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Improving Equine Health

Research studies vaccinations to protect newborn foals

A K-State veterinary medicine student is investigating ways to improve horse vaccinations and defend them against pathogen challenges at an early age.

Research from Allison Jordan Bryan, a graduate student in biomedical sciences and a second-year veterinary medicine student, Huntington Beach, Calif., may help protect foals as young as 3 months of age from pathogens such as West Nile virus, tetanus, equine influenza virus, Equine Herpes Virus-1, Eastern equine encephalomyelitis and Western equine encephalomyelitis.

“It is important, especially in the equine world, to vaccinate the foals as soon as possible so they will be protected against environmental pathogens they may come into contact with, even at an early age,” Allison said.

Allison recently received a second place award at the K-State Research Forum for her oral research presentation titled “Characterization of immune activation in healthy foals when vaccination is initiated at 3 months of age.”

Foals acquire maternal antibodies and immune cells that help protect them from environmental pathogens before they can fully develop their own immune systems, Allison said. Newborn foals acquire these maternal antibodies and cells through ingestion and absorption of colostrum.

Foals are usually vaccinated at 6 months of age, which gives time for maternal antibodies to decline so they do not interfere with any vaccines. But Allison is looking at the



Allison Jordan Bryan

possibility of vaccinating foals at 3 months of age— the earlier age is better because it gives foals more protection against pathogens earlier in life.

“We’re trying to determine whether those maternal antibodies are still in high enough concentration at 3 months to interfere with vaccines and block the active immune response or to see if these antibodies have waned enough to allow a robust immune response,” Allison said.

Allison is still collecting and analyzing data. Preliminary data has indicated an immune response in 3-month-old foals, making it possible to vaccinate foals at a younger age and increase protection.

“I have been very fortunate to work with extremely talented individuals and honored to be a part of the research community here at K-State.”

-Allison Jordan Bryan

Third-year class dons white coats at Kind Hearts Caring Hand Day



Dr. Steve Zicker, Hill's Pet Nutrition, gives some final comments to the third-year students, after receiving their white coats. The annual White Coat Ceremony is one of several events during Kind Hearts Caring Hands Day, which also includes the bagel bonanza, quiz bowl, keynote address and Senior Honors Banquet.

CVM hosts reception at K-State Olathe campus

On March 15, the CVM hosted an Open House reception at the K-State Olathe Campus. The event highlighted the CVM's role at the Olathe campus. Its continued commitment as an integral part of the animal health industry and its link to human health and well-being. The event offered facility tours and three speakers: Dean Ralph Richardson, Dr. Dan Richardson, CEO K-State Olathe, and Dr. Dan Getman, president of the Kansas City Area Life Science Institute.



Dr. Dan Richardson, CEO K-State Olathe, greets the visitors with an overview of the campus mission.



Kristi Northcutt, marketing communications coordinator, leads a tour of the Olathe campus. Alumni, friends and Animal Health Corridor companies were invited to the event.

Faculty members receive tenure and promotions

The CVM held a small reception to recognize faculty members who received promotions and tenure on March 14 in the Mara Conference Center.

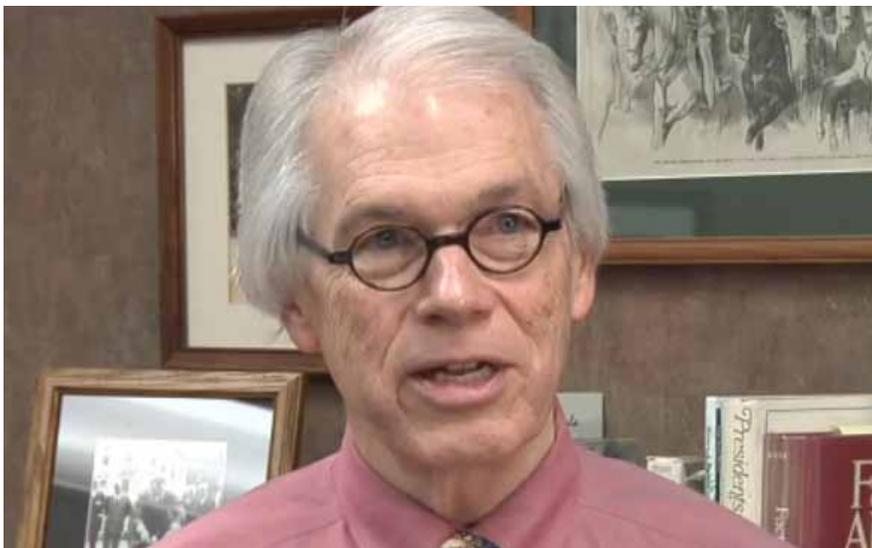
The following faculty members were promoted to associate professor and tenure: Dr. Peying Fong, A&P, Dr. Ronette Gehring, Clinical Sciences, Dr. Justin Kastner, DM/P, Dr. Thu Annelise Nguyen, DM/P, and Dr. Deon van der Merwe, DM/P. Dr. Emily Klocke, Clinical Sciences, was promoted to clinical associate professor. Dr. Laurie Beard was promoted clinical professor. The following faculty members were promoted to professor: Dr. Walter Renberg, clinical sciences, Dr. Dan Thomson, clinical sciences, and Dr. Melinda Wilkerson, DM/P.

