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American Society of Parasitologists Newsletter, v. 22, no. 1, April 1, 2000

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BELTSVILLE SCIENTIST HONORED FOR MOVING CERTIFICATION OF SAFE PORK INTO INDUSTRY

On February 9, 2000, research zoologist H. Ray Gamble with the Agricultural Research Service (ARS) was recognized by the agency for developing and transferring technology to the pork industry that enables certification of U.S. pigs and their meat as free of *Trichinella*, both on the farm and in the processing plant. Gamble heads the Parasite Biology and Epidemiology Laboratory at the agency's Beltsville, Maryland, Agricultural Research center. Gamble is one of several researchers receiving a cash award and a plaque for providing industry with needed information and technology. ARS is the U.S. Department of Agriculture's chief research agency.

According to ARS Administrator Floyd Horn, "the possibility of *Trichinella* infection in pigs has closed most foreign markets to U.S. pork in addition to perpetuating a negative image of the meat here at home. Dr. Gamble's research and collaboration with three other USDA agencies as well as the National Pork Producers Council is leading to a national 'on the farm' certification process for *Trichinella*-free hogs." The concept of certifying the safety of meat in the living animal is new to the food industry. Gamble collaborates with USDA's Animal and Plant Inspection Service, Food Safety and Inspection Service, and Agricultural Marketing Service. Horn commented that "A national program will have a major impact on the demand for fresh pork and will help assure long-term U.S. competitiveness in foreign markets. This system has been touted as a model for future on-farm food safety initiatives by USDA administrators as well as by the U.S. Pork Industry."

Gamble collected data on the prevalence of *Trichinella spiralis* in domestic pigs and the management practices that favor pig infection. He then helped develop an audit system, based on risk analysis, that veterinarians can use to identify animals raised in low-risk environments. After his study of the audit system on farms in three states showed its soundness, the National Pork Board voted last year to proceed with a national program to certify U.S. pork as free of the parasite. Gamble has also collaborated with two commercial laboratories to introduce products to check the infection status of pigs originating from *Trichinella*-free herds. A rapid test kit developed by one of the companies has been licensed by USDA. His efforts are also helping to overcome trade barriers to U.S. pork. Through an agreement with USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service, he designed, implemented and maintains a training and quality assurance system for inspection of pork for *Trichinella* in U.S. slaughter plants. In his Beltsville laboratory, he trains and certifies as analysts technical personnel from packing plants around the country. Gamble periodically evaluates the work of trainees to maintain the quality of their training methods. Today, 10 major packing plants that produce more than 20 million hogs annually are enrolled in the program.

ARS has recognized Gamble's performance with certificates of merit during the past 10 years. He has also received a certificate of merit from USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service in 1997. During the 1980's he received four invention awards from USDA, and was elected to Gamma Sigma Delta, an agricultural honor society. He is a member of the **American Society for Parasitologists** (since 1978),

and both the American and World Association for the Advancement of Veterinary Parasitology, the International Association of Milk, Food and Environmental Sanitarians, and the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Currently, Gamble's lab serves in the role of a Collaborating Laboratory in Helminthology for the United Nations; Food and Agricultural Organization. His lab also serves as an International Reference Laboratory for Parasitic Zoonoses, under the aegis of the Office of Internationale des Epizooties, and he is a member of the International Commission on Trichinellosis.

TIME SET FOR ASP COUNCIL MEETING IN PUERTO RICO

The Puerto Rico ASP Council Meeting will be held Saturday, June 24, 2000 between 8 a.m. and noon.

BYRON BLAGBURN NAMED AUBURN UNIVERSITY'S TENTH DISTINGUISHED UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR

Dr. Byron Blagburn, a parasitologist at Auburn University's College of Veterinary Medicine, has been named Auburn's tenth Distinguished University Professor, one of the highest honors that can be bestowed upon a faculty member. William Muse, President of Auburn University, made the appointment in honor of Dr. Blagburn's contributions to the animal health industry, specifically the parasite-control market.

The position was created in 1984 to attract or retain scholars who have excelled in their field, and it is limited to less than one percent of the total full-time faculty. The criteria are that the candidate have national or international recognition as a distinguished scholar; appointment to the rank of professor and eligibility for tenure; achievement that enhances the university; and an ongoing program of excellence that is expected to advance the standing of the university.

