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Modeling Toxoplasma Focus of Workshop

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. – *Toxoplasma gondii* (*T. gondii*) is considered as one of the most successful parasites for its unusual ability to infect a wide range of intermediate hosts, including all mammals and birds. Up to 11% of the human population in the US and 20% in the world are chronically infected.

The National Institute for Mathematical and Biological Synthesis (NIMBioS) is now accepting applications for its Investigative Workshop, Modeling *Toxoplasma gondii*, to be held May 13-15, 2010, at NIMBioS on the University of Tennessee-Knoxville (UTK) campus. This workshop aims to explore mathematical tools and problems in describing the life cycle, stage conversion, and clonal expansion of *T. gondii*.

By bringing together expertise in parasitic diseases, epidemiology, population genetics, disease modeling, network dynamics, evolutionary dynamics, and nonlinear analysis, the workshop will explore various modeling and analysis methods for potential application in public health strategies and in diagnosis, suppression, and prevention of Toxoplasmosis.

For more information about the workshop and a link to the online application form, go to http://www.nimbios.org/workshops/WS_Toxoplasma

Application deadline is March 1, 2010.

The Toxoplasma Workshop is organized by Xiaopeng Zhao, UTK assistant professor of biomedical engineering; Chunlei Su, UTK assistant professor of microbiology; Jitender P. Dubey of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Laboratory of Parasitic Diseases; Michel Langlais, professor of applied mathematics at the Universite Victor Segalen Bordeaux 2, France; Suzanne Lenhart, NIMBioS associate director for education and outreach and UTK professor of mathematics; and Jaewook Joo, UTK assistant professor of physics.

NIMBioS Investigative Workshops involve 30-40 participants, of which about half are invited. Individuals with a strong interest in the topic can also apply to attend. For more information about the Agent-based Models Workshop and how to apply, visit http://www.nimbios.org.

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solutions to basic and applied problems in the life sciences. NIMBioS is sponsored by the National Science Foundation, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture with additional support from The University of Tennessee, Knoxville.