McEntee Named Associate Dean for Research

The interim title has been removed, and Dr. Michael McEntee has officially been appointed associate dean for research for the College of Veterinary Medicine, announced Dr. James Thompson, dean, in September. McEntee began his appointment effective October 1, 2012. He began overseeing the UTCVM Office of Research in an interim role in February 2011. Dr. James Thompson, UTCVM’s leaders and in his efforts to advance our research program. McEntee will also continue his administrative responsibilities as Department Head of Biomedical and Diagnostic Sciences.

A new directorship position has also been created to coordinate and advance the Comparative and Experimental Medicine (CEM) graduate degree program. Dr. Stephen Kania will work with the UT Graduate School program staff, the Joint Graduate Committee Co-Chair, CEM faculty, and McEntee to increase the breadth and depth of graduate studies related to basic, translational, and clinical science research. Kania has a long history of close involvement with CEM.

Hill Selected for AVMA Future Leaders Program

Drs. William Hill, clinical associate professor in the Office of Lab Animal Care, is one of 10 veterinarians selected to participate in the American Veterinary Medical Association’s (AVMA) Future Leaders Program. This program was created by the AVMA and supported by Pfizer Animal Health, is described as a means to identify and sustain veterinary leaders for all levels of organized veterinary medicine. The year-long program provides each participant (selected in part for their existing leadership) with an opportunity to enhance their leadership skills and create useful tools for the wider veterinary profession. The AVMA describes the program as unique in that it takes a holistic approach to leadership. Its goal is to develop the strengths and talents of emerging leader veterinarians, promoting their leadership skills for the benefit of the veterinary workplace, organized veterinary medicine, and society as a whole.

Participants were selected from approximately 60 AVMA member nominees who had graduated from veterinary school within the last 15 years. Dr. Hill is a graduate of North Carolina State University College of Veterinary Medicine.
Cui Selected as Editorial Board Member for J Biol Chem

D Wei-Zhen Cui, associate professor in the Department of Biomedical and Diagnostic Sciences, was recently selected to serve as a member of the editorial board for the journal Journal of Biological Chemistry. Her appointment was approved by the journal’s editorial board in September 2012, and her 5-year, 3-month term will begin in July 2013.

Board members are approved and nominated by the journal’s associate editors, editor-in-chief, and deputy editor. Candidates undergo a rigorous selection process and are then invited to serve on the editorial board as members. The process will continue until the journal’s associate editors, editor-in-chief, and deputy editor are satisfied with the quality and diversity of the board.

Recent Publications


Beverly SM, Chang CH, Lee SB. Two students win awards for research contributions. Morris Animal Foundation provided a stipend for the project.

DVM Student McRee Funded to Study Canine Pathogens in Zimbabwe

McRee, an undergraduate student at the UTCVM class of 2014, received a grant to study enterotoxigenic Clostridium difficile in dogs in Zimbabwe to compare the incidence of this pathogen in Zimbabwean dogs to that in the United States. McRee’s study will be conducted under the guidance of Dr. Mark Justice, associate professor of infectious disease and director of the Division of Parasitology and Zoonoses at the College of Veterinary Medicine. The project is funded through a 2012-2014 grant from the Morris Animal Foundation.

McRee will work with Dr. Mark Justice and Dr. Susan Holman to conduct this study. McRee will be responsible for collecting samples from dogs in Zimbabwe and analyzing them for the presence of the pathogen. The results of this study will help to better understand the prevalence of this pathogen in dogs in Zimbabwe and its potential impact on human health.

McRee is pursuing a B.S. degree in animal science with a focus on pre-veterinary education. She plans to attend veterinary school in the near future.

UCVM Investigators Bring in $2,885,365 for Recent Sponsored Projects

The University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine (UTCVM) has announced the results of a recent grant cycle, which saw the college bring in $2,885,365 in sponsored projects. The projects are focused on a wide range of topics, including animal health, disease prevention, and veterinary education.

The projects include a study on the treatment of female canine urinary incontinence, a study on the effectiveness of a novel disinfectant in aerosol form, a study on the functionality of implanted bone marrow mesenchymal stem cells, and a study on the use of nebulized terbinafine in equine hair cells.

Full details about all presented projects may be found in the Publications section of this newsletter.

Discovery: Research at the University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine (2012) 7.2

Alternative Periodic Table Fast Way to Determine Options to Graphically Display Data

A new twist on the familiar visually-appealing and perhaps new periodical table shows options representation. Put together by the group for conceptualization of data in a behind-Visual-Literacy.org, the “Periodic Table of Visualization Methods” is available for free online.

