

**UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS FOR MEDICAL SCIENCES
GRADUATE FACULTY APPLICATION**

1. Name: Christine Simecka

2. UAMS Graduate Program Sponsor: Mildred Randolph Major field: Laboratory Animal Medicine

3. Present UAMS academic title or administrative position: Assistant Professor

Date appointed this rank/position: 07/2017 Employed by: UAMS

4. Comments of Department Chair/Head or Program Director including: evidence of scholarly development, effectiveness as a teacher, quality of publications and reallocation of duties if this application is approved.

I am requesting that DLAM faculty member, Christine Simecka, receive an appointment in the Graduate School. DLAM is a small division with only three faculty members. These faculty members have a vital and unique responsibility to the research program at UAMS. Their understanding and implementation of the animal care and use program is integral to sustaining the research integrity on this campus. National Institute of Health funding, United States Department of Agriculture Compliance and continued accreditation with the Association for the Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care all depend on the oversight of DLAM veterinarians. To this end, DLAM developed a graduate course, IBSD 5103 Animals in Research, to train graduate students and investigators about conducting animal based research. I am proposing that Dr. Christine Simecka, a faculty member in DLAM for the past three years, be appointed as the course director for IBSD 5103. Dr. Simecka, has steadily been involved in scholarly activity since her arrival at UAMS three years ago. Please consider the following activities and benchmarks that she has achieved since her arrival:

- Research Collaborations with Drs. Michael Owens, Pharmacology and Toxicology, Anilino Allen, College of Pharmacy, Steven Post, College of Medicine and Rafaela Feresin, Dietetics and Nutrition.
- Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee member
- Institutional Biosafety Committee member
- Biological Safety level 3/Select Agents Committee member
- Emergency Preparedness Committee member
- Lectures in IBSD 5103 (Mouse Biology and Anatomy, Rodent Breeding and Genetics, Mouse Diseases, and Rodent Handling and Clinical Care) IBSD 5022 (Ethics: Research Involving Animals)
- Training Lectures to campus researchers including Rodent Breeding, Surgical Requirements for Lab Species, and Zoonotic Diseases
- Board Certified as a Diplomate in the American College of Laboratory Animal Medicine, July 2016.
- Promoted from College of Medicine Instructor to Assistant Professor (July 1, 2017)
- Industry Committees including Government and Regulatory Affairs Committee on ACLAM and Board of Directors on Arkansas Branch of American Association of Laboratory Animal Science.

Mildred Randolph 11/15/17
 Department Chair/Head or Program Director Date Graduate Council Representative

I have read the comments of my Department Chair/Head or Program Director and I do, do not (circle one) wish to supply additional information in support of my application.

Christine Simecka 11/15/17
 Applicant's Signature Date

Approvals

 Chair, Graduate Faculty Committee Date

Eric C. Pote 2-15-2018
 Chair, Graduate Council Date

KORIN B. KANE 2-20-2018
 Dean of the Graduate School Date

5. **List your planned involvement in graduate education (courses, theses, dissertations):**

As the course director, I will be responsible for putting together the syllabus, scheduling lectures, teaching on several topics in laboratory animal medicine and provide hand-on training for techniques and procedures with laboratory animals. I will also be responsible for developing and grading exams throughout the course.

6. **Briefly summarize your experience in graduate-level classroom teaching:**

I have lectured on several lab animal topics in the graduate-level class IBSD 5103 Animal Models Used in Biomedical Research and in PCOL 5119 Scientific Communication and Ethics course. I also teach graduate students routinely in the animal facility and in biweekly DLAM certification class regarding lab animal models, techniques, regulations surrounding animal research and laboratory animal medicine.

7. **Briefly summarize your experience in research and student research mentoring:**

I have been involved in research and/or lab animal medicine for approximately 10 years. I worked as a student researcher throughout undergraduate school and veterinary school. I also collaborated on several research projects while at the University of Florida during my residency. I have several publications and collaborations that demonstrate the wide-ranging field of animal research: animal welfare to cancer research. As a senior resident at UF, I mentored other residents on their research projects and worked closely at UAMS with several graduate students on their projects.

