

Our Vision

To serve the animals that so faithfully serve mankind

Our Mission

To improve animal health through basic and applied research

Our Goal

To be the leading institution in animal health research worldwide



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Baker Institute | To Improve for Animal Health

Annual Report

through Basic and 2007 | Applied Research

Animal Health







Director's Message

Research advances in Baker Institute laboratories today are making a difference for tomorrow's generation of companion animals.

Dear friends.

Welcome to the Baker Institute's 2007 Annual Report. A research institute is comprised of many parts, all of which contribute in important ways to its successful operation. The Baker Institute is blessed with many resources, including our dedicated support staff, fine laboratories and research facilities, and enthusiastic and talented students and advanced trainees who will become the next generation of animal health researchers. However, the drivers of the complex process of scientific investigation are the Institute's senior scientists, who have devoted their careers to advancing veterinary medicine through research. It is my pleasure in this letter to tell you about some of their recent achievements and awards.

In recognition of his studies of reoviruses and caliciviruses, Dr. John Parker was the recipient of the 2007 Pfizer Award for Research Excellence in Cornell's College of Veterinary Medicine. Dr. Anna Kukekova was awarded a major grant from the US National Institutes of Health for her exciting studies of the genetic basis of tame behavior in a unique population of domesticated foxes in Siberia. Dr. Alex Travis was chosen to lead the Veterinary College's new program in Wildlife Conservation. Dr. Travis is a specialist in reproductive biology, and he has a strong interest in assisted reproduction technology as applied to endangered species. Dr. Judy Appleton was appointed as the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs in Cornell's College of Veterinary Medicine. Dr. Appleton continues to serve as the Caspary Professor of Immunology at the Institute, but she has added important new responsibilities to her portfolio

In 2007 the Institute also added two scientists to its roster. Dr. Scott Coonrod joined the Institute faculty, moving to Ithaca from Weill-Cornell Medical College in New York City. Dr. Coonrod is a reproductive biologist who also has a strong research program in cancer biology. Finally, Dr. Douglas McGregor, former Baker Institute Director and Associate Dean of Research in the College of Veterinary Medicine, rejoined the Institute faculty. Dr. McGregor directs the Veterinary College's Leadership Program that introduces veterinary students from around the world to the many career possibilities in academic veterinary medicine and public service.

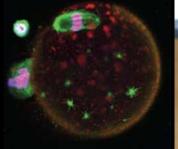
In 2010 the Institute will mark the 60th anniversary of its founding with a special symposium on animal health research, and other events throughout the year. We look forward in anticipation to this milestone, and the opportunities it will provide for reflection on our accomplishments and preparation for the future.

With best wishes and thanks for your continuing support of our programs,

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Doug Antczak, VMD, PhD Director, Baker Institute for Animal Health









Scott Coonrod, MS, PhDAssociate Professor of Epigenetics and Reproductive Biology

From infertility to overpopulation

Roughly fifteen percent of couples in America face infertility. In many cases, the causes are not known, thus compounding their frustration. Dr. Scott Coonrod aims to change this.

At the other end of the issue, female cats and dogs are routinely spayed to prevent pregnancy. This requires surgery—complete with anesthesia—and therefore is expensive and somewhat painful. Dr. Coonrod's research hopes to uncover a less invasive alternative for contraception.

"As a graduate student, I took an elective course in fertility and early development," says Dr. Coonrod. "I saw fertilization occur in a dish, and I was fascinated. That was it. Since that time, answering reproductive biology questions has been central to my career."

When an egg cell is released from the ovary, it is either fertilized within hours or it dies. If it is fertilized, specific proteins within the egg then orchestrate a process called the egg-to-embryo transition. The proteins mediating this transition remain poorly understood. However, Dr. Coonrod has recently isolated an abundant egg protein—PADI6—and determined that it plays an important role in the development of a unique structure: the cytoplasmic lattices. He has also found that the lattices are required for the egg-to-embryo transition, and for development beyond the two-cell stage.

"This indicates that PADI6 represents one of a handful of known mammalian factors that are produced by the mother and then endowed to the embryo to help manage

the early stages of development," says Dr. Coonrod. "If you remove PADI6, the egg stops developing. We can use this knowledge to improve our understanding of fertility and infertility."

His research also has implications for the development of new companion animal contraceptives. In certain mouse model systems, some of the proteins that are associated with the egg cytoplasmic lattices appear to instigate an autoimmune response that targets the ovaries and leads to infertility. With this in mind, Dr. Coonrod and his team speculate that it may be possible to inject female dogs and cats with synthetic forms of these lattice proteins and "trick" the animal's immune system into rejecting their eggs, thus eliminating the need for surgery.

Another PADI enzyme—PADI4—is also on Dr. Coonrod's radar screen because this molecule appears to play a role in different types of human, and possibly, companion animal cancer. His research focuses on breast cancer.

"We believe this protein may have the power to modify genes that are normally activated by estrogen, thereby suppressing their activity," says Dr. Coonrod. "Given the strong link between estrogen and some types of breast cancer, our findings suggest that PADI enzymes may play an important role in breast cancer. At some point in the future, we would like to identify molecules that can block PADI4 activity and then test whether these inhibitors could be utilized as drugs to treat breast cancer in humans and companion animals."

"I saw fertilization occur in a dish, and I was fascinated. That was it. Since that time, answering reproductive biology questions has been central to my career."





Hussaina Makun, DVM
Visiting Fulbright Fellow,
Mendez Laboratory

Empowering women, building communities

Fulbright fellow Dr. Hussaina Makun wants to see the mortality rate of goats in Nigeria drop by about fifty percent, which could translate into better nutrition for rural children. Her research may hold the key. It also has the potential to help Nigerian women gain newfound independence.

At the Baker Institute, she has access to technology and expertise not found in Nigeria. She's leveraging these resources to reduce the impact of a parasite—a particular type of round worm that feeds like a hookworm. The worm causes an increase in blood loss that leads to anemia, especially in young goats. Her research will have broad impact, as this worm infects the goat population worldwide, as well as some species of sheep.

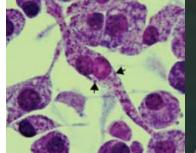
Dr. Makun is on the faculty of veterinary medicine at the National Animal Production Research Institute, Ahmadu Bello University, in Nigeria, and a visiting scholar in Dr. Susana Mendez's lab. Her current research continues work that was funded by an Agropolis award. In that project, she completed a series of experiments regarding the feeding and milk production of two types of goats: the Red Sokoto and the Sahelian. She also conducted a consumer survey that explored perceptions about goat products. She chose to study goats because of their impact on the economic and social aspects of Nigerian life. Goats are an important source of food and income and also present an avenue for women to alleviate the financial strain they often face.

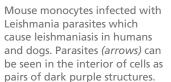
"In my area, women stay at home—often for religious reasons—and are typically cut off from information sources," says Dr. Makun, explaining that as homemakers, they tend to the goats. "If the goats have problems, women have nowhere to turn. The goats—and the whole community—suffer. With information, they will gain some control of the situation, of their lives."

Dr. Makun is looking for a protein that will protect goats from the invasive worm. Identifying the protein is the first step in the creation of a vaccine. Currently, in Nigeria, goats are often left defenseless. Although preventative measures and treatments exist in Nigeria, they may not be readily available to women goat farmers due to cost and inhibitions. The worm, though, has global reach. In the United States, this particular parasite also runs rampant.

"Goats in America also face infestation by this worm," says Dr. Makun, who is partnering with local goat farmers to conduct further research. "It is a problem here, though, for different reasons. Here we've over-drugged, and the parasite has become resistant. The drugs are failing. We need a new approach to control this worm." "In my area, women stay at home —often for religious reasons—and are typically cut off from information sources."









Assistant Professor of Immunology and Infectious Diseases

Global collaboration addresses disease with worldwide reach

An agreement established in 2007 between Cornell University and Spain's College of Veterinary Medicine at the Complutense University of Madrid is creating a global network of experts in the battle against infectious diseases. The agreement was conceived after Dr. Susana Mendez conducted a workshop in Spain, where she met others who were also interested in developing a deeper understanding of animal diseases.

Dr. Mendez studies canine leishmaniasis, a potentially fatal disease of dogs that also affects humans. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) leishmaniasis is found in over eighty countries, primarily in the tropics and subtropics. More than ninety percent of the world's human cases of visceral leishmaniasis occur in India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Sudan, and Brazil. However, leishmaniasis is also found in some parts of Mexico, Central and Southern America.

