



NEWS RELEASE

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KC's Life Sciences Institute Awards Comparative Medicine Research Development Grants: Funding will stimulate research collaboration between academic researchers and animal health/nutrition companies

KANSAS CITY (September 17, 2007) –As part of its commitment to the region's Animal Health and Nutrition Initiative, The Kansas City Area Life Sciences Institute (KCALS I) announces the recipients of the Comparative Medicine Research Development Grants for 2007. The awards were publicly announced at the Kansas City Animal Health Corridor Homecoming.

And the Winners are...

The 2007 grants are awarded to **David Anderson, DVM**, Assistant Professor at Kansas State University for his grant entitled "Osseointegration of a Novel Polymeric Matrix-Antibiotic-BMP-2 Composite" and **Carol Reinero, DVM**, Assistant Professor at University of Missouri Columbia for the proposal entitled, "*Anti-Inflammatory effects of feG-COOH in a feline model of allergic asthma.*"

Collaboration is the key

"Our development grant program has been very successful in fostering scientific collaboration between university and private companies. We routinely see an average 10:1 return on these grants - \$10 federal research dollars for every one of our dollars invested. Collaboration stimulates partnerships, expediting the flow of new discoveries into the marketplace," reports Keith Gary, Ph.D., KCALS I Director of Program Development.

Dr. David Anderson will be working with the private sector company ORMULET LLC, with the assistance of the Nanotechnology Center at the University of Arkansas. This project will generate critical data upon which to build significant extramural support from the Department of Defense of National Institutes of Health. The ultimate goal of this research track is to generate a marketable product that will have a pronounced and positive effect on healing and recovery of bone injury and this product would be fully translational between human and veterinary surgery.

Dr. Carol Reinero will be collaborating with Imulan BioTherapeutics. In the last two decades, the incidence of asthma in industrialized countries has been increasing in epidemic proportions, especially in

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children. Although other animals develop airway hyperreactivity, only the cat naturally and commonly develops asthma that replicates all of the major features of the disease in humans. There is compelling evidence that the feG-COOH, a tripeptide released from the salivary gland, holds promise for the treatment of two important immunopathologic processes related to allergen-induced asthma. This proposal will examine the effect of repeated dosing of a synthetic peptide in in cats sensitized to Bermuda grass allergen to induce an asthmatic phenotype.

Comparative Medicine refers to research using the most appropriate animal models of diseases, toxic responses to drugs, and engineered mutation with the dual aims of increasing understanding of both human and animal physiology and of developing rational treatments for both human and animal ailments.

About KCALSI

The Kansas City Area Life Sciences Institute (KCALSI) is a non-profit organization assisting with the transformation of Kansas City into a center of excellence in life sciences research and development, and commercialization. The KCALSI and its stakeholder institutions share an ambitious goal—to excel in the areas of animal health/nutrition, biopharma/drug discovery, cardiovascular, neuroscience, oncology, and personalized medicines to become a national leader in biotechnology fields. KCALSI serves as the coordinating body for the Kansas City region’s life sciences research initiatives, specifically as broker, facilitator, matchmaker and potential funding organization for collaborative research initiatives. For more information, please visit www.kclifesciences.org.

Kansas City Area Life Sciences Institute stakeholder institutions –

Children’s Mercy Hospitals and Clinics
KC University of Medicine and Biosciences
Kansas State University
Midwest Research Institute
Saint Luke’s Hospital
Stowers Institute for Medical Research
University of Kansas Medical Center
University of Kansas-Lawrence
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