

“RUN FOR THE ROSES”

Summer 2013



TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

VTPB TRACKS

A Message From The Department Head

I would like to welcome all the newcomers to our department. The fall semester is off to a furious start!

With over a century worth of history, the Kentucky Derby held in May each year is regarded as a great American Tradition. Dubbed “the Run for the Roses,” the famous garland of roses that is draped across the powerful back of the victor is horse racing’s equivalent to the green jacket presented to a golf Master champion, to the gold medal at the Olympics or to a faculty or staff award at Texas A&M. It is a symbol of striving hard and of reaching your goal. Veterinary Pathobiology faculty, residents, students and staff have been striving hard, accomplished much and reached many of their goals this past summer. I would like to share with you highlights of some of the members of our department.

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Joining the Race



Welcoming New Faculty

Rosina (Tammi) Krecek, Visiting Professor, has been employed to help with Parasitology courses during the next school year. Dr. Krecek was formerly Associate Dean of Research and Professor of Parasitology, Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine, St. Kitts, West Indies. She received a PhD from the University of Pretoria in Zoology in 1984 and an MBA in Business Administration from the University of Pretoria in 2003. Dr. Krecek also brings experience in building One-Health initiatives and strategic partnerships in the Caribbean and Africa.

Raquel Rech, Clinical Assistant Professor, who will work as an Anatomic Pathologist helping in teaching, service and research. Dr. Rech was a full time researcher at EMBRAPA in Brazil working on swine and poultry diseases. She holds both a DVM from Santa Catarina State University in Santa Catarina, Brazil and PhD degree in Pathology from Federal University of Santa Maria (UFSM), Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil.

Welcoming New Faculty

David Threadgill, returns to Texas A&M University, as Professor in the Department of Veterinary Pathobiology and Professor and Holder of the Tom and Jean McMullin Chair of Genetics in the Department of Molecular & Cellular Medicine in the Texas A&M Health Science Center. Dr. David Threadgill was selected to lead the newly formed Whole Systems Genomics Initiative. He received his PhD degree in Genetics under James E. Womack's mentorship in 1989. He was Professor and Head, Department of Genetics at North Carolina State University since 2008.



Deborah Threadgill, returns to Texas A&M University, as Assistant Professor, in the Department of Veterinary Pathobiology. Dr. Deborah Threadgill received her PhD in Genetics under Dr. James E. Womack's mentorship in 1990. She was an Assistant Professor at North Carolina State University, Department of Microbiology since 2008.

Welcoming New Residents

Josue Diaz Delgado, Anatomic Pathology Resident, received his BVM in Veterinary Medicine from the University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, Spain, in 2010 and MS in Animal Health and Food Safety from the Institute for Animal Health and Food Safety, University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria in 2011.

Martha Hensel, Anatomic Pathology Resident, received her BS in Animal Science and Biological Sciences at the University of Georgia in 2006; her MS in Animal and Dairy Sciences in 2009 and DVM from The Ohio State University in 2013.

Holly Minard, Clinical Pathology Resident, received her BS in Animal Science from the University of Arkansas, 2009 and DVM from the University of Missouri-Columbia, 2013.

Maureen O'Brien, Cardiovascular Pathology Resident, received her BS in Animal Sciences from The Ohio State University in 2006; and DVM from The Ohio State University in 2013.

Stacie Seelye, Comparative Medicine Resident, received her BS in Microbiology from Colorado State University, 1999; MS in Business Administration from Colorado State University in 2011 and DVM from Colorado State University in 2013.

Welcoming New Grad Students

Kanika Bajwa (India) (Sanjay Reddy-advisor) BS, Padmashree Dr. D.Y. Patil University; MS, University College, London, BIMS PhD

Jade Benjamin (Indianapolis, IN) (Scott Dindot, advisor) BS in Biomedical Engineering from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, NY (Genetics PhD).

Ana Lucia Cabello (Mexico) (Thomas Ficht-advisor) - Univ Autonoma De Nuevo Leon (BS), Centro Inv Cientifica Y De Ed (MS) **CONACYT Scholarship** VTPB PhD

Caitlin Curry (Encinitas, CA) (James Derr-advisor) BS, U. of Washington, Genetics PhD

Thaddeus Deiss (El Campo TX,) (Michael Criscitiello-advisor) BS, Texas A&M University-Kingsville; **CVM Merit Scholar** VTPB PhD

Welcoming New Grad Students

Rana El-Tahan (Egypt) (Guan Zhu-advisor) BS, University Of Alexandria also did some PhD work at Michigan State University VTPB PhD

Elena Gart (Russia) (Sara Lawhon-advisor) –DVM, Novosibirsk State Univ , MS, Kansas State University **TAMU Diversity Scholarship** VTPB PhD

