On Graduate Students

The Interdisciplinary Faculty of Toxicology (IFT) involves faculty and graduate students from multiple Departments and Colleges and coordinates the PhD graduate program in Toxicology. The doctoral program in Toxicology was approved by the State Coordinating Board for Higher Education in 1989 and the IFT has awarded 133 PhD, 1 DVM/PhD, and 26 Masters degrees. The strength of this program is due to the dedication of the faculty and staff and the excellence of the graduate student trainees. An external review of the IFT in 2007 summarized the overall program as follows: “Overall, the External Review Committee considers the IFT to be an outstanding program, which has a justly deserved reputation of excellence at the University, National and International levels.”

Graduate Student Honors & Awards

Currently the President of the CVM Graduate Student Association is Mike Berg, a second year PhD student in Dr. Christie Sayes’ laboratory. Mike is currently investigating differential cellular uptake mechanisms of various engineered nanomaterials. He has received several awards for his research including a first place award for his presentation at the Texas A&M Student Research Week 2009. In addition to his research accomplishments, he is active in many CVM and campus-wide activities and has been one of the most dynamic CVM-GSA Presidents.

Kerry Thuett (Abbott/Castiglioni) received 1st Place for her oral presentation at the American Association of Veterinary Anatomists, College Station, TX, July 22-24, 2008.

The Toxicology Graduate Student Forum was held on August 19, 2008 at the Veranda in Bryan. Dr. Les Dees (VIBS) gave the keynote address entitled “Influence of insulin Like Growth Factor-1 on Mammalian Puberty.” Graduate students made both oral and poster presentations. Those receiving awards for their oral presentations...
were Elizabeth Wellberg (Porter) 1st place, Alicia Marroquin-Cardona (Phillips) 2nd place, and Ying Xie (Tian) 3rd place. Three students received awards for poster presentations including Gayathri Chadalapaka (Safe) 1st place, Natalie Johnson (Phillips) 2nd place, and Mike Berg (Sayes) 3rd place.

Four Toxicology graduate students received $5000 merit-based Graduate Student Scholarship awarded by the College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences for the 2008-09 academic year:

Gayathri Chadalapaka (Safe)
Natalie Johnson (Phillips)
Kerry Thuett (Abbott/Castiglioni)
Elizabeth Wellberg (Porter)

Gayathri Chadalapaka and Indira Jutooru (Safe) were selected for the 2008-09 edition of Who’s Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges.

Matthew Kelley (Donnelly) and Danielle Tietze, (Donnelly) received Outstanding Oral Presentation Awards at the Central and Eastern European Conference on Health and the Environment (CEECHE) on October 19-22, 2008 in Cluj-Napoca, Romania. Other attendees from TAMU included Dr. KC Donnelly, Dr. Robin Autenrieth and Dr. Bella Chu.

Danielle Tietze, a 2007-2008 Jordan Fellow, was the invited Keynote Speaker at the L.T. Jordan Institute for International Awareness induction ceremony on January 29, 2009. She spoke on her travel and research in Azerbaijan in the summer of 2008.

Gayathri Chadalapaka received an International Education Study Grant for Graduate and Professional students from the International Programs for Students (IPECC), at Texas A&M University on March 25th 2009.

Twenty-nine TAMU graduate students, staff and faculty attended the 2009 Society of Toxicology (SOT) annual meeting in Baltimore, Maryland, March 15-19. This group presented 30 abstracts and students received numerous awards:

Nivedita Banerjee (Sayes) – CVM Graduate Student Association Travel Award
Mike Berg (Sayes) – CVM Graduate Student Association Travel Award
Gayathri Chadalapaka (Safe) – Drs. Mehendale & Singh Graduate Student Merit Award, Association of Scientists of Indian Origin in America – SOT Award, SOT Graduate Student Travel Award, Honorable Mention ribbon in the Molecular Biology Specialty Session. In addition, Gayathri was a finalist for the Colgate-Palmolive Student Research Training Award, the highest graduate student-level award offered by SOT.
Vanessa De La Rosa (Sayes) – Perry J. Gehring Minority Travel Award (SOT)
Navada Eagleton (Tian) – CVM Graduate Student Association Travel Award
Indira Jutooru (Safe) – SOT Graduate Student Travel Award
Natalie Johnson (Phillips) – Frank C. Lu Food Safety Student Award and CVM Graduate Student Association Travel Award
Alicia Marroquin-Cardona (Phillips) – SOT Graduate Student Travel Award, Monsanto Travel Award, and CVM Graduate Student Association Travel Award (declined)
Sandeep Sreevalsan (Safe) – CVM Graduate Student Association Travel Award

In addition, all graduate students and postdoctoral fellows who attended received travel funds from the IFT.

