SUMMER 2022

On Call

A MAGAZINE FOR FRIENDS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN SCHOOL OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

Leaders and Learners

Students guide national veterinary medical groups

A Day in the Life

Go behind the scenes with UW Veterinary Care staff

School of Veterinary Medicine
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

Welcome to the most amazing profession. **The School of Veterinary Medicine's faculty, staff, and alumni are truly impressed by your dedication, integrity and tenacity as you worked toward your dream of earning a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree.**

Congratulations, Class of 2022 — we are so proud of you!

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On Call

SUMMER 2022

Features

Leading the Way

Inspired by a desire to build community, share resources, and empower their peers, two UW School of Veterinary Medicine students are currently at the helm of a pair of national student organizations — the Student American Veterinary Medical Association and Veterinary Business Management Association. From their posts, they encourage others to realize their potential by filling leadership positions and continuing to move the profession forward.

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The People Behind Patient Care

What does it take to operate a world-renowned veterinary medical teaching hospital? From veterinary technicians to radiologists to pathologists, more than 400 committed staff members and students team up with clinical specialists to deliver an exceptional experience for clients and patients. Go behind the scenes with a range of specially trained staff who support the delivery of compassionate, expert clinical services, often out of sight.

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In Each Issue

More

On the Cover

UW Veterinary Care kennel manager Jacob Jankowski pauses for a moment amidst his duties in the hospital to greet a puppy in a kennel run. (Photo: Meghan Lepisto/ UW School of Veterinary Medicine)

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School of Veterinary Medicine
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN–MADISON

Celebrating School of Veterinary Medicine Successes


BRYCE RICHTER

Mark D. Markel

After two and a half years of the COVID-19 pandemic, these past six months have felt pretty close to normal at the University of Wisconsin School of Veterinary Medicine. We were able to celebrate the Class of 2022's graduation and Investiture Ceremony with family, friends, and loved ones in May. Our Class of 2023 Blue Coat Ceremony and Celebration of Excellence events were also held in person this past spring and felt much more like the pre-pandemic era.

In May, the school was proud to host the Iverson Bell Midwest Regional Diversity Summit. It was an outstanding three days, led off by a keynote presentation from the president of the Ho-Chunk Nation, Marlon WhiteEagle.

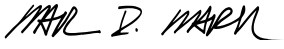
It's hard to believe that almost eight years ago, Associate Dean Lynn Maki and I began discussing how UW-Madison could serve as a host of this important summit, which promotes diversity and inclusion in veterinary medicine. Until this year, Purdue University or Michigan State University had always hosted the biennial event. The COVID-19 pandemic delayed our 2020 summit at UW to 2022, but ultimately, it was an enlightening and memorable weekend (see page 6), drawing participants from all of the Midwest schools of veterinary medicine. One highlight was a community mural project led by artist Tia Richardson, which will ultimately be displayed in the SVM's Renk Learning Center.

In this issue of *On Call*, we spotlight two current DVM students serving in prominent national roles — Zachary Tooley as president of the Student American Veterinary Medical Association and Joseph Thurston as vice president of the Veterinary Business Management Association.

Another highlight of our national leadership in the profession is the selection of Kate Meurs, a member of the UW SVM Class of 1990, as dean of North Carolina State University's College of Veterinary Medicine. This is the second of our DVM alumna selected as a dean. The first was Jean Sander from the inaugural Class of 1987, who served as dean of the Center for Veterinary Health Sciences at Oklahoma State University. The Veterinary Science graduate program, now our Comparative Biomedical Sciences program, has also yielded several deans of schools of veterinary medicine.

The construction of the SVM's building expansion is proceeding on schedule, with the majority of concrete work slated to be completed this summer. We look forward to opening the new north building with a ribbon-cutting ceremony in fall 2023.

I hope you're having a fantastic summer. Don't forget to occasionally visit our Animals Need Heroes Too website, at animalsneedheroestoo.com, to follow the expansion's progress through our on-site construction camera.



Mark D. Markel, Dean
@uwvetmeddean

On Call SUMMER 2022

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The printing and distribution of this magazine were funded by donations to the school. To make a gift, contact Pat Bowdish at 608-332-4750 or pat.bowdish@supportuw.org or Heidi Kramer at 608-327-9136 or heidi.kramer@supportuw.org.

Ask a UW Veterinarian

Treating Mast Cell Tumors

*This expert response comes from **David Vail**, professor and Barbara A. Suran Chair in Comparative Oncology at the UW School of Veterinary Medicine.*

Question: Is it still the best to have mast cells in dogs removed? Thank you for any information on how to handle the diagnosis. —Melissa, Rockton, Illinois

Answer: Mast cell tumors (MCT) are the most common malignant tumor in dogs. Thankfully, most MCTs (more than 80 percent) are of low or intermediate grade and curable with surgery alone. So, you are correct that surgical removal is the treatment of choice in most cases.

For those 20 percent of mast cell tumors that are higher grade, surgery by itself may not be curative as they are more likely to spread to other parts of the body (metastasize) or recur following surgery.

Generally, if a mast cell tumor is at a location that allows surgical removal with fairly wide (approximately one inch) normal tissue borders ("margins"), surgery is performed. A sample is submitted to a pathologist to determine the tumor grade and whether the surgical margins are free of cancer cells.

If the margins are free of cancer and the tumor is not high grade, no further treatment is generally necessary other than active surveillance. This includes a recheck examination every three months for one and a half years after surgery.

If the pathologist finds that the mast cell tumor is of high grade, then there is a higher likelihood of metastasis or local recurrence, and further diagnostics and treatment (e.g., chemotherapy) following surgery should be discussed with a veterinary oncologist.

If the pathologist finds that tumor cells were left behind after surgery, then either further surgery (revision surgery) or radiation therapy is often effective in clearing the remaining cancer cells.

If surgery is not possible initially, alternatives may be necessary in hopes that the tumor can be shrunk to a size that surgery can be performed or to control the tumor as much as possible. Alternatives to surgery, which should be discussed with a veterinary oncologist, include radiation therapy, chemotherapy, investigational clinical trials, or in some cases, injections with substances that destroy tumor tissue.

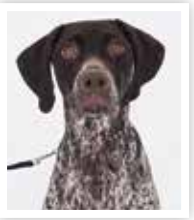
Questions

Have a question for our veterinary medical experts?

Send it to **oncall@vetmed.wisc.edu**. We cannot guarantee responses to all submissions. For any urgent pet health issue, please contact your veterinarian directly.

Socializing with the SVM

Friends of the school sharing their thoughts (and pets) on social media...

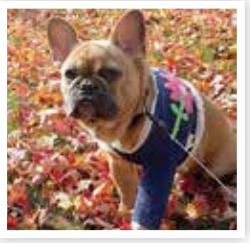


Got the all clear to start going places again and seeing dog friends again after a bit of a hiatus when I wasn't feeling well. So thankful @uwvetmed got me all fixed up and feeling great again!

