



# Forum in Focus

FALL 2006

## President's Letter

Dear Forum Members:

As we embrace the Southwest Foundation Forum's 36th year of support for the Southwest Foundation for Biomedical Research, we are mindful of Tom Slick Jr.'s intention to unlock scientific mysteries through research. Today Foundation scientists examine hereditary medical conditions, bioterrorism, childhood obesity, and the spread of dangerous viruses – issues and conditions affecting millions of people around the globe – to contribute groundbreaking knowledge and improve the quality of human life. The Forum's purposes of establishing and strengthening community relationships, offering volunteer service, and fundraising resonate as strongly as ever. Your membership is key to making this another outstanding year for the Forum and the Foundation! Please take a moment to review the contents of this newsletter and make plans to attend an upcoming event or volunteer your time. Your support *does* make a difference.

Our year officially began in May, as our outgoing president, **Kathryn Dehlinger**, warmly welcomed the 2006-07 board and officers at a joint meeting and luncheon. Her indefatigable leadership throughout 2005-06 encouraged all of us to give our best, resulting in many accomplishments. Likely the most significant was the contribution of more than \$150,000 to the Foundation – proceeds from the 2006 Forum gala chaired by the very talented duo **Estee Kellogg** and **Caroline Schupbach**. Kathryn will coordinate the Nominating Committee this year.



**Brooke Connolly**

Several members of the board worked through the summer: wrapping up duties from last year, getting an early start on this year's assignments, or ensuring a smooth transition between the two. **Laura Moorman** closed the books on her term as treasurer, meeting with incoming treasurer, **Julie Whitaker**, while many of us were vacationing with our families. Laura will continue to assist the Forum, this year as Fourth Vice President – Membership.

**Dottie Cooper** and **Lacey Dorn** were briefed on their jobs as co-chairs of the Science Education Awards by last year's committee heads, **Suzanne Marljar** and **Lynn Berryman**. As Dottie and Lacey made plans to recognize area teachers for excellence in science education, Suzanne worked with **Carrie Green** to produce the 2006-07 Forum Yearbook and Lynn stepped into her new role as assistant treasurer.

The 2007 Forum gala committee has been humming along for months now! Gala chair **Terry Gouger** – together with co-chair **Jean Mitchell** and gala assistant **Julie Zacher** – has assembled myriad committees comprised of hundreds of volunteers to administer every detail of the magical evening planned for May 5, 2007. Save the date and plan to attend this spectacular evening of delicious food, fantastic prizes, and wonderful music, all in the unique ambiance of the Argyle.

*Forum in Focus* newsletter chairpersons, **Karen Lee Zachry** and **Carol Oliver**, met several times prior to the first board meeting to plan and prepare for this issue, the debut of a new look. A special thanks for their enthusiasm, creativity, and commitment to delivering this first issue to press early so that we may share details on exciting events coming up soon.

One event has already passed, and thus you can imagine that **Anne Heaner** and **Shari Stankey**

*The purpose of the Southwest Foundation Forum is to support the Southwest Foundation for Biomedical Research through community relations, volunteer service and fundraising.*

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# President's Letter

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squeezed their summer vacations in around planning and photography sessions for the Girls' Night Out at Julian Gold, held September 27, 2006. Forum members and their guests enjoyed amazing food and prizes from Silo Elevated Cuisine and the incomparable hospitality of James Glover and his efficient staff. Please join me in thanking Julian Gold for its longtime support of the Forum and the Foundation!

Make plans now to attend the popular Foundation Evening Tour – a wonderful chance to hear first-hand about the exciting and life-changing research underway at the Foundation. Forum trustees **Meredith Campbell, Jodi Wood, and Ann Lakey Reeks** are making arrangements for an informative and entertaining evening beginning with a cocktail buffet and welcoming remarks by Interim Foundation President John Kerr at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, October 25, 2006. During the event, guests will tour the facilities in small groups and a handful of Foundation scientists will entertain questions. Don't miss this special opportunity to see what our efforts support and please share this incredible evening by inviting interested friends to attend with you.