Several TAMU students, faculty and staff also participated in the Undergraduate Education Program hosted each year by the SOT Committee on Diversity Initiatives (CDI). This program has NIH
MARC funding and additional corporate funding to bring approximately 50 undergraduates from the US and Puerto Rico to the meeting for a special program that educates them in toxicology and graduate opportunities available to them. The participating students are from either underrepresented ethnic groups or from colleges with small amounts of research funding, and go through a competitive selection process for these travel awards. 2009 marked the 20th Anniversary of this program, so the participants were able to join in the anniversary celebration and see the success of this program firsthand from many founders and program alumni. This year, TAMU graduate students Navada Eagleton, Natalie Johnson, Alicia Marroquin-Cardona, and Indira Jutooru as well as postdoctoral research associate Dr. Jessica Epple-Farmer and research assistant Vanessa De La Rosa served as Peer Mentors in the program. In addition, Dr. Christie Sayes and Dr. Alice Villalobos (ad hoc CDI member) served as Host Mentors and group leaders, and Dr. Villalobos was also a panelist in the “Career Opportunities in Toxicology” panel discussion. Kim Daniel, (ad hoc CDI member) served on the 20th Anniversary Sub-Committee, chaired the Program Director/Graduate Recruiting session, and served as a panelist in the “How to Get Into Graduate School: An Academic Advisor’s Perspective” panel discussion.

Many Toxicology graduate students received awards and honors at Texas A&M’s Student Research Week, March 23-27, 2009. Charlotte Rambo (Phillips) was the Session Winner for the CVMBS in Soil Hydrology/Water Resources/Environmental Studies, and received 1st Place in Taxonomy. Natalie Johnson received 2nd place in Taxonomy for Active Living and Public Health. Mike Berg was awarded first place in the Nanoscience Taxonomy Group. Gayathri Chadalapaka received second place in Molecular Biology. Nivedita Banerjee (Sayes) and Charlotte Rambo received Interdisciplinary Research Ribbon Recognition, while Indira Jutooru and Charlotte Rambo earned Safety Recognition awards from the Environmental Health & Safety Department.

The Frontiers of Cancer Research Workshop was held in Houston, TX, March 26-28, 2009. Two graduate students from the Safe laboratory, Gayathri Chadalapaka and Indira Jutooru received Travel Awards from TAMEST (The Academy of Medicine, Engineering and Science of Texas) to present their research at this conference.

Four Toxicology graduate students received awards at the CVM Honors Convocation on April 3, 2009. Gayathri Chadalapaka and Natalie Johnson received the George T. Edds Outstanding Toxicology Graduate Student Awards. Mike Berg (Sayes) received the Fisher Medical Science Research Award, and Indira Jutooru received the 2009 Texas A&M Auxiliary Graduate Student Award, presented by the College of Veterinary Medicine.

Two toxicology students from the Phillips’ laboratory received awards for their poster and platform presentations at the CVM Graduate Student Association Forum on April 7, 2009. Alicia Marroquin-Cardona received 3rd place (poster), and Natalie Johnson received 3rd place (platform). Other Toxicology students presenting research at this event were Nivedita Banerjee, Mike Berg, Gayathri Chadalapaka, Navada Eagleton (Tian), Indira Jutooru, Amy Romoser (Sayes), Sandeep Sreevalsan (Safe), John Taylor (Phillips), Kerry Thuett and Ying Xie (Tian).

