

# PEROTIMES



UNIVERSITY OF  
**SOUTH CAROLINA**

FALL- WINTER 2017,  
SERIES II, ISSUE 4



## THE NEWSLETTER OF THE PEROMYSCUS GENETIC STOCK CENTER

### Editorial

Dear *Peromyscus* users,

Welcome to the latest issue of *Perotimes*, the newsletter of the Peromyscus Genetic Stock Center.

This has been an exciting year for the PGSC.

Funding-wise, a new RAPID grant from the NSF will support the Center's operation until 2018 while a major NSF EPSCoR grant will support Peromyscus research at USC. In addition, this grant will assist in the hiring of at least 2 junior faculty members at USC that focus on Peromyscus-related research. The increased interest in research involving Peromyscus is illustrated by the increased number and quality of publications using these animals.

During this last year the

Center started offering histopathological services by establishing collaboration with Dr. Ioulia Chatzistamou, MD, PhD, pathologist. This service complements ongoing efforts to assist Peromyscus users in designing and performing specific studies using the facilities and personnel of the PGSC.

Although financially the operation of the Center fortunately is not in danger, a moderate increase in the animals' cost is deemed necessary. This is to allow us the maintenance of higher number of animals, beyond the number required to maintain the colonies, to ensure the genetic diversity of our stocks.

As mentioned earlier, at the end of this coming May, most likely on May 30-31, the PGSC will host the first Peromyscus Symposium. Details will follow during January.

The PGSC also welcomed a new member in its Scientific Advisory Board, Professor Spyros-Artavanis Tsakonas from Harvard Medical School. Dr. Artavanis is a world renowned biomedical scientist with experience that ranges from developmental biology and genetics to cell biology and experimental medicine. He has worked extensively with model organisms such as flies and mice and with his experience he will help the Center advance at the next level!

Finally, in concluding this introduction and in view of the pending decisions about the budget for the major research agencies and the allocation of the funds to specific research areas we remain strong advocates for basic research.

**Hippokratis Kiaris**

**PGSC Director**

## Histopathology services

The PGSC recently initiated collaboration with anatomic pathologist Dr. Ioulia Chatzistamou, MD, PhD Clinical Assistant Professor, at the USC School of Medicine. Ioulia has more than 20 years of experience in clinical and experimental pathology in human and rodent tissues. She received training at the University of Athens (Greece) and in the USA at Tulane University, New Orleans and Mass General Hospital, Boston. Through the PGSC she will provide histopathological evaluation of rodent tissues, including those from PGSC animals.



## FROM THE RECENT LITERATURE

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### Faculty positions

Through the support of our recent NSF EPSCoR award we plan to hire, after 1-2 years, 2 junior faculty members to enhance the *Peromyscus*-associated research at USC. The formal call for applications is anticipated in 2019. The main theme of the project is to explore the unfolded protein response in outbred models such as *Peromyscus*. Experienced postdocs or junior faculty interested to joining USC should contact Hippokratis at [kiarish@cop.sc.edu](mailto:kiarish@cop.sc.edu).

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### *Why Peromyscus from PGSC*

PGSC is the only *Peromyscus* Center in the US and indeed the in world

PGSC maintains and can supply truly outbred animals from a number of different species reflecting naturally occurring wild type populations

All animals are pedigreed and can be traced back to the time that the populations had been established in captivity

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### **Aged *P. leucopus***

A number of 2-3 years old female *P. leucopus* is available. Interested investigators that may want to receive them should contact us.

## **NEWS AND NOTES**

### **NOTICE**

*Perotimes*, the PGSC newsletter is not a formal scientific publication. Therefore, information and data should not be cited or used without permission of the contributor.

### **PERO-RESEARCHERS**

*PIs are welcome to indicate postdocs and graduate students that recently published on Peromyscus or defended a Thesis, in order to promote their work in Perotimes.*

### **Grant applications**

*The PGSC will be happy to assist you in your grant proposals by providing quotes that will help you justify your budget as well as letters for the availability of specific stocks.*

### **e-mailing list**

*If you want to be included in our email list and receive future Perotimes editions, email Vimala Kaza at [Kaza@mailbox.sc.edu](mailto:Kaza@mailbox.sc.edu)*

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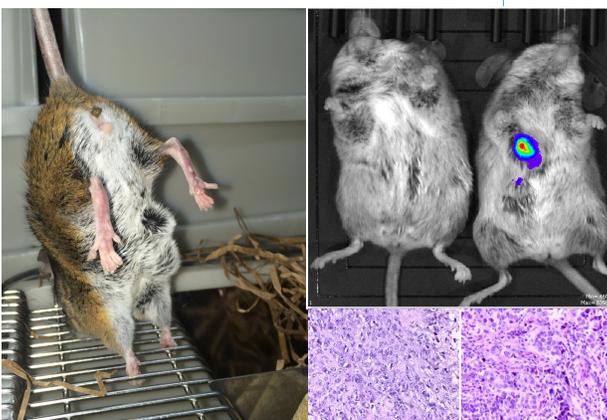
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Images of *P. californicus* bearing human breast cancers. From Disease Models & Mechanisms 2017 in "Growth of human breast cancers in *Peromyscus*" by Kaza, Farmaki, , Havighorst, Crossland, Chatzistamou, & Kiaris (In Press)

### Aging endeavor

We have been approached by several colleagues regarding the potential availability of aged animals in the PGSC facilities. Unfortunately we cannot maintain aged animals in our facilities due to the cost for their housing. We have approached federal agencies to support us however, such efforts were unsuccessful as yet. Nevertheless, in view of the increased interest in research on aging, the high potential value of *Peromyscus* and the increasing number of requests we are receiving, we thought to implement a program at which different labs could contribute limited funds in order to generate an account that will allow us to age *Peromyscus* in our facilities. The cost of the resulting aged animals will be considerably lower from their cost increased by the corresponding per diem and the lab that had contributed to this fund will have warrantied access to the animals. The exact logistics will be determined depending on the feedback we will receive.

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## USER FEES

*A small increase in the user fees will be implemented as of 1/1/18. Considering the size for the majority of the orders we receive, such increase in the cost of animals will have an impact of about \$100-\$200 per order in total. This minimal increase will allow maintenance of a critical number of breeders for each stock to attain their genetic diversity. In addition, these funds will be used to offset part of the cost for ongoing genomic studies to confirm the genetic diversity of the animals maintained. Orders made and quotes provided as of today will be honored at the cost provided at that time.*



From the Holiday Luncheon Cruise of the Office of the VP for Research. Professor Nagarkatti (VP for Research at USC) is in the middle row at the center, 6<sup>th</sup> from left; Hippokratis is in the last row, 5<sup>th</sup> from left; Vimala is in the first row, 2<sup>nd</sup> from left; Dr Shayne Barlow DVM is in the last row, 10<sup>th</sup> from left.

### *Peromyscus Genetic Stock Center*

*Hippokratis Kiaris PhD Director*  
*Shayne Barlow DVM, PhD, DACLAM*  
*Director of Animal Resources and Attending Veterinarian*  
*Ioulia Chatzistamou MD, PhD, Pathologist, Director of*  
*Histopathology Service*  
*Vimala Kaza MSc, Colony Manager*  
*Amanda Havighorst, Graduate student*

#### **Advisory Committee**

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