



ALUMNI E-NEWS

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN SCHOOL OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

May/June 2023



Congratulations to the SVM Class of 2023!

Friends, family, faculty, and staff came together May 13th to celebrate the Class of 2023 and their extraordinary commitment to becoming doctors of veterinary medicine—an accomplishment made all the more impressive given the tumultuous and unpredictable events of the last few years. Their grit and perseverance speak volumes not only about the kind of students they were at the SVM but the kind of dedicated professionals they will become.

A couple weeks prior to commencement, the school held its annual SVM Celebration of Excellence Awards, which recognizes the individual efforts of the students and faculty who both work and learn at the UW School of Veterinary Medicine. [View the award recipients.](#)

We are proud of our latest alumni and can't wait to hear about the meaningful impact they will make in their respective fields and the world at large.

School News

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

U.S. News & World Report announced in April that the School of Veterinary Medicine rose to seventh place (tied three ways) in



their rankings of veterinary medical schools in the US! While this is not the only way to define the school's success, it is a testament to the tireless work of our outstanding faculty, staff, and students. We are proud of our achievements and look forward to continuing to provide world-class education, research, and care in the field of veterinary medicine.

Research Matters

Starr Cameron, clinical assistant professor in small animal neurology, presented a [webinar](#) in collaboration with TEDxMileHigh, during which she shared her research on canine and feline cognition and discussed common misperceptions about cognitive decline.



Freya Mowat, assistant professor of surgical sciences, has been named the recipient of the prestigious Dr. Joe G. Hollyfield New Investigator Award for Macular Degeneration Research from the [BrightFocus Foundation](#). Dr. Mowat's research focuses on outer retinal aging and disease, especially in dogs.

M. Suresh, associate dean for research & graduate training, was invested with the John E. Butler Professorship in Comparative and Mucosal Immunology. Dr. Suresh's investiture award was presented by Dr. John Butler, who's supported the professorship since 2018. The professorship supports Suresh's research, which focuses on immunology in humans and in animals.

Media Coverage

Miranda Braithwaite (DVM'18) was featured in [The Cap Times](#) for the work she does via her house call practice, SagePet Home Veterinary Care, which serves all pets but with a focus on senior pets and pets with chronic illnesses.

SVM Dean **Mark Markel** was interviewed by the [Midwest Farm Report](#) about Racehorse care, the risks of competing in the sport, and some things horse owners should be thinking about ahead of their competition season (rodeos, pulls, etc.)

Lyric Bartholomay (PhD'04) professor and director of the comparative biomedical sciences graduate program, was featured in a [NBC26 story](#) in Green Bay about the 'Asian Tiger Mosquito.' Dr. Bartholomay was part of the team that discovered the disease-carrying mosquito in Wisconsin.

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.

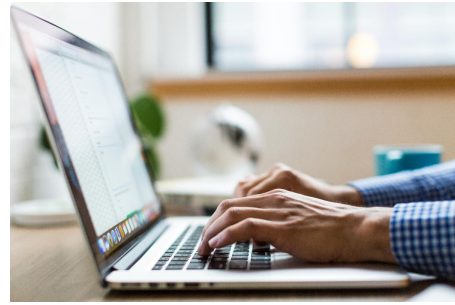


Get Involved

Join or renew your membership today in the UW School of Veterinary Medicine Alumni Association (SVMAA). The SVMAA was established July 1, 2022 to support the advancement of the University of Wisconsin School of Veterinary Medicine through alumni engagement. It replaces the alumni advisory board that was established in 2008.

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



Your Perspective

“I think that what really drove the product was that we want to use this in our lives. The impact you could have on veterinarians is pretty profound.”

Annie Pankowski (DVM'23) speaking about Transfur, Inc., a software startup she co-founded with her sister, Ali. The platform is a business-to-business software model that uses AI to help veterinarians request, send and review medical records of patients who have received care from other clinics

Upcoming Events

June 24

Alumni Reunion

Veterinary Medicine Building

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

All alumni and families are welcome as we celebrate graduates from the classes of 1988 • 1993 • 1998 • 2003 • 2008 • 2013 • 2018

[More](#)

Tailgate 2023

Date is still being finalized, but will likely be in November.

More information will be available soon.

Ongoing Clinical Trials

Seeking Dogs with SARDS



Sudden acquired retinal degeneration syndrome (SARDS) causes rapid and irreversible blindness in dogs, and UW researchers need your help to find out why. We are currently recruiting dogs for a clinical study that will examine whether issues with their blood flow contributes to the devastating vision loss associated with the disease. Eligible dogs will have been diagnosed with SARDS and be able to travel to the UW Veterinary Hospital

[Learn More](#)



DID YOU KNOW

Over half of living SVM alumni reside in WI (as of May 2022) and the remainder reside on all continents except Antarctica.