A March 2006 article published in the CDC's Emerging Infectious Diseases, suggests that the disease is also found in North America:

In 2000, visceral leishmaniasis was implicated as causing high rates of illness and death among foxhounds in a kennel in New York. . . . Infected foxhounds were found in eighteen states and two Canadian provinces. No evidence of infection was found in humans. The infection in North America appears to be widespread in foxhounds and limited to dog-to-dog mechanisms of transmission; however, if the organism becomes adapted for vector transmission by indigenous phlebotomines [sand flies], the probability of human exposure will be greatly increased.

In visceral leishmaniasis, sand flies infect dogs and humans with a parasite that affects the liver, spleen, and kidneys and eventually results in organ failure. In areas where visceral leishmaniasis is relatively unknown, symptoms can take up to two years to identify.

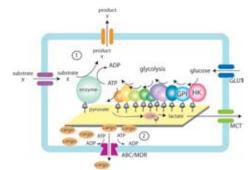
Efforts to investigate the causes, and to develop preventive measures and treatments, have been stymied in some parts of the Americas, since the disease is often misdiagnosed.

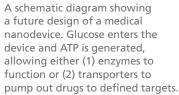
Dr. Mendez and her team are developing vaccines for leishmaniasis as well as conducting genetic studies to identify the genes involved in contracting or resisting the disease. Time is of the essence, as environmental factors like global warming and increased travel to endemic areas have given flight to the sand fly vector— instrumental in the spread of the disease.

The new partnership is helping to advance research in North America. The formal arrangement between Cornell University and its Spanish partners facilitates the exchange of methodologies, personnel, and discoveries. More specifically, through the collaboration, Dr. Mendez has free access to samples (which are rare in the United States, but absolutely essential to her research), genetic information about dogs and their resistance to disease, the parasite strain, and developments in methodologies.

"In 2000, visceral leishmaniasis was implicated as causing high rates of illness and death among foxhounds in a kennel in New York. . . . Infected foxhounds were found in eighteen states and two Canadian provinces."









Alexander J. Travis, VMD, PhD

Assistant Professor of Reproductive Biology

Two "firsts" in Travis lab

Dr. Alex Travis is passionate about conserving life. This passion has taken him from unpredictable African forests to controlled Cornell laboratories, and resulted in groundbreaking discoveries that bear promising insights for both endangered species and humans fighting diseases. His research, which focuses on preserving fertility and exploring birth control methods, may also improve our ability to release disease-fighting drugs, detect toxins, and perform other medical tasks within a patient's body.

In 2007, Dr. Travis and his team realized two goals: they successfully completed stem cell transplantation in a dog, and they harnessed the power of proteins found on the tail of a sperm for a new field of science called "nanotechnology."

Transplanting stem cells from the testes of an animal offers the opportunity to conserve the genetics of endangered species. Wild animals die in captivity for many reasons, and deaths of young animals are of special concern because these individuals are lost before contributing their genetic information to a species' gene pool. Stem cells are found in the testes from the time of birth, and offer a way to preserve an animal's future breeding ability even though it might not yet produce its own sperm. While the technique has been used successfully in rodents and a few agricultural species, Dr. Travis and his team recently performed the process in a dog.

"This is the first time male germline stem cells have been transplanted in a dog," says Dr. Travis. "We now have a new tool for helping species like the African Wild Dog make a comeback." There were once about 500,000 African Wild Dogs. Now there are only about 5,000, and the animal is protected by the Endangered Species Act.

Stem cell transplantation also has implications for preventing diseases. The technology helps researchers to identify a specific gene as the cause of a condition and produce genetic screening tests capable of treating or possibly eliminating the disease from a breed.

Through efforts in his lab, Dr. Travis also discovered this year that proteins on a sperm's tail, which provide energy for it to swim, can be modified and used to power extremely small medical devices, which could then be implanted into a human body. These hypothetical devices could be used, for example, to deliver drugs to the most ideal location in a patient's body, such as a tumor.

"We're borrowing the sperm's strategy for locomotion," says Dr. Travis, who conceived of the idea after noting that many proteins on the sperm's tail are tied down to solid structures within the cell, but still function. By modifying the "targeting domains" responsible for this binding, they manipulated the proteins to stick to man-made surfaces while still leaving the proteins functional.

"We believe it is one of the first, if not the first, example of building a biological pathway on a manmade surface," says Dr. Travis. "We now have a new tool for helping species like the African Wild Dog make a comeback."





Research Associate, Acland Laboratory

Connecting the dots between genes and behavior

Why do some animals—even those within the same species—exhibit aggressive tendencies while others show (and seem to desire) affection? The answer, according to a collaborative team of researchers who span two continents, may be found in a complex combination of genes. To add a few more pieces to the puzzle, these researchers develop genetic tools to focus their study on specific strains of silver fox. In 2007, their work was published in several journals, including *Genome Research* and *Behavior Genetics*.

Dr. Anna Kukekova, a member of Dr. Greg Acland's lab, works with researchers at the Institute of Cytology and Genetics in Russia, and the Department of Biology at the University of Utah, to determine the location of genes underlying the behavioral differences between the fox strains. The research is funded by the National Institute of Mental Health (one of the twenty-seven National Institutes of Health) and other funds.

"Foxes from the strain selected for tame behavior exhibit friendly, dog-like response to humans as soon as they open their eyes, while foxes selected for aggressive behavior are aggressive toward humans and difficult to handle," says Dr. Kukekova. "We believe a combination of genes and environmental factors is responsible for these differences in behaviors."

The silver fox has been successfully domesticated in an experimental breeding program at the Institute of Cytology and

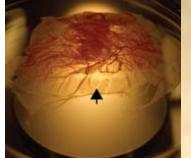
Genetics of the Russian Academy of Sciences. Further, because of the close evolutionary relationship between the fox and the dog, and the strong genomic conservation of the two species, researchers were able to adapt canine molecular genetic tools to build the first meiotic linkage map of the fox genome.

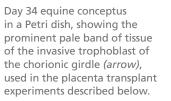
The team has identified behavioral traits that can be measured objectively and quantitatively with a four-step, four-minute test. Behavior of each fox used in the study is videotaped and analyzed. Researchers monitor a fox's actions; location in the cage and time spent there; body postures; positions of particular parts of the body; and sounds. This approach provides researchers with behavioral measurements that can be used for genetic studies.

Dr. Kukekova describes foxes as the "perfect pet animal" because they exhibit a unique combination of dog and cat behaviors. She believes that fox research will yield new insights into the genetic mechanisms underlying animal domestication. Heretofore, the genetic basis of mammalian behavior has been studied predominantly in rodent species. Expanding genetic research to species that lie between humans and rodents in biological and behavioral complexity has the potential to improve understanding of mammalian behavior that is not observed in traditional genetic models.

"Foxes just might be the 'perfect pet animal' because they exhibit a unique combination of dog and cat behaviors."









Douglas F. Antczak, VMD, PhD

Dorothy Havemeyer McConville Professor of Equine Medicine

Discovering how the placenta evades maternal immune destruction

In 2007, Dr. Doug Antczak and his team discovered that a mass of transplanted tissue hardly bigger than the tip of a pencil can be powerful enough to profoundly change the physiology and behavior of a half-ton horse. The finding suggests that bioengineered cells—for instance those that might be designed to produce insulin—could treat important human and animal diseases.

Driven by a question that has motivated the Antczak lab for thirty years—what biological mechanisms exist that allow a mammalian fetus to survive in the uterus without being rejected by the mother's immune system—the team transplanted tissue from a pregnant mare's placenta into a non-pregnant mare.

"The fetus and placenta—together called the conceptus in early pregnancy—develop from the fertilized egg in mammals, and as such are a separate organism living within the mother's womb," says Dr. Antczak.

"The conceptus shares half its genes with the mother, but not enough to explain why it is not rejected. Science works in strange ways, though. Our work not only provides new insights into the question, but it produces results with implications for other medical problems as well."

The transplanted tissue secreted equine chorionic gonadotropin (eCG), a hormone produced by the specialized invasive tro-

phoblast cells of the equine placenta. As with hCG in women, its role is to promote progesterone production by the ovaries—a critical component of the maintenance of pregnancy.