The table is organized by the type of information the user wishes to display. For example, “Mousses over each other” shows an example of what that method might look like and how it might be applied. To access the table, go to http://www.visual-literacy.org/periodic_table/

D M McRee, student in the UTCVM class of 2014, received a grant to study the spread of clumping in dogs in Zimbabwe to compare the incidence of this pathogen in Zimbabwean dogs to that in the United States. McRee’s study will be conducted under the guidance of Dr. Mark Justice, associate professor of infectious disease and director of the Division of Parasitology and Zoonoses at the College of Veterinary Medicine. The project is funded through a 2012-2014 grant from the Morris Animal Foundation.

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Publications, cont. from p. 2


Recent Presentations

Adams JK, Coan PN. Developing an institutional environmental enrichment program. Presented at: Enrichment Extravaganza, Emory University; April 2012; Atlanta, GA, and American College of Laboratory Animal Medicine Forum; May 2012; St. Pete Beach, FL.


Anderson D. Bovine anesthesia and surgery. Presented at: Central Veterinary Conference; Aug. 2012; Kansas City, KS.


Craig L. Effective lecture delivery. Invited lecture at: University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine; Apr. 2012; Urbana, IL.

Cui M-Z. Lysophosphatidic acid signaling in vascular smooth muscle cells. Plenary talk at: 2nd World Congress on Clinical & Experimental Cardiology; Mar. 2012; Omaha, NE.

Dhar M. From diabetes to tendon damage repair: Importance of animal models in research. American Association of Laboratory Animal Science Training Session, University of Tennessee; June 2012; Knoxville, TN.


Emery LC, Cox SK, Souza MJ. Pharmacokinetics of nebulized terbinafine in Hispaniolan Amazon parrots. Presented at: Annual Conference of the Association of Avian Veterinarians; Aug. 2012; Louisville, KY.

Favi PM, Stephens C, Neilson N, Hammonds R, Benson R, Dhar M. Proliferation, osteogenic and chondrogenic differentiation of equine-derived bone marrow mesenchymal stem cells on bacterial cellulose scaffolds Poster presented at: Annual Experimental Biology Meeting; Apr. 2012; San Diego, CA.

Fonseca Pinto AABC, Hecht S. Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) of the brain in small animals – Evaluation of sequences and protocol recommendations. Presented at: IVRA/EAVDI/ECVDI Scientific Meeting; August 2012; Bursa, Turkey, and American College of Veterinary Radiologists Annual Scientific Meeting; Oct. 2012; Las Vegas, NV.

Frank L. Feline dermatology. Workshop presented at: European Society of Veterinary Dermatology; May 2012; Mallorca, Spain.

Gray MJ, Waltzke TB, Miller DL. Ranaviruses can be transmitted across ectothermic vertebrate classes. Presented at: Southeastern Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation; Feb. 2012; Fall Creek Falls, TN.

Hecht S. Comparative imaging in veterinary oncology and the role of the veterinary technici an in imaging of the oncologic patient. Keynote address at: Veterinary Technician Forum, Annual Conference of the Veterinary Cancer Society; Oct. 2012; Las Vegas, NV.

Hecht S, Huerta MM, Reed RB. Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) spinal cord and canal measurements in normal dogs. Presented at: IVRA/EAVDI/ECVDI Scientific Meeting; August 2012; Bursa, Turkey, and American College of Veterinary Radiologists Annual Scientific Meeting; Oct. 2012; Las Vegas, NV.

Hecht S, Ramsay EC, Schumacher J, Thomas WB, Adams WH, Conklin GA. Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) of the central nervous system in large felids. Presented at: IVRA/EAVDI/ECVDI Scientific Meeting; August 2012; Bursa, Turkey, and American College of Veterinary Radiologists Annual Scientific Meeting; Oct. 2012; Las Vegas, NV.


Kennedy M. Update on canine viruses; Update on feline viruses; FIP, the ultimate hypersensitivity; Immunology for dummies; Viral diagnostics: What you need to know. Invited presentations at: Atlantic Coast Veterinary Conference; Oct. 2012; Atlantic City, NJ.

Kennedy M. Update on feline viruses; Update on FIP. Invited presentations at: 24th Annual Fred Scott Feline Medicine Symposium, Cornell University; July 2012; Ithaca, NY.

[cont. on p. 6]
Recent Publications


Full details about both presentations may be found in the Publications section of this newsletter.
**Presentations, cont. from p. 4**

LeBlanc A. Initial experience with PWS-BiFN-NIS in dogs. Presented at: International Workshop/Symposium on von Willebrand as an Oncolytic Agent; Sept; 2012; Big Sky, MT.

