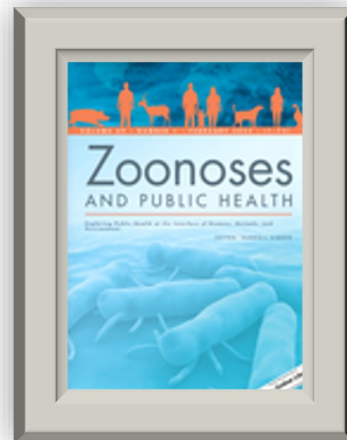


News from the School of Mathematics and Science

Dr. LaRoy Brandt, Associate Professor of Conservation Biology and Dr. Ashutosh Verma, Associate Professor of Microbiology, along with numerous students and other faculty and staff have published a research article titled, *Detection of pathogenic Leptospira spp. in herpetofauna in Central Appalachia* in the journal *Zoonoses and Public Health*.

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.1111/zph.12921>

This work represents an ongoing research collaboration between the School of Math & Science, the Department of Biology, the Cumberland Mountain Research Center, and the LMU College of Veterinary Medicine. Overall, this is the second article in which we are investigating the prevalence of leptospirosis within Central Appalachia. Our previous work focused on leptospirosis in rodents and other small mammals in our area, while this project focused on leptospirosis in the amphibians and reptiles of our region. Leptospirosis is a bacterial disease that is known to infect vertebrates, including humans. Our work is an effort to establish an environmental baseline of this disease in order to understand the overall epidemiology of leptospirosis. Most notably, this publication not only represents a collaboration between various LMU faculty and staff, but also multiple veterinary students and undergraduates.



Dr. Brandt also recently published an outreach audio book as a podcast on the science communication channel, SciPod. Brandt is very pleased to share this highlight from the conservation biology research conducted through the CMRC at LMU.

You can access the podcast online at <https://www.scipod.global/return-of-bairds-tapir-blessing-or-omen-dr-laroy-brandt-maggie-singleton/>

This is a unique SciPod page to promote and communicate the audiobook with a Creative Commons International license that allows the author to use and distribute as they wish. The podcast can also be downloaded and shared as an mp3 file by anyone.



Students Sarah Hopkins, Rebecca Henry, Lily Smith and Emily Roark enjoying the festivities!



Good news from the Honors Scholars Program! Four honors scholars attended the Tennessee Collegiate Honors Council annual conference last weekend, three of whom presented their research to attendees from all over the state. This year's conference was hosted by East Tennessee State University's Honors College on Saturday, February 12th. The students and their sponsor, Dr. Sandra Weems knew they would be missing the Founder's Day festivities, so they decided to take the celebration to Johnson City! They ordered a birthday cake for Abe and served it in the ballroom at lunch, where about 100 attendees spontaneously broke into the birthday song for our beloved former president.

Congratulations to Sarah Hopkins and Emily Roark for their panel presentations and to Lily Smith for her poster presentation!

Next year's TCHC conference will be hosted by Austin Peay State University. In 2024, the conference is coming to LMU!

News from the College of Veterinary Medicine

Publications:

Morris, E.M., **S.E. Kitts-Morgan**, D.M. Spangler, K.R. McLeod, M.A. Suckow, and D.L. Harmon. 2022. Feeding treats containing cannabidiol (CBD) did not alter canine immune response to immunization with a novel antigen. *Res. Vet. Sci.* 143:13-19. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.rvsc.2021.12.012>

Farrell R., Gilbert G., **Hunt J.**, Dundas J., Betance L., Huck J., Pope E. Evaluating validity evidence for two assessment instruments developed to assess students' surgical skills in a simulated environment. *Veterinary Surgery*. In press.

Hunt J.A., Anderson S.L., Winter M.D., Hack G., Berry C.R. Self-efficacy and student satisfaction in a clinical year diagnostic imaging course using an online instruction format. *Journal of Veterinary Medical Education*. In press.

Hoffman, C.L., Spencer, T. G., & **Makolinski, K.V.** (2021). Assessing the Impact of a Virtual Shelter Medicine Rotation on Veterinary Students' Knowledge, Skills, and Attitudes Regarding Access to Veterinary Care. *Frontiers in veterinary science*, 8, 783233. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fvets.2021.783233>

Abraham W.T., I. Jonas M., Dongaonkar D.M., Geist B., Ueyama Y., Render K., Youngblood B., del Rio C., **Muir W.**, Hamlin R. Direct Interstitial Decongestion in an Animal Model of Acute on Chronic Ischemic Heart Failure. *J Am Coll Cardiol Basic Science*. 2021; 6(11):872-881. doi: 10.1016/j.jacbts.2021.09.008

P. Bothammal, S. Michelraj, G. Venkatachalam, **A. Verma**, K. Natarajaseenivasan. Electrochemical biosensor for serogroup specific diagnosis of leptospirosis. *Bioelectrochemistry*

SmiSmith, Forrest, Joseph Elsoueidi, **Lauren Wisnieski**, Sandhya Kolagatla, and Nagabhishek Moka. "Adherence with the Multitarget Stool DNA Test for Colorectal Cancer Screening in Rural Southeastern Kentucky." *Journal of Clinical Oncology* 40, no. 4_suppl (February 1, 2022): 64–64. https://doi.org/10.1200/JCO.2022.40.4_suppl.064.

