



RESEARCH PROGRESS REPORT SUMMARY

Grant 02819: Identification of *Bartonella henselae* In Vivo Induced Antigens for Development of a Reliable Serodiagnostic Assay for Canine Bartonellosis

Principal Investigator: Edward Breitschwerdt, DVM

Research Institution: North Carolina State University

Grant Amount: \$52,317

Start Date: 1/1/2021 **End Date:** 12/31/2022

Progress Report: Mid-Year 2

Report Due: 6/30/2022 **Report Received:** 8/2/2022

(The content of this report is not confidential and may be used in communications with your organization.)

Original Project Description:

Bartonella, a genus of gram-negative bacteria, are associated with a wide spectrum of life-threatening diseases in animals and humans. More than 40 *Bartonella* species have been reported to infect mammalian reservoir hosts, and infection often leads to chronic bacteremia. At least ten *Bartonella* species have been implicated in association with serious diseases in dogs, including endocarditis, hemangiosarcoma, myocarditis, peliosis hepatis, polyarthritis and vasculitis. Despite biomedical advances and ongoing research in the field of canine bartonellosis, currently available PCR, culture, and serological based assays lack sensitivity for diagnosis of bartonellosis. Dogs throughout the United States and much of the world are exposed to *Bartonella* species. From a public health perspective there is an increased risk of direct and vector-borne transmission of *Bartonella* species from animals to humans. These factors justify the need for the ongoing development of a reliable serodiagnostic modality and ultimately an effective vaccine for prevention of bartonellosis in dogs. We will employ In-Vivo Induced Antigen Technology (IVIAT) to identify *Bartonella* in-vivo induced antigens, which will allow us to evaluate their potential as diagnostic markers for canine bartonellosis. This proposed study will result in development of a novel and sensitive ELISA assay for diagnosing *Bartonella* infection in dogs and will provide insights into the development of effective vaccine candidates for preventing *Bartonella* infection.

Publications: None to date.

Presentations: None to date.



Report to Grant Sponsor from Investigator:

We are on track to accomplish all of our aims for this study. Due to COVID-19 pandemic and backorders of supplies, we had a short delay in starting the study. We have now received all the lab supplies. Screening of Bh SA2 expression genomic library by colony immunoblotting (Aim1) require additional time and research effort to identify potential diagnostic antigens for canine bartonellosis. Once we identify potential diagnostic markers, we will evaluate utility of these proteins and develop a reliable ELISA for serodiagnosis of *Bartonella* infection in dogs.