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Methods met in Rockville, MD, October

In this issue

p1 NIH peer review, going green, Sura, Ilha, McGavin awards; p2–authorship, Prado student award, presentations (cont.); p3 patent protection, research awards; p4 publications and presentations


In the October 2007 issue of Vet Pathol


Schumacher Allender, Adams, S McCain, B Rohrbach, S Morandi. “Alopecia: Is it hormonal or not?” At the 6th World Congress of Veterinary Dermatologists meeting in October, a poster was presented by S Schumacher, E Ramsay, M Kennedy, and A Odo.

Presenting at the American Pub


At the 6th World Congress of Veterinary Dermatology in Hong Kong in November, L Frank gave two invited lectures: “Treatment of pyodermia” and “Mycosis: Is it hormonal or not?” At the same conference, she also presented “Risk of colonization or gene transfer to owners of dogs with methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus intermedius.”

In October, S Hecht presented “Meltyography vs. computed tomography in the evaluation of acute intervertebral disc extrusion in chondrodystrophic dogs” (co-authors WB Thomas, K Marioni-Henry, RL Echandi, AR Matthews, WH Adams) at the Annual Scientific Meeting of the American College of Veterinary Radiology (ACVR) in San Antonio. At the same conference, S Hecht also presented “Diuretic renal scintigraphy in normal cats.” Co-authors were IF Lane, GB Daniel F, Morandi, and DE Sharp.

Also at the ACVR meeting, SL Lawson presented “Diuretic renal scintigraphy in cats with urorhexis” (co-authors S Hecht, IF Lane, DE Sharp, and GB Daniel). Presenting at the American Public Health Association 2008 Annual Meeting was NE Howell. Her presentation entitled “Developing a collaborative approach for agriculture and food vulnerability assessment training” was co-authored by D Smelser, M Wellborn, F Hopkins, and S Thompson. The meeting was held in San Diego in October.

M Ilha presented a poster entitled “Reproductive pathology of 32 female Vietnamese potbellied pigs” at the November American College of Veterinary Pathologists (ACVP) meeting held in San Antonio. Other authors were SJ Newman, S van Amstel, K Fectee, and B Rohrbach.

Representing UTCVM at November’s International Conference on Communication in Veterinary Medicine was IF Lane, with her presentation “Embedding communication skills education in existing curricula.” Other authors for the Banff, Alberta, Canada, presentation were J Yorke and E Strand.


DISCOVERY


... And Presentations

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The Impact of Public Disclosure on Patent Protection

Our last article discussed the importance of disclosing inventions to your research office for assignment to the University Research Foundation (URF), where they will be evaluated for potential patent protection and commercialization opportunities. This is an important step in the commercialization process since the vast majority of companies are not willing to commercialize technology that is not protectable via patents or some other method of protection.

Once a disclosure is received, one of the first questions that an inventor will be asked is whether there has been a public disclosure of the invention. This is because the timing of public disclosure is often the controlling factor in determining the patentability of an invention. For protection in the United States, inventors have one year to file a patent application after the first public disclosure. However, to obtain protection in most foreign countries, a patent application must be filed prior to any disclosure to the public.

So what constitutes a public disclosure? Under U.S. law, a public disclosure occurs when an invention is described in a printed publication anywhere in the world, placed in public use in the United States, or offered for sale in the United States. In the world of academia, most of the risk for public disclosure occurs in the area of printed publications. Virtually anything is deemed as a printed publication for patent purposes. Examples include, but are not limited to, the placement of a thesis or dissertation in the library, professional meeting abstracts or poster presentations, publicly accessible interviews, Web postings, or reports to public or private sponsors made without an obligation of confidentiality.

As a rule of thumb, you should inform URF about the existence of a patent invention prior to public disclosure to prevent the unnecessary loss of patent rights. However, please do not assume that all patent rights are lost simply because you think a public disclosure has occurred—it may still be possible to obtain significant patent protection, so it is important to submit an invention disclosure.

For more information on this topic, please visit the UT Research Foundation website at http://utrf.tennessee.edu, or contact Dr. Stacey Patterson at 865-974-3140 or spatter@utk.edu.
Assigning Authorship Up Front
Clear Communication Key

T he decisions of whom to include as an author on a paper and in what order those authors should appear are both difficult and, at times, uncomfortable.

For this reason, Dr. Sandra Titus, Director of Intramural Research at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ Office of Research Integrity, recommends creating a memo of understanding before the paper is written.

Similar to a contract, a memo of understanding between all authors puts writing into their expectations so that no surprises occur late in the writing process. Titus suggests outlining these expectations in the memo and having each author sign it:
1. Roles and responsibilities of the team
2. Timeline
3. Accountability
4. Data
5. Analysis
6. Writing first draft
7. Authorship inclusion & order
8. Plan to revisit authorship issues if things change along the way

For particularly difficult author order decisions, Ahmed, et al. suggest using a calculatory assignment system they call QUAD: Quantitative Uniform Authorship Declaration. Authors may use this system to assign a numerical value to each author’s contributions, taking into consideration specific categories such as authorship, length of authorship, and the order established based on points.

Whatever the method of deciding authorship, clear communication up front is key to reducing problems later.

S Patent


S Patent


Prado, Moore Receive Chancellor’s Honors Grant
E ach year, the Chancellor’s Honors Research Grant Program distributes $100,000 to undergraduates and honors students working on senior projects. As part of the program, the winning students’ faculty advisors receive a $300 budget.

One of this year’s grant recipients is Glenis Moore, a pre-veterinary student working with Dr. Maria Prado. Students are eligible for up to $2,500 for their senior projects in addition to faculty advisor’s budget.


Presentations
(panthera leo) at the American Association of Zoo Veterinarians Conference held in Los Angeles in October.

Presenting a poster at the San Antonio ACVP meeting in November was SJ Newman. Other authors on the poster, entitled “Intravascular sarcoidosis in a cheetah,” were L McPherson, N McLean, S McCaIn, and R Dubeizil.

SJ Newman presented the same poster at the October American College of Veterinary Pathologists meeting in Boston and also gave a talk at the ACVP meeting: “Neuropathology of mystery slides – Symmetrical poliomyelomalacia in a Watusi calf.”

In October in Reno, S Patton presented two sessions of continuing education at the Wild West Veterinary Conference. One half-day session was sponsored through the Companion Animal Parasite Council. Her other session was titled “What are you missing? Avoiding common pitfalls in fecal examinations.”

At the December USDA-CSREES Animal Protection and Biosecurity PD Workshop in Chicago, ME Prado presented an abstract.

ME Prado also presented two abstracts at the simultaneous Conference of Research Workers in Animal Diseases: “Association of a single nucleotide polymorphism (SNP) in the CD18 gene of angus cattle with incidence of bovine respiratory disease” and “Isolation and characterization of subcomplex formation of nicastrin and Aph1 independent of nicastrin and Aph1.”

Giving two lectures on porcysticercosis shunts at the American College of Veterinary Surgeons Annual Meeting in October in San Diego was K Tobias, who also presented 12 lecture hours on soft tissue surgery at the North Carolina Small Animal Medical Association Meeting in Asheville in October.

K Tobias also gave a series of lectures on urinary and gastrointestinal surgical emergences in Scotland, Wales, and England in November for the British Small Animal Veterinary Association Roadshow.

Discovery: Research at the University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine (2009) 3.4

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