"Indeed, the transplanted tissue produced sufficient eCG to be detected in the blood of the recipient mares," says Dr. Antczak, who explained how this indirect monitoring confirmed the lifespan of the transplants.

"The effect of the transplants was that the recipient mares acted as if they were pregnant," states Antczak. "The changes in the behavior of the mares carrying placental transplants was very dramatic. They stopped showing estrus behavior for the ninety day life-span of the transplants.

"This type of research cannot be conducted in laboratory incubators or test tubes," says Dr. Antczak. "It must be done in live animals. Fortunately, the experiments are safe, non-surgical, and non-invasive. The artificial system we developed has similar properties to normal pregnancy. Furthermore, our results suggests that other biologically active molecules might be able to be delivered through cellular transplantation." Much research remains before this dream can become a reality, but a first important step has been taken.

"The fetus and the placenta are separate organisms," says Dr. Antczak. "They share some genes, but not enough to explain why a fetus is not rejected. Science works in strange ways, though. Our work not only provides new insights to the question, but it produces results with implications for other mammalian species as well."





George Lust, PhD

Professor of Physiological
Chemistry
The Albert C. Bostwick
Foundation Laboratory

Breakthrough discovery leads to powerful genetic test

The challenge was posed nearly forty years ago; the trail has been hot for the last two. Long-standing partnerships have resulted in advances in diagnosing and understanding hip dysplasia in dogs, a disease that occurs when a specific combination of genes exists and results in hip osteoarthritis and disability.

Research indicates that, in addition to Labrador Retrievers, discoveries in the diagnosis and treatment of hip dysplasia will assist other breeds including Border Collies, Golden Retrievers, Great Danes, Rottweilers, German Shepherds and Newfoundland dogs, and has the potential to offer insights into similar diseases in other mammals.

In 2007, with grant support from the Morris Animal Foundation and Pfizer Incorporated, Dr. George Lust and colleagues Dr. Rory Todhunter, Steven Friedenberg and Dr. Zhiwu Zhang discovered the first panel of genetic markers that could lead to genetic testing for the diagnosis of canine hip dysplasia. With a new sample of dogs, they plan to verify the accuracy of this panel of genetic markers for hip conformation that can predict the breeding value of the dog. A breakthrough in diagnosis, these genetic tests are expected to be more accurate than current procedures, less expensive to perform, and enable earlier identification of

both normal dogs and those at risk for hip dysplasia. Genetic tests may also reduce the need for progeny testing.

"This has been a long-sought goal," says Dr. Lust. "Now, with one DNA sample we are on the road to telling if a young dog will develop normally. We will not need to wait until the dog is old enough to undergo the current radiographic screening."

The research team also identified a mutation in the gene for fibrillin 2 that segregates in a sample of dysplastic dogs and nondysplastic dogs. Fibrillin 2 is a gene expressed in the tissue of hip joints. This is the first gene reported to be associated with canine hip dysplasia. The discovery opens opportunities for defining the biochemical basis of the disease.

In other related research, Dr. Lust partnered with Dr. Bernard G. Steinetz at the New York University Medical Center to study the relationship of two milk-borne hormones—relaxin and estrogen—to the onset of hip dysplasia. In a controlled study, the investigators concluded that early anti-hormone treatments may be able to negate the effects of the milk-borne hormones as they relate to induction of canine hip dysplasia.

"A breakthrough in diagnosis, the genetic test is expected to be more accurate, less expensive to perform, and enable earlier identification of both normal dogs and those at risk for hip dysplasia."

2007 Publications

Research Laboratories

Faculty represented in 2007: Acland, Antezak, Appleton, Bliss, Carmichael (Emeritus), Coonrod, Lust, Mendez, Meyers-Wallen, Parker, Parrish. Travis

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Tikku, S., Epshtein, Y., Collins, H., **Travis, A.J.**, Rothblat, G. and Levitan, I. (2007). Relationship between Kir2.1/Kir2.3 activity and their distributions between cholesterol-rich and cholesterol-poor membrane domains. Am. J. Physiol. Cell Physiol. 293:440-450.

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Zangerl, B., Johnson, J.L., **Acland, G.M.** and Aguirre, G.D. (2007). Independent origin and restricted distribution of RPGR deletions causing XLPRA. J. Hered. 98:526-530.

Gregory M. Acland, BVSc

Professor of Medical Genetics Inherited Eye Disease Studies Unit

Dr. Acland's laboratory uses the canine genome map to investigate blindness (retinal atrophy) in dogs. This disease follows the same course as retinitis pigmentosa, the most common cause of inherited human blindness.

Team members:

Anna Kukekova, Research Associate
William A. Beltran, Post-DVM/PhD Candidate
Linda S. Hunter, Post-DVM/PhD Candidate
Orly Goldstein, Research Support Specialist
Jennifer L. Johnson, Research Support Specialist
Susan E. Pearce-Kelling, Research Support Specialist
Pam E. Hammond, Research Technician

Grants:

2004 – 2009. Principal Investigator. "Models of hereditary retinal degeneration." National Institutes of Health. 5 R01 EY06855. Current year direct costs: \$472,478. Total project direct costs: \$3,757,221.

2007 – 2011. Co-Principal Investigator. "Molecular mechanisms of social behavior." National Institutes of Health. 1 R01 MH077811-01A1. Current year direct costs: \$228,600. Total project direct costs: \$914,400.

2004 – 2009. Principal Investigator. "Pre-Clinical Medical Therapy Evaluation Center (Cornell Module)." Foundation Fighting Blindness. C-NY01-0404-0247. Current year direct costs: \$247,117. Total project direct costs: \$1.345.002.

2007 – 2010. Principal Investigator. "Pooled Association Mapping for Canine Hereditary Disorders." Morris Animal Foundation. D07CA-085. Current year direct costs: \$71,925. Total project direct costs: \$178,530.

2007 – 2009. Principal Investigator. "Grants for Growth: Genetic test for hereditary cataract in dogs." NYS Metropolitan Development Association. Current year direct costs: \$15,786 (Cornell portion). Total project direct costs: \$42.973.

2007 – 2008. Co-Principal Investigators. "Fine gene mapping and candidate gene sequencing: Small breed dog with Portosystemic Vascular Anomalies (PSVA) and Microvascular Dysplasia (MVD)." Collaborative Research in Preclinical and Clinical Sciences Program. Current year direct costs: \$24,952.

2006 – 2007. Principal Investigator. "Identification of the mutation causing collie PRA." Collie Club of America. Current year direct costs: \$23,003.

Douglas F. Antczak, VMD, PhD

Dorothy Havemeyer McConville Professor of Equine Medicine Equine Genetics Center: Equine Immunology

For twenty years our program has focused on the biological interactions that take place between a mother and fetus during pregnancy. In particular, we are concerned with how the placenta and fetus avoid recognition and destruction by the maternal immune system. This is an intriguing question that has broad applications to many areas of biology and medicine, including

organ transplantation and cancer biology. Read more about his work on pages 12-13.

Team members:

Amanda de Mestre, Postdoctoral Scientist Donald Miller, Research Support Specialist Leela Noronha, Graduate Student Christina Costa, Lab Technician Jennifer Cassano, Undergraduate Student Melissa Restifo, Undergraduate Student

Grants

2005 – 2010. Principal Investigator. "Split immunological tolerance to trophoblast." National Institutes of Health. 5 R01 HD049545-03. Current year direct costs: \$165,339. Total project direct costs: \$840,669.

1980 – present. Principal Investigator. "Equine Histocompatibility Antigens." Dorothy Russell Havemeyer Foundation. Current year direct costs: \$40,000.

1995 – 2009. Principal Investigator. "Umbrella support for horse genome project." Dorothy Russell Havemeyer Foundation. Current year direct costs: \$50,000. Total project direct costs: \$750,000.

1986 – present. Principal Investigator. "Summer Fellowship Program for Veterinary Students." Dorothy Russell Havemeyer Foundation. Current year direct costs: \$11,000.

2005 – 2008. Principal Investigator. "Horse Genomics: Linear mapping and microarray development." University of Kentucky/Morris Animal Foundation. Current year direct costs: \$9,000 (Cornell portion). Total project direct costs: \$27,000 (Cornell portion).

2006 – 2007. Principal Investigator. "Horse Genome Project: Functional genomics through equine microarrays." Harry M. Zweig Memorial Fund for Equine Research. Current year direct costs: \$38,133. Total project direct costs: \$77.667.

