Winter 2008

Discovery Winter 2008/2009

Misty Bailey
Editor

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Recent Publications...


...And Presentations

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Also at the ACVR meeting, SM Lawson presented “Diuretic renal scintigraphy in cats with urinalithosis” (co-authors S Hecht, IF Lane, DE Sharp, and GB Daniel). Presenting at the American Public Health Association 2008 Annual Meeting was NE Howell. Her presentation entitled “Developing a collaborative course for agriculture and food vulnerability assessment training” was co-authored by D Snelser, M Wellborn, F Hopkins, and S Thompson. The meeting was held in San Diego in October.

M Ilha presented a poster entitled “Reproductive pathology of 32 female Vietnamese potbellied pigs” at the November American College of Veterinary Pathologists (ACVP) meeting held in San Antonio. Other authors were SJ Newman, S van Amstel, K Fecteau, and B Rohrbach. Representing UTCVM at November’s International Conference on Communication in Veterinary Medicine was IF Lane, with her presentation on “Communication embedding skills education in existing curricula.” Other authors for the “Embedding communication skills in veterinary education” were J Yorke and E Strand.


Best Clinical Publication in Vet Surg to Sura

Dr. Patricia Sura was honored at the American College of Veterinary Surgeons meeting in October with the award for best clinical publication in the journal Veterinary Surgery. The conference, held in San Diego, brought together around 1,700 veterinarians, students, and veterinary technicians to offer the latest clinical and research information in surgery and related medicine.

Sura’s article, entitled “Comparison of the Tc99m–TcO4− trans-splenic portal scintigraphy with per-cut portal scintigraphy for diagnosis of portosystemic shunts in dogs,” was in the October 2007 issue of Veterinary Surgery (pp. 654–660) and was co-authored by Drs. Karen M. Tobias, Federica Morandi, Greg B. Daniel, and Rita L. Echandi.

Ilha and McGavin Honored at ACVP Meeting

Pathobiology resident Dr. Marcia Ilha was awarded a Young Investigator Poster Award at the American College of Veterinary Pathologists meeting held in San Antonio in October. The honor went for the top three posters detailing original research. She also received a student scholarship from the C.L. Davis Foundation.

Dr. Donald McGavin’s lifetime contributions to pathology lecturing were the backbone for his Farrell Lectureship Award, also sponsored by the C.L. Davis Foundation. Dr. McGavin is a professor emeritus with the Pathobiology Department.

Discovery Goes Green

Beginning with this issue, Discovery has turned a new leaf. Bad news aside, the newsletter is now being printed on 50% recycled paper, as part of the university’s “Make Orange Green” campaign.

The research office encourages you to recycle your issue after you read it by sharing it with others or dropping it into a recycle bin: If you would like a recycle bin in your office, request one at this Web site: http://www.pp.utk.edu/recycle/recycleServiceRequest.asp
Prado, Moore Receive Chancellor’s Honors Grant

Each year, the Chancellor’s Honors Program Grant Program distributes $100,000 to undergraduate honors students working on senior projects. As part of the program, the winning students’ faculty advisors receive a $300 budget.

One of this year’s grant recipients is Glenis Moore, a pre-veterinary student working with Dr. Maria Prado. Students are eligible for a maximum of $2,500 for their senior projects in addition to their faculty advisor’s budget.

Tito S. Establishing authorship agreements in research collaborations: Charting a pathway to success. Session presented at: Society of Research Administrators International Annual Meeting; October 2008; National Harbor, MD.

Research Resource Spotlight

The Impact of Public Disclosure on Patent Protection

Our last article discussed the importance of disclosing inventions to your research office for assignment to the University of Tennessee Research Foundation (UTRF), where they will be evaluated for potential patent protection and commercialization opportunities. This is an important step in the commercialization process since the vast majority of companies are not willing to commercialize technology that is not protectable via patents or some other method of protection.

Once a disclosure is received, one of the first questions that an inventor will be asked is whether there has been a public disclosure of the invention. This is because the timing of public disclosure is often the controlling factor in determining the patentability of an invention. For protection in the United States, inventors have one year to file a patent application after the first public disclosure. However, to obtain protection in most foreign countries, a patent application must be filed prior to any disclosure to the public.

