

# Points of Interest

in Biomedical Sciences

Newsletter Date: January/February 2012

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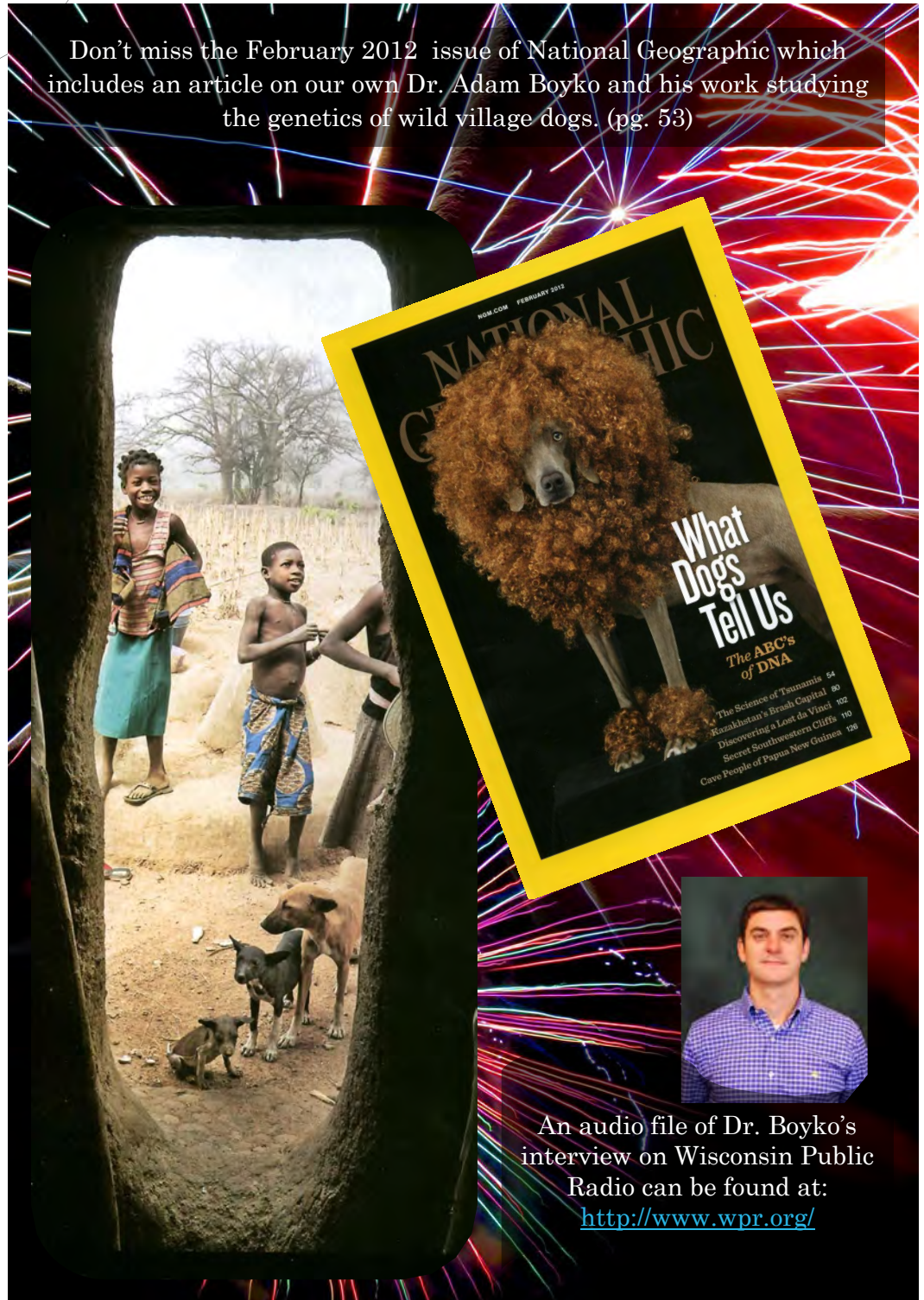


## Quotables:

Cheers to a New Year and another chance for us to get it right.

