



ALUMNI E-NEWS

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN SCHOOL OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

July/August 2023



Alumni-Student Mentor Program

Help shape the future of the veterinary medical workforce

Mentors can play an important role in helping students to find their community, fostering their professional development skills, and encouraging them to take advantage of resources that are available to them. Mentors also can help support students as they navigate the challenges and opportunities of the DVM program and help to build confidence as students prepare for their post-graduation plans.

The SVM Alumni-Student Mentor Program connects second- and third-year students with alumni who share the UW-Madison DVM experience. We are seeking mentors who represent a multitude of backgrounds, interests, and identities and who are interested in sharing their time and expertise to help mentees prepare for their future as veterinary medical professionals.

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School News

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

Dean **Mark Markel** was elected as President-elect of the AO Foundation, the world's largest orthopedic foundation in the world. He will be the first veterinarian to lead the organization in its 65-year history, serving as president-elect from 2023-2025 and as president from 2025-2027.

Gillian McLellan (Surgical Sciences), **Nigel Cook** (Medical Sciences), **Jyoti Watters** (Comparative Biosciences) and **Kristen Bernard** (Pathobiological Sciences) were selected by their respective departmental members to continue their role as department chairs.

The cover of this month's Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association (JAVMA) features the school's mural "Learning, Leading, and Loving." Artist Tia Richardson led a series of collaborative design workshops with SVM faculty, staff, and students to inspire the final piece. The mural was commissioned for the Iverson Bell Midwest Regional Diversity Summit in May 2022, where members of the SVM community and Iverson Bell participants helped paint the initial stages of the mural.

More than 150 SVM alumni attended the annual reunion on June 24th. [View a collection of photos from the event](#)

Research News

Freya Mowat (Surgical Sciences) has been awarded an ICTR Translational and Clinical Research pilot project award as co-PI with **Amy Schultz** of UW-Madison's Survey of the Health of Wisconsin (SHOW). The goals of their project are to determine whether lead concentration in soil/dust in households with pets are different to those without pets, and how pets and lead might modify the soil, dust and gut microbiome of humans.



Rae McAtee, a second-year Small Animal Internal Medicine resident, won first place for her research poster at the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine (ACVIM) Conference in Philadelphia. She also received second place for the Comparative Gastroenterology Society's poster presentations!

Alex Aubrecht (small animal rotating intern) and **Robb Hardie** (Surgical Sciences) presented two abstracts at the annual scientific meeting of the Society of Veterinary Soft Tissue Surgery in Jacksonville, Florida. Both studies aim to improve the way dogs with palatal defects and right-sided intrahepatic shunts are treated and potentially increase the success rates for treatment of these dogs.

SVM was well represented at the European College of Veterinary Ophthalmologists (ECVO) Annual Meeting in Rhodes, Greece. **Lauren Trepanier** and **Gillian McClellan** were main speakers in the Continuing Education and MasterClass programs, the main focus of which was "Clinical Investigation in Veterinary Ophthalmology: Aspects of Study Design." **Freya Mowat** also presented her research on screen interaction behavior in companion dogs. **Seth Eaton** presented his research on optimizing the local anesthetic volume administered to horses undergoing eye surgery at the International Equine Ophthalmology Consortium Meeting in Edinburgh, Scotland.

Johanna Elfenbein (Pathobiological Sciences) received funding for a R21 grant to study how bacteria sense and respond to sulfites encountered during infection and/or in food products.

Chad Vezina (Comparative Biosciences) and Heidi Brown (SMPH) received a renewal of their training grant "Wisconsin Multidisciplinary K12 Urologic Research Career Development Program Grant" from the NIH/NIDDK. This training grant supports the transition to research independence of clinicians and basic science researchers studying benign urology.

Ted Golos (Comparative Biosciences) with MPI Aleks Stanic (SMPH) received a new R21 grant entitled "Gestationally driven trafficking of decidual lymphocytes assessed by serial

intravascular staining.”