First Vice President **Allison Zeller** has invited Foundation Scientist Jean Patterson, Ph.D., chair of the virology and immunology department, to speak about the bird flu and other disturbing ailments during the Forum's Fall Lecture Luncheon to be held Wednesday, November 15, 2006, at the Argyle. **Kristin LeVoyer** will assist Allison with preparations. All Forum members are encouraged to attend the general membership meeting at 10:30 a.m. and Dr.

Patterson's talk will begin at 11:00 a.m. Please contact Allison or visit [www.swff.org](http://www.swff.org) to purchase a luncheon ticket for \$40. Tables of eight are \$320.

**Audrey Mangold and Jane VandeBerg** are organizing Foundation Student Tours for spring 2007. These tours provide a one-of-a kind field trip for advanced high school biology students to view the research facilities, including the popular baboon nursery, as well as talk with scientists about the field of biomedical research as a career choice. Forum volunteers who accompany these groups on the staff guided tours find the experience as rewarding as the students. Contact Audrey or Jane to volunteer your help with one of these tours.

Speaking of volunteers, opportunities to donate your time to the Forum abound! Please call our volunteer chairperson, **Lisa Clingman**, to volunteer with any of the committees or projects planned this year. We welcome your involvement and hope each of you will get involved and help support our mission with your time and talent!

My heartfelt thanks to all of the Forum trustees who are busy keeping us informed and on task: **Mary Beth Mosbacker**, who is communicating with the media on our behalf; **Deb Ferguson**, who will keep our website updated; **Leigh Anne King** and **Karel Hoffman** for capturing the important moments as our photographers; **Catherine Comeaux** and **Jenny Gibson**, our database and mailing/phone chairpersons, who are available at a moment's notice to keep the information flowing; **Anne Johnston**, who will record minutes of our meetings and track attendance; **Estee Kellogg**, who will graciously handle our correspondence; **Janifer Brown**, who will compile

all of our information at the end of the year as our historian; **Reagan Wurzbach**, who will serve as this year's archivist; and **Caroline Schupbach**, who will oversee our meetings as parliamentarian. Your contributions are essential to the smooth operation of our board and my sincere thanks to all of you.

A special thanks to the continued support of our honorary trustees, **Ruth Bates, Graciela Cigarroa, Marietta LoVerde, Dr. Harriett Romo** and **Susan Kerr**. Your contributions have been invaluable, and we all express our appreciation for your dedication to the Forum and our events over the years.

Finally, I am grateful to all my advisors for your willingness to support me and this outstanding board of trustees this year. With the guidance of three women I much admire, **Lynn Huntress, Priscilla Kent, and Lisa Sechler**, I am really looking forward to an extraordinary year! As I told the board of trustees during our first meeting in September, my special area of interest this year is in Forum communications. I am honored to be associated with such a dynamic and energetic group of women who devote countless hours to one of San Antonio's most impressive institutions, the Southwest Foundation for Biomedical Research. I intend to see that our story reaches as many people as possible, and in the most articulate and expressive manner.

Thank you for your confidence in me. I will serve the Southwest Foundation Forum to the best of my abilities. With your support, we will make a lasting difference.

Sincerely,



Brooke

**“RUN FOR THE ROSES”  
BREAKS ALL RECORDS!**



The 2006 Gala, “Run For The Roses,” broke all records by donating \$155,000 to the Southwest Foundation for Biomedical Research. On Saturday, May 6th, 2006 the Argyle was a genteel and gracious setting for the 36th annual Gala. **Estee Kellogg** and **Caroline Schupbach**, Gala co-chairs, were assisted by **Lisa Clingman**.

The beautiful southern setting was created by **Christie Gonzalez** and **Terry Gouger**. Guests were greeted upon arrival at the Argyle with mint juleps and the



sounds of a gospel choir to set the mood. Casino games, arranged by **Carol Oliver** and **Mary Beth Mosbacher**, were enjoyed under the tent during cocktail hour, and guests were delighted to retire indoors in the cool of the Argyle for dinner. **Tiffany & Co**, very graciously donated magnificent favors to each couple, and



Saks Fifth Avenue to 35 other spectacular prizes!

made the table settings all the more glamorous! Each table had a secret prize under a plate – from \$1000 worth of gift certificates to **Julian Gold** and



After a delectable Kentucky supper, guests danced the night away under the tent to the sounds of **Pardi Gras**. Many thanks to **Debbi Chesney**

for arranging such spirited music! Fabulous raffle prize packages with items such as American Airlines tickets, an RK and Argyle Dinner Party, Louis Vuitton handbag, and even a baby longhorn donated by Azar Minerals, to name a few, were awarded.