Natalie Johnson recently received the P.E.O. Scholar Award for the 2009-2010 academic year in the amount of $15,000. The P.E.O. is a philanthropic and educational organization interested in bringing women increased opportunities for higher education. The P.E.O. Scholar Award program was initiated in 1991, and provided 30 merit-based scholarships to women of the United States and Canada pursuing doctoral studies. The award has been increased and is now given to 85 women in the United States and Canada to recognize and encourage academic excellence and achievement among female graduate students.
Gayathri Chadalapaka and Indira Jutooru from the Safe laboratory also traveled to Denver, CO, April 17-22, 2009 to attend the American Association of Cancer Research (AACR) national meeting. Both students received CVM Graduate Student Association Travel Awards and Indira also received a Graduate Student Research and Presentation Grant funded by the Association of Former Students and the Office of Graduate Studies.

Danielle Tietze (Donnelly) was inducted into the Texas A&M Chapter of Phi Kappa Phi national, interdisciplinary Honor Society at the initiation ceremony on April 19, 2009. Phi Kappa Phi selects members based on academic performance, leadership, and service on campus and in the community.

Gayathri Chadalapaka also received an Academic Excellence Award from the Brazos Co. A&M Club, Martin Sam Scholarship, TAMU Office of Scholarships and Financial Aid, for the 2009-10 academic year.

December 2008 Graduates

Zara Berg completed an MS and is now working as a consultant in the Helena, MT area.

Hiromi Hosako completed her PhD and works as Toxicologist for WIL Research Laboratories, LLC. in Ashland, OH.

Christine Naspinski completed her PhD and is considering business opportunities in the Tomball, TX area.

Sabitha Papineni completed her PhD and also completed DVM board exams. She is in private veterinary practice in Indianapolis, IN.

Rebecca Lingenfelter and Elizabeth Wellberg have completed the requirements for their PhDs and are expected to graduate in May 2009.

Graduate Student Presentations

American Association of Veterinary Anatomists, College Station, TX, July 22-24, 2008

MERQUERY UPTAKE, MITOCHONDRIAL MEMBRANE POTENTIAL AND INTRACELLULAR CALCIUM ION CONCENTRATION IN THE HIPPOCAMPUS AND CEREBELLUM OF YOUNG ADULT MICE FOLLOWING CHRONIC LOW-LEVEL EXPOSURE TO METHYLMERCURY. K.A. Thuet, J.Y. Yang, R. Taylor and L.C. Abbott. Department of Veterinary Integrative Biosciences, College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843-4458 USA


BIOMARKER STUDIES IN AN INDUSTRIAL WATERWAY. M. Kelley1, A. Gillespie1, B. Duncan2, T. McDonald1, G.D. Zhou1, S. Wang1, L.Y. He1, and K.C. Donnelly1.1 Texas A&M University, College Station, TX and 2US EPA Region 10, Seattle, WA.

MEASUREMENT OF BIOMARKERS TO ASSESS RESIDENTIAL EXPOSURE TO COMPLEX ENVIRONMENTAL MIXTURES. D. Tietze1,2, S. Wang1, L.Y. He1, T. J. McDonald1,2, K.C. Donnelly1,2 and A. Islamizadeh1.1 Texas A&M University Health Science Center, School of Rural Public Health, Interdisciplinary Faculty of Toxicology, College of Veterinary Medicine2 and Sumgait Rehabilitation Centre1.

Frontiers of Cancer Research Workshop, Houston, TX, March 26-28, 2009

EPIDERMAL GROWTH FACTOR RECEPTOR IS DOWNREGULATED IN BLADDER CANCER CELLS BY DRUGS THAT REPRESS SPECIFICITY PROTEINS. G. Chadalapaka, I. Jutooru, R. Burghardt, and S. Safe

EFFECT OF CELASTROL ON SPECIFICITY PROTEIN TRANSCRIPTION FACTORS IN PANCREATIC CANCER CELLS. I. Jutooru, G. Chadalapaka, and S. Safe.

Society of Toxicology (SOT) 48th Annual Meeting, Baltimore, MD, March 15-19, 2009

MECHANISTIC APPROACH TO COMPARE TOXICITY OF THREE UNIQUE NANO-SIZED METAL COLLOIDAL SUSPENSIONS TO LIVER CELL CULTURE SYSTEMS. N. Banerjee, E. Nalley, Y. Tian, C.M. Sayes. Veterinary Physiology & Pharmacology, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX.