8. **Attach Curriculum Vita showing educational background (including institutions attended, degrees awarded and dates), honors or awards received, scholarly or professional organization affiliations, teaching experience (give school, dates and advanced and graduate subjects taught), including student theses and/or dissertations supervised. Cite publications and research in progress.**

Christine M Simecka, DVM, DACLAM

102 Tenkiller Dr.
Sherwood, Arkansas 72120
Cell: (501)295-5768
Office: (501)686-5078
CMSimecka@uams.edu

Education

Lab Animal Residency, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida	2011-2014
Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine, Oklahoma State University Veterinary Health Science Center, Stillwater, Oklahoma	2007-2011
Bachelor of Science, Rhodes College, Memphis, Tennessee	2003-2007

Current Position

Assistant Professor, Division of Laboratory Animal Medicine University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences Little Rock, Arkansas	2017-present
---	--------------

Professional Experience

Instructor, Division of Laboratory Animal Medicine University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences Little Rock, AR	2014-2017
Staff Veterinarian, Animal Care Services University of Florida Gainesville, Florida	2014

Certification and Licensure

Diplomat of American College of Laboratory Animal Medicine	2016-present
Doctor of Veterinary Medicine Arkansas Veterinary Medical License	2016-present

Professional Memberships and Activities

American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA)
American Association for Laboratory Animal Science (AALAS)
American Society of Laboratory Animal Practitioners (ASLAP)
Arkansas Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA)
Arkansas Association for Laboratory Animal Science
Accredited Veterinarian, U.S.D.A. National Veterinary Accreditation Program
American Biological Safety Association (ABSA)

Committee Assignments and Administrative Services

Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee	2014-present
IACUC Addendum Committee	2014-present
Emergency Preparedness Committee	2016-present
Institutional Biosafety Committee	2014-present
Biological Safety Level 3/Federal Select Agent Committee	2016-present
Government and Regulatory Affairs Committee, ACLAM	2017-present
Board of Directors, Arkansas Association for Laboratory Animal Science	2017-present

Educational Activities

Lecturer, Introduction to Animal Models. IBS 5022	2015-present
Lecturer, Scientific Communication and Ethics. PCOL 5119	2015- present
Autosuture laparoscopic training labs.	2016- present
Assist in the development of training programs and participate in the training of researchers, technicians, and students who work with animals.	2014-present

Research Collaborations

Allen, Antino. Radiation Grant. NIH R15 (In Submission). \$450,000.	2017- present
Feresin RG. The protective role of blackberries and raspberries in angiotensin II-induced hypertension. Arkansas Biosciences Institute; 2016-2017. \$17,500.	2017- present
Owens, Michael. Synthetic Psychoactive drugs and Strategic Approaches to Counteract Their Deleterious Effects (R01). \$2,700,000	2016- present

Publications

1. Alexander, TC; **Simecka, CM**; Kiffer, F; Groves, T; Anderson, J; Carr, H; Wang, J; Carter, G; and Allen, AR. Changes in cognition and dendritic complexity following intrathecal Methotrexate and Cytarabine treatment in a juvenile murine model. (In submission)
2. Taylor, BF; **Simecka (Bekkevold), CM**, Aguirre, JI, Andrutis, K and Reinhard, MK Cutaneous Epitheliotropic T-cell Lymphoma in a Marsh Rice Rat (*Oryzomys palustris*). *Comparative Medicine* 65(5): 416-419, October 2015.
3. Taylor, BF; **Simecka (Bekkevold), CM**, Aguirre, JI, Andrutis, K and Reinhard, MK Cutaneous Epitheliotropic T-cell Lymphoma in a Marsh Rice Rat (*Oryzomys palustris*). *Comparative Medicine* 65(5): 416-419, October 2015.
4. Reichard, MV; Gray, KM; **Simecka, CM**; Wolf, RF and d'Offay, JM. Detection and Iatrogenic Transmission of *Babesia* sp. in Captive Olive Baboons (*Papio cynocephalus anubis*). *Journal of the American Association of Laboratory Animal Science* 50(4): 500-506, June 2011.

