

BIOS

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DEPARTMENT OF VETERINARY BIOSCIENCES

May 2020

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A Note from the Department Chair, Dr. Stefan Niewiesk



**Stefan Niewiesk, DVM,
PhD, Dipl ECLAM**

Dear Alumni and Friends of the Department of Veterinary Biosciences,

I would like to announce a change in the leadership of the Department of Veterinary Biosciences. I have decided to return to the faculty ranks and Dr. Prosper Boyaka will serve as Interim Chair beginning July 1, 2020. Dr. Boyaka is a Professor of Immunology and joined the department in 2006. He is leading a very successful research group and is eminently suited to guide the department as its chair.

I would like to thank our faculty and college leadership for the opportunity to serve as chair of VBS. Over the last 3½ years, the department has been on an upward trajectory. We have recruited two clinical faculty, thus extending and improving our pathology program, as well as four tenure-track faculty to further our research enterprise in infectious diseases and cancer. Understandably, the current pandemic has hindered our continued recruitment efforts and programmatic development; however, I take heart from the way our faculty have responded. Like many of you, The Ohio State University has had to navigate unprecedented waters during the COVID-19 pandemic. With a large swath of employees and faculty required to telework for the safety of their community and their families, the Department of Veterinary Biosciences has found meaningful ways to contribute: many research faculty have dedicated their labs to COVID-19 work during this time, collaborating with the OSU and global research community to help combat the virus. Teaching faculty and staff have created innovative solutions for online instruction to ensure that students do not miss out on their education, and our clinical work supports the ongoing emergency and curbside operation of the Veterinary Medical Center. Everyone in the department has demonstrated their willingness to help and to move the mission of the university, the college, and the department forward in creative and inventive ways. We understand that for the foreseeable future, this virus will be part of our lives, but we hope to continue working toward a safer post-pandemic world.



Prosper Boyaka, PhD

All the best to you and your loved ones, **Stefan.**

Faculty Promotions

We are pleased to announce the promotion of **Dr. Estelle Cormet-Boyaka** to Professor in 2020.

Grants



Dr. Ian Davis was awarded IDI's Fall 2019 Interdisciplinary seed grant: "Impact of influenza A virus infection in human alveolar type II epithelial cell phospholipid metabolism."

Dr. Prosper Boyaka received an R01 from NIH to target myeloid cells for regulation of alum-based immunity. **Drs. Estelle Cormet-Boyaka** and **Jianrong Li** are co-investigators.

Dr. Yasuko Rikihisa received an R01 from NIH: "Keys to prevent iron hijacking and infection by intracellular bacteria." **Dr. M. Lin** is co-investigator.

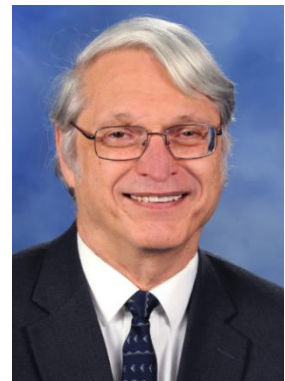
Dr. Rachel Cianciolo was awarded a grant from the AKC Health Foundation for a study titled, "Characterization of Renal Disease in Greyhound Dogs." **Dr. Jessica Hokamp** will serve as co-investigator.

COVID-19 Grants: **Drs. Prosper Boyaka, Estelle Cormet-Boyaka, Jianrong Li, Shan-Lu Liu, and Amit Sharma** are supported by the OSU Office of Research for their SARS-2 research.

Awards

Dr. Jerry Masty received the 2019 Association of American Veterinary Medicine Colleges (AAVMC) Distinguished Veterinary Teacher Award, which designates him as the outstanding veterinary medical educator of the year in the United States. He was given the award during a luncheon presentation at the AAVMC national conference in Washington, DC. You may view the video created for the occasion [here](#).

The AAVMC Distinguished Veterinary Teacher Award, presented by Zoetis, is considered one of the most prestigious teaching awards in international academic veterinary medicine. It recognizes excellence in professional veterinary medical education and is presented to an educator whose sustained record of teaching excellence and ability, dedication, character and leadership has contributed significantly to the advancement of the profession.



Visiting Scholar

The Department of Veterinary Biosciences welcomes Dr. Yuri Carvalho from the Universidade Federal do Acre – Centro de Ciências Biológicas e da Natureza - Medicina Veterinária, in Brazil. He is visiting **Dr. Nongnuch Inpanbutr** (anatomy) for one year. Dr. Carvalho is interested in online teaching modalities, including the generation of videos for anatomy teaching.

Graduates & Residents

Dr. Ching Yang, a trainee in the Combined Anatomic Pathology Residency/PhD Program and member of Dr. Chris Montgomery's laboratory serves as co-investigator and was instrumental in the development of an intramural Canine Grant awarded to Dr. Wendy Lorch, entitled "A pilot study on the role of *Staphylococcus pseudointermedius* toxins and virulence regulators in canine pyoderma".

Graduates & Residents (contd.)

Dr. Jennifer Geisler, a trainee in the Combined Anatomic Pathology Residency/PhD Program has been awarded the Genentech Veterinary Pathology Fellowship for her research proposal entitled “PDFGR β in Cataractogenesis” to be conducted in the laboratories of Drs. Heather Chandler and Gina Sizemore.

Midwest Virology Symposium

Dr. Shan-Lu Liu co-organized the inaugural Midwest Virology Symposium from October 11-13, 2019 with Dr. Jacob Yount and support from the Infectious Disease Institute. The final number of registered participants for this meeting was approximately 250 and included faculty, postdocs, graduate students, staff scientists, and undergraduate students from more than 30 institutions. We were pleased to see participation and scientific exchange from such a wide geographical array of institutions from the Midwest and beyond.

Pathology Retreat in December

The one-day, facilitated retreat on December 13, 2019 was held at the Fawcett Center on the OSU campus. It provided an opportunity for veterinary pathology faculty to reflect on the OSU veterinary pathology program, and discuss a number of topics, including the Combined Pathology Residency/PhD Program. New initiatives were developed in respect to behavioral interviewing and professional development, which will be implemented over the course of 2020.

In the News

With research efforts on campus dedicated to COVID-19 this spring, the following faculty and their work were highlighted in various news outlets:

Dr. Ian Davis: *A small coronavirus breakthrough could aid in the search for a vaccine*

Dr. Jianrong Li: (1) *Exposing a virus's hiding place reveals new potential vaccine;*
(2) *Novel COVID-19 vaccine approach development*

Dr. Shan-Lu Liu: (1) *New virus in China requires international control effort;* (2) *The history of COVID-19 and the virus that causes it;* (3) *One step closer to realizing neutralizing antibody therapies*

Dr. Michael Oglesbee: (1) *Predicting coronavirus cases, deaths is tricky but models improving, experts say;*
(2) *Ohio institutions among those working hard to create vaccine and treatments for coronavirus*



Publications

Faculty in the department have published numerous journal articles as authors and co-authors. For a detailed list, please click [here](#).

Alumni Activities

While sheltering in place during the COVID-19 Pandemic, a virtual reunion for alumni of the Combined Pathology Residency/PhD Program was coordinated by Dr. Famke Aeffner and attended by upwards of 25 alumni on April 21, 2020.

