Colleagues,

Please enjoy the February 2021 VTPP Success. I appreciate your continued efforts to ensure that VTPP continues to lead in the CVMBS.

Welcome back to warmth and Texas weather everyone!! I was delighted to learn that there was minimal serious damage for any of our VTPP family, although the recent weather scenario added more disruption to an already massively disrupted situation. Faculty, students and staff have rallied to ensure that VTPP continues on a trajectory for more success and that our research and teaching efforts continue on track. I am very grateful for your efforts to keep the semester rolling.

We are getting closer to having access to vaccine and perhaps a light at the end of a tortuously long tunnel. Let’s not forget the 500,000+ deaths in the US from the pandemic and please continue to wear a mask everywhere on campus, wash your hands and socially distance. I remind everyone to remain on guard and diligent. Stay home if you are ill, get tested, and quarantine if you are exposed. Texas A&M University has kiosks located around campus where anyone can get a test. I encourage everyone to utilize the very informative Hopkins COVID19 dashboard https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/map.html

For your information, the link below lists the general reporting guidelines for anyone having a positive COVID19 test https://www.tamu.edu/coronavirus/messages/july-20-covid-19-reporting-process.html For more updates and guidance from Texas A&M University in the current COVID-19 pandemic go to: https://www.tamu.edu/coronavirus/index.html

The continued disruption of everything due to the weather and in the ongoing presence of the pandemic has highlighted the extent of enormous change we continue to endure. In VTPP and the CVMBS we are fully committed to a climate where all faculty, students, staff, and administrators feel that they are treated respectfully, and fully accepted and valued for who they are. Please recognize now more than ever, how important it is for all of us to work together and embrace our combined future. VTPP must remain vigilant and recognize that our words and actions directly impact the sense of community and belonging that individuals feel within our Department and College. Our words matter. Please continue to be mindful of them.

The February 2021 “VTPP Science in action” article comes from the laboratory of Dr. Larry Suva and colleagues in Arkansas published in Bone. The important article provides the first discounting of the well-accepted but incorrect adage long-held in the myeloma community that myeloma bone lesions do not heal. The examination of >300 myeloma patients demonstrates the extent to which multiple lesions in the same patient and undergoing different treatment regimens heal. The article that will change clinical practice in the care of patients with multiple myeloma (PDF attached to this email) can be found at: https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S8756328221000387?via%3Dihub

Don’t forget our VTPP website. Please keep your information and webpage current as this is our first line of access for perspective students and others. For any revisions/additions please let Ms. Julie Austin and I know. More recent faculty and staff photographs are widely needed, FYI https://physiology.tamu.edu/

Thank you everyone in VTPP for leading the way. Your efforts make us better every day. It is my privilege to work with all of you.

Larry

“Some people want it to happen, some wish it would happen, others make it happen.”

Michael Jordan
VTPP PUBLICATIONS (February 1, 2021 - February 28, 2021)


VTPP faculty are denoted in bold text, trainees in italics

Please keep these important and impactful VTPP publications coming! The 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 success.

VTPP FACULTY

Thank you to all VTPP faculty who have submitted grants both in December and January and all through the pandemic. Please keep up these efforts. VTPP needs all grant submissions to continue! 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.

February 1, 2021-February 28, 2021)

6. Congratulations to Dr. Stephen Safe (PI) on the submission of a revised NIH R01 application entitled “NR4A1 as a Novel Drug Target for Treating Rhabdomyosarcoma”

7. Congratulations to Dr. Ivan Ivanov (Co-I) on the submission of a new NIH R01 application entitled “Phytotherapy for Endometriosis”

8. Congratulations to Dr. Annie Newell-Fugate (PI) on the submission of a new NIH R21 Trailblazer application entitled “Modulation of mitochondrial function via design of a defect-rich, high energy molybdenum disulfide nanoparticle”

9. Congratulations to Dr Marissa Cisneros (Co-PI) on the submission of a new USDA-Economic Research Services application entitled “Accounting for Undercounted Populations in Measurement of Food Insecurity”
VTPP STUDENTS & TRAINEES

Congratulations to Josh Bertels (Phys Dev Biol graduate student; Dr Gaddy mentor) on his recent wedding in Chicago, IL. Those faculty and students in attendance had a terrific, though somewhat chilly time!

Colleagues, a terrific opportunity in 2021 for students and trainees. The Endocrine meeting is the leading meeting for endocrinology research and clinical care worldwide. Of particular interest there are numerous basic science sessions to consider with the latest research in key topical areas. Registration is open and information available at: https://www.endocrine.org/meetings-and-events/endo2021/endo-2021-registration

A reminder of the upcoming 2021 Experimental Biology meeting and the opening of American Physiologic Society (APS) abstract submissions. Abstract submission information can be found at: https://experimentalbiology.org/Abstracts.aspx

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

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.

