Ode to a Curator

Daughter of Romania
Fingers crashing on piano keys, weaving rapturous concertos
Fingers crashing on a keyboard, depicting intricate biochemical pathways
Generous, joyous, kind, brilliant lady
The Friday Treats Faerie, in her brightly colored stockings
Now flits fore’ermore ‘twixt Avalon and Valinor.

This calendar is dedicated to the worldwide rat research community. Thank you for your continued support and encouragement!

This year’s calendar is also dedicated to the late Dr. Victoria Petri — a valued member of the RGD family, gone too soon. We sorely miss Victoria’s joyful and playful spirit, her kind and generous heart and her passion for science.

With appreciation,
The RGD Team

“Indie and the Pillars of Creation”. Original painting in watercolors by Drusilla Kehl, The Illustrated Rat. Used with permission of the artist.

http://www.illustratedrat.macwebsitebuilder.com

“Ode to a Curator”, by Dr. G. Thomas Hayman, Rat Genome Database, Medical College of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, WI, USA. Used with permission.
Three photos of a single male Patchwork rat. The Patchwork phenotype stems from a recessive gene mutation that results in stark patterns of transient hair growth which appear to migrate from month to month. The mutation has been seen in Wisconsin and Florida in the USA, and in the Netherlands. Photos courtesy of Mike Bowers and Joanne Bella Hodges, Senior Team Member, The Rat Guide.

http://ratguide.com
Three-week-old albino Kwl:Wistar rats with assorted persimmons. Photography by Mr. Takao Nakagawa, Kiwa Laboratory Animals Co., Ltd., Wakayama, Japan. Photos submitted by Dr. Masayuki Anzai, Institute of Advanced Technology, Kindai University, Kainan City, Wakayama, Japan.

http://www.kwl-a.co.jp
http://www.waka.kindai.ac.jp/tea/sentan/index.html
Thirteen-lined ground squirrels in their active state (left) and torpid, or hibernating, state (right). RGD now presents data for additional mammalian species, including the squirrel (*Ictidomys tridecemlineatus*). Photos courtesy of Dr. Sandy Martin, The Program in Molecular Biology, University of Colorado, Denver, CO, USA.

http://www.ucdenver.edu/academics/colleges/medicalschool/programs/molbio/faculty/martins/Pages/MartinS.aspx
One adult and two juvenile Marten rats. Marten rats, aka “Red-Eyed Devils”, are born with black fur and red eyes, but as they age the coat color fades/lightens, as seen here. The Marten mutation originated in the Netherlands and has been exported to the UK and the USA. Photo courtesy of René Bastiaans, the Netherlands.

http://www.allesoverratten.nl/
Top row: Rat ES cells being injected into DAxBN cryopreserved blastocysts for generation of rat chimeras. Bottom: Germline-transmitted pups from chimeric rats, showing expression of green fluorescent protein. Photos courtesy of Dr. Tomo Etoh, Central Institute for Experimental Animals (CIEA), Kawasaki, Japan.

http://www.ciea.or.jp/en/rinen.html
Whiteside, Blazed and Down Under rat pups. The whiteside coat color mutation has been observed since the 1980s. Appearance is similar to a “hooded rat with pants” or a banded coat with the spinal stripe of a hooded rat. Full color extends down the hind legs, including the hind toes, and the full length of the tail. Also seen with other known spotting mutations such as “blazed” (white face blaze) or “down under” (Australian mutation that adds ventral color, sometimes small spotting). Rats raised by and photos courtesy of Concepcion Perez, University of California, Berkeley, CA, USA.
“Milo”, the science rat, lectures on his “Trams-lunar injectshin plan for awesome spaceflights”. Photo courtesy of Sarah Hunt, MartyMouseHouse.com.

http://www.martymousehouse.com/
August 2018

Top left and center, bottom left: Chimeric rats generated by injection of F344 ES cells into ACIxBN blastocysts. Top right: F344/NCrI Male. Bottom center and right: Three 4-week-old HXB10/Ipcv rats. Photos courtesy of Dr. Akiko Takizawa, Genomic Sciences & Precision Medicine Center (GSPMC, formerly the Human & Molecular Genetics Center).