Wisam Hassan (Iraq) (Waithaka Mwangi/Susan Payne-advisors) – DVM, MS, University Of Mosul **HCED Scholarship** VTPB PhD

Tennille Lamon, returning student, (College Station) (Susan Payne-advisor) LAMD MS/ residency

Courtney Meason (Katy, TX) (Vince Gresham/Aline Rodrigues Hoffman, advisors) B.S. University of Saint Thomas, some PhD work at U of Texas-Hlth Sci Ct Houston LAMD MS

Christina Small (Cameron, Tx) BS in Molecular and Cell Biology from TAMU (Esteve-Gassent-advisor) **CVM Merit Scholar** VTPB PhD

Elise (goes by EV)Voltura (Davis, CA University of Oregon, BS In Environmental Science) (Donald Brightsmith-advisor) **CVM Merit Scholar** BIMS PhD

Xue Yu (China) (Guan Zhu-advisor) LTC; BEN, Liaocheng University, Ocean University Of China **Chinese Scholarship** VTPB PhD

Welcoming New Staff

Katie Cosby (Adm. Office) – Program Coordinator, will coordinate the departmental graduate student program working with Dr. Patricia Holman, graduate advisor, assuming Stevie Bundy's duties and providing backup for Frances' position, coordinating courses, grades and syllabi and other teaching needs. Katie has a BA in Public Administration and a Masters in Public Administration from Auburn University.

Dorothy Houston (WSGI) – Administrative Coordinator, is transferring from Animal Science and has been the Administrative Assistant for the Whole Systems Genomics Initiative since 2009. She was previously with TEES.

Welcoming New Staff

Martha Huebner (Adm. Office) – Worked formerly for the Dean’s Office. Assisting with Promotion and Tenure, Post Tenure and 3 yr. review packages and other administrative duties.

Kranti Konganti (WSGI) – Systems Administrator, is transferring from Animal Science and is the Bioinformatics Programmer for the Whole Systems Genomics Initiative in 2012. He was previously with NYU Medical Center.

Leslie Suarez (Histo Lab) – Research Assistant, received her MS in Biomedical Science from Texas A&M University, and previously worked in the Cardiovascular lab.

Moving Ahead



Congratulations Faculty

Maria Esteve-Gassent, promoted to tenure track Assistant Professor position. Dr. Esteve-Gassent’s research interests are geared towards a broader study of vector borne zoonotic infectious diseases and host-pathogen interactions. She has received funding the past 3 yrs. from the American Heart Association for “Study of the von Willebrand factor A containing proteins in *Borrelia burgdorferi*.” The major portion of Dr. Esteve-Gassent's teaching activity has focused on instruction and mentoring undergraduate research projects. She is currently developing a summer abroad program in Barcelona, Spain to address shadowing experience for Pre-Med and Pre-Vet students in a country with public Universal Health services.

Congratulations Faculty

Waithaka Mwangi, on receiving the 2013-2014 Montague-Center for Teaching Excellence Scholars Award for the College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences. This award is to recognize a tenure-track assistant professor who has demonstrated a commitment to, and potential for, excellence in undergraduate teaching. Dr. Mwangi has been teaching the undergraduate-level course “Introduction to Immunology,” since 2007. This is a first-level immunology course designed to familiarize students with the basic features of the immune system and with the nomenclature used by immunologists to prepare students for attending higher institutions or for seeking positions in health-related professions. During the fall and spring semesters, respectively, Dr. Mwangi also teaches graduate courses in immunology, VTMI 662, “Advanced Immunologic Concepts,” and VTMI 649, “Introduction to Immunology for Graduate Students.”



Brad Weeks, promoted to Professor, September 1, 2013. Dr. Weeks plays a pivotal role in the department’s Cardiovascular Pathology Research Program. He serves as Associate Director of the Translational Pathology Research Laboratory (TPRL), which was formed as an offshoot of the Cardiovascular Pathology Laboratory to perform contract-based GCP, GLP, and non-GLP pathology research. A number of new contracts with private companies have been achieved due to the quality of service provided by this group. This also provides an excellent training ground for residents and undergraduates in biomedical engineering and biomedical sciences who are interested in cardiovascular research and working with industry.

Congratulations Residents

Five residents completed their 3 yr. residency programs in June 2013 and were recognized for this accomplishment at a pizza lunch and reception on Monday, June 24.

Kristin Eden – Anatomic Pathology

Sarah Schneider – Anatomic Pathology

Nicolette Jackson – Anatomic Pathology (Cardio Path)

Jennifer Cook – Clinical Pathology

Zoe Browning -Comparative Medicine

Crossing the Finish Line

VTPB is very proud to announce the success of our residents!

VTPB pathology residents who just completed their three-year residency, (three anatomic residents and one clinical pathology resident), recently sat for the American College of Veterinary Pathology Board Examination.

