

Disease researchers merge in Manhattan

Dr. Jürgen Richt hosts international symposium on emerging infectious diseases



Dr. Jürgen Richt addresses conference attendees from around the world.

K-State and the CVM are taking new steps to establish our campus as a global player in human and animal health research. Dr. Jürgen Richt, the recently appointed Regents Distinguished Professor of Diagnostic Medicine/Pathobiology and Kansas Bioscience Authority Eminent Scholar, organized and hosted an international symposium on campus with several big names in infectious disease research.

The two-day conference, “Emerging Infections: A Tribute to the One Medicine, One Health Concept,” was held Nov. 13 and 14. The first night featured an overflow crowd at the International Grains Program Executive Conference Center, where researchers gave compelling presentations on the latest breakthroughs and research on bird and Spanish flu, dengue, Crimean-Congo Haemorrhagic Fever, Ebola and SARS.

One such researcher, Dr. Robert Webster, St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, Memphis, Tenn., detailed the emergence and response to H5N1 avian

influenza in Asia and explained its potential to insidiously spread throughout other parts of the world and the animal and human health crises that could result.

“Our focus is on presenting great science and we are able to do that by organizing a first-class conference with the help of many sponsors,” Dr. Richt said. “Especially important was the help from companies and organizations within the Greater Kansas City Animal Health Corridor, especially the Kansas Bioscience Authority and Heartland BioAgro Consortium.”

Attendance for the conference was free and many of the speakers volunteered their time and travel to be at the conference. More than 150 guests turned out from North America, Europe, Asia and the Middle East, and more than 30 topics were presented in five workshops.

“Most conferences are lucky to have half a dozen keynote speakers, but we had the equivalence of 30,” Dr. Richt said.

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Breaking News:

NBAF heads to Manhattan

On Dec. 3, news came out that the Department of Homeland Security will indicate Manhattan and K-State as its top choice to be the new home of the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility (NBAF). Kansas put forth an aggressive cost share proposal to allow the Department of Homeland Security to accelerate research to protect the American food supply and agriculture economy.

K-State has more than 150 of its own faculty and staff active in the food safety and animal health arenas. Since 1999, K-State has dedicated more than \$70 million to related research. K-State’s expertise in animal health has a huge impact on human health as well.

In addition to the expertise offered by Dr. Jürgen Richt (in the accompanying story), K-State also claims nationally prominent medical defense researchers and veterinarians Drs. Jerry Jaax and Nancy Jaax. Dr. Jerry Jaax is K-State’s associate vice president for research compliance and university veterinarian; Dr. Nancy Jaax is program director for food safety and security. They were key participants in dealing with the 1989 Reston Ebola outbreak.

NBAF will be located adjacent to the K-State campus, bringing hundreds of new animal health researchers into Manhattan. Completion of construction and occupancy is expected by 2015.

Tinsel returns to KSDS for training

Dr. Patricia Payne has a soft spot for service dogs. Dr. Payne raises puppies for KSDS, and Tinsel, her third puppy, recently returned to KSDS for training. Tinsel, a tall, athletic, mature Labrador retriever, first came to Dr. Payne as an eight-week-old, rambunctious, 10-pound pup. Dr. Payne has taken Tinsel everywhere with her, exposing him to as many different situations as possible, including traffic, elevators, crowds and cars in preparation for a life of loyal service.

On Nov. 25, Dr. Payne took Tinsel back to KSDS in Washington, Kan., where he met up with his litter mates: Jingle, Kringle, Sleigh, Yule, Elf, Mistletoe and Holly. Over the next few weeks, Tinsel and his litter mates will be evaluated for personality traits and suitability for training. They will come to the VMTH for eye certification and Orthopedic Foundation test for Animals (OFA) radiographs, services the CVM

provides to KSDS dogs free of charge.

Once the dogs pass the personality and medical evaluations, they will be assigned to either the guide or service program. The dogs will be with certified trainers for six months before being placed with their "forever partner." Dr. Payne will receive a letter from KSDS about the test results and which program Tinsel is assigned to. If Tinsel does not pass his tests, she will pick him up, and they will start on his new career path. If he does pass, she will receive a letter about his graduation as part of a working team.

