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GROWing for Animal Health

Workshop introduces middle school girls to veterinary medicine



The GROW (Girls Researching Our World) program hosted an event to help promote science to middle school age girls. Over 80 girls participated in the program on Nov. 5.

A group of recent visitors to the CVM may have provided a sneak preview of some future veterinary students. The college hosted an event called “All 4 Animal Health” sponsored by the K-State Advancement of Women in Science and Engineering (KAWSE) through its program called Girls Researching Our World (GROW), which is targeted toward girls in middle school.

The theme of this program highlighted the roles scientists, engineers and technologists play in promoting the health, nutrition and overall well-being of animals. The goal was to emphasize animal health applications of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).

All for Animal Health was held Nov. 5 and included these activities: Saving Lives with Math, which shows what a pharmacist does to save the lives of animals; Pet Health, an opportunity to participate in a hands-on

activity to perform a small animal check-up; and The Tooth of the Matter, which explores oral animal health. In all, 81 girls attended the workshop.

Dr. Kimathi Choma, director of undergraduate public health programs, helped organize the activities at the CVM. He said, “It was very exciting to be able to host this event, so that the middle school participants were able to explore

the world of animal health and consider veterinary medicine as a future career.”

Yasché Glass, program coordinator for KAWSE said, “The event was quite a success. I received emails and calls from a number of parents – these included comments like: ‘my girls talked about it for hours on the way home’ and ‘my daughter loved the activities.’ We are very pleased that the event was so successful and look forward to working with the veterinary college in the future.”

“We appreciate the faculty, staff, and students of the College of Veterinary Medicine’s hard work in hosting the event and making it well received by the middle school participants,” said Dr. Beth Montelone, associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, who sits on the steering committee for the GROW program.

Unprecedented opportunities for the College of Veterinary Medicine

by Dean Ralph Richardson

The Kansas Board of Regents recently approved a plan for us to request a \$5 million increase in our base budget from the Kansas state legislature. We see opportunities for growth by cooperating with the federal laboratories being located in Manhattan, such as the Arthropod-Borne Animal Disease Research Unit (ABADRU) and the National Bio- and Agro-Defense Facility (NBAF). We are deeply engaged with the new K-State Olathe campus and with activities in the Kansas City Animal Health Corridor, where the greatest concentration of animal health and nutrition companies in the world resides.

These are unprecedented times for the College of Veterinary Medicine. We now have an opportunity and responsibility to address the expansion of the regional veterinary workforce and research needs as determined by our college's Master Planning process, the university's "Vision 2025" initiative to be a top 50 research institution, and Kansas Gov. Sam Brownback's goal to grow the Kansas animal health industry.

We call this request: "People, Programs and Places."

- The "People" initiative will allow us to attract and retain top-notch faculty who will invigorate comparative biomedical and infectious disease

research efforts, resulting in more effective, research-based diagnostic testing and remedies for animal and human diseases. We intend to strengthen our college's research engine to leverage state funds and bring extramural resources, such as grants and contracts from places like the NIH, USDA and various foundations.

- The "Programs" initiative will allow us to continue to serve the veterinary profession, just as we have for more than 100 years, and to take a giant leap forward. We want to graduate the very best practicing veterinarians possible and develop cutting-edge programs such as our Veterinary Training Program for Rural Kansas (VTPRK), and increase the number of researchers and diagnosticians to meet specific state and national needs for veterinary medicine in rural America. This includes preparing graduates to work at incoming federal labs, nearby animal health companies and our own university. We want to train comparative biomedical scientists through combined DVM/MPH (Master's in Public Health) and DVM/PhD programs, along with traditional graduate programs, to supply the next generation of researchers and diagnosticians for this country and this world.

- The "Places" initiative is right here at Kansas State University, utilizing both the Manhattan campus and K-State Olathe. This will require renovating existing space in Manhattan into modern, space-efficient offices and laboratories for diagnostics, research and education.

In the 2012 legislative session, we must clearly articulate to legislators and Kansas citizens the importance of drafting,

approving and funding new legislation to grow the College of Veterinary Medicine. We seek to fill the needs of a rapidly growing workforce in Kansas and the Midwest relative to animal health, public health, biomedical sciences and academic medicine. We intend to fill that need while continuing to provide outstanding new DVM graduates for veterinary practice.

I'm very excited about what we will be doing over the next few months, relative to telling the story about why it's so important to grow this veterinary college in these times of emerging infectious diseases, world pandemics, biomedical challenges to human and animal health, disease prevention and a healthy sustainable environment. I sincerely believe that, by enhancing the veterinary and animal health initiatives in Kansas, we will create a better quality of life for all Kansans, whether they be directly related to veterinary medicine or if they simply benefit from the improvements in the economic climate of our state as a result of the growth in animal health and nutrition companies or the development of more federal research laboratories to enhance animal and public health.

You are a valued stakeholder in the future of our state's College of Veterinary Medicine. Share this news with your community and with your local state representatives and/or senators. Your e-mails, letters, tweets, phone calls or personal interactions can ensure that Kansas legislators understand the impact made by this college across the state, nation and world. Tell them this legislation will address needs and services relevant to your community and beyond. Please contact your legislator right away. Thank you for your help.

Check out video coverage at: www.vet.k-state.edu/depts/development/lifelines/1112.htm



Dr. Judy Klimek leads an examination demonstration during one of the canine laboratories.

Going to the dogs: Improving canine health



By detecting a natural antimicrobial peptide, this peptide will help dogs better fight pathogens including bacteria, viruses and fungi.

Make no bones about it, a discovery by a Kansas State University research team could mean a longer and healthier life for man's best friend.

