Colleagues,

Please enjoy the December 2021-January 2022 VTPP Success. I appreciate your continued efforts striving for excellence that ensure VTPP continues to lead in the CVMBS.

Welcome back everyone!! I am hoping that we are back and hard at work. Faculty, students and staff are engaged and ready to make an impact in the coming year. However, please do your best to continue to wear a mask, wash your hands and stay safe. 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. More information about the TAMU COVID requirements can be found at: https://covid.tamu.edu/

The disruption of everything due to the pandemic has highlighted the extent of enormous change we are experiencing. 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.

Welcome back to VTPP, as a new Professor of Practice for the Spring 2022 semester, Dr. Jon Hunter. Dr Hunter is actively teaching in VTPP435 (Physiology for Bioengineers) a course Dr Hunter developed more years ago than we would care to remember. Welcome back to the Department, the apple does not fall far from the tree!

VTPP also welcomes a group of new Adjunct faculty, recently approved by VTPP and faculty and TAMU DOF: Drs. Daston, Friedman, Gaddy, Ryder and Wright

The January 2022 “VTPP Science in action” article comes from the work of Dr. Ken Muneoka and colleagues published in Development. The important article describes in significant detail the presence of latent articular chondrocyte progenitor cells that can be activated by BMP9 during joint regeneration. The investigators go further and identify (using single cell RNA Seq) a BMP9 responsive adult fibroblast cell line that was used to engineer hyaline cartilage for engraftment into an acutely damaged joint. Engraftment of these cells are able to restore damaged articular cartilage in vivo. The extremely exciting and groundbreaking article (PDF attached to this email) can be found at: https://doi.org/10.1242/dev.200249

Don’t forget to utilize 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 that you would like or suggestions for other items to be added to the VTPP website, please let Ms. Julie Austin and I know. There is a lot there already and we are always looking to update and improve it. 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
VTPP PUBLICATIONS (December 1, 2021-December 31, 2021)


VTPP PUBLICATIONS (January 1, 2022-January 31, 2022)


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 successes.*
VTPP ANNUAL AWARDS

In December 2021, VTPP presented our annual VTPP staff, faculty mentor of student of the year awards. The awards were part of the VTPP Holiday and Christmas Celebration help at Pebble Creek Country Club on December 15. It was a highly successful and well-attended celebration of another wonderful year in VTPP. Images from the event and the awardees are included below.

Jeff Bray VTPP staff member of the year. Not exactly at the Holiday celebration!

Dr. Mike Golding, faculty mentor of the year

Kalen Johnson, graduate student of the year and mentor: Dr. Cris Heaps

Thanks to Ms. Angie Taylor (2020 staff member for the year) and for returning the perpetual VTPP award!

We also had the opportunity to wish Gloria a wonderful retirement and to say thank you, thank you, thank you

We also acknowledged outstanding service efforts to TAMU, including Ms. Cathy Green (no length of service here to protect the innocent)
So did Drs. Blue and Gaddy!!

Even Dr. Porter and graduate student Garhett Wyatt got into the act!

VTTP FACULTY

Thank you to all VTTP faculty who have submitted grants both in December and January and all through the pandemic. Please keep up these efforts. VTTP needs all grant submissions to continue! Also, ALL faculty are encouraged to utilize the VTTP grant biopsy strategy where sections (or major chunks) of grants in preparation and/or revision are read and critiques by our experienced VTTP research-intensive faculty. This is a proven successful strategy that I encourage everyone to utilize.

Congratulations to Dr. Chris Quick, PI and Dr. Marissa Cisneros (Co-I) on a recently awarded NIH R25 (1R25MH129792-01) entitled “Cultivating a Sustainable Neuroscience Research-Intensive Community to Build Equity”.

Congratulations to Dr. Annie Newell-Fugate and Dr. Cris Heaps (Co-PIs) on a recently awarded UT Southwestern Center for Translational Medicine (Pilot Award) entitled “Impact of exercise on the coronary perivascular adipose tissue microenvironment”.