–@nash.the.gsp
Via SVM Instagram (@uwvetmed)

So very grateful for the amazing care Romeo got the past two weeks @uwvetmed. Absolutely everyone was so kind to him and patiently answered my thousands of questions. Just another reason why I'm a proud #uwalumni 😻🦡

–@laura6_d
Via SVM Instagram (@uwvetmed)



Thank you to our new friends at @uwvetmed for patching up Bernie. ... We can't say enough about the good people at UW Vet School who matched our desire to do anything we could for our little man.

–fatryanreynolds
Via SVM Instagram (@uwvetmed)


© TIA RICHARDSON

School of Veterinary Medicine Hosts Regional Diversity Summit

The UW School of Veterinary Medicine hosted the Iverson Bell Midwest Regional Diversity Summit on May 20-22, the first time a site other than the summit's two founding colleges of veterinary medicine, Purdue and Michigan State University, have held the event.

The biennial summit, named after the first person of color to serve as vice president of the American Veterinary Medical Association, aims to promote diversity and inclusion in veterinary medicine.

Themed From Talk to Action: Becoming a Change Agent on Your Campus, this year's summit brought in over 140 students, faculty, and staff from more than 13 universities.

Over the three-day conference, attendees heard from a range of speakers, including Ho-Chunk Nation President **Marlon WhiteEagle** discussing the history and struggles of the Ho-Chunk people, and **Latonia Craig**, assistant dean for inclusive excellence at Purdue University's College of Veterinary Medicine. **Alejandro Larios Mora**, a veterinary pathologist, also discussed his journey to becoming a veterinarian and the barriers he faced as a minority and immigrant.

"Only by identifying these barriers can we work to break them down to make veterinary medicine more accessible to all," says **Liz Jacka DVM'10**, a UW School of Veterinary Medicine lecturer who attended the summit.

Outside of the lectures, attendees created action plans to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) in veterinary medicine and drive action beyond the summit. **Lisa Kim DVMx'24**, a veterinary medical student at UW, enjoyed collaborating with peers from other universities.

"We felt a lot of camaraderie talking about the ways we have pushed DEI efforts at our respective schools. It was also a great perspective to hear what other schools were doing and compare things we have seen," she says.

The student-drafted action plan emphasized DEI education in community veterinary practices and academia. The faculty action plan also emphasized DEI education and cultural competency — the ability to understand, respect, and appropriately engage with people of other cultures. In addition, it addressed mental health care. Both plans will be published on the UW SVM website.

Another highlight of the conference was a collaborative mural designed by Milwaukee artist **Tia Richardson**. Richardson created the mural after speaking with SVM students, faculty, and staff this spring about the challenges and history of the school and veterinary medicine and the path forward.

Richard Barajas, SVM assistant dean for diversity, equity, and inclusion, who led the summit planning, said the mural is designed to "build community with the school and diversify the representation on the walls of the building."

Richardson emphasized the power of Healing Through Art, as her keynote lecture at the summit was entitled, and invited all attendees to paint the mural. The mural will be displayed in the school's Renk Learning Center and serve as a marker for improving diversity at UW–Madison and in the field of veterinary medicine.

Britta Wellenstein


CRAIG WILD

Participants paint sections of a community mural project led by artist Tia Richardson as part of the Iverson Bell Midwest Regional Diversity Summit. **TOP**: A mock-up of a rough draft of the mural.

Researchers Address Wide-Ranging Impacts of Sleep Apnea in Pregnancy

Sleep apnea, a common disorder in which a person repeatedly stops and starts breathing while they sleep, is a growing problem in pregnancy.

Researchers at the UW School of Veterinary Medicine are discovering how low oxygen levels in the blood caused by apnea affect the nervous systems of offspring. The findings offer guidance to physicians to help mitigate risk to children of a significant number of expectant parents. By the third trimester, sleep apnea appears in about 15 percent of normal pregnancies and 60 percent of high-risk pregnancies.

Several studies out of the school have shown, using a rat model, that sleep apnea during pregnancy may have a variety of detrimental effects on male offspring. Researchers studied both male and female offspring, but found the effects most pronounced in males, with many problems not emerging until adulthood. The reason for this remains under investigation.

Most recently, a study published in the journal *PLOS Biology* and led by **Michael Cahill, Jyoti Watters,** and **Tracy Baker**, professors in the Department of Comparative Biosciences, sheds light on the cognitive and behavioral impacts sleep apnea in pregnancy may have on offspring. Male offspring of rats exposed to brief, intermittent periods of low oxygen in pregnancy that mimic the low oxygen levels experienced in sleep apnea were more likely to exhibit behavioral changes resembling autism than female offspring or offspring whose mothers were not exposed to low oxygen levels.

"Our data provide clear evidence that maternal sleep apnea may be an important risk factor for the development of neurodevelopmental disorders, particularly in male offspring," Cahill notes.

In addition, the study found physical abnormalities in the brain cells of offspring from mothers in which they mimicked sleep apnea, with the effect significantly worse in males. The observed brain changes have also been identified in autism in humans.

A study led by Comparative Biosciences colleague **Sathish Kumar** found that maternal intermittent low oxygen also increases the risk for developing high blood pressure in adult males.

"That's another aspect our work is trying to address: how and why does this constellation of deficits occur almost exclusively in the male offspring?" Baker says.

A worldwide rise in sleep apnea makes it especially important to understand the risks.

"A main goal of our research is to raise awareness in physicians who take care of pregnant people," Watters says. "They should be asking their patients questions about their sleep to determine whether they should be screened for sleep apnea and encouraging them to adhere to the treatment."

Baker and Watters are collaborating with an obstetrician-gynecologist in Texas, for instance, to share their research and determine if findings in the rat model apply to humans.

In July 2021, Baker was awarded a patent for a potential therapy to treat sleep apnea in humans, a positive step in effectively treating the disorder.

Maddie Arthur

Osorio to Lead UW Global Health Institute

Jorge Osorio MS'88, PhD'96, professor of pathobiological sciences in the School of Veterinary Medicine, in May was named the next director of UW–Madison's Global Health Institute.

Osorio has decades of international experience studying emerging diseases — especially viruses and other pathogens making leaps from animal hosts to humans — and ways to prevent their spread with vaccines, antivirals, and other public health measures.

The Global Health Institute applies research, education, and outreach to advance equitable and sustainable health across Wisconsin and the world. Working across disciplines, the institute fosters deeper understanding of the complex determinants of health and disease and the connections between animal, human, and planetary health.

Osorio is also co-director of the Colombia-Wisconsin One Health Consortium, a joint effort between UW–Madison and Universidad Nacional in Colombia. This research group is studying emerging diseases and the way the complex interactions of living things and the environment affect health outcomes — embodying the concept of One Health.

Ann Grauvogl

Canine TV Preferences Could Lead to Answers in Protecting Eyesight

Television: It's not just for people anymore.

