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Issue 126
STORIES TODAY

1. Dr. Yasuko Rikihisa Elected to the Nat’l Academy of Sciences
2. VBS Highlights for May
3. Staff Feature: Hua Niu
4. Announcements
5. Wellness News: May is National Stroke Awareness Month

Dr. Yasuko Rikihisa Elected to the National Academy of Sciences

Dr. Yasuko Rikihisa has been elected to the National Academy of Sciences (NAS), one of the most prestigious honors an American scholar can receive. Dr. Rikihisa specializes in the study of tick-borne diseases that infect food and fiber-producing animals, companion animals, and humans. Her research focuses on understanding how unique bacterial pathogens Ehrlichia, Anaplasma, and Neorickettsia can infect and thrive within primary host defensive white blood cells and cause potentially fatal emerging infectious diseases. Her findings suggest that these bacteria use proteins directly secreted into the host cell cytoplasm to manipulate immune-system cells in animal and human hosts, effectively creating safe havens until they can build up enough strength and numbers to cause dangerous diseases.

A member of Ohio State’s faculty since 1986, Dr. Rikihisa was named the university’s 2011 Innovator of the Year by the Office of Research in recognition of her record of translational research and commercialization activities. She is also a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and of the American Academy of Microbiology. She received the Ohio State Distinguished Scholar Award in 1999 and is an investigator in Ohio State’s Center for Microbial Interface Biology, the PHPID program, the Molecular, Cellular and Developmental Biology program, and the Comprehensive Cancer Center.
Members are elected to the National Academy of Sciences in recognition of their distinguished and continuing achievements in original research. The NAS is a private, nonprofit society engaged in scientific and engineering research and dedicated to the use of science and technology for the public good.

For more of Dr. Rikihisa story, go to: http://researchnews.osu.edu/archive/NAS2012.htm

VBS HIGHLIGHTS FOR MAY:

Publications:


Travel Awards:

On April 27, 2012, Dr. Famke Aeffner, a member of Dr. Ian Davis’ lab, was awarded the PHPID travel award for best student poster presentation at the 2012 Public Health Preparedness for Infectious Diseases (PHPID) Annual Member Meeting. Her poster was entitled “Pulmonary adenosine signaling in CD73- and ADORA-k.o. mice infected with H1N1 influenza.”

Dr. Aeffner also received a Society of Toxicologic Pathology (STP) Student Travel Award to attend for the 2012 Annual Symposium which will take place
June 24-28 2012, in Boston, MA. At the meeting, she will present a poster showcasing her recent research work.

Dr. Peng Wang of Dr. Xin Li’s lab also won a poster award (in the postdoctoral category) at the PHPID annual meeting for his poster entitled, “A Novel Copper-and Iron-Binding Protein in the Lyme Disease Spirochete.”

Meaghan Glowacki, a second year veterinary medicine student, presented a poster at the PHPID meeting and at the college research day where she won an award on April 12th. Her poster was entitled “Emergence of the Lyme Disease Vector and Agent in Ohio.” Her mentor is Dr. Xin Li.

Recognition:

Mellissa Hicks passed her candidacy on May 1st. Her committee consists of Dr. Jim DeWille (Advisor), Dr. Bill Kisseberth, Dr. Michael Ostrowski, and Dr. Denis Guttridge.

Staff Feature: Hua Niu

Hua Niu is a Postdoctoral Researcher in Dr. Yasuko Rikihisa’s lab. He received his B.S. from Anhui University, his M.S. from Beijing Institute of Microbiology and Epidemiology, and he is currently pursuing his PhD at OSU. After graduation, he plans to continue his research on the type IV secretion system of Anaplasma phagocytophilum, the etiological agent of human granulocytic anaplasmosis. During his free time, Hua likes playing ping pong and soccer. Welcome Hua to the VBS Family!

Announcements:

2012 Operation Feed through May 18

This annual community-wide food drive to help feed homeless and low-income residents in central Ohio is held on the Columbus campus. Operation Feed is sponsored by the Mid-Ohio Foodbank and helps collect critically needed, non-perishable food for distribution to hundreds of food pantries and soup kitchens throughout 20 central Ohio counties. All food and money donated is used to provide nutritious meals for children, senior citizens, and families who need assistance during the year.
May is National Stroke Awareness Month

May is National Stroke Awareness Month. A stroke or a “brain attack” occurs when the blood supply to the brain is cut-off, either due to a blood clot or blockage or because of rupture of a blood vessel supplying a part of the brain. The part of the brain deprived of blood, begins to die and lose function. This in-turn results in loss of higher functions, such as speech, movement and memory. Stroke is the 3rd leading cause of death in America and the leading cause of adult disability. Most Americans do not treat stroke as an emergency and many are unaware of the symptoms. To learn more of the signs and symptoms of stroke, go to: http://www.cdc.gov/Features/Stroke/

For comments or suggestions for our newsletter, please contact Ms. Elizabeth Hope, Program Assistant at hope.18@osu.edu Department of Veterinary Biosciences.