



Also inside this issue of *lifelines*:



Mentorship at a zoo in Mexico. See page 2



Scholars show their work. See page 3



Dr. Ronnie Elmore speaks on diversity. See page 4



Susan Hazelbaker goes Under the Microscope. See page 4

Hope for Hearing Loss

Dr. Philine Wangemann's study rescues hearing and balance through genetic therapy; shows potential for human health

The sounds of success are ringing at Kansas State University through a research project that has potential to treat human deafness and loss of balance. University Distinguished Professor Dr. Philine Wangemann and her international team have published the results of this groundbreaking study in the July issue of the journal, PLoS Genetics: "SLC26A4 Targeted to the Endolymphatic Sac Rescues Hearing and Balance in SLC26A4 Mutant Mice."

"When SLC26A4 is mutated, it leads to a loss of pendrin expression, which causes swelling of the inner ear and loss of hearing and balance," said Dr. Wangemann, who works in the anatomy and physiology department in the College of Veterinary Medicine. In my research, I have been interested in how the inner ear functions. We worked on the idea that if you keep one domino in the chain standing, then the others would continue to stand and function normally. In other words, if we could restore the proper expression of pendrin in the endolymphatic sac and thereby prevent swelling of the sac, this may prevent swelling of other parts of the inner ear and rescue hearing and balance."



University Distinguished Professor, Dr. Philine Wangemann and Ph.D. student Xiangming Li look for solutions to treating genetic loss of hearing and balance.

More than 28 million people in the United States suffer some form of hearing loss. Dr. Wangemann said mutation of SLC26A4 is one of the most common forms of hereditary hearing loss in children, not only in the USA and Europe but also in China, Japan and Korea, which makes this research very significant on a global scale.

Watch a full video report about Dr. Wangemann's research project at Lifelines online: www.vet.k-state.edu/depts/development/lifelines/1308.htm.

K-STATE 150: WWII DOUBLES UP GRADUATIONS



World War II changed the order of business in the College of Veterinary Medicine. To find out how things were changed, pull up Lifelines online and click the "K-State 150" link: www.vet.k-state.edu/depts/development/lifelines/1308.htm

Mentorship in Mexico; third-year student spends week at Guadalajara Zoo

To most Americans, Guadalajara sounds like an exotic destination. For third-year student Sabra Ortega, it was an *exotic* destination – that is, it was a destination where she could work with exotic animals.

Sabra spent a week in June at the Guadalajara Zoo in Jalisco, Mexico, soaking up a mentorship that gave her plenty of hands-on experience.

“I did a lot of blood draws and X-ray interpretation, helping with surgeries, inserting microchips, feeding the animals, behavioral evaluations of the animals, de-worming of animals, etc.,” Sabra said. “I was basically the right-hand woman for the zoo veterinarian I was helping each day.”

But what inspired Sabra to go Mexico for this opportunity?

“In 2007, when I was living in Guadalajara as a foreign exchange student, I visited the zoo and was in awe of how large and interactive it was,” Sabra explained. “There are many exhibits where visitors can feed the animals or pet them. This was something I always remembered and was impressed by, so when the time came to choose a non-traditional mentorship, I was drawn back there. I simply wrote the director of the zoo and asked him if I could come spend a week with them. He was very happy to accept an American veterinary student. From what I heard, I was the only one they’ve ever had from the United States. Most students they have come from South America.”

As an American, Sabra had to deal with a language difference.

“I wanted to push myself and go outside my comfort zone, which is why I chose an international experience,” Sabra said. “I speak fluent Spanish, but wanted to force myself to learn more medical vocabulary and figured this would be a great way to do it.”

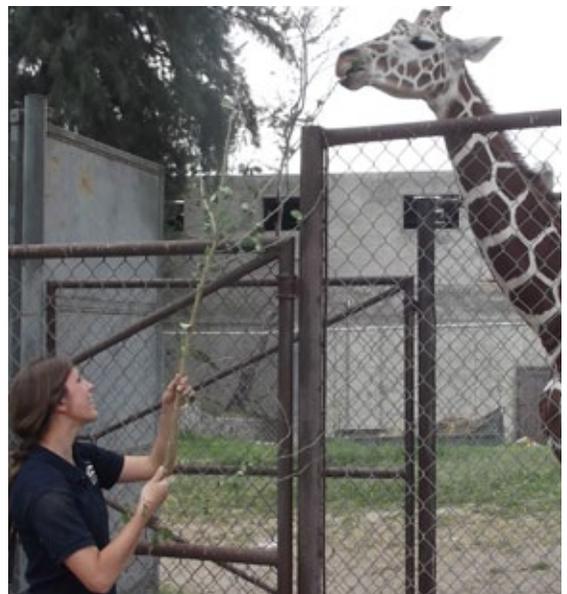
Sabra said the experience taught her a lot, but she’s not sure if it will impact her future plans.