For the latest in online learning resources, please visit the TAMU keep teaching page at https://keepteaching.tamu.edu/

Creativity in the Classroom. The provost shared information regarding the way TAMU faculty have been creative in teaching courses, particularly those who have adapted so well to teaching face-to-face with a remote audience. If you or
a colleague have a creative tip to share, please send to provostcomm@tamu.edu with the subject line TEACHING TIP so these experiences can be on the Keep Teaching website indicated above.

Texas A&M is in the process of planning the 2021 Fall semester. The two major priorities are to provide the best education possible while preserving the health and safety of all of Aggies. Texas A&M University intends to offer courses in multiple ways: traditional face to face with no remote option; face to face with remote option; face to face and remote mixed; remote only synchronous; remote only asynchronous; and web-based for distance education programs (keepteaching.tamu.edu/#springmode). Courses offered face-to-face will need to either be electives or required courses also offered remotely in a separate course section.

The American Physiological Society (APS) is hosting a series of important educational opportunities. On March 31, 11 a.m. EDT a webinar entitled “Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI): Implicit Bias and Stereotype Threat” is being offered. This webinar will discuss how implicit bias—associating stereotypes without conscious knowledge—affects hiring, promotion, mentorship and productivity. The program will focus on defining these stereotyping phenomena, tools to retrain our brains to reduce bias and ways to overcome implicit bias and stereotype threat. The webinars are free and open to all. Registration is required and I encourage your attendance. https://www.physiology.org/detail/event/2021/03/31/default-calendar/webinar-series-diversity-equity-and-inclusion-%28dei%29-implicit-bias-and-stereotype-threat?SSO=Y&_zs=bea6c&_zl=fFTS2

ZOOM Etiquette

Colleagues, some Zoom meeting etiquette tips and best practices for online video conference meetings

Don't Be Late. Video meetings make it obvious when colleagues show up late, wasting the time of those who log in promptly.

Turn on the Camera: If there is sufficient band width

Sit Still.

No Eating

Get Good at Interrupting: Be thoughtful and mindful of how your question will be perceived

Close the Office Door

Don't Multitask

Stay on mute if you are not talking

Only invite people who need to be on the call

As host, be the last one to leave


Please continue to let me know of successes, updates and/or issues with the delivery on-line or otherwise of any of your VTPP classes
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 generation of high impact discoveries.

VTPP Science Friday conversations continue to be stimulating and helping develop more interactions. Faculty are encouraged to attend these important VTPP research- and mission-focused discussions. The next Science Friday discussions are scheduled via Zoom for Thursday 8:30AM, March 11 and March 25. Faculty are encouraged to initiate similar interactions and discussions. If you have specific interests in leading any Science Friday discussion/topic or have specific aims to outline or develop, just let Dr. Suva know and come present and stimulate the conversation.

VTPP Seminar Series

The Spring seminar series is here and Dr. Clement has enticed some terrific speakers to join us for seminar. On March 12 VTPP will host a seminar from Pushkar Lele, Ph.D. Assistant Professor, Chemical Engineering, TAMU entitled “Regulation of allosteric interactions in flagellar motors by mechanical forces” and on March 26 Jean-Philippe Pellois, Ph.D. Professor, Biochemistry & Biophysics, and Chemistry, TAMU will present a VTPP seminar entitled “Drug/molecule delivery systems and exosomal signaling”

Seminars are held via Zoom, 2-3 PM. As always, please push, encourage and direct your graduate students and trainees to attend the VTPP seminar.

Research in the COVID19 era at Texas A&M University

Much is still happening with ongoing research. With research activities nearing full swing, protective measures remain essential. Please continue to monitor the VPR website regarding the latest information available regarding changes to research related to dynamic COVID-19 conditions. [https://vpr.tamu.edu/covid-19](https://vpr.tamu.edu/covid-19)

Please remember to wear masks in all TAMU locations and minimize occupancy of elevators in all buildings, including all of the research buildings.

Upcoming NIH Grant Deadlines and Opportunities

- **March 5:** Revision, renewal R01 applications
- **April 8:** F Series Fellowships (including F31 Diversity–NOT-OD-17-029) New, renewal, resubmission, Individual National Research Service Awards

For more details and upcoming 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)
VTPP Research Infrastructure
VTPP continues collecting details of the major equipment and technical capabilities that exist in VTPP research laboratories. This effort will develop a framework to support VTPP investigators identify skills and equipment resources in VTPP. By identifying VTPP resources these can be leveraged multi-investigator grant applications, but also help identify where we may lack important equipment. Current resources information is available on our VTPP website. If you have not done so, please send DH your most recent grant resources page so we can continue to compile the information. [https://physiology.tamu.edu/vtpp-research-resources/](https://physiology.tamu.edu/vtpp-research-resources/)

VTPP Research metrics
I am excited to include the track record of VTPP research grants and awards from 2016-2020. In the January VTPP Success, I inadvertently included erroneous data. The correct data regarding submissions and awards through AgriLife and TAMU 2016-2020 are now listed below
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 the articles serve as an accessible archive and reference of our very best VTPP Science!