Abstracts, Presentations and Posters

Abstracts

Blackberry and raspberry attenuate angiotensin-II induced osteoclastogenesis from bone marrow-derived macrophages. Rafaela G. Feresin^{1,2*}, Ha-neui Kim³, Maria Almeida³, Christy Simecka⁴ and Shengyu Mu⁵
¹Department of Nutrition, Georgia State University, Atlanta, GA

Cardiovascular (CV) and locomotor effects of 3, 4-methylenedioxypropylvalerone (MDPV) in male and female Sprague-Dawley (SD) rats. McClenahan, Samantha J, Hyatt, William S, Simecka, Christy M, Gunnell, Melinda G, Hambuchen, Michael D, Fantegrossi, William E, and Owens, S Michael Dept. of Pharmacology and Toxicology, Univ. of Arkansas for Medical Sciences

Presentations

Veterinary Care in Research, ACRI Veterinary Training, April 12, 2017

Surgical Protocol Requirements for Regulated Species and Rodents, ACRI Veterinary Training, April 4, 2016

Simecka (Bekkevold), CM; Clapp, B; Pascual, DW, and Reinhard, MK. (October 2013). "Evaluation of Retro-orbital Technique as a Technique for Creation of Humanized Mice." Oral Presentation at American Association of Laboratory

Science, Baltimore, Maryland

Simecka (Bekkevold), CM; Robertson, KL; Reinhard, MK; Battles, AH and Rowland, NE (November 2012) "Physiologic Effects of Deprivation and Restriction of Water in CD1 Mice: Role in Research and Animal Welfare." Oral Presentation at American Association of Laboratory Animal Science, Minneapolis, Minnesota

Simecka, CM; Reichard, MV; Gray, KM; Wolf, RF and d'Offay, JM (October 2010) "Detection and Iatrogenic Transmission of *Babesia* sp. in Captive Olive Baboons (*Papio cynocephalus anubis*)" Oral Presentation at Association of Primate Veterinarians, Atlanta, Georgia

Simecka (Bekkevold), CM; Cormier, SM; Reinhard, MK and Battles, AH. (June 2014). "Providing Veterinary Care to Germ Free and Gnotobiotic Mice." Oral Presentation at Triborough Symposium, Atlantic City, New Jersey.

Simecka (Bekkevold), CM. (July 2013). "Overview of Humanized Mice: NSG Mouse". Oral Presentation at Florida American Association of Laboratory Science, Orlando, Florida.

Simecka (Bekkevold), CM; Robertson, KL; Reinhard, MK; Battles, AH and Rowland, NE (November 2012) "Physiologic Effects of Deprivation and Restriction of Water in CD1 Mice: Role in Research and Animal Welfare." Oral Presentation at American Association of Laboratory Animal Science, Gainesville, Florida.

Posters

Simecka (Bekkevold), CM; Robertson, KL; Reinhard, MK; Battles, AH and Rowland, NE (April 2012) "Physiologic Effects of Deprivation and Restriction of Water in CD1 Mice: Role in Research and Animal Welfare." Poster Presentation at American College of Laboratory Medicine Conference, St. Petersburg, Florida

Simecka, CM; Reichard, MV; Gray, KM; Wolf, RF and d'Offay, JM (October 2008) "Detection of *Babesia* sp. In Captive Olive Baboons (*Papio cynocephalus Anubis*)." Poster Presentation at Association of Primate Veterinarians, Indianapolis, Indiana.

Simecka, CM; Reichard, MV; Gray, KM; Wolf, RF and d'Offay, JM (August 2008) "Detection of *Babesia* sp. In Captive Olive Baboons (*Papio cynocephalus Anubis*)." Poster Presentation at NIH Summer Research Program, East Lansing, Michigan.

Simecka, CM; Reichard, MV; Gray, KM; Wolf, RF and d'Offay, JM (August 2008) "Detection of *Babesia* sp. In Captive Olive Baboons (*Papio cynocephalus Anubis*)." Poster Presentation at NIH Summer Research Program, Stillwater, Oklahoma.

Community Involvement

Little Rock Animal Village – Surgical Support

2016-present