Dr. Blagburn becomes the second person appointed from Auburn's veterinary college, following in the footsteps of former university president and parasitologist Dr. Wilford Bailey.

INFORMATION ON JOINT SOUTHEASTERN SOCIETY OF PARASITOLOGISTS AND THE ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEASTERN BIOLOGISTS NOW AVAILABLE ON WEBSITE

Registration and hotel accommodation information for the joint Southeastern Society of Parasitologists-Association of Southeastern Biologists (ASB) meeting to held April 5-8, 2000 is now available at the ASB web site: <http://www.utc.edu/~eguthrie/ASB> . You may register for the meeting online at <http://www.utc.edu/~conteduc/onlincat/preregform.htm> or you may print the form from this site and register by mail to: UTC Division of Continuing Education 5255, 119 Race Hall, 615 McCallie Avenue, Chattanooga, TN 37403. Tel: (423) 755-4344. Fax: (423) 266-5549. The meeting is hosted by The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga and will be held at the Chattanooga Marriott Hotel. Additional

information on accommodations can be obtained at <http://www.utc.edu/~eguthrie/ASB/hotelpage.htm>

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THE JOB MART

Assistant Professor in Molecular Parasitology - The Institute of Parasitology of McGill University invites applications for one position at the level of assistant professor (tenure track) from individuals who apply molecular approaches to the study of parasitic protozoa or helminths. The Institute of Parasitology offers M.Sc. and Ph.D. degrees and a Graduate Certificate in Biotechnology and has strong internationally recognized research programs in biochemistry, immunology, molecular biology and ecology of parasites which are housed within our modern research complex. We are expanding our strength in molecular biology of parasites transmitted by vectors. Hence, candidates with experience in molecular approaches to infections such as malaria, trypanosomiasis, leishmaniasis, filariasis, or onchocerciasis are particularly encouraged to apply. The successful applicant will be expected to develop a strong program involving graduate students and postdoctoral fellows, to participate in collaborative research within and outside the Institute of Parasitology, and to participate in teaching at both the graduate and undergraduate level. Applications should include a full curriculum vitae including a complete list of publications, a statement of research interests, and the names of three individuals who have agreed to provide letters of reference. Address applications to: Director, Institute of Parasitology, McGill University, Macdonald Campus, 21,111 Lakeshore Road, Ste-Anne de Bellevue, Quebec, H9X 3V9. Effective date of appointment will be July 1, 2000. The deadline for applications is March 24, 2000. For further information on the Institute of Parasitology and the requirements for the position see: <http://parasitology.mcgill.ca> or contact Dr. Marilyn Scott, Director. E-mail: marilyn@parasit.lan.mcgill.ca Tel: (514) 398-7722. Fax: (514) 398-7857.

In accordance with Canadian immigration requirements, this advertisement is directed in the first instance to Canadian citizens and permanent residents of Canada. McGill University is committed to

equity in employment.

Predocctoral Fellowships in Cellular and Molecular Parasitology -The Center for Research and Training in Parasitic Diseases at the University of Wisconsin-Madison announces the availability of predoctoral fellowships available for Fall 2000 through a NIH-funded training grant in the area of cellular and molecular parasitology. The program offers a variety of courses and seminars in basic and advanced parasitology, and exciting opportunities for research training in immunoparasitology, molecular parasitology, vector biology, and parasite biochemistry, neurobiology and physiology. Additional opportunities are also available for advanced training in medical parasitology through a cooperative agreement with the University of Puerto Rico Medical Sciences Campus. For further information visit our web site at <http://www.vetmed.wisc.edu/pbs/cmp> or contact: Dr. Timothy P. Yoshino, Director, CMP Training Program, Dept. of Pathobiological Sciences, University of Wisconsin, School of Veterinary Medicine, 2015 Linden Drive West, Madison, WI 53706. E-mail: yoshinot@svm.vetmed.wisc.edu APPLICANTS MUST BE A U.S. CITIZEN OR PERMANENT RESIDENT TO BE CONSIDERED FOR A FELLOWSHIP. Applications from women and minorities are especially welcome.