These days, programming created specifically for dogs is more frequently popping up on our screens. But very little is understood about how dogs engage with this kind of programming, and what kind of videos most appeal to them.

Now, a new citizen-science study led by **Freya Mowat**, a veterinary clinician-scientist, is asking dog owners to help shed light on these questions. It's no trivial business, as the results could lay the groundwork for developing better ways of assessing vision in dogs.

"The overarching goal in this study is to figure out what dogs like to watch on television," says Mowat. "This is interesting from a dog behavior standpoint, but as dog vision researchers, we also want to develop engaging methods to test dog vision in either the home or clinic, which we currently do not have."

Mowat, an assistant professor with the School of Veterinary Medicine's Department of Surgical Sciences and the School of Medicine and Public Health's Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences, says previous efforts to develop an eye test for dogs have resulted in more than a few "epic fails." Trying to adapt human vision tests for dogs has proved challenging, at best, or required too much training to be viable.

But Mowat believes videos could potentially be the key to holding a dog's attention long enough to gather and assess critical information about visual function. The trick is determining the type of content that's most engaging and appealing.

To better understand what dogs might be attracted to on screen, Mowat is seeking individuals from around the globe, and their canine companions, to participate in a survey. The unique questionnaire asks people to provide information on their dog's screen-viewing habits, as well as the dog's age, sex, breed, and where they live.

Participants can also take the optional step of showing their pup four short videos of subjects potentially of interest to dogs, such as objects and other animals. People will then rate their dog's interest in each video and how closely the dog tracked the moving objects in the videos.

"We intend for this to be a fun activity for both dogs and their people," Mowat says. "And we'd love to get thousands of responses from individuals across the world, so we can better understand if dogs in Wisconsin like the same kind of videos as dogs in New York or Brazil or any other location."

Ultimately, Mowat says the study could also help answer a question of interest to all dog owners: How do we help our four-legged friends age gracefully?

"We do know that canine retinal function does decline with age and can decline quite significantly," Mowat says. "So, it's more than likely that visual perception does change, but what that actually means from a lifestyle standpoint is the missing piece of the puzzle."

A future goal is to compare how a dog's vision ages compared with the human or humans they share a home with.

"After all, a dog has a much shorter lifespan than their owner, and so if there are emerging environmental or lifestyle factors that influence visual aging, it might well show up in our dogs decades before it shows up in us," Mowat explains.

To take part in the survey, visit **go.wisc.edu/dogscreens**.

Chris Malina

"Our goal is to try and relate what's going on in the dog to what's happening in the human that lives with them. In theory, the dog could be a beautiful way to study aging."

New Findings on COVID-19 Variants, Vaccine, and Spread

Scientists at the UW School of Veterinary Medicine continue to lead research into the COVID-19 pandemic.

Among recent advances, in a study published in *Nature* in May, a team led by virologist **Yoshihiro Kawaoka** and colleagues showed that the BA.2 subvariant of omicron is similar to BA.1 in both the severity of illness it causes and its ability to cause infection. As of May, omicron was the dominant version worldwide of the SARS-CoV-2 virus that causes COVID-19 and BA.2 was the dominant subvariant in nearly seven dozen countries.

The team also found that existing therapeutic monoclonal antibodies and antiviral drugs used to treat COVID-19 remain effective against BA.2.

In addition, research led by **Marulasiddappa Suresh**, a professor of immunology, found that a second line of defense — the immune system's T cells, a specialized type of white blood cell — may offer protection from COVID-19 even when vaccine-induced antibodies no longer can.

The researchers discovered that an experimental protein-based vaccine they developed against the original version of the COVID-19 virus was able to teach mouse T cells how to recognize and kill cells infected with new, mutated versions of the virus.

The work, published in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, has important implications for future T-cell-based vaccines that could provide broad protection against emergent SARS-CoV-2 variants. Now, the lab is studying how exactly T cells defend against SARS-CoV-2 and whether commercially available vaccines may induce these same mechanisms of immunity.

And as part of research understanding the human-animal interplay of COVID-19, **Tony Goldberg**, professor of epidemiology, is checking North American bats in the southwestern U.S. for SARS-CoV-2 or similar viruses. "We knew that SARS-CoV-2 came from animals," Goldberg says. "And the best bet is that it came from bats (in China)."

ANNE READEL

Researchers from New Mexico State University and the UW School of Veterinary Medicine collect samples from bats for virus testing in New Mexico before releasing the bats back into the wild.

Though the team is still conducting research, it hasn't yet detected COVID-19 in bats in the American Southwest. That's a good sign, Goldberg says, because wildlife reservoirs can make controlling viruses harder.

Kibble

Bits of news from around the school

The UW School of Veterinary Medicine ranked 12th globally (and 6th nationally) in the Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) 2022 World University Rankings for veterinary science schools – a sharp increase up nine spots from 2021.

Shawna Hawkins, a clinical instructor of zoological medicine with the UW School of Veterinary Medicine who previously completed a residency at UW, received the 2022 American Association of Veterinary Clinicians annual resident's award, recognizing excellence in an individual's chosen specialty.

A study led by **Lauren Trepanier**, Melita Grunow Family Professor in Companion Animal Health, and funded by the AKC Canine Health Foundation suggests that air and water pollution influence the development of bladder cancer and lymphoma in dogs — part of research to identify genetic and environmental factors contributing to canine cancer and guide prevention strategies.

Mostafa Zamanian, assistant professor of pathobiological sciences, received a UW–Madison Research Forward award to discover next-generation, broad-spectrum antiparasitics relevant to human and veterinary medicine amid emerging drug resistance and a need for new treatment options.

The Morrie Waud Large Animal Hospital welcomed several new surgeons – **Jordan Kirkpatrick**, **Kayla Le**, and **Paul Merkatoris** – growing the hospital's extensive capabilities in providing routine, specialized and emergency surgical procedures to a range of species.

The UW School of Veterinary Medicine was part of a collaborative effort to detect the currently circulating H5N1 strain of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in several fox kits in Wisconsin in May — the first report of HPAI infections in mammals in the U.S.

In response to rabbit hemorrhagic disease spreading across the U.S., UW Veterinary Care is offering an emergency-authorized vaccine for rabbits. The highly contagious, fatal disease affects domestic and wild rabbits but is not spreadable to other species.

Wisconsin Veterinary Lead the Way

SAVMA President Tooley All About Building Community

Zachary Tooley DVMx'23, the newest Student American Veterinary Medical Association (SAVMA) president, says his first passion in life wasn't veterinary medicine but wrestling. He began the sport in third grade and hadn't thought much about college until toward the end of high school, and only then did he consider college so he could keep wrestling.

Tooley grew up in Hortonville, Wisconsin, at an equine boarding and training facility that his parents owned. He always enjoyed biology, so he majored in the subject while he seized the opportunity to wrestle at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse. He soon got involved in the preveterinary club and found his true calling — not in wrestling but in veterinary medicine.

