... And Presentations


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Cui Receives Chancellor’s Award

The university’s highest faculty honors are presented annually at the Chancellor’s Honors Banquet. At this year’s banquet, Dr. Mei-Zhen Cui received a Chancellor’s Award for Research and Creative Achievement.

Recipients of this prestigious award must be nominated by their department and are chosen based on their engagement in research and contributions to their field. The selection committee considers peer recognition and national and international research involvement to be indicative of Dr. Cui’s success.

Since coming to UTCVM in 1999, Dr. Cui has brought in over $2 million in grant funding, and her research on delineating the mechanism responsible for the development of atherosclerosis and thrombosis has had a significant effect on the field of atherothrombotic disease. The results of her research have been published in journals such as Athero-therosclerosis, Thrombosis, and Vascular Biology; Circulation; Blood; and the Journal of Biological Chemistry. all of which are highly respected, peer reviewed journals. She was also recently invited to offer expert commentary for the International Atherosclerosis Society.

Dr. Dave Edwards, head of pathology, describes Dr. Cui’s work as being “pivotal in revealing the subcellular mecha-nisms of atherogenesis” and having “incredibly high impact.”
**Thesis/Dissertation Workshops Offered**

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This semester, workshops will be held from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 15, and 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. on Friday in the Hildreth Library Auditorium. More details can be found at web.utk.edu/thesis/.

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**Funding Deadlines Drawing Near**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Deadline</th>
<th>Sponsor</th>
<th>Program</th>
<th>$ Amount/yr.</th>
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<td>Varies</td>
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<td>June 12</td>
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<td>July 1</td>
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<td>Competing continuations, revised, supplemental</td>
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<td>Clinical, innovation, PI geriatric, postdoc fellowship, career development</td>
<td>45,000 to 200,000</td>
<td><a href="http://www.diabetes.org">www.diabetes.org</a></td>
</tr>
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<td>Similar to NIH</td>
<td>E-mail: <a href="mailto:Rongguo2000@aol.com">Rongguo2000@aol.com</a></td>
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**UTCVM Well-Represented at Recent Conferences**

Joo HM. Distribution of virus-specific memory B cells following influenza infection of the respiratory tract. Poster presented at: Viral Immunology: From Basic Mechanisms to Vaccine Conference. March 28-April 2, 2006; Steamboat Springs, CO. *Poster’s poster was selected for a short talk and earned her a $1,000 scholarship.*

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**Discovery: Research at the University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine (2006) 1.2**

Course is designed to introduce or improve research computing skills. Regardless of the assistance level needed, the SCC asks that a visit be made early in the planning stage to save yes time and money. If you need help beyond the 100 free hours, hourly state support costs $20 for students and $70 for faculty and staff.

The SCC has multiple offices on campus, and from 1:00-5:00 on Thursdays, they are in 106 Brehm Animal Science Bldg.

For a link to the calculator, visit our IACUC Web site: www.uta.edu/iacuc/index.html. From this page, you can access our Web calculator. You can take one of the SCC’s training seminars. Offered throughout the year, each two-hour session is designed to introduce or improve research computing skills.

Regardless of the assistance level needed, the SCC asks that a visit be made early in the planning stage to save you time and money. If you need help beyond the 100 free hours, hourly state support costs $20 for students and $70 for faculty and staff.
Planning your research is exciting, but it can be overwhelming. To help guide you through the process, the following information is provided:

**Guidance for Conducting Lit. Searches Available**

The Animal Welfare Information Center at the National Agricultural Library developed a new brochure outlining the search process for alternatives to animal testing.

The five-step guide to conducting a literature search for alternatives contains a full section on red flags that may arise during Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) review. They are:

- only one database searched
- only painful procedure terms included
- only the term “alternative” used
- keywords and concepts linked incorrectly
- inadequate time period searched


If you would like assistance searching for alternatives to animals for research protocols, contact Ann Viera at annviera@utk.edu or 4-9015.

**NIH Grant Submission Goes Electronic**

NIH is transitioning from paper grant application submission to electronic submission, and while the new procedure will take some extra time, it also comes with some benefits. Besides the obvious (saving paper), PI's will have two days after their completed submission to recall and resubmit an application (this perk is not a deadline extension, however).

The major change, though, comes with the actual submission process, which can be done only by an authorized organizational representative (AOR). For UTCVM, the AOR is Debbie Hampstead. Principal investigators can still update their NIH profiles and check the status of their applications, but PIs cannot submit their own applications.

The applications themselves will look slightly different as well and must be downloaded from the NIH Web site. Sample forms, application guides, and training information can be found at [www.nih.gov/ElectronicReceipt/index.htm](http://www.nih.gov/ElectronicReceipt/index.htm).