Opportunity for MS student to work on NSF-funded project - An opportunity is available for a Master of Science student to work on NSF-funded research on behavior and population ecology of Caribbean termites and their acanthocephalan parasite. Research includes both field and molecular ecology. Support amounts to \$14,000/year for 1.5 years, one paid collecting trip to St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands, and opportunities for teaching. For more information contact: Dr. Claire Fuller, Department of Biology, 334 Blackburn Hall, Murray State University, Murray, KY 42020. Tel: (270) 762- 2786. E-mail: claire.fuller@murraystate.edu

Tenure-track Biology Instructor Position - The Biology Department at Phoenix College has an opening for a tenure-track biology instructor. Phoenix College is a two-year public community college located in central Phoenix, Arizona. We have a diverse student population of about 11,000. The salary range is based on experience and is between \$31,617 and \$61,154. The position is for the lead instructor for general biology for majors. The successful candidate will use diverse and electronic delivery methods to accommodate various backgrounds and learning styles in a diverse community college setting. The lead instructor develops schedules, syllabi, and teaching materials for lectures and labs; manages adjunct faculty and support staff; handles the budget and purchasing for multisectioned courses; trains new adjunct faculty; remains active in curriculum development; and serves on committees that impact the Department. B.S. and M.S. degrees in the life sciences are required. For information contact: Dr. Philip Pepe at Phoenix College, Biology Department. Tel: (602) 285-7106. Fax: (602) 285-7528. E-mail:

pepe@pc.maricopa.edu . To apply to the Biology Faculty Pool contact: MCCCDC, Employee Services, 2411 W. 14th Street, Tempe, AZ 85281. Tel: (480) 731-8444.

[Http://www.dist.maricopa.edu/hrweb/emplmntAA/EEO](http://www.dist.maricopa.edu/hrweb/emplmntAA/EEO)

Postdoctoral position in Molecular and Cellular Biology, and Pathogenesis of *Giardia lamblia*

Giardia is a major cause of waterborne intestinal disease and is also of basic biological interest as one of the earliest known eukaryotic organisms, with both prokaryotic and eukaryotic properties. Our group's orientation is unusual because we focus broadly on this organism, and are not tied to specific techniques. We ask cutting edge questions and design creative approaches to achieve incisive answers.

Our well-funded lab has completed the *Giardia* life cycle *in vitro* for the first time, by inducing the flagellated "trophozoite" form that colonizes the small intestine to differentiate into cysts that survive in cold water. We discovered a novel regulated secretory pathway for the transport of cyst wall proteins during encystation. Cysts infect a new host by responding to signals from the host that lead to a rapid and dramatic differentiation. Excystation entails establishing cellular polarity, cell division, attachment, increases in metabolism and antigenic switching.

Giardia is also a valuable model for the study of the prokaryotic-eukaryotic divergence, and we are actively involved in biological aspects of a *Giardia* genome project.

CURRENT QUESTIONS INCLUDE:

1. How are *Giardia* genes regulated during differentiation?
2. What are the cell signaling pathways in differentiation and pathogenesis?
3. How are the components of the cyst wall transported and how is this fibrous structure assembled?
4. What are the structure and function of the unusual cysteine-rich variant surface protein of *Giardia*?
5. What can *Giardia* genes and pathways tell us about the evolution of the eukaryotic cell?
6. How does *Giardia* make people sick?

Experience in molecular biology, and preferably in cell biology and biochemistry are required. For information or to apply, please contact: Dr. Frances Gillin, Professor of Pathology and Infectious Diseases, University of California at San Diego School of Medicine, San Diego, CA 92103-8416. Tele: (619) 543-6146. Fax: (619) 543-6614. E-mail: fgillin@ucsd.edu

Hands On Parasitologist at MERC and CO., Inc

Merck and Co. Inc., a leading research driven pharmaceutical products and services company has an opening within Merck Research Laboratories' Department of Animal Health for a Veterinary Parasitologist to direct the parasitology/ coccidiosis research programs at our production animal research farm in central New Jersey. The duties will include the conduct of target animal efficacy, dose ranging and safety studies in chickens, sheep, cattle, horses, and/or pigs to identify and characterize novel compounds with

anticoccidial or antiparasitic activity. Provide reports of results of studies to project teams and Animal Health management. Isolate, purify, characterize and maintain by passage pure cultures of the important food animal endo and ecto parasites and coccidial parasites of chickens. Liaise with chemists and biologists to ensure prompt in vivo follow up of promising leads. Participate on project teams to optimize the progress of promising leads through the pre-development process. Essential qualifications include an M.S. or D.V.M. (or equivalent) and Ph.D. with evidence of extensive research experience in the field of veterinary parasitology and/or avian coccidiosis. Highly desirable is experience in the discovery and development of commercially viable pharmaceuticals for the control of important veterinary parasites and/or avian coccidiosis. Merck is an Equal Opportunity Employer, and is committed to providing a stimulating work environment and a competitive salary and benefits package.

PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR RESUME IN CONFIDENCE TO:

Merck and Co., Inc., MRL Human Resources

P O Box 2000

RY 80-A3

Ad #105

Rahway, NJ 07065.

Further information - Don Thompson (908) 685-3846

ERROR NOTED IN CALL FOR PAPERS FOR PUERTO RICO MEETING

The Caribe Hilton fax number published in the Call for Papers was incorrect. The correct number is (787) 723-0980.

THIRD INTERNET CONFERENCE ON TRYPANOSOMES AND TRYPANOSOMATIDS ANNOUNCED

The 3rd Internet Conference on Trypanosomes and Trypanosomatids (TICSTT) will be held October 3-18, 2000. The scope of this conference has been extended this year to include all pathogenic kinetoplastids. The flexibility of the internet format promises the biggest and most informative trypanosome conference of the year because it allows every trypanosome researcher with internet access to participate, regardless of their current time commitments or budget.

In six sessions this conference will cover all aspects of trypanosome research including biology and ultrastructure, biochemistry and drug development, immunology and pathology, molecular biology, epidemiology, and vectors. Apart from universal access, the internet format also has the advantage of being able to link directly to remote sites, and to play movies and run programs. Discussion boards will allow interaction between presenters and attendees, and allows work presented to come under the critical

scrutiny of the entire research community. The work presented will initially be held online at Fiocruz (see below), but selected full submissions of high quality, and abstracts of posters will be published in a special issue of the International Journal for Parasitology (April 2001).

For invited speakers, the deadline for presentations in "html format" is 1 September 2000. The deadline for presentations in other formats is 15 August 2000. For detailed instructions to authors, specific questions or clarifications please visit the TICSTT web site at

<<http://www.dbbm.fiocruz.br/trynews/events/ticstt.html>> or contact Alberto M.R. Davila, DBBM/instituto Oswaldo Cruz/FIOCRUZ, Av. Brasil 4365 Manquinhos (lab), Rio de Janeiro, RJ. Brasil 21045-900

Tele: 55-21-290-7549, Ext. 143/149

Fax: 55-21-5903495

E-mail: davila@gene.ddbm.fiocruz.br

or

Dr. K.M. Tyler

Dept. of Pathology

University of Northwestern Medical School

Ward 6-140

303 E. Chicago Ave.

Chicago, IL 60611

Tel: (312) 503-1267

Fax: (312) 503-1265

E-mail: k-tyler@nwu.edu

Lab URL: <<http://pubweb.nwu.edu/~jsL613>>

XV INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS FOR TROPICAL MEDICINE AND MALARIA ADVERTISED

The XV International Congress for Tropical Medicine and malaria will be held this year in Cartagena de Indias, Columbia, August 20-25, 2000. It is held under the auspices of the International Federation for Tropical Medicine, which represents all the scientific societies for tropical medicine and related specialties. The XV Congress will be combined with the VI Latin American Congress for Tropical Medicine, the III Latin American Congress for Malaria, and the X Congress of the Columbian Society for Parasitology and Tropical Medicine. Many international bodies, including South East Asia Medical Organization for Tropical Medicine, Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, and the Australasian College of Tropical Medicine will be affiliated to the Congress. The Congress Committee invites

submission of abstracts in all areas related to tropical medicine and malaria, including: acute respiratory infections, African trypanosomiasis, AIDS and HIV infections, arboviruses, Chagas disease, clinical tropical medicine, diarrheal diseases, filariasis, genetic diseases of the tropics, geographical information systems in the control of tropical diseases, global tropical medicine and education, helminthic infections, Latin American contributions to tropical medicine research, leishmaniasis, malaria, malnutrition, molecular entomology, mycobacteria, other tropical zoonoses, paleoparasitology, rabies, schistosomiasis and other trematode infections, sexually transmitted diseases, snake bites and venomous arthropods, social sciences and tropical medicine, taeniasis and cysticercosis, teaching tropical medicine, toxoplasmosis, travel medicine, viral hemorrhagic fevers and emerging pathogens, viral hepatitis, the role of international health organizations in the control and prevention of tropical diseases and medical problems of aboriginal peoples, refugees, and immigrants. Deadline for submission of abstracts is April 15, 2000. For further information or forms for submitting abstracts see the Congress website at:

