Introducing the First ACS Newsletter

With all of the changes that are occurring in our department there is a need for a new form of communication that can keep all of the employees in the loop. As we move forward and evolve as a department the newsletter will evolve with us! Each issue will include new notifications about our department and interesting information about the University.

A Message from the Human Enrichment Committee

Our Mission statement: “It is our ambition to facilitate a stable work environment that promotes equality, openness, and employee welfare. We will help to create an atmosphere that allows technicians to have a voice, boost morale, and ultimately improve their daily lives at work. We promote a sense of teamwork and quality of life and encourage balancing the needs of the employees with the needs of the company.”—Ashlee Brock

As the first issue of our newsletter this is a trial issue. After a few issues the project will be re-evaluated to see if this is helpful to the employees. Please send your feedback about the newsletter to Megan Balser (mlayne08@ufl.edu) this will help tremendously when evaluating the usefulness of the newsletter.
“A new blood test could reveal the genetic roots of muscular dystrophy, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis and other disorders caused by the expansion of DNA repeats, potentially helping doctors diagnose their patients’ conditions sooner.

The findings by University of Florida Health researchers and their collaborators focus on the role of intervening, or generally non-protein coding, DNA sequences within a gene. In one type of inherited form of ALS and other so-called repeat expansion disorders, those DNA sequences — known as introns — accidentally get left behind during the genetic coding process.

For some of these disorders, the lingering mutant introns can be readily detected in tissue and white blood cells — creating a rapid and inexpensive way to detect repeat expansion disorders, the researchers found. Their findings were published recently in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

The new testing method allows repeat expansion disorders to be identified earlier using accessible tissue, said Maurice Swanson, Ph.D., a UF Health genetics researcher. With current testing methods, patients may have advanced symptoms of a repeat expansion disease. “We now have a quick, affordable way of seeing intron retention that correlates with a patient having a certain type of repeat expansion disorder,” Swanson said.

While ALS and other repeat expansion disorders are presently incurable, Swanson called the new testing approach an important step in fighting repeat expansion diseases. Early detection could effectively complement therapies now being developed to “silence” a problematic gene by targeting and degrading its RNA — essentially switching off its rogue activity, he said. Among the other potential advantages to this new approach: Patients could be diagnosed relatively early if they have a family history or show initial signs of a repeat expansion disease.”

Source: Doug Bennett

New technique could bring earlier diagnoses for muscular dystrophy, ALS and similar disorders

Did You Know?

All employees have access to wonderful resources through the University and Shands. Through UF wellness you can take free Pilates, Zumba, and Yoga classes! There are also education opportunities with EdX, which offers free college level courses in the subject of your choice!

1: [http://hr.ufl.edu/worklife/ongoing-classes-programs/](http://hr.ufl.edu/worklife/ongoing-classes-programs/)
2: [https://www.edx.org/course/science-happiness-uc-berkeleyx-g101x-6](https://www.edx.org/course/science-happiness-uc-berkeleyx-g101x-6)

AALAS TRIVIA

1. If a cat is acting extremely fearful, what is the course of action that would make the procedure safer to perform?
   a. Try to force the cat into a nylon restraint bag.
   b. Throw a towel over the cat to calm it down.
   c. Postpone the procedure until the cat is calmer.
   d. Try to restrain the cat so it can be sedated.

2. Which of the following is one of the 3R’s?
   a. Resolve
   b. Responsibility
   c. Resolution
   d. Reduction

3. All regulations regarding obtaining, storing, and disposing of controlled substances are federal statutes.
   a. True
   b. False
Maggie’s Pet Spotlight:

Scout, 5 yrs.
As a rescue, she is living out her dreams and inspiring other bunnies that they may one day be adopted. She enjoys hopping around and enriching people as they gaze at her adorable face.
Tech Week 2018

CG Team from Tech Week 2018
Communicore Team
Tech Week 2018

Tech Week 2018
Tech Week 2018

Balloon game at the Holiday Party 2017
Water bottle checks at the Holiday Party 2017

Kitchen clean up at the Holiday Party 2017
Mike Cormier at the Holiday Party 2017

Red Team at the Holiday Party 2017
Ed Flynn at the Holiday Party 2017

Our laboratory staff at the Holiday Party 2017
Volleyball at the Holiday Party 2017

Holiday Party 2017