So what constitutes a public disclosure? Under U.S. law, a public disclosure occurs when an invention is described in a printed publication anywhere in the world, placed in public use in the United States, or offered for sale in the United States. In the world of academia, most of the risk for public disclosure occurs in the area of printed publications. Virtually anything is deemed as a printed publication for patent purposes. Examples include, but are not limited to, the placement of a thesis or dissertation in the library, professional meeting abstracts or poster presentations, publicly accessible interviews, Web postings, or reports to public or private sponsors made without an obligation of confidentiality.

As a rule of thumb, you should inform UTRF about the existence of a invention prior to public disclosure to prevent the unnecessary loss of patent rights. However, please do not assume that all patent rights are lost simply because you think a patent disclosure has occurred—it may still be possible to obtain significant patent protection, so it is important to submit an invention disclosure.

For more information on this topic, please visit http://utresearch.utk.edu, or contact Dr. Stacey Patterson at 865-974-3140 or sspatter@utk.edu.

UTCVM Investigators Earn Over $2.5M for Sponsored Projects Since September

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Title</th>
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Assigning Authorship Up Front
Clear Communication Key

The decisions of whom to include as an author on a paper and in what order those authors should appear are both difficult and, at times, uncomfortable.

For this reason, Dr. Sandra Titus, Director of Intramural Research at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ Office of Research Integrity, recommends creating a memo of understanding before the paper is written.

Similar to a contract, a memo of understanding between all authors puts into writing their expectations so that no surprises occur late in the writing process. Titus suggests outlining these expectations in the memo and having each author sign it:

1. Roles and responsibilities of the team
2. Timeline
3. Accountability
4. Data
5. Analysis
6. Writing first draft

7. Authorship inclusion & order
8. Plan to revisit authorship issues if things change along the way.

For particularly difficult author order decisions, Ahmed, et al. suggest using a calculatory assignment system they call QUAD: Quantitative Uniform Authorship Declaration. Authors may use this system to assign a numerical value to each author’s contributions, taking into consideration specific categories. Points are then tallied for each author and the order established based on points.

Whatever the method of deciding authorship, clear communication up front is key to reducing problems later.


Prado, Moore Receive Chancellor’s Honors Grant

Each year, the Chancellor’s Honors Research Grant Program distributes $100,000 to undergraduate honors students working on senior projects. As part of the program, the winning students’ faculty advisors receive a $300 budget.

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S McCain (co-authors M Souza, E Ramsay, J Schumacher, S Hecht, W Thomas) presented “Diagnosis and surgical treatment of a Chiari I-like malformation in an African lion.”

In This Issue

p1 - NIH peer review, going green, Sura, Ilha, McGavin awards; p2 - authorship, Prado student award, presentations (cont.); p3 - patent protection, research awards; p4 - publications and presentations

National Institutes of Health to Enhance Peer Review System

A Peer Review Oversight Committee was established by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to examine the current peer review process and make recommendations on improving it. The committee’s recommendations were made public in August and focus on three major priority areas, outlined below.

First, the committee sought to find ways to engage the best reviewers. Beginning in 2009, reviewers will be given more flexibility in their duties to increase reviewer retention. Part of this flexibility plan will be in pilot stages to determine the feasibility of virtual meetings to replace some in-person meetings. In addition, the recent changes in peer review will be explained during enhanced reviewer training.

The second priority was to improve the quality and transparency of review. A preliminary score will be assigned to streamlined applications, and a shorter R01 research plan (12 pages) will eventually be enacted. Other funding mechanisms may also be shortened and restructured application packages.

Lastly, the committee worked to ensure balanced and fair reviews across scientific fields and career stages and reduce administrative burden. NIH plans to decrease the number of allowed resubmissions from two to one, but this move will enhance success rates of new and resubmitted applications. New investigator grants will be clustered into like applications for review, where possible.

The committee will continue to update the peer review system, with the above changes occurring in the 2009-2010 calendar years.

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