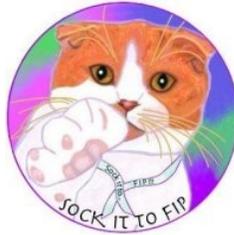


2022

Season's Greetings from SOCK FIP

with an update from Drs. Brian Murphy and Patty Pesavento



SOCK FIP funding has facilitated major progress in our clinical trials this year at the UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine. Three new clinical trials are being conducted by Drs. Brian Murphy, Amir Kol and Krystle Reagan. The objectives were to identify FIP treatment strategies that are highly effective, legally available, and affordable. GS-441524, a drug closely related to remdesivir, was found to be safe and efficacious in treating cats with naturally occurring FIP, but it is not licensed in the United States. However, Remdesivir may soon be granted full approval by the FDA, which will allow it to be purchased legally for veterinary use. Two treatment groups will be enrolled – one receiving oral GS-441524 and the other oral remdesivir for comparison. Cats must be diagnosed with the wet form of FIP to take part in the study. A third clinical trial is seeking to determine if antiviral drugs combined with mesenchymal stem cells may improve response to treatment for FIP. The goal of the study is to see if cell therapy can enhance the native antiviral immune response and support lymphoid tissue regeneration post infection. The two treatment groups in this study receive either oral GS-441524 along with an infusion of stem cells or oral GS-441524 with a placebo. Cats must be within 3-12 months of age and suffer from the wet form of FIP. Owners interested in enrolling their cats in these clinical trials must reside within proximity of Davis, California due to the need for recheck visits. For more information on these trials, contact the Clinical Trials office at 855-823-1390. Although we don't have final outcomes at this time for these treatment studies, field cases that have been enrolled in the various treatment arms are generally doing very well.

The UC Davis Center for Companion Animal Health (CAAH) has also used donations from SOCK FIP assist a fourth project by Drs. Patty Pesavento and Terza Brostof. They are leading a team of biophysicists, immunologists, and vaccinologists on the development of an mRNA vaccine against feline enteric coronavirus (FECV) and its mutant FIP virus (FIPV) biotype. This vaccine, based on the technology used to produce modern mRNA vaccine for COVID-19, will hopefully produce sufficient immunity to decrease the incidence and negative outcomes, such as FIP, of FECV infection. Work on this has moved rapidly over the last year. They have developed the first mRNAs to be tested and the nanoparticle molecules that package the mRNA so it can be safely given. Currently they are working on methods for scaling production so that they can begin laboratory and field testing. Because the actual virus is not present in the cat's body, there is no risk of them developing the disease. This makes mRNA vaccines a potential game changer for diseases in cats which have previously been very hard to prevent including FIP.