“VTPP, where innovation shapes the future of veterinary research and education”

Colleagues,

Please enjoy the August 2021 VTPP Success. I really appreciate your continued efforts to ensure that VTPP continues to lead the research and educational missions of the CVMBS. Welcome back to the Fall semester

Students are back, classes rolling and we are starting another exciting semester, still with some trepidation. The pandemic rages around us, but as we look forward to another great semester I urge each of you to take care.

Annual VTPP Excellence awards: Don’t forget to nominate VTPP staff, graduate student and faculty mentor for the 2021 VTPP excellence awards (mentor, staff and graduate student). I look forward to the nominations and to recognize the excellence of our VTPP colleagues. Nominations are due October 22, 2021. Nomination information is attached to this email and will also be distributed soon!

The best way to reveal and stop the ugliness of hate speech is NOT ignore it, but to shine a light on it, and address it head on. To everyone in VTPP, I encourage all to attend Green Dot and Ally training as a way to help all of us support and protect all members of our Texas A&M University community. I urge all to be kind to each other, be welcoming to everyone and stand up for what is right. Please visit the links below to deepen our diversity and inclusion efforts:

https://allies.tamu.edu/
https://diversity.tamu.edu/Resources

Welcome our newest VTPP Office Student workers.

![Lily Kaisharis](image1.jpg)

Lily Kaisharis. Lily is a senior (WHOOP!) public health major, currently applying to nursing schools in the Houston area and hopes to become a nurse practitioner. Originally from Sugar Land, Lily is the oldest of three siblings. Fun fact I enjoy watching street food videos from around the world and often attempts to cook the recipes!! Cuisine has the power to connect people despite language barriers and geographic lines, and that is one of the things I love most about learning cuisine from around the world! As you stop by the office candy jar (which I’ve gathered most of you do) feel free to say hello. I can’t wait to meet you all, thanks and Gig’em!

![Lauren Reitmeyer](image2.jpg)

Lauren Reitmeyer. Lauren is a junior studying Kinesiology, with a double minor in psychology and neuroscience and hopes to pursue pediatric occupational therapy. From Montgomery, Texas, (and the youngest of two) with both parent and older sibling graduates of Texas A&M. Maroon blood there! Lauren spends free time watching new shows and movies, so if you have any/need any recommendations don’t hesitate to ask! I also love to take pictures and even have (sort of) my own photography business. I hope to see y’all around! Gig’em Aggies!
The August 2021 “**VTPP Science in action**” article comes from highly collaborative studies by Dr. Un-Ho Jin (research assistant professor), working with Dr. Stephen Safe and Dr. Robert Chapkin (College of Agriculture and Life Sciences) published in *Molecular Nutrition & Food Research*. The studies interrogated the mechanism of action and functional effects of coffee extracts on colonic cells as well as on intestinal stem cell growth. The mediator of the diverse effects of coffee extracts was indeed the aryl hydrocarbon receptor (AhR). Coffee is a well-described anti-inflammatory agent in the gut and the elegant studies suggest that the anti-inflammatory effects of coffee in the intestine are due, in part, to activation of AhR signaling. The extremely interesting article (PDF attached to this email) provides mechanistic insight into the effects of consumption of roasted coffee extracts. The data provide the first evidence that AhR activation is associated with a wide range of beneficial health effects including enhanced gut resilience can be found at: https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/34406707/
VTPP PUBLICATIONS (July 1, 2021-July 31, 2021)


VTPP STUDENTS & TRAINEES

Welcome the incoming CVMBS graduate students for Fall 2021!

With our return to graduate classes and the incoming graduate student class, don’t forget VTPP seminar for the fall! Welcome to all our NEW VTPP graduate students, including Ms. Alyssa Falck (see arrow) (Dr. Suva: mentor).
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VTPP RESEARCH FORECAST

At Texas A&M, the most up-to-date COVID-19 guidance regarding campus procedures, testing, reporting and other helpful information can be found at:

https://www.tamu.edu/coronavirus/index.html

As you are aware, Texas A&M does not require COVID-19 vaccinations, although students, faculty and staff are strongly encouraged to get a COVID-19 vaccination and wear face coverings, especially indoors (vaccinated and non-vaccinated individuals). For more information regarding getting the vaccine on campus, at no cost, got to:

https://shs.tamu.edu/coronavirus/vaccine-information/

All Texas A&M students, faculty and staff - vaccinated and non-vaccinated - must take a COVID-19 test provided by Texas A&M before Sept. 10.