https://www.mcw.edu/Human-and-Molecular-Genetics-Center-HMGC.htm
September 2018

“Little Ace”, a black Berkshire rat. Photography by Val Tiley. Photo submitted by Joanne Bella Hodges, Senior Team Member, The Rat Guide.

http://ratguide.com
October 2018

24-week-old Crlj:WI rat with a skeletal friend. Photos courtesy of Dr. Masumi Hirabayashi, Section of Mammalian Transgenesis, Center for Genetic Analysis of Behavior, National Institute for Physiological Sciences, Okazaki Aichi, Japan.

http://www.nips.ac.jp/mamtg/
November 2018

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Mutant Sprague Dawley rat. Photo courtesy of Dr. Shauna A. Rasmussen and Ms. Martine B. Williams, Fridovich-Keil Lab, Department of Human Genetics, Emory University School of Medicine, Atlanta, GA, USA.

http://genetics.emory.edu/index.html
“Trent”, a male Russian Blue Dumbo rat. Photo courtesy of Joanne Bella Hodges, Senior Team Member, The Rat Guide.
http://ratguide.com
RGD now presents data for additional mammalian species, including dog (*Canis lupus familiaris*).

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**Column 1:** top to bottom: Dexter, a mixed breed with some Cavalier King Charles Spaniel (Mary Shimoyama), Fluffy, German Shepherd Dog (Jennifer Smith), Bella, Golden Retriever (Mindy Dwinell). **Column 2:** top to bottom: Lilly Rose, Yellow Labrador Retriever (Stacy Zacher), Chewie and Jaxon, Chewie (left), Toy Poodle/Chinese Crested Hairless mix, Jaxon (right), mixed breed with Standard Poodle and Hound (Liz Bolton), Farah and Duncan, Golden Retrievers (Tom Hayman)

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Calendar printing: Heritage Printing, https://www.clickheritage.com
Calendar design: Phillip Friso, Cultivate Communications, https://www.cultivate-communications.com

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Cover Photos
Top row, left to right:

Mutant Sprague Dawley rats. Photo courtesy of Dr. Shauna A. Rasmussen and Ms. Martine B. Williams, Fridovich-Keil Lab, Department of Human Genetics, Emory University School of Medicine, Atlanta, GA, USA.

“Trixie & Brooke”. Original painting in gouache (opaque watercolor) by Drusilla Kehl, The Illustrated Rat. Used with permission of the artist.

Three-week-old albino Kw:Wistar rats with assorted persimmons. Photography by Mr. Takao Nakagawa, Kiwa Laboratory Animals Co., Ltd., Wakayama, Japan. Photos submitted by Dr. Masayuki Anzai, Institute of Advanced Technology, Kindai University, Kainan City, Wakayama, Japan.

“Jetta”, a Russian Blue Dumbo female with recessive blazing. Photo courtesy of Joanne Bella Hodges, Senior Team Member, The Rat Guide.

Second row, left to right:

Three-week-old rat chimera generated by injecting FHH/EurMcsi ES cells into Crl:SD embryos. Photo courtesy of Dr. Akiko Takizawa, Genomic Sciences & Precision Medicine Center (GSPMC), Medical College of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, WI, USA.

Patchwork rat. The Patchwork phenotype stems from a recessive gene mutation that results in stark patterns of transient hair growth which appear to migrate from month to month. Photo courtesy of Dan Kohn and Joanne Bella Hodges, Senior Team Member, The Rat Guide.

Hibernating (torpid) thirteen-lined ground squirrel. Photo courtesy of Dr. Sandy Martin, The Program in Molecular Biology, University of Colorado, Denver, CO, USA.

Bottom row, left to right:

“Fibbs”, the intrepid pirate rat, steers his ship through the rough ocean waters. Photo courtesy of Sarah Hunt, MartyMouseHouse.com.

Variegated litter with one American Mink pup. Photography by Val Tiley. Photo submitted by Joanne Bella Hodges, Senior Team Member, The Rat Guide.

Glam Rat “Sophie”, a year-old recessive hairless female with standard ears. Photo courtesy of Lorraine Morrow and Joanne Bella Hodges, Senior Team Member, The Rat Guide.

Photo at right

“Panchetta”, a Russian Blue Rex Dumbo. Photo courtesy of Joanne Bella Hodges, Senior Team Member, The Rat Guide.