

A. Title Page

Professional Development Grant Report
Arkansas Tech University

Research Presentations on Combative Sport Science and Animal Research

by

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B. Restatement of Problem Researched

This Professional Development Grant allowed Dr. Jason E. Warnick to travel to the *International Neuroscience “Stress and Behavior” Conference* in New Orleans, LA from June 21-24, 2012. Dr. Warnick presented two presentations that detail his research on the combative sports and animal research and chaired a research symposium. The presentations included ATU students who have worked in Dr. Warnick’s laboratory as co-authors. This opportunity was unique as it provides a new audience for Dr. Warnick to discuss his research in the combative sports and the conference has traditionally been attended by researchers in the field of animal modeling (Dr. Warnick’s primary research interest). Many of the attendees have been featured in a book Dr. Warnick has published (Warnick & Kalueff, 2010) and this conference was used as a venue to solicit book chapters for another edited book that will be published in 2013-2014 by *Springer Publications*. Further, continued connections with these researchers have provided ATU students access to further training opportunities in diverse areas of psychology and the neurosciences after graduation.

C. Experiences and Outcome of the Conference Presentations

Attaining this Professional Development Grant allowed Dr. Warnick to travel to the the *International Neuroscience “Stress and Behavior” Conference* in New Orleans, LA to present two research presentations and chair a research symposium. Two news outlets reached out to Dr. Warnick (*New Scientist Magazine* and *German Public Radio*) and expressed potential interest in doing future news stories on his research. Also, Dr. Warnick used the conference as an opportunity to solicit other potential researchers to contribute book chapters to a new edited book that will be published by *Springer Publications* in 2013-2014. These opportunities would not have been possible without the aid of a professional development grant.

D. Conclusions and Recommendations

This conference had a small audience that has been very supportive of our lab’s research. In spite of the small number of attendees, there were luminaries in the neurosciences and pharmacological sciences in attendance and there was also a notable media presence throughout the conference. Attending this conference over the last two years has resulted in more media coverage and a greater increase in citations of my published work than I have ever received in my career. I plan on attending this conference regularly.