<http://www.prof.uniandes.edu.co/~xviftm/cartagena.htm>

PARASITOLOGY SYMPOSIUM SLATED FOR 39TH ANNUAL MEETING OF CANADIAN SOCIETY OF ZOOLOGISTS

A Parasitology Section Symposium entitled "Life in the Middle of the Food Web: Larval Parasites in Small Fish" will be held during the 39th Annual Meeting of the Canadian Society of Zoologists at St. Andrews, New Brunswick, 3-6 May, 2000. The symposium focuses on larval helminths which infect fish and rely on trophic interactions for transmission to the next or final host in their life cycles. Studies will feature different aspects of population biology, ecology, and transmission of larval parasites in small fish, as these parasites must be transmitted to top consumers in the environment, including other fishes, birds, and mammals.

The symposium will feature the following speakers and titles: (1) Al Shostak (University of Alberta, Edmonton): "Parasite-induced alteration of everything, or 'what's a poor stickleback to do?'" (2) Gary McClelland (Fisheries and Oceans, Moncton): "Natural transmission of larval sealworm, *Pseudoterranova decipiens* to juvenile Canadian plaice, *Hippoglossoides platessoides*, and other small benthic consumers." (3) David Marcogliese (Environment Canada, Montreal): "Population biology of eyeflukes in small fish in the St. Lawrence River: just how important are the gulls?" The keynote speaker will be John Janovy (University of Nebraska, Lincoln) on the subject of "Sinks, sieves, and seines: parasites in a braided river ecosystem".

Our colleagues in the American Society of Parasitologists are most welcome to attend. St. Andrews is a wonderful seaside location next to the U.S. border. The meeting will be held in the luxurious Algonquin Hotel, and rooms are available at a special conference rate of a mere \$70 Canadian per night. That's less than \$50 U.S.! The meeting is multidisciplinary, with regular sessions and symposia for each of

the three sections (Parasitology; Comparative Biochemistry and Physiology; and Ecology, Ethology, and Evolution). For more information on the meeting contact: Dave Marcogliese (Tel: 514-283-6499; e-mail: david.marcogliese@ec.gc.ca) or David Cone (Tel: 902-420-5644; e-mail: David.Cone@StMarys.ca)

THIRD SEMINAR ON FOOD AND WATER-BORNE PARASITIC ZOOSES

The 3rd Seminar on Food and Water-Borne Parasitic Zoonoses will be held at the Royal River Hotel in Bangkok, Thailand on Dec. 6-8, 2000. The meeting has been organized by the Faculty of Tropical Medicine, Mahidol University, The Parasitology and Tropical Medicine Association of Thailand, and the SEAMEO TROPED Network. Additional information can be obtained by contacting the Secretary of the FBZ Organizing Committee, Faculty of Tropical Medicine, Mahidol University, 420/6 Rajivithi Rd., Bangkok, Thailand. Tele: (662) 246-9000-13, ext. 327, 315. Fax: (662) 246-9006. <tmssp@mahidol.ac.th>

2ND ANNOUNCEMENT FOR THE 10TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON TRICHINELLOSIS

The 2nd announcement with the call for abstracts has been issued for the 10th International Conference on Trichinellosis to be held 20-24 August 2000 in Fontainebleau, France. The conference will include Workshops on *Trichinella* and trichinellosis will cover the following topics: systematics; molecular and cellular biology; immunology; human and animal pathology; epidemiology; and control, diagnosis and quality assurance. Symposia covering non-encapsulated *Trichinella* isolates; cell signaling and the nurse cell; and chemotherapy of human trichinellosis will be part of the conference. Abstracts and registration fee are due by April 1, 2000. Information and forms can be obtained at <http://wwwusers.imaginet.fr/~dupouy/ICT.html>

INTERACTIVE CD-ROM ON MARINE PARASITIC CRUSTACEA MADE AVAILABLE

A new interactive CD-ROM entitled *An Exploration of Marine Parasitic Crustacea* is presented by Dr. Timothy Goater, Malaspina University-College, Nanaimo, B.C. , Canada. This work contains over 600 megs of text information, photographs, video and sound files. It is replete with spectacular videomicroscopy footage and color photography of parasitic Crustacea; audio recordings of taxonomic pronunciations; detailed line drawings by Dr. Z. Kabata and a video interview with Dr. Kabata; an interactive glossary, taxonomic summary, index and references; an interactive review test; and a dynamic web site at <http://www.mala.bc.ca/parasite>. This work was published by Malaspina University-College in 1999. ISBN 1-8968-8622-1..

