



## Spring Alumni Council Meeting 2014

### *Department Reports*

*Infectious Diseases and Pathology*

*Large Animal Clinical Sciences*

*Physiological Sciences*

*Small Animal Clinical Sciences*

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**Department of Infectious Diseases and Pathology  
Report to the Alumni Council  
Spring 2014**

**Awards and honors.....**

Graduate students Chung-Hsin Fan, mentored by Dr. Ayalew Mergia, and Hongbin (Vicky) Wang, mentored by Dr. David Pascual, were recognized for their academic achievement at the UF International Center's International Student Awards Ceremony on November 21, 2013.

Former Anatomic Pathology resident, Dr. Francesco Origgi, received the 2013 C.L. Davis Foundation Journal Award, given in recognition of the article judged best in content, significance and illustration in the preceding year issue of Veterinary Pathology. Dr. Origgi completed his residency in anatomic pathology in 2009 and is currently a wildlife pathologist at the University of Bern, Switzerland.

Former ID&P graduate student, Dr. Melissa Bourgeois, recently completed the ACVM Board Examination in Immunology, and is now board certified in both immunology and virology. Dr. Bourgeois received her DVM degree from UF in 2007, and completed her PhD, under the direction of Dr. Maureen Long, in 2010. She is now employed by Merck & Co.

Department staff members Kia Hendrix (Office Assistant) and Debbie Couch (Administrative Assistant) were recipients of 2014 Division 5 (Health Science Center) Superior Accomplishment Awards.

**Department faculty and staff news .....**

Dr. Julia Conway, Clinical Assistant Professor of Pathology, was named Veterinary Medical Admissions Director for the University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine, in November, and will primarily focus on admissions and recruitment.

Dr. Serena Craft, who completed her pathology residency at the UFCVM, and received her board certification from the American College of Veterinary Pathologists in 2013, has been appointed as a Clinical Instructor to assist with teaching and service responsibilities.

The department welcomes Dr. Raluca Rusovici, who has accepted a postdoctoral appointment with Dr. David Pascual. Dr. Michael Gotesman, Postdoctoral Associate, and Mr. Patrick Thompson, Biological Scientist, have joined Dr. Tom Waltzek's laboratory and Ms. Alexandria Voigt is a new Biological Scientist working with Dr. Cuong Nguyen.

**Research news .....**

Dr. Yaima Lightfoot, a postdoctoral associate in Dr. Mansour Mohamadzadeh's lab, has received a Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award (NRSA) Postdoctoral Fellowship (F32) in the amount of \$159,328, from the National Institutes of Health. F32 fellowships provide up to three years of support for promising postdoctoral researchers who have the potential to become productive, independent investigators within the broad scope of biomedical, behavioral, or

clinical research. Dr. Lightfoot's research project will center on rebalancing intestinal pathogenic inflammation in colon cancer with a novel *L. acidophilus* strain.

Research recently conducted in Dr. Tony Barbet's lab, and reported in two articles appearing in the journal *Pathogens*, details the first time scientists have demonstrated the ability to distinguish human from animal strains of a debilitating tick-borne disease, known as anaplasmosis, in ticks carrying the organism. Since the disease became reportable, the number of anaplasmosis cases compiled by the CDC from state health departments has increased steadily, from 348 cases in 2000 to 1,761 cases in 2010. Although the fatality rate has remained at less than 1 percent, the disease can be difficult to diagnose in humans, as its symptoms closely resemble other diseases, such as influenza and Lyme disease. "The problem that we have worked on is that the organism causing the disease is present in many domestic animals, wildlife, rodents and ticks worldwide, but not all strains infect humans," said Tony Barbet. "We have been analyzing the organism's genome structure to try to work out ways to differentiate the strains that are causing human disease from other strains infecting ruminants, horses and other animals." The researchers in the Barbet lab found that the strains infecting humans in the United States were very similar to one another and to the strains infecting dogs in the US, but were different from strains infecting ruminants and horses. They also discovered that a simple DNA-based test could help identify and differentiate the strains, assisting scientists in pinpointing geographical areas where ticks carrying these strains are present in large numbers. This could potentially enhance screening for the disease agent, providing earlier treatment of human patients and dogs with suspected infections. The study was supported by a grant from the National Institutes of Health under award number RO1GM081714.

**Department of Large Animal Clinical Sciences**  
**Carlos Risco, Chair**  
**Spring 2014**

**Service and Faculty Updates**

**Aquatic Animal Health**

Aquatic Animal Health recently hired Ashley Barratclough as a Fellow to collaborate on research with Lowry Park Zoo. Ashley will also work towards receiving her Master's Degree.