Judith A. Appleton, PhD

Alfred H. Caspary Professor of Immunology Laboratory of Mucosal Immunity, Nematodes, and Immunoparasitology

Roundworms, or nematodes, are important causes of diseases in animals, yet relatively little is known about how they sustain themselves in the animals that they infect. Dr. Appleton's research aims to elucidate and exploit the ways by which the host's immune response interferes with parasitism by nematodes. We are currently studying two important pathogens, Trichinella spiralis and Parelaphostrongylus tenuis.

Team members:

Lisa Daley, Graduate Student
Lisa Blum, Graduate Student
Dr. Valeria Fabre, Post-doctoral Associate
Carolyn McGuinness, Graduate Student
Nebiat Gebreselassie, Graduate Student
Kate Justus, Undergraduate Student
Kimberley Schuller, Undergraduate Student
Lucy Gagliardo, Technician

Grants:

2004 – 2009. Principal Investigator. "Immunity to parasitic infection." National Institutes of Health. 5 R01 Al014490. Total Direct Costs: \$213,341. Total project direct costs: \$1,096,395.

2006 – 2008. Co-Principal Investigator. "Immune Modulation by Intestinal Cell Differentiation." National Institutes of Health. R01 Al39368. Total Direct Costs: \$10,191 (Cornell portion). Total project direct costs: \$20,085 (Cornell portion).

2005 – 2008. Co-Principal Investigator. "Induction of hepatic tolerance to parasitic nematodes." National Institutes of Health. 5 K08 DK067290. Total Direct Costs: \$104,254. Total project direct costs: \$312,832.

2007 – 2008. Principal Investigator. "Production of recombinant nanobodies for diagnostic and research applications." Collaborative Research in Preclinical and Clinical Sciences Program. Current year direct costs: \$20,012.

Brian Cherrington, Post-doctoral Associate
Eric Morency, Post-Doctoral Associate

Piraye Yurttas, Graduate Student Robert Brody, Lab Assistant

Grants:

2007 – 2011. Principal Investigator. "Role of Maternal PADI6 in Embryonic Development." National Institutes of Health. 2RO1 HD 38353. \$184,500 yearly direct costs, \$99,500 indirect costs.

2007 – 2008. Principal Investigator. "Contraceptive Potential of Oocyte-Restricted cPLA2g." National Institutes of Health. RO3 HD052241-01. \$50,000 yearly direct costs, \$27,000 indirect costs.

2007–2011. Principal Investigator. "Epigenetic Analysis of Breast Cancer." Department of Defense Breast Cancer Research Program Era of Hope Award. BC061977. \$676,318 annual direct/indirect costs.

Susan K. Bliss, DVM, PhD

Senior Research Associate Laboratory of Immunoparasitology

Research in Dr. Bliss's laboratory focuses on the basis of immunity to parasites as a model system for studying responses to liver injury, which provokes infiltration of leukocytes that may modify or amplify the damage. The overall goal of Bliss's studies is to elucidate the impact of leukocyte populations and their mediators on liver injury. Tissue injury and repair are basic components of liver disease regardless of etiology. The balance between cellular repair, regeneration, and fibrosis determines whether patients recover or develop progressive fibrotic changes that may eventually result in cirrhosis and portal hypertension. Refining the cellular and molecular mechanisms that underlie these processes is essential for developing efficacious therapeutic modalities.

Grants:

2005 – 2008. Principal Investigator. "Induction of hepatic tolerance to parasitic nematodes." National Institutes of Health. 5 K08 DK067290. Current year direct costs: \$104,254. Total project direct costs: \$312,832.

George Lust, PhD

Professor of Physiological Chemistry The Albert C. Bostwick Foundation Laboratory: Canine Hip Dysplasia and Osteoarthritis

Dr. Lust's laboratory investigates hip dysplasia, a degenerative disease that causes pain and discomfort with movement and eventually results in osteoarthritis. For more information, see pages 14-15.

Team members:

Elizabeth E. Corey, Research Technician Alma J. Williams, Research Technician

Grants:

2007. Principal Investigator. "A marker for cartilage destruction in Osteoarthritis." Pfizer Inc. \$110,000.

2004 – 2007. Co-Principal Investigator. "Mapping refinement of Quantitative Trait Loci for canine hip dysplasia." Total project direct costs: \$163,824

Scott A. Coonrod, PhD

Associate Professor Laboratory of Epigenetics and Reproductive Biology

Dr. Coonrod's lab is exploring the role that novel, highly-abundant, and egg-restricted molecules play in the reprogramming process. Read more about his work—and its focus on infertility and overpopulation—on pages 2-3.

Team members:

Chris Torre, Lab Manager Xuesen Zhang, Post-doctoral Associate Boram Kim, Graduate Student Rui Kan, Post-doctoral Associate

Susana Mendez, DVM, PhD

Assistant Professor of Immunology and Infectious Diseases Immunology, Vaccines, Protozoa

Dr. Mendez's laboratory works with animal models of infectious disease, in particular parasitic infections, that are relevant in human and veterinary medicine. For more information, see pages 6-7.

Team members:

Wenhui Wu, Postdoctoral Associate Meleana Hinchman, Manager/Research Technician Hussaina Makun, Visiting Fellow Leah Alabanza, Graduate Student Justin Nham, Undergraduate Student Jasmine Chiang, Undergraduate Student Thomas McConville, Undergraduate Student Mark Scurrah, Undergraduate Student Diana Magee, Undergraduate Student Patricia Green, Undergraduate Student

Grants

2007 – 2008. Co-Principal Investigator. "Production of recombinant nanobodies for diagnostic and research applications." Collaborative Research in Preclinical and Clinical Sciences Program. Current year direct costs: \$20.012.

2007 – 2008. Principal Investigator. "Study of the immunomodulatory effect of the hookworm molecule Ac-TMP in the intestinal mucosa." Affinito-Stewart Grant Program, President's Council of Cornell Women. Current year direct costs: \$12,500.

2007 – 2008. Principal Investigator. "Immunogenecity and protective potential of L. Infantum Kmp-11 antigen using different vaccination strategies in dogs." MERIAL LTD. Current year direct costs: \$82,617.

2007 – 2009. Co-Principal Investigator. "Efecto immunomodulador de dos antigenos recombinants de Leishmania encapsulados en nanocapsulas de fosfatidilcolina-colesterol (Quil-ISCOM)." CICYT. AGL2007-60123/GAN. Current year direct costs: in negotiation. Total project direct costs: in negotiation.

2004 – 2007. Principal Investigator. "Role of T reg in live vaccination against Leishmaniasis." National Institutes of Health. 5 R21 Al061379. Total project direct costs: \$275,000.

Vicki N. Meyers-Wallen, VMD, PhD

Associate Professor of Genetics and Reproduction Laboratory for the Study of Inherited Canine Reproductive Diseases

Dr. Meyers-Wallen's lab studies animal models of inherited human disorders as a means of understanding sex determination and differentiation at the molecular level. By studying systems in which abnormal sexual differentiation occurs, we hope to identify specific genes that are necessary to normal differentiation. Dr. Meyers-Wallen and her team are investigating three disorders of male sexual differentiation: the development of testes in chromosomal females, the development of oviducts and a uterus in otherwise normal males, and the failure of the testes to descend into the scrotum. They also collaborate with other investigators on inherited canine diseases affecting other body organs.

Team members:

Shashikant Pujar, Research Associate

Grants:

2001 – 2007. Principal Investigator. "Autosomal Mechanisms of Testis Induction." National Institutes of Health. R01 HD 40351. Total direct costs \$810,000.

2007. Co-Principal Investigator. "Genetics of Cryptorchidism in Dogs." American Kennel Club, ACORN grant. Total direct costs: \$12,000.

2007 – 2008. Co-Principal Investigators. "Fine gene mapping and candidate gene sequencing: Small breed dog with Portosystemic Vascular Anomalies (PSVA) and Microvascular Dysplasia (MVD)." Collaborative Research in Preclinical and Clinical Sciences Program. Current year direct costs: \$24,952.

John S. L. Parker, BVMS, PhD

Assistant Professor of Virology Laboratory for the Study of Feline Caliciviruses and Orthoreoviruses

Dr. Parker's laboratory studies potential anti-cancer agents, called reoviruses, that target and kill cancer cells in mice. In addition, his lab explores feline caliciviruses, having isolated and characterized several hypervirulent strains known to cause high morbidity and mortality in infected cats. These viruses are highly contagious and persist in the environment, making them difficult to control. As such, the NIH has identified caliciviruses as potential bioterrorism agents.