The Gala could not have been the success that it was without the corporate support. **Karen Lee Zachry** did an amazing job of securing more corporate dollars than ever before. We are especially grateful to our “Winners Circle”



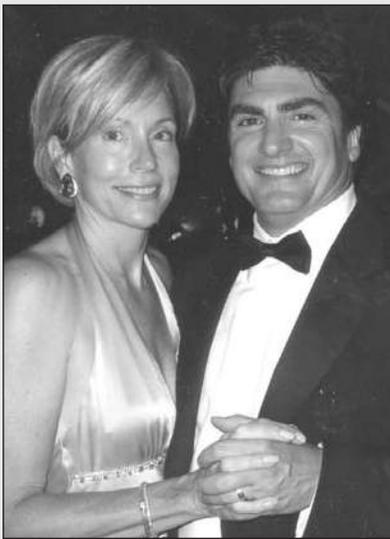
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# “RUN FOR THE ROSES” BREAKS RECORDS

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donors, **Mays Family Foundation** and **AT&T**; “Seattle Slew’s Corner” patron **Valero**; as well as “Secretariat’s Club” and “Seabiscuit’s Paddock” patrons.

A heartfelt thank you to all committee members who contributed to the success of this Gala, especially committee chairmen **Stefanie Alvheim, Lynn Berryman, Catherine Comeaux, Bea Dutton, Anne Johnston, Laura Moorman, Lisa Sechler, Melissa Morgan, Paola Lloyd, Michele Stevens, and Jodi Wood.**



# SFBR Foundation Updates

## The impact of your diet on your baby's lifetime health

In a study investigating developmental programming, or how the development of the fetus in the womb affects that individual's lifetime health, researchers have found new evidence emphasizing the critical need for expectant mothers to get adequate nutrition. The study shows that even moderate maternal nutrient restriction can impair kidney development in the fetus, a problem that has been associated with hypertension in adulthood.



The collaborative project between scientists at Southwest Foundation for Biomedical Research and the Center for Pregnancy and Newborn Research at the University of Texas Health Science Center showed that when pregnant baboons received only 70 percent of their normal caloric intake – roughly the equivalent of someone going on a slimming diet – their fetuses experienced stunted renal growth. Their kidneys' filtering units, called tubules, were shorter and straighter than those of fetuses whose mothers were allowed to eat as much as they wanted during pregnancy.

“This is very important, because the kidneys are the body's clearing-house,” said Dr. Peter Nathanielsz, a lead researcher on the study. “The

kidneys are constantly filtering impurities from the blood. But with shorter tubules, this filtering process is also shortened, and the kidneys aren't able to do their job adequately.”

Dr. Nathanielsz explained that this can lead to high blood pressure as part of the body's natural defense. When the body detects that its blood is not being properly filtered, it raises its blood pressure to pump more blood through the kidneys and boost the filtering process.

In addition to finding evidence of restricted renal development in the fetuses of moderately undernourished baboon mothers, the research team also uncovered the mechanism by which this occurs. The cells in the kidneys of the fetuses whose mothers

were moderately undernourished during pregnancy were expressing, or using, different sets of genes than the fetuses whose mothers consumed their full diet. “Different sets of genes were active [and different sets of genes were] inactive in the two groups of baboons,” said SFBR geneticist Dr. Laura Cox.

These findings are the first of their kind and help address the overarching question, “Does maternal nutrition impact the health of the offspring?”

Investigators hope these findings serve as further impetus for expectant mothers to focus on a healthy diet during pregnancy, both for their own health and the future health of their children.

## Heartbreaking Infections:

## Uncovering the link between infections and cardiovascular disease



A new grant to Southwest Foundation for Biomedical Research (SFBR) will allow scientists to look for genetic factors that increase our susceptibility to some of this country's most common chronic infections, and ultimately, how that susceptibility might be linked to our risk for cardiovascular disease.