Congratulations and a garland of roses go out to:

Sarah Schneider (Anatomic Pathology Resident)

Nikki Jackson (Cardiovascular Pathology Resident)

Kristin Eden (Anatomic Pathology Resident)

Jennifer Cook (Clinical Pathology Resident)

and

Erin Quist, our former Anatomic Pathology Resident
(now at Research Triangle in North Carolina)



That's a pass rate of 5 out of 5!!!! Can't get better than that!!!

Congratulations, Graduate Students (Mentor)

Thad Deiss (Michael Criscitiello) received financial support from the College of Veterinary Medicine to attend the American Association of Immunologists' Annual Advanced Course in Immunology in Boston, MA, July 28-August 2, 2013.

Ryan Doan (Scott Dindot) won first place for a graduate student poster at the Texas Genetics Society meeting in College Station, April, 2013.

Paul Hillman (Scott Dindot) won first place for graduate student platform presentation "The Maternal *Ube3a* Allele Compensates for Genomic Imprinting in Neurons of the Central Nervous system at the Texas Genetics Society Meeting in College Station; and Best Graduate Oral Presentation in Microbiology, Molecular Biology, Biochemistry at the TAMU Student Research Week.

Congratulations Staff

Three staff members were honored at the 2013 CVM Staff Awards Program, July 31.

Robin Alderete, Lead Office Associate, has been with the department for 5 years and has learned to wear many hats: receptionist, caterer, surgical path transcriber, lab cleaner, and courier to name a few. In her role as front desk receptionist Robin helps visitors with questions about the College, parking and directions. Robin has handled the Department's portion of the SECC campaign for the last two years. She cares so much about the health of pets and even championed a drive to help the local animal shelter as part of the campaign.



Congratulations Staff

Josh Freeman, Biowaste Facility Manager, has been with the College of Veterinary Medicine for 5 years and is responsible for a wide variety of tasks, most of them very unpleasant and does it all with a great attitude. Josh is a key member of the team that teaches senior veterinary students the art of necropsy. He loves teaching the students who continually commend him on making their necropsy learning experience easier and more fun.



Roberta Pugh, Senior Research Associate, has been with the department for 41 years. According to her nominator during all these years she has been empowering the success of his laboratory as an outstanding laboratory leader, manager and role model for young researchers. She is an invaluable asset when it comes to training new undergraduates, graduate students, post-doctoral fellows and visiting national and international scholars.



Congratulations and Farewell

Frances Hicks was recently awarded the Best in Business award from the Committee of Senior Business Administrators for 2013. Frances Hicks, Office Associate, has dedicated her career to serving students and faculty in Veterinary Pathobiology for nearly 32 years! She retired in 2003 but returned to work after a month's absence to work another 10 years part-time. During Frances Hicks' many years as secretary for the undergraduate, professional and graduate program in our department Frances Hicks took on the personal responsibility of taking care of student, faculty and staff needs in a "tough love" kind of way. She will be missed by faculty who depended on her to schedule classes, rooms, course evaluations, turn in grades and update the graduate and undergraduate catalogues, but because of her caring personality she will be missed by all.



John Roths, Associate Research Scientist, retired August 31 after 19 years of service. A reception was held August 30 in appreciation for his outstanding service to the department. John was brought here to Texas A&M by Dr. Ann Kier to collaborate in her lab, but in addition to this, his ability to develop information systems for research and department management made him invaluable to the administrative and service areas in the department. He became the "go to" person for all those in areas of IT, electronic equipment purchases, equipment maintenance and sharing, photomicroscopy and archiving. He will be missed. Fortunately, he will continue to work part-time until April.



New Facilities

The Texas A&M University College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences officially broke ground Friday, July 26 on a new Exotic & Wild Bird Aviary scheduled for completion in May, 2014. "This is a beautiful facility that exemplifies the College's commitment to exotic species and to conservation in general," said **Dr. Ian Tizard**, Richard M. Schubot Professor of Exotic Bird Health and Distinguished Professor of Immunology in Veterinary Pathobiology.



New Discoveries

Christopher Seabury and **Ian Tizard** led a team in a groundbreaking move that provides new insight into avian evolution, biology and conservation. They have successfully sequenced the complete genome of a Scarlet macaw for the first time.

Andrew Steelman, postdoctoral scientist in Jianrong Li's lab (VIBS), has collaborated with **Jane Welsh** and **Roger Smith** to better understand what causes multiple sclerosis, a disease that affects the central nervous system with devastating consequences. MS is perpetuated by repeated attacks of the nervous system by cells from a person's own immune system. These scientists have uncovered a pathway that the brain cells use to blunt these attacking immune cells.

New Discoveries

Waithaka Mwangi, Michael Criscitiello, and Terje Raudsepp (VIBS) are part of a team of investigators from Texas A&M University, working with a team from The Scripps Research Institute, who have discovered that the cow immune system has something important to offer. A study of an extraordinary family of cow antibodies points to new ways to make human medicines.

