

Saluki Health Research, Inc.

2015 – 2016 Annual Meeting and President's Report

The annual meeting of SHR, Inc. was held at the MSU Livestock Pavilion, East Landing, MI at 2 PM, Sat Dec. 3, 2016. Officers and board members attended either in person, by telephone or via the internet. Various discussions and actions included:

The corporate records for the year June 2015 thru May 2016 were approved. All board members (Vicky Clarke, Linda Scanlon and Kathy Morton) and officers (Jim Steckley, Bill Schall and Linda Scanlon) agreed to continue in their positions and terms of office. There was a discussion and approval of adding Beverly or Julian Bivins to the board due to their expertise in non-profit corporate matters.

The Treasurer's report for the corporate year ending May 31, 2016 was approved.

The domain name and hosting of the web site was renewed. A friend, Leslie Behm, has graciously offered her time and skilled expertise in updating the website. She has agreed to update the site as needed. The SHR website has facilitated dissemination of information much more quickly and with less mailing needed.

President's report:

Update of current projects:

Saluki Mammary Study:

Twenty banked Saluki mammary tissue samples were sectioned and, immunohistochemically stained to assess the hormone receptors and "malignancy" tendencies as is done with human breast cancers. Board members did approve partial funding, but DCPAH/MSU funds were used. The researcher presented the results in a PhiZeta poster presentation in 2015. Click on the link for the abstract (Abstract of Saluki Mammary Tumor Study is attached) and would like to further characterize these cancer samples for the purposes of publication. The board agreed to limited financial support if needed.

Cancer DNA studies:

We continue to accept tumor samples from Salukis for histological examination by Dr. Stefich and inclusion in the cancer bank. However, only 10 biopsy samples were received this year. We need to figure out how to make no charge service to Saluki owners more widely known and used.

Heart studies:

The results of Dr. Sanders Saluki Holter study and the Saluki ultrasonography study have been statistically validated, manuscript revisions have been finalized and have been accepted for publication in peer reviewed Veterinary Journals.

Dr. Sanders has been in contact with a researcher interested in DNA studies on the Salukis sampled in conjunction with heart studies. I had hoped that Dr. Stern (UC Davis), who had found some genome changes in Whippets with Mitral Insufficiency would be interested in some Saluki Samples, however, he has not answered my inquiries.

Funding:

The State Basket Raffle held at the SCOA Specialty in June, 2016 was an outstanding success thanks to the tremendous efforts of the organizers, Sue Nelson and Judy Tantillo. Thanks also go to the Saluki owners who creatively donated items in the various State baskets and to the folks that generously purchased the raffle tickets. Hopefully, this or some other funding effort can take place at the 2017 Specialty.

AKC/Canine Health Foundation Grants:

Progress reports were received for cancer, heart and autoimmune CHF Grants and can be found on the SHR web site Funded AKC/CHF Studies page.

New business:

Via correspondence with Samantha Wright of the CHF, grants approved and needing funding should be available in the next week. Hopefully, funding new grants for 2017 can be approved by the board before the end of the year.

We need further discussion on how to more widely disseminate information on SHR, Inc. studies; whether a presence at the National Show as well as regional shows would be of benefit. I keep hearing of Salukis that have either been diagnosed as having some form of cancer or the mass was confirmed to not be cancer, but tissue samples have not been sent to SHR. We need make it more widely known to Saluki owners and their veterinarians, that biopsy samples will be analyzed and a histology report will be sent at no cost to the owners.

Dr. Sanders has enjoyed working with the Salukis and their owners and continues to document cardiac parameters in both healthy and diseased hearts. He is willing to hold another echo clinic at a reduced rate at the National in 2017.

The board voted to fund CHF [Grant No. 02217](#): A Novel Mechanism to Regulate the Growth of Canine Hemangiosarcoma and [Grant No. 02204](#): Using Enhanced Imaging to Evaluate Tumor Margins for Canine Mammary Cancer and Soft Tissue Sarcoma, in January, 2016.

As of 12/23/2016, the board voted to fund CHF Grant #2242

Understanding the Genetics of Adverse Drug Reactions in Sighthounds

Principal Investigator: Dr. Michael H. Court, BVSc, PhD; Washington State University

Total Grant Amount: \$150,000 Grant Period: 2/1/2016 - 1/31/2018

Project Abstract: Life-threatening unanticipated reactions to drugs with a narrow margin of safety (such as those used for anesthesia and to treat cancer) are a common concern for dog owners and veterinarians. Research conducted at Washington State University has enabled development of a simple cheek swab test (the MDR1 gene test) now being used to identify dogs that should either avoid or have reduced doses of certain drugs used to treat cancer and parasite infections. Using a similar strategy the investigators hope to identify the cause of extremely slow recovery from anesthesia (up to several days) in a high proportion of greyhounds and other sighthound breed dogs, such as Scottish Deerhound, Borzoi, Whippets, etc. The investigators have recently discovered a mutation in a gene known to be essential for metabolism of commonly used anesthetic drugs (such as propofol), as well as many other drugs used in dogs. In addition to sighthound breeds, this gene mutation is also found in other breeds such as Border Collies. The purpose of this research project is to prove that this mutation can cause decreased drug metabolism, while also determining which drugs and which dog breeds are likely to be most impacted. The ultimate goal of the study is to develop a genetic test to guide the safe use of these drugs