“I’ve never really envisioned myself being a zoo veterinarian,” she said. “I looked at this more as an opportunity to become more well-rounded in the world of veterinary medicine. I learned more or less how a zoo is run, how surgeries and treatments are done, and how large wild animals are handled – a lot of dart guns!”

Sabra is now getting ready for her third year of veterinary school. Her week at the Guadalajara Zoo will be an exotic memory she won’t forget.



Top: Sabra Ortega draws blood from Axel the rhino’s ear. Bottom: Sabra lures this giraffe into a chute, using a special type of leaf that comes from a tree native to Mexico.

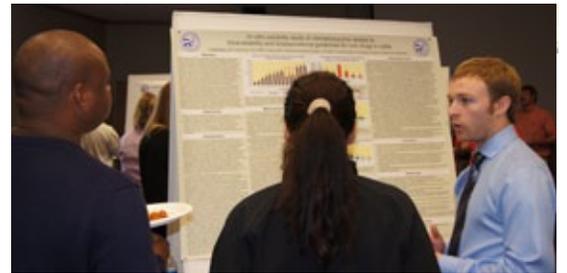


Third-year student Sabra Ortega closes up a ferret after the zoo’s official veterinarian removed its adrenal gland. Sabra was on a mentorship at the Guadalajara Zoo in Jalisco, Mexico, from June 3 -7.

Veterinary Research Scholars have productive summer



The Veterinary Research Scholars Program (VRSP) concludes another successful summer. Participants presented research posters at a special luncheon at the end of July. The VRSP is an intensive research-oriented experience directed towards attracting our most talented professional students into biomedical research careers. Front row (left to right): Jessica Chavera, Jacqueline Black, Stephanie Rainbolt, Diane Larson, Ellen Heinrich, Jennifer Wright and Bruno Melo Teixeira. Back row (left to right): Melanie Hinzpeter, Sean Stenseng, Todd Luttgaharm, Morgan Matile, Kristine Kemmet and Laura Constance. Not pictured: Kyle Pfeifer and Margaret Tracy.



Todd Luttgaharm, class of 2015, (right) explains his in-vitro solubility study at the poster presentation/luncheon on July 30.

VMAA recognizes Dr. Raymond Sis at AVMA

Dr. Raymond F. Sis, Bryan, Texas, is the recipient of the 2013 Alumni Recognition Award presented at the annual AVMA convention held July 22 in Chicago.

Dr. Sis, originally from Munden, Kan., earned a bachelor's degree in animal science in 1953 and his DVM in 1957, both from K-State. He is currently the dean of the School of Veterinary Medicine at St. George's University in Grenada.

"I am delighted, honored and humbled to receive this award, because I am very proud of my alma mater," Dr. Sis said. "K-State has really made a difference in my life. When I go back to Manhattan, I feel like I am going home. I am thankful to the Veterinary Medical Alumni Association for honoring me with this award and I thank the university for giving me the education I needed to become a veterinarian. I am grateful to my wife, Jan, who I met on a blind date at K-State, and our children

and grandchildren for their many years of support."

Dr. Sis was appointed dean of the St. George's University School of Veterinary Medicine in April 2003, after serving as the associate dean of students.

Dr. Sis is an honor roll member of the AVMA. He served on the board of directors of the Texas Veterinary Medical Association for five years and the board of directors of the American Association of Feline Practitioners for four years. He is a past president of the following organizations: International Association of Aquatic Animal Medicine; American Association of Veterinary Anatomists; Texas Branch of the American Association for Laboratory Animal Science; Brazos Valley Veterinary Medical Association, Alpha Zeta Chapter of Alpha Gamma Rho and



Dr. Raymond Sis accepts the 2013 Alumni Recognition Award in Chicago, while his wife, Jan, looks on.

the TAMU-AGR Alumni Association. He is a past vice-president of the Texas Academy of Veterinary Practice.