LeBlanc A. PET imaging in companion animals: a review of the use of FDG and 18F-labeled radiopharmaceuticals for oncologic, infectious, and inflammatory diseases. Presented at: American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine Forum Oncology Symposium; June 2012; New Orleans, LA.


Mia KY, Baek SJ. MCCC-555 induces apoptosis through the combination of PPAR-α-dependent and PPAR-γ-independent pathways in pancreatic cancer cells. Presented at: The Annual Conference of the Society for Toxicology; Oct; 2012; Las Vegas, NV.

Newman S. Pemphigus vulgaris. Presented at: Southeast Veterinary Pathology Conference; May 2012; Tifton, GA.


Odoi A. Does where you live affect your health & that of your animals? GIS technology in health and veterinary research. Invited presentation at: The University of South Africa College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences African Visiting Scholar Lecture Series; June 2012; Florida, Gauteng, South Africa.


Patton S. Update on heartworms: Really? Does where you live affect your health & that of your animals? GIS technology in health and veterinary research. Invited presentation at: Southeastern Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation (SPARC) Annual Meeting; May 2012; Tallahassee, TN.


Sommers SL. Investigation of the association between serum adiponectin levels and heart failure. Presented at: American College of Cardiology Annual Scientific Session; Mar 2012; Chicago, IL.


Tobias K. Small animal surgery: Focus on arthroscopy and emergency surgeries. Presented at: Southeast Veterinary Pathology Conference; June 2012; Hilton Head, SC.

Tobias K. Wound management. Presented at: Cincinnati Veterinary Medical Association; Sept; 2012; Cincinnati, OH.


Veiga-Parga T. On the role of regulatory T cells during viral-induced inflammatory diseases. Presented at: American Society for Microbiology; KYTVN Branch Meeting; Oct; 2012; Maryville, TN.

Veiga-Parga T. R. Antimicrobial susceptibility and genetic characterization of Shapshillus pseudomedius isolates from 26 dogs. Presented at: American Society for Microbiology; KYTVN Branch Meeting; Oct; 2012; Maryville, TN.

Waltzek TB, Miller DL, Gray J. Isolation of the fungal spores from the cell walls of the food matrix as a novel antenna for the detection of foodborne pathogens. Presented at: International Association for Cancer Research Frontiers in Cancer Research; May 2012; San Antonio, TX.

Wang H-CR. Intervention of chronically-induced breast cancer cell growth, Workshop for Aging and Cancer Research, University of Georgia Medical and Pharmaceutical University; August 2012; Tszhung City, Taiwan, and Academy Sinica, Institute of Biomedical Sciences; Aug; 2012; Taipei, Taiwan.

Wang H-CR. The structure and function of the Association of American Veterinary Medical College and its satellite program, American Society for Microbiology; KYTVN Branch Meeting; Aug; 2012; Urgun City, China.

Wang H-CR. Intervention of chronically-induced breast cancer cell growth, Workshop for Aging and Cancer Research, University of Georgia Medical and Pharmaceutical University; August 2012; Tszhung City, Taiwan, and Academy Sinica, Institute of Biomedical Sciences; Aug; 2012; Taipei, Taiwan.

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Wixler J. Presenting new information on cancer cell adhesion, Canadian Cancer Research. Invited Keynote at: China Cancer Association; October 2012; University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN.


**In this issue**

p1--Associate dean for research & graduate director; Veiga Parga award, Hill honor; p2--Cui honor, publications; p3--Publications; p4--Cekanova honor; presentations; p5--Graphical displays, McKeith in Zimbabwe, Emery & Favel study awards, externally-funded awards; p6--Presentations

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**CVM’s Veiga Parga Takes Yates Dissertation Fellowship**

Tamara Veiga Parga is currently studying immunology in Dr. Barry Romey’s laboratory, and recently received the Yates Dissertation Fellowship from the UT Graduate School. The honor is given to a doctoral student in the final stage of a dissertation and is awarded based on achievements, recommendation from the student’s mentor, and the student’s professional goals.

The Fellowship Endowment is a legacy of the generosity of the estate of Arthur E. Yates (1915–1997), former president of Yates Brothers Stationery and a dedicated friend of the university. The endowment was established in June 2000 to encourage, recognize, and support outstanding graduate students. The award comes with a $15,000 stipend for the 2012-2013 academic year.

Veiga-Parga also received the 1st-place award for best oral presentation of ‘On the role of regulatory T cells during viral induced inflammatory lesions’ at the American Society for Microbiology’s KYTVN Branch meeting. She will be presenting her research again at the annual meeting of the American Association of Immunologists with a travel award from the Biomedical and Diagnostic Sciences Department’s Barry Rouse Leadership Leaders Program.

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