Not long after that, he started working at Central Animal Hospital in Onalaska, Wisconsin — owned by **Douglas Kratt DVM'90**, now AVMA immediate past president, and his wife, **Kimberly Kratt DVM'00**. There, Tooley first became exposed to small animal medicine.

Tooley didn't get into veterinary college on his first try. That did, however, allow him time to gain experience with more veterinarians and start a master's program at the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh.

Once he got into the University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Veterinary Medicine, Tooley recalls seeing [Doug] Kratt on a career day in his first year. He hadn't seen his mentor for a few years. This time, Kratt was the incoming AVMA president-elect.

"It was cool to see him step into a leadership position, especially seeing how much he tried to do for his community with support and outreach, and then take that to the next step to give back to the veterinary community," Tooley said.

Another piece of the puzzle came together for Tooley when a friend started going through the ROTC program, which is how Tooley learned about the Army Veterinary Corps. Tooley applied for the Army Health Professional Scholarship Program. In the spring of his first year, he was commissioned into the Army Veterinary Corps as a second lieutenant. After veterinary school, Tooley will complete a rotating externship at one of the Army's sites and then three years of active duty.

Another influential moment came when Tooley befriended **Marie Bucko DVM'21**, who soon became SAVMA president. She encouraged him to pursue a leadership position with SAVMA, which he first did by becoming a member of the SAVMA House of Delegates.

"I feel like the doors kind of got blown wide open," Tooley said. "I didn't realize how much lateral movement there was in veterinary medicine. I didn't know positions in public health were available, the specialties you can get into, or the government side of things, like getting involved in the legislative side of veterinary medicine and helping shape some of the guidelines and policies that protect and grow the profession."

His goal as SAVMA president is to build excitement for in-person events and what SAVMA is able to accomplish for students. He also hopes to provide more interconnectedness between SAVMA presidents and delegates as well as promote resources and activities that promote good mental health and its importance.

Finally, he wants to encourage others to realize their potential and fill leadership positions, just as his mentors did for him, because the profession needs those people to continue to move it forward.

"I've seen how much that I've been blessed with because of the community that has invested in me and the leaders who make time for their community. That's something I really want to try to emulate — to give back to the profession and leaders who have taken a chance on me," Tooley said. "The outlook is so good for the future. It really is something we should be excited about."

— By Malinda Larkin. Reproduced with permission of the American Veterinary Medical Association.

COURTESY TOOLEY

Medical Students

VBMA Vice President Thurston Delivers Business Knowledge to Peers

During an organization and club fair during his first year of veterinary school, Joseph Thurston DVMx'23 ran into student members of the Veterinary Business Management Association (VBMA). He knew he was interested in the business and ownership aspects of running a veterinary practice one day, so he decided to attend a few meetings. Soon, he found himself heavily involved in the organization and elected to the local chapter's board at the UW School of Veterinary Medicine.

Fast forward a year, and Thurston now serves as vice president of VBMA's national board. He was elected to this position after dedicating time and effort to the association at the local level. He remains as passionate about the work that he and his VBMA peers are doing as when he stepped into his first leadership role with the group's UW chapter.

The student-driven organization is dedicated to advancing the profession by increasing business knowledge, creating networking opportunities, and empowering students to achieve their personal and professional goals.

"This organization is students stepping up to provide an education to other students," Thurston says. "That's what I love about the VBMA. We fill in the gaps often missed in veterinary education."

The gaps Thurston and his fellow board members aim to fill include how to work at corporate levels of veterinary medicine and manage student loan debt. VBMA chapters at veterinary schools across the country hold regular lectures, workshops, and more to help students with their professional, personal, and academic lives.

The organization even offers a business certificate to those veterinary medical students who want to show future employers they gained additional skills in finance, business management, leadership, and personal and career development.

"The VBMA does a great job of recognizing that veterinary medicine is not solely patient care, though that's obviously a huge, important part of it," Thurston says.

"Every pet comes through the door with a person attached to it. Every veterinarian leads in some capacity. Everyone in the veterinary industry is impacted by the wide range of stresses this profession puts on us," he adds. "So, it's important that veterinary students are educated in those areas."

COURTESY THURSTON

Joseph Thurston

As the national vice president, Thurston is in charge of the group's day-to-day operations and coordinates with regional leaders. With COVID-19 putting a hold on many of the organization's in-person activities for the last two years, one of his goals is to increase and expand collaboration between chapters to help students connect with one another.

He encourages potential student members not to be thrown off by the "business" aspect of the organization. He believes that VBMA is for more than just those students who want to run their own practice.

"Whether you're working with small animals, in research, pathology, or anything, you still need to understand the value you bring to a company or practice," Thurston emphasizes. "Your financial well-being, your mental well-being, those are all aspects that we provide resources on."

— By Alisyn Amant

"Take a chance, step up and reach out. There are so many exceptional people in veterinary medicine, and so many of the veterinarians that have come before us would like nothing more than to help us succeed. I would encourage students to follow their interests and don't hesitate to take the chance on a new experience that might seem intimidating at first. When we see our peers and friends manifest the courage to step up and do something potentially uncomfortable or challenging, it encourages and empowers others to take that chance as well."

-Zachary Tooley DVMx'23

Zachary Tooley, Student American Veterinary Medical Association president, holds a puppy for a wellness check.

Hustle, Bustle, Compassion, and Know-How

Behind the scenes with UW Veterinary Care staff

By Alisyn Amant and Meghan Lepisto

When clients bring their animal to UW Veterinary Care, they often speak with a receptionist, veterinarian, fourth-year DVM student, veterinary technician, or some combination. But between the handoff of a patient and the pickup of that cherished companion or livestock animal, innumerable people throughout the hospital collaborate to deliver the best possible care.

Behind the scenes of UW Veterinary Care, kennel staff tidy up clinical spaces. Pharmacists and pharmacy technicians fill prescriptions and prepare medications. At the same time, pathology services conduct diagnostic tests and analyze patient samples, while elsewhere, radiologists perform imaging tests. A purchasing team ensures supplies are procured and put in their place, and call center and medical records specialists support client needs and recordkeeping. And that's just a glimpse of the activity.

In total, more than 400 committed staff members, student workers, and veterinary medical students team up with world-class clinical specialists. Often out of sight, they go out of their way to deliver an exceptional experience for clients and patients.

The following profiles shed light on just some of the ways a range of dedicated, specially trained staff support the delivery of compassionate, expert clinical services around the clock.

View more behind-the-scenes photos at **go.wisc.edu/behindthescenes**.

Kimberly Legler, radiologic technologist and supervisor, Diagnostic Imaging

Since fourth grade, **Kimberly Legler** has known she wanted to work with animals. After considering a career as a veterinarian or veterinary technician and pursuing a few other paths, she made her way to the radiography training program at Madison College.

While enrolled, she came across a job posting for a radiographer at the UW School of Veterinary Medicine teaching hospital, where she came on board in 2006. "That was it," she recalls. "I knew that's what I wanted to do. I found my way back to animals."

