

## **Saluki Health Research, Inc.**

2016 – 2017 Annual Meeting and President's Report

The annual meeting of SHR, Inc. was held at the MSU Livestock Pavilion, East Landing, MI at 3 PM, Sat. Dec. 2, 2017. Officers and board members attended either in person, by telephone or the internet. Various discussions and actions included:

The corporate records for the year June 2016 thru May 2017 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.

The Treasurer's report for the corporate year ending May 31, 2017 was approved.

The Secretary's report stated that, the web site had been updated with additions added in a timely manner, thanks to the dedication and expertise of Leslie Behm. She has asked to be paid only by an occasional dinner in return for her much appreciated services. The web site has facilitated dissemination of information much more quickly and with less mailing needed.

### **President's report:**

Update of current projects:

#### **Cancer - DNA studies:**

We continue to accept tumor samples from Salukis for histological examination, however; only 8 samples were received in this time period. Dr. Stefichek has retired, but the samples can be examined by other qualified pathologists. We need to decide if we should continue banking cancer samples in the hope of inclusion in eventual DNA studies and how to get wider participation.

Dr. Guillermo Cuto, Greyhound researcher and retired Oncologist at Ohio State University was interested in including AKC vs COO Saluki lab test results in his studies of AKC Greyhounds vs Galgos. I have sent him all our Saluki results. We have also entertained the possibility of collaborating on Osteosarcoma and Hemangiosarcoma studies. I sent him a log of the Saluki samples banked. He, unfortunately, has not had the time to work on manuscript preparation. He will be lecturing in Lansing in Jan. and I plan on meeting with him and figuring out how to proceed with the data.

#### **Heart studies:**

The Saluki 7 day Holter Study was accepted in the final revised form for publication in JAVMA in Aug. 2016. The manuscript still has not been published in the journal. The normal Saluki echocardiograph study was accepted for publication in the Journal of Cardiology; however, the editor continues to request revised statistics. Various statisticians have replied to the requests and we are waiting to hear when the study will be published.

Due to the SCOA National being held a week later than usual, Dr. Sanders was able to hold another SHR, Inc. supported cardiac echocardiogram clinic. Over 30 Salukis were examined at a significantly reduced fee. This benefits our Saluki echo data base, especially with rechecks of previously examined Salukis.

#### **AKC/Canine Health Foundation Grants:**

In 2016, SHR funded CHF Grant #2242: Understanding the Genetics of Adverse Drug Reactions in Sighthounds.

Progress reports were received for the SHR sponsored CHF Grants #1771, #1889, #2204 and #2217 and are available on the SHR website.

I need input from the board members as to which CHF grants we should support in 2018. I suggested that the following be considered since they are most pertinent to Saluki health issues: Cardiac - #2046, 2163 and 1760, Cancer - Soft tissue Sarcoma #2405, Hemangiosarcoma #2217 and 2234 and Osteosarcoma #1660. The grant abstracts are available on the AKC/CHF website.

**Conferences:**

I was fortunate to attend the AKC Canine Health Foundation National Parent Club Canine Health Conference held August 11-13, 2017 in St. Louis as a representative of the Michigan State University, Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory. The excellent scientific conference presentations included lymphoma and epigenetics, tick borne diseases, epilepsy and nutrition and reproduction. The conference proceedings are available on the CHF web site. I was able to remind Dr. Breen of the banked Saluki cancer samples available for DNA studies.

We need further discussion on how to more widely disseminate information on SHR, Inc. studies and whether a presence at the National Show as well as regional shows would be of benefit.

**Funding:**

SHR, and ultimately our Salukis, greatly benefitted from the fund raising activities at the 2017 SCOA National. The State Basket Raffle was a success, thanks to the SCOA board for approval; and hard work of Sue Nelson and Judy Tantillo as well as the generous folks supplying items for the baskets as well as the bidders. The fund raising efforts of Stephanie and Brad Gamble, Jeanie Rhodes and CynDee Hahn in memory of Maureen Wheeler were also successful and much appreciated. This has allowed the sponsorship funding of 3 AKC CHF Grants in 2017.

**New business:**

The SHR board approved supporting the following AKC CHF Grants in 2017.

#2519: Prevalence of Bartonella spp. Infection in Dogs with Cardiac and Splenic Hemangiosarcoma

#1760: Use of Gene Therapy to Treat Dilated Cardiomyopathy

# 1660: Identifying the Genes that Confer Risk for Osteosarcoma (in Greyhounds).

Project abstracts are available on the AKC Canine Health Foundation web site.