Congratulations to Dr. Weiss, along with fellow Cornell scientists has been awarded $3 Million to continue the fight against Cancer!

Read the below Cornell Chronicle article at:

Researchers win $3 million NIH grant to fight cancer

By Susan Lang

Three Cornell researchers have been awarded a five-year Transformative Research Projects Award (T-R01) of approximately $3.04 million from the National Institutes of Health to fight cancer by targeting the regulation of metabolic enzymes.

Richard A. Cerione, professor of pharmacology in the Department of Molecular Medicine, College of Veterinary Medicine, and of chemistry and chemical biology in the College of Arts and Sciences; Hening Lin, assistant professor of chemistry and chemical biology; and Robert G. Weiss, associate professor of molecular genetics in the Vet College, are working on the project, “Succinyltransfer and Malonyltransfer as Novel Protein Modifications in Cancer.”

The research will focus on a new set of regulatory modifications that occur on proteins and which appear to be important in cancer progression, explain the researchers.

“More specifically, we believe that these modifications help to activate proteins that are responsible for meeting the high energy requirements of cancer cells. Thus, if we can block these modifications and the activation of the metabolic proteins, the cancer cells will not be able to meet their energy needs and hopefully die,” said Cerione.

He continued, “The grant is funding a really nice collaborative undertaking between Hening’s lab (who first identified the modifications and will design small molecule inhibitors), my lab (which will examine their effects on the growth and invasiveness of cancer cells in culture), and Bob’s lab (which will develop and study mouse models for cancer that should ultimately be very valuable for assessing the inhibitors).”

Projects chosen for the T-R01 award program are intended “to challenge the status quo with innovative ideas that have the potential to propel fields forward and speed the translation of research into improved health for the American public.” In other words, the award allows researchers to sidestep conventional stumbling blocks they often encounter when applying for funding for high-risk research, such as the need for preliminary data or a restriction on the amount of funds that can be requested. The funded projects tend to be inherently risky, but if successful, can profoundly impact a broad area of biomedical research.


OCTOBER 18
DR. PAUL J. HIGGINS
Professor and Director
Center for Cell Biology & Cancer Research
Albany Medical College
Albany, NY
“The TGF-ß Target SERPINE1 Gene in Fibrosis and Cancer: Complex Regulation and Therapeutic Opportunities”

OCTOBER 26
CANCER BIOLOGY FALL SEMINAR SERIES
CORNELL UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE
WEDNESDAY, 12:30 PM
MURRAY LECTURE HALL I
VETERINARY EDUCATION CENTER
DR. PHILIP J. BERGMAN
Diplomate ACVIM-Oncology
Chief Medical Officer
BrightHeart Veterinary Centers
Armonk, NY
“Of Mice & Men (and Dogs!): Xenogeneic DNA Vaccines for the Treatment of Cancer”
Sponsored by The Department of Clinical Sciences and The Comparative Cancer Biology Training Program

NOVEMBER 2
CANCER BIOLOGY FALL SEMINAR SERIES
CORNELL UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE
WEDNESDAY, 12:30 PM
MURRAY LECTURE HALL I
VETERINARY EDUCATION CENTER
DR. JAIME F. MODIANO
Perlman Professor of Oncology/Comparative Medicine
College of Veterinary Medicine
Masonic Cancer Center
University of Minnesota
Minneapolis, MN
“The Tumor Cell and its Microenvironment – Insights into Tumor Evolution and Tumor Heterogeneity”
Sponsored by Baker Institute for Animal Health and The Comparative Cancer Biology Training Program

NOVEMBER 9
CANCER BIOLOGY FALL SEMINAR SERIES
CORNELL UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE
WEDNESDAY, 12:30 PM
MURRAY LECTURE HALL I
VETERINARY EDUCATION CENTER
DR. STEPHEN WEISS
Professor of Medicine and Oncology
University of Michigan Medical School
Ann Arbor, MI
“Molecular Regulation of the Cancer Cell EMT Invasion Program”
Sponsored by The Department of Biomedical Sciences and The Comparative Cancer Biology Training Program

NOVEMBER 15
DR. ASHLEY W. SEIFERT
Post-doctoral Associate
Department of Biology
University of Florida
Gainesville, FL
“Perfect Skin Regeneration: New Models for Scar-Free Healing”

NOVEMBER 22
DR. MINGMING WU
Adjunct Associate Professor of Biological Engineering
The Biological & Environmental Engineering Department
Cornell University
Ithaca, NY
“Roles of Molecular Gradients on Cell Migration”

NOVEMBER 29
DR. ELAINE A. OSTRANDER
Chief and Senior Scientist
Cancer Genetics Branch
Head Comparative Genomics Section
National Human Genome Research Institute
National Institute of Health
Bethesda, MD
“How to Build a Canine: Genetics of Complex Traits in the Domestic Dog”
Administrative Staff in The College of Veterinary Medicine are invited to Administrative Networking Lunches (you bring your lunch - Beverage and Cookies provided). These luncheons are held once a month. The next Administrative Networking Lunch will be Oct. 20, 2011 from 12-1pm in the Hagan Room.

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The Stem Cell Program Retreat 2011 was held Saturday, September 17 at La Tourelle Resort, Ithaca, New York with keynote speaker Dr. Anthony Oro, Stanford University. Congratulations to Song Eun Lee (Tumbar Lab) who won 1st place, Pengcheng Bu (Shen Lab) who won 2nd place, and Gabriel Balmus and Aaron Oswald (Weiss Lab) who won 3rd place during the poster session competition.

Congratulations to Drs. Michelle Lepherd, Anh Diep, and Tamas Nagy for passing their boards and who are now Diplomates of the ACVP!

The weekend of August 6-8, Cornell hosted the biannual meeting of the American Association of Veterinary Anatomists (AAVA). Marnie FitzMaurice headed an organizing committee, which included Linda Mizer, Pam Schenck, Drew Noden, Paul Maza, and John Hermanson. The two days were filled with both teaching related sessions and research related sessions. The Sunday evening banquet was held at the Museum of the Earth and catered by Moosewood ... quite a treat! At the dinner, Cornelia Farnum received the Outstanding Veterinary Anatomist Award, and Howard Evans received a Lifetime Achievement Award. The meeting ended with a fossil and nature walk in Taughannock Gorge led by Howie.