Colleagues,

The 2019 VTPP Success continues expanding in distribution and content. I hope everyone will continue to strive for more success and ensure VTPP continues to lead in the CVM.

Welcome back to the first weeks of Class! All our VTPP Programs are back in full swing for the fall semester. Good luck to everyone.

The August 2019 “VTPP Science in action” article comes from the highly productive laboratory of Dr. Stephen Safe. The article is published in the journal Molecular Cancer Research. The article that describes the role of NR4A1 in the progression of rhabdomyosarcoma. Rhabdomyosarcoma a cancer primarily seen in children and adolescents and represents > 50% of soft tissue sarcomas in this younger age group. The article has the potential to open new treatment directions in this debilitating and deadly tumor, and can be found at https://mcr.aacrjournals.org/content/early/2019/08/28/1541-7786.MCR-19-0408.full-text.pdf

VTPP recently launched a competition to solicit a new look for our departmental seminar flyers and to create a VTPP logo/art element. The Seminar poster design winner is Ms. Julie Austin. Thanks for the great re-design of our Seminar flyers! Please send any VTPP art element design ideas to Dr. Suva by September 4, 2019.

Congratulations and safe travels to Dr. Charles Long, a 2019 Fellow of the Indian Government, Department of Biotechnology and the Indo-US Science and Technology Forum. The fellowship is in the area of Genome engineering/Editing technology (GETin). Dr. Long will serve in this fellowship for the fall semester. During this time, Dr. Long will initiate new research projects in genetic engineering of water buffalo and potentially establish new collaborations of benefit to VTPP, Texas A&M University and our Indian colleagues. Please be on the look-out for updates from Dr. Long in this exciting endeavor. He will be located primarily in Hisar, India, approximately 100 miles west of New Delhi, India, population approximately 300,000 (and now 1 Texan!).

Find listed below all VTPP publications listed on PubMed and Google Scholar from August 1-August 31, 2019 that I could identify. Please keep these important and impactful VTPP publications coming! VTPP Success will continue to highlight our most recent achievements and is intended to serve as a concise but informative catalog of individual and departmental successes.

Don’t forget to utilize the VTPP website. Please keep your personal information and webpage as current as possible, this is our first line of access for perspective students and others. I request that any revisions/additions that you would like added to the VTPP website, let Ms. Julie Austin and I know. There is a lot there already and we are always looking to update and improve it. https://physiology.tamu.edu/

Thank you everyone in VTPP for leading the way in our College. Your efforts make us better every day

Larry
VTPP PUBLICATIONS (August 1-August 31, 2019)


Faculty are denoted in bold text, trainees in italics

VTPP FACULTY

Congratulations and thank you to all VTPP faculty who have submitted grants this month.

Please keep up these efforts. VTPP needs all grant submissions to continue to increase! Also, ALL faculty are encouraged to utilize the VTPP grant biopsy strategy where sections (or major chunks) of grants in preparation and/or revision are read and critiques by our experienced VTPP research-intensive faculty. This is a proven successful strategy that I encourage everyone to utilize. The October NIH deadlines are looming, so keep up the good work.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CVM Faculty</th>
<th>Ranking</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stephen Safe</td>
<td>355</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stefan Kaufman</td>
<td>546</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leif Andersson</td>
<td>7,492</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fuller Bazer</td>
<td>11,180</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fred Schroeder</td>
<td>39,945</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Noah Cohen</td>
<td>45,517</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tim Phillips</td>
<td>50,663</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jim Womack</td>
<td>58,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bill Murphy</td>
<td>68,743</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Larry Suva</td>
<td>78,958</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Katrin Hinrichs</td>
<td>80,292</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Garry Adams</td>
<td>92,451</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ian Tizard</td>
<td>96,463</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jorg Steiner</td>
<td>100,444</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

There was a recent article published in PLoS Biology that used a formula to measure citation-based impact to rank top the 100,000 scientists. Not surprisingly many CVM faculty were identified, including Dr. Safe ranked at 355 (number two in all of Texas A&M University, truly exceptional). The table (to the right) identifies all CVM faculty I could find. Congratulations to all the VTPP faculty members identified as well as all of our CVM colleagues. A terrific example of the research impact of our college and our department. The article can be found at the link below and is attached to this VTPP Success!

https://journals.plos.org/plosbiology/article?id=10.1371/journal.pbio.3000384
VTTP STUDENTS & TRAINEES

- Incoming CVM Graduate student orientation and white coat ceremony was held the week of August 19. The students gathered for dinner with family and faculty on August 22. Dr Burghardt’s office organized a very meaningful and important event that was well-received by all in attendance. A special congratulations to all the students and especially those who are working with VTTP faculty!