Purpose: "The diagnostic imaging department plays an integral part in finding answers to help doctors treat their patients, which ultimately results in a positive impact. We perform almost every type of imaging that they do at a human hospital. We have MRI, CT, ultrasound, fluoroscopy, a large animal standing CT, nuclear medicine, mobile fluoroscopy, and radiography."

An 'average' day: "You never have the same day twice here. I lead a team of eight amazing technologists. Managing the workflow, coordinating procedures, maintaining equipment, and performing imaging studies is all part of a day's work."

Little known fact: "The nine of us are American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT) certified radiologic technologists. This means we have gone through schooling and training in human imaging. Most of us had worked in the people world before we came here. We learned animal anatomy and positioning after we started in our positions. We are qualified to teach the students about the physics and different aspects of imaging modalities."

Heavy load: "Something else people may not realize is how physical this job is. You are lifting and restraining patients in the necessary positions for most of the day."

Top priority: "Though it may sound cliché, my favorite part of my job is helping animals. I don't just mean performing imaging studies to aid in diagnoses (though that part is great too). I can help them by ensuring and expecting quality care and optimal imaging from the department's technologists, by teaching future veterinarians how to obtain diagnostic images, and by keeping equipment functioning so animals can have the studies they need when they need them. Cuddling the occasional cute puppy isn't so bad either."

Approach: "I try to have a positive attitude. I believe treating all people with respect is important, which makes it easier for others to feel they can talk to me. I am known for wearing fun shirts (mostly cat-related), which often leads to smiles or giggles as I walk through the hospital."

Team dynamics: "We are all here for the same reason. No one patient is more important than the next. We need to be able to work together for the big picture of helping clients and their beloved pets. We also need to be there for one another, whether it's a tough case, the pandemic, or whatever the circumstance. We are stronger together."

Room to grow: "To provide advanced technology and optimal images, it would benefit us to be able to upgrade our CT, MRI, and fluoroscopy equipment and expand on it. One of the things on our wish list for the building expansion project is a PET CT scanner."

Kimberly Legler holds Isabella, a 15-year-old Boxer mix and UW Veterinary Care patient, following chest radiographs.

With Deep Appreciation

Pandemic health measures plus severe space constraints with construction have required an extended period of curbside service at UW Veterinary Care. We appreciate clients' continued patience and flexibility as we enthusiastically anticipate completing our building expansion and renovation, set for 2023-24.

These enhanced facilities will double the size of the small animal hospital, significantly improve the large animal hospital, and give UW Veterinary Care room to grow to deliver compassionate, pioneering care to thousands more patients.

Though clients may not be able to enter the building at at all times currently, we always want you to feel involved in your animal's care. Do you have a question about what occurs behind the scenes? Email **oncall@vetmed.wisc.edu**, and we'll consider it for follow-up coverage.

Caley Haas tends to the stall of Ginger, a blood donor and teaching cow for the school, at the end of an overnight shift from midnight to 8 a.m.

Caley Haas, barn crew member, Morrie Waud Large Animal Hospital

Some students might shudder at the need to report to work at 6 a.m., but for Caley Haas, it's a plus. The UW–Madison animal sciences major and self-reported morning person is part of the Morrie Waud Large Animal Hospital barn crew. This team of student workers helps maintain a clean presence in the large animal hospital and keeps accurate patient records across morning, evening, and overnight shifts.

Routines: "Barn crew is responsible for cleaning all animal stalls, recovery stalls, and procedure rooms with proper personal protective equipment protocol twice a day; charting urine and fecal output as well as feed and water consumption; removal of trash and biohazard waste; stripping and disinfecting of used stalls; disinfecting floors and manure carts; milking cows; and feeding any vet school animals staying in the large animal hospital."

Perks of the job: "I enjoy the physical labor aspect of barn crew. After a day of class, it is nice to do something physically to tire my body. Through barn crew, I have met so many people with so much knowledge. And everybody is so willing to teach. It is a welcoming and stimulating environment."

Faye Hartmann, medical technologist and manager, Clinical Pathology lab

When UW Veterinary Care clinicians need insight into a patient's illness, they often turn to the hospital's full-service laboratory for comprehensive diagnostic tests.

Day after day and into the night, medical technologists, laboratory technicians, and veterinarians run an array of tests – tens of thousands annually — on patient specimens. They use cutting-edge equipment, scientific expertise, and specialized training to uncover details about an animal's health. And by doing so on-site, they can quickly pinpoint a wide range of conditions.

Whether analyzing blood work, diagnosing disease, detecting parasites, or more, these lab services compose an essential part of veterinary care. Leading the team is Faye Hartmann, who got her start in the microbiology laboratory of a human hospital but now lends her knowledge to animals.

Precision and speed: "We are very fortunate to have our own in-house microbiology laboratory. When you're dealing with infections, you need to know as soon as possible what is causing that infection in order to get the patient on the right antibiotics. With an in-house lab, the turnaround is super fast. We have results within one to two days, compared to three to five days if the culture was sent out. This allows clinicians to select appropriate therapies for patients sooner. For all tests performed by our Clinical Pathology lab, our goal is to deliver accurate and rapid test results for patient care."

Highlights: "My favorite part is that no day is the same. Every day presents a chance to work with a great laboratory team, and to facilitate and help people get the results and information they need. I also enjoy being involved in independent and collaborative research projects. It's exciting to work on projects relevant to the cases we're seeing."

Collaborative care: "Some tests have a very rapid turnaround time, so we can deliver results quickly to clinicians. For example, when we have a positive blood culture, we may have a preliminary identification of an infection within ten hours from the time they collected the sample. And then, maybe six hours later, we can provide clinicians with presumptive antibiotic susceptibility results to get a patient on the right antibiotics sooner."

Scientific sleuthing: "We have so many antibiotic-resistant microorganisms we're dealing with and trying to detect and identify, similar to human medicine. It's a lot of work, because antibiotic susceptibility testing is very complex and you have to be up on the current guidelines to perform and report susceptibility testing appropriately."

Worthwhile: "The exciting thing about microbiology is that it is a lot like detective work. You try to find or grow (from any body site imaginable) and identify whether any microorganisms are present and causing an infection. It is very rewarding when you have identified the pathogen or pathogens causing an infection, determined the antibiotic susceptibility, and provided results to the clinician quickly so they can get the patient on appropriate therapy as soon as possible — truly rewarding."

Aaron Goebel, a veterinary medical student employee of the Clinical Pathology lab, views the results of a patient blood specimen run through a hematology analyzer, which rapidly counts and identifies blood cells.

Leah Krawczyk, right, and certified veterinary technician Jennifer Borgen, left, tend to Prim, a UW Veterinary Care oncology patient.