THE BOOK NOOK

Listed below are recently published books of possible interest to ASP members.

Nematode Parasites of Vertebrates 2nd Edition: Their Development and Transmission, R.C. Anderson, Feb. 2000, CABI Publishing, 672 pages, \$185, ISBN 0-85199-421-0.

Fascioliasis, J.P. Dalton (ed), 1999, CABI Publishing, 544 pages, ISBN 0-85199-260-9.

Human Parasitology, 2nd Edition, B.J. Bogitsch and T.C. Cheng, 1999, Academic Press, 484 pages, \$59.95, ISBN 0-12-11870-8.

2000 WILDLIFE DISEASE ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE SCHEDULED FOR JUNE IN GRAND TETON

The 49th Annual Conference of the Wildlife Disease Association (WDA) will be held June 4-8, 2000 at the Jackson Lake Lodge in Grand Teton National Park, Wyoming, USA. The meeting will be sponsored by the Wyoming Fish and Game Department. The Jackson Lake Lodge is a spectacular resort complex located in the south of America's premier national park, Yellowstone, and is about 30 miles north of Jackson, Wyoming. Room reservations should be made directly with the Lodge (800-628-9988; mention the WDA Conference) before April 15. Recreational vehicle and more rustic camping opportunities are available at campgrounds associated with the Lodge. Requests to contribute a paper at the 2000 WDA Conference, as well as accompanying abstracts should be received no later than 1 April 2000. Conference registration must be made before March 15, 2000 to avoid late fees. Conference information is posted on the WDA website at <http://www.wildlifedisease.org>. Additional information regarding the Conference can be obtained by contacting Becky Russell, Box 3312, University Station, Laramie, WY 82071, USA. Tel: (307) 766-5616. Fax: (307) 766-5630. E-mail: rrussell@uwyo.edu.

PORTER BLUM IN GOOD CONDITION UP FOR SALE

Gaynell Lumsden has a Porter Blum in reasonably good condition that she would like to sell. She can be reached by anyone interested in purchasing the instrument in New Orleans at (504) 488-8529. It needs a binocular zoom pod but is otherwise in working condition.

LAB WORKING ON TOXOCARA CANIS SOUGHT

Dr. Richard Heckmann is seeking information on anyone currently working on *Toxocara canis*. Dr. Heckmann has a research associate in his lab from Egypt who would like this information for a colleague at Mansoura University in Egypt. Contact by e-mail Richard-Heckmann@byu.edu.

WASHINGTON UPDATE

SCIENTISTS MUST SPEAK OUT

This is an article written by Newt Gingrich, former speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives entitled "Scientists Must Speak Out: We Depend on It."

The fate of our country may well depend on whether or not scientists recognize that they have real responsibilities as citizens.

The fact is no one else is as qualified to make the case for increased funding in science research and reform of science education. Without a continued commitment to funding scientific research and development, and a successful reform of science education, it is very unlikely that the United States will maintain the momentum it has created over the last 60 years.

Our economic future depends directly on our ability to take new scientific research and translate into entrepreneurial development. Without the last 60 years we would all have lesser incomes, lower standards of living, and fewer choices. Be it aircraft, manufacturing, marketing, entertainment - you name it - the American technological and scientific advantage has been key to our success as world leaders.

In the development of the high-tech world the role of government (in both defense and non-defense research) has been vital. The modern entrepreneur of Silicon Valley is creating an entirely new economy based on the scientific advances of three generations of government-funded research and development. The internet itself is an example of government-funded research providing a platform upon which entrepreneurial success has been built.

In health and health care it would be particularly tragic to slow our investment in research at the very moment we are entering a wonderful world of knowledge. We will learn more about the human body in the next 20 years than in all of human history. Biology will be to the 21st century what physics was to the 20th.

If we invest wisely, we will extend life, minimize suffering, and create a healthier and less medically expensive America. But if we stand by and allow research funding to slow, literally more people will die, with greater pain, at a higher cost. That is what's at stake.