~ Oprah Winfrey

Don't miss the February 2012 issue of National Geographic which includes an article on our own Dr. Adam Boyko and his work studying the genetics of wild village dogs. (pg. 53)



An audio file of Dr. Boyko's interview on Wisconsin Public Radio can be found at:

<http://www.wpr.org/>

## PUBLICATIONS

- Ahmed, A. H., S. Wang, H. H. Chuang and R. E. Oswald (2011). "Mechanism of AMPA receptor activation by partial agonists: disulfide trapping of closed lobe conformations." The Journal of biological chemistry **286**(40): 35257-35266.
- Bliss, S. P., A. M. Navratil, J. Xie, A. Miller, M. Baccarini and M. S. Roberson (2012). "ERK Signaling, But Not c-Raf, Is Required for Gonadotropin-Releasing Hormone (GnRH)-Induced Regulation of Nur77 in Pituitary Gonadotropes." Endocrinology **153**(2): 700-711.
- Congleton, J., R. Macdonald and A. Yen (2011). "Src inhibitors, PP2 and dasatinib, increase retinoic acid-induced association of Lyn and c-Raf (S259) and enhance MAPK dependent differentiation of myeloid leukemia cells." Leukemia : official journal of the Leukemia Society of America, Leukemia Research Fund, U.K.
- Craven, M., M. I. Kotlikoff and A. S. Nadworny (2012). "C-kit Expression Identifies Cardiac Precursor Cells in Neonatal Mice." Methods in molecular biology **843**: 177-189.
- Cushing, T. L., K. A. Schat, S. L. States, J. L. Grodio, P. H. O'Connell and E. L. Buckles (2011). "Characterization of the host response in systemic isosporosis (atoxoplasmosis) in a colony of captive American goldfinches (*Spinus tristis*) and house sparrows (*Passer domesticus*)." Veterinary pathology **48**(5): 985-992.
- Gu, X., Y. Vedvyas, X. Chen, T. Kaushik, C. I. Hwang, X. Hu, A. Y. Nikitin and M. M. Jin (2012). "Novel strategy for selection of monoclonal antibodies against highly conserved antigens: phage library panning against ephrin-b2 displayed on yeast." PLoS One **7**(1): e30680.
- Piermarini, P. M., R. M. Hine, M. Schepel, J. Miyauchi and K. W. Beyenbach (2011). "Role of an apical K,Cl cotransporter in urine formation by renal tubules of the yellow fever mosquito (*Aedes aegypti*)." American journal of physiology. Regulatory, integrative and comparative physiology **301**(5): R1318-1337.
- Tyburczy, C., M. E. Brenna, J. A. DeMari, K. S. Kothapalli, B. S. Blank, H. Valentine, S. P. McDonough, D. Banavara, D. A. Diersen-Schade and J. T. Brenna (2011). "Evaluation of bioequivalency and toxicological effects of three sources of arachidonic acid (ARA) in domestic piglets." Food and chemical toxicology : an international journal published for the British Industrial Biological Research Association **49**(9): 2320-2327.



Congratulations to Chang-il Hwang who recently passed to the ranks of Postdoctoral fellow and was awarded training grant funding from the Comparative Cancer Biology Training Program.

Keep up the good work!



WELCOME!

**Wendy Geil**

Wendy Geil received her bachelor's degree in chemistry from Boise State University and her Ph.D. in chemistry from the California Institute of Technology, under the guidance of Professor Jacqueline K. Barton. She is excited to join the Yen group. Her project will include investigating the signaling pathways leading to differentiation in acute myeloblastic leukemia cells. In her free time, she enjoys hiking, ballroom dancing with her husband (who is a graduate student in physics), and spending time with her rabbits, Salt and Pepper, and cat, Chopin.

Adrian received his PhD in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology in 2004 from SUNY Upstate Medical University in Syracuse, NY in David M. Gilbert's laboratory. Adrian has worked on the role of the RNase MRP endoribonuclease in Cartilage Hair Hypoplasia in Mark E. Schmitt's laboratory at SUNY Upstate as well as the role of the cohesin pathway proteins in CdLS and Roberts Syndrome in Jennifer Gerton's laboratory at the Stowers Institute for Medical Research. Most recently, he worked on the role of TGF $\beta$  in sebocytes and the role of Sox2 in epithelial tissue development at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center in the lab of Geraldine Guasch. Adrian has joined the crew in the Schimenti Lab.

**Adrian  
McNairn**

We are excited to announce that Ms. Shannon Spencer has accepted the position of Financial/Sponsored Award Administrator, effective Thursday, January 26th. Many of you may know Shannon as our liaison with the College's Accounting Service Center. Shannon's responsibilities and experience cover various areas that include pre-transaction review, monthly account reconciliation, ad hoc reporting, post-award for NYS and NSF awards. Shannon began her career at Cornell in 2004 and has held various positions within the financial areas of central administration. Shannon will be supporting a portion of faculty within the Department in overseeing pre/post award, space/equipment inventory, effort certification and manage special projects.