**Anesthesia**

Dr. Shih and the Anesthesia service recently hosted a regional pain management lab which accommodated 30 MD's and 25 DVM's.

**FARMS**

Dr. Judd Sims, Intern, was invited to attend the Western Veterinary Conference in Las Vegas, with all expenses paid.

**Medicine**

Dr. Chris Sanchez recently received the University of Florida Superior Accomplishment Award.

Congratulations to Dr. Louise Husted, Resident, for passing the ACVIM- LA Specialty Exam. Upon completion of her Residency in July she will receive Diplomate status.

Dr. Robert MacKay has recently been awarded a grant by the Grayson-Jockey Club Research Foundation. The focus of this research is a sometimes fatal side effect of drugs now being used to successfully treat pneumonia in foals. The research team will also include Drs. Chris Sanchez, Martha Mallicote, and Amy Stieler.

**Reproduction**

Drs. Macpherson, Pozor and McNaughten were asked to speak at the International Symposium on Equine Reproduction held in New Zealand in January.

**Surgery**

Dr. Murray Brown has collaborated on three abstracts that will be presented at the Osteoarthritis Research Society International in Paris. Surgery resident, Dr. Andrew Smith, will also present an abstract that he and Dr. Brown worked on at this prestigious meeting.

## **Department Updates**

The Department is still in the process of searching for two large animal surgeons. We have hosted four strong candidates in the past few months.

The Department is currently performing a search for a tenure track position for Dairy Cattle Health and Well Being at the rank of Assistant or Associate Professor. This position will work closely with Animal Sciences, as well as the College of Veterinary Medicine.

Graduate students, Jaime Grijalval and Natalia Martinez were recognized for their academic achievements at the International Student Awards Ceremony at UF in November.

Jaime Grijalval successfully defended his Master's thesis.

## **Upcoming Event**

The Equine Sports Performance Arena is nearing completion.

RDVM Day is scheduled for June 21, 2014. Registration information can be found at <http://reg.conferences.dce.ufl.edu/rdvm>.

Department of Physiological Sciences Report to the Alumni Council  
Spring, 2014

Department faculty and staff news.....

Dr. Tom Wronski received the 2012-2013 UF CVM Teacher of the Year Award. Dr. Wronski has been an outstanding member of the UF CVM faculty since August 1983 and has taught Gross Anatomy to 30 classes of freshman veterinary students.

Drs. Tom Wronski and Roger Reep will retire this fall after long service to UF. Dr. Wronski has been a mainstay of our anatomy teaching program, as described above. Dr. Reep has taught both neurobiology and embryology for many years, and has also been among the best teachers in the department. The department wishes them well as they embark on new chapters in their lives, and we will miss them.

The department is conducting searches for a gross anatomist and neurobiologist/embryologist in the spring of 2014, and we anticipate having these new faculty members on board by the start of the new academic year in August, 2014.

Dr. Chris Martyniuk joined the department as an Assistant Professor in Toxicology in January, 2014. Dr. Martyniuk was an Associate Professor at the University of New Brunswick in Canada before coming to UF, but this is a homecoming of sorts for him in that he previously worked in the department as a postdoctoral fellow for Dr. Nancy Denslow.

Dr. Ignacio Aguirre, a Research Assistant Professor in the department, passed his board exams in Lab Animal Medicine on his first try.

Amy Weeden, a resident in Clinical Pathology, is the recipient of the Share the Future Research Award for 2014 from the American Society of Veterinary Clinical Pathologists.

In the CVM Fall Faculty Research Grant Competition Awards for 2013, the department had three recipients (Denslow, Hayward, Cooke).

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## **Report to Alumni Council April 12, 2014**

### **Small Animal Clinical Sciences Department**

Rowan J. Milner, B.V.Sc., M.Med.Vet., PhD, Associate Professor and Chair

Happy Spring 2014 to all and I hope you all enjoy our annual Open House!

As I mentioned in my Fall 2013 report, I am glad to report to you that we finalized two pending offers in late November hiring two new clinical faculty.

Our first new hire since my last report to you is Dr. Simon Swift, who arrives at the end of this month and fills the vacancy in our Cardiology service as a Clinical Associate Professor. Dr. Swift comes to us from the United Kingdom's Northwest Surgeons, a private referral hospital where he has been the head of their cardiology service since 2009.

Next was the hire of Dr. Jose Zilberschtein, who arrives July 1 and fills the vacancy in our Integrative Medicine service as a Clinical Assistant Professor. Dr. Zilberschtein comes to us from Murcia University's Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital in Murcia, Spain where he has been associated since 1997.

Since the beginning of 2014, our department has been deeply involved in a number of faculty searches. Many candidates have already interviewed and many more are scheduled to be here in the next few months.