Finally, regarding national security, scientific achievement is ultimately a matter of life and death. Without radar and sonar we could not have won World War II (it took the first to win the Battle of Britain, the second to win the battle of the North Atlantic).

If our opponents had achieved nuclear weapons before us, we would have been defeated. In real terms these breakthroughs saved an immeasurable number of lives. But America is only one wave of scientific breakthroughs from being vulnerable. If at any point our scientific research and education fail to be the best, our national security will weaken and our ability to lead will vanish.

So, if all of this is so important, why must scientists come forth as citizens and explain it? Because no one else has their understanding or credibility. C.P. Snow was correct in 1959 when he described two emerging cultures - the scientific and the nonscientific. Too often those who know enough about science

cannot explain it in popular language. Conversely, those who are effective at communicating in popular language don't know science. In the scientific community the situation is worsened because scientists like Carl Sagan, who do popularize and reach out, become less than fully respected members of their guild.

Furthermore, most scientists by definition would rather be in their laboratories studying, at conferences learning, or in a classroom teaching than appearing in public settings and appealing for public support. Unfortunately, part of their mind set seems to be a determination that their work is so obviously important that they should not have to explain it.

Instead we need scientists to attend town hall meetings, address members of Congress, and appear on talk radio to explain why research matters. They must go to their local civic club and demand that science education be trusted to those who know science, and demand that the excitement of discovery (the heart of the scientific experience) replace bureaucratic memorization models of science education.

I have fought hard for doubling the science research budget across the board. I have argued strongly for a complete overhaul of science education in America. But frankly, one former speaker of the House is not enough. America needs a science lobby fueled by scientists.

In our rapidly moving culture where people can shut out information, we need to hear from the people who are doing the research, making the breakthroughs, and inventing the future.

All I am asking is that every scientist spend an hour or two each month being an active citizen. Do your duty and educate your fellow countrymen about the exciting world that awaits us. Help us understand what is at stake and we will help you find the resources to achieve these great breakthroughs. Every day scientists work in labs and wind tunnels and at computers to make our country a better place. Surely a little citizenship is a small enough price to pay to do the same thing in the public arena. After all, our health, prosperity, and survival are at stake.

ANIMAL RIGHTS FRONT

RESEARCH FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES: ANIMAL MODELS KEY TO NEW VACCINES AND MEDICINES

This article appeared in AMP Notes, the newsletter for Americans for Medical Progress (AMP). AMP invited Africa specialist and freelance writer Sloan Mahone to write this article drawn on her years in Africa researching healthcare needs and problems. She views medical advances as critical for the entire African continent. In 1996, she went to Kenya to study health worker's information needs in the fight against HIV/AIDS. While there, she said, she was unable to find one family not touched by the AIDS pandemic.

Most of us know someone who has been affected by AIDS. The crisis has hit the developing world particularly hard. Of the estimated 16,000 new cases of HIV each day, 95% occur in developing countries

where healthcare and treatment options are extremely limited. The use of animal models in the discovery and development of new vaccines may offer the best defense yet against HIV/AIDS and other diseases that are endemic throughout the developing world.

Within a number of global initiatives, scientists are working to develop vaccines and treatments for tropical diseases such as malaria, leishmaniasis, filariasis, schistosomiasis, and river blindness that contribute to severe mortality throughout Africa, Asia and Latin America. Animal models are vital for the development and testing of such treatments and vaccines before they can be used in humans. Malaria alone infects 200 to 300 million people each year. With every hour that passes, another 200 to 300 children will die of malaria. An acute attack of the disease can kill a child within 24 hours. Vaccine research has become more critical than ever as attempts to control or eradicate malaria's vector mosquito has largely failed, and the effectiveness of anti-malarial drugs has decreased significantly as the parasite continues to develop resistance to the drugs.

Animal studies have been instrumental in the cutting edge medical research that promises to have an impact on the greatest health challenges faced by the developing world.

* Scientists working to identify effective antigens - substances that prompt the production of antibodies - have found that Old World monkeys are important models for the testing of candidate vaccines. Currently, these studies are evaluating the responses of monkeys immunized against malaria.

* Animal research has prompted significant progress towards the use of some antibiotics and drugs in veterinary medicine against the parasite that causes filariasis, a severely debilitating and disfiguring disease that affects more than 120 million people in the developing world.