Team members:

Caroline M. Coffey, PhD Student
L. Wisniewski, PhD Student
Robert ('Oz') J. Ossiboff, DVM/PhD Student
Louis G. Hom, Postdoctoral Associate
Lynne J. Anguish, Research Technician
Susanne Moessmer. PhD Student

Grants:

2005 – 2009. Principal Investigator. "Reovirus factories: structure, function, and dynamics." National Institutes of Health. 5R01 Al063036-04. Current year direct costs: \$151,709. Total project direct costs: \$864,208.

2007 – 2008. Co-Principal Investigator. "Production of recombinant nanobodies for diagnostic and research applications." Collaborative Research in Preclinical and Clinical Sciences Program. Current year direct costs: \$20,012.

2005 – 2010. Principal Investigator. "Reovirus-induced apoptosis: the role of the viral outer capsid protein mu1." Burroughs Wellcome Fund. 1005528. Current year direct costs: \$130,000. Total project direct costs: \$450,000.

2006 – 2008. Principal Investigator (US). "The vesicular trafficking machinery: a crossroad of virus reproduction, virally induced apoptosis and cellular defense in Reovirus infection." United States Israel Binational Science Foundation. Current year direct costs: \$9,000 (Cornell portion). Total project direct costs: \$9,000 (Cornell portion).

2007–2008. Principal Investigator. "Interactions between feline calicivirus and its receptor - Feline Junctional Adhesion Molecule-A." Cornell Feline Health Center. Current year direct costs: \$18,936.

Colin Parrish, PhD

John M. Olin Professor of Virology Albert C. Bostwick Laboratory of Molecular Biology: Canine and Feline Parvoviruses

The basic and applied work of the Parrish laboratory is concerned with the study of viral diseases of dogs and cats. Efforts are focused on a detailed analysis of parvoviruses of cats, raccoons, mink, and other carnivores, as well studies to characterize the minute virus of canines. In particular we are interested in how mutations in the viruses allowed them to change their host ranges, and also whether they are altering the antigenic form of the viruses so that vaccines do not work as well.

Faculty Accomplishments 2007

Team members:

Wendy Weichert, Research Technician Virginia Scarpino, Research Technician Christian Nelson, Graduate Student Karin Hoelzer, Graduate Student Karla Stucker, Graduate Student Carole Harbison, Graduate Student Laura Goodman, Postdoctoral Fellow Eveliina Minkkinen, Visiting Fellow Sid Khasnavis, Undergraduate Student Natalie Johnson, Undergraduate Student Jason Kaelber, Undergraduate Student

Grants:

2008 – 2013. Principal Investigator. "Parvovirus structure, capsid assembly, and receptors." National Institutes of Health, NIAID (with Dr. Michael G. Rossmann, Purdue University). Grant 2 R01 Al033486 (competitive renewal of current funding). Pending Renewal: \$250,000 yearly direct costs.

2008 – 2009. Collaborator. "Bioengineering to optimize monoclonal antibodies for passive immunotherapy." Northeast Biodefense Center (with A. Moscona, Cornell Weill Medical School, PI; M. Jin, Biomed. Engr., Cornell, Co-PI). Pending \$115,000 total; \$5,000 per year (Parrish laboratory).

2007 – 2009. Principal Investigator. "Antigenic structure of adenoassociated virus capsids and antibody escape mutants," National Institutes of Health, NIAID (with Dr. Mavis Agbandje-Mckenna, Univ. of Florida-Gainesville). Grant 1R21 AI072341-01A1. \$175,000 yearly direct costs.

2007 – 2012. Co-Principal Investigator. "The evolutionary and biological bases of host switching in viruses," National Institutes of Health, NIAID (with E. Holmes, Penn State University, PI). Grant 1R01GM080533-01. \$74,368 yearly direct costs (Cornell portion).

2007. Principal Investigator. "Engineering virus-receptor interactions to determine their roles in cell infection and disease," Ithaca-NYC Seed Grant program. \$50,000 total direct costs.

2007–2011. Principal Investigator. "Mechanisms of parvovirus infection and host range." National Institutes of Health, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases. Grant R01 Al028385-15A (renewal, funded since 1990). \$200,000 yearly direct costs.

2003 – 2008. Principal Investigator. "Parvovirus structure, capsid assembly, and receptors." National Institutes of Health, NIAID. Grant R01 Al033486 (renewal; funded since 1992). \$237,045 yearly direct costs.

2006 – 2008. Co-Mentor. "Effects of virus-receptor interaction on feline and canine parvoviruses infection." Morris Animal Foundation, #D06MS-402. \$35,000 yearly direct costs.

2006 – 2011. Principal Investigator. "Training in molecular virology and pathogenesis." National Institutes of Health, Institutional National Research Service Award - NIAID, 5T32 Al07618. \$151,820 yearly direct costs.

2007 – 2008. Co-Principal Investigator. "Production of recombinant nanobodies for diagnostic and research applications." Collaborative Research in Preclinical and Clinical Sciences Program. Current year direct costs: \$20,012.

Alex Travis, VMD, PhD

Assistant Professor of Reproductive Biology Laboratory of Reproductive Biology

Dr. Travis's laboratory investigates male reproduction from spermatogonial stem cells to mature sperm. Applications of his work range from nanotechnology to wildlife conservation. For more information, see pages 8-9.

Team members:

Atsushi Asano, Research Associate
Danielle Buttke, DVM/PhD Candidate
Yeun-Hee (Yoni) Kim, PhD Candidate
Jacque Nelson, Research Support Specialist

Grants:

2007 – 2009. Principal Investigator. "Analyzing the Function of Feline Sperm Produced by Testis Xenografting." Morris Animal Foundation. D07ZO-097. Current year direct costs: \$49,500. Total project direct costs: \$99,000.

2006 – 2009. Principal Investigator. "Developing a Participatory Socio-Economic Model For Food Security, Improved Rural Livelihoods, Watershed Management, & Biodiversity Conservation In Southern Africa." USAID, Sustainable Agriculture and Natural Resource Management Collaborative Research Support Program (SANREM-CRSP) Award. Current year direct costs: \$280,766. Total project direct costs: \$1,083,005.

2003 – **2008**. **Principal Investigator**. "Organization and Function of Lipid Rafts in Spermatozoa." National Institutes of Health/National Institute of Child Health and Human Development. R01 HD045664. Direct cost support: \$900,000.

2008 – 2009. Co-Investigator. New York State Department of Health, NYSTEM Grant for Institutional Development of Stem Cell Research Capabilities. Direct cost support: \$26,730 (\$1,000,000 total).

2006 – 2007. Principal Investigator. "Scaffolded nanoscale cellular energy production." CAT Innovations Program (Cornell). Total project direct costs: \$50,000.

Dr. Greg Acland was

the invited speaker at the international conference: Current Evolutionary Thinking In Biology, Medicine And Sociology organized by the Institute of Cytology and Genetics, Siberian Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences, in commemoration of Professor Dmitry K. Belyaev in Novosibirsk (Academgorodok) Russia. Additionally, Dr. Acland spoke to four kennel clubs including the Fingerlakes Kennel Club, the East Coast Glen Gathering, the American Border Collie Association, and the Australian Cattle Dog Club of America.

Dr. Doug Antczak presented the Colonel John Hickman Memorial Lecture, at the British Equine Veterinary Association in Edinburgh, UK and the Donald C. Johnson Memorial Lecture at the Kansas University Medical Center, Kansas City.

Dr. Judith Appleton was appointed Associate Dean for Academic Affairs in the College of Veterinary Medicine. Dr. Appleton also

serves as a member of the Publications Committee of the American Association of Immunologists.

Dr. Scott Coonrod was an invited speaker at the International Symposium on Cancer Biology, New Delhi, India, and was invited to present a seminar at the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, Research Triangle, North Carolina.

Dr. Anna Kukekova was awarded a grant from the National Institutes of Health for studies of the genetic basis of tame behavior in captive Russian foxes.

Dr. Susana Mendez gave an invited presentation at the X Congreso Iberico de Parasitologia, Madrid, Spain, on the topic: How the immune system in the skin responds to live vaccination against leishmaniasis. Dr. Mendez also served as an invited lecturer in the Trends in Biomedicine Summer Course in Almunecar, Spain.

