

From the University of Mississippi Medical Center Division of Public Affairs

CATFISH ANTI-VIRAL IMMUNITY STUDY RECEIVES \$370,000 FEDERAL GRANT

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JACKSON, Miss. – Federal funding began flowing this month on a \$370,000 grant to University of Mississippi Medical Center Associate Professor of Microbiology Eva Bengtén to study catfish antiviral immunity.

The grant, through the U.S. Department of Agriculture, will advance a 30-year study of the catfish immune system that has helped fortify Mississippi's \$220 million-plus annual farm-raised catfish industry.

By better understanding how catfish resist viral attacks, scientists will not only be able to aid economic development but also add to scientific knowledge and shed light on immune systems of comparable animals.

The grant will continue through August 2012.

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Please forward this message to colleagues who might be interested. If you wish to be removed from this list or know of a colleague to add, send an e-mail message to: LAGriffin@pubaffairs.umsmed.edu.

The University of Mississippi Medical Center, located in Jackson, is the state's only academic medical center. University of Mississippi Health Care represents the clinical programs of the Medical Center and includes University Hospitals and Health System and University Physicians, the faculty group practice. UMMC encompasses five health science schools, including medicine, nursing, health related professions, dentistry and graduate studies, as well as the site where University of Mississippi pharmacy students do their clinical training. The Medical Center's threefold mission is to educate tomorrow's health-care professionals, conduct innovative research to improve human health, and to provide the highest quality care available to the state's citizens. A major goal of the Medical Center is the improvement of the health of Mississippians and the elimination of health disparities. For more information, contact the Division of Public Affairs at 601-984-1100 or visit us on the Web at <http://info.umc.edu/>.