Verma, A., L. Brandt, S. Runser, K. Gruszynski, K. Gallatin, J. Morgan, H. Barnhart, C. Duke, S. Brovarney, A. Geer, E. Willems, R. Strobel, C. Bryant, E. Pawlowski, A. Thaker. 2021. Detection of pathogenic *Leptospira* spp. in herpetofauna in Central Appalachia. *Zoonoses and Public Health*.

Wells J., Watson K., Daniel C., R., Brodell R., T, **Nahar V.**, K.: Holiday Reindeer Trivia for Physicians Who Like Hair and Nails. *Skin Appendage Disord* 2022. doi: 10.1159/000521326

News from the College of Veterinary Medicine

Presentations:

LMU-CVM was represented by a DVM student and a faculty member at the 2021 Conference of Research Workers in Animal Diseases (CRWAD) in Chicago, IL. Emily Willems (Class of 2024), who was mentored by Dr.

Ashutosh Verma, presented posters on Leptospira-host interactions and Leptospiral detection in fish.

Christmann, U., Hancock, C., Emery, A., Poovey, J., Ortega Morales, S., Duncan, A., Page, A., Couetil, L., Morresey, **P.**, **Wood**, P. Horses with severe asthma have an altered surfactant ceramide profile 39th Annual Symposium of the Veterinary Comparative Respiratory Society. Online, October 31 – November 3, 2021.

Kayla Gordon, Jason Ijeoma, **Karen Gruszynski**. Equity of Healthcare Occupations included in Phase 1A COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution Plans. 2021 National SOMA Research Symposium.

Daniel Handler, Emma Pawlowski, **Karen Gruszynski**, **Gary Vroegindewey**. COVID-19: Impact of Wet Markets and Wildlife Trade. American Public Health Association 2021 Annual Meeting and Expo.

Andrea Rios Gonzalez, **Karen Gruszynski**, **Gary Vroegindewey**. Informatics Search Results for Animal Welfare Issues during Sars-Cov-2 Pandemic. American Public Health Association 2021 Annual Meeting and Expo.

Grants:

Dr. Verma and Dr. Spangler collaborated with Tifton Diagnostic Labs on a submission (\$50,000) to the National Animal Health Lab Network (USDA). The project focus is SARS-CoV-2 PCR testing of animal samples.



LMU SSS STUDENTS VISIT RIPLEY'S AQUARIUM OF THE SMOKIES

HARROGATE, TN – On March 5, 2022, students, staff, and guests from the Lincoln Memorial University Student Support Services program enjoyed a visit to Ripley's Aquarium of the Smokies. While there, students enjoyed exhibits featuring over 10,000 exotic sea creatures in 350 individual species. Before the aquarium visit, they enjoyed lunch together at CiCi's Pizza. The Student Support Services Program is funded by a grant from the United States Department of Education and serves 165 qualifying students on the campus of Lincoln Memorial University. The program provides advising, tutoring, counseling, mentoring, and career planning to help students succeed in a post-secondary education. For more information about the program, please contact Lila Combs, Director at 423-869-6213.

Recent Submissions and Awards

Recent Grant Submissions:

Dr. Lindsay Miller submitted a grant to the Allen Foundation.

Dr. Karen Foster submitted a proposal for the CEEDAR Education Grant.

Dr. Stacy Anderson submitted a proposal to Boehringer Ingelheim Veterinary Scholars.

Dr. Lisa Ebner submitted a proposal for the 2021 AVMA Educator Grant.

Dr. LaRoy Brandt submitted a proposal to Wildlife Acoustics.

Eight students submitted proposals to ACA for the Ledford Scholar Awards:

Nathan McBride and mentor Dr. LaRoy Brandt

Emily Boring and mentor Dr. LaRoy Brandt

Summer Hatmaker and mentor Dr. LaRoy Brandt

Tyler Mullens and mentor Dr. LaRoy Brandt

Ashyton Gibson and mentor Dr. Dominic Palazzolo

Sara Hopkins and mentor Dr. Dominic Palazzolo

Juan Torres and mentor Dr. Whitney Kistler

Hannah Blevins and mentor Dr. Barbara Shock

Recent Grant Awards:

Dr. Karen Foster was awarded the CEEDAR Education Grant.

Dr. Stacy Anderson was awarded the Boehringer Ingelheim Veterinary Scholars Grant.

Dr. Lisa Ebner was awarded the 2021 Educator Grant.

Dr. Denise Terese-Koch was awarded a grant from Nobel Biocare.

Contact information for grants:

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Reminder from the LMU Institutional Review Board (IRB)

Please remember that all research proposals and projects involving human subjects, must have IRB approval ***prior*** to the presentation of any information gathered during the course of the research.

Under federal policy, the IRB cannot grant retroactive IRB approval.

All applications for external funding must first begin by contacting the ORGSP.

If your grant award, application, presentation, or publication has not been mentioned in this edition, please forward your information to us using the contact information listed above. Thank you!

Institutional Animal and Care Use Committee (IACUC)

All research proposals and projects involving animals must have IACUC approval. Please have protocols submitted at least one week before the next scheduled meeting for committee review. Below is a schedule of upcoming IACUC meetings:

April 12, 2022
May 10, 2022
June 14, 2022
July 12, 2022
August 9, 2022