Dr. Vicki Meyers-Wallen

was an invited speaker at the Annual Meeting of the American Veterinary Medical Association in Washington, DC and at the Annual Conference of the Society for Theriogenology (Veterinary Reproduction) in Monterey, California. She spoke on canine reproductive management, identification of abnormal and unusual estrous cycles and elective Cesarean section.

Dr. John Parker was selected as the College of Veterinary Medicine's Pfizer Research Award recipient.

Dr. Colin Parrish was the invited speaker at several international meetings: the Structural Biology of Small DNA Viruses in Siena, Italy; the European Meeting on Parvovirus Research in Bari, Italy; the Ecology and Evolution of Infectious Diseases in Albuquerque, New Mexico; and the Wellcome Trust meeting on Animal Health Research: Recent Developments and Future Directions in Cambridge, UK.

Dr. Alex Travis was named the director of the Cornell Center for Wildlife Conservation.

Additionally, the work of the Travis laboratory was highlighted in a press release for the scientific poster of postdoctoral associate Chinatsu Mukai Kazama entitled, Coupled metabolic reaction on a chip: A step toward energy production on implantable medical devices, at the American Society for Cell Biology meeting in Washington, DC. This was featured by MSNBC, the Discovery Channel, the Australian Broadcasting Corporation, Journal of the American Medical Association, Nanotechnology News, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the Syracuse, New York Post-Standard, and Discover magazine.



131st Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show

In February 2007, the Baker Institute hosted Advisory Council members, donors, friends, and dog lovers alike for the judging and finals of the dog show considered by many to be America's most prestigious. More than seventy-five people, including friends from the Morris Animal Foundation (a partner in Baker Institute research), enjoyed the excitement, as we all cheered on to victory the English Springer Spaniel, *Ch. Felicity's Diamond Jim* (a.k.a. James).

Above: Longtime Advisory Council member Mary Kurlansik Sloane enjoying the action in the ring below.

Cornell Alumni Association of the Ithaca Area, and the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Alumni Association visit the McConville Barn

One of our most enthusiastic audiences came to the Institute from its own backyard. In September 2007, more than eighty local Cornell alumni and family members visited the Institute for a guided tour of the Dorothy Havemeyer McConville Barn, where Dr. Doug Antczak, the Dorothy Havemeyer McConville Professor of Equine Medicine, spoke about his research herd at the Equine Genetics Center. Following the tour, guests enjoyed a talk regarding current research at several Institute laboratories, including Dr. Antczak's own.

Baker Institute Annual Report for 2006 and 2005 Wins CASE Award

In December 2007, the

Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) announced the winners of the 2008 District II Accolades Awards. The Baker Institute's Annual Report received the Silver Medal in the category of Annual and Institutional Reports, judged on excellence in concept, graphic design, and editorial content with regard to communicating the Institute's accountability to its constituencies. Judges' comments included "visually striking, emotive images that align perfectly with the Institute's mission in a welldesigned piece that effectively balances the interests of animal lovers and the deeper scientific work carried out by the Institute.

The AKC/Eukanuba® National Championship

In December 2007—for the first time—the Institute hosted donors and friends from California at the international, invitation-only AKC/Eukanuba National Championship at the Long Beach Convention Center. The Baker Institute and the Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine sponsored the Hall of Fame, a photographic essay of previous AKC/Eukanuba National Championship winners.

Guided tours by the staff of the American Kennel Club; daytime breed judging; evening group and finals judging; as well as breakfast and afternoon receptions in our hospitality room made for full days. Great fun was had by all. Guests enjoyed the AKC National Agility Invitational; the National Obedience Invitational; the Eukanuba World Challenge (where the top dogs from forty countries competed in a first-ever challenge); and the AKC/Eukanuba Canine Experience complete with herding



demonstrations, flyball, and dancing dogs. Among the highlights was the AKC "Meet the Breeds" event where Institute donors and friends could see every AKC breed up close in a carnival-like setting. Institute guests engaged with experts to learn about the unique histories of the breeds. From the enviable vantage point of VIP floor seats (courtesy of the American Kennel Club and Proctor and Gamble), the Baker Institute contingent witnessed the Sealyham Terrier, Charmin, capturing the coveted title.

Ch. Efbe's Hildago at Goodspice (a.k.a. Charmin) enjoying her win at The AKC/Eukanuba National Championship.

Greenwich Kennel Club All-Breed Dog Show, Obedience, and Rally Trial

In June 2007, Dr. Doug Antczak, Director, and Lynne Williams, Director of Development and Public Affairs, staffed the Baker Institute booth. The team fielded myriad questions concerning research programs, and chatted with donors and friends from the Greenwich, Connecticut area. The American Kennel Club sanctions the show, held at Taylor Farm Park in Norwalk, Connecticut. Institute Advisory Council member Peggy Reed, along with Ellen Frankel, a long-time friend and supporter of the Baker Institute and noted dog show judge, are GKC members.

Cornell Club Lectures in Kansas City and Tulsa

In October 2007, Dr. Doug Antczak, Director, gave spirited talks to enthusiastic audiences in Kansas City, Kansas and Tulsa, Oklahoma. The Institute partnered with the Cornell North Central Regional Office, the Cornell Club of Mid-America, the Cornell Southwest/Mountain Regional Office and the Cornell Club of Oklahoma, respectively, to present Dr. Antczak's lecture: . From the Lab to the Labrador: How Discoveries in Veterinary Medicine Have Improved the Life of your Pet. Dr. Antczak and Lynne Williams. Director of Development and Public Affairs, thoroughly enjoyed meeting dog, cat and horse lovers at the receptions that followed.

Graduate Students Complete PhDs



Pictured left to right: Linda Hunter, PhD, January 2008; Caroline Coffey, PhD, August 2007; Laura Palermo, PhD, August 2006; Lisa Daley, PhD, May 2007.

Caroline Coffey August 2007

Graduate field: Comparative Biomedical Sciences

Major advisor: Dr. John Parker

Thesis title: Studies on apoptosis induction by

mammalian orthoreovirus outer capsid protein mu 1 and regulation by outer capsid protein assembly and degradation.

Current position: Visiting Assistant Professor, Department

of Biology, Science Center, St. Joseph's

University, Philadelphia, PA

Lisa Daley May 2007
Graduate field: Immunology

Major advisor: Dr. Judith Appleton

Thesis title: The significance of heavy-chain

antibodies in camelid immunity.

Current position: Postdoctoral Research Fellow,

Department of Microbiology & Immunology, Emory Vaccine Center,

Emory University School of Medicine,

Atlanta, GA

Bicknese Family Prize propels parvovirus research

Karin Hoelzer is the 2007 Bicknese Prize winner. As a member of Dr. Colin Parrish's lab, Hoelzer's research centers on understanding the emergence and evolution of canine parvovirus.

Prior to the 1970s, the ancestor of the parvovirus that we now know as canine parvovirus was found only among cats. Today canine parvovirus is found among dogs and relatives of dogs throughout the world, with slightly different forms of the virus appearing in different geographic regions.

Hoelzer used the Bicknese Prize to purchase a new computer, which has empowered her to collaborate more effectively with researchers from the Pennsylvania State University, and to conduct a series of analyses to investigate relationships between viruses.

The Bicknese Family Prize was established in 2005 by Dr. Joanne Bicknese, CALS '76, DVM '78, MS, ELS, as an annual award for research activities of a woman scientist-in-training; to provide support at a critical point in the trainee's academic development; and to help launch her into a successful career.

Dr. Bicknese, one of the Institute's most devoted and generous supporters, is a current member of the Institute's Advisory Council and served six years as chairperson during the Institute's 50th anniversary and the building of the new



wing. The fund honors
Dr. Bicknese's parents, Helen
and Louis Bicknese, and
her aunt and uncle, Grace
and Carl Bicknese. Hoelzer
was chosen in recognition
of her cumulative efforts,
excellent Institute citizenship,
and exemplary academic
performance.

Volunteer and Donor Highlights



Advisory Council member Dr. Peggy Reed dedicated to raising awareness



Hamburger in hems and strategic use of light: Dr. Margaret Reed easily shares some of the trade secrets that are part of her success as an award-winning animal trainer and behavior specialist.