All R03 and R21 applications went electronic June 1; R01 grants will transition February 1, 2007; and e-submit for K- and F- series grants will begin June 1, 2007, and August 5, 2007, respectively.

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**Sample Size Calculators Help Achieve ‘Delicate Balance’**

When using animals, experiment size is a "delicate balance," writes Arnold M. scrapwire on the Animal Science Department. Using too many animals wastes resources and needlessly exposes animals to potential harm. However, insufficient data might result from using too few animals. Repeated experiments then cause the same problems as using too many animals up front.

However, Web-based computer programs exist to assist researchers in finding an appropriate sample size. For example, a University of Iowa calculator allows researchers to estimate sample sizes by first choosing the type of analysis to be used in the study.

If using a two-tailed test, one of ten options at the site, the Web calculator will allow you to set standard deviations, the alpha value, and the true difference of means. The power and sample size values can be adjusted simultaneously to achieve the perfect balance.

For a link to the calculator, visit our IACUC Web site: [www.tennessee.edu/human-animals/DollNeed.html](http://www.tennessee.edu/human-animals/DollNeed.html).

**Proposal Routing Policy Updated**

As more agencies move to electronic submission, more time is required for adequate review to ensure timely applications. For this reason, the Office of Research is requesting that all applications be submitted early in the planning stage to save you time and money. If you need help beyond the 100 free hours, hourly rate costs are $20 for students and $70 for faculty and staff. The SCC has multiple offices on campus, and from 1:00-5:00 on Thursdays, they are in the 106 Brehm Animal Science Bldg. For a full list of locations and the SCC’s services, access their Web site at: [www.vet.utk.edu/research/info/PIGuide_FlowChart2.pdf](http://www.vet.utk.edu/research/info/PIGuide_FlowChart2.pdf)

For more information visit the Office of Research Web Site: [www.vet.utk.edu/research/info/PIGuide_FlowChart2.pdf](http://www.vet.utk.edu/research/info/PIGuide_FlowChart2.pdf)

PI should submit a proposal draft, the final budget, and the signed routing form. The final proposal and all other application materials must be ready to submit at least 3 days before the deadline.

If the Office of Research does not receive materials in a timely manner, there is no guarantee that the proposal will be submitted.

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**Steady Grant Money Brings in Nearly $600,000 since April**

**Proposed Use**

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<td>NIH/NAID</td>
<td>6/3/06</td>
<td>5/5</td>
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National Cancer Institute Center for Cancer Research

Comparative Oncology Program at the National Cancer Institute’s Center for Cancer Research. As part of its organizational infrastructure, the COTC has undertaken translational clinical trials in companion animals.

One of the main goals of the consortium is to better understand the environmental risk factors for cancer, and in doing so, examine genetic determinants for predispositions to cancer in some dog breeds. Previously, dogs had been under-used as animal models for cancer drug development. However, they make effective candidates for testing novel therapies since definitive treatments for canine cancers have not yet been developed. Additionally, dogs’ life spans allow veterinary researchers to complete clinical trials time effectively. The results from these canine cancer trials will be used to design phase I and phase II human clinical trials. Agent activity and toxicity data as well as biological endpoint identification and validation data will be critical in that design.

Now, UTCVM is one of only four veterinary colleges participating in the first clinical trial on naturally occurring tumors. This trial evaluates the safety and effectiveness of the phage-based delivery of Tumor Necrosis Factor (TNFα). Researchers expect delivery of TNFα to blood vessels surrounding a tumor block the blood supply to that tumor, thus inducing tumor cell death.

The teamwork between clinic and basic cancer researchers and the effective oncology program and client base at UTCVM continue to help the college qualify for pioneer experiences like this one.

Kennedy Out of Africa

A ride through a river in a Toyota Corolla did not deter Dr. Melissa Kennedy from her mission last month in South Africa. There in collaboration with the University of Pretoria, Dr. Kennedy is working to investigate the prevalence and epidemiology of coronavirus infection in captive and free-ranging cheetahs and the in- fection’s effect on their health. During her month-long visit, Dr. Kennedy consulted with cheetah conservation managers at three different organizations to solicit their participation in the coronavirus project.

She and her research collaborators at Pretoria will use cheetah fecal samples to characterize the genetic basis of the feline coronavirus in order to protect and preserve cheetah populations.

Plans are in the works to develop a seminar for the fall semester that details her research. In addition, Dr. Kennedy continues to mentor Ph.D. student Dr. Hayley Adams, who is also in Africa working on characterizing the feline leukemia virus in order to protect and preserve cheetah populations.

Dr. Kennedy is seen above cautiously cuddling with a cheetah at the De Wildt Cheetah and Wildlife Centre.