



# ALUMNI E-NEWS

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN SCHOOL OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

May/June 2022



## Building a More Inclusive Veterinary Community

**Cara Williams DVM'13** has found a perfect fit as a veterinary medical officer at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, but she faced numerous hurdles on the way to her dream career. Feelings of burnout, absence of worker protections and a lack of diversity within the field burdened Williams. But she persevered. Now, she continues to nurture and build a more inclusive community for future generations of doctors, including through the Multicultural Veterinary Medical Association, which she founded.

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# School News

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

Earlier this month, the school celebrated the [Class of 2022](#) graduation and investiture ceremonies and welcomed the Class of 2023 into clinical education. Congratulations to all!

The UW School of Veterinary Medicine is proud to host the [2022 Iverson Bell Midwest Regional Diversity Summit](#) on May 20-22. The summit's primary goal is to promote diversity and inclusion in veterinary medicine, with special attention to academia.

**Jennifer Mnookin**, dean of the School of Law at the University of California, Los Angeles, has been named the 30th leader of the University of Wisconsin–Madison. Mnookin replaces **Rebecca Blank** and will begin as chancellor on Aug. 4. [Learn more about the next chancellor.](#)

The UW School of Veterinary Medicine and Wisconsin Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory were part of a collaborative effort to detect the currently circulating H5N1 strain of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) [in several fox kits in Wisconsin](#). This detection in wild red foxes is the first report of HPAI infections in mammals in the United States, though infections of fox kits have since been reported in Minnesota and Michigan. It was also detected in foxes in Ontario, Canada, earlier this month. **Related:** In response to another viral disease spreading across the U.S., rabbit hemorrhagic disease, UW Veterinary Care has begun [offering an emergency-authorized vaccine](#) against the disease for rabbits.



## Recent research advances:

- A new citizen-science study led by **Freya Mowat**, assistant professor with the Department of Surgical Sciences and School of Medicine and Public Health's Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences, is asking dog owners to help shed light on [what dogs like to watch on television](#). The results could lay the groundwork for developing better ways of assessing vision in dogs.
- As part of research studying viruses in all their movements and mutations, Professor **Tony Goldberg** and his lab are [checking North American bats for SARS-CoV-2](#), the virus that causes COVID-19. If bats were to acquire the virus, they might serve to re-infect human populations, lengthening the pandemic.
- A second line of defense — the immune system's T cells — [may offer protection from COVID-19](#) even when vaccine-induced antibodies no longer can, according to new research led by **Marulasiddappa Suresh**, a professor of immunology, and published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

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## Alumni Updates

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

**Ruthanne Chun DVM'91**, clinical professor of oncology, has been elected as a distinguished fellow of the National Academies of Practice, an interprofessional, nonprofit organization with members representing a range of health care professions.

**Darlene Konkle DVM'93, MS'97**, Wisconsin state veterinarian, is leading the state animal disease response to the current [outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza](#).

**Macy Leponiemi DVM'17** has [joined Hill-Dale Veterinary Care](#) of Baraboo, Wisconsin. Leponiemi had been practicing small animal medicine in private practice and shelters in southern Wisconsin and is now established in her hometown of Baraboo.

**Sandra Newbury DVM'03**, director of the UW School of Veterinary Medicine Shelter Medicine Program and clinical associate professor of shelter medicine, was presented with the Dane County Humane Society Centennial Visionary Award at the organization's gala in March.

**Jorge Osorio MS'88, PhD'96**, an expert in epidemiology, virology and vaccines and professor of pathobiological sciences in the UW School of Veterinary Medicine, has been named the [next director of the UW–Madison Global Health Institute](#).



## YOUR PERSPECTIVE

**“My vision of the field has always been very broad in terms of its potential. It's good to have a plan, but you need to remain open to the opportunities that arise.”**

*-Daryl Buss MS'74, PhD'75, former dean and professor emeritus with the UW School of Veterinary Medicine, speaking in an [American Association of Veterinary Medical Colleges \(AAVMC\) video](#) that highlights his career and contributions to academic veterinary medicine and the veterinary profession. Buss was [presented the 2022 Billy E. Hooper Award for Distinguished Service](#) at the AAVMC annual conference in March.*

## Upcoming Events

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](#)

\*Please register by June 17.

## Ongoing Clinical Trials

UW Veterinary Care is recruiting healthy and sick cats to study the accuracy of canine scent detection in identifying cancer. This study investigates whether dogs can detect samples from patients with cancer via scent, which could aid in cancer detection. Healthy cats aged 1-6 years old qualify, as do cats of any age diagnosed with cancer, feline leukemia virus (FeLV), feline immunodeficiency virus (FIV), kidney, liver, hyperthyroid or gastrointestinal disease, or diabetes. Three pairs of saliva swabs, which can be collected at home or at UW Veterinary Care (rubbed on a cat's gums and cheek pouches), will be obtained from enrolled patients.



## DID YOU KNOW

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

The system's metrics are based on a number of factors, including academic reputation, employer reputation and research citations per paper.