Her passion for animals and their well-being dates back

to her childhood when she began showing dogs. But her professional life initially took her to Wall Street, where she was a financial analyst. When the stock market crashed in 1987, she found the silver lining and turned her personal passion for animals into a profession that keeps her mind engaged and her heart full. This duality is also at the root of her enthusiastic interest in the Baker Institute.

"The people and the brain trust constantly amaze me," says Dr. Reed, whose work has allowed her to partner with some of Hollywood's most prestigious production houses and meet top-name celebrities in film, television, theater, and politics. "My experience with the Baker Institute has been the most phenomenal of my life."

In addition to her work with Baker, Dr. Reed is a member of the John F. Kennedy Library Foundation's President's Council, and serves her community through several local organizations. In 2005, she was named Person of the Year for her work with search-and-rescue dogs.

Dr. Reed first learned of the Institute at the Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show six years ago when she visited the Institute's researchers in the hospitality box. Since then, she has committed herself to bringing national visibility to the Institute.

"More people need to know about Baker," says Dr. Reed, who became a member of the Institute's advisory board in 2006. "My role is to open doors for the Institute. I am often the bridge to animal-related events and can introduce Doug and the researchers to people who will be just as interested in the life-saving work being done at Baker as I am."

Remembering Taggerty: Gift of David Behnke and Paul Doherty

"The tragedy of God's plan is that dogs do not live as long as humans," says David Behnke. "It's difficult to lose them." When Behnke and his partner, Paul Doherty, suddenly lost Taggerty, their Gordon Setter, to cancer, they looked for an opportunity to find some good in the despair that colored the heart-wrenching outcome.

"Our dogs give so completely to us," says Behnke. "Anything we can do to help them lead long, great lives is important. The Baker Institute, as much as any research institution in the world, is utterly focused on the well-being and improvement of the health of dogs. Their history of vaccine breakthroughs, genetic research accomplishments, and a better understanding of diseases like hip dysplasia, speaks for itself."

Behnke and Doherty have supported the Baker Institute for more than twenty years, ever since a friend made a gift in memory of their former pet. Behnke explains that their commitment and involvement— Behnke is the vice chair of the Advisory Council—is based on the Institute's mission, its success, and its leadership.

"A gift to the Institute was the obvious choice when we wanted to memorialize Taggerty's life and the impact he had on our lives," says Behnke. To this end, a second-floor meeting room is named for Taggerty. The location, Behnke explained, is significant. Taggerty was the alpha dog in a two-dog pack. Tucker, an elevenyear-old Gordon Setter, is Taggerty's half-brother, the other member of the pack, and remains the "baby of the family." A first-floor meeting room, appropriately located below Taggerty's, is named in honor of Tucker.

When he's not advocating for the Baker Institute, Behnke runs a private equity firm in Connecticut, after having served twenty-two years as an investment banker in New York. An art advisory business is waiting in the wings, he says, explaining that he first needs to "retire and mean it."

Doherty is an actor, and has been cast in more than 100 commercials—including most recently for AARP and Southwest Airlines—and television series such as Law and Order, 30 Rock and The West Wing.

Glen of Imaal Terrier Club supports Acland Laboratory An eye on the prize: finding the genetic marker

Rosie was a typical Glen of Imaal terrier. She was smart, with a fire in her belly and an adoring passion for "her people." Unfortunately, she was also typical in one other way: Rosie had progressive retinal atrophy (PRA), a disease that stole her ability to see.

Research currently underway in Dr. Gregory Acland's lab at Cornell's Baker Institute for Animal Health is focused on understanding and ultimately preventing PRA, a hereditary condition. Using the canine genome, Dr. Acland is working to identify genes and mutations that lead to a significant number of hereditary eye diseases in dogs. His work will shed new light on the pathology and potential therapies for those disorders, and enable breeders to make informed choices. One of the goals of Dr. Acland's research is to develop genetic tests that can identify affected dogs, including those who carry the trait before they are bred.

"PRA is devastating to the breed and to their owners," says Maura High, Health Chairperson for the Glen of Imaal Terrier Club of America.

"Identifying the genetic marker for PRA will change their lives and keep the breed strong."

To support Dr. Acland's research, some sixty-three people—Glen club members and friends—have contributed more than \$15,000 since the December holidays. These resources are being put to use immediately, purchasing "chips" that Dr. Acland and his team are using to look for regions of the canine genome involved in inheritance of the form of PRA in Glen of Imaal Terriers.

"I have had three dogs diagnosed with PRA-more than the statistics suggest I should have had," says High, explaining that Dr. Acland diagnosed Rosie's condition at a gathering of approximately sixty Glen of Imaal owners several years ago. "I am meant to be where I am doing what I'm doing—monitoring health issues for Glens. I need to see it through to the end.

For more information on Dr. Acland's work, visit http:// bakerinstitute.vet.cornell.edu. To learn about the Glen of Imaal club, visit http://www.glens.org.

"PRA is devastating to the breed and to their owners," says Maura High, Health Chairperson for the Glen of Imaal Terrier Club of America. "Identifying the genetic marker for PRA will change their lives and keep the breed strong."

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Volunteer and Donor Highlights

Gift of Mary Jane and Robert Engman: Supporting the "unsung heroes"



Mr. Emerson

path to the Baker Institute for Animal Health, they say, is a series of "interesting accidents" that begin with a Boston Terrier whom the Engmans rescued one afternoon while driving through a busy traffic circle. The Engmans opened their car door and the

Bob and Mary Jane Engman's

young dog—who was dodging moving traffic—jumped in.

After an exhaustive search for his owners, the Engmans named him Mr. Emerson. The dog became a fixture at their company, Opto 22, even earning employee-of-the-month honors. Eventually, though, he aged and developed heart problems. The Engmans found a specialist, who leveraged science to add several quality years to his life. At the end, Mr. Emerson's veterinarian, Dr. Keith Richter of the Veterinary Specialty Hospital in San Diego, California, made a memorial contribution to the Baker Institute, and the Engmans were curious to know more about the work done there.

"We believe in the value of research," say the Engmans.
"Those doing it are often the 'unsung heroes' of life-changing developments. Science has made the world a better place for everyone, and it's important to us that science—research and discovery—thrives."

To this end, the Engmans support the Baker Institute for Animal Health, looking for opportunities to meet specific needs. Their gift of a confocal microscope means that Baker scientists can gather superior data—data that may be the key to improving the quality of life.

The confocal microscope will be utilized to investigate, at a very high magnification, where proteins are found within cells. Also, this tool will help to determine if different proteins associate with each other. Finally, the microscope can be used to determine whether specific protein levels are different between two different samples, such as a normal and diseased tissue. These types of experiments play a key role in understanding protein function at a basic level. Additionally, this en"We believe in the value of research," say the Engmans.
"Those doing it are often the 'unsung heroes' of life-changing developments.
Science has made the world a better place for everyone, and it's important to us that science—research and discovery—thrives."

hanced imaging capability will help to clarify how changes in the levels and localization of specific proteins can lead to various disease states in animals.

The Engmans chose to support the purchase of a confocal microscope after speaking with Dr. Doug Antczak, the Institute's director.

"It is difficult for us to know the greatest needs from afar," says Bob. "Our conversations with Doug make sure that our gifts are not going into a bureaucratic black hole. More than that, though, Doug's insights allow us to realize one of our personal goals: to be part of eliminating a little pain in the world."

Daversa Family Scholarship Fund: Supporting scientists-in-training



Rayne as a puppy

The resources to uncover an illusive fact: a piece of information with the power to link various other symptoms and point to a critical diagnosis. This is the power of learning, and it is the genesis of the Daversa Family Scholarship Fund. The fund was created to memorialize Rayne (pro-

nounced "ray nee"), a seven year-old German Shepherd who succumbed to a massive stroke in July 2007.

"We couldn't let her die in vain," says Maria Daversa. "We were a broken family, and we wanted something good to come of her passing."

Daversa and her husband, David Gulley, learned of the Baker Institute for Animal Health after receiving a note explaining that Rayne's vet had made a contribution in her name to the Institute. A voracious learner, Daversa began investigating and found that the Institute's mission—and specifically Director Doug Antczak's sensitivity for animals—matched her own sentiments.

After brief discussions, Daversa and Gulley decided to pay tribute to Rayne by creating an endowed scholarship at the Baker Institute to fund the pursuit of knowledge for scientists-in-training. The funds will be used for resources like books and other learning opportunities such as conference registrations and travel.

