In This Issue
1. Letter from the Program Director
2. Incoming students
3. Recent PhD defenses
4. Current student publications
5. Alumni awards, accomplishments, and honors
6. Upcoming events

Dear VMD-PhD Alumni and Students,

Greetings from the Penn VMD-PhD program! The fall began busy and has continued to be so. The annual Combined Degree Retreat was held in August at Villanova University and included a keynote address, as well as student posters and student talks. In September we held the annual Penn Vet Student Research BBQ at Dr. Michael May’s home and a good time was had by all. This Fall I began work on the MSTP T32 grant competitive renewal that we share with Dr. Brass (as PI) at the Perelman School of Medicine. We are requesting NIH to increase T32 slots largely to address expansion of the VMD-PhD program. Two more training grants will be submitted in the coming year: our T35 to support the Vet Summer Research Program, and our T32 to support VMD-PhD training in infectious disease-related research. We are now entering a new admissions cycle and admissions interviews will be held on January 19, 2017. In August we welcomed four new VMD-PhD students into the program and their information is included here.

We have also included alumni and current student updates, awards and publications in this letter. We are proud of our alumni and current students. Finally, the annual Dinner Party at my home for current students and local alumni will be on Friday, December 16 at 6:00PM. We wish you the best as 2016 comes to a close.

Sincerely,
Michael Atchison, Ph.D.
Director, VMD-PhD Program

Alumni are Online!
Check out:
http://www.vet.upenn.edu/education/academics-and-training/vmd-phd-program/vmd-phd-alumni-profiles
Find your profile, and send us feedback!

http://www.vet.upenn.edu/education/academics-and-training/vmd-phd-program
Incoming VMD-PHD Students

Jaclyn Carlson (Year 1)  
Cornell University  
Bioengineering

Jaclyn graduated from Cornell University with a BS in Engineering in May 2011, and subsequently earned a master’s degree at Cornell in May 2012. Her most recent research experience was at the University of California, San Francisco in the lab of Dr. Linda Noble developing a model for concussion and examining acute and long-term behavioral effects and histology in adolescent ferrets. She has several papers published or in progress from her lab experience with Dr. Noble where she was employed since October 2013. Her published work includes a chapter in the book, Methods in Molecular Biology, by Springer and a paper in Frontiers in Neurology. Jaclyn also worked in the laboratory of Dr. Jonathan Black at Cornell University working on conformable structural bone graft substitutes. As an undergraduate student at Cornell, Jaclyn was member of the Cornell University Space Systems Satellite Project Team (CUSat). The team was funded to design, build and launch a satellite into orbit. Her other interests include sports such as soccer and basketball.

Philip Hicks (Year 1)  
University of Delaware  
CAMB MVP

Philip graduated from the University of Delaware in May 2013. Philip worked as a laboratory specialist at the Perelman School of Medicine of the University of Pennsylvania in the laboratory of Dr. Anil K. Rustgi since February 2014. The laboratory focuses on development and malignancies of the gastroenterological system, including esophagus, small intestine, colon, and pancreas utilizing in vitro techniques and genetic mouse models. Philip has published two papers in Molecular Cancer Research and in Cancer Research while working in Dr. Rustgi’s lab. His interests include baseball, basketball, and volunteering.
Ashley Vanderbeck (Year 1)
Haverford College
Immunology
Ashley graduated from Haverford College in May 2013. Her most recent research experience was at Columbia University Medical Center in New York. There she worked as a research technician in the joint laboratory of Drs. Stephen Emerson and Jennifer Punt studying hematopoietic stem cells and hematopoietic development. She has one published paper in *Stem Cells*. Ashley also worked in the laboratory of Dr. Karin Akerfeldt, where she investigated the synthesis and structure of peptides. Her interests include health and exercise. Ashley was a Division III track and softball player during her undergraduate years at Haverford.