**Shannon  
Spencer****Sue  
Bishop**

The Department of Biomedical Sciences is pleased to announce that we have hired a Chair's Assistant, Ms. Suzanne (Sue) Bishop. Sue comes to us from the Department of Crop and Soil Sciences where she has been a Chair's Assistant for the last 4 years. Sue began her career at Cornell in 1988 and has held various positions throughout the University of increasing responsibilities that include the Johnson Graduate School of Management, Alumni Affairs and Development at the Veterinary College and Office of the Dean at the College of Human Ecology, to name a few. Sue will be supporting the Department Chair, Administrative Manager, liaison with ISSO as the visa coordinator for the department, distribution of departmental keys and obtaining after-hours access, dossier preparation and coordinate special projects.



Dr. Heinrich Lob, research scientist in the Davisson Lab at Cornell-Ithaca was awarded a American Heart

Association Scientist Development Grant for his proposal entitled "Central Mechanisms of Angiotensin-Dependent Hypertension: NADPH Oxidase Isoforms and Endoplasmic Reticulum Stress", starting January 1, 2012. Congratulations, Heinrich!



Congratulations to Rasika Jinadasa who defended his PhD thesis on December 12 in the field of Comparative Biomedical Sciences - a product of long-term collaborations between Dr. Gerald Duhamel and Dr. Robert Weiss .

Rasika will be taking his new credentials back to his native Sri Lanka where he has been offered a faculty position in the Vet School of the University of Peradeniya, the school at which he originally earned his DVM.

On a personal note, Rasika states that he has a unique reason why Cornell is special to him: "Cornell offers my native language (which is only spoken in Sri Lanka) as regularly scheduled courses for undergrads. Except for University of Wisconsin Madison summer language programs, I do not think it is offered as such anywhere else in the world! "

## Welcoming Our Newest Group of Anatomic Pathology Residents



Smitha Pillai



Julia  
Rodriguez-  
Ramos  
Fernandez



Nicholas Vitale



Congratulations to Aly Spealman Nadworny, who successfully defended her Dissertation entitled "Examining the role of redox biology in a population of neonatal cardiac precursor cells marked by the type III receptor tyrosine kinase, c-kit". Way to go, Dr. Nadworny!



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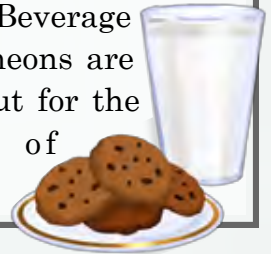


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of the College of Veterinary Medicine  
at Cornell University



Elena Cestero has accepted the position of Administrative Assistant in Biomedical Sciences and has recently relocated to the 2nd floor of the VRT. In Elena's new position, she will be supporting the Stem Cell Program, ReproGenomics Program and the Comparative Cancer Biology Program, which includes: managing all program events, marketing/public relations for those events and the development/oversight of program websites. Elena received her Bachelor's Degree from Wellesley College in 2007 and as an undergraduate student she spent 2 semesters studying abroad in Mexico and Spain. Elena began her career at Cornell in the fall of 2007. Her first position at the College was in the Office of Human Resources and then transferred to Biomedical Sciences in 2010, where she was supporting the Section of Anatomic Pathology and the Chair's Office. Congratulations Elena!

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. Keep an eye out for the upcoming spring schedule of Administrative Networking Lunches.



## DEPARTMENT OF BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES SEMINAR SERIES

**FEBRUARY 14**

**DR. KLAUS BEYENBACH**

Professor of Physiology  
Department of Biomedical Sciences  
Cornell University  
Ithaca, NY

*"Inducing Renal Failure in Mosquitoes?"*

**FEBRUARY 20**

**PATHOLOGY SEMINAR SERIES  
VETERINARY EDUCATION CENTER**

**LECTURE HALL II**

**5:00 - 6:00 PM**

**DR. BRADLEY L. NJAA**

Associate Professor  
Residency Training Coordinator, Anatomic Pathology  
Department of Veterinary Pathobiology  
Center for Veterinary Health Sciences  
Oklahoma State University  
Stillwater, OK

*"Diseased EARS: So much more than smelly pinnas."*

**MARCH 27**

**DR. PHILIP F. COPENHAVER**

Professor  
Department of Cell & Developmental Biology  
Oregon Health & Science University  
Portland, OR

*"Defining the Normal Role of a "nasty" Protein: Amyloid precursor proteins and the control of neuronal migration."*

Hey everybody!

Check out the Points of Interest on eCommons,  
Cornell's institutional digital repository at:

<http://ecommons.library.cornell.edu/handle/1813/28352>