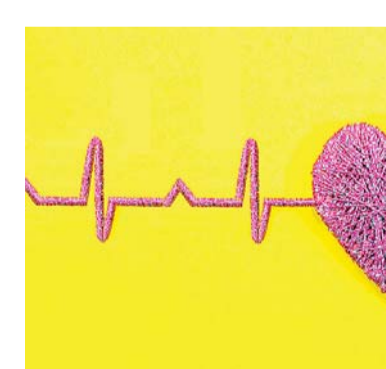


New research identifies a gene that may explain disparities in heart attack care between the sexes. Many of the current symptom profiles and lab tests for heart disease do not accurately reflect known differences in women's heart disease, says Jennifer Dungan, associate professor at the University of Florida College of Nursing. This oversight has led to increased gaps in health care equity.

Because of this disparity, women are more likely than men to report heart disease symptoms that appear out of the norm, experience delayed treatment for heart disease and even have undiagnosed heart attacks," Dungan says. "For reasons that remain uncertain, women can experience heart disease differently than men. This can lead to inequities for women that need to be addressed."

Dungan says cardiac researchers believe that some of these differences in symptoms and outcomes may be due to genetic variation between men and women. She has identified a specific gene she believes may be responsible, named RAP1GAP2. "RAP1GAP2 is a strong candidate for sex-linked effects on women's heart disease outcomes," Dungan says. "Certain DNA markers in this gene are thought to manage the activity of platelets, colourless blood cells that help our blood clot. This also presents a heart attack risk. An overactive gene could cause too many platelets to respond to the clot, which could block the flow of blood and oxygen to the heart muscle and lead to a heart attack."

Since RAP1GAP2 was not linked to poor heart outcomes among men in her team's study, she believes this gene may work differently in women. The findings appear in the American Heart Journal Plus. Even less is known about such



differences among races and ethnicities. Black women and some Hispanic women are at an even greater risk of poor heart disease outcomes due to many factors that Dungan believes may include genetics.

Unfortunately, the traditional ways that racial and ethnic groups are studied tends to produce results that are not relevant, Dungan says. "The goal is not to find biological differences between groups of people. Our goal instead is to find the gene markers most accurately linked to heart disease for all women," she says. "And to do that, we need to consider genetic variation within women too."

To discover how the gene may affect cardiac disease risks among women of different backgrounds, Dungan's newest project aims to find the specific RAP1GAP2 gene markers that most strongly correlate with disease symptoms, heart attacks and death in women from different racial and ethnic groups. Using health data from 17,000 postmenopausal women Dungan and her team will use statistical genetics methods to analyse if there is a link between certain DNA markers on RAP1GAP2 and heart disease. Her team will also use genetic ancestry markers rather than arbitrary racial categories to account for natural diversity in our genetic code. According to Dungan, this will assure that the team finds gene markers that reflect all women's heart disease risk, not just for certain groups.

"At the end of the study, if RAP1GAP2 gene markers accurately reflect women's heart symptoms and predict their likelihood of a future heart attack, stroke or death, then those gene markers could help us be more confident in their diagnosis and future prognosis," she says. "Having more accurate biomarkers for women would save lives and improve health equity for all women."

By Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman

ZITS



By Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott