

OFFICE OF RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAMS

Summary of the 13th Annual Merit-NIH National Veterinary Scholars Symposium “Comparative Medicine: Meeting Global Needs”

August 1- 4, 2013

East Lansing, Michigan.

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“Comparative Medicine: Meeting Global Needs”, August 1- 4, East Lansing, Michigan.

Overview: Over 600 participants attended the 13th annual Merial-NIH Symposium at the Kellogg Center, East Lansing, Michigan, hosted by the College of Veterinary Medicine at Michigan State University. Over 435 veterinary students from 36 veterinary schools, including 27 from US institutions, three from Canada, two from the Caribbean, three from France, and one from Holland, were represented at the symposium as well as veterinary students training at NCI, NIH. Other participants included University Program Directors as well as representatives from the NIH, Merial, Burroughs Wellcome, the Association of American Veterinary Colleges, the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA), 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 over-riding theme of the symposium was “Comparative Medicine: Meeting Global Needs”.

Format: The symposium lasted two full days with some preliminary activities starting on the afternoon before the symposium. These included a presentation of the Division of Comparative Medicine (DCM) SERCA (K01) evaluation by DCM staff to directors of ORIP-funded T32 and T35 grants, and other interested parties.

The program for the morning of the first day included several sessions focusing on vaccine development, which featured the keynote speaker, Dr. Gary Nabel, past Director of the Vaccine Research Center at NIAID, NIH, and currently chief scientific officer at Sanofi. His presentation focused on the lessons learned from influenza and HIV vaccine work and the challenges for the future. The afternoon sessions included a poster session based on the veterinary students’ summer research experience and state-of-the-art sessions in laboratory animal medicine, retinal gene therapy and the “one health” concept. The second day consisted of a morning poster session followed by the AVMA excellence in research awards presentations and the ORIP T Directors meeting which was held during lunch. Topics of discussion included DCM-ORIP administrative updates, budget/funding issues related to T grants, future of the T programs and specific requirements for annual progress reports.

The afternoon session included presentations by the 2013 Merial veterinary scholars’ awardees as well as presentations by the finalists for the Young Investigator Award. These were followed by state-of-the-art sessions in infectious disease genes and genomes. DCM-ORIP staff participated later in the afternoon in the Merial program Directors meeting.

The Burroughs Wellcome Trust had special sessions on Friday and Saturday morning for selected young, early career veterinarian investigators.

Contact Information

For additional information related to this meeting, please contact:

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