THE TRANSPORT OF TiO2 NANOPARTICLES IN HUMAN LUNG EPITHELIAL CELLS AND ALVEOLAR MACROPHAGES: HOW DOES AGGREGATION STATE INFLUENCE CELLULAR UPTAKE MECHANISMS? J.M. Berg, R.A. Zebda, C.M. Sayes. Veterinary...
EPIDERMAL GROWTH FACTOR RECEPTOR IS DOWNREGULATED IN BLADDER CANCER CELLS BY DRUGS THAT REPRESS SPECIFICITY PROTEINS. G. Chadalapaka1, J. Jutooru1, R. Burghardt2, S. Safe3,4, 1Veterinary Physiology & Pharmacology, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX; 2Veterinary Integrative Biosciences, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX; 3Institute of Biosciences & Technology, Texas A&M Health Science Center, Houston, TX.  

PREGNANE X RECEPTOR (PXR) PROTECTS LIVER CELLS AGAINST DNA DAMAGES: EVIDENCE AND MECHANISMS. H. Cui1, X. Gu1, Y. Xie1, C. Naspinski1,2, S. Ke1, K.C. Donnelly1,2, Y. Tian1, 1Veterinary Physiology & Pharmacology, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX; 2Texas A&M University System Health Science Center, College Station, TX, 3Institute of Biosciences & Technology, Texas A&M Health Science Center, Houston, TX.  

BLOOMING CANCER CELLS THROUGH INTERACTION WITH CCR4 – NOT. N. Eagleton, D. Liu, S. Ke, Y. Xie, N. Ouyang, Y. Tian. Toxicology Program and Veterinary Physiology & Pharmacology, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX.  

AHR/CYP1A1 EXPRESSION IN MOUSE TROPHOBLAST ALLOGRAFTS. J. Apple-Farmer, N. Ouyang, S. Ke, Y. Tian. Toxicology Program and Veterinary Physiology & Pharmacology, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX.  

URINARY AFLATOXIN M1 AND 1 – HYDROXYPYRENE LEVELS IN A U.S. POPULATION COMPARED TO A HIGH RISK POPULATION IN GHANA. N.M. Johnson1, D. Tietze2, A. Marroquin-Cardona1, A. Robinson1, J. Taylor2, E. Afriyie-Gyawu1, M. Rodriguez2, L. Kaufman2, K. Cunningham2, J. Wittmer2, F. Guerra3, K.C. Donnelly1, J. Wang3, T.D. Phillips1, 1College of Veterinary Medicine, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX; 2San Antonio Metropolitan Health District, San Antonio, TX, 3College of Public Health, University of Georgia, Athens, GA.  

EFFECT OF CELASTROL ON SPECIFICITY PROTEIN TRANSCRIPTION FACTORS IN PAPILLARY CANCER CELLS. J. Jutooru1, G. Chadalapaka1, S. Safe3,4. 1Veterinary Physiology & Pharmacology, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX; 2Institute of Biosciences & Technology, Texas A&M Health Science Center, Houston, TX.  

IN SITU BIOMONITORING USING CAGED JUVENILE CHINOOK SALMON (ONCORHYNCHUS TSHAWYTSCHA) AT A RIVER SUPERFUND SITE IN THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST. M.A. Kelley1, A. Gillespie1, B. Duncan2, T. McDonald2, D.G. Zhou2, S. Wang2, L.Y. He1, K.C. Donnelly1. 1Texas A&M University, College Station, TX; 2US EPA Region 10, Seattle, WA.  

GESTATIONAL EXPOSURE TO THE TYPE II PYRETHROID DELTAMETHRIN RESULTS IN INCREASED EXPRESSION OF NEUROTROPINS 3 AND 4 IN THE DEVELOPING HIPPOCAMPUS AND CORTEX. B. Laffin1, M. Pine. Veterinary Integrative Biosciences, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX.  

