



CERVIDAE HEALTH RESEARCH INITIATIVE

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Message from the Director

The legislative season is over and CHeRI has been provided with another year of funding. Thanks to everyone who let their representatives and the governor know how CHeRI has benefited them and the deer farm industry in Florida. The new fiscal year promises lots of exciting developments. CHeRI will be collaborating with vaccine developers to deliver a new EHDV vaccine, and we may see it commercially available as soon as 2019. CHeRI is also working with USDA and pesticide manufacturers to get new, environmentally friendly, yet midge-specific pesticides on the market. In addition, we continue to increase the number and kinds of diagnostic tests so that everyone can better understand cervid health. If you want to learn more about any of these initiatives, please come visit us at our booth at the 2018 Southeast Trophy Deer Association Spring Fling on April 14th.

Thank you, always, for your support - *Sam*

Dr. Samantha Wisely
Director, CHeRI

Food Plots and Forages for Farmed Deer Field Day!



Please join Extension Agent Jane Griffin, Wildlife Veterinarian Dr. Juan Campos, and Forage Extension Specialist Dr. Marcelo Wallau for a field day in Live Oak, Florida. This two hour workshop will focus on forage options for wildlife plots and farmed deer, alternative fencing ideas for food plots and will include a discussion on general health issues of farmed and wild deer. The workshop is free!

What: Deer Plot Field Day

When: April 20th, 2018 from 10AM to 12PM

Where: IFAS North Florida Research and Education Center, 8202 County Road 417, Live Oak, FL 32060

Questions? Call Jane Griffin 352-445-0919.

2nd Annual CHeRI Science Symposium

Want to learn more about the science behind CHeRI? In conjunction with the [67th International Wildlife Disease Association Annual Meeting](#) CHeRI will host a [Cervid Health Science Symposium](#). We have invited the world's experts on EHDV from [USDA Arthropod-Borne Animal Disease Research Unit](#) and [University of Georgia Southeast Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study](#) to join UF CHeRI scientists for a half day of talks about the science behind midge control, animal husbandry, veterinary medicine, wildlife disease ecology, and vaccine development. Register [HERE](#) for this event which will take place on August 10th in St. Augustine, Florida.

CHeRI's Virus Hunters



CHeRI includes a team of highly qualified wildlife disease experts including (from left to right) Drs. Tom Waltzek and Kutti Subramaniam from UF College of Veterinary Medicine (UF CVM), Dr. Samantha Wisely from UF Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF IFAS), Ms. Hannah Barber and Dr. Chamim Ahasan (UF CVM), Dr. John Lednicky (UF College of Public Health and Health Professions, UF PHHP) and Dr. Juan Campos (UF CVM). Not pictured Ms. Julia Loeb (UF PHHP) and Olivia Goodfriend (UF IFAS).

The CHeRI team has now confirmed multiple viruses affecting Florida farmed white-tailed deer in addition to EHDV and BTV that affect so many Florida farmed deer. The team has identified deer poxvirus in fawns from multiple locations around the state, detected a novel orthoreovirus in fawns, and a new, previously undescribed orbivirus (related to EHDV and BTV) in deer. These viruses were found in animals submitted to CHeRI for necropsy. By providing CHeRI with samples from sick or dead deer, farmers help CHeRI understand the distribution and genetic variability of the viruses that cause EHD and Bluetongue. With this information CHeRI can develop rapid diagnostic assays and aid in the development of efficacious vaccines.

Training Spotlight: Postdoctoral Researcher Shamim Ahasan



CHeRI welcomes Dr. Shamim Ahasan (DVM, MS, PhD) as the newest member of its virus discovery team. Shamim is faculty at the Hajee Mohammad Danesh Science and Technology University, Bangladesh where he serves as a molecular epidemiologist with expertise in emerging veterinary pathogens including zoonoses, host associated microbiota, and microbial ecology. Shortly before joining CHeRI in the Fall of 2017, he completed his PhD at James Cook University in Townsville, Australia where he studied the green sea turtle gut microbiome. Shamim's postdoctoral research with CHeRI focuses on quantifying the genetic variability in EHDV and BTV as the first step in developing an efficacious vaccine. Shamim is also involved with research to determine how bacterial gut communities contribute to the health and disease of Florida deer.

Upcoming Events

- ***Southeast Trophy Deer Association Spring Fling***, Saturday April 14, 2018. CHeRI will have a booth with entomologists, wildlife biologists and veterinarians on hand to answer your questions. Come visit us! Click [HERE](#) for details.
- ***Food Plots and Forages for Farmed Deer***, April 20th, 2018. Click [HERE](#) for details.
- ***2nd Annual CHeRI Science Symposium***, August 10th, in St. Augustine, Florida. Click [HERE](#) for details and to register for the event.

Contact Us:

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