NEW INVESTIGATOR AWARD

Kristen A. Ivani of the University of Idaho won first place in the New Investigator Award. A native of San Francisco, she received a B.S. in Animal Science from the University of California at Davis in 1982 and a M.S. in Animal Science from the University of Idaho in 1984. The topic of her prize-winning Master's degree research, "Diagnosis of pregnancy by RIA of a pregnancy-specific protein in serum of the cow," was performed in the laboratory of Dr. R. G. Sasser and C. A. Ruder at the University of Idaho. This investigation proceeded from molecule to meadow. A pregnancy-specific protein was isolated and characterized. A pregnancy test was developed and tested on a herd of 100 beef cows. The test has high accuracy and considerable potential for wide application. Ivani is currently a predoctoral student at Colorado State University.

Dr. K.Y.F. Pau of the Oregon Regional Primate Research Center won the second place award. A native of Hong Kong, he received the B. S. (1971) and M. S. (1974) degrees in Zoology from the National Taiwan University. His Ph.D. study in Veterinary Biosciences (1983) was performed in the laboratory of Dr. Gary Jackson at the University of Illinois. The topic of his prize-winning postdoctoral research, "Release of GnRH and gonadotropins in the rabbit: intrahypothalamic perfusion of norepinephrine stimulates GnRH release," was pursued in the laboratory of Dr. Harold Spies at the Oregon Regional Primate Research Center. This well-designed project provided clear-cut new observations on the interrelationships of the hypothalamic-pituitary-gonadal circuit in the rabbit. By use of the technique of push-pull perfusion, Dr. Pau made direct measurements of GnRH secretion by the hypothalamus. A local stimulatory effect of norepinephrine on neuronal release of GnRH was identified. He demonstrated that GnRH is released in a pulsatile manner that coincides with pulsatile release of FSH from the pituitary. The tight coupling of pulsatile GnRH and LH secretion was documented, along with negative feedback of physiologic levels of estrogen on GnRH.