Division of Program Coordination, Planning, and Strategic Initiatives (DPCPSI)

OFFICE OF RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAMS

The 12th Annual Merial-NIH National Veterinary Scholars Symposium

"Comparative Medicine: The Key to Translation,"

August 2- 5, 2012

Loveland, Colorado.

The views expressed in written conference materials or publication and by speakers and moderators at HHS-sponsored conferences do not necessarily reflect the official policies of the Department of Health and Human Services, nor does mention of trade names, commercial practices, or organizations imply endorsement by the U.S. Government

Summary: The 12th Annual Merial-NIH National Veterinary Scholars Symposium "Comparative Medicine: The Key to Translation," August 2- 5, 2012, Loveland, Colorado.

Overview: A total of 525 participants attended the 12th annual Merial-NIH Symposium at the Embassy Suites John Hammons Conference Center at Loveland, Colorado, hosted by Colorado State University (CSU). Over 400 veterinary students from 33 veterinary schools including 28 from US institutions, four from Canada and one from the United Kingdom were represented at the symposium as well as veterinary students training at the National Cancer Institute and National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases. Other participants included University Program Directors and representatives from the NIH, Merial, Burroughs Wellcome, the Association of American Veterinary Colleges, the American Veterinary Medical Association, and the Howard Hughes Medical Institute. Students attending the symposium included veterinary students participating in the summer research program, DVM/PhD students and postdoctoral veterinarians in research training programs. The theme of the symposium was "Comparative Medicine: The Key to Translation."

Description: The symposium lasted two full days. The program for the first day included plenary sessions on regenerative medicine and translational research, a poster session and specialty/sponsor organization meetings during lunch, including the NIH Training (T) grant Directors' meeting. Topics of discussion included administrative updates from the Division of Comparative Medicine (DCM)/ORIP, budget/funding issues related to T grants, specific requirements for annual progress reports, Merial-NIH sponsored databases of participant summer scholars and institutional information to be incorporated on the DCM/ORIP Web page.

Dr. Elias Zerhouni, formerly NIH Director and currently, President of Global Research and Development at Sanofi, gave the keynote presentation, focusing on the next generation of scientists and future medical challenges. Sessions on the state of the art of companion animal genetics and advances in reproductive technologies followed the keynote address. The first day event ended with a dinner on the CSU main campus, featuring Dr. Temple Grandin (CSU), who gave a presentation related to key concepts for understanding domestic animal behavior. The second day consisted of a poster session followed by sessions that included discussions of comparative oncology and prion diseases of animals. The young investigator award finalists gave short scientific presentations during lunch. The afternoon session consisted of five sessions entitled: "Select Agent Translational Medicine," "Funding Agencies: Information for Students and Faculty" which included the participation of DCM/ORIP staff, "Grant and Manuscript Writing," "Time and Management/Work-Life Balance," and "Networking Opportunities: Merial and NIH Directors in Open Forum."

DCM/ORIP staff participated later in the afternoon in the Merial Director's meeting.

The Burroughs Wellcome Trust had special sessions on Friday and Saturday morning for selected young investigators, which included the participation of DCM/ORIP staff.

The final event of the symposium included a dinner, at which selected young investigators received awards and the Merial-AAVMC excellence in research award was presented to Dr. Edgar Hoover (CSU), who gave a plenary talk entitled "Cats, Deer and Us: A Veterinarian's One Health Adventure."

C2NI·ŘŘŇúÅ2yI·f ÅyŤ2NYI·úÅ2y NŜfI·úŜŘ ú2 úKÅă YŜŜúÅyƎΣ LJfŜI·ăŜ Ŏ2yúI·ÔúY
Manuel H Moro, DVM, MPH, PhD
Division of Comparative Medicine (DCM)
Office of Research Infrastructure Programs (ORIP)
Division of Program Coordination, Planning, and Strategic Initiatives (DPCPSI)
Office of the Director, National Institutes of Health (OD,NIH)
Email: manuel.moro@nih.gov
Telephone: 301-435-0960 Fax: 301-480-3819