

# Veterinary Research News

## Informational Resources

### SARS chip available

To spur research on severe acute respiratory syndrome, the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases is providing free SARS chips to qualified researchers. These stamp-sized slides contain all 29,700 base pairs of DNA from the coronavirus that was responsible for some 8,400 cases of SARS since last November.

The chips will speed identification of deadly strains and help scientists determine how to best target the virus. They will also assist scientists in learning how the virus evolves as it spreads to populations in different geographic locales.

For details on how to receive the chip, visit [www.niaid.nih.gov/dmid/genomes/pfgrc/](http://www.niaid.nih.gov/dmid/genomes/pfgrc/).

## Grant Proposals Invited

### MRLS research funding available

The Grayson-Jockey Club Research Foundation invites individuals who have an interest in researching mare reproductive loss syndrome to submit proposals for funding consideration. Applications must be received by Oct. 1, 2003.

The foundation expects to fund numerous projects in 2004, and MRLS is one of its priorities. Principal investigators should have some professional rank and salary from the institution involved, or hold some grade of research professorship with salary from the institution.

Individuals can obtain a grant proposal application form at [www.grayson-jockeyclub.org](http://www.grayson-jockeyclub.org); from Grayson-Jockey Club Research Foundation, 821 Corporate Drive, Lexington, KY 40503; or by calling (859) 244-2850.

## From the AVMA

### AVMA developing coalition to seek passage of specialty pay bill

Louisiana Sen. Mary Landrieu has introduced a bill that would provide special pay for federal employees working in health science positions. The bill, "Special Pay for Federal Board Certified Health Scientists," will help the federal government attract and retain the best-trained scientists to work in the Executive Branch.

Currently, veterinarians serving in the Army, Air Force, and Public Health Service receive \$300 to \$500 additional pay per month for achieving board certification in a recognized specialty. In October 2000, President Clinton signed the 2001 Defense Authorization Act, which included the authorization for the Army to provide this specialty pay to veterinarians in the U.S. Army Veterinary Corps. Senator Landrieu's bill would extend specialty pay to all federal health-care professionals who are board-certified.

The AVMA is developing a coalition with other health science professional organizations that would benefit from the legislation. By creating a large base of support for this bill, and demonstrating the benefit it will have for government service, this coalition hopes to gain support from Congress to pass this measure.

### Researchers honored at AVMA Annual Convention

Several researchers were honored for their contributions to veterinary medicine at the AVMA Annual Convention's General Session on July 19, co-sponsored by Hill's Pet Nutrition Inc. and the Denver Metro Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Dr. David C. Bucholtz (MSU '76) of Manchester, Mich., received the Prac-

itioner Research Award in recognition of his excellence, innovation, and enthusiasm in the field of basic veterinary science and education.

Dr. Bucholtz, a large animal practitioner focusing on dairy production medicine and reproduction, has served his local farming community and the dairy industry as a whole. His work as a research fellow with the University of Michigan's Reproductive Sciences Program has changed the outlook on reproductive inefficiency in high-producing dairy cows. His findings have increased the basic understanding of the neuroendocrine mechanisms underlying the disease and will assist in the development of preventive medicine and treatment options.

He is an adjunct faculty member with Michigan State University's Practice-Based Ambulatory Program.

Dr. Clarence Rawlings (ILL '67) of Athens, Ga., received the Innovative Veterinary Diets Fido Award for his contributions to small animal medicine and surgery.

Dr. Rawlings, a professor at the University of Georgia College of Veterinary Medicine, is a recognized leader in minimally invasive surgery for companion animals. In urinary research, he has focused on incontinence in female dogs, which has implications for postmenopausal women, who often experience stress incontinence.

Dr. Rawlings, a diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Surgeons, developed a technique for partial prostatectomy in male dogs that used an ultrasonic surgical aspirator; it decreased postoperative mortality and surgical complication rates in dogs with prostatic abscesses and cysts. He is also studying preventive strategies for heartworm disease.

Dr. Christopher J. Murphy (COR

'83) of Madison, Wis., received the American Kennel Club Career Achievement Award in Canine Research.

Dr. Murphy's research demonstrated that nearsightedness is common in certain dog breeds and showed that spontaneous chronic corneal epithelial defect, a common canine disease, is associated with the underlying connective tissue of the cornea and not the epithelium, as previously thought. Further, he found that topical treatment with neuropeptides resolves this disease in about 75 percent of affected dogs.