December 1-December 31, 2021

1. Congratulations to Kirby Sherman (PhD candidate) and Dr. Larry Suva (Co-I) on the submission of a new NIHF31 proposal entitled “Investigating injury response and bone regeneration in Down syndrome mouse models”

January 1-January 31, 2022

1. Congratulations to Dr. Larry Suva (PI) on the re-submission of a CPRIT high risk-high reward application entitled “A serum biomarker to predict breast cancer progression”
2. Congratulations to Dr. Stephen Safe (Co-I) on the submission of a new NIH R01 entitled “Hepatotoxicant Impacts on FoxO1 Signaling in Control of Liver Fibrosis and Injury”
"VTPP, where innovation shapes the future of veterinary research and education"

VTPP also welcomes four new faculty (originally in VIBS) and the leadership of the CVMBS Interdisciplinary Toxicology Program to VTPP. This effort in conjunction with VIBS has ensured as consolidation of the toxicology program with the research-intensive faulty in VTPP. Historically, the toxicology program has always had a strong affiliation with VTPP and was administratively located in VTPP as recently as 2016. Welcome home!

Dr. Weihsueh Chiu  Dr. Weston Porter  Dr Tim Phillips  Dr Ivan Rusyn

VTPP STUDENTS & TRAINEES

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

A reminder of the upcoming 2022 Experimental Biology meeting and the opening of American Physiologic Society (APS) abstract submissions. Abstract information can be found at:
https://www.apsebmeeting.org/eb2022/index.cfm?zs=bea6c&_zl=PUIv2

In addition, VTPP has again sponsored the membership in APS for VTPP faculty and graduate students. As members (2022) you continue to receive:

- Access to exclusive research via 13 research and 2 review journals
- Comprehensive physiology and the APS Journals Legacy Content
- Expanded live and digital events and online development opportunities
- Access to more than $1.2 million in awards, grants and fellowships
- Leadership and volunteer opportunities at every career level
- Voting privileges to help guide the future of the Society

Congratulations to CVMBS BIMS PhD graduates (December 2021) including Dr. Marcus Orzabal (arrows) trainee of former VTPP faculty member, Dr. Jay Ramadoss. Congratulations Marcus and good luck in medical school!
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.

I hope we will be able to present and attend the 2022 Transformational Teaching & Learning Conference (TTLC). The event in 2022 will showcase the theme “Teaching and Learning Change” focusing on relationships, resilience, and reflection that can better prepare graduates for the future. TTLC this year will include one in-person day with several invited plenary sessions including a keynote and workshop with José Bowen, remarks from the Provost, and TED-style talks by the recent Presidential Professor for Teaching Excellence (PPTE) and University Professor for Undergraduate Teaching Excellence (UPUTE) recipients. In addition, there is the opportunity to submit recorded presentations from the faculty.

To present, please submit a proposal for your recorded presentation (500 words or less). In your narrative describe: Presentation objectives; Target audience; Connection with the conference theme of Teaching and Learning Change; Best practices/innovative techniques featured; Predict the length of the recording, not to exceed eight minutes and provide up to five keywords that will allow others to find your presentation. Details can be found at: https://ttlc.tamu.edu/ttlc/media/library/docs/TTLC-Call-for-Proposals.pdf

Proposals are due Wednesday, February 16, 2022 and can be submitted at:
https://tamu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_bao9XTIoFuoj1c

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. All faculty are encouraged to attend these important VTPP research- and mission-focused discussions. The first 2022 Science Friday discussions are scheduled via Zoom for **Thursday 8:30AM, February 3 and February 24**. Faculty are encouraged to step up and 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.
VTTP Seminar Series

The Spring 2022 seminar series is under way and we have assembled some terrific speakers. Seminars are held via Zoom, 2-3 PM. As always, please push, encourage, and direct and please strongly encourage your graduate students and trainees to attend VTPP seminar.

