Rosettes & Ribbons: Some Recent Accomplishments of Note by Faculty and Staff

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Dr. Christopher Hunter, assistant professor of parasitology, received two large five-year research grants from NIH for his projects “Immunopathogenesis of Toxoplasmic Encephalitis” and “of NF-kappaB in resistance to Toxoplasma gondii.”

Dr. Margret Casal, assistant professor of medical genetics, has become a Founding Diplomate of the European College of Animal Reproduction. Dr. Casal received a grant from the University’s Research Foundation for “Fetal Immunity to In Utero Transplanted Murine Fetal Hematopoietic Cells.”

Dr. Gerhard Schad, professor of parasitology, and Dr. James Lok, associate professor of parasitology, spoke at the Keystone Conference in Taos, N.M. in January.

Dr. Eric Birk, assistant professor of sports medicine, received a grant from Pulmonox, Inc.

Dr. Corinne Sweeney, professor of medicine, and Dr. Jill Beech, V’72, professor of medicine, spoke at the meeting of the Finnish Veterinary Association of Specialized Practitioners (Equine) in Turku, Finland in March.

Dr. Leslie King, associate professor of critical care medicine, received the 2001 American College of Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care Achievement Award for “Advances in Ventilator Management of Acute Lung Injury.” Dr. King spoke at the ACVECC Postgraduate course in conjunction with the Society of Critical Care Medicine 30th Educational and Scientific Symposium, in February in San Francisco, Calif.

Dr. Patricia McManus, V’80, assistant professor of clinical pathology, Dr. Linden Craig, assistant professor of anatomic pathology, presented papers at the American College of Veterinary Pathologist meeting in Amelia Island, Fla. in December.

Dr. Fabio Del Piero, assistant professor of pathology, was an invited speaker at the meeting of the American Society of Theriogenology in December. He participated in a panel discussion on abortion and stillbirths and presented a talk. Dr. Del Piero was an invited speaker at the American College of Veterinary Pathologists meeting in Amelia Island, Fla. in December. In January he delivered four invited lectures at the international meeting of SIVE (Italian Association of Equine Practitioners) in Salsomaggiore, Italy.

Dr. Pamela Wilkins, assistant professor of medicine and reproduction gave two talks at the same meeting.

Dr. Gail Smith, V’74, professor of surgery, and chairman, Department of Clinical Studies, Philadelphia, was the Yarborough Honored Lecturer at the Sports Medicine Symposium, held in January in Orlando, Fla.

Dr. Ronald Harty, assistant professor of microbiology, received a grant from the University of Pennsylvania Research Foundation entitled “Functional Analysis of the VP24 Protein of Ebola Virus.”

Dr. Kathy Michel, assistant professor of nutrition, received a grant fromRalston Purina to investigate the role of diet in the management of feline diabetes. In February Dr. Michel gave a day-long continuing education course for the Vermont Veterinary Medical Association.

Dr. Karen Rosenthal, director of VHUP’s special species clinic, was elected president of the Association of Exotic Animal Veterinarians and she was re-appointed Chairperson of the Small Mammal Program at The North American Veterinary Conference. Dr. Rosenthal spoke on birds and small mammals at the BSAVA meeting in Birmingham, England in April.

Dr. Bernd Driessen, assistant professor of anesthesiology, together with his collaborators from the University of California Medical School, presented abstracts on blood substitute research at the American Society of Anesthesiologists’ Annual Meeting, San Francisco, Calif. in October, the 8th International Symposium on Blood Substitutes, San Diego, Calif., in November, and the 54th Postgraduate Assembly Meeting of The New York State Society of Anesthesiologists, New York City, N.Y., in December. He also presented abstracts at the 75th Clinical and Scientific Congress of the International Anesthesia Research Society, Fort Lauderdale, Fla. in March and at the Association of Veterinarian Anesthesiologists’ Spring 2001 Conference, Upsala, Sweden in May. Dr. Driessen was elected a Diplomate of the European College of Veterinary Pharmacology and Toxicology.

Dr. Regina Turner, assistant professor of reproduction, received a grant from the Mellon Reproductive Biology Centers Program to study proteins of the sperm flagellum and their potential roles in male fertility. Dr. Turner reported the results of some of her work at the Havemeyer Workshop on Advanced Current Topics in Stallion Veterinary Practice in Krakow, Poland in September and at the Third International Symposium on Stallion Reproduction in Fort Collins, Colo. in January.

The School was well represented at the meeting of Veterinary Orthopedic Surgeons, held at Lake Louise, Canada. Drs. Garrett Davis, Amy Kapatkin, Philip Mayhew, David Puerto, Gail Smith and Susan Volk presented abstracts.

