



POULTRY SCIENCE ASSOCIATION FOUNDATION

PARTNERS BUILDING FUTURE LEADERS – UPDATE WINTER 2017

IN MEMORIAM – DR. MARK E. COOK

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Dr. Mark Cook, President of PSA 2017 and Mentor to Ms. Maria Arendt, 2017 recipient of the 2017 Merck Animal Health Poultry Ph.D. Fellowship. Outstanding researcher and mentor to multiple M.S. and Ph.D. graduate students at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

The winter edition of the Corporate Partners Update Series is dedicated to the memory of Dr. Mark E. Cook who served as President of the Poultry Science Association (PSA) for a period of time much too short in 2017. Mark enjoyed an incredible career as a researcher and student mentor in the Department of Animal Science at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. During the 2017 Donor Reception of the Poultry Science Association Foundation (PSAF) held in conjunction with the 106th PSA Annual Meeting in Orlando, Florida his student, Ms. Maria Arendt, was recognized as the recipient of the 2017 Merck Animal Health Poultry Ph.D. Fellowship awarded by the PSAF through the generous support of Merck Animal Health. Mark and his wife Ellen were in attendance as Maria expressed her gratitude.

Maria Arendt, M.S., DVM, the 2017 Merck Animal Health Poultry Ph.D. Fellow and Ph.D. student of the late Dr. Mark E. Cook, recently was awarded a National Institutes of Health Trainee grant to supplement tuition and stipend costs for her Ph.D. program at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Her research focuses on the mechanism of an oral antibody to interleukin-10 (IL-10) as an effective immunotherapy for coccidiosis symptoms in broilers; currently being marketed by Ab E Discovery as Cosabody™. She presented in the Poster Session at the PSA Annual Meeting a summary of progress to date of her work in determining the effects of *Eimeria* spp. on intestinal interleukin-10 production in broilers and received an award of excellence for her presentation. While Maria's successful academic year was overshadowed by the passing of Maria's principal investigator and mentor, Mark Cook, she intends on publishing this work looking at local intestinal immune responses to *Eimeria* using immunofluorescent histochemistry in 2018. Going forward, Maria has joined Dr. Laura Knoll's laboratory, which investigates the interface between parasites and the immune response. In Dr. Knoll's lab, Maria has begun development of an in vitro model to monitor cytokine expression during *Eimeria* infection.

Shown below are the young people whom Mark served as Mentor and Friend in 2016/2017. These are only a few of the many students he has mentored during his outstanding career which leaves not only a lasting legacy but will stand in testimony to his career for his beautiful family and his many colleagues.



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