

December 2008

Issue 86

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Dr. Rikihisa Awarded NIH Grant to Study Tick-borne Agents



Dr. Yasuko Rikihisa

There are a variety of infectious agents transmitted by ticks that cause illnesses in animals and people. Several of these have become significant problems and are clinically very difficult to diagnosis for physicians and veterinarians. Two recently discovered infectious agents, *Anaplasma phagocytophilum* and *Ehrlichia chafeensis* are the focus of a new competitive NIH R01 grant renewal of Dr. Yasuko Rikihisa, Professor in the Department of Veterinary Biosciences. Both of these agents are spread to humans by ticks and cause severe disease. Tick-borne illnesses are caused by a variety of infectious agents, including rickettsia, bacteria, viruses, and protozoa. Dr. Rikihisa is a world recognized expert who seeks to understand how Anaplasma and Ehrlichia species grow inside the host and how they escape from immunity direct against these agents. Her research has compared the gene sequences of these agents and identified three pairs of proteins that 1) help sense the environment (i.e., know if it is inside of the tick or inside of the human), and 2) enable the agent to secrete substances that change the defensive function of the host cells that it infects thus making it possible for them to grow and cause disease. Understanding these proteins and the processes with which they are involved provide potential targets for treatment and prevention of tick-borne illnesses in humans. For more further information see: <http://www.cdc.gov/ticks/diseases/>

Dr. Boyaka Awarded NIH Grant to Study Improved Vaccine Approaches to Respiratory Pathogens



Dr. Prosper Boyaka

The nasopharyngeal tract is a major portal entry of debilitating and potentially lethal pathogens including *Bacillus anthracis* and influenza virus. Understanding and developing vaccines capable of promoting immune responses against respiratory pathogens are important goals of Dr. Prosper Boyaka, Associate Professor in the Department of Veterinary Biosciences. He was recently awarded a competitive renewal of his NIH R01 grant. His previous work focused on defining a mouse model of nasal-associated lymphoreticular tissues using cholera toxin and novel derivatives to circumvent adverse reactions. A major and unexpected finding during the course of his studies was the development of various *Bacillus anthracis* proteins that enhanced mucosal and systemic immunity. His newly funded grant will extend his laboratories work to test nasal-based vaccine approaches against respiratory pathogens that avoid adverse effects often associated with nasal application of enterotoxins. For more information about mucosal immunity see: <http://www.nature.com/nri/focus/mucosal/index.html>

Dr. Lairmore President-elect of American College of Veterinary Pathologists



Dr. Michael Lairmore

The American College of Veterinary Pathologists (ACVP) has elected Dr. Michael D. Lairmore as Vice President/President-elect. The ACVP has more than 1,500 members in 17 countries. Dr. Lairmore will be responsible for helping implement the organization’s strategic plan. Dr. Lairmore is the Chair of the Department of Veterinary Biosciences and Associate Director for Basic Sciences at the OSU Comprehensive Cancer Center. He has contributed more than 160 peer-reviewed publications and is an Associate Editor for *Retrovirology*, and an editorial board member for the journal *Virology* and *The Journal of Virology*. In 2004, Dr. Lairmore received the Distinguished Scholar Award from Ohio State and is a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Sciences. Earlier this year he received the American Cancer Society’s Hero of Hope Award.



Award Recipients from the Department of Veterinary Biosciences at the American College of Veterinary Pathologists and

American Society of Veterinary Clinical Pathology Annual Meetings, San Antonio, Texas, November 15-19, 2008.

Harold W. Casey Scholarship Award: This award recognizes and rewards one outstanding individual who is training in pathology and is striving to achieve American College of Veterinary Pathologist board certification. The DVM award winner must have completed a minimum of two years in a pathology training position in a North American pathology training program and be supervised by a Diplomate of the ACVP. The award winner will exhibit high motivation and academic excellence in undergraduate veterinary and graduate courses and have as a primary goal the attainment of ACVP Diplomate status. In addition, the individual should be committed to leadership, scholarship, and service in the veterinary profession.

