Where are they now?
Rani S. Sellers, DVM, PhD, DACVP

Dr. Sellers graduated from Dr. Thomas Rosol’s lab in 2001 and she is now an Associate Professor at Albert Einstein College of Medicine in the Department of Pathology.

What is your current job? I have an appointment in the Department of Pathology at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine, but my primary job is as the Director of the Einstein Cancer Center’s Histology and Comparative Pathology Facility. My principal responsibility is to collaborate with primary investigators and their graduate students/post-docs in animal model study design and in the interpretation of necropsy, histology and/or immunohistochemistry findings. I also do a great deal of basic pathology training (necropsy, tissue handling, fixation, immunohistochemistry and IHC troubleshooting, basic histology, etc.). Because I enjoy teaching, I am very pleased that my department has encouraged my involvement in teaching medical and graduate students (not only medical school courses, but also seminars) and has supported me in the development of a course on genetically engineered mice which starts this spring.

How did you get this position? The veterinary pathology world is a small one! I worked with Steven Brunnert for a year at a small company in which nearly everyone was laid off. Steve then went to Einstein to do the job that I now have. When he decided to take a position at a Pharmaceutical company, he telephoned me (I was working at a pharmaceutical company at the time) and asked me if I might be interested in interviewing for his position. After much internal debate (What is this going to do to my career? What if I hate it?), I made the leap—and have not looked back.

Did you always want this type of position? If not, what changed your mind? Although up until now all of my post-residency jobs were in the pharmaceutical industry, my interest has always been in the direction of basic research and animal models of disease. I have also always enjoyed teaching, so in this position I am able to do that as well.

Do you enjoy what you do? Why? I love what I do—I enjoy the intellectual component of my work as well as the interactions with students, post-docs, and PIs. This job also allows me the freedom and time to do committee work with the ACVP and STP. In addition, an academic position allows greater flexibility in my schedule, which as a parent has become increasingly important.

Do you have any advice for current students looking for a job similar to yours? I would recommend that anyone looking to go into research academics first start somewhere in which there are other experienced veterinary pathologists on staff. Otherwise, I would suggest getting a few years of experience in lab animal histology somewhere; this could be in a contract lab, pharmaceutical company, or any other place where you would see a lot of normal background or common lesions and where you could learn from others with lab animal experience.

How does your graduate training play a part in your everyday work life? What is your favorite memory from being in graduate school? My research training has been important to my present (and past) job(s) on many levels. Clearly, a good understanding of science and scientific methods is extremely valuable when dealing with researchers. Not only can you connect the information between the molecular data and the animal data (and make those connections for the researcher), but you can also contribute through your ability to search and understand the scientific literature. In addition, having a PhD equalizes, to some extent, the scientific playing field with the PIs and allows for more dynamic discussions of their research.

Do you have any funny stories about being a VBS student that you would like to share? Just a word of advice: do not use 100% EtOH when flaming instruments in the hood. If you happen to do such a foolish thing, be sure the 100% EtOH is not in a plastic beaker, as I have heard that they melt when they come into contact with intense heat. Not that I have any firsthand experience with such a thing……

Would you mind sharing your email so that students can contact you for advice or questions? rsellers@aecom.yu.edu

Find yourself wondering “where are they now?” Email suggestions to werbeck.1@osu.edu!

Have you checked out the new GSA website? http://vet.osu.edu/GSA-homepage.htm
Questions or Comments for the Grad BIOS newsletter? Email Jillian Werbeck.1@osu.edu!

GSA Announcements!

- Happy New Year!!

- Thank you to everyone who contributed pictures for the VBS Holiday party “skit”. We appreciate your trust, and thank you to everyone for having such a good sense of humor!!

  Also- thank you to the members of the skit committee: Rashade Haynes, Chelsea Martin, Lyn Wancket, and Jillian Werbeck

- We are still determined to organize a career day in 2009! Want to help? Email: Grieves.6@osu.edu

Average Time Spent Composing One E-mail

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Professors: 1.3 seconds</th>
<th>Grad Students: 1.3 days</th>
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| Yes. (send) Do it. (send) See attached. (send) | Dear (?) Prof. Smith, I was wondering if perhaps you might have possibly gotten the chance to potentially find the time to maybe look over my draft paper that I am attached to (in case), I am sure you have any questions or things you don’t want.
| No. (send) |

Graduate student tip of the month:

Increase your productivity in 2009

Look at your calendar for 2009 and set your goals now!

Remember to include things such as meetings you want to attend, seminars, and projected end dates for your projects.

News from the Council of Graduate Studies (CGS):

Our official advocate for graduate student needs

The Ray Travel Award Winter deadline is approaching fast!!! We have had students from our department win in the past and it is a great experience to get feedback on your research!

Deadline: January 30, 2009

For more info go to: http://cgs.osu.edu/

Other useful websites!

- Best places to work as a postdoc 2008: http://www.the-scientist.com/supplementary/flash/54374/top35.html
- Survival guide for graduate students: http://www.cs.columbia.edu/~nieh/teaching/gradguide/
- Predoctoral fellowships: http://main.uab.edu/Sites/gradschool/students/current/43710/
- Ohio Union activities page: http://www.ohiounion.osu.edu/default.asp

Do you have quality of life-related questions or suggestions?
Email our QoL VBS student representatives: Chelsea Martin.1468 or Jillian Werbeck.1

Questions or Comments for the Grad BIOS newsletter? Email Jillian Werbeck.1@osu.edu!