Drs. Shelley Rankin and Helen Aceto attended the National Antimicrobial Resistance Monitoring System’s (NARMS) annual scientific meeting in Rockville Maryland and made two presentations; “Quinolone/Fluroquinoline resistance in veterinary isolates of Salmonella enterica” and “Characterization of multiple drug resistant Salmonella Newport strains.”

Dr. James D. Ferguson, V’81, associate professor of nutrition and Dr. David T. Galligan, V’81, associate professor of animal health worked in collaboration with Consorzio Ricerca Filiera Lattiero Casearia on Reproductive Efficiency and Milk Production in Ragusa, Italy during February and March. Dr. Galligan participated in teaching the international post-graduate course on Animal Health Economics in New Zealand. He presented an invited paper at the 2000 Animal Dairy Science Meeting, Baltimore, Md. on Economics of A-typical Milk Production.

Dr. Donald Munro, project director of the Salmonella Reference Center, presented the serotyping and phage typing portion of the NPIP (National Poultry Improvement Plan) course held annually at the Georgia Poultry Laboratories in Oakwood, Ga. in March.

Dr. Charles Benson, professor of microbiology, received the first Egg Nutrition Center/ American Egg Board grant in Food Safety. The study entitled Salmonella enterica serovar Enteritidis (SE) concentration in shell eggs in the United States as determined by time and Temperature” is a collaborative study between Drs. Benson and Munro with Dr. Tom Humphrey of the Bristol School of Veterinary Medicine.

Dr. Adrian Morrison, professor of behavioral neuroscience, served as a faculty member recently in a course on sleep medicine for
Italian physicians in Bertinoro, Italy. His lecture was titled “Meccanismi del Controllo Motore nel Sonno.” Last September he participated in a symposium, “Sleep Medicine on the Eve of the Third Millennium” in Bologna, Italy.

Dr. Karen Overall, V’83, lecturer in behavior, gave presentations to and participated in workshops at the California Narcotic Canine Association meetings in Burbank in January. In February she gave talks to the Connecticut Veterinary Medical Association and participated as a presenter at the Veterinary Post-Graduate Institute course in Phoenix, Ariz.

Dr. Shelley Rankin, research assistant professor in microbiology, received a two-year grant from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Agriculture to study “PCR Detection of Listeria monocytogenes in ruminants.” Dr Fabio Del Piero is a co-investigator. Dr. Rankin gave a presentation at the PADLS Spring Diagnostic Conference in April on “Multiple Drug resistant Salmonella Newport strains in Pennsylvania”.

Dr. Ina Dobrinski, assistant professor of large animal reproduction, received a grant from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture: “Improving Fertility of Preserved Bovine and Porcine Semen,” and a grant from the NIH/NICHD: “Identification of Stem Cell Markers in Mammalian Testes.” Dr. Dobrinski gave an invited talk earlier this year at the California Regional Primate Center, Davis, Calif.

Dr. Andrei Thomas-Tikhonenko, assistant professor of pathology, received funding from the University of Pennsylvania Cancer Center for the project “Infection-mediated suppression of tumor vascularization and growth.” It draws on the recent discovery by Drs. Andrei Thomas-Tikhonenko and Christopher Hunter that acute infection with Toxoplasma gondii leads to suppression of tumor angiogenesis and precludes neoplastic growth. This study, which is of potential therapeutic significance, has been recently accepted for publication in the Cutting Edge section of the Journal of Immunology.

Dr. Robert Whitlock, associate professor of medicine, has been awarded a two-year research grant to develop a PCR based assay for Johne’s Disease in Alpacas by the Alpaca Research Foundation in Kallisbell, Mont. Dr. Whitlock received funds from B-D BioSciences and Land-O-Lakes Foods to conduct an international survey of culture methods for Johne’s Disease in 30 countries. This is first ever international survey to compare the diagnostic techniques for Johne’s Disease among the leading diagnostic laboratories in the world. Dr. Whitlock recently presented several lectures on Johne’s Disease to the Veterinary Medical Association annual meeting in Indianapolis in January.

The University’s Research Foundation awarded grants to: Dr. Michael Atchison, professor of biochemistry, Dr. Gary Smith, professor of population biology and epidemiology, Dr. Francis Luca, assistant professor of physiology, and Dr. Quin Yu, assistant professor of pathobiology. James Kehler, V’02, was named a 2000 Morris Animal Foundation Fellow. Each year students are nominated by principal investigators for their devotion and contributions to the advancement of veterinary medicine through animal health studies. James was nominated by Dr. Paula Henthorn, associate professor of medical genetics.

Dr. Sue Kimmel, resident in medicine, received a grant from the IAMS Company and placed third in the 2000 Eukanuba Veterinary Diets®/BASFCase Report Competition for Residents. The grants are awarded to eight veterinary residents for completing outstanding research studies or clinical reports that demonstrate the role of nutrition in managing common diseases affecting dogs and cats.