OSU Harold W. Casey Award Winner - Gillian Beamer

Christopher T. Starost Memorial Oncology Scholarship: These scholarships are presented to candidates who have demonstrated outstanding written and verbal skills through a poster presentation at the ACVP Annual Meeting. The poster must deal with an aspect of oncological research that can be translated into human cancer pathogenesis, prevention, treatment and/or diagnosis.

OSU Starost Award Recipients

1st Place - Aaron M. Sargeant

2nd Place - Tzu-yin (Cindy) Lin

Young Investigator Awards: This ACVP awards program recognizes quality poster presentations by veterinary pathology residents and PhD candidates. Individuals eligible for this competition must be veterinarians currently enrolled in a residency or graduate program in veterinary pathology. The poster must present original work of the competitor completed during the period of residency or graduate training and competitor should be listed as the first author.

OSU Young Investigator Award Recipients and Categories

Experimental Pathology

1st Place - Chelsea Martin

3rd Place - Jennifer McCleese

Toxicologic Pathology

3rd Place - Tzu-Yin (Cindy) Lin

The **Charles Louis Davis, D.V.M. Foundation** is the largest organization in the world composed of individuals who are engaged in the formal or informal study, practice or teaching of Avian, Aquatic, Comparative, Veterinary, Wildlife and Zoological Pathology or Related Scientific Disciplines. **The Foundation conducts an annual awards reception** for outstanding students and educators in the field of veterinary pathology. The awards reception is held at the Annual Meeting of the American College of Veterinary Pathologists.

OSU C.L. Davis Award Recipient

Mary Carsillo

Graduate Student/Resident Travel Awards: Recipients will be awarded a grant to help defray costs associated with attending the ACVP Annual Meeting. Submission of a poster or platform presentation at the Annual Meeting is required. Nominees must currently be enrolled in a full-time veterinary pathology residency program and/or graduate program in veterinary pathology or a related discipline in the U.S. or Canada, and have a demonstrated interest in ACVP board certification.

OSU Travel Award Winners

Gillian Beamer
Chelsea Martin
Jennifer McCleese
Laurie M. Millward
Tzu-yin Lin
Aaron Sargeant

Announcements

Offices closed: Christmas Day, Thursday, December 25 and **President's Day** (observed) Friday, December 26

The College of Veterinary Medicine will host a **Faculty/Staff Wellness Fair** on **Wednesday, December 17**, from 10:00-2:00pm in Veterinary Teaching Hospital Cafeteria.

Upcoming events sponsored by the Social subcommittee of the Quality of Life committee:

Winter ornament exchange

How does it work? Make or buy an ornament (\$5 limit) to decorate our department tree. Our tree will be in the Goss 2nd floor lobby on **Dec. 1st**. The deadline to decorate our tree is **12pm on Dec. 12th**. Be sure to sign up when you leave your ornament so we know who is participating. We will be bringing the ornaments to the department party for the "Yankee" exchange. You will only get an ornament if you bring an ornament so get creative - make a snowflake out of pipette tips or a virus particle out of a petri dish. Once the tree is up be sure to stop by and check out all the ornaments.

Holiday Treats Contest

On Wednesday, **December 10th** the Social Subcommittee of the VBS Quality of Life Committee will be hosting our weekly coffee break. We invite YOU to make a dozen or more of your favorite **Holiday Treats** to be entered into a **Tasting Contest!!** All yummie treats should be brought down to the Goss break area by 2:30pm. Please make sure your name is on your treat! Judging will then take place and all are welcome to share as usual from 3:00-3:30pm. The winner will receive FAME and FORTUNE! (i.e., be announced at our annual Holiday Party on Friday and receive a \$10 gift card!) Be creative and/or share your culture. The more the merrier! For more information on these activities please contact: Sarah Leavell, Chelsea Martin, Mary Carsillo, or Anne Saulsbery.