Allison Rice Ficht, Thomas Ficht and James Samuel (TAMHSC), were featured in the August 23, TAMU Times for their “Victory in the battle against Brucella: From bench to battlefield.” After 6 years of research they are nearing completion on the first human Brucella vaccine. Brucella bacteria cause brucellosis in both humans and animals which is a chronic disease characterized by high fever and incapacitation for several days. The funds were received from the Department of Defense and would initially be used as a biodefense inoculation for military personnel.

New Grants

Fred Clubb, Jr. received a grant, “HeartPOD Specimen from the HOMEOSTATIS Study,” from the Pacesetter, Inc. (a St. Jude Medical Company.)

Scott Dindot, received a grant, “Identification and Characterization of Novel Therapeutics for Angelman Syndrome,” from The University of South Florida. He also received a grant, “Mouse Model of Dup15q Syndrome from the Simons Foundation.

Thomas Ficht, received a grant, “Western Regional Center of Excellence for Biodefense and Emerging Diseases RP007 Evaluation of Live Attenuated *B. melitensis* Vaccines in Nonhuman Primates,” from The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston.

Ann Kier received a 4-yr NIH training grant, "Research Education Program for Laboratory Animal Medicine Veterinarians," from the National Institutes of Health. This training grant will increase the number of laboratory animal medicine residents and expand their opportunities for study and research in preparation for their ACLAM board examination. **James Elliott** and Vincent Gresham are co-investigators.

New Grants

Jeffrey Musser, received a grant, “Cell Tropism and Ribovirin Susceptibility of Different Avian Bornovirus Genotypes and Strains,” – Student Stipend for **Anastasia Koinis**, from the Morris Animal Foundation.

Waithaka Mwangi, received a 2 yr. grant, “Development of Bovine and Porcine CD40 Agonists for Generation of Adjuvant,” from Zoetis.

Mary Nabity, received a 4-yr. fellowship grant “Canine Chronic Kidney Disease” for **Sabrina Vobornik** from the Zoetis-Morris Animal Foundation Veterinary Fellowship for Advanced Study.

Joe Kornegay, received a 4-yr. fellowship grant “Canine, Cardiovascular” for **Sarah Schneider** from the Zoetis-Morris Animal Foundation Veterinary Fellowship for Advanced Study.

International Activities

Donald Brightsmith, “Tools for Tropical Wildlife Trackers: A Review of Best Technologies,” at the Annual Meeting of the Society for Tropical Biology and Conservation in San Jose, Costa Rica, June 23-27, 2013.

Michael Criscitiello, and **Scott Dindot**, presented results and participated in discussions of aquaculture genomics at the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de Mexico (UNAM), Cuernavaca, Mexico, May 15-18, 2013.

Scott Dindot, chaired a session at the 10th International Equine Genome Mapping Workshop by the Biotechnology Centre of Azores, Associate Lab Institute for Biotechnology and Bioengineering, Ponta Delgada, Azores, July 8-15, 2013.

Maria Esteve-Gassent – Study abroad class, “Global Health: Spanish for the Health Professionals” at the University Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona, Spain, May 20-May 4, 2013.

Aline Rodrigues Hoffmann, “The Skin Microbiome in Healthy and Allergic Dogs;” Cell Symposia: Microbiome and Host Health Meeting, Lisbon, Portugal, May 12-14, 2013.

Rosina Krecek “Zoonotic parasite research in the Caribbean,”*, Lee, E., Lucas, H., Drebot, M.A., Wood, H., Loftis, A. Robertson, L., Dimitrova, K., Makowski, K., Dillon, L., Dewailly, E. Forde, M. and Kelly, P., 24th International Conference of the World Association for the

International Activities

Rosina Krecek as Chairperson of the WAAVP African Foundation Presentation was invited to present the 2011-2013 Report to the WAAVP General Assembly. This Committee awarded scholarships to 8 young African veterinary parasitologists from 6 African countries to present their research findings at the Conference in Perth. Under her Chairmanship from 1997-2013 they have awarded a total of 63 scholarships to young African veterinary parasitologists from 13 African countries, August 29, 2013.

Linda Logan, Jeffrey Musser, Tawfik Omran, organized and hosted a workshop on Communications in Veterinary Science sponsored by USDA/FAS in Amman, Jordan, Aug. 9-18, 2013. This was the culmination of a scholar exchange with Iraq funded by the USDA-FAS and jointly carried out by the College of Veterinary Medicine and Borlaug Institute. Six Iraqi professors participated and several Jordanian veterinarians from academia and the Ministry of Agriculture.

Jeffrey Musser –Developing a teaching abroad semester at the SOLTIS Center, San Ramon, Costa Rica, July 21-27, 2013.