Dr. Harald Göring, principal investigator of the new \$1.9 million grant

from the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute, titled “Genetics of Infection and Its Relation to CVD Risk,” says there has not been extensive research on the role infections play in the risk for cardiovascular disease. However, a number of epidemiological studies have shown a higher-than-average prevalence of infections among people who have suffered heart attacks and strokes.

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## SFBR Foundation Updates

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He says a leading hypothesis explaining this correlation is that chronic infections lead to a chronic state of inflammation, as the immune system works continuously to fight off the infection. Because inflammation is a central feature of some chronic diseases of old age, particularly cardiovascular disease, improved methods for controlling infections, along with the inflammation they cause, might help reduce people's risk for these diseases.

To study this whole issue, Dr. Göring is collaborating with fellow investigators from SFBR and the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio in a close look at participants from three major San Antonio studies: the San Antonio Family Heart Study, the San Antonio Family Diabetes/Gallbladder Study, and the Veterans Affairs Genetic Epidemiology Study.

Using data from 2,500 participants of these three studies, Dr. Göring's first goal is to determine how many of these individuals test positive for current or previous infection with one or more of seven selected pathogens, and then to search for genes that influence their susceptibility to infection with these pathogens.

In addition, he plans to examine the study population to see if there is a correlation between infection with these pathogens and markers for inflammation, such as high levels of C-reactive protein. That could help validate the hypothesized link between infection and cardiovascular disease, and it could allow Göring to search for genes that influence both.

He believes the study could have multiple payoffs for human health. "The more we know about the relationship of infection and inflammation, the more likely people are to try to decrease infection levels," he said. "And certainly, it's feasible to treat bacterial infections with antibiotics. But if we can find genetic factors that influence susceptibility to infections, it might also provide new ideas for how to design effective vaccines."

## Forum Board of Trustees Kicks Off 2006-07 with Coffee

Southwest Foundation Forum Board President Brooke Connolly and returning trustees welcomed new trustees for 2006-07 with a coffee Wednesday, August 23, 2006, at the lovely Monte Vista home of Suzanne Marlar, M.D.



Deb Ferguson, Karel Hoffman, Julie Zacher, Dottie Cooper, Meredith Campbell, Audrey Mangold, Kristin LeVoyer, Carol Oliver, Anne Heaner, and Shari Stankey officially joined the SWFF board in May. The coffee provided a perfect opportunity for incoming trustees to ask questions and meet one another prior to the first board meeting of the year in September.

### 2006 Fall Lecture Luncheon

## Bird Flu and Bioterrorism . . . Should I Ever Leave the House?



Two topics of great concern to our country (and the world) are the bird flu and bioterrorism. With all of the media hype and contradictory information, the Southwest Foundation Forum is thrilled to hear from **Dr. Jean Patterson**, an expert on both of these subjects, at our Fall Lecture Luncheon on November 15, 2006 at the Argyle.

Dr. Patterson is currently the Chairman for the Department of Virology and Immunology at the Southwest Foundation for Biomedical Research (SFBR). Her major research interests are the molecular biology of viruses infecting protozoan parasites, transcription of bunyaviruses, and mechanisms of action of anti-viral agents. She is a member of the design team that completed the construction of a 36,000 sq. ft. laboratory building that holds 12 Biosafety Level 2 labs, three Biosafety Level 3 labs, and one Biosafety Level 4 lab at SFBR. She also serves as a consultant for the development of the Montana BSL4 and the Boston BSL4 laboratory facilities.

Dr. Patterson's talk will begin at 11:00 a.m., immediately following the general membership meeting. Individual seats are \$40 each and a table of eight is \$320. Seating is limited. For more information, please contact **Allison Zeller** at [allisonzeller@yahoo.com](mailto:allisonzeller@yahoo.com) or 210-822-4467.