TCDD AND THE SELECTIVE ARYL HYDROCARBON RECEPTOR (AHR) MODULATORS INDOLE-3-CARBINOL (I3C) AND 3,3’-DIINDOYLMTETHANE(DIM)REGULATE PROSTATE TUMORIGENESIS IN TRAMP MICE. T.M. Lin1, W.A. Fritz1, S. Safe2, R.E. Peterson1. 1School of Pharmacy, University of WI, Madison, WI; 2Veterinary Physiology & Pharmacology, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX.  

IN VITRO ANALYSIS OF ZEAALENONE BINDERS INCLUDED IN ANIMAL FEEDS IN MEXICO AND INITIAL STEPS FOR STANDARDIZATION OF OCHRATOXIN SORPTION ASSAYS. A.G. Marroquin-Cardona1, J.M. Berg1, N.M. Johnson1, C.M. Sayes2, A. Robinson1, J.F. Taylor1, T.D. Phillips1, 1Veterinary Integrative Biosciences, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX; 2Veterinary Physiology and Pharmacology, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX.  

PREGNANE X RECEPTOR SUPPRESSES PROLIFERATION AND TUMORIGENICITY OF COLON CANCER CELLS THROUGH REGULATION RB/E2F1 PATHWAY. N. Ouyang, S. Ke, N. Eagleton, Y. Xie, Y. Tian. Veterinary Physiology and Pharmacology, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX.  

A NOVEL ANTI-CANCER DRUG DERIVED FROM GLYCERYLHYDROXYLACID DECREASES LNCoP CELL SURVIVAL BY INDUCTION OF A DUAL PHOSPHATASE, MKPS. S. Papineni1, S. Chinthapalli2, S. Lee3, S. Safe1,2. 1Veterinary Physiology & Pharmacology, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX; 2Institute of Biosciences & Technology, Texas A&M Health Science Center, Houston, TX.  

N-CADHERIN EXPRESSION DICTATES ACUTE INJURY IN RESPONSE TO MERCURIC CHLORIDE AND SIMULATED ISCHEMIA. A.R. Parrish1, R.C. Burghardt2. 1Systems Biology, College of Medicine, Texas A&M Health Science Center, College Station, TX; 2Veterinary Integrated Biosciences, College of Veterinary Medicine, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX.  

INVITROANDIN/INOASSESSMENTOFESTROGENICACTIVITY OF THE PYRETHROID METABOLITES 3 – PHENOXYBENZOIC ACID AND 3 PHENOXYBENZYL ALCOHOL. M. Pine, B. Laffin, M. Chavez. Veterinary Integrative Biosciences, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX.  

SERUM LEVELS OF AFLATOXIN B1 – LYSINE ADDUCT IN A U.S. POPULATION COMPARED TO A HIGH RISK POPULATION IN CHINA. G. Qian1, L. Tang1, L. Xu, N.M. Johnson2, D. Tietze2, M. Rodriguez2, L. Kaufman3, K. Cunningham3, J. Wittmer3, F. Guerra3, K.C. Donnelly1, T.D. Phillips2, J.S. Wang1. 1College of Public Health, University of Georgia, Athens, GA, 2College of Veterinary Medicine, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX; 3San Antonio Metropolitan Health District, San Antonio, TX.  

VALPROATE REDUCES NEURITE OUTGROWTH BUT REVERSIBLE IN HUMAN SYNSYS NEUROBLASTOMA CELLS. Y. Qian, E. Tiffany-Castiglioni. Veterinary Integrative Biosciences, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX.  

EVALUATION OF URINARY FUROMISIN B1 AS A BIOMARKER OF EXPOSURE IN A WEST AFRICAN POPULATION HIGHLY EXPOSED TO AFLATOXINS. A. Robinson1, N. Johnson1, J.F. Taylor1, A. Marroquin-Cardona3, E. Afriyie-Gyawu1, N. Ankrah2, J.H. Williams3, J.S. Wang3,5, P. Jolly4, T.D. Phillips1, 1College of Veterinary Medicine, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX.
NON-CLASSICAL ER/SP ACTIVATION OF ESTROGEN RESPONSIVE GENES. S. Safe1,2,3, F. Wu1, K. Kim1, I. Ivanov1, S. Khan1. 1Veterinary Physiology & Pharmacology, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX; 2Institute of Biosciences & Technology, Texas A&M Health Science Center, Houston, TX; 3Biochemistry & Biophysics, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX.