David Threadgill, invited presentation "Population-Based Molding of Environmental Toxicant Co-Exposure: Linking Trichloroethylene and Inorganic Arsenic to Kidney Cancer," XIII International Congress of Toxicology, Seoul, Korea, June 30-July 4, 2013.

Ian Tizard, speaker at the South African Veterinary Medical Association Meeting in Durban, South Africa, May 24-29, 2013. Titles of presentations:

“Introduction to Bovine Immunology: Innate Immunity, Adaptive Immunity & Genetic Influences on Immunity in Cattle,”

“Immunity in the Developing Foetus and the Newborn, Maternal Immunity in Ruminants & Role of the Gut Flora,”

“Immunity to Parasitic Worms, Evasion of the Immune Responses & Helminth,”

“Immunity & Vaccination in the Respiratory Tract,”

“Immunity and Vaccination in the Digestive Tract and Other Surfaces,”

“Emerging Vaccine Technologies.”

James Womack, invited presentation “Functional significance of genetic variation in the NK-Lysin gene of chickens” 10th Annual Aegean Conference on Innate Immunity, Kos, Greece, June 19-29, 2013.





International Activities

Guan Zhu, “Fatty Acyl-Binding Protein (ACBP) as a Novel Drug Target in the Apicomplexan Parasite *Cryptosporidium*,” at the 3rd Annual World Congress of Microbes-2013, section 3rd Annual Symposia of Antiparasites (SAP-2013) held in Wuhan, China, July 30-Aug. 1.

National Presentations

L. Garry Adams, Chair and Organizer, "USDA MicroRNA Initiative for Food Animal Systems", National Animal Disease Center, USDA, Ames. IA, August 28, 2013.

Judith Ball, “CVM/BIMS Research advocacy,” and “Reframing Organizations book review,” AgriLife Leadership Program, Corpus Christi, Tx, Aug. 12-15, 2013.

Bertram MR*, GL Hamer, **KF Snowden**, **C Hodo**, SA Hamer. "Detection and characterization of *Eimeria* spp. in whooping cranes and sandhill cranes," AAVP Conference, Chicago, IL, July 20-23, 2013.

Janice Boyd (Co author Dr Donald Brightsmith) “Movements of Wild Macaws from Satellite Telemetry,” Parrots International Symposium, Long Beach, California, June 20-24, 2013.

Suzanne Burnham, Moderator Session VI: “Bioterrorism and Public Health Preparedness,” 63rd Annual James Steele Conference on Diseases in Nature (DIN) Transmissible to Man, Houston, Tx, June 19-21, 2013.

Wen-Ko Chou, Chang-Hsin Chen, Daad Abi-Ghanem, Jungwoo Park, Lisa R. Bielke, Billy M. Hargis, and **Luc R. Berghman** (2013). “A single dose of a CD40-targeted immunogen delivered at various mucosal induction sites results in antigen-specific sIgA production in the chicken,” AAAP Meeting in Chicago, IL. July 20-23, 2013.

Fred Clubb, “Pathologic Evaluation of Medical Devices,” at the American Society for Artificial Internal Organs (ASAID) Conference, Chicago, IL, June 12-15, 2013.

National Presentations

Thomas Craig –“ Sheep parasites: problems, resistance, new products and practices for parasite control,” American Association of Animal Science Meeting, Sheep Production at Montana State University, Bozeman, MT, June 16-20, 2013.

Thomas Craig, “LongRange to Control Gastrointestinal Nematodes in Cattle,” Merial sales and technical meeting, Kansas City MO, July 15-16, 2013.

Michael Criscitiello, "B cell immunogenetics in shark T cells" at the American Association of Immunologists Annual Meeting, Honolulu, Hawaii, May 1-11, 2013.

Michael Criscitiello, "Origins of vertebrate lymphocyte antigen receptor immunogenetic plasticity" at the North American Comparative Immunology Workshop, Santa Barbara, CA, June 22-25, 2013.

Michael Criscitiello, "Complex immunoglobulin isotype heterodimerization in the frog *Xenopus laevis*" in the Department of Pathology at Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Nashville, TN, July 21-24, 2013.

Curtis R*, GL Hamer, EJ Wozniak, **KF Snowden**, SA Hamer. "*Trypanosoma cruzi* genetic strain diversity in Texas wildlife and kissing bug vectors," won BEST STUDENT PRESENTATION AWARD, AAVP Conference, Chicago, IL, July 20-23, 2013.

James Derr, “Making the Case for the Systematic Collection of Genetic and Health Data from North American Wildlife,” American Wildlife Leadership School , Jackson Hole, WY, July 7-11, 2013.

Scott Dindot, Epigenetic regulation of gene expression: Emerging applications for horses" Equine Society Science Meeting, Ruidoso, New Mexico, May 28-30, 2013.