Leah Krawczyk, client care liaison, Medical Oncology and Radiation Oncology

Leah Krawczyk has worked as a veterinary technician for 18 years but recently made the transition to client care liaison with the Medical Oncology and Radiation Oncology services. This new position, launched across a range of specialty services at UW Veterinary Care in 2021, supports expanded client care efforts.

Client care liaisons now serve each hospital service. The role interfaces with clients to prepare them and their animals for appointments, share information, answer questions, and more. This integrated process better prepares each member of the animal's care team. "It's important for everybody to be on the same page," Krawczyk says.

Customer service: "My favorite part is providing support so that everything is taken care of when the patients and clients come in. I really enjoy the client care part because they get to know me and I get to know them."

Setting expectations: "Part of it is getting people to understand expectations with appointments. They may have never had a pet come to a specialty part of the hospital, and there is confusion as to what will happen after they get to their appointment or how long they're going to be here. It's a big part of my job to communicate that, which helps a lot. We don't want to surprise people."

Running point: "Having one person the client knows they can talk to creates more of a personal relationship. Because at a teaching hospital, there could be rotations of the residents and faculty a lot of times. It helps to have a point person they can ask questions. Bringing their pet in, especially with oncology, can be a stressful experience. Knowing someone can make the transition as seamless as possible."

On supporting clients: "I think one of the best ways is to try to be as understanding as possible that they could be going through a lot of stress. And trying to be empathetic also. The clinicians and faculty are very good at recognizing that people find themselves in really stressful circumstances with their pets or whatever else they have going on in their life. It's good to ask owners what their goals are for appointments — focusing on their quality of life, their goals, and ours is really helpful."

Jacob Jankowski and Laura Mikkelson, kennel managers

Jacob Jankowski and Laura Mikkelson serve as kennel managers for UW Veterinary Care's small animal hospital. They oversee a hospital custodian, employ nine student workers, and support virtually every area of patient care.

Yes, kennels staff clean up messes (and boy, have they seen some messes). But their work also includes ordering kennel supplies, stocking and distributing specialized animal diets, coordinating the laundering and delivery of hospital linens, ensuring proper protocols for patient isolation, and much more.

Their function: "Kennels is like the oil of an engine. We are necessary to keep the hospital running smoothly and create space allowing the doctors to focus on their patients."

Best parts of the job: "Two things stick out. First must be the animals. If you are having a rough day, it's great to have the opportunity to pet a cat or snuggle with a puppy for a few minutes. Everyone in this building is here to help the animals. But, more exclusive to the kennels, we are a great starting point for undergraduate students to get into the veterinary field. And we can help them secure more hands-on jobs if they want to continue."

A takeaway: "The kennels are not unique in that our work is done behind the scenes. There are multiple other areas within this hospital that are often overlooked, and there are people outside of this building that do jobs that aren't seen. All jobs are necessary for places to operate."

Kennel manager Jacob Jankowski retrieves pill pocket treats to aid clinicians in delivering medication to UW Veterinary Care patients.

A Closer Look

What does it take to operate a world-renowned veterinary medical teaching hospital? Veterinarians, technicians, pharmacists, staff, and students fuel UW Veterinary Care's excellence.

Combined, this team creates a respected center for training the next generation of veterinarians and specialists and delivering top-quality care with advanced technologies and treatments.

114
FOURTH-YEAR DVM STUDENTS

110
UNDERGRADUATE EMPLOYEES

100
VETERINARY TECHNICIANS AND VETERINARY ASSISTANTS

74
CLINICAL FACULTY AND INSTRUCTORS

70
INTERNS AND RESIDENTS
(veterinarians furthering their education in specialty areas)

12
RECEPTION STAFF

12
CLINICAL PATHOLOGY STAFF

12
PHARMACY TECHNICIANS AND PHARMACISTS

9
DIAGNOSTIC IMAGING RADIOLOGY TECHNOLOGISTS

8
CLIENT SERVICES STAFF
(call center and medical records)

8
ANATOMIC PATHOLOGY STAFF

4
PURCHASING STAFF

4
HOSPITAL ADMINISTRATION

Researchers Work to Develop Bird Flu Vaccine to Contain Future Outbreaks

Since being detected in South Carolina in January, highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) has spread through commercial and backyard flocks across the United States. In March, the first case of bird flu, as it's commonly called, was detected in Wisconsin in a large chicken flock located in Jefferson County. Since then, at least 25 cases in 14 counties in the state have been confirmed.

This isn't the first avian influenza outbreak the US has seen — and it likely won't be the last.

A large outbreak in 2014 and 2015 resulted in the death or culling of over 50 million domesticated birds, with 21 states being affected, including Wisconsin. In its wake, the poultry industry lost over $3 billion, raising the cost of turkey and eggs for several months.

To prepare for and help prevent future outbreaks, researchers at the University of Wisconsin School of Veterinary Medicine are developing an avian flu vaccine to protect poultry flocks and prevent widespread circulation of the virus.

Adel Talaat, a professor of pathobiological sciences at the School of Veterinary Medicine, is in the process of developing a vaccine that would offer domestic birds protection from current and future strains of the virus that emerge over time.

Talaat is a trainer in the School of Veterinary Medicine's Comparative Biomedical Sciences (CBMS) graduate program and mentors several CBMS students in his research lab, including **Shaswath Sekar Chandrasekar, Mostafa Hanafy, Rachel Hildebrand,** and **Bubacarr JB Tourray**.

UNSPLASH

JEFF MILLER: UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS

Adel Talaat, professor of pathobiological sciences, handles a flask of mycobacteria cell culture while working in his lab.

> Being able to make something so tiny but it has the potential to change lives and save billions of dollars, it feels grand. It feels very fulfilling and very large scale.

The vaccine technology Talaat is implementing, called a nanovaccine, uses tiny particles (smaller than the width of a human hair) to deliver immunity by sending pathogen-like signals to cells.

"When dealing with animals, especially poultry, it's important to keep in mind that we would need to be able to vaccinate an entire flock," Talaat says. "We also need to think about how to make this technology inexpensive so it will be economically viable."

Talaat's vaccine development work relies on genetic sequence data gathered from many different strains of avian influenza — data made available by testing and surveillance programs like the one in place at the Wisconsin Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (WVDL).

The lab identified the Jefferson County case in March and is monitoring the spread of avian flu throughout the state, as they did during the 2014-15 outbreak. **Keith Poulsen DVM'04, PhD'12** directs the lab and serves as a clinical assistant professor at the School of Veterinary Medicine.

WVDL's team of diagnostic scientists, led by virology section chief **Ailam Lim**, conducts diagnostic and surveillance testing to identify positive cases of avian influenza as quickly as possible. When a positive case is identified, the U.S. Department of Agriculture

and Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection (DATCP) work to establish a zone of control, limiting the movement of birds in and out of the affected area.

"Working with state and federal partners, we have been really good at controlling the virus by finding it quickly and establishing these control zones," says Poulsen.