University researchers Dr. Tonatiuh Melgarejo, an associate professor of human nutrition; Dr. Frank Blecha, distinguished professor of immunophysiology; and Dr. Yongming Sang and Dr. Maria Ortega, former postdoctoral fellows, isolated and characterized a natural antimicrobial peptide that helps dogs to better fight pathogens including different bacteria, viruses and fungi.

The peptide's characteristics and production method were recently issued as a patent titled

"Antimicrobial Cathelicidin Peptides" to the Kansas State University Research Foundation, a nonprofit corporation responsible for managing the technology transfer activities of the university.

Researchers modeled the synthetic canine antimicrobial on a naturally occurring peptide found in the white blood cells of dogs, then tested it against numerous types of viruses, fungi and bacteria.

"It turned out it's really good at killing these microorganisms," Dr. Melgarejo said. "We suspected we had something that could really improve animal health, and maybe eventually human health."

The study that led to the synthetic antibody began in 2003, as Dr. Melgarejo and colleagues intended to find the antimicrobial peptides or antibodies—responsible for canine immunity.

Kansas Farm Bureau gives service award to Dr. Thomson



Dr. Dan Thomson receives Kansas Farm Bureau's Distinguished Service to Agriculture Award at the Kansas Farm Bureau Annual Meeting, Nov. 18 in Manhattan. He is pictured here with KFB President Steve Baccus.

Dr. Dan Thomson, Riley, Kan., was selected Friday, Nov. 18, as the recipient of Kansas Farm Bureau's Distinguished Service Award at its annual meeting. The Distinguished Service to Agriculture award is presented to individuals who

exemplify leadership in agriculture, service to Farm Bureau families and community involvement.

"My heroes are farmers, ranchers and veterinarians working every day to provide food for the world," Dr. Thomson said. "It is an honor to serve the Kansas farmers and ranchers. The Kansas Farm Bureau has provided me many opportunities to serve and I am very humbled to

receive this award. Awards are not hurdles, but instead expectations that you will continue to provide service. I look forward to many years of serving the Kansas farmers, ranchers and

veterinarians."

Kansas Farm Bureau's Distinguished Service to Agriculture Award is given in recognition of outstanding service on a national or significant statewide basis in the interest of agriculture. Nominees are selected by the Awards Committee made up of Kansas Farm Bureau board members and the entire Kansas Farm Bureau board of directors approves the selection.

"Dr. Dan Thomson is an obvious choice for Kansas Farm Bureau's Distinguished Service to Agriculture Award for 2011," said Steve Baccus, an Ottawa County grain farmer, who serves as president of Kansas Farm Bureau. "Dan works tirelessly for Kansas farmers and ranchers, and travels across the state informing and listening to members of our county Farm Bureaus. He is a true leader in beef cattle production and health management, and Farm Bureau members of Kansas appreciate his work."



Dr. Anuradha Ghosh

Postdoctoral Research Associate, DMP

Hometown: Kolkata, India



Family Information: My husband, Narinder. My parents and younger brother stay at Kolkata and my in-laws are at Jalandhar, India.

Pets: I had a German shepherd named Giky for 11 good years. He was my family and still lives in my memories. I never craved for another pet after him.

Do you have any special December holiday traditions? We enjoy the Christmas-New Year week-long winter break with homemade cakes, cookies and the native sweets made of jaggery and coconut.

If you could change something about the world, what would you change? Bring back all the extinct species of animals and plants to the Earth. Making us want to reconsider their cause of extinction.

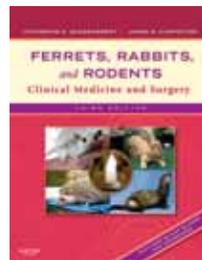
What's the most recent book that you have read and what did you think about it? "Into The Wild" by Jon Krakauer. This nonfiction gives a different insight about nature which is beautiful yet harsh.

CVM NEWS TICKER



William Karl Lukert was born on Nov. 11, 2011 in Manhattan, Kan. His proud parents are **Dr. Adam Lukert**, DVM 2011, and **Anna Lukert**, DM/P. His grandparents are **Drs. Karl and Susan Lukert**, DVM

1981. He weighed 7 pounds 11 ounces and was 20 inches long.



Dr. James Carpenter, clinical sciences, published the 3rd edition of his book "Ferrets, Rabbits and Rodents: Clinical Medicine and Surgery."

Drs. Mike Apley and H. Morgan Scott presented at the National Institute for Animal Agriculture's Chicago for NIAA's "Antibiotic Use in Food Animals: A Dialogue for a Common Purpose" symposium, Oct. 26-27.

Drs. Elizabeth Davis, Ken Harkin and Robert Larson participated in the KVMA Fall Conference in November. The Keynote Speaker was Dr. Scott McVey.

Faculty foursome nabs top teaching trophies



Congratulations to the winners of the fall teaching awards. They are: Novartis Third Year Award: Dr. Emily Klocke; Merial First Year Award: Dr. Zsolt Szladovits; Teva Animal Health First Year Award: Dr. Judy Klimek; and Bayer Animal Health Second Year Award: Dr. T.G. Nagaraja.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Dec. 16 - CVM Faculty Meeting - 3:00 - 5:00

Dec. 19 - Dean's Office Holiday Open House - 2:00 - 3:30

Jan. 6 - Bull Evaluation and Management Clinic*

Feb. 3 - Annual Conference on Animal Diagnostics and Field Evaluations*

Feb. 5-6 - Telefund

Feb. 22-24 - Alumni Fellow

*Continuing Education Events, visit:

<http://www.vet.ksu.edu/CE/Conference.htm>

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