Scott Dindot, "Understanding the Ube3a imprint: Implications for Angelman syndrome therapeutics," at the Angelman Syndrome Foundation Biennial Conference and Scientific Symposium, Orlando, FL, July 22-24, 2013.



National Presentations

Scott Dindot, "Development and characterization of transgenic mouse models of 15q duplication syndrome" at 7th International 15q Duplication Alliance Symposium, Bloomington, MN, July 26-28, 2013.

Johanna Elfenbein, "Novel determinants of intestinal colonization of *Salmonella enterica* serotype Typhimurium identified in bovine enteric infection," American Society for Microbiology Meeting, Denver, CO, May 18-22, 2013.

Maria Esteve-Gassent, "Distribution of *Borrelia burgdorferi*, the causative agent of Lyme disease in ticks across Texas," American Society for Microbiology Meeting, Denver, CO, May 18-22.

Maria Esteve-Gassent, "Temporal and Spatial Distribution of Lyme Borreliosis in the Southern U.S.," 63rd Annual James Steele Conference on Diseases in Nature (DIN) Transmissible to Man, Houston, Tx, June 19-21, 2013.

Cobb, W. Jacob and **Patricia Holman***, "Effect of rifampicin and fosmidomycin on the causative agents of equine piroplasmiasis, *Babesia caballi* and *Theileria equi in vitro*." AAVP Conference, Chicago, IL, July 20-23, 2013.

Sara Lawhon, "Antimicrobial Selection and Methicillin Resistant Staphylococci in Companion Animals," Coastal Bend Veterinary Medical Association Meeting, Corpus Christi, Texas, June 27, 2013.

Linda Logan, "Food Security in Developing Nations: Balancing the Needs in Animal Health and Public Health," The James Steele Challenge: a Better World Through One Health Symposium, Chicago, IL, July 22, 2013.

National Presentations

Jeffrey Musser, “Milk-borne Zoonoses as a One Health Issue,” and Moderator Session III: “Zoonoses of Non-Mammalian Species,” The 63rd Annual James Steele Conference on Diseases in Nature (DIN) Transmissible to Man, Houston, Tx, June 19-21, 2013.

Mary Nabity, co-authors: George E. Lees, May M. Boggess, Murthy Yerramilli, Edward Obare, Maha Yerramilli, Jason Aguiar, Roberta Relford. "Correlation of symmetric dimethylarginine with glomerular filtration rate in dogs with chronic progressive renal disease," and "Week-to-week variability of iohexol clearance, serum creatinine, and symmetric dimethylarginine in dogs with stable chronic renal disease," at the ACVIM Forum, Seattle, WA, June 12-16, 2013.

Susan Payne "The evolution of avian bornaviruses," Association of Avian Veterinarians Meeting, Jacksonville, FL, Aug. 3-8, 2013.

Dana A. Pollard,* and **Patricia J. Holman**. “*In vitro* cultivation of *Cytauxzoon felis*,” AAVP Conference, Chicago, IL, July 20-23, 2013.

Roy Pool, as the recipient of the School's 2013 Alumni Achievement Award and made an invited presentation, “Role of an Orthopedic Pathologist in the Teaching, Service and Research Programs of the School,” UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine's Alumni Achievement Award Program, Davis, CA. June 12-14, 2013.

Roy Pool, “Structure, Function and Pathology of Growth Plates of Long Bones in Domestic Animals, " Lecture at the UC Davis Veterinary Medicine J.D. Wheat Orthopedic Research Laboratory, Davis, CA, June 11, 2013.

Roy Pool, “Interpretation of Histopathology of Normal and Diseased Bone, Joint, Tendon and Ligament Specimens Selected from UC Davis VMTH Cases," Pathology Workshop to the Anatomic Pathology Faculty and Residents in the Department of Pathology, Microbiology and Immunology, UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine, Davis CA, June 11, 2013.



National Presentations

Jessica Rodriguez , **KF Snowden**, BC Lewis. "Distribution and characterization of *Heterobilharzia americana* in dogs in Texas," **Karen Snowden** and **Jessica Rodriguez** also served as moderators in scientific sessions, AAVP Conference, Chicago, IL, July 20-23, 2013.



Charles Scanlan, "Veterinary Microbiology in Afghanistan: Perspectives of a USAID Consultant" The 63rd Annual James Steele Conference on Diseases in Nature (DIN) Transmissible to Man, Houston, Tx, June 19-21, 2013.

Charles Scanlan, "Updated classification and pathogenesis of the bovine, canine, equine, feline, ovine and porcine *Anaplasma* and hemotrophic *Mycoplasma* species," Boehringer-Ingelheim Vetmedica Meeting, St. Joseph Missouri, July 5, 2013.

