

Summer Research Training Program Receives NIH Support

The Center for Zoonoses Research has received a short-term research training grant from the National Institutes for Health to attract highly qualified veterinary students to biomedical research careers.

The College has been conducting the summer research training program since 2003, allowing 27 veterinary or pre-veterinary students to gain research experience. There is a growing need in government, industry, and academia for veterinary scientists prepared to conduct research, especially in the areas of biodefense, antibiotic resistance, and zoonoses—diseases passed from animals to humans.

The new NIH grant, awarded through the National Center for Research Resources, ensures the continued success of the program. It will supply more than \$50,000 a year for up to 5 years to allow 10 U.S. veterinary students to participate in the three-month Summer Research Training in Infectious Diseases.

Principal investigator on the grant is Dr. Uriel Kitron, a professor of pathobiology and community health and the scientific co-director of CZR. Dr. Roberto Docampo, former CZR co-director who is now with the Center for Tropical and Emerging Global Diseases at the University of Georgia, wrote the original grant proposal.

Eligible students will have completed one or two years toward the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree at any of the 28 U.S. institutions that grant veterinary degrees. Program participants will be paired with faculty researchers for laboratory and field work.



Front from left: Cara Williams, Wanda Averhart, Miranda Bertram, and Catherine Wenkel; back: Dr. Uriel Kitron, Daniel Cartwright, Ryan Ainsworth, Angela Yates, Mary Lee, and Katherine Brix-Rutherford.

Students, Faculty Mentors, and Research Topics for the 2005 Summer Research Training in Infectious Diseases

Sponsored by the College and Merck-Merial

- Ryan Ainsworth, Illinois Class of 2008; Dr. Thomas Eurell; Investigation for biomarkers in fish infected with atypical mycobacteria
- Miranda Bertram, Kansas State, Class of 2008; Dr. Brenda Wilson; Localizing the activity domain of *Pasteurella multocida* toxin

- Katherine Brix-Rutherford, Illinois Class of 2007; Dr. Marilyn Ruiz; Spatial clustering of 2002 equine West Nile virus cases in east-central Illinois

- Daniel Cartwright, Prince Edward Island, Class of 2007; Drs. Uriel Kitron and Roberto Cortinas; Questing behavior and ambush height of the lone star tick, *Amblyomma americanum*, and the American dog tick, *Dermacentor variabilis*, in relation to diurnal environmental variation

- Mary Lee, Illinois Class of 2008; Dr. Val Beasley; Pathophysiology of chytridiomycosis in amphibians

- Catherine Wenkel, Illinois Class of 2007; Dr. Milton McAllister; *Plasmodium gallinaceum* oocysts and sporozoites compared in vitro and in vivo

- Angela Yates, Illinois Class of 2008; Dr. Matthew Stewart; The role of toll-like receptor signaling in septic arthritis

Sponsored by the Pfizer Pre-Veterinary Program

- Wanda Averhart, junior in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences; Dr. Sherrie Clark; Immuno expression of potential cell cycle regulatory factors in the developing pig testis

- Cara Williams, junior in the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences; Dr. Victor Valli; Morphologic, phenotypic, and quantitative cellular characterization of feline small intestinal immune cells

Upcoming Holistic Medicine Seminar

The March 4 *Seminar for Alternative Therapies in Veterinary Medicine* is geared to veterinarians, veterinary technicians, and students interested in holistic medicine. The format combines lectures and wet labs.

For more information, visit the Office of Public Engagement Web site at www.cvm.uiuc.edu/ope/.