"Rayne received the best possible care," says Daversa, explaining that Rayne was being treated for hip dysplasia, arthritis, and colitis through July. "We kept attributing new symptoms to these issues. We had found no information

that suggested her symptoms could be signs of a neurological issue. The scholarship will help researchers bring new information to light— information that will help in the diagnosis and treatment of other family pets."

As with so many Institute donors, pets are more like family in the Daversa and Gulley household. Rayne was orphaned by her birth mother after just two days, and adopted by Daversa at six weeks. From then on, she was one of the family.

"Rayne wondered why she had fur and not thumbs," says Daversa. "Her personality was unique. She knew, for instance, that play meant two people interacting. When we threw the ball for her, she never dropped it at our feet. She threw it back."

Today, Daversa spends her free time playing ball with Delilah, a seven year-old German Shepherd whom she and Gulley adopted from the German Shepard Rescue of New England. Daversa discovered this organization after learning that donations were made in Rayne's memory.



Rayne as an adult

"We couldn't let her die in vain," says Maria Daversa. "We were a broken family, and we wanted something good to come of her passing."



Honor Roll of Giving

Partners in Progress: Private Support at the Baker Institute in 2007

Since its founding in 1950, the Baker Institute has depended upon donations from veterinarians and private individuals for much of the financial support that has made its practical research programs possible and successful.

The Baker Institute is also privileged to enjoy support from an extensive community of dedicated people who care deeply about animal health issues and the advancement of veterinary medicine. Such gifts are vital to the continued strength of the Institute's companion animal research programs.

The following pages highlight the generous spirit of the many supporters—individuals, veterinarians, kennel clubs, and corporate friends—who have demonstrated their concern for the health and welfare of our animal friends by supporting the work of scientists at the Baker Institute.

This report reflects gifts received from January 1–December 31, 2007. Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information in the Honor Roll of Giving. Please alert us to any discrepancies or omissions by contacting Laurie Lychalk at 607-256-5604 or lal16@cornell.edu.

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Many people learn of the Baker Institute when their veterinarian makes a gift to the Institute in memory of a pet that has passed away. We receive many wonderful letters from these pet owners telling us tales of their beloved pets, their antics, and their illnesses. These tribute gifts from the veterinarians, and also the pet owners, provide the muchneeded funds to support our very successful research programs. We are working hard so that all of our pets may live longer, more diseasefree lives.

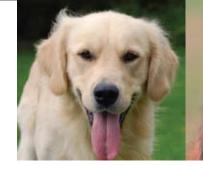
A complete listing of our participating veterinarians and clinics is on pages 44-46.

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Mr. and Mrs. Everett Johnson (in memory of Abby, Shatzie, Silkey, Morgan, Tigger and Chaps)

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Michael Johnson (in memory of Oliver)

Cameale Johnson

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Myrna Kampner (in memory of Heidi)

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Dear donors and friends.

I confess: I'm a confirmed animal lover, and have been since I was a wee thing. In one of the earliest photos of me that I can remember, there I was, hanging on to a Chihuahua that belonged to a relative, and clearly, I was in love with that dog. Fast forward forty-some years and nothing has changed. There are just a few more dogs (and a cat or two) jockeying for the best spot in my lap as we curl up on the sofa.

Since coming to the Baker Institute two years ago, I have fallen in love with this place, too. The devotion of the faculty to their research, the trainees, students and staff who support that research, and the donors who fund the good work being done here, truly make this a dream job.

It has been a real joy meeting and forging friendships with many fellow animal lovers at various events and dogs shows around the country, conversing on the phone, and receiving chatty emails that make my day.

The Institute has strong and loyal donors who care deeply about animal health. Your interest in our work, and support of our endeavors to improve the lives of animals, keeps us energized. For this and more, we are grateful to you. Nothing described in the pages of this report could be done without your help.

Thank you so very much.

Lynne S. Williams Director of Development and Public Affairs



Memorial Gift Program

We Extend Our Gratitude to Participating Veterinarians

Our success in discovering ways to improve animal health through research is dependent, in large measure, upon our association with practicing veterinarians who keep our faculty and staff aware of important issues in veterinary medicine. The Institute's Memorial Gift Program is a valuable vehicle for facilitating communications between the research environment and practice. New treatments and techniques—such as gene therapy, genetic testing, and counseling for inherited diseases—are advanced through support from this program.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to the following veterinarians and animal practices for their contributions to the Institute's Memorial Gift Program in 2007.

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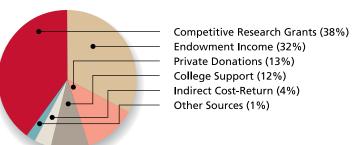
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Financial Summary 2007

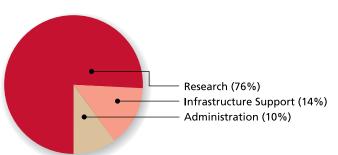
2007 Revenue



Revenue Summary

- Approximately 38% of our income comes from competitive research grants.
- Our endowment continues to grow and is invested in Cornell University's Long-Term Investment Pool.
- College support represents funds from the College of Veterinary Medicine for faculty salaries.
- Private donations are gifts from individuals, veterinary practices, kennel clubs, foundations and corporations.
- Indirect costs represent the non-research expenses associated with conducting research at Cornell.
- Other sources represent miscellaneous income, such as royalties.

2007 Expenses



Expense Summary

- More than 75% of our budget is directed towards our research programs, which allows us to be a leader in both basic and applied research for companion animals.
- Close to 20% of our research budget is used to enhance and complement our research programs funded by competitive research grants.
- We spend less than 25% of our budget on support costs such as building maintenance, utilities, administrative and public affairs staff and programs.

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The product of the Institute's work is the practical application of scientific investigation in the form of vaccines, genetic tests and reproductive studies to benefit animal populations.

Dear friends,

For the past fifty-eight years, the Baker Institute for Animal Health has held fast to a single, unwavering goal: to improve animal health through basic and applied research so that our beloved pets may live longer and healthier lives. It's that simple.

What began as a small cluster of buildings has grown into a research campus atop Ithaca's East Hill, where Institute scientists develop vaccines; study immunological diseases; design tests for genetically inherited disorders; and investigate animal reproduction for the benefit of present and future generations of companion animals.

Each decade of our nearly sixty year history has shown progress and promise. Cornell dedicated its "Research Laboratory for Diseases of Dogs" in 1951. A main laboratory and administration building followed quickly, in 1953. Later years brought the Adele S. Colgate Tissue Culture Laboratory (1960); microbiology wing (1968); and monoclonal antibody laboratory (1979). More recent years have seen the completion of the Albert C. Bostwick Laboratories (1988 and 2003); the establishment of the Center for Canine Genetics and Reproduction (1992); and the opening of new "West Wing" laboratories in 2002.

The expansion of buildings and laboratories under the Baker Institute umbrella affords one measure of the value, relevance, and growth of our collective investment in the mission of the Institute. But far more important are the faculty and students working in those structures, and the ideas that germinate within the laboratory walls. The product of the Institute's work is the practical application of scientific investigation in the form of vaccines, genetic tests and reproductive studies to benefit animal populations.

As early as 1959 and 1960, Baker Institute scientists achieved an unprecedented 98.8 percent success rate with a dual vaccine for canine distemper and hepatitis. Later, in the 1970s, Institute virologists Max Appel and L. E. Carmichael perfected a modified live-virus vaccine for canine parvovirus that is still in use to this day. Genetics, of course, presents a new frontier of medical discovery, and Baker Institute scientists are at the forefront of the exploration. Benchmarks to date include identifying the atomic structure of feline panleukopenia virus; the first ever cloning of horse histocompatibility genes; in vitro gene therapy to correct disease in retinal cells of dogs; as well as the mapping of the horse genome.

Our history is momentous. Our future is vast. As the Institute celebrates its fifty-eighth year, we extend our thanks to all of you who enable this good work.

Richard Henry, DVM Advisory Council Chair

Buchard & Henry

David Behnke Advisory Council Vice Chair



Faculty, Staff and Student Directory

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Research Units

Infectious Diseases & Immunology

Albert C. Bostwick **Laboratory of Molecular Biology: Canine and Feline Parvoviruses**

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The Albert C. Bostwick **Foundation Laboratory:** Canine Hip Dysplasia and Osteoarthritis

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