



# ALUMNI E-NEWS

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN SCHOOL OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

January/February 2022



## Above and Beyond

ZimmVet, a veterinary clinic in Zimmerman, Minnesota owned by UW School of Veterinary Medicine alumna **Maria Krenz DVM'06**, was named the 2021 AAHA-Accredited Practice of the Year by the American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA). Krenz credits her talented team, which includes fellow SVM graduate **Abby Soderberg DVM'18**, and says her time at the SVM provided foundational experience for operating a successful practice “This award belongs to all of our incredible staff, who truly go above and beyond every day to provide a positive veterinary experience,” says Krenz.

[Read More](#)

# School News

*The latest updates on research, faculty and staff, and other happenings at the school.*

## Recent research advances:

- UW School of Veterinary Medicine Professor of Pathobiological Sciences **Yoshihiro Kawaoka** will lead a research collaboration, the [Pan-Coronavirus Vaccine consortium](#). The consortium, totaling about \$7 million in funding from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, is one of three teams the National Institutes of Health announced it was investing in that are working to develop a vaccine that would simultaneously work against a broad range of coronaviruses. **Related:** A [new study led by Kawaoka](#) confirms that, compared to earlier versions of the SARS-CoV-2 virus, the omicron variant causes less severe disease in mice and hamsters, which are reliable models for understanding COVID-19.
- **Albee Messing**, professor emeritus of comparative biosciences, and collaborators published research in *Science Translational Medicine* describing a [potential new treatment for Alexander disease](#), a progressive and rare neurological disorder with no cure or standard course of treatment. The new study provided preliminary data instrumental for a current human clinical trial.

## Honors and awards:

- **Daryl Buss**, former dean and professor emeritus with the UW School of Veterinary Medicine, is the [recipient of the 2022 Billy E. Hooper Award for Distinguished Service](#) from the American Association of Veterinary Medical Colleges (AAVMC). Buss was honored for his more than 50-year career, including clinical practice, teaching, leadership of academic institutions and AAVMC, and ultimately, serving as editor-in-chief of the AAVMC'S *Journal of Veterinary Medical Education*.
- **Bruce Christensen**, professor emeritus with the Department of Pathobiological Sciences, is the 2021 recipient of the [Harry Hoogstraal Medal for Outstanding Achievement in Medical Entomology](#), a lifetime achievement award from the American Committee of Medical Entomologists and American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene.
- **Nigel Cook**, professor of food animal production medicine, is the recipient of the 2021 American Association of Bovine Practitioners Award of Excellence. Cook is known for his expertise in lameness prevention, management of heat stress, cow comfort, assessment of transition cows, maintenance of milk quality and general cow wellbeing.
- **Taylor Weary**, a DVM/PhD dual degree student, is the inaugural [recipient of the Dr. Gregory D. Bossart Memorial One Health Scholarship](#). The scholarship aims to support research exploring the intersections between human, animal and environmental health. Weary studies the movement of respiratory diseases from human children to chimpanzees in Uganda's Kibale National Park.

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## Alumni Updates

*The latest news about your classmates and items of special interest to alumni.*

**SVM Alumni Awards:** [Nominations are now open](#) for UW School of Veterinary Medicine Alumni Awards in three categories, providing opportunities for both DVM and graduate degree program alumni to be recognized. The SVM Alumni Advisory Board launched the alumni awards program in 2019 to recognize graduates who have made significant contributions to society, and whose accomplishments, affiliations and careers have honored the legacy of excellence at the school. [Nominate](#) a DVM or MS/PhD graduate by April 1.

**Marie Bucko DVM'21** will serve as chief of staff to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's chief veterinary officer in the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service effective Jan. 31. Bucko

was most recently a science and technology advisor with the National Pork Producers Council.

**Myron Kebus MS'90, DVM'92**, Wisconsin's state aquaculture veterinarian, was featured in a recent [JAVMA News article](#) exploring how fish medicine is gaining veterinarians, who hope for specialty recognition. "One of the challenges that veterinarians have in fish veterinary medicine is, unlike our colleagues in dog, cat or poultry sectors, the public — including the fish farmers — aren't as familiar with what veterinary training encompasses, what our skill assets are and what we can provide," Kebus said.

**Douglas Kratt DVM'98** of Central Animal Hospital in Onalaska, Wisconsin [spoke with WKBT](#) about cold weather dangers for pets, including frostbite.



## YOUR PERSPECTIVE

**“Veterinary medicine is such a team effort. Problem-solving with my peers, students and faculty to give the patient a higher quality of life and maybe avoid hospitalization is rewarding, to say the least.”**

*-Adam Lepold DVM'21, the first person awarded the [Zoe and Lexi Wells Primary Care Internship](#) at UW Veterinary Care. A gift from **Deborah Wells** and her husband **Tom DeBeck**, along with a commitment from the teaching hospital, recently established this new primary care advanced training program.*

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## Upcoming Events

**March 23**

### **UW School of Veterinary Medicine Career Exploration Day**

*Offering UW DVM students centralized professional development and networking opportunities with potential employers. If you are interested in participating in this event as an employer, please email [Cecilia Grinis](#), the school's career development coordinator.*

1:30-5:30 p.m.

School of Veterinary Medicine

**June 25**

### **Alumni Reunion**

*All alumni and families are welcome as we celebrate graduates from the classes of 1987 • 1992 • 1997 • 2002 • 2007 • 2012 • 2017*

11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Veterinary Medicine Building

[More information](#)

Ongoing Clinical Trials



## Dogs With Idiopathic Epilepsy

UW Veterinary Care is currently investigating if seizure frequency is affected by probiotic supplementation. This study will provide a better understanding of the role of probiotics and the microbiome in seizure control in dogs. Any dog 1-9 years old diagnosed with idiopathic epilepsy who can eat a consistent AAFCO-approved commercial diet (not raw) for one year can participate. Dogs cannot have taken antibiotics for at least six months before the study.

[More Studies](#)



## DID YOU KNOW

In May, the UW School of Veterinary Medicine will host the [2022 Iverson Bell Midwest Regional Diversity Summit](#). The Iverson Bell Summit is named for the first African-American veterinarian to hold the position of vice president in the American Veterinary Medical Association. The primary goal of the summit is to promote diversity and inclusion in veterinary medicine, with special attention to academia. The school is honored to host this important summit drawing veterinary medical faculty, staff and students from across the Midwest.

