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New Faculty Spotlight

Dr. Hamideh Esmailzadeh has joined the Department of Veterinary Biosciences as an Assistant Professor-Clinical. Dr. Esmailzadeh comes to us from the Department of Comparative Pathobiology at Purdue University, where she was a visiting scholar and where she completed a clinical pathology residency.



Dr. Laurie Millward has joined the Department of Veterinary Biosciences as an Assistant Professor in Clinical Pathology. Dr. Millward is a familiar face to the OSU College of Veterinary Medicine. She was an Assistant Professor – Clinical in the Department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences in Community Practice, Outreach, Dentistry, and Shelter Medicine from 2010 through 2020.



Dr. Shane Sills has joined the Department of Veterinary Biosciences as an Assistant Professor in Anatomic Pathology. Dr. Sills arrives at The Ohio State University from Wake Forest University School of Medicine, where he held a post-doctoral research fellowship and completed his PhD in Molecular Medicine and Translational Sciences.



Dr. Gaofeng Xiong has joined the Department of Veterinary Biosciences as a tenure-track Assistant Professor in Oncology. Dr. Xiong comes from the Markey Cancer Center, DPNS at the University of Kentucky, where she was a Research Assistant Professor. She received her PhD in Developmental Biology at the Institute of Zoology, Chinese Academy of Sciences.



Department Highlights

Dr. Shan-Lu Liu Awarded \$1,518,292 Cooperative Agreement from USDA APHIS



Shan-Lu Liu, MD, PhD, Professor Virology in the Center for Retrovirus Research and Veterinary Biosciences, was recently awarded a \$1,518,292 cooperative agreement from USDA APHIS for a project entitled, “*Understanding the molecular mechanisms of zoonotic transmission of SARS-CoV-2*”. The purpose of this project is to characterize the reverse zoonosis of SARS-CoV-2 variants of concern and understand how adaptations acquired in animal hosts can impact animal and human health.

Dr. Prosper Boyaka elected as a 2024 Distinguished Fellow by the AAI

The department would like to congratulate **Dr. Prosper Boyaka** on his election as a 2024 Distinguished Fellow by The American Association of Immunologists. This program recognizes members for distinguished careers and outstanding scientific contributions. Election as a Distinguished Fellow is among the highest honors bestowed by the AAI.



Charles River Laboratories International, Inc. to Fund Pathomics Research

Charles River Laboratories International, Inc. has generously committed \$60,000 over a two-year period to advancing research on *Bordetella bronchiseptica* in canines. This generous award will fund **VBS combined pathology program trainee Sam Neal's** exploration of pathomics, with Dr. Kara Corps as PI, and the Infectious Disease Signature program as a collaborating partner. We look forward to working with Charles River Laboratories in this budding field of research.

In the News



[SARS-CoV-2 BA.2.86 is less resistant to vaccine, but may be a problem in the lung](#)



[Trivalent vaccine candidate fights measles, mumps, SARS-CoV-2](#)



[Looking for risky viruses now to get ahead of future pandemics](#)

Grants & Awards

Dr. Amit Sharma received an NIH R01 grant: *Determinants of retroviral replication in non-native hosts for mediating HIV infection*. He also received an NIH U54 Duke Center for HIV Structure Biology's Collaborative Development Award.

Dr. Ian Davis received an NIH R21 grant: *Role of ATII cell senescence in influenza pathogenesis in aging*.

Dr. Estelle Cormet-Boyaka was awarded an R21 grant, NIH, NIDA: *Alteration of bronchial epithelium host defenses by marijuana and vaping preparations*.

VBS Trainee Corner

We are proud to include the many achievements of the department's graduate associates since our last newsletter in June 2023.

VBS Pathology Residency/PhD Program

Please click [here](#) to view the accomplishments of our trainees in the VBS Pathology Residency/PhD Program during 2023. Below are a few of the many successes that have occurred since June 2023:

Pathology Fellowships and Awards

Melissa Leonard, DVM (anatomic pathology) and **Samantha Sommer, DVM** (clinical pathology) both received T32 post-doctoral fellowship awards. **Betsy Pray, DVM** was awarded \$100,000 from the Clinical Research Loan Repayment Program through the NIH (NCI). **Nina Randolph** was elected for the IDEXX PathConnex externship program. She was also awarded a Gutski Travel Award, sponsored by Royal Canin.

Board Certifications

Susan Smith (Diplomate, Clinical Pathology), **Betsy Pray** (Diplomate, Anatomic Pathology), and **Samantha Sommer** (Diplomate, Clinical Pathology) are now board-certified. Samantha is now double boarded in Anatomic Pathology and Clinical Pathology!

ACVP / ASVCP News

The following trainees were presented with awards at the 2023 ACVP Annual Meeting in

Chicago (October 28-31, 2023): **Dr. Sue Knoblaugh** received the 2023 ACVP Wendy Coe Leadership Award for her excellence in leadership as the co-founder and chair of the ACVP Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) committee.

Dr. Jerry Masty is the inaugural recipient of the OSU CVM New Team Teaching award,

Dr. Cody Warren received an NIH R21 Grant *Arterivirus receptors: rules of engagement for cross-species infection*. He also received the President's Research Excellence Award (\$50,000), "Integrating field and laboratory studies for influenza virus zoonotic risk assessment."

Chicago (October 28-31, 2023): **Betsy Pray** - the 2023 Davis-Thompson Foundation Pathology Training & Scholarship Award; **Yea Ji Jeong** - the ACVP Young Investigator Award - 2nd Place (diagnostic pathology); **Allysa Cole** - the ACVP Young Investigator Award - 3rd Place (diagnostic pathology); **Sam Neal** - the ASVCP service award and a mystery case accepted for presentation at the annual meeting.

VBS Research Postdocs and GRAs

Michelle Chamblee (Mentor: J. Li) received a T32 training award. **Jiayu Xu** (Mentor: J. Li) and **Kyle Ernzen** (Mentors: A. Panfil/P. Green) received a College Barber Fund Fellowship award. **Rocio Zaldivar** (Mentors: A. Panfil/P. Green) received an NIH Diversity Supplement.

PhD Defenses and Graduations

We would like to congratulate the following trainees who completed their final PhD defense and graduated from the Comparative Biomedical Sciences Graduate Program: **Marisa Joldrichsen** (Mentor: P. Boyaka), **Mackenzie Long** (Mentors: R. Baiocchi & Alinari), **Camille McAloney** (Mentor: R. Roberts), and **Susan Smith** (Mentor: A. Panfil).

Candidacy Exams

Nina Randolph (Mentor: J. Winston) and **Sungjun Yoo** (Mentor: P. Boyaka) passed their candidacy exams.

Faculty Publications

Since the last BIOS Newsletter was published in June 2023, the Department of Veterinary Biosciences faculty has published over 30 publications. Please click [here](#) to peruse.