PHYSICAL AND CHEMICAL CHARACTERISTICS AFFECTING NANOCLASSIC BEHAVIOR IN TOXICOLOGY AND ECO-TOXICOLOGY STUDIES. C.M. Sayes. Veterinary Physiology & Pharmacology, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX.

1,1, - BIS (3’ = INDOLYL) -1-(P-BROMOPHENYL) MENTHAHE AND RELATED COMPOUNDS DECREASE PANCREATIC AND COLON CANCER CELL SURVIVAL AND EXPRESSION OF SURVIVIN. S. Sreevalsan1, I. Jutooru1, G. Chadalapaka1, S. Safe1. 1Veterinary Physiology & Pharmacology, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX; 2Institute of Biosciences & Technology, Texas A&M Health Science Center, Houston, TX; 3Biochemistry & Biophysics, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX.

AGGLOMERATION/VERSUS DISPERSION: HOW NANOCLASSIC BEHAVIOR AFFECTS EXPOSURE AND TOXICITY IN VITRO, IN VIVO, AND IN THE REAL WORLD. J. Tsui1, C. Sayes2. 1Exponent Inc., Bellevue, WA; 2Texas A&M University, College Station, TX.

GENOMIC, NON-GENOMIC AND EPIGENETIC MECHANISMS OF NUCLEAR HORMONE RECEPTOR ACTION. C. Walker1, S. Safe2. 1University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, Smithville, TX; 2Texas A&M University, College Station, TX.

PULMONARY BIOASSAY STUDIES WITH SEPIOLITE NANOCLAY SAMPLES IN RATS. D.B. Warheit, C.M. Sayes, M. Golt, K.L. Reed, DuPont Haskell Lab, Newark, DE.

EPIGENETIC MECHANISMS OF PROTENTIATION (“PRIMING”) OF PREGNANE X RECEPTOR — REGULATED GENE EXPRESSION BY DIMETHYL SULFOXIDE. Y. Xie1, S. Ke, Y. Tian. Veterinary Physiology & Pharmacology, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX.

NANOCLASSIC, IN VITRO: A NEW DIMENSION TO NANOCLASSIC USING NANO – SIZED CARBON BLACK AND IRON OXIDE. R.A. Zebda1, J. Berg, C.M. Sayes. Veterinary Physiology & Pharmacology, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX.

EFFECTS OF DIETARY FISH OIL ON THE DECREASE OF CARCINOGENIC PAH — DNA ADDUCT LEVELS IN THE LIVER OF B6C3F1 MALE MOUSE. G. Zhou1, S.S. Wang, K.C. Donnelly. Environmental & Occupational Health, School of Rural Public Health, Texas A&M Health Science Center, College Station, TX.


CURCUMIN DECREASES SP PROTEIN EXPRESSION AND PANCREATIC CANCER CELL AND TUMOR GROWTH. I. Jutooru1, G. Chadalapaka2, and S. Safe2.

Former Students Contribute to the IFT

Three former students have recently returned to TAMU and presented seminars in the Toxicology Seminar Series and share perspectives on career opportunities in Toxicology and to provide information related to regulatory policies and requirements concerning chemicals, drugs, food additives, etc. Dr. Spencer Williams presented “Trends in Regulatory Toxicology” in September 2008. He consults with Chemrisk, Inc., as a Health Scientist and has recently accepted a Research Scientist position at Baylor University. Dr. William “Bill” Hanneman presented “Atrazine-Induced Protein Adduct Formation as a Molecular Mechanism of Endocrine Disruption” in March 2009. He is an Associate Professor in the Environmental & Radiological Health Department at Colorado State University, where he has recently been appointed Director, Center for Environmental Medicine. Dr. Cody Wilson is the Senior Manager of Product Integrity for RJ Reynolds Tobacco Co., and also an Adjunct Professor in both the Duke University Integrated Toxicology and Environmental Health Program, and in the TAMUS Health Science Center, School of Rural Public Health, Department of Environmental and Occupational Health. He is also a member of the IFT. In April 2009 he presented “Quantitative Health Risk Assessment of Tobacco Products.”