- Welcome to all the incoming graduate students in VTTP this fall. All these students have elected to work with VTTP faculty members and we are delighted to welcome you to VTTP.

Incoming CVM students at the White coat ceremony

VTPP faculty and students at the white coat ceremony. Current VTTP student Marcus Orzabal (current GSA President) led the recitation of the graduate student oath!
• Congratulations to Richard Cheng, (mentor Dr. Michael Golding) for his recent defense of his PhD dissertation research. Dr. Cheng did an amazing job, set and set a new standard for VTPP graduate student defenses. We are proud of the efforts and wish Dr. Cheng well in his new post-doctoral position at UC Irvine! Good luck and congratulations again.

• Congratulations to Dr. Karis Tang. Karis received her PhD degree at the Summer graduation, August 9 2019. On hand were Dr Doris Taylor and Dr. Ken Muneoka (committee chair). In addition, Dr. Travis Mays (and his mentor) Dr. Virginia Fajt were in attendance to present Travis with his degree. Both were hooded by their respective mentors in what is always an emotional and important ceremony. Congratulations to both graduates again.

• If I have missed any VTPP trainee successes, please let me know and I will add those to the next VTPP Success

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**VTPP EDUCATION CHRONICLES**

VTPP Education Chronicles is an opportunity to share specific ideas and information regarding higher education. VTPP continued excellence in education is a major departmental strength and the information is provided to support all educational pursuits.

Interesting article regarding the ever expanding presence of implicit bias. I encourage all of us serving on committees to pay attention and keep our vigilance and awareness to a maximum.

[https://www.the-scientist.com/news-opinion/biased-evaluation-committees-promote-fewer-women-66355?utm_campaign=TS_DAILY%20NEWSLETTER_2019&utm_source=hs_email&utm_medium=email&utm_content=76115629&hsenc=p2ANqtz- zGBgrEOWIpFBRsVmQb22YNiK-PvKmwVFasKw5X-zVi2OeBVAzRP_8TDXzTpiBBcAUi_qLN6B9RzPJvEtqN4H7KTNCNA&_hsmi=76115629](https://www.the-scientist.com/news-opinion/biased-evaluation-committees-promote-fewer-women-66355?utm_campaign=TS_DAILY%20NEWSLETTER_2019&utm_source=hs_email&utm_medium=email&utm_content=76115629&hsenc=p2ANqtz- zGBgrEOWIpFBRsVmQb22YNiK-PvKmwVFasKw5X-zVi2OeBVAzRP_8TDXzTpiBBcAUi_qLN6B9RzPJvEtqN4H7KTNCNA&_hsmi=76115629)
Professional development and academic leadership is a critically important part of professional development for everyone and is an important VTPP goal. Please stay on the lookout for professional development opportunities that interest you. Some conference opportunities are identified below:

October 16-18, 2019: Atlanta, GA [Advanced Leadership Development in Higher Education](#)

November 18-20, 2019: Boston, MA [Women's Leadership Success in Higher Education](#)

**Faculty Development Leave: Call for Applications 2020-2021**

Faculty Development Leave Program (tenured faculty only I’m afraid) for leave that will take place between September 1, 2020 and May 31, 2021. Guidelines and an instructional video can be found on the Office of the Dean of Faculties website at [http://dof.tamu.edu/Faculty-Resources/Faculty-Development-Leave](http://dof.tamu.edu/Faculty-Resources/Faculty-Development-Leave)

If you have any questions concerning the guidelines or this process, please contact Sandra Harnden (csh811@tamu.edu) in the Office of the Dean of Faculties or call (979) 845-4274.

**VTPP RESEARCH FORECAST**

Identifying upcoming seminars, workshops, funding announcements, events, and conferences of interest to VTPP. I hope it serves as an accessible archive and reference for upcoming research events and deadlines, and sources of information to support our next discoveries.

VTPP Science Friday conversations continue to be illuminating and stimulating. All faculty are encouraged to attend these important and evolving discussions. The September Science Fridays are scheduled for Thursday 8:30AM, September 5 and September 26. The goal is to bring all interested faculty together over coffee and bagels, to brainstorm what might be possible and to initiate more science-based conversations in VTPP. If you are interested in joining or facilitating the discussion around your research interest or have specific aims for discussion, just let Dr. Suva know and come a present and stimulate the conversation.

