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Discovery June 2006

Misty Bailey
Editor

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On April 17, Dr. Seung Joon Baek was an invited speaker on cancer chemoprevention and the NSADIA activated gene. The presentation was part of the spring semester series entitled “Interdisciplinary Faculty of Toxicology” at Texas A&M University in College Station.

Dr. Roslyn Casimir spoke to 4th- and 5th-grade girls May 8 and 11 at Spring Hill Elementary School. Her talk was about the importance of veterinary medicine and veterinary pathology.

Shambhunath Choudhary, a Ph.D. student, represented the anti-cancer molecular development program at Texas A&M University. His presentation entitled “Ras-increased susceptibility of human cancer cells to histone deacetylase inhibitors” was part of a minisymposia session at the Washington DC conference.

Four pathology department members presented cases on May 20-21 at the 34th Annual Southeastern Veterinary Pathology Conference in Tifton, Georgia. Dr. Linden Craig – “Lawsonia enteritis in an Icelandic pony”; Dr. Shelley Newman – “Canine ACL latoxicosis”; Dr. Roslyn Casimir – “Case #05-255”; and Dr. Alison Tucker – “Oligodendroglioma in a lion.”

On April 20-22, Dr. Greg Daniel and Dr. Frederica Morandi presented the Nucleus Medicine Short Course at Ghent University in Belgium.

On April 7, Dr. Linda Frank presented “Estrogen receptor evaluation in Pomeranian dogs with hair cycle arrest on melatonin” at the North American Veterinary Dermatology Forum in Palm Springs.

Dr. Frederica Morandi was the invited keynote speaker at the May 19 annual meeting of the Italian Society of Companion Animal Veterinarians in Rimini, Italy. She presented three lectures about comparative diagnostic imaging and its use in veterinary medicine.

Dr. Dave Edwards, head of pathology at the College of Veterinary Medicine, has been invited to present a keynote lecture at the annual meeting of the American Association of Veterinary Pathologists in October. His talk will focus on the role of veterinary pathology in cancer research and will highlight recent advances in the field.

On May 1, Dr. Seung Joon Baek was a featured speaker at the annual meeting of the Korean Association of Comparative Oncology. His presentation, “Novel Therapeutic Approaches for the Treatment of Canine Cancer,” addressed emerging strategies for improving outcomes in canine cancer patients.

On May 2, Dr. Seung Joon Baek participated in a panel discussion on the role of veterinary oncology in the development of new anticancer agents. The panelists included representatives from the National Cancer Institute and the American Society for Clinical Oncology. The discussion highlighted the importance of interdisciplinary collaboration in advancing cancer research.

On May 3, Dr. Seung Joon Baek delivered a keynote address at the annual meeting of the Korean Society of Veterinary Pathology. His talk, “The Role of Veterinary Pathology in Cancer Research,” emphasized the unique contributions of veterinary pathology to cancer research and treatment.

On May 4, Dr. Seung Joon Baek presented a lecture on the role of veterinary oncology in the development of novel anticancer agents at the annual meeting of the Korean Society of Veterinary Oncology. The presentation highlighted the importance of interdisciplinary collaboration in advancing cancer research and treatment.

On May 5, Dr. Seung Joon Baek participated in a panel discussion on the role of veterinary oncology in the development of new anticancer agents. The panelists included representatives from the National Cancer Institute and the American Society for Clinical Oncology. The discussion highlighted the importance of interdisciplinary collaboration in advancing cancer research.
One of the last things graduate students tend to think about when writing a thesis or dissertation is the formatting adjustments they will have to make before that masterpiece is officially accepted by the graduate school. Of course worrying about research and fretting about whether their committee will accept it should be a grad student’s first priority. But before a degree can be awarded, students must visit the university’s Office of Graduate Studies for both a preliminary and final review of the document. The graduate college takes appointments until about a month before each semester’s submission deadline. Students who wait until the last two weeks for the final review often find themselves waiting in the first-come, first-served line, and just about everybody gets sent away at least once to make minor corrections. But most people can avoid multiple trips to the formatting police with a little extra effort. Each semester, Graduate Students office offers dissertation workshops to help de-mystify those formatting guidelines. In the workshops, students will hear a dissertation/dissertation consultant discuss the guidelines and obtain a brief overview of the electronic submission process. This semester, workshops will be held from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 15, and 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. on Friday in the Hodges Library Auditorium. More details can be found at web.utk.edu/thesis/.

