CVM POSTDOCTORAL ASSOCIATION

MEETING AGENDA

MARCH 23, 2010

I. Opening Remarks – Candice Brinkmeyer-Langford.

* Suggested writing sample swap either between peers and/or with more experienced faculty for analysis and constructive feedback. If interested in pursuing this, please contact one of the CVM-PDA officers.
* If you know of admirable faculty members you would like to have as a guest speaker to give their take on career paths and making the transition from post-doc to beyond, please let one of the CVM-PDA officers know.

*Guest Speakers*.

II. Charles Long, PhD

 Assistant Professor, TAMU CVM Veterinary Physiology and Pharmacology

Scholarly Interests: developmental biology, gamete and embryo physiology, embryonic

stem cells, assisted reproductive technologies, animal transgenics, somatic cell nuclear transfer, epigenetics and control of gene expression, RNA interference.

 *See PDF of presentation: “Where to go from here? Perspectives on scientific careers*

*with a focus on industry.”*

 Additional Presentation Notes…

* Keep your eyes/ears/mind open to where you go.
* Don’t be afraid to start anything you want!
* If notoriety and security are important to you – industry is not for you.
* If money is important industry may achieve that goal more effectively.
* Participation in industry jobs means signing over ALL intellectual property rights. All you produce and think while employed there is no longer your own.
* Networking is extremely important, and staying in contact your network can help you get jobs in the future.
* Never compromise your integrity.
* You can always make a new career.

III. Dr. Jӧrg Steiner, med.vet., Dr.med.vet., PhD, DACVIM, DECVIM-CA

Associate Professor – Joint Appointment to Small Animal Clinical Sciences and

Pathobiology; Director of the GI Lab.

Scholarly Interests: Studies in small animal and comparative gastroenterology as it

relates to etiology, pathophysiology, diagnosis, and treatment of gastrointestinal disorders, using technologies such as protein purification, immunoassay development and validation, molecular genetics, and proteomics.

 Presentation Notes…

* Small animal clinician, joined the faculty in 2000. Research is primarily clinically applicable.
* Veterinarians face limited research funding issues, with very small pots of money to compete for.
* In academic veterinary schools, among clinicians you will find almost no post-docs, a few PhDs, some MS, but mainly individuals with board certification only.
* Most clinicians don’t do research on a regular basis.
* Don’t be afraid to get involved in areas of research different from current opportunities. Just because you don’t have money doesn’t mean you can’t do a project!
* Walk around with your eyes open looking for what’s exciting! You get to decide what research you work on!
* You are your own master. Make the job you want to have. You can build a large lab or a small lab depending on your own preference.
* Your job duties depend on what you want to do: clinics, research, teach, etc.
* It is possible to survive on research as a collaborator only if that’s what you want.
* Don’t pigeon hole yourself.
* Income: academics can make money too! (The highest paid professor at TAMU with no administrative component makes $380,000/year.)
* Additional opportunities for income: consulting work, lectures, patents (individuals receive 42% of the royalties on a patent at TAMU).

IV. Questions & Answers with Guest Speakers

 Q: What are obstacles you will face along the way?

 A: 1) getting money for research for the things YOU want to study.

 Service labs can support funding for your research.

 2) answering the questions about what you want to do, and what you are best at.

 Don’t be afraid to go back and change your mind/path.

 3) fighting boredom.

* Follow the natural development of your career path. Be open to new goals, ideas, opportunities, etc.
* Don’t be afraid to write grants or papers. Don’t be afraid to do something not perfectly. Don’t be afraid to start something or write the wrong thing!

Q: How do you prepare to take the next step as a boarded veterinarian apply for jobs with research components without having a post-doc?

A: Almost no vets do a post-doc, and the objective is to be competitive. Having a DVM, PhD, etc sets you apart and should make you competitive for your job application process.

* Don’t forget what someone wants to hear. Put yourself in their shoes (patent office, grant people, jobs you’re applying for, etc.)

Q: What happens in an academic institution if you don’t get (grant) money?

A: Money is needed for research but there is often a review period to correct any areas of shortcomings (review for tenure). There are also other things they use to evaluate individuals. At TAMU these areas are research, service, and teaching. It is possible to get tenure for teaching (vs. research) but you need to distinguish yourself in the field of teaching by perhaps writing a paper on teaching. The goal is to be “recognized for what you do”.

V. Closing Remarks.

* Next meeting will be Tuesday, April 20th at 4:00 pm in the Mark Francis Room.