One search is for a Radiation Oncologist to replace Dr. Kubicek, who leaves at the end of April for a position closer to her family in Boston. Two candidates have interviewed with us so far. Another search is for a neurologist to replace Dr. Tom Schubert, who retires July 25. Three candidates have interviewed with us in February and March. Next we have hosted four candidates for a vacancy in our ophthalmology service. The committees for each of these searches will be meeting in the coming days and giving me their recommendations.

In addition, we will be initiating searches in our Diagnostic Imaging service to replace Dr. Dan VanderHart who is leaving in June and in our Dermatology service to fill a new position caused by a pending appointment for Dr. Rosanna Marsella with the College of Medicine to pursue collaborative research. We will need the additional position to fill the gap in clinical service due to her change of duties to focus on research rather than clinical service.

I want to explain to you that Dr. Marsella is an honored and distinguished leader in the field of veterinary dermatology in the American College of Veterinary Dermatology (ACVD), the American Academy of Veterinary Dermatology (AAVD) and the European Society of Veterinary Dermatology (ESVD). Just one example is the fact that she was selected for the ACVD Award of Excellence at their 2012 World Congress. The Award of Excellence is the highest award within her specialty worldwide. Dr. Marsella's allergy research has gone extremely well during the past few years and is blossoming since 2013 due to increased collaboration with the UF

College of Medicine and biomedical companies. I find truly exciting what is happening with her research and collaborations to the point that I foresee our dermatology services becoming known as the best in the world for their innovative and collaborative research.

These are very exciting times for dermatology at UF due to Dr. Marsella's leadership in her field, her prolific publications and increased and consistent external funding.

We also had some exciting times for our surgery service at the World Veterinary Orthopaedic Congress (WVOC) held in Colorado in early March. This is an international conference held only once every four years. I am very proud to brag about our department's strong presence at this conference. Dr. Stephen Jones, resident/graduate student in small animal surgery, received a Mark Bloomberg award for his abstract on stifle kinematics. This is both prestigious and very competitive, and the award covered the costs of travel and lodging for the meeting. He gave a flawless presentation, and subsequently won the 'best podium presentation' amongst a strong pool of fellow Bloomberg awardees. Erica Moore, DVM student class of 2015, won the 'best clinical research poster' for work accomplished during the Merial Summer Student program. She was competing amongst over 60 other poster submissions by students, interns, residents and faculty from over 25 different countries! UF was very well represented in this session, with great posters from Brittany Dan (small animal intern) and Giovanni Tremolada (former UF orthopaedic research fellow). Our surgery graduate student, Dr. Selena Tinga and our orthopaedic research fellow, Dr. Scott Christopher gave excellent podium presentations on their research in cruciate disease and total hip replacement, respectively.

Our faculty members, Dr. Antonio Pozzi and Dr. Stan Kim gave invited talks in scientific sessions and panel discussions throughout the WVOC meeting, and Dr. Kim moderated the 'state of the art in stifle surgery' session. Dr. Scott Banks, a courtesy professor in our department and a professor at UF's Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering, delivered two invited talks and I'm told completely won over the veterinary crowd. We feel very fortunate to have him collaborating with and contributing to our surgery service. Dr. Banks' contributions were essential for most of our surgery service's research presented at this meeting. And very importantly, I want to congratulate Dr. Pozzi in being the driving force behind organizing one of the best veterinary meetings in recent memory. As scientific chair he put in countless hours during the past two years helping construct the program. UF, CVM and our department is justifiably proud of these accomplishments!

During this Spring, I have attended the second workshop for Fellows of the Southeastern Conference Academic Consortium (SECAC) Academic Leadership Development Program (ALDP). This workshop was located at the University of South Carolina in February. I am really excited to have the opportunity as a Fellow to participate in this program and came away with even greater respect for the work we do here at UF. We are the top leader in the SEC, no doubt about it.

In late March, I attended the annual Department Heads and Hospital Director's meeting in Atlanta. These meetings are always a good opportunity for collaboration and learning best practices. Topics mostly focused on maintaining a vibrant and competitive veterinary teaching



hospital. Dr. Zimmel spoke at the meeting on the hot topic of satellite hospitals, such as our UF Pet Emergency Treatment Clinic in Ocala. Her meeting topic was “Exploring an innovative model to start a Satellite Hospital” which was of great interest to attendees at the meeting.

I continue to meet weekly with the hospital’s chief of staff, Dr. Dana Zimmel, as I sincerely believe these weekly meetings help foster an atmosphere that promotes the continuation of high quality clinical service to the nearly 25,000+ small animal patients that are treated annually at UF and their referring veterinarians.

Our department looks forward to providing our referring veterinarians, clients, and patients with the highest standard of service as represented by the pinwheel below.

