Winter 2010

Discovery Winter 2010

Misty Bailey

University of Tennessee - Knoxville

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Recent Presentations


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Welborn M. Update on zoonotic and plants could be hazardous to your patient's health. Presented at: Tennessee Veterinary Technicians Association Fall Conference; October 2010; Pigeon Forge, TN. For more information, visit: http://www.tvtc.org.

Research at the University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine

In this issue
• p1 – Schuller’s Champion’s Honor, TERA proposal system; p2 – grant rejections, publications; p3 – finding funding opportunities, college research committee, Solyman award, externally funded awards; p4 – presentations

Dr. Hildegard Schuller

The Chancellor’s selection committee had this to say about Dr. Schuller: Hildegard Schuller, distinguished professor of pathology, has been studying the effects of environmental carcinogens for 35 years. She has developed vast expertise in the mechanisms of how normal cells are transformed into cancer cells by the components of cigarette smoke, in particular nicotine. Schuller made the discovery that lung cancer cells express receptors that bind to nicotine and its derivatives. She hypothesized that the components of tobacco smoke bind to nicotinic acetylcholine receptors, which are now known to be expressed throughout the body and can have profound effects on cell behavior. Dr. Schuller received the award in 1991. The honor is given to tenured faculty who have received national and international recognition in their field.

Dr. Schuller’s phenominal achievements reached a crescendo over the past year and earned her a spot among only four recipients of a 2010 University of Tennessee Chancellor’s Honor for Research and Creative Achieivement. [More about Chernoff’s TERA System to Change How Investigators Submit Research Proposals for Review & Approval]

The Tennessee Electronic Research Administration (TERA) system will create a paperless process for routing a research proposal for review and approval. Investigators will soon be using the Proposal & Award Management System (PAMS) portal of TERA to submit their routing forms (called an IPF–internal processing form) and proposals to the UTCVM Office of Research. The new IPF will include much of the same requested information as before, and the proposal itself will be uploaded as an attachment. The IPF, which also includes the budget, and attachments will then be routed to Tammy Berry for review and subsequently placed in a workflow for departmental approval. TERA will generate several E-mails throughout the routing process to inform investigators of the progress of their proposal review.

Compatibility with other UT campuses (such as UTK or UTM) will likely be treated as informal subcontracts. The new system will replace the COEUS proposal and award tracking system already in place, and also serve as a way to monitor compliance for research involving human or animal subjects, as well as conflicts of interest. In addition, intellectual property can be managed and traced. Investigators will have access to their own proposals through TERA and will be able to print reports of both proposal submissions and awards, as well as department heads and deans.

Instructions and training will be provided before the new system is implemented in spring 2011. For questions about TERA, please contact Tammy Berry at 974-5572 or tberry@utk.edu.

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Recent Publications


Discovery: Research at the University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine (2010) 5.3

Community of Science: Grant-finding Tool

All faculty, staff, and students at the university have access to one of the best grant-finding tools available: Community of Science (COS). Its “Searching Funding Opportunities” feature provides information about federal, private, corporate, and industry grants for research, graduate studies, and travel.

The COS interface allows the user to perform an advanced search and save not only the results but also the search itself for use later on. By choosing to receive weekly e-mail alerts based on a saved search, users can feel certain they are not missing out on opportunities that might cater to their needs.

The key to getting the best results from COS is to develop a carefully-crafted list of broad keywords and perform an advanced search. The best searches are those that use general terms. For example, a search using “Staphylococcus aureus” yields only three results, but a search for “bacteria” gives 23.

To learn more about COS, visit www.cos.com, or talk to Tammy Berry about funding opportunities (tberry@utk.edu; 974-5572).

College Research Committee Established

The newly-formed Research Committee at the UTCVM is charged with promotion of quality research programs within the college. Established last summer, the committee will serve as an advisory group to the associate dean for research and graduate studies to help on the following matters: college research policies, promoting and funding a diverse research program, awards given by the research office, UTCVM core research facilities, compilation of a list of research opportunities, and the Comparative & Experimental Medicine and Public Health Research Symposium.

The Research Committee has 10 members: two from each UTCVM department, one from the Animal Science Department, and the associate dean for research and graduate studies. Current committee members include Drs. Joe Bartges (chairperson), Seung Baek, David Brian, Madhu Dhar, Nicholas Frank, Stephen Kania, Amy LeBlanc, Stephen Oliver, and Hwa-Chain Robert Wang, in addition to Dr. Leon Potgieter. Term limits are in place for all departmental representatives, so all voting and the committee reports to the Executive Committee of the college.

UCVM Investigators Bring in $254,554 for Recent Sponsored Projects

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And the Chancellor's Honor for Research and Creative Achievement Goes to . . . Dr. Hildegard Schuller

Dr. Hildegard Schuller’s phenomenal achievements reached a crescendo over the past year and earned her a spot among only four recipients of a 2010 University of Tennessee Chancellor’s Honor for Research and Creative Achievement. Since the inception of the honor in 1991, Dr. Schuller has won the award; the previous time was in 1991. The honor is given to tenured faculty who have received national and international recognition in their field. Dr. Schuller’s NIH Challenge Grant proposal was in the top 4% last year and was the only one of its kind funded from a UT Knoxville investigator. She received two other NIH awards around that same timeframe.

The Chancellor’s selection committee had this to say about Dr. Schuller:

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