Directing the state animal disease response is School of Veterinary Medicine alumna **Darlene Konkle DVM'93 MS'97**, Wisconsin state veterinarian at DATCP. Having been with the agency since 2005, Konkle is familiar with avian influenza outbreaks and played a vital role in the state's response in 2014 and 2015.

While avian flu vaccines are currently available, they are not being used on a large scale on poultry farms because this hinders the ability to conduct surveillance testing, which helps detect the virus in unvaccinated flocks and limit the spread of the disease.

A future vaccine would need to be effective for all different strains of the virus, as it changes over time, to be feasible for widespread use.

Though Talaat's vaccine is not yet available for commercial use, he hopes it will help protect flocks from future outbreaks of avian influenza. Such outbreaks are becoming more frequent, the reasons for which remain under investigation.

While poultry owners should take proper precautions and look for signs of avian influenza in their birds, the risk of human infection is low and there are no known cases of this particular strain, H5N1, spreading to humans in the United States.

"The public should be aware of the outbreak and its potential effects, but not scared," Talaat says.

— Maddie Arthur

From the CBMS Director

There is much to celebrate as the spring 2022 semester winds down while I write this. National and international meetings of our scientific societies are increasingly taking place in person. Students in the Comparative Biomedical Sciences program are getting out to present their work after several years of meetings being canceled or held virtually. Andrea Ewald, Maia Gumnit, Mostafa Hanafy, Rachel Hildebrand, Haley Johnson, Kuan-Hung Lin, Raghu Ramesh, Taylor Schoen, Portia Smith, and Nathan Steinert received travel awards for research presentations from CBMS, and Sarah Ferguson received an award to pursue a professional development experience.

We are also delighted to announce that Emilie Binversie (mentored by Peter Muir) and Shaswath Chandrasekar (mentored by Adel Talaat) are the Richard F. Marsh Outstanding Graduate Student Award recipients. Marsh, a former faculty member in the UW–Madison Department of Animal Health and Biomedical Sciences, was a pioneer in discovering and describing prion proteins as causative agents of encephalopathic disease. Binversie was recognized for her extraordinary achievements in research on genomic determinants of canine orthopedic diseases, and Chandrasekar was honored for his pioneering work in coronavirus vaccine development.

And we are celebrating the work of Nikhila Bharadwaj (mentored by Jenny Gumperz), who received the Ronald Schultz Excellence in Immunology Award. Schultz, emeritus professor and chair of the SVM Department of Pathobiological Sciences, has profoundly impacted veterinary immunology through research on the pathogenesis of viral diseases and the science of vaccines for these diseases. Nikhila is carrying on this tradition of excellence in immunology research with projects studying invariant natural killer T (iNKT) cell biology.

I'd also like to celebrate CBMS students and faculty mentor Lisa Arendt DVM'02 for building and growing our community through a seminar and workshop experience in April. Students Sara Stuedemann, Maia Gumnit, Emily Tran, Hannah Martin, Michele Salzman, Leah Owens, and Lea Matschke worked with Arendt to organize a webinar featuring Sherry Watt, a professor of higher education and student affairs at the University of Iowa, and her research team. More than 100 people from across the SVM and campus participated in a webinar titled Introducing the Theory of Being for Difficult Dialogues in Higher Education. This experience gave us a new framework to think about and discuss difficult conversations around significant societal issues. This webinar was made possible by a Howard Hughes Medical Institute award to Arendt and CBMS student Abbey Williams. I hope this experience sets a new precedent and tradition for a spring seminar organized by our students.

These awards and experiences remind us that our CBMS students have adapted to the challenges of conducting research during a pandemic. They have worked diligently to persevere and even thrive. The honors also provide the opportunity to reflect on the diversity of outstanding research that CBMS students and faculty conduct to improve human and animal health.

Lyric Bartholomay PhD'04
Professor, Department of Pathobiological Sciences
Director, Comparative Biomedical Sciences Graduate Program

An Inspired Leader: Kate Meurs DVM'90

In April, Kate Meurs DVM'90 was named dean of North Carolina State University's College of Veterinary Medicine.

A strong leader, researcher, and teacher, Meurs joined NC State in 2011 as associate dean for research and graduate studies. Before that, she served the colleges of veterinary medicine at Washington State University and The Ohio State University.

Meurs is board certified in cardiology and holds a doctorate in genetics, with expertise in the genetic basis of feline and canine cardiac diseases.

A native of southeastern Wisconsin, Meurs recently reflected on her time at the UW School of Veterinary Medicine, her career, and what drives her.

On Call: Having been in the role of dean for several months now, what are some first impressions?

Meurs: I would never have dreamed, particularly when I started my career, that I would end up as dean of a college. But I have always loved veterinary medicine. And what I learned along the way was that positions like deans and associate deans are there to help people do their jobs as well as they can, and help students and graduate students have a better training program.

One of the best ways to help make the profession better is to take a role in administration to help the next generation of veterinarians have a better educational process and help make it easier for faculty to teach the way they want to teach and do research on important animal health diseases. That's what pulled me into administration and why I'm incredibly honored to have this opportunity to help at an even greater level.

What initially drew you to academia?

In the summer of my first year in veterinary school, I became involved in a summer research program and worked for a veterinary cardiologist. The research was on a heart disease in boxer dogs, which ended up being inherited. I was excited by the idea that if you could figure out what genetic mutation caused that disease, you could try to prevent it.

As a clinician, I can see one patient at a time, and that's rewarding. I love to see patients and their owners. But as a researcher, if you can discover the cause of disease or how to prevent or treat it, you can help a greater number of animals. That concept pulled me into a career in academics.

COURTESY NORTH CAROLINA STATE UNIVERSITY

Kate Meurs, named dean of North Carolina State University College of Veterinary Medicine in April 2022.

As a young faculty member doing research, I found there could be a lot of frustrations — compliance paperwork, learning how to write grants, statistical analysis… As I matured in my faculty role, I thought that I would like to find a way to help other faculty with some of these difficult aspects of a faculty career.

I believe research for animal and human health is really important, but it's hard for faculty, and they're so busy — seeing cases, teaching, or doing research. Having someone in administration who can try to make it a little easier for them can have a significant impact on their feelings about the whole research process.

> I do love our patients — that's a part of veterinary medicine that I was originally drawn to. But I really enjoy and am inspired by the humans in our profession and what they're trying to do for animal and human health every single day.

You completed a small animal internship at NC State, where you now serve as dean. What would you say about the importance of early career experiences and preserving connections?

I think the first year after graduation is incredibly important. I came here after an excellent education at Wisconsin and felt well supported. It gave me a great start to my career.

The first year after graduation can either be very positive and give you a sense where you belong and what you want to do with your career, or it can leave you with negative feelings about a job and the profession.

I would encourage new graduates to really think about their first job or training program. It's the first time you're a doctor, making difficult decisions and managing medical issues on your own. Your first year has a long-term effect on your job satisfaction and how you think about the profession.