Find testing locations and times on campus at:


As researchers we have an ethical obligation to protect the well-being of all research participants. Therefore, the vaccination of all research personnel who have direct interactions with research participants is strongly encouraged. As a reminder, vaccines are readily available for students, faculty, and staff through Student Health Services, as is testing for everyone at Texas A&M University. For researchers who have not been vaccinated, face coverings are strongly recommended for self-protection and reduction of the spread of COVID-19. Similarly, high-touch objects (objects and devices, including computer peripherals, routinely touched by researcher participants) should continue to be disinfected. More guidance can be found at:

https://vpr.tamu.edu/research-status-and-plans-entering-the-fall-semester

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. 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. Also, as faculty receive study section reviews, please share with Dr. Suva for subsequent discussion at Science Friday regarding response to reviewer concerns.
VTTP Seminar Series

We are eagerly looking forward to the fall VTPP seminar series. The Fall series organized by Dr. Suva will see invited speakers being hosted by VTPP faculty and students. Please send suggestions for the Spring 2022 seminar series to Dr. Suva and Trudy Bennett. We will assemble in-person for some of our seminars so please encourage your students and staff to attend. Seminar space fills up quickly so please get those nominations in for the Spring! Students too, don’t forget VTPP encourages and supports graduate student hosted seminar speakers.

VTTP Education Chronicles

VTTP 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.

It is great to see VTPP faculty (Dr. Charity Cavazos) and HECM Physiology students in McAllen doing so well and presenting research at the recent meeting in Florida. All were attending and presenting at the Florida Behavioral Health Conference, Orlando, Florida, August 18-20. Congratulations to all involved!
VTTP SCIENCE IN ACTION

Identifying and highlighting the impactful VTTP publications of each month. The goal is to capture these articles for annual VTTP research highlights. I hope the articles serve as an accessible archive and reference of our very best VTTP Science!

The August 2021 highlighted “VTTP Science in Action” article (link included below) comes from a long-term collaborative effort between the laboratories of Dr. Stephen Safe and Dr. Robert Chapkin. The article provides the first compelling evidence to define the mechanism by which coffee extracts (and the inherent botanicals) mediate anti-inflammatory activity in the gut. If Dr. Safe laboratory is involved, there must be a link to the aryl hydrocarbon receptor (AhR) and there of course is. Coffee is the most widely consumed beverage in the world and it is estimated that in the United States the annual per capita consumption is ~115.2 L per year. In addition, there is a growing literature describing a strong inverse association between coffee drinking and mortality as well as multiple adverse human health effects including diseases, such as Parkinson’s disease and several cancers. Many of the health benefits observed for coffee consumption (which is comprised of up to 1000 different compounds: see below) are similar to those reported for AhR and ligands which include structurally diverse phytochemicals, such as those in coffee extract. Since AhR has an important role in maintaining gut health and protecting against intestinal cancers in animal models and AhR ligands ameliorate intestinal inflammation and tumor formation, these investigators asked the question if some of the beneficial effects of coffee consumption in the gut were related to AhR, in vitro and in vivo. The manuscript can be found at: https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/34406707/

LC-MS analysis of aqueous coffee extracts and separation into chemical classes

Summary diagram highlighting the AhR-dependent ability of coffee extract to suppress inflammation-induced damage, intestinal barrier function and inflammatory gene activation
August also saw the retirement of Ms. Rebecca Simmons, a VTPP icon and stalwart supporter of our VTPP teaching mission. After 20 years of tireless work at Texas A&M University, Becky retired with a departmental celebration and thank you on August 19. There was a strong and enthusiastic crowd of friends and colleagues making sure that Becky’s efforts were acknowledged, with dignity and sincere gratitude from everyone in VTPP. **Becky is already missed!**

Scenes from the celebration for the retirement of Ms. Simmons

**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!*

The answer to every wellness issue for the faculty, is on Dr. Davis’s t-shirt! Best response, ever!

Perhaps good news with the return to F2F VTPP Seminar?

Great to see the fresh faces back in VTPP427 F2F!
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