George Stoica, –"The role of alpha-synuclein in the pathogenesis of Parkinson's disease in a rat animal model," Awardee Meeting, Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research, New York, NY July 9-11, 2013.

David Threadgill lectured in the Mouse Development, Stem Cells & Cancer course, Cold Spring Harbor, NY, June 5-8, 2013.

David Threadgill, invited presentation "Case Study - Diversity Mouse Models: Individual Variability in Trichloroethylene and Inorganic Arsenic Toxicity" at the 39th Annual Summer Meeting of The Toxicology Forum, Aspen, CO, July 7-11, 2013.

National Presentations

David Threadgill gave a keynote address on "Modeling population heterogeneity to understand individual cancer susceptibility" at FASEB Gastrointestinal Tract XV: Epithelia, Microbes, Inflammation and Cancer, Steamboat Springs, CO, Aug 11-16, 2013.

Ian Tizard, Invited Lectures, "The Scarlet Macaw Genome," co-authors, Christopher Seabury and Donald Brightsmith and "Avian Bornavirus and Proventricular Dilatation Disease in Parrots," co-author, Susan Payne at the Parrots International Symposium, Long Beach, California, June 20-24, 2013.

Ian Tizard, "The Dynamics of ABV Infections in Flocks of Apparently Health Cockatiels," at the Association of Avian Veterinarians Meeting in Jacksonville, Florida, Aug. 3-8, 2013.

Shuping Zhang– "Resistance to Antimicrobial Peptide Genes Contribute to the Initialization and Maintenance of Salmonella enterica Enteritidis Infection in Chickens," American Society of Microbiology Meeting, Denver, CO May 18-21, 2013.

Shuping Zhang – "Superbugs, Declines, and Pen-Reared Birds: The study of drug-resistant microbes and microbiomes in wild and pen-reared," Dallas, Tx. May 29-30, 2013.



Local Presentations

Jeffrey Musser, “How Milk Effects Developing Countries,” at the TEDxTAMU (Technology, Entertainment, Design) Event Program “Global Gone Local,” Texas A&M University, April 27, 2013.

The Schubot Exotic Bird Health Center Symposium was held on Friday, July 26 at the College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences in conjunction with the Avian Complex Groundbreaking Ceremony.

Presentations by VTPB faculty included:

Donald Brightsmith, keynote speaker, “Studies on Parrot Conservation at Tambopata, Peru.”

Janice Boyd, “Satellite Telemetry of Wild Macaws.”

Christopher Seabury, “The Scarlet Macaw Genome.”

Ian Tizard, “On the Pathogenesis of Avian Bornavirus Infections.”

Susan Payne, “On the Evolution and Transmission of Avian bornavirus in Wild Birds.”



Student Presentations

The Veterinary Medical Scientist Research Training Program Conference was held July 31, 2013 at Texas A&M University.

Andrew Masse (**BR Weeks**, mentor) “A Method for Creating Artificial Thrombi *In Vitro* Using Rotating Mechanical Surfaces.”

Logan France (**A.B. Kier**, mentor) “Impact of Phytanic Acid Diet on Lipid Metabolism in SCP-2/SCP-X Gene Ablated Mice.”

James Pendergraft (**C.J. Welsh**, mentor) “The Role of NLR Genes in the Development of Epilepsy Induced by Theiler’s Virus Infection.”

Marselle Kovarsky (**M.B. Nabity**, mentor) “Evaluation of Serum and Urine Protein Biomarkers as More Effective Indicators of Canine Chronic Kidney Disease.”

Ashley Heard-Ganir (**M.F. Criscitiello**, mentor) “Comparative Somatic Hyper-Mutation for Primary α -T Cell Repertoire in Nurse Shark (*Ginglymostoma Cirratum*) and Elephant Shark (*Callorhinchus Milii*) Species.”

Stephanie Myers (**S.D. Lawhon**, mentor) “Quorum Sensing and A1-2 Transport in *Salmonella enterica* Serovar Typhimurium.”

Cassandra Tansey (**L.G. Adams**, mentor) “Evaluating the *In Silico* Model for Predicting Host-Pathogen Interactions in Salmonella Infections.”

Anastasia Koinis (**JMB Musser**, mentor) “Synergism of Ribavirin and Baicalein against Avian Bornavirus in Cell Culture.”

Melissa Loewinger (**JMB Musser, I Tizard**, mentors) “The Infectivity of Avian Bornavirus in Urine.”

Cassandra Seibold (**I. Tizard**, T. Raudsepp, mentors) “Comparative Cytogenetics of the Timneh African Grey Parrot (*Psittacus Erithacus Timneh*)

These presentations were also presented as poster presentations at the BWF Workshop and Meril-NIH Veterinary Scholars Summer Research Symposium, East Lansing, Michigan, August 1-4, 2013.