Funding Deadlines Drawing Near

Deadline Sponsor Program Amount/yr. URL
Continuous DoD Live infectious agents, drug development, disease identification & diagnosis Varies www.usamra.army.mil/BBa_Paa/bba_01_1_cfm
June 12 National Pork PRRS Varies www.pork.org
June 30 Horses and Hum- ans Foundation Therapeutic effects of horses on humans 50,000 www.horsesandhumans.org/
July 1 NIH Competing con- titutions, revised, supplemental Varies grants.nih.gov/grants/in dex.htm
July 11 American Heart Association Scientist development, postdoc fellow- ship, established investigator 65,000 (4 yrs.) or 100,000 (5) www.american- heart.org
July 15 AmericanDia- betes Association Clinical, innovation, postdoc geriatric, postdoc fellowship, career development 45,000 to 200,000 www.diabetes. org
Aug. 1 Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation Basic, clinical, translational, postdoc fellowship, population-specific, inter- disci- plinary research 45,000 www.komen.org
Aug. 5 American Meat Institute Founda- tion Preproposals -- control of microbial pathogens in meat Varies www.amif.org
Aug. 15 (Letter of intent Jul. 1) Philip Morris Epidemiology, clinical and model systems; tobacco smoke and smoking behavior Similar to NIH E-mail: Request@2000@aof.com

Thesis/Dissertation Workshops Offered

The Animal Welfare Information Center at the National Agricultural Library developed a new brochure outlining the search process for alternatives to animal testing. The five-step guide to conducting a literature search for alternatives contains a fi- nial section on red flags that may arise during Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) review. They are:

• only one database searched
• only painful procedure terms included
• only the term “alternative” used
• keywords and concepts linked incorrectly
• inadequate time period searched

The entire brochure is available at www.ars.usda.gov/ars/alternatives/Altbro- chure.pdf. Copies are also available in the Pendergrass Library.

If you would like assistance searching for alternatives to animals for research protoco- ls, contact Ann Viera at annviera@utk.edu or 4-9015.

NIH Grant Submission Goes Electronic

NIH is transitioning from paper grant application submission to electronic submission, and while the new procedure will take some extra time, it also comes with some benefits. Be- sides the obvious (saving paper), PI’s will have two days after their completed submission to recall and resubmit an application (this perk is not a deadline extension, however).

The major change, though, comes with the actual submission process, which can be done only by an authorized organizational representative (AOR). For UF/CEVM, the AOR is Debbie Hampsted. Principal investigators can still update their NIH profiles and check the status of their applications, but PI’s cannot submit their own applications.

The applications themselves will look slightly different as well and must be down- loaded from the NIH Web site. Sample forms, application guides, and training information can be found at era.nih.gov/ElectronicReceipt/index.htm.

All R03 and R21 applications went electronic June 1; R01 grants will transition February 1, 2007; and e-submit for K- and F- series grants will begin June 1, 2007, and Au- gust 5, 2007, respectively.

Discovery: Research at the University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine (2006) 1.2

Steady Grant Funding Brings in Nearly $600,000 since April

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Sample Size Calculators Help Achieve ‘Delicate Balance’

When using animals, experiment size is a “delicate balance,” writes Arnold M Sacktor of the Animal Science Department. Using too many animals wastes resources and needlessly exposes animals to potential harm. However, insufficient data might result from using too few animals. Repeated experiments then cause the same problems as using too many animals up front.

However, Web-based computer programs exist to assist researchers in finding an appropriate sample size. For example, a Uni- versity of Iowa calculator allows researchers to estimate sample size by first choosing the type of analysis to be used in the study. If using a two-sample t-test, one of ten options at the site, the Web calculator will allow you to set standard deviations, the alpha value, and the true difference of means. The power and sample size values can be adjusted simultaneously to achieve the perfect balance.

For a link to the calculator, visit our IACUC Web site: www.utk.edu/~thesis/How-Many-animalsDoINeed.htm.

Proposal Routing Policy Updated

As more agencies move to electronic submission, more time is required for adequate review to ensure timely applications. For this reason, the University is seeking the following changes to its proposal routing policy.

• Effective immediately, PIs should notify Debbie Hampsted as soon as possible. PIs will be allowed a single deadline extension (if approved by the PI’s home dean or associate dean). Those who want more instruction in the five-step guide to conducting a literature search for alternatives to animals for research protocols, contact Ann Viera at annviera@utk.edu or 4-9015.

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Steady Grant Meat Funding Rises in Nearly $600,000 since April

Research Resource Spotlight

Statistical Consulting Center

The university’s Statistical Consulting Center (SCC) is among the top 10 free resources of face-to-face consulting per semester for faculty, staff, and students.

Consultants are available to help with research planning such as experimental and survey design, sample size determinations, and sampling methods. In addition, they can provide support for data analysis or statistical software, among many other services. Basic problems, such as accessing or converting datasets or putting surveys on the Web, can be addressed by calling, e-mailing, or writing in.

Those who want more instruction can take one of the SCC’s training sessions. Offered throughout the year, each two-hour session is designed to introduce or improve research computing skills.

Regardless of the assistance level needed, the SCC asks that a visit be made early in the planning stage to save you time and money. If you need help beyond the first 10 hours, hourly state support costs $20 for students and $70 for faculty and staff.

The SCC has multiple offices on campus, and from 1:00-5:00 on Thursdays, they are in 106 Brehm Animal Science Bldg. For a full list of locations and the SCC’s services, access their Web site at utk.edu/thesis.

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As before, the Office of Research is requesting more advanced notice of grant applications. Effective immediately, PI’s should notify Debbie Hampden the moment they decide to apply for any grant. At least 5 business days before the application deadline, the PI’s should submit a proposal draft, the final budget, and the signed routing form. If the Office of Research does not receive materials in a timely manner, there is no guarantee that the proposal will be submitted.

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