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Discovery March 2008

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Editor

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And Presentations

Drs. M Abd-Eldaim, KV Thomas, and M Kennedy presented a poster at the Conference of Research Workers in Animal Diseases in Chicago, December 2. The poster, entitled “Human influenza virus isolated from giant anteaters,” was also authored by S Nots, D Toplan, and D Rousseau from the Nashville Zoo at Grassmere.

On February 8, Dr. HS Adair gave an invited presentation on equine aquatic therapy at the American Physical Therapy Association Annual meeting in Nashville.

At the Exotic Species Symposium at UT in January, Dr. M Allender presented “Diseases of free-ranging and captive Chelonians.” “Diseases of free-ranging and captive Cheloniens,” “Invertebrate captive husbandry and medicine,” and “Chelonian shell repair.”

Dr. Allender also presented “Introduction to zoological medicine,” “Introduction to shark medicine,” and “Infectious diseases of snakes” at the University of Illinois, College of Veterinary Medicine in February.


June 17
Second Annual Comparative & Experimental Medicine Research Symposium

Plant Biotechnology Bldg & Hollingsworth Auditorium

Avian Influenza Expert to Kick off Research Symposium

Toubed as an excellent story-teller, Robert G. Webster, professor at St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, is set to kick off the Second Annual CEM Research Symposium by presenting and attendees a look into his world-renowned research in avian influenza with “H5N1 Influenza: Has the risk been overblown?”

He is currently the Rose Marie Thomas Chair in the Division of Virology, Department of Infectious Diseases at St. Jude, where he continues to examine the structure and function of influenza virus proteins and the development of new vaccines and antivirals. The major focus of his research is the importance of influenza viruses in wild aquatic birds as a major reservoir of influenza viruses and their role in the evolution of pandemic strains for humans and lower animals.

A native of New Zealand, Webster received his BSc and PhD in microbiology from Otago University in New Zealand. In 1962, he earned his AB from the Australian National University and spent the next two years as a Fulbright Scholar working on influenza in the Department of Epidemiology at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

During most of his career, Webster has been Director of the World Health Organization Collaborating Center for Studies on the Ecology of Influenza in Animals and Birds, one of only five such collaborating centers in the world. His curriculum vitae contains over 500 original articles and reviews on influenza viruses, and he has trained many students who now contribute to our understanding of the evolution and pathogenesis of influenza.
Battling with submission quibbles using PureEdge Viewer. Grants.gov has decided to transition to Adobe Acrobat for submission of grant applications beginning in April. The transition will be complete by June 30, with all applications using Adobe Acrobat.

However, only two versions of Acrobat will be compatible, and investigators MUST work from one of these versions for their grants to be submitted correctly. Adobe Acrobat versions 9.1.1 and 8.1.2 are approved as compatible with the new system.

Alternate versions of Acrobat will display the application package, once it is submitted, Grants.gov computers will not recognize its contents, causing a delay in submission.

CEM Graduated Students Boost First-Author Papers
Four graduate students in the Comparative and Experimental Medicine program recently learned that their first-author papers were published. Papers by Michael Hance (H Plummer), Hye Mee Joo (J Sangster), Farzad Toth (N Frank), and Mukhiga Sukthankar (S Sukthankar) were accepted to Breast Cancer: Basic and Clinical Research, Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, American Journal of Veterinary Research, and Gastroenterology, respectively.

Hance, Toth, and Sukthankar are in their 3rd year in the PhD program. Joo is in her 4th year. See “Publications” in this issue and the June issue for full details.

Web Archives Available for Course on Microarray Technology and Database Applications
The journal acknowledges that the author retains the right to provide a copy of the final manuscript to NIH, upon acceptance for journal publication or thereafter, for public archiving in PubMed Central as soon as possible after publication by the journal.
AHER batters with submission quirks un-
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Alternate versions of Acrobat will display the application package, once it is submitted. Grants.gov computers will not recognize its contents, causing a delay in sub-
mission or acceptance. Grants.gov offers detailed instruc-
tions on how to ensure that the correct version of Acrobat is opening the application pack-

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portant that authors be proactive before signing a copyright agreement they cannot, by law, follow.

One option for authors is to send a copyright addendum to the journal along with the manuscript. SPARC, the Scholarly Publishing & Academic Resources Coalition, offers an author addendum on its Web site (http://www.sparc.org/) and recommends amending other copy-
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Lee, Liggett Win Travel Awards

JASON Liggett, graduate student in Comparative and Experimental Medicine, and Dr. Seung-Ho Lee, research assistant professor in Pathobiology, both received graduate/postdoctoral travel fellowships to attend the Experimental Biology (EB) 2008 Meeting to be held in April. More than 13,000 biological and biomedical scientists attend the EB meeting each year. The award consists of up to $1,000 in travel expenses, plus a discounted meeting registration fee.

Liggett and Lee are part of the Environmental Carcinogenesis Laboratory research team at UTCVM and are mentored by Dr. Seung Joon Baek. The work at the laboratory focuses on the study of gene expression by anti-
cancer compounds, found in diet, nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs), PPARY ligands, and anti-oxidants.

Children's Cancer Research

Annie Schulman, a graduate student in the Baek laboratory, received a travel award from the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR), a $250 travel stipend for students attending the annual AACR meeting.

And Presentations

Dr. N Frank presented "The role of the GxxG motif in the interaction of CTFT with the γ-secretase complex and formation of Aβ" as part of the Alzheimer's Disease Physiological Functions of APP and APP Metabolites section of the 37th Annual Meeting of the Society for Neurosciences in San Diego. Other authors for the November presentation were Drs. G Mao, J Tan, and M-Z Cui.

At that same meeting, the following abstracts were presented: "Sequence in the bank of three avian influenza research sites plays a critical role in γ-secretase-mediated APP processing and Aβ formation" by Drs. J Tan, G Mao, M-Z Cui, M S Iy, and X Xu. "The GxxG motif in the transmembrane domain of APP plays an essential role in the interaction of CTFT with the γ-secretase complex and formation of Aβ" by Drs. G Mao, J Tan, M-Z Cui, and X Xu.

The University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine

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Avian Influenza Expert to Kick Off Research Symposium

T he US Department of Health and Human Services recently announced plans to launch a new research symposium focused on avian influenza. The symposium, titled "Avian Influenza Expert to Kick Off Research Symposium," is scheduled to take place on June 17.

The symposium aims to bring together leading experts in the field of avian influenza to share their latest research findings and discuss the latest developments in the field. Topics to be covered include the epidemiology, transmission, and control of avian influenza, as well as the implications for human health.

Drs. G Mao, J Tan, and M-Z Cui presented "Sequence in the bank of three avian influenza research sites plays a critical role in γ-secretase-mediated APP processing and Aβ formation" as part of the Symposium on Influenza Viruses and their Role in the Evolution of Pandemic Strains for Humans and Lower Animals.

A native of New Zealand, Webster received his BS in Microbiology and Molecular Biology from Otago University in New Zealand. In 1962, he earned his PhD from the Australian National University and spent the next two years as a Fulbright Scholar working on influenza in the Department of Epidemiology at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

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