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Oncology Section of VHUP

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Dr. Urs Giger was presented the Scientific Achievement Award by the World Small Animal Veterinary Association at the organization’s meeting in Granada, Spain in October. The award is given annually to an outstanding veterinary researcher for his/her lifetime scientific contributions to the health of small animals. Dr. Giger, the Charlotte Newton Sheppard Professor of Medicine and chief of the Section of Medical Genetics at the School, has a strong research program in hereditary blood and metabolic diseases. His group has identified a number of hereditary diseases in dogs and cats, developed many diagnostic hematologic, biochemical and molecular tests for hereditary disorders which are offered through the Josephine Deubler Genetic Disease Testing Laboratory. He also received scholarships from the Pennsylvania Agricultural Society awarded a scholarship to Victoria Achenbach, V’03 was awarded the Ginnie Leiblein Memorial Scholarship. Darah Resh, V’03 received the Lalitta Nash Maiga Foundation Scholarship. The Barnstable County Agricultural Society awarded a scholarship to Kate Johnson, V’03. Mary Kwacz, V’03 is the recipient of the Union County Kennel Club scholarship.

Todd Brooks, V’03 and Erik Herrema, V’03 received scholarships from the Pennsylvania Veterinary Foundation as did the following members of the Class of ’04: Jill Compton, Josh Eaton, Caitlin Heinz and Laura Javsicas. Holly Edwards, Megan Manfredi, Regina Pellegrin and Erin Wright, all members of the Class of ’04, each received a Ethel H. Mitchell Dean’s Scholarship.

Dr. Ronald Harty, assistant professor of microbiology, was awarded an NIH Grant from NIAID to study the role of the VP24 matrix protein of Ebola Virus. Dr. Bruce Freedman, V’87, assistant professor of pathobiology, is co-principal investigator on this grant. Dr. Harty was an invited speaker at Louisiana State University Medical Center to give a seminar on the functions of Ebola virus matrix proteins.

Dr. Fabio Del Piero, assistant professor of pathobiology, presented an invited lecture about West Nile flavivirus at the University of Barcelona, Spain. He lectured at the University of Turin, Italy, on West Nile flavivirus, bovine and equine herpesviruses. He presented a lecture about infectious diseases of horses at the European Section of the Charles Louis Davis Foundation for the Advancement of Veterinary Pathology. At the annual meeting of the European Society of Veterinary Pathology in Turin, he presented three abstracts at the annual meeting of the about infectious and neoplastic diseases of equids.

Dr. Edward Pearce, associate professor of parasitology, was honored by the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene with the 2002 Bailey K. Ashford Medal. This award is presented to a scientist who has made important scientific contributions to the field of tropical medicine.

Dr. Adrian R. Morrison, professor of behavioral neuroscience, spent two weeks in November in Jos, Nigeria with the World Health Mission. He taught and consulted at the Jos Medical School and Teaching Hospital. He was honored by being appointed by a tribal chief as Sarkin Yaki (war chief) of Butura for the war on illiteracy in Africa.

The Oncology Section of VHUP attended the 22nd annual conference of the Veterinary Cancer Society and presented the following research abstracts:

1) Magnetic resonance imaging of canine splenic and hepatic lesions: A pilot study. C.A. Clifford; C. Weisse; E.S. Siegelman; J.R. Solomon; K.U. Sorenmo and E.S. Pretorius. Department of Clinical Studies, Veterinary Teaching Hospital and Department of Radiology, Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania. (Won the resident presentation for clinical research).

2) Case-Control study of Hormonal Influences on the development of feline mammary gland carcinoma. B. Overley, D. Sherer, F. Shofer, M. Goldschmidt and K. Sorenmo. Departments of Clinical Studies and Pathobiology, School of Veterinary Medicine, University of Pennsylvania.

3) Clinical Characteristics of mammary carcinoma in the male feline. K. Skorupski, B. Overley, F. Shofer, M. Goldschmidt, K. Sorenmo. Department of Clinical Studies and Pathobiology of the School of Veterinary Medicine of the University of Pennsylvania. (for publication only)

4) Immunohistochemical characterization and correlation with neuter status/time, treatment response and outcome in canine prostatic carcinoma. K. Sorenmo, M. Goldschmidt, C. Goldkamp and F. Shofer. Departments of Clinical Studies and Pathobiology of the School of Veterinary medicine of the University of Pennsylvania. (poster)

5) Cross-immunoreactivity of goat anti-human angiogenin antibodies with canine serum haptoglobin. D. Narvaez, C. Clifford, K. Sorenmo, C.M. Otto, T. Melgarejo. University of Pennsylvania, School of Veterinary Medicine, Kansas State University, Comparative Alimentary Tract laboratory. (poster)