Congratulations to all of the faculty members who received tenure and promotions!



Pictured (left to right) front row: Dr. Peying Fong, Dr. Walter Renberg, Dr. Deon van der Merwe, Dr. Ronette Gehring, Dr. Laurie Beard, Dr. Justin Kastner and Dr. Dan Thomson. Second row: Dr. Thu Annelise Nguyen, Dr. Emily Klocke, Dr. Michael Kenney, Dr. Frank Blecha, Dr. M.M. Chengappa, Dr. Bonnie Rush and Dr. Melinda Wilkerson.

Dr. Elmore shares his passion for presidential pets



Dr. Ronnie Elmore explains stories about the pets in the White House. He has appeared on national television to discuss his hobby, appearances include: Animal Planet and NBC.

Republican or Democrat? This question will cross the mind of the American voter in the upcoming fall election. A topic that is often overlooked in the voting process is, who will be the First Pet?

Dr. Ronnie Elmore has turned this

simple question into a fascinating hobby about the pets who reside on 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue. His hobby started when he moved to Kansas 22 years ago.

“When we moved here from Texas about 22 years ago, we started visiting the Eisenhower Library on a regular basis

and it wasn't long until we discovered that President Eisenhower had a great affinity for pets,” said Dr. Elmore. “We started looking at historical records about his pets and got to thinking there's probably other presidents who enjoyed their pets as well. This started the conquest to find out exactly how many presidents had pets and how they affected history and their lives. It's expanded into a fairly sizable collection of both pictures and 3-D memorabilia.”

Presidential pets have a profound effect on the country. Pets have been known to improve feelings towards a politician.

“Various presidents have had exploited their photo opportunities with their pets,” said Dr. Elmore. “President Clinton was one who really used his cat Socks. I have watches and campaign pins with Socks on them. These items really marketed him when President Clinton was president.”

Check out more in-depth coverage in the video report at: www.vet.k-state.edu/depts/development/lifelines/1204.htm



Martina Grigsby

Senior Administrative Assistant, VMTH



Hometown: Nortonville, Kan.

Family Information: I have an older sister, who is a K-State alumnus, and a younger brother.

Pets: I have four dogs. Lexi is a 4-year-old Chihuahua/fox terrier/papillon, Duke is a 2-year-old boxer, Shiva is a 1 1/2-year-old boxer and Caesar is a 2-year-old Italian mastiff. They have four acres to run and play on.

What is the best April Fool's prank that you have ever played?

I have worked on this one for weeks before, complaining of being sick, not feeling quite right, being hot all the time. Then on April 1, I told everyone that I was having a baby. It took great planning and convincing before the day.

If you could have any animal in the world as a pet, what would it be?

I would like to own a giraffe. I love their print and they are very fascinating, there are no leaders in a herd and there are at least seven kinds of giraffes. They are the only animals born with horns and the males and females don't eat the same parts of the tree so they don't compete for food. I think they are amazing creatures.

CVM NEWS TICKER

First-year students, **Aaron Schaffer** and **Natalie Schreyer**, and third-year student, **Darla Dwyer**, traveled to the annual meeting for the American Association of Swine Veterinarians held in Denver on March 10-13. Schaffer gave a presentation on his summer research titled "The Evaluation of Wean-D on Suckling Pig Performance."

Fourth-year student, **Stephanie Oursler**, traveled to Alaska for a three-week externship with the Iditarod Trail Race. Oursler examined the dogs before the race and ran different tests on each dog.



The Board of Regents visited the K-State Campus on Apr. 6. Johanna Diaz, senior in biology, was selected to present and she also participated in the K-State Research Forum. The presentation was titled: "Drug Effects on Behavior and Cortisol Levels During Castration in Calves. Co-Authors for the research: **Dr. Luciana Bergamasco**, clinical sciences, Dr. Lily Edwards, Dr. Nora Bello, **Dr. Johann Coetzee**, clinical sciences, **Hadley Watson**, incoming veterinary student, **Jenna Dockweiler**, third-year student, and Hayley Glynn.

K-State launched their sesquicentennial celebration website, check it out at: <http://www.k-state.edu/150/>.

New 'Pet Friendly' License Plate



The College of Veterinary Medicine has unveiled a new way to support Kansas Shelter Medicine. The Pet Friendly license plate will be made available to Kansas residents early/mid summer 2012. For information or to reserve yours, please call 1-855-269-7387 or e-mail: petplate@vet.k-state.edu.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Apr. 21 - Kansas State University Open House
 - Apr. 27 - Pet Tribute Ice Cream Social
 - Apr. 29 - Frank W. Jordan Seminar*
 - May 11 - Commencement
 - June 4-6 - 74th Annual Conference for Veterinarians*
- *Continuing Education Events, visit:
<http://www.vet.ksu.edu/CE/Conference.htm>

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