Dear friends and colleagues,

Yesterday our own Dr. John Mata had organized an afternoon research visit to Oregon State University for several of us conducting research at COMP-Northwest. It was a very successful outing. We were introduced to various researchers, labs and equipment that we could use in collaboration during research projects.

Dr. Mata was able to seek approval for me to conduct ultrasound on live pigs (who were anaesthetized) which went well. Subsequently, after being introduced to other colleagues of Dr Mata, I was able to acquire resources for COMP-Northwest (faculty, students, residents) to conduct some surgical and emergency procedures. We also had some face time with the Dean of the Veterinary School. William Merbs and Dr Brion Benninger have been invited this week to present at 2 seminar sessions next month, this is very good news and made possible by Dr Mata creating contacts for us at the Veterinary School. Dr Mata was able to conduct a very important and time-consuming experiment this week, which was a technical success. This will lead to follow up experiments to enable him to complete a fascinating project for journal submission. Dr Mata has worked hard at creating research ideas and opportunities for his colleagues at COMP-Northwest which became a reality this week.

Dr. Glen Kisby has been networking with the Brain
Institute at Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU) and created some exciting research for Dr. Pedro Rodriguez-Collazo. Pedro will have the opportunity to showcase some of his unique research skills. Dr Kisby continues to work tirelessly while as he progresses on his grant proposal, research projects and developing the research lab at COMP-Northwest.

Dr. Pedro Rodriguez-Collazo has created an interesting Brain research project here at COMP-Northwest which he recruited the expertise of Michelle Hovorka and Brion Benninger to collaborate with him. Dr.Rodriguez-Collazo has also been invited by external institutions to share his research skills in collaboration with specific research projects. Dr.Rodriguez-Collazo also received news this week that a research project is a co-author on (with external researchers) has been accepted to JBC.

William Merbs had an important and successful visit this week to the Western States Chiropractic University. We have developed and strengthened our relationship with their Anatomy department, which will allow us to expand our anatomy research here at COMP-Northwest. We are collaborating on a current project and developing others. He continues to make progress and develop current research projects while waiting for results to complete a former project.
**Michelle Hovorka** is collaborating and developing a research project with residents from the General Surgery residency program (Samaritan Health, Corvallis Oregon). She acquired a new microscope this week and brings an important histology skill set to our research projects.

**Dr. George Salter** continues to be a research collaborator and expert reviewer for journals and texts. He honors COMP-Northwest while teaching (lectures, labs, seminars) at external institutions. He is a tremendous ambassador of clinical anatomy research worldwide.

**Taylor Delamarter** (clinical anatomy researcher) is co-authoring with Dr Benninger an Obstetrics & Gynaecology research project that was submitted this week. He and Dr Benninger are collaborating with departments from Oregon Health & Science University on projects that started this week. Taylor’s efficient (invaluable) collaboration skills and techniques with external expert researchers and clinicians, continues to allow COMP-Northwest to maintain important collaborative relationships. This week Taylor has been instrumental in several research projects.

**Dr. Brion Benningher** is involved in a collaborative research project with astute colleagues from Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences and Western States Chiropractic University, which came
to fruition this week. This has lead to further collaborations and he looks forward to involving more COMP-Northwest colleagues. Currently developing collaborative projects with well-known institutions/experts from Turkey, Grenada and South Africa. He has been invited to present at a conference in China, which will be a wonderful opportunity to represent COMP-Northwest. Dr Benninger and Taylor Delamarter submitted a research project this week after being invited to submit for a special issue regarding the knee. After several months, Taylor and Dr Benninger have begun working on immunohistochemistry projects this week. Both are collaborating with residents/faculty from General Surgery and Orthopaedic residency programs (Samaritan Health, Corvallis Oregon).

I simply wanted to share with all of you some of the exciting work that is going on within and between the Anatomy and Basic Science researchers here at COMP-Northwest. They are very busy behind the scenes promoting and bringing an awareness of COMP-Northwest to those outside of Lebanon and Pomona. Besides their expertise, what is most impressive about my colleagues above is how they are working to help each other while tending to their own specific projects and maintaining teaching and facilitating responsibilities. Their sacrifice and commitment is worth noting. Indeed.
I am personally thanking all of you for supporting them.
Respectfully,
Brion

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