## SCIENCE EDUCATION AWARDS UPDATE

Along with V.H. McNutt Foundation, the Southwest Foundation Forum will award grants to area high schools again next spring. This year's committee chairwomen, **Lacey Dorn** and **Dottie Cooper**, will be encouraging as many schools as possible to submit their grant proposals. Awards will be determined, on a competitive basis, to those applicants demonstrating the strongest commitment to further the development of innovative and progressive science education programs. The aim is to assist in the purchase of teaching materials for the school's science program. The awards must be used for developing and teaching scientific educational and research programs. The winners will be honored during the Spring Lecture Luncheon in March.

Last spring's winners were Brackenridge High School, Health Careers High School, Cibilo Alternative School, Clark High School and Byron P. Steele.

## GIRLS NIGHT OUT AT JULIAN GOLD A SUCCESS!

Thanks to co-chairs **Anne Heaner** and **Shari Stankey**, the ladies of the Forum, as well as other guests, enjoyed a wonderful evening of fabulous food, fun and fashion hosted by Julian Gold. The evening was spent sipping various libations, dining on delicious food prepared by the chefs of Silo, as well as previewing and purchasing some new fall fashions! The event was a great success and due to the incredible support and generosity of **Julian Gold**, enabled the Forum to be the recipient of \$3,500.00. We appreciate all of the people that made the event possible and thank you for your participation.



### PAST PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear Forum Members,

It's hard for me to fathom that the year is over. As I look back, I am humbled by what we have accomplished.

We started off the year on the right foot, thanks to **Heather Hunter** and **Jennifer Brown** who updated the yearbook and mailed it out as soon as the Forum year began. **Sandi Taylor** and **Nancy Barnes**, in spite of numerous unexpected date changes and the remodeling of Julian Gold, put on a glittery, profitable and fashionable Ladies Night Out! In October, **Catherine Comeaux** and **Lacey Dorn** organized our Foundation Fall Evening Tour that included fascinating presentations and delicious food. Each visit there reminds us of the incredible cause we support. Then, in November and again in March, **Brooke Connolly** and **Kristin Ernst** chaired our Fall and Spring Lecture luncheons. We enjoyed both thought provoking speakers while enjoying a lovely lunch at the Argyle. A big thank you to **Anne Johnston** and **Mary Beth Mosbacker** for, not one, not two, but three awesome Forum in Focus newsletters. Each issue was filled with well written, informative articles and each arrived in the season in which they were due! And, thanks to **Julie Collins** for the Foundation articles and photos which educated our membership on the incredible strides being made in science. **Sharon Bray** and **Karen Heydenreich** did a picture perfect job as Forum photographers. They made many jobs easier with their diligence in distributing their photos. Speaking of photos, **Jodi Wood** made sure the Forum was "Scene in SA," literally. We appeared in everything from Scene in SA to the Express-News

and Brilliant Magazine. **Carrie Green**, our Historian, has been working throughout the year on the Forum scrapbook. Her scrapbooking is well known and much admired. We will always enjoy perusing through the pages of this special year. **Jenny Gibson** and **Karen Lee Zachry** were ready at a moment's notice to help with any phone and mailing projects. They, along with **Leigh Ann King** and **Melinda Young**, our volunteer coordinators, were called to action by the Science Education Award chairs. They were ready, willing and eager to help. **Reagan Wurzbach** helped launch the Forum into a new age – the computer age – by updating our website. **Jane VandeBerg** and **Jean Mitchell** did a superior job heading up the student tours of the Foundation. They helped fulfill our educational mission. **Lynn Berryman** and **Suzanne Dabbous** made sure our Science Education Awards were, again, a huge success. By recognizing excellence in science, we promote education by inspiring tomorrow's scientists. Each of our jobs (for many years) has been made easier and more pleasant because of **Ann Reeks**. She is not simply our Forum liaison. She is our friend.