VTPB Poster Presentations

Ivan Castro-Arellano, Abha Gorver, Erin McGregor, Alexandra Brown, May Boggues, and **Maria D. Esteve-Gassent**, “Distribution of *Borrelia burgdorferi* in humans, dogs and ticks in Southern US”. 13th International Conference on Lyme Borreliosis and other Tick Borne Diseases, Boston, MA, Aug. 18-22, 2013.

Wen-Ko Chou, Christine Vuong, Chang-Hsin Chen, Daad Abi-Ghanem, and **Luc R. Berghman**. (2013) “*Functional phenotyping of chicken peritoneal exudate macrophages elicited under different stimuli.*” Poster presentation by Luc R. Berghman at the annual meeting of the Poultry Science Association in San Diego, CA. July 21-25, 2013.

Rachel Curtis, **Carolyn L. Hodo**, Gabriel L. Hamer, **Karen F. Snowden**, Edward J. Wozniak, Sarah A. Hamer –“A Holistic Approach to the Characterization of Ecological Drivers of Chagas Disease in the U.S.,” 63rd Annual James Steele Conference on Diseases in Nature (DIN) Transmissible to Man, Houston, Tx, June 19-21, 2013.

Teresa P. Feria, Guadalupe Gordillo-Perez, , Alexandra Brown*, Abha Grover**, Raul Medina, Ivan Castro-Arellano, Adalberto Pérez de Leon, **Maria D. Esteve-Gassent** “Spatial and Temporal Distribution of Lyme Disease Infected Ticks in the Texas-Mexico Border Region”, 13th International Conference on Lyme Borreliosis and other Tick Borne Diseases in Boston, MA, Aug. 18-22, 2013.

Abha Grover, Erin McGregor, Alexandra Brown, Srikanth Kanameni, May Boggues, Raul F. Medina and **Maria D. Esteve-Gassent**. “Temporal and spatial distribution of Lyme Borreliosis in Southern US”. Poster Presentation at the 13th International Conference on Lyme Borreliosis and other Tick Borne Diseases, Boston, MA, Aug. 18-22, 2013.

Fengguang Guo, -poster presentation "Fatty Acyl-CoA Synthetases (ACSs) in the Zoonotic Pathogen *Cryptosporidium parvum* "American Society for Microbiology Meeting, Denver, CO, May 18-22, 2013.

Rosina Krecek,*, Penzhorn, B.L., DeWaal, D.T., Peter, R.J., Prichard, R., Sumption, D., Avenant-Oldewage, A., Soll, M.D., Phiri, I.K. and Lebovitz, Y. “What is the World Association for the Advancement of Veterinary Parasitology (WAAVP) African Foundation?” 24th International Conference of the World Association for the Advancement of Veterinary Parasitology, Perth, Australia, August 25-29, 2013.

VTPB Poster Presentations

Jaime E. Rodriguez, Adrian A. Castellanos, Lisa D. Auckland, Jessica E. Light, Sarah A. Hamer – “Wild Rodents in the Ecology of Tick-Borne Pathogens in East-Central Texas,” 63rd Annual James Steele Conference on Diseases in Nature (DIN) Transmissible to Man, Houston, Tx, June 19-21, 2013.

Charles Scanlan, Larry Johnson – “Medical Science Educational Materials Available Online,” 63rd Annual James Steele Conference on Diseases in Nature (DIN) Transmissible to Man, Houston, Tx, June 19-21, 2013.

Charles Scanlan – “Effect of Milking Frequency on Staphylococcal Mastitis in Dairy cows,” 63rd Annual James Steele Conference on Diseases in Nature (DIN) Transmissible to Man, Houston, Tx, June 19-21, 2013.

Johnson MK*, **C Hodo**, L Auckland, **K Snowden**, S Hamer. "Development of quantitative, real-time PCR for detecting low level *Trypanosoma cruzi*, agent of Chagas disease," BWF Workshop and Merial-NIH Veterinary Scholars Summer Research Symposium, East Lansing, Michigan, Aug. 1-4, 2013.

Tenney TD*, F Cano, **J Rodriguez**, **K Snowden**, SA Hamer. "Coinfections of *Trypanosoma cruzi*, agent of Chagas disease, and intestinal parasites in high-risk dogs at Texas shelters," BWF Workshop and Merial-NIH Veterinary Scholars Summer Research Symposium, East Lansing, Michigan, Aug. 1-4, 2013.



Run for The Roses

(Excerpt)

Dan Fogelberg

*From sire to sire
It's born in the blood
The fire of a mare
And the strength of a stud
It's breeding and it's training
And it's something unknown
That drives you and carries you home
And it's run for the roses
As fast as you can
Your fate is delivered
Your moment's at hand
It's the chance of a lifetime
In a lifetime of chance
And it's high time you joined in the dance
It's high time you joined in the dance*

*Songwriter
Fogelberg, Dan*