The February 2021 highlighted “VTPP Science in Action” article (link included below) comes from a long-term collaborative effort between the laboratory of Dr. Larry Suva and Dr. Maurizio Zangari in Arkansas. The article provides the first compelling evidence of the systematic and extensive healing of myeloma bone lesions yet reported. The article concludes with the paradigm shifting conclusion that patient baseline bone-related factors play a fundamentally important role in the skeletal repair of bone lesions in multiple myeloma that provide new opportunities for improving patient outcomes. The figure to the right shows the extent to which large, lytic bone lesions heal. White arrows reveal extremely large lesions (pelvis (top) and right rib (bottom)) that are healed (Yellow arrows) in the images to the right from the same patient. The study provides a strong and compelling rationale for redesigning prospective clinical trials in multiple myeloma patients with the inclusion of comprehensive bone end points, such as skeletal related events, biomarkers (alkaline phosphatase), bone marrow biopsies and more frequent imaging (PET/CT or MRI) as demonstrated in this manuscript. Congratulations again to all the members of the team for the study. The manuscript can be found at: https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S8756328221000387?via%3Dihub

VTPP STAFF

VTPP always celebrates departmental birthdays February 2021 birthday wishes are headed to Drs. John Stallone, Tracy Clement, Luke Lyons, Chris Quick and Larry Suva. We also celebrate the birthdays of Angie Taylor, Raine Lunde, Lorna Safe and Kalen Johnson. Best wishes and happy birthday to all!

Thank you to all our fabulous VTPP staff. The faculty, students and I are especially appreciative of everything you do to ensure VTPP remains a great department. You make us better every day!
VTPP ACROSS TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

Identifying and highlighting the impact of VTPP across campus. I hope it serves as an accessible archive to track the extent to which our faculty, staff and students work to bring down barriers to VTPP success! This new addition is part of an ongoing description of existing VTPP interactions with the goal to generate questions about multidisciplinary opportunities and to help identify common themes that may expand future VTPP collaborations. I look forward to more information about expanding these important interactions.

Dr. Jeremy Wasser has led (in collaboration with several Texas A&M University faculty from CVMBS and Engineering) one of the most (if not most) successful study abroad programs for more than a decade, based in Bonn, Germany. The Bonn program is the longest-running semester-long program of its kind in the CVMBS. The program for students in biomedical sciences (BIMS), life sciences and biomedical engineering majors complete up to 14 credit hours. Dr. Wasser’s global classroom constitutes an interdisciplinary approach to physiology, the history of medicine, and the marriage of art and science. Dr. Wasser uses teaching and performance to create opportunities for growing students’ understanding of unfamiliar cultural, historical and psychological aspects of being human while understanding the physiology related to the way the human body functions. These efforts have helped pave the way for many subsequent study-abroad efforts, including the VTPP Bulgaria program (led by Dr. Ivan Ivanov, VTPP). Programs such as this are an example of the broad reach of VTPP programs across Texas A&M University and remain a continued point of emphasis for the department. We are especially grateful for the continued interactions and collaborations colleagues with Biomedical Engineering.

VTPP continues silo-busting efforts across the Texas A&M University campus!
The AAAS and APS have been active in encouraging awareness of mental health and well-being long before the pandemic. Indeed, mental health is a critical public health issue worldwide with a prevalence rate for any mental disorder in adults is 46%, and 46% in adolescents (J Sch Health. 2016 Dec; 86(12): 922–931). With this in mind and being aware of the professional and personal stresses of the current pandemic environment, I found the following information informative and sobering. These perils may be applicable to faculty, students, and staff. Please remember that our VTPP family is here for you during these unprecedented and challenging times.
"VTPP, where innovation shapes the future of veterinary research and education"

**VTPP WELLNESS**

Please enjoy how VTPP is staying well during the pandemic. I share them with you as part of VTPP’s continued success!! No names are provided, to protect the innocent. **Please keep sending images of VTPP Wellness to share, and please continue to be safe!**

- Snow-based smoothies?
- Vaccine anyone?
- Now that’s a thoughtful snowman!
- Snowy wildlife
- Snow chains in BCS?
- Surprise VTPP visitor!?
- Essential items for BCS of late!
- Didn’t snow all the time in BCS. Suva lab team building!
- Ice storm turkey, who knew?
“VTPP, where innovation shapes the future of veterinary research and education”

“The future depends on what we do in the present”

∞ MAHATMA GANDHI ∞