Our own Dr. Robert Weiss and graduate student Stephanie Yazinski, along with their colleagues, used a mouse model to explore the consequences of inhibiting the DNA repair gene Hus1. They found that Hus1 inactivation resulted in cell death and was even capable of killing cells lacking p53, a tumor suppressing protein that is mutated in the majority of human cancers. p53 mutations are usually associated with resistance to cell death, and the fact that Hus1 inactivation was lethal to these cells suggests that it may be an effective strategy for treating cancers with mutant p53.

The November 10th edition of the Cornell Chronicle quoted Dr. Weiss as saying, "Our work contributes to an important new understanding of cancer cells and their weaknesses. The mutations that allow cancer cells to divide uncontrollably also make the cancer cells more dependent on certain cellular processes. We were able to exploit one such dependency of p53-deficient cells and could efficiently kill these cells by inhibiting Hus1."

This research was funded through the National Institute of Health and will continue to be funded, in part, by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

The published study can be read on the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences website (http://www.pnas.org/).
Please join us in welcoming Ms. Rebecca (Becca) Hine to the Department of Biomedical Sciences who is a new research technician working with Drs. Piermarini and Beyenbach on the molecular physiology of ion transport in mosquito renal tubules. After graduating from Brandeis University in May of 2009, Becca spent nearly four months on an organic animal and vegetable farm in Ashland, Oregon, where she found time to immerse herself in studying ecology, animal physiology, medicine, and the environment. In the future, Becca hopes to pursue a graduate program in biology. Aside from academic interests, Becca is enthusiastic about skiing, science fiction, and music of all sorts.

The Suarez group recently welcomed their new post doc, Pei-hsuan "Chris" Hung, DVM, PhD. Chris received a veterinary and a masters degree in Taiwan, and a PhD from the University of California at Davis.
**Publications**


**Grants**

Alina Ali, an undergraduate researcher in the Weiss lab, was awarded a research grant from the Dextra Undergraduate Research Endowment Fund.

**Conference & Congratulations!**

Dr. Robert Gilmour, Jr. hosted the Upstate New York Cardiac Electrophysiology Society 19th Annual Meeting at the Statler Hotel and Conference Center on the Cornell Campus, Friday, October 30, 2009. This meeting is a regional meeting attended primarily by basic scientists from upstate New York.

Dr. Sophy Jesty was awarded the Gordon K. Moe Young Investigator Award.

Dr. José Jalife, Co-Director for the Center for Arrhythmia Research, University of Michigan was the Keynote Speaker.
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 December 10th, 2009 from 12-1pm in the Hagan Room.

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Giant Nutcracker at Osnabrück Christmas Market (2008)
Photo courtesy of Dr. Klaus Beyenbach

Lunch Meeting? Taking a Speaker to Dinner?

Don’t forget to ask for an itemized receipt! Our dedicated financial staff is happy to process those pesky financial transactions, however some items on your meal tab may be coded differently than others. To help them along, keep in mind that a clear, clean itemized receipt is necessary for prompt processing. And remember, sending your receipt right away, prevents you from digging for it later!