* The use of genetically modified mice has led to a breakthrough in our understanding of the molecular mechanisms that lead to peripheral nerve damage in leprosy.

New public-private sector collaborations are linking government ministries, non-profit organizations, and the pharmaceutical industry to develop antimalarial drugs that are effective and affordable. These current research initiatives represent a renewed commitment to the health concerns of the greatest number of people.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

American Society of Parasitologists Meeting Schedule

2000, June 24-28: Joint Meeting with the Society of Protozoologists, San Juan, Puerto Rico

2001, TBA: Albuquerque, NM

2002, TBA: Vancouver, BC

2003, TBA: Halifax, Nova Scotia

Contact: Dr. George Cain, Secretary-Treasurer, Department of Biological Sciences, University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa, USA. Tel: (319) 335-1061. FAX: (319) 335-1069. E-mail: georgecain@uiowa.edu

Oxford 2000: New Challenges in Tropical Medicine and Parasitology

A joint meeting of the British Society for Parasitology, The Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene and the American Society for Tropical Medicine and Hygiene

September 18-22, 2000: University of Oxford Contact: Complete Congress Services, 19 King Edward Street, Macclesfield, Cheshire, SK10 1AQ. Telephone: (44) (0) 1625 62409 1. Fax: (44) (0) 1625

430544, E-mail: ccs@cmc.co.uk

3rd Seminar on Food- & Water-borne Parasitic Zoonoses in the 21st Millennium

December 6-8, 2000: Chiang Mai, Thailand

Contact: Dean, Faculty of Tropical Medicine,

Mahidol University

420/6 Rajvithi Rd.

Bangkok, Thailand. Tele: 66-2-2469000-13.

Fax: 66-2-2469006. E-mail: deantm@mahidol.ac.th. Web site: <http://www.mahidol.ac.th/mahidol/tm>

9th International Congress on Infectious Diseases

April 10-13, 2000: Buenos Aires, Argentina Contact: - International Society for Infectious Diseases, 181 Longwood Ave., Boston, MA 02115

Tele: (617) 277-0551

Fax: (617) 731-1541

European Conference on Congenital Toxoplasmosis

June 29-july 1, 2000: Vienna, Austria

Contact: European Conference on Congenital Toxoplasmosis, c/o Laboratory of Parasitology, Statens Serum Institut, Artillerivej 5, DK-2300 Copenhagen S, Denmark.

Tele: +45 3268 3268

Fax: +45 3268 3868

E-mail: serum@ssi.dk

Xth International Conference on Trichinellosis

August 20-24, 2000: Fontainebleau, France Contact: Drs. P. Boireau and C. Soule, CNEVA- LCRV, Maisons-Alfort, France

Tele: +33 1 4977 1328

Fax: +33 1 4977 1316

XVth International Congress for Tropical Medicine and Malaria

August 20-25, 2000: Cartagena, Columbia Contact: Dr. F. Guhl and Dr. R. Santiago Nicholls

E-mail: fguhl@zeus.uniandes.edu.co

rsnichol@bacata.usc.unal.edu.co

VIIIth European Multicolloquium of Parasitology

September 10-14, 2000: Poznan, Poland

Contact: Dept of Biology and Medical Parasitology, Karol Marcinkowski University of Medical Sciences, Fredry St. 10, 61-701 Poznan, Poland

Tele: +48 61 852 71 92

Fax: 48 61 852 71 92

E-mail: [emop8\(&eucalyptus.usoms.poznan.pl](mailto:emop8(&eucalyptus.usoms.poznan.pl) – (check this e-mail address and send correction to slg@unl.edu for change here.

Oxford 2000: New Challenges in Tropical Medicine and Parasitology

Joint Meeting of the British Society for Parasitology, The Royal Society for Tropical Medicine and Hygiene and the American Society for Tropical Medicine and Hygiene.

September 18-22,2000: Oxford, UK

Contact: Complete Congress Services, 19 King Edward St., Macclesfield, Cheshire, UK SK10 1AQ

Tele: +44 1625 624091

Fax: +44 1625 430544

[http:// www.oxford2000.org.uk](http://www.oxford2000.org.uk)

The Web-Version of the ASP Newsletter was modified slightly by Scott L. Gardner from the Printed Version, Edited by George Stewart. Contact Mark Sidall (siddall@amnh.org) or Scott Gardner (slg@unl.edu) for information on posting materials to the newsletter or to the ASP web page.