Fei Zhao (Comparative Biosciences) published a high profile review article “Epithelial and mesenchymal fate decisions in Wolffian duct development” in Trends in Endocrinology and Metabolism. The paper provides a new perspective of reproductive organ development.

Kate Jones, diagnostic imaging resident, (Surgical Sciences) presented her research project “18F-FDG PET/MRI in Canine Brain Tumor Patients” at the International Veterinary Radiology Association conference in Dublin, Ireland

Jessica Hite (Pathobiological Sciences) received a NSF-NIH Ecology and Evolution of Infectious Disease grant to develop spatio-temporal transmission models that account for the non-linear and interactive effects of ecology, behavior, and immunology on helminth transmission. This project also includes an exciting art-science collaboration involving First Nations artists and science journalism students. She will collaborate on this \$5 million grant with Dr. Amanda Hund at Carelton College, Dr. Dan Bolnick at the University of Connecticut, and Dr. Sebastian Schreiber at UC-Davis. Hite also received a USDA-NIFA SEED grant to develop bioenergetic approaches to limit cross-species transmission of *Salmonella*. This is a collaborative grant with Dr. Steve Ricke in the Department of Animal and Dairy Sciences.

Media Coverage

David Vail, SVM medical oncologist, was a guest on Wisconsin Public Radio’s [The Morning Show](#) to discuss the latest advancements in veterinary medicine and shared his expertise and tips for dealing with sick pets.

Lia Forrest, SVM radiation oncology section head, and **David Vail**, SVM medical oncologist, were featured in an [NBC15 story](#) in Madison about comparative cancer research that benefits both humans and animals. The story focus on the school's Radixact radiation therapy machine, which delivers cancer treatment with pinpoint accuracy and was purchased with gifts received following the 2020 WeatherTech Super Bowl commercial.

Lyric Bartholomay, professor and director of the comparative biomedical sciences graduate program, was a guest on Channel 3’s [Live at Four](#) to discuss the harm that ticks pose to humans and animals – and what people should be looking out for.

Erin Lashnits, clinical assistant professor in small animal internal medicine, was interviewed by [Channel 27](#) and [Channel 3](#) for stories about keeping pets safe during days with unhealthy air quality.



We hope you received our mailer late last month and are considering renewing your SVMAA membership, or joining for the first time.

**Annual SVMAA membership: July 1 - June 30.*

Your membership includes:

A GIFT FOR YOU

All members who make a \$60 minimum gift will receive a SVMAA medallion upon initial enrollment.

SPECIAL INVITATIONS

Members are invited to attend the school's annual Dean's Luncheon held on campus in September. This event will also be offered virtually.

YOUR VOICE AT THE TABLE

Invitation to participate in SVMAA meetings — in person or virtually.

ENDLESS CONNECTIONS

Play an active role in supporting the school, alumni, and current students

[Join/Renew](#)

Alumni Storytelling Project

We want to hear from you! All SVM alumni are invited to share their stories from veterinary school, career highlights, and words of wisdom and inspiration via the UW SVM Alumni Storytelling Project. Select stories will be featured on the digital screens in the school for all to view and may potentially be shared via the school's publications, website, and social media channels as well.



[Share your Story](#)

Upcoming Events

September 21

Alumni Reception

AABP Conference

Oak Barrel Public House, Milwaukee

7 -9 pm

November 11

Tailgate 2023

UW vs. Northwestern

Details TBD



Clinical Trial: Feline Tooth Resorption

We are currently enrolling cats in a clinical study on genetic mutations associated with tooth resorption, a painful and recurrent oral disease that is common in cats. The data collected will be used to develop a genetic test for the condition.

If your cat is 12 years or older, has all of its teeth, and no sign of resorptive lesions, it may qualify to have a free dental cleaning and full mouth radiographs to confirm. If healthy, we will collect a small blood sample while your cat is under anesthesia.

Learn
More



DID YOU KNOW

According to [data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics](#), the average veterinarian salary in Wisconsin increased by 49 percent, up from \$99,860 in 2020 to \$148,680 in 2022 -- the second-highest increase in the country behind Hawaii.