Nathaniel Sotuyo (Year 3)
Johns Hopkins University
Neurosciences
Nate graduated from Johns Hopkins University in 2010 with a BS in Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering, then in 2013 with an MS in Biotechnology. He entered Penn Vet in Fall of 2013. Prior to entering the program, Nate worked with Dr. Beema Bhatnagar on Sphingolipid signaling in the brain activating the hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal axis. He utilized an array benchtop methods such as adrenalectomies, intracerebrovascular surgeries for drug administration, immunohistochemistry, patch-clamp electrophysiology, and blood hormone radioimmunoassays to identify sphingolipid-activated brain regions. To address the behavioral correlate of these physiological effects he used Ethovision, a sophisticated behavioral analysis program.
Recent PhD Defenses

Student: Richard Jimenez  
Date: August 24, 2016  
Title: Role of Maternal SIN3A in the reprogramming gene expression during mouse preimplantation development  
Mentor: Richard Schultz  
CAMB GGR

Student: Abigail Shearin  
Date: September 21, 2016  
Title: AKT controls adipocyte function and systemic metabolism.  
Mentor: Morrie Birnbaum and Patrick Seale  
CAMB GGR

Student: Erika Lin-Hendel  
Date: November 29, 2016  
Title: Differential requirements for mitochondria during neuronal migration.  
Mentor: Stewart Anderson and Jeffrey Golden  
CAMB DSCRB

http://www.vet.upenn.edu/education/academics-and-training/vmd-phd-p
Current Student 2016 Publications


Willis, E., Parkhouse, K., Krammer, F., Hensley, S.E., 2016, Canine H3N8 influenza virus partially protect mice against the canine H3N2 strain currently circulating in the United States, Vaccine, (in press).


http://www.vet.upenn.edu/education/academics-and-training/vmd-phd-p
Alumni Awards, Accomplishments, and Honors

Stephanie Murphy (VMD 1994, PhD 1996)
Director of the Division of Comparative Medicine,
Office of Research Infrastructure Programs, Division of
Program Coordination, Planning, and Strategic Initiatives,
Office of the Director, National Institutes of Health.

Dr Murphy was awarded the Penn Vet Alumni Award on
September 27, 2016.

Sarah L. Ralston, VMD, PhD (1982)
Professor, Department of Animal Sciences
Rutgers University

Dr. Ralston gave an invited talk on Old Horse Nutrition at the EAAP Meeting (European equivalent to American Society of Animal Science) in Belfast, GB. Plus she gave a How To session on How to Feed Rapidly Growing Weanlings at the AAEP meeting in Orlando, FL, then in February 2017 will be doing 3 talks at the NAVC 2017 meeting in Orlando on Equine Clinical Nutrition.

She has three new publications:

1. Inacio Silva DF, Rezende ASC, Simões Saliba EO, Silva RHP, Maruch S, Quintão Lana AM, Ralston SL. Dry matter intake and apparent digestibility of nutrients in the ration of Mangalarga Marchador weanling horses fed sorghum silage versus grass hay. J. Equine Vet Sci (In Press10-6-2016)


Papers 1 and 3 were from her 3 month Fulbright Scholar Exchange in 2014 in Belo Horizonte, Minas Gerais, Brazil. She plans to retire next summer but will continue with Metabonomic research in collaboration with colleagues at Princeton, and will be available for lectures, talks and consulting.

http://www.vet.upenn.edu/education/academics-and-training/vmd-phd-p
Todd Strochlic, VMD, PhD (2008)
Assistant Professor
Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
College of Medicine, Drexel University

Dr. Strochlic has named Director of the Master's Program in Molecular and Cellular Biology and Genetics at Drexel University College of Medicine.
He also has a recent publication:


We want to know....
New position, promotion, patent, publication, etc.? Please share your news!
vmstp@vet.upenn.edu

Upcoming Events

VMD-PhD Christmas Party
Make sure to save the date for the annual VMD-PhD Christmas party to be held at Dr. Atchison’s home on Friday, December 16th at 6:00pm. Please RSVP by emailing: atchison@vet.upenn.edu
All current students and alumni are invited.

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