**Francie Calgaard**, our immediate past president and nominating chair, set not only a wonderful example to follow, but slated officers and a board that will continue the wonderful Forum tradition. **Phyllis Viola** served as an incredible ambassador for the Forum. Her notes of congratulation, concern and condolence were heartfelt and timely. Speaking of timely, she was like clockwork when sending board meeting reminders. One of the most challenging jobs is recording secretary because it requires 100% attendance and accuracy. **Terry Gouger** didn't skip a beat in doing her job. It was comforting to know she was sitting beside me at each meeting. **Julie**

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## PAST PRESIDENT'S LETTER

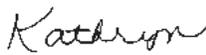
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**Whitaker**, a year ago, committed two years of her life to the finances of the Forum. We are in good hands with her. **Allison Zeller** changed our membership drive for the better. Receiving a personalized letter and reminder postcard guaranteed a healthy membership which remains critical to our success. **Estee Kellogg, Caroline Schupbach** and **Lisa Clingman**, without hesitation, committed a year of their lives to planning San Antonio's premier gala. And, what a spectacular evening it was! But, on top of a lovely evening, their hard work enabled us to give a record \$155,000 to the Foundation to fund grants. What a tremendous contribution!

**Laura Moorman**, our treasurer, went above and beyond the call of duty. The year would not have been the same without her thoroughness, her energy and her commitment. I could

not have done my job without the wise counsel and support of my advisors: **Harriet Raney, Barbara Dreeben, Nancy Moorman** and **Lisa Sechler**. Each time I called them they were ready to help. It is because of their dedication to this cause that I knew this was the job for me.

It is often said that the best title in non-profit is "past president." And, while "past president" definitely has an upside, it is mostly with great sadness and great pride that I leave this job. I will always look back on this year with tremendous appreciation and gratitude – appreciation for the opportunity to serve such an incredible cause and lead a group of exceptionally gifted women and gratitude to my board for giving the Forum their very best effort. We have each, in our own unique ways, left the Forum better than we found it. I believe we made a difference.

  
Kathryn

## “Run for Roses” produces large payoff for human health

The Forum's "Run for the Roses" produced a spectacular prize to help scientists in the race to prevent, treat and cure disease. Thanks to the hard work, dedication, and creativity of the 2006 Gala organizers and other volunteers, this year's event was so successful that it allowed the Forum to donate a record-setting \$155,000 to Southwest Foundation for Biomedical Research to support innovative new research projects.

Presented to SFBR President and Chairman John C. Kerr on September 6, this donation will be used by the Foundation to fund six new pilot studies:

### How obesity affects our immune system

**Dr. J. Michael Proffitt** in the Department of Genetics received a Forum grant to study the relationship between obesity and disease by examining the effect of different types of body fat on the immune system.

For example, as part of his new project, he will explore the relationship between immune cells and fat cells in obese and lean baboons. He hopes to identify which immune cells participate in inflammation associated with obesity and how the immune system functions differently in the lean and obese state – all part of his overall goal of helping the research community develop appropriate therapies to mitigate the damage caused by fat tissue and to help physicians better manage obesity-related illnesses such as diabetes and cardiovascular disease.

### What makes some strains of herpes deadly

**Dr. Anthony Griffiths** in the Department of Virology and Immunology focuses his research on different

types of the herpes virus. Herpes simplex virus (the cause of cold sores) – to which most people are exposed by adulthood – is usually self-limiting and not life-threatening. On the other hand, herpes B virus, while self-limiting and not life-threatening in macaque monkeys, is one of the most dangerous human pathogens known, causing death in 70 percent of those infected.

Dr. Griffiths is trying to discover what differences in these two similar viruses are responsible for the difference in the type and severity of disease they cause in humans. That understanding could lead to improved treatments and therapies. With his new grant from the Southwest Foundation Forum, he will begin investigating a newly discovered class of molecules called micro-RNAs (miRNAs), particularly focusing on several that he predicts play a roll in pathogenesis of herpes B virus.

### Another step forward in biodefense

Another Forum grant to the Department of Virology and Immunology was awarded to **Dr. Ricardo Carrion Jr.** As manager of the Foundation's BSL-4, maximum containment laboratory, his research is largely focused

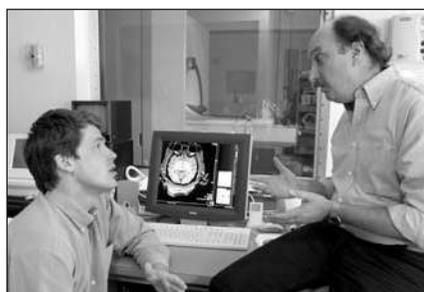
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# RUN FOR THE ROSES RECIPIENTS

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on biodefense. His Forum grant will be used to develop the common marmoset monkey as a research model for Ebola virus. An emerging virus that causes outbreaks in Africa every two to 10 years, this hemorrhagic fever virus has a fatality rate of 60 to 90 percent and is a potential bioterror threat. Development of the marmoset as a research model will be highly beneficial to research studies on the efficacy of candidate vaccines and therapeutics for Ebola.

