

PETER B. ERNST

Professor, Department of Pathology

I was recruited to UCSD in 2011 as the Head of the Division of Comparative Pathology and Medicine and the Co-Director of the UC Veterinary Medical Center. I was also cross-appointed as Professor, Pathology, Microbiology and Immunology at UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine and as an Adjunct Professor, Medicine, Division of Gastroenterology.

In 2013, I started the Center for Veterinary Sciences and Comparative Medicine in which we run a basic research training program for veterinarians and facilitate collaborations related to "One Health". Recently, we enhanced the One Health program by creating the Chiba University-UC San Diego Initiative in Mucosal Immunology, Allergy and Vaccine Development.

My research program examines gastrointestinal immune responses to infection. These studies have included: the identification of novel receptors for bacteria; investigations into the immunopathogenesis of epithelial cell damage following the engagement of these receptors; and studies related to purine metabolism and its role in gastritis as well as inflammatory bowel diseases. Our experimental approach usually translates observations in model systems to human gastrointestinal tissues.

I have been involved in several committees and advisory boards and received a Distinguished Service Award from Society for Mucosal Immunology for my efforts on their behalf. I am a past Member and former Chair for the Research Grants Committee for the Academic Senate, Health Sciences Research. I was also a co-Chair on a committee to evaluate a campus-wide ORU and a current Member of the Steering Committee for the UC San Diego-La Jolla Institute Immunology Program (a joint program with the General Campus, Faculty of Health Sciences and LJI).