Dr. Sis and his wife Jan, have five children: Susan, Valerie, Mark, Michael, and Amy.



Susan Hazelbaker

Agricultural Technician 1, Veterinary Health Center



Hometown: Eureka, Kan.

Family Information: I'm happily married to Mike Hazelbaker. We have two delightful kids: a son, Coleman Fowles, 24, and his companion, Mischa Pacada; and a daughter, Cassidy Anderson, 22, and son-in-law Drew Anderson.

Pets: Two quarter horses named Gus and Dusty, two crazy cats named Notchie and Jack Terry, and a Catahoula hound dog named Sammy and a small flock of chickens.

What will you remember most about the Summer of 2013? Enjoying the surprises of what would bloom next in the yard of our new home (we moved into the house in February), riding in the beautiful Flint Hills and the wacky weather.

What's a favorite piece of advice? Most important is to tell the people in your life that you love them. Plus, go see them. You will look back on those visits later and be glad you did. Don't be afraid to take chances. Learn all you can and watch your spending habits!

If you were stranded on a desert island, what three things could you not live without? My Family — human and animal — coffee and chocolate.

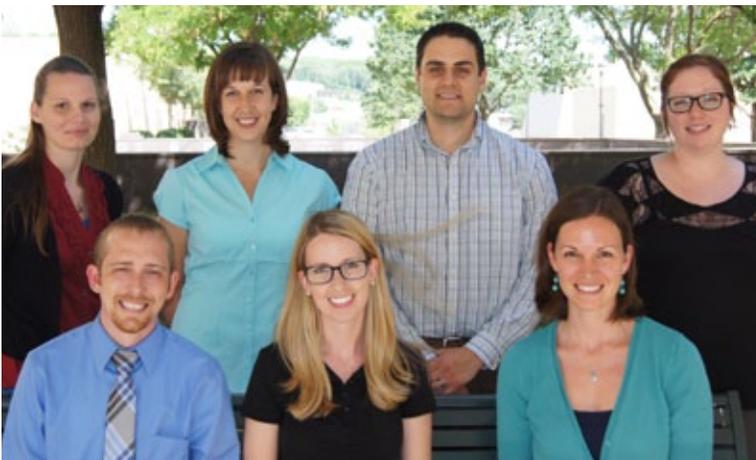
CVM NEWS TICKER

Congratulations to Drs. Hong Wang, Bonnie R. Rush, Melinda Wilkerson, Cheryl Herman, Matt Miesner, David Renter, Ronette Gehring on the publication of their journal article, "From Theory to Practice: Integrating Instructional Technology Into Veterinary Medical Education," which was published in the July 3 issue of the Journal of Veterinary Medical Education. This can be found online at: <http://jvmeonline.metapress.com/content/d22137p8523521ll/?p=f270ce60f07408f89a7d1f8735f6e79&pi=0>.



Dr. Ronnie Elmore plays a clip from an interview with Dr. Walter Bowie, a 1947 DVM alumnus. Dr. Elmore gave a presentation on K-State's African-American veterinary graduates, held Aug. 7 at the Student Union. This was the first in a fall lecture series celebrating K-State's 150th birthday.

Residents move in at the VHC



The Veterinary Health Center introduces this year's class of residents. From left to right: Dr. Jessie Monday, Dr. Sam Hocker, Dr. Katie Delph, Dr. Sarah Crilly, Dr. Nathan Canada, Dr. Mackenzie Hallman and Dr. Julie Anne Gervais.

You are invited to Cat Town

Join us Friday - Aug. 30, at 5:30 p.m. Tailgate with the K-State veterinary family for the home-opening football game against North Dakota State. The meal for the first game will be hosted and served by the student Exotics Club. The meal is being catered by HyVee and food will be served until kickoff or until it runs out. We hope to see you there.

lifelines is published each month by the Development and Alumni Affairs Office at the College of Veterinary Medicine. The editor is Joe Montgomery, jmontgom@vet.k-state.edu. Read online at www.vet.k-state.edu/depts/development/lifelines/1308.htm

find us on facebook/see us on YouTube
www.facebook.com/ksucvm
www.youtube.com/ksucvm