Faculty Recognition & Honors

Dr. Tim Phillips, Professor of Toxicology in the Department of Veterinary Integrative Biosciences, was selected for the 2009 Walston Chubb Award for Innovation sponsored the Sigma Xi Scientific research Society. This national award honors and promotes creativity in science and engineering and includes an invitation to give the Walston Chubb Award Lecture at Sigma Xi’s annual meeting. Dr. Phillips’ major achievement has been to develop
a simple, inexpensive way to remediate aflatoxin in staple foods such as corn, peanuts, and rice and thus prevent conditions associated with aflatoxicosis, including liver disease, liver cancer, malnutrition, and compromised immunity to infectious organisms. His discoveries, as they are increasingly implemented worldwide, will continue to increase food safety for untold years for the estimated 4.5 billion people whose staple foods are contaminated with aflatoxin. Dr. Phillips has been recognized nationally and internationally for many years for his research in food safety and food toxicology. He holds three patents describing novel dietary strategies and enterosorbent interventions to treat disease in animals and humans. Texas A&M University and the TAMU System have recognized Dr. Phillips with most of their highest honors, including a TAMU System Innovation Award for Research given in 2007, an Association of Former Students Faculty Distinguished Achievement Award for Research given in 2006, and a Bush Award for International Research given in 2005. Dr. Phillips is also a Faculty Senior Fellow of Texas AgriLife Research.

**Dr. Larry Johnson** was selected to receive a 2009 *Bush Excellence Award for Faculty in Public Service*. This award recognizes “a sustained long-term application of a faculty member’s disciplinary expertise to the public or non-profit sector in local, statewide, national, or international arenas.” Dr. Johnson was recognized for his outstanding contributions to educational outreach through his PEER and other programs with public schools. The award was presented at the Consuls General Luncheon in the Annenberg Presidential Conference Center.

**Dr. Sakhila Banu** received a new R03 Grant Award, “Effects of Lactational Exposure to Chromium VI on Ovarian Development”, 05/01/09 to 4/30/11.

**Superfund Grant Program**

The Superfund Basic Research Program Project funded by the National Institute of Health (NIH) has been a major collaborative research and training program at Texas A&M University for the past 20 years, and $1,400,000 per year was awarded to the program during the past funding period. This P42 grant from NIH involves faculty (21) from multiple Departments (8) and Colleges/Units (5) from within the TAMU System, Baylor University and colleagues in Azerbaijan and China. A unique feature of this grant is the requirement for interactions of engineers with biomedical scientists to address problems associated with Superfund sites. The overall theme of the Texas A&M Project is “to conduct research that will facilitate the hazard and risk assessment of complex mixtures,” and this is addressed by six Research Projects, two Facility Cores (Analytical and Biostatistics, and Image Analysis) and a Research Translation Core. The overall Program is administered by a Director (Steve Safe) and three Associate Directors (Tom Wood, KC Donnelly and Rick Finnell) and includes an Outreach Core (Robin Autenrieth) and a Training Core (Bob Burghardt). The individual Research Projects and their PIs are summarized below.

**Project 1** Endocrine disruptors (Stephen Safe)

**Project 2** Development of a microfluidic toxicology platform for quantitative investigation of mixture interactions (Arul Jayaraman and Arum Han)

**Project 3** Role of circadian rhythms on PAH toxicity (Weston Porter)

**Project 4** Gene-environment interactions regulating sensitivity to arsenate-induced birth defects (Richard Finnell)

**Project 5** Environmental determinants of neural tube defect risk (Laura Mitchell and Huiping Zhu)

**Project 6** Biodegradation and detoxification of halogenated aliphatic hydrocarbons and heavy metal mixtures (Thomas Wood and Kung-Hui Chu)
Graduate students Danielle Tietze, Kelly Scribner, Lauren Schilling and Mike Berg.

**Skating Party!**

The IFT hosted an ice-skating and pizza party on January 13 at the Arctic Wolf Ice Center. Everyone enjoyed it, even the beginning skaters. We hope to make this an annual winter event.