Dr. Nelly Farnum was nominated the James Law Professor of Anatomy. This honor is in recognition of Dr. Farnum's national and international distinction earned amongst peers, as well as the pursuit of excellence and leadership, and stewardship of academic values. This award signifies the high regard in which Dr. Farnum is held by her colleagues, the College and the University.

Ryan Traslavina, Class of 2010, has won the student award for his poster: **EFFECTS OF PRE-ANALYTICAL HANDLING ON SERUM POTASSIUM LEVELS OF HEALTHY LABORATORY MICE.** at the 2008 Meeting of the American College of Veterinary Pathologists. Ryan is a member of our Student Chapter of the ACVP and did this work as part of an externship he did at Sloan Kettering.

Dr. John King, Professor Emeritus, received a Podell Award for his project on Kodachrome Pictures for a Webpage for Veterinary Pathology.

Dr. Shari Gelber, a Fetal-Maternal Medicine Fellow in Dr. Davisson's Weill laboratory, was awarded a Reproductive Scientist Development Grant from NIH (NICHD) entitled "Inappropriate Activation of Complement as a Pathogenic Mechanism in Pre-eclampsia". The study will utilize a mouse model of pre-eclampsia to test the hypothesis that the complement system, an integral component of innate immunity and crucial to protecting the host from invading organisms, is involved in the pathogenesis of pre-eclampsia. Dr. Davisson and Dr. Jane Salmon serve as Dr. Gelber's Sponsors for the award.
Congratulations!

Yeun Hee Kim has just successfully defended her thesis, "Stem cell-based technologies of assisted reproduction in the cat and dog"

- and -

Kai Su Greene has just successfully defended her thesis, “The molecular function of mCLCA1, mCLCA2 and mCLCA4 in murine life”

They are now Drs. Kim & Greene!

Awards & Grants (cont.)

Dr. John Schimenti has been awarded a Cornell Mammalian Cell Reprogramming Core grant!

This award from the New York Stem Cell Board will establish an Induced Pluripotent Stem Cell (iPS) Core Laboratory, which will have the capability to derive embryonic-like stem cells from a variety of mammalian species such as laboratory mice and dogs. This will enable basic and translational research on stem cell-based therapies. The laboratory will have a dedicated technician who will:

1) develop and quality-control the material for stem cell work,
2) derive, grow and cryopreserve iPS cells from diverse species, and
3) train students and scientists to use the cells for various applications.

The grant also includes funding for a new "next generation" DNA sequencer to aid in the molecular analysis of the stem cell reprogramming process and related activities, and a full time bioinformatician to help scientists interpret the vast amounts of data generated by these analyses.

Elizabeth Buckles received a grant from the US Fish and Wildlife Service entitled "Histopathological and microbiological evaluations of Chiroptoran wing membranes for fungal induced damage". This grant is to continue studies into the cause of White Nose Syndrome in bats. This disease, of unknown etiology, has been causing unprecedented mortalities in bats in the northeast and continues to spread across the country.


Cherry and Fenton simulated electrical spiral waves through the three-dimensional heart. In the Java Applet of this 3-D simulation, we see a so-called “mother rotor” spiral wave on the front of the heart. Although this might suggest a single spiral wave that would cause only tachycardia (rapid heart beat), the 3-D heart can be rotated in the Java applet to show the breakup of the wave on the back of the ventricles—a sign that this heart would begin to quiver or twitch uncontrollably in fibrillation. When this happens, no blood gets pumped to the body or lungs.

**Visualizing Ventricular Fibrillation**

Unsynchronized twitching of the heart’s ventricles—known as ventricular fibrillation—kills about 300,000 Americans yearly. Its underlying cause: electrical spiral and scroll waves that propagate through the heart. Simulation and visualization are playing an important role in understanding that process.

In a novel approach to a review of the research, Flavio Fenton, PhD, and Elizabeth Cherry, PhD, research associates in biomedical sciences at Cornell University, simulated and visualized what’s currently known about how electrical spiral waves propagate through the heart to cause tachycardia (rapid heart rate) and fibrillation. The work was published in the December 2008 Visualization in Physics focus issue of the *New Journal of Physics*. 
Welcome to Michael Piepenbrink, a new postdoc in the Buckles Laboratory!

Events

SEMINAR SERIES - SPRING 2009
DEPARTMENT OF BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES

February 17
DR. KLAUS W. BEYENBACH
College of Veterinary Medicine, Cornell University
"Structure and Function of Tight Junctions"

February 24
DR. KIRK J. MAURER
College of Veterinary Medicine, Cornell University
"The roles of infection and inflammation in cholesterol gallstone pathogenesis"

Administrative Staff in The College of Veterinary Medicine are invited to Administrative Networking Lunches (you bring your lunch - Beverage and Cookies provided). These luncheons are held once a month. The next Administrative Networking Lunch will be February 12, 2009 from 12-1pm in the Hagan Room.

Faculty members are invited to attend the Faculty Departmental Coffee Hour!!
On February 18th - Located in T2-002d VRT — 10 to 11am
See future publications for more dates!
Please contact Paula Cohen to donate snacks or baked goods to share.