**NIH Regional Seminar on Program Funding and Grants Administration**: Next one is scheduled Phoenix, Arizona, November 6-8, 2019. [https://regionalseminars.od.nih.gov/phoenix2019/welcome/](https://regionalseminars.od.nih.gov/phoenix2019/welcome/)

**Upcoming NIH Grant Deadlines and Opportunities**
- **October 5**: New, R01 Research Grants
- **October 16**: New R21 Research Grants

**Upcoming NSF Grant Deadlines and Opportunities**
- **October 21**: Graduate Research Fellowship Program (GRFP)
- **January 21, 2020**: Major Research Instrumentation Program: (MRI)

For more details and upcoming NIH submission dates go to: [https://grants.nih.gov/grants/how-to-apply-application-guide/due-dates-and-submission-policies/due-dates.htm](https://grants.nih.gov/grants/how-to-apply-application-guide/due-dates-and-submission-policies/due-dates.htm)
For more details and upcoming NSF submission dates go to: https://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_list.jsp?ord=date&org=NSF&sel_org=BIO&status=1

**Texas A&M Research Cores**

VTPP Success provides links to TAMU research core that may help VTPP researchers. The idea arose from the VTPP research vision retreat and is an effort to identify research resources in VTPP and across TAMU.

This month we highlight the Rodent Pre-Clinical Phenotyping Core (Director: Dr. Alexandra Trott). The Texas A&M Institute for Genome Sciences and Society (TIGSS) has established a number of shared resources to support genomics research. The Rodent Preclinical Phenotyping Core houses various instruments to measure and quantify mouse physiology and behavior. The core offers a wide variety of state-of-the art equipment to help expedite comprehensive research in many fields, including Behavior, Cardiovascular, Cancer, Chemical, Metabolic, and musculoskeletal. Consultation, training, and experimental support are available upon request.

More information can be found at https://genomics.tamu.edu/preclinical-phenotyping/

Contact Dr. Trott for detailed pricing information (atrott@tamu.edu)

**VTPP SCIENCE IN ACTION**

Identifying and highlighting the impactful VTPP publications of each month. The goal is to capture these articles for annual VTPP research highlights I hope it serves as an accessible archive and reference for upcoming research events and deadlines, and sources of information to support our next discoveries. If you have suggestions for impactful VTPP publications that can be highlighted, please share these ideas with me.

Dr. Safe’s article ([link included above and below](https://mcr.aacrjournals.org/content/early/2019/08/28/1541-7786.MCR-19-0408.full-text.pdf)) provides important new data that begins to decipher the mechanism by which NR4A1 antagonism inhibits the proliferation, survival, and migration of rhabdomyosarcoma tumor cells. The data are exciting as they explain how NR4A1 is able to exert these anti-tumor effects. Safe’s lab show that NR4A1 silencing or pharmacologic inhibition resulted in accumulation of reactive oxygen species (ROS) and ROS-dependent induction of the tumor suppressor cytokine interleukin-24 (IL-24) in rhabdomyosarcoma cells. Furthermore, the NR4A1 mechanism involves regulation of the pro-reductant genes thioredoxin domain-containing 5 (TXNDC5) and isocitrate dehydrogenase 1 (IDH1), which were downregulated. In sum, the compelling data (summarized in the putative mechanism Figure 7F below) argue for the anticancer activities of NR4A1 antagonists and presents them as a promising new therapeutic opportunity in rhabdomyosarcoma, a tumor with limited treatment options.

https://mcr.aacrjournals.org/content/early/2019/08/28/1541-7786.MCR-19-0408.full-text.pdf
VTTP STAFF

- Thank you to all our fabulous VTTP staff. We are appreciative of everything you do to make our work day better and to ensure VTTP remains a great department.
- VTTP always celebrates department birthdays, this month congratulations to Madison Blice, Matheus Felix and Dr. Ramadoss. Hope it was a great celebration.

VTTP IN THE COMMUNITY

Thank you to everyone who completed the VTTP Well-being survey! This responses received (~20% response rate) will have a positive impact on the culture and climate in VTTP. VTTP is already responding to items identified in the survey with two interactive breakfasts planned for September 4 (VTTP Office and business staff breakfast) and September 11 (ALL VTTP staff, students, faculty) a drop-in breakfast!

Success is not final, failure is not fatal: it is the courage to continue that counts

Winston Churchill