Dr. Murphy is a professor in the Department of Surgical Sciences at the University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Veterinary Medicine and an affiliate professor in the departments of Biomedical Engineering and Ophthalmology, School of Medicine. A diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Ophthalmologists, he is a consultant at Genentech, Eli Lilly, and the Milwaukee County Zoo.

Dr. Jeff W. Tyler (MIN '81) of Columbia, Mo., received the American Feed Industry Award in recognition of his outstanding research on nutrition or disease affecting livestock or poultry production.

Dr. Tyler, a professor and Food Animal Area coordinator in the Department of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery at the University of Missouri, has reshaped the understanding of passive transfer of immunity in neonatal livestock.

A diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine, Dr. Tyler is a consulting epidemiologist and internist to the International Rhinoceros Foundation and Rhinoceros Taxon Advisory Group. He is a past associate editor of the *Journal of Veterinary Internal Medicine* and has been a reviewer for more than a dozen scientific publications, including the *JAVMA* and the *American Journal of Veterinary Research*.

Dr. Hilton J. Klein (UP '80) of Lansdale, Pa. received the 23rd Charles River Prize, awarded by the Charles River Foundation to recognize distinguished contributions to the field of laboratory animal science by an AVMA member veterinarian.

Dr. Klein, a diplomate of the American College of Laboratory Animal Medicine, is the senior director of comparative medicine and director of the Department of Laboratory Animal Resources at Merck Research Laboratories. He is the chair of the International Committee of the National Academy of Sciences Institute of Laboratory Animal Research. He also is a member of the National Institutes of Health advisory committee for the breeding and maintenance of chimpanzees.

While Dr. Klein was the director of veterinary medicine at M.A. Bioproducts, he led the organizational effort to create a veterinary diagnostic product group using ELISA technology for diagnosing diseases of poultry, swine, and cats.

### **Education council schedules site visits**

The AVMA Council on Education has scheduled site visits to colleges of veterinary medicine at five universities for the remainder of 2003.

Site visits are planned for the Cornell University New York State College of Veterinary Medicine, Sept. 20-24; Iowa State University College of Veterinary Medicine, Oct. 11-15; Washington State University College of Veterinary Medicine with Oregon State University College of Veterinary Medicine, Nov. 1-7; and the University of Saskatchewan Western College of Veterinary Medicine, Dec. 6-10.

The council welcomes written comments on these plans or the programs to be evaluated. Comments should be addressed to Dr. Donald G. Simmons, Director, AVMA Education and Research Division, AVMA, 1931 N. Meacham Road, Suite 100, Schaumburg, IL 60173-4360.

### **Dues increase authorized**

As recommended by AVMA treasurer Dr. James F. Peddie, the House of Delegates handily approved a member dues increase July 19. The HOD approved the Bylaws amendment to increase the dues with no debate on the floor of the HOD.

The AVMA Reference Committee on Administration (Reference Commit-

tee 1), the Executive Board, and the House Advisory Committee had recommended approval of the measure.

Treasurer Peddie made his appeal to delegates for the increase in his address to the House on July 18, saying a "yes" vote for an increase is a vote for the AVMA's future. Without it, he anticipated a "paltry safety margin" of income over expenses.

A reduction in certain primary non-dues revenue areas was a major factor in his decision to move forward his dues increase timetable by a year. Effective in January 2004, the increase will raise dues for active members from \$225 to \$250, for associate and affiliate members from \$200 to \$225, and for recent graduates, graduate students, postgraduate students, interns, and residents from \$100 to \$110.

### **Funding Announced NIH funding research training for veterinary students**

Substantial needs exist at the national level for veterinary scientists who are trained in modern research methods to work with and interpret the data generated from the use of animal models of human disease.

Dr. Michael Lairmore, chair of the Department of Veterinary Biosciences at The Ohio State University's College of Veterinary Medicine, has been awarded a T-32 Training Grant from the National Institutes of Health that funds a number of research training opportunities for veterinary students.

These opportunities include NIH-funded programs to attain specific technical and conceptual skills to perform hypothesis-based research involving biochemical and molecular systems, as well as animal models of human disease.

The training is coordinated through an established graduate program in the veterinary college and supported by an interdisciplinary group of basic and clinical scientists with collaborative programs at OSU and Children's Hospital in Columbus.

For more information, contact Dr. Lairmore at [lairmore.1@osu.edu](mailto:lairmore.1@osu.edu).