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Dr. Li Wu receives NIH award

Dr. Li Wu has received a four-year R01 award from the NIH in a total amount of $1,515,725 to investigate the mechanisms of HIV-1 restriction in dendritic cells (DCs). Immune activation is the driving force of HIV-1 replication, which facilitates viral infection in target cells and fundamentally contributes to AIDS pathogenesis. Myeloid cells, including monocytes, DCs and macrophages, play a critical role in innate immunity against viral infection. Dr. Wu’s long-term goal is to define the mechanisms regulating immune activation of myeloid cells during HIV-1 infection. SAMHD1 is an HIV-1 restriction factor in myeloid cells and has been proposed to act as a negative regulator of the interferon response. In this project, Dr. Wu and his colleagues aim to study the mechanisms of SAMHD1-mediated HIV-1 restriction in DCs and the role of SAMHD1 in regulating immune activation of DCs. These studies will provide new insights into intrinsic immunity against HIV-1 infection in myeloid DCs, which can help develop novel interventions to block HIV-1 infection and transmission.

Dr. Aeffner Receives Merial Research Award for Graduate Veterinarians  
Dr. Famiie Aeffner is completing a combined anatomic pathology residency/PhD graduate program and has been awarded the Merial Research Award for Graduate Veterinarians. This national award recognizes the scientific merit of the individual’s research, the quality of the submitted manuscript, outstanding participation in scientific meetings, committees and other research related activities, and the strength of the supporting recommendations.
Dr. Aeffner is a member of Dr. Ian Davis’ laboratory in the Department of Veterinary Biosciences. Her research aims at closing a significant therapeutic gap in the treatment of influenza patients with respiratory failure, developing new techniques in the field of lung function analysis in the mouse and redefining the mouse model of ARDS due to influenza infection in order to identify new drug targets and test candidate compounds. The ultimate goal is to save human lives by developing new drugs that prevent respiratory failure. In addition to an honorarium, Famke has been invited to present her research at the Merial NIH National Veterinary Scholars Symposium.

Faculty Promoted
Congratulations to Drs. Cheryl London and Stefan Niewiesk on their promotions to full professor from associate professor. Dr. London, DVM, PhD Diplomate ACVIM (Oncology) is holds the Thekla R. and Donald B. Shackelford Professorship in Canine Medicine. Her research includes the use of spontaneous tumors in dogs and cats as models for human cancer, investigation of kinase dysfunction in animal tumors, mouse models of Kit dysregulation, cellular biology, molecular oncology, and mast cell disorders. Dr. Niewiesk, DVM, PhD Diplomate of the European College of Laboratory Animal Medicine (ECLAM) studies immune modulation by measles virus and vaccination in the presence of maternal antibodies, vaccination against respiratory syncytial virus, pathogenesis of human parainfluenza virus infection, and animal model development and humanized mice as animal models for infectious diseases and cancer).

New Residents Join Department

Rebecca Kohnken—Rebecca Kohnken, first year resident in the combined anatomic pathology program attended the University of Rochester for undergraduate studies in biochemistry with a minor in religion. As a student at the veterinary school at the University of Wisconsin- Madison, she became interested in pathology and began attending talks, meetings, and planning fourth year externships.

Nina Ziter—Nina Ziter is a first year resident studying clinical pathology. She is from Waunakee, WI and completed her undergraduate studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in Biology and Spanish with Comprehensive Honors. Dr. Ziter graduated from veterinary school at the University of Wisconsin and is a member of Phi Beta Kappa, Phi Kappa Phi, and Phi Zeta honor societies. The topics of her previous research experiences include neurodegenerative diseases, canine osteoarthritis and orthopedic diseases, and immune-based hematologic disorders.
Faculty Retirement Reception

Veterinary Biosciences held a reception to honor the careers of retiring faculty members Charles Brooks, Lyn Olson, Paul Stromberg, and Mamoru Yamaguchi. VBS Chair Michael Oglesbee and CVM Dean Lonnie King lauded their collective achievements and contributions. Combined, these faculty have contributed over 100 years of teaching, research, and administrative experience. Dr. Brooks is a past recipient of both the Graduate Faculty Teaching Award as well as the Dean’s Award for Creative Teaching. Dr. Olson was key to the successful conversion to semesters and will return as an emeritus faculty to assist with the AVMA accreditation site visit later this year. Dr. Stromberg, in addition to playing a central role training veterinary pathologists, has helped maintain the high international visibility of the program, having been invited to speak in 35 countries on five continents. Dr. Stromberg will return to continue his contributions in pathology instruction for professional degree students, graduate students, and residents. Dr. Yamaguchi’s expertise in electron microscopy is matched by his dedication to supporting research: he established the Mitsugi Satow-Rakuno Gakuen Scholastic Endowment Fund. The fund provides stipends to support joint research and scholastic programs involving scientists and students from The Ohio State University and the Rakuno Gakuen University.

Dr. Rosol in Japan

Dr. Thomas Rosol presented five invited lectures in Japan during the last week of May that included three lectures on the use of information technology for professional education of veterinary students and research at the University of Tokyo (flagship university and veterinary college in Japan), a research lecture on dog and cat cancer models at the International Bone and Mineral Society in Kobe, and reproductive pathology of food animals at the National Institute of Animal Health (USDA Animal Research Service equivalent) in Tsukuba. Jennifer Simmons, Director of the CVM Office of Educational Information Technology, and her staff were instrumental in preparing the lecture on the use of technology for professional education as conducted in our college.
Publications:


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