"I deeply appreciate everyone's help and support with Tinsel's training," Dr. Payne said. "Tinsel has been a challenge to train as a pup, but he is ready to go on and see what else he can do. I have faith that he will do well in training and will be able to enhance someone's life with his joyous spirit and his ability to serve."



Dr. Patricia Payne and Tinsel

Specialized alpaca training available online

The CVM recently received a \$20,000 gift from the Mid-America Alpaca Foundation to create the world's first Web-based continuing education program focused exclusively on llamas

and alpacas.

"Growing interest in camelids and the emergence of 6,000 alpaca farms nationwide has prompted the need for veterinarians to broaden their expertise in working with these valuable animals," said Dr. David Anderson, professor and head of agricultural practices and program co-creator.

This "virtual training" program will allow veterinarians from anywhere in the world, at any time of the day or night, to gain access to critical training information at their leisure or in times of crisis. Veterinarians often cannot afford to spend critical time and resources attending in-depth continuing education programs dedicated to one species.

Dr. Meredyth Jones, assistant

professor and coordinator of the Alpacas on Campus program, said demand is high for this information.

"We receive phone calls daily from practicing veterinarians needing the latest information available in camelid medicine and surgery," Dr. Jones said. "We very much enjoy this interaction with practitioners and see this as another way to serve them."

Drs. Anderson and Jones are collaborating with Dr. Dusty Nagy at the University of Missouri and Dr. Melanie Boileau at Oklahoma State University, internal medicine experts who share an interest in veterinary education and alpaca health issues.

More information about this program is available online by visiting K-State's Veterinary Medical continuing education office at www.vet.ksu.edu/CE.



Dr. David Anderson and Dr. Meredyth Jones work with Kent Nelson (seated), editing video content for the online training program.

Dr. Carpenter comes full circle in Argentina

Three was the magic number for Dr. James Carpenter in mid-November. Calling themselves the “Three Amigos,” Dr. Carpenter joined two colleagues in presenting their third conference on zoological medicine in Latin America.

This year’s conference was held at the Buenos Aires Zoological Park in Argentina, and attracted 185 veterinarians and veterinary students from nine countries: Mexico, Panama, Chile, Venezuela, Ecuador, Uruguay, Colombia, Brazil and Argentina. The other presenters were Dr. Kay Backus from the Tulsa Zoo, and Dr. Roberto Aguilar, formerly of the Phoenix Zoo. Two years ago, the three amigos presented a conference in Guadalajara, Mexico, and last year in

Medellin, Colombia.

The first three days in Buenos Aires were spent as a didactic conference with a wet lab offered to a smaller, select group of 24 veterinarians on the fourth day. Dr. Aguilar, who was raised in Mexico, provided simultaneous translations from English to Spanish.

During the conference, Dr. Carpenter was invited to visit an Andean condor facility at the Buenos Aires Zoo.

“I was told that much of what the biologists are doing at this facility is based on work I did with Andean condors when I worked with the Endangered Species Research Program at the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center (in Laurel, Md.), so it was a matter of coming full circle,” Dr. Carpenter said.



“That was such a coincidence — our conference was held in the same country and same zoo where these folks had been doing work for 10 years on the capture, propagation and release of Andean condors. I was excited to find out research I had done previously was making an impact on an endangered species in South America.”

While in Argentina, Dr. Carpenter went on a two-day tour of the Patagonia region and spotted local wildlife including guanacos (camelids), Magellan penguins, rheas, elephant seals and right whales off the coast.

In 2010, Dr. Carpenter and his colleagues will hold a similar conference in Chile.



By Carol Elmore

The Veterinary Medical Library has been an exciting place lately. Halloween festivities were combined with the annual book and media sale coordinated by Cindy Logan, assistant professor and manager of DISC Services. Many people came to see our decorations and purchase books and other items at the event called “Boo...ktacular.” We have previously held our sale

Check it Out at the Library

‘Boo...ktacular’ events a success!

around Valentine’s Day but have changed to the late October/early November date.