The other thing, about connections, is veterinary medicine is still a small world. I love that about it. Those networks and friendships you build along the way are one of the most fun parts about the career. It's nice to have that closeness and those shared pathways.

You're the first female dean of your College of Veterinary Medicine. What does that mean to you?

I think that my class was about 50 percent women, but there were not too many women in leadership roles. So, most of my mentors were men and they were all incredibly supportive.

When I was a student at Wisconsin, I never had any sense that I couldn't do this or there would be any issue with me being a woman. Wisconsin gave me a sense that in veterinary medicine, I could do anything I want.

Sheila McGuirk [professor emerita] was a wonderful role model to many of us at that time. She was a wonderful teacher, an excellent clinician and researcher, and seemed to balance her life out of work as well as her work life. She showed us all of the wonderful opportunities you can have in this profession.

I hope that serving as the first woman dean at this college shows the female students that if they want this type of role, they can have it.

Are there other memories that stick out from UW?

I feel that the School of Veterinary Medicine was a very close community. I feel very, very fortunate to be a Wisconsin graduate, and I'm really, really proud.

As I've advanced, no matter where I am, if I say I'm a University of Wisconsin graduate, people know the University of Wisconsin, and they hold it in high esteem.

Now or throughout your career, where do you find inspiration as a leader?

I love seeing the people in our profession succeed and be excited about this incredible career. The students, residents, graduate students, and our faculty — it is inspring to see them succeed and also how they manage career challenges. I do love our patients — that's a part of veterinary medicine that I was originally drawn to. But I really enjoy and am inspired by the humans in our profession and what they're trying to do for animal and human health every single day.

— *Meghan Lepisto*

In Memoriam

The UW School of Veterinary Medicine regrets to announce the loss of an alumna.

Stephen Hussey DVM'95 passed away in February. Hussey always had a big heart for all animals and humans. He worked in the veterinary profession for 25 years in Wisconsin, Colorado, and then Michigan. Most of all, he was a devoted and loving dad to his son and daughter.

A Message to DVM Alumni

As promised in my spring column, your Alumni Advisory Board has launched the UW School of Veterinary Medicine Alumni Association. I am excited for this evolution as it allows more of you to be involved in keeping a strong connection with one another and the school. This is especially important as we collectively work to increase networking and mentorship opportunities, promote the profession to future students, including those from diverse backgrounds, and identify ways to continue supporting both students and alumni. I hope you will join and be a part of these efforts.

The alumni association is the latest initiative from the advisory board. Some of their prior accomplishments include the "by alumni for alumni" newsletter that the school sends on their behalf and the launch of the alumni awards. Perhaps more behind the scenes, they have been quite helpful in providing feedback on a variety of topics, ranging from the structure of alumni reunions to conversations about addressing student debt load.

Like the alumni advisory board, the alumni association will continue to serve in that advisory role. While they do not have fiduciary or policy oversight, they will provide critical feedback to the school and be an important partner in efforts that benefit not only alumni, but also students. More information about the UW SVM Alumni Association, including its leadership board and how to join, is available at **www.vetmed.wisc.edu/alumni-association**.

One of the reasons the school is ranked among the best (top 12 in the world, according to the recent QS rankings of veterinary science schools) is because of you — our alumni. Your engagement and the numerous ways you contribute to our programs and the profession make a difference. The SVM alumni association is one more way we can work together to ensure the school's continued success in teaching and training the next generation of veterinarians and supporting their career endeavors.

Kristi V. Thorson
Associate Dean for Advancement and Administration

UW Health Clinicians Pair with Veterinarians in Anesthesiology Elective

Carrie Schroeder, section head of Anesthesiology at the UW School of Veterinary Medicine, wants clinicians in both human and veterinary medicine to know they hold a lot more in common than they might think. An elective at the SVM for physician residents of UW Health helps make that possible.

The program, coordinated and formalized by Schroeder, allows human medicine anesthesiology residents to spend a week at UW Veterinary Care to gain a new perspective in a different line of practice. The exchange happens around eight times a year, but Schroeder expects further expansion.

As the program has developed, so have opportunities for SVM trainees. UW Veterinary Care residents are now invited to UW Health Anesthesiology rounds (presentations of a clinical issue). Coordinators are also exploring opportunities for veterinary residents to rotate through the human hospital, as well as potential research partnerships.

During the week they visit UW Veterinary Care, each UW Health resident has flexibility on what types of cases they observe and study. **Nyle Larson**, a recent resident participant, had the opportunity to learn from patients ranging in size from a small snake to a 1,600-pound horse.

"I think the horse anesthetic was the most intense induction I saw while at the vet school and the most physically demanding that I've ever seen — humans or animals," he says.

Larson learned of the elective from program alumni, who praised it, and he wants to continue the tradition of recommending it to potential UW Health residents. He noted the rotation as a unique feature when interviewing for residencies four years ago.

Christopher Darling, associate professor and residency program director in the UW Health Department of Anesthesiology, confirms these sentiments. "From a recruitment standpoint, it's been huge," he says. "I think we're the only program in the country that offers an experience like this. It's one of the big things we're asked about on recruitment days. A lot of students are drawn to us because of their interest in getting that experience."

For Schroeder, the opportunity to facilitate and guide the program toward success has been rewarding. "Our jobs are very similar in veterinary and human medicine," she says. "The elective provides low-stakes learning for visiting residents. They can learn for the sake of learning and appreciate what they do for anesthesia, how we do it a bit differently, and how the art of anesthesia is similar just with different species."

Ultimately, the pairing encompasses the "one health" idea: optimal health outcomes are achieved when people work together and recognize the interconnectedness of humans, animals, and the shared environment.

"It was eye-opening to see how the physiology of animals compared to humans," Larson says. "Also surprising was that a lot of the medicines we use are identical to medicine veterinarians use, even down to the doses."

Alisyn Amant

UW Health Anesthesiology resident Nyle Larson, right, discusses induction of anesthesia in an equine patient with members of the UW Veterinary Care clinical team during a weeklong elective in the hospital.

MEGHAN LEPISTO/UW SCHOOL OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

ANYTHING IS PAW-SIBLE

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Your gifts allow us to do more. Gifts support diagnostic equipment upgrades and clinical research studies that save lives, prevent injuries, and extend time with loved ones. They help provide educational support for our students.

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Diversity in Detail

On May 20-22, the University of Wisconsin School of Veterinary Medicine hosted the Iverson Bell Midwest Regional Diversity Summit to promote diversity and inclusion in veterinary medicine, with particular attention to academia.

A highlight of the event was a community mural project led by artist **Tia Richardson** focused on community, engagement, inclusivity, and belonging. Feedback from SVM faculty, staff, and students shared in workshops ahead of the summit helped guide the mural's design. Then the SVM community and summit attendees helped paint the mural. The collaborative effort will ultimately be displayed in the school's Renk Learning Center, to be unveiled this fall.

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A portion of a mock-up of a rough draft of the mural by artist Tia Richardson.