Faculty and Staff Assistance Program offers online video to assist with stress and financial pressures

The University Faculty and Staff Assistance Program (UFSAP) offers two online videos to help OSU faculty and staff manage the stress and financial pressures. Visit <http://www.osumhcs.com/UFSAP/> to view the 13-minute "Walk, Talk & Breathe: Learning to Manage Stress in Difficult Times" and the 23-minute "Relieving Financial Stress." For further assistance in these and other areas, contact UFSAP at 292-4472 or (800) 678-6265 for a free, confidential meeting with a staff counselor.

2008 Hidden Benefits Fair will be held at the French Field House on **December 10th** from 11am-1pm. The University Staff Advisory Committee will showcase the many services and discounts available to university staff. Admission is free & parking for all university permit holders in French Field House lot. For more information: <http://usac.osu.edu/events/events.php>

Your Plan for Health Registration and PIN Update

If you have not yet registered on the new Your Plan for Health website, please note the following changes. To register on the new website, you should have received your eight-digit PIN in the mail at the end of October. The Office of Human Resources has been aware that some individuals have misplaced or lost their PIN letter preventing them from registering to the site. As a result, we have requested that WebMD reissue these PINS and provide them via email. The PIN number will only be released to an individual's OSU email address that is supplied to WebMD on the eligibility file. Within the next several days, you will be receiving a message from YP4H-WebMD personalhealth@webmd.com. This email will contain your personal PIN to be used for registering on YourPlanForHealth.com. The PIN is required only at the time of initial registration; you will then be requested to establish a user name and password to be used for logging into the site in the future. For additional information please contact Office of Human Resources Customer Service at 614-292-1050 or email yourplanforhealth@hr.osu.edu.

Wellness Tip: Feeling Blue?

During the winter months, many feel glum over the cold weather and lack of sunshine. SAD, or seasonal affective disorder, occurs when symptoms become more serious such as little energy craving carbohydrates, overeating and severe depression. The exact causes are unknown, but it's believed to correlate with the amount of sunlight one receives. Some tips to consider are: plan a getaway to a warmer climate, go outdoors during the winter months, and to get more vitamin D in your diet. For more information: <http://www.mayoclinic.com/health/seasonal-affective-disorder/DS00195>

Selected Recent Grants/Publications/Presentations/Awards/Appointments:

In a book entitled "Nanoscience and Nanotechnology" released this month (Wiley), **Dr. John Long** is a co-author of a 30 page chapter, entitled "Biological Activity of Mineral Fibers and Carbon Particulates: Implications for Nanoparticle Toxicity and the Role of Surface Chemistry". The authors of the chapter are Dr. Prabir Dutta, Chair of the Department of Chemistry, Dr. Long, and Dr. Marshall Williams and Dr. James Waldman, both of the College of Medicine and Public Health, O.S.U.

Surender Barotra has received a Young Investigator award from the selection committee for the Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections (CROI). This peer-reviewed award includes free registration and airline transportation to the meeting in Montreal, Canada, in February 2009.

Amit Sharma has received a travel grant to present at the major international HIV Symposium. For more information, click to <http://antiviralresistance.org/>

Wei Jing passed the candidacy exam and **Cheryl Bolinger** defended her dissertation: both are/were students in Dr. Boris-Lawrie's laboratory.

Lisa Berman-Booty has been selected as a 2008-2009 Jules B. LaPidus Fellow in addition to being honored with a Dean's Distinguished University Fellowship.



Staff Profile: Chris Frasure is a Laboratory Instructor/Instructional Laboratory Supervisor in Veterinary Anatomy. He is a teaching team member in Canine, Equine and Food Animal Anatomy professional veterinary courses. He also coordinates business operations of the anatomy lab including supply ordering and specimen preservation. He graduated in 1998 from Ohio University with a B.S. in Biological Sciences. Chris was a Department Distinguished Staff Award recipient. He enjoys spending time with his 4 ½ month old daughter (Madilynn) and playing golf. Thank you for all your contributions to the Department Chris!