Besides the library itself being decorated, many of the library staff wore decorations. We had a black and orange day, get dressed in the dark day, couch potato day, K-State and crazy or bad hair day and costume day.

Despite all of the time people spent looking at our decorations such as the caged pirate, weirdly costumed figures, and large spider webs, they were also seriously

shopping at our sale. Many waited for our 50 percent off reduction during the first week of the sale, the later \$1 bag or box of books days and eventually the free days at the end.

We had so many shoppers that we realized \$1,334 from our sale which included the sales from the fierce competition on our silent auctions items. Who would ever think that “old books” could excite so many folks. Veterinary medical textbooks were popular both at the silent auction and the regular

sales. Despite the recent downturn in the U. S. economy, our shoppers were more than happy to buy some of our bargains knowing that their purchases would give them great value for their dollars.

The exciting part about the sale proceeds is that we don’t just keep all of that money for ourselves here at the library but use it to buy technology items that can be checked out. Several possible purchases are a talking GPS and a wireless presentation remote control.

Remember that we always take donations for next year’s sale at any time the library is open. When cleaning your offices and homes, remember to bring book and cd/dvd/video discards to us for next year’s sale.



Under the
microscope:

**Donna
Springer**

Dean's Office,
Coordinator of
student programs



Place of birth: Manhattan, Kan.

Family information: I have two sons, Aaron and Davin. Both are married and live in Manhattan. My granddaughter is Madison, 8 months old. My mother lives in Randolph.

Pets: I have both fresh water and salt water aquariums.

If you could go back in time, who would you like to spend a day with? Hal, as we never had a chance to say goodbye.

Furthest place from Manhattan you've visited: I have been on several cruises, so probably the farthest point is Curacao, Venezuela.

Person who has had the greatest influence on your life: My dad. He lived by great values and always said, "Anything worth doing is worth doing well."

Favorite class in high school: Through business and journalism classes I enjoyed being the editor of our senior yearbook.

Food you could not live without: Chocolate!

CVM News Ticker

Dr. Dan Thomson's daughter Kelly placed 11th at the 3A Kansas State high school cross country meet for Riley County High School, where she is a freshman. The team finished second in the state by two points.



Kelly Thomson at state cross country.

His third-grade daughter Tory won the Kansas Department of Health and Environment poster competition for her respective grade. She was invited to an awards ceremony with Gov. Sebelius, and her poster will be used in the 2009 KDHE calendar.



Tory Thomson and her award-winning poster.

Dr. Mike Apley presented at the Iowa State Swine Conference Nov. 7 on strengths and limitations of MIC results in clinical practice.

Dr. Hans Coetzee spoke in Rockville, Md., at the Food and Drug Administration Center for Veterinary Medicine Staff College Nov. 10 on measuring pain in cattle and the use of plasma substance.

Dr. Brad White presented Nov. 13 at Iowa State to the Veterinary Business Management Association and American Association of Bovine Practitioners groups on the topic of hiring and retaining a new associate.

new arrivals welcome

Megan Moore - VDL
Ashley Bredenberg - VMTH
Anushka George - VDL
Jodee Plowman - VDL
Alexandra Woodford - VDL

recent departures thanks

Dr. Cinzia Mastroilli - VDL
Megan Kaltinger - VDL

International symposium ... continued from page 1

A tour of the Biosecurity Research Institute was another highlight of the conference. Other major topics in the symposium included an overview of the One World, One Health theme, best biocontainment practices, systems biology, plant vaccines, production of knock-out cattle, new variants in mad cow disease, Ebola, Marburg, Nipah virus, models of viral myocarditis, vaccines for Rift Valley fever, rabies and West Nile virus, Hantaviruses, Borna disease virus, equine herpes virus, and emerging swine viruses like porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome virus.

Dr. Richt explained this symposium is similar to others he has helped organize in the past. In previous years, these conferences have been all over the world; however, one has been based in Ames, Iowa, where he was formerly the lead scientist and veterinary medical officer with the National Animal Disease Center. Dr. Richt says the next international symposium on emerging zoonoses will be most likely in Mexico, but anticipates having a chance to hold one at K-State again or in Kansas City, where it could tie in with the Kansas City Animal Health Corridor.