**Dr. Jeff Rogers** in the Department of Genetics will use his new Forum grant to expand his research with baboons on the genetics of psychiatric disease and take that already productive research in a new direction. Research by him and his collaborators already has shown that genetic variation in baboons influences their response to mild stress; affects



the frequency of aggressive, submissive, and anxiety-related behaviors; and impacts levels of serotonin, dopamine and norepinephrine, three brain chemicals known to be involved in the onset and/or treatment of human depression and anxiety disorders. Dr. Rogers' ability to find the particular genes affecting these various traits would be greatly enhanced if he knew which regions within the baboon brain are affected by the genes for which he is searching.

Therefore, his new grant from the Forum will be used to conduct a series of brain imaging studies to help him identify related differences in brain structure among baboons in his investigation. Eventually, he hopes to produce findings on the genetic causes of variation in

brain anatomy, structure and function to accelerate progress toward a more complete understanding of the genetics of human psychiatric illness. That could lead to better treatment and preventions for psychiatric disease.

## The genetics of a serious pregnancy disorder

Pre-eclampsia is the most common serious disorder of human pregnancy, responsible for approximately 76,000 maternal and infant deaths each year. A rapidly progressive condition that leads to high blood pressure and other systemic problems in the latter half of pregnancy, it typically resolves after the baby is delivered. In some cases, it leads to eclampsia, a convulsive condition that is life-threatening for the mother and her unborn child. While no preventions or therapies exist for pre-eclampsia and eclampsia, and while little is known about what triggers their onset, it is clear that genetics play a major role. So the discovery of genes that influence susceptibility would be highly beneficial in efforts to develop diagnostics, preventions and treatments.

A Forum grant to **Dr. Matt Johnson** in the Department of Genetics will be used to obtain a complete profile of gene regulatory mechanisms in a sample of unrelated Norwegian women. By simultaneously assessing every gene in the human genome, his project aims to identify and characterize significant differences in the biological relationship of gene regulation between pre-eclamptic and normal pregnancies.

## Battling the drug resistance of the schistosome parasite

Schistosome parasites infect and reduce the quality of life of over 200 million people around the world, particularly in developing countries. While there are treatments available, infection frequently reoccurs, and treatments become less effective as the parasites develop increased drug resistance.

**Dr. Charles Criscione** in the Department of Genetics is trying to locate schistosome parasite genes that underlie drug resistance so that existing drugs can be modified to restore their efficacy. In this effort, a grant from the Forum will be used to help Dr. Criscione develop a new, less cumbersome method for measuring drug resistance in schistosome parasites. If he and his colleagues can develop a simple method for this procedure, they will be able to measure drug resistance in the parents and off-spring of a genetic cross between parasites, which would in turn help them locate the genes that cause drug resistance.

All in all, the 2006 "Run for the Roses" Gala was one of the most successful in Forum history, yielding a huge payoff for the effort to improve human health.

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# Mystical Living Gardens

Looking for an evening of delightful dining, congenial conversations,  
gratifying gaming and dancing under the stars?

Please mark your calendars now for the Southwest Foundation Forum's 37th annual Gala "Mystical Living Gardens" on May 5, 2006 at the Argyle. Co-Chairs **Terry Gouger** and **Jean Mitchell** and Gala Assistant **Julie Zacher** have been busy planning another triumphant evening of gaming, dancing and entertainment. If you would like to be a part of this wonderful evening, mark your calendars now.

For information about how you can be a part of the Forum's 37th annual Gala, please contact Terry Gouger at [tgouger@hotmail.com](mailto:tgouger@hotmail.com) or Jean Mitchell at [jmitch5432@aol.com](mailto:jmitch5432@aol.com).



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