Upcoming NIH Grant Deadlines and Opportunities

February 5: New, R01 applications
February 12: New K series, Research Career Development grants
February 16: New R03, R21, R33, R21/R33, R34, R36, U34, UH2, UH3, UH2/UH3

Other Research Grants and Cooperative Agreements

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

VTTP Research Infrastructure

VTTP Research metrics

Great to include the track record of VTPP research grants and awards from 2016-2021. As presented in the 2021 State of the Department seminar, data below for submissions and awards through AgriLife and TAMU are below.
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VTPP STAFF

VTPP always celebrates departmental birthdays, December 2021 birthday congratulations go to Drs. Virginia Fajt and Regina Brunauer, as well as Rebecca Simmons, Katherine Zimmel and Sybil Camacho

January 2022 birthday wishes headed to Dr. Ling Yu and Kara Thomas

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!
The January 2022 highlighted “VTPP Science in Action” article (link included above and below) comes from the work of Dr. Ling Yu and the lab of Dr. Ken Muneoka with VTPP trainees and colleagues, as well as faculty from VIBS. The manuscript outlines a series of elegant experiments that demonstrate for the first time Excerpted images from Figure 5 show the normal layered organization consisting of a middle layer and a deep layer of the articular cartilage in the mouse (A) with the box showing the injury site magnified in (D). 3 months following implantation of articular cartilage cells grown in the laboratory (using never before published methodologies to sustain the articular cells) reimplantation shows regeneration of the articular cartilage surface (E) with viable and integrated cells visible (F). Given the clinical significance of joint disabilities and the potential for cell-based regenerative strategies, the implantation of engineered cartilage demonstrating not only graft survival and stability but also tissue integration with host tissues as shown in this paper are extraordinary. Congratulations again to all the members of the research team for the highly impactful study. There is still much to be learned and done! The manuscript can be found at:
https://doi.org/10.1242/dev.200249
VTTP ACROSS TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

Identifying and highlighting the impact of VTTP 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 VTTP success! This new addition is part of an ongoing description of existing VTTP interactions with the goal to generate questions about multidisciplinary opportunities and to help identify common themes that may expand future VTTP collaborations. I look forward to more information about expanding these important interactions.

The VTTP DeBakey Staff Leadership Program was designed to provide VTTP staff members with the critical skills to lead, manage, and direct staff and students at all levels. The training program is unique because it allows participants to apply leadership principles, analyze the impact of their leadership choices, consult with their peers, and document their successes as leaders. The program creates professional development opportunities allowing VTTP staff to discuss current leadership topics in the workplace and utilize these skills. The pilot of this program is extremely successful and there is consideration of broadening it across the CVMBS.

Benefits:

- Gain leadership experience careers
- Network with peers and leaders
- Earn a certificate after participation in two semesters
- Document the development of a Leadership Best Practice Report

VTTP continues to lead silo-busting efforts across the Texas A&M University campus!
National African American (Black) History Month begins **Monday, February 1**, and ends **Monday, March 1**. Although the celebration originated in the US, the event has received official recognition from governments in the United States, Canada, Ireland, the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom.

Diversity, equity and inclusion is an important part of our plan for success in VTPP and we continue to strive for increased DEI in all aspects of our department. The website [https://native-land.ca/](https://native-land.ca/) provides an interesting perspective of the basis for the location of Texas A&M University. The site identifies the identity of the original land owners in Texas. It turns out our University (and local community) resides on the historic lands of the of the Sana and Tonkawa people. The Tonkawa signed a treaty with Stephen F. Austin (1859) that was apparently ignored for a decade or more. The indigenous people were “moved” to Oklahoma along with other plains tribes and the region was reported as “cleared” for about three years before the Morrill Act created Texas A&M as a land-grant University (1862).

**January 26 (Also Australia Day and Indigenous People’s Day)** was this year the date of the first CVMBS Coffee, culture and conversation event that featured art, music, and the spoken word from faculty and students in CVMBS. Many in attendance included Dr Jon Hunter (also presenting some incredible wildlife photography as well as poetry from 1VM student and VTPP427 TA) Kadden Kothmann, with Dr. Suva as the emcee. The event organized by the C-IDEA committee was held in VENI Third-Floor Commons. It was a great start to what will hopefully become a regular event, showcasing the diverse talents of the CVMBS.
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!

Now that’s VTPP wellness! Young Jack and Adam Patterson

Happy New Year from the Wildlife Center

Looks cold at Angel Fire, NM

Happy December 2021 birthday wishes!

Unbelievable wildlife photography from Dr Jon Hunter

Loving Hailey’s focus and concentration! An example for us all
“Real change, enduring change, happens one step at a time.”

Ruth Bader Ginsberg.