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Quotables:

"Whoever undertakes to set himself up as a judge in the field of Truth and Knowledge is shipwrecked by the laughter of the gods."

~ Albert Einstein

Points of Interest in Biomedical Sciences

Newsletter Date November 2008

It’s all gravy!

There are several of us in the department who are "Faculty Fellows" assigned to Cornell undergraduate dorms or units. The experiences associated with working with Cornell freshman students is very rewarding. We participate in many activities throughout the year and organize social and educational programs for them.

My wife, Dr. Judy Appleton and I hosted a visit by about 20 freshman to our farm for a pumpkin picking and Jack-o-Lantern carvings afternoon. We did this last year also. Here is a photo taken at the end of the afternoon. We all enjoyed ourselves. I would encourage other faculty to become involved in the program.

- Don Schlafer

It is with our distinct pleasure that we announce the following recent promotions of colleagues in the Department of Biomedical Sciences!

- Dr. Gerald Duhamel, was appointed with indefinite tenure!
- Dr. Scott Coonrod (James A. Baker Institute), was appointed with indefinite tenure!
- Dr. David Lin, was promoted to Associate Professor with indefinite tenure!
- Dr. Alex Travis (James A. Baker Institute), was promoted to Associate Professor with indefinite tenure!
Congratulations to Jeff Peterson on passing his doctoral thesis defense on Tuesday, October 14, 2008 at the Weill Cornell Medical College (MSTP).

...and...

Dr. Kelly Hume, a Clinical Fellow in the Weiss laboratory, was formally board certified and is now a Diplomate of the ACVIM, Specialty of Oncology.

Drs. Andrew Miller, DVM and Kiran Palyada DVM both have successfully taken and passed the American College of Veterinary Pathology's Board Certification Examination. Dr. Miller is currently a staff pathologist at Harvard University / New England Primate Center and Dr. Palyada is a pathologist for MPI, a contract research organization in Michigan.

This examination is the recognized benchmark for veterinary anatomic and clinical pathology credentials around the world. The examination takes place yearly in Ames, Iowa over 3 days and involves both written and microscopic evaluation of disease and knowledge of general pathology. Even before one can sit for the exam, the candidate needs to have a doctorate of veterinary medicine and three years of pathology residency training in an approved program (total combined time of training is seven years!). The exam is infamous for its rigor and the pass rate for first time test takers is generally below 50%.

We congratulate Drs. Miller and Palyada for their achievement and wish them the best in their new endeavors.

Publications


Earlier this summer Dr. Don Schlafer was notified that he had been selected as the D.L.T. Smith Visiting Scientist. He was invited to the Western College of Veterinary Medicine in early October to spend three days meeting with faculty, residents, veterinary and graduate students and to present the D.L.T. Smith Lecture on Oct. 2, 2008. The title of his lecture was, "The Amazing Placenta."
Awards & Grants

Multi-Departmental Research Award 2008
"Human and Murine Models to Assess the Impact of Maternal Iron Status on Pre-eclampsia"
(Davisson-PI, O’Brien-PI)

Clinical & Translational Science Center (CTSC-Weill Cornell) Pilot Award 2008
"Inappropriate Activation of Complement as a Novel Therapeutic Target in Preeclampsia"
(Gelber-PI, Salmon Co-PI, Davisson, Co-PI)

Dr. David Lin recently received a renewal of a grant from the Cornell Nanobiotechnology Center to develop cantilever-based array sensors.

Joanne Fortune has received a Hatch (USDA) award (2008-2010) to study "The Role and Regulation of Angiotensin II during the Bovine Periovulatory Period".

...and what are they doing?

As a follow-up to last month's Points of Interest, we have completed our administrative moves and the following changes have been implemented:

Jacque Tarntino: The recent move of Jacque from level 3 to level 2 VRT was successful and she will continue to support Drs. Cohen, O'Brien and Duhamel. In addition, Jacque will now be supporting Drs. Weiss, Gunn and Lin. Jacque is also the main contact person for the Residency Program. Contact information: Box 16, jt399, 3-3059.

Claire Tu: Claire’s move from level 2 to level 4 VRT was also successful. Claire is the visa coordinator and holder of the keys/after hours access for the dept., as well as other administrative duties in the Chair's office. Claire will continue to support Dr. Nikitin and the Stem Cell Series. Contact information: Box 11, cct48, 3-3335.

Jen Patterson: Jen has taken on the added responsibility of becoming the telephone coordinator/network contact for the department. She continues in her role of coordinating the College Safety Committee and Biomedical Sciences Safety Compliance. Contact information: Box18, jlp8, 3-3547.

May Lovelace: May continues to support the Undergraduate Biology Program, Points of Interest and has taken on the added responsibility of the Reproductive Physiology/Endocrinology Seminar Series. Contact information: Box 17, mrl34, 3-3840.

Linda Jones: Linda will continue to support faculty on level 5 VRT with the added responsibility of supporting Dr. Andrew Yen. Contact information: Box 18, lmj22, 3-3459.

We would like to extend our thanks to the faculty and staff for their patience in the restructuring of staff and administrative duties to meet the departmental mission. Thanks to all!
GRAPES Fall Events

A Cornucopia of Goodness!

Check out the GRAPES posters throughout the building for information on their latest events and activities!

http://www.vet.cornell.edu/biosci/grapes

Questions or Suggestions regarding this Newsletter?

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A Point of Interest...

Hey! Did you know you can view and reserve the 2nd, 3rd and 9th floor conference rooms on line?
Please note the following web site address:

http://www.vet.cornell.edu/biosci/ConferenceRooms.htm

Congratulations to Robin Pasiak of the histology lab & her husband Ross!
To their new son - Dasch Henry, on 10/29
at 10:20am, weighing in at 7.7 pounds, 19 inches long with brown hair.

The Graduate Field of Molecular and Integrative Physiology & GRAPES are proud to present:

"I've Got My Ph.D. Now What?"
Panel Discussion
Thursday, December 4, 2008
3:00-4:30pm
Lecture Hall III, VRT

Biomedical Sciences

Seminar Series are held every Tuesday
in Lecture Hall III VRT (Veterinary Research Tower)
from 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM unless otherwise noted.

18 DR. GEORGE GERTON
http://www.med.upenn.edu/crrwh/faculty/Gerton/Gerton.html
Regulation of sperm flagellar motility by adenine nucleotides
Hosted by Dr. Susan Suarez, sss7@cornell.edu

25 DR. ANDREW YEN
http://www.vet.cornell.edu/biosci/
Role of MAPK Signaling in Retinoic Acid-induced Cell Differentiation

We have a new telephone coordinator!
Thanks to Jen Patterson for taking on the job!

You can contact Jen at 3-3547
...or...
jlp8@cornell.edu.