



# ALUMNI E-NEWS

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN SCHOOL OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

May/June 2024

## ***Jonathan Levine to Become New Dean of the School of Veterinary Medicine***

Jonathan Levine, a professor of veterinary neurology and the head of small animal clinical sciences at Texas A&M University, has been selected as the next leader of the University of Wisconsin–Madison School of Veterinary Medicine.

Levine will step into the role on August 1 and become the fourth dean in the school's 41-year history. He will replace Mark D. Markel, who announced last summer that he would step back from the position after 12 years of service to return to the faculty as a professor of large animal surgery.



Read  
More

### **Meet Our Incoming Dean at the AVMA Reception Friday, June 21**

Please join us and welcome incoming dean Jon Levine at the SVM's AVMA Alumni Reception on Friday, June 21 in Austin. We'll be gathering at [Café Blue Downtown](#) (340 E. 2<sup>nd</sup> St.) from 7-9pm. We'll have complimentary hors d'oeuvres and a drink ticket, with additional drinks available for purchase. Network with other SVM alumni and friends and take this opportunity to connect with Dr. Levine. Please RSVP to Kristi Thorson ([kristi.thorson@wisc.edu](mailto:kristi.thorson@wisc.edu)) by June 12 if you plan to attend. We hope to see you there!



## **SVM North Building Opening in June**

The first two weeks in June will mark an exciting transition as our North Building is set to open with normal hours on Monday, June 10 (*a note for our alumni who are referring veterinarians: between June 3-10, please call 608-263-7600 to confirm our status before referring emergency cases*).

We're thrilled to open this welcoming state-of-the-art space that will allow the school and teaching hospital to grow our leadership position in veterinary medicine. The enhanced facilities improve instructional space for students, double the size of the small animal hospital, significantly enhance the large animal hospital, expand labs for studying naturally occurring animal and human diseases, and increase and modernize infectious disease research spaces. Stay tuned for updates as we shift focus to starting the renovations needed to update and enhance the SVM South Building.

All alumni and their families are welcome  
as we celebrate graduates from the classes of  
1989 • 1994 • 1999 • 2004 • 2009 • 2014 • 2019

# Alumni Reunion

## JUNE 22, 2024

MADISON, WISCONSIN

**REGISTER TODAY**

[www.vetmed.wisc.edu/alumni-reunion](http://www.vetmed.wisc.edu/alumni-reunion)

We're excited to welcome alumni and families to celebrate our graduating classes of 1989, 1994, 1999, 2004, 2009, 2014 and 2019.

Saturday, June 22, 2024, 11:30am – 2:30pm  
Veterinary Medicine Building: 2015 Linden Drive, Madison  
\$10/individual or \$30/families of three or more

Visit the [Alumni Reunion webpage](#) for more details. Hotel reservations must be made by Thursday, May 30 to receive the discounted rate. Advance registration by Thursday, June 6 is required to attend.



## ***Congratulations Class of 2024***

We're thrilled to extend our congratulations to the exceptional Class of 2024 DVM students, who have reached an incredible milestone in their journey to become veterinarians. With 88 dedicated individuals poised to make a difference in the world of veterinary medicine, we eagerly anticipate their impact on the field. Congrats to all!

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## ***Attention SVM Alumni - We Want to Hear from You***

The [SVM Alumni Association](#) Board is asking you to share your thoughts in an effort to fully serve our alumni and address any ideas or concerns. Please take about 10-15 minutes to complete [this survey](#). Responses are appreciated by June 1. Thanks in advance for your participation.

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## ***Clinical Studies in Oncology***

Below are the highlights of two oncology trials of many that are currently active for recruitment.

### ***RPT (Radiopharmaceutical Therapy): Combination Radiation and Immunotherapy for Advanced Cancer***

In collaboration with the UW Carbone Cancer Center, we are developing a new approach to the treatment of cancer that has spread beyond the primary tumor (metastatic cancer). This trial involves two ways to stimulate a patient's own immune system to fight their cancer.

### ***Evaluating Safety and Effectiveness of 45H1 (anti-CTLA-4), a Novel Anticancer Agent, When Given to Dogs with Cancer***

Led by the National Cancer Institute (NCI), this study assesses the safety and effectiveness of ch45H1 (anti-CTLA-4), a novel anticancer agent designed to help your dog's immune system fight their cancer. Data will be used to assist in the development of additional novel anticancer agents in humans.

Visit our [website](#) for additional details on these and other clinical studies, call 608-890-0422 or email [onclinicaltrials@vetmed.wisc.edu](mailto:onclinicaltrials@vetmed.wisc.edu). Also check out the American Veterinary Medical Association [registry](#) of clinical trials.

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## SVM in the News

Two big stories from Wisconsin zoos featuring several SVM faculty, staff and alumni captured a lot of attention this spring! Read about Kendi, a male reticulated giraffe at the Milwaukee County Zoo and his first-of-its-kind procedure [here](#), and Datu, a critically endangered male Bornean orangutan who resides at Henry Vilas Zoo in Madison, [here](#).

Professor [Masatoshi Suzuki](#) (comparative biosciences), along with partners in the UW College of Engineering, recently [published findings](#) about how a new model will help researchers connect dots at the intersection of our joints, where two different types of tissues make it vulnerable to injury.

Professor [Tony Goldberg](#)'s (pathobiological sciences) work in Uganda, studying why viruses that cause mild sniffles in humans are devastating populations of chimpanzees and gorillas, was the subject of [a recent feature in The Guardian](#).

SVM and the Wisconsin Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (WVDL) have been at the forefront of studying and monitoring the recent spread of avian flu to dairy cattle, a topic that has been covered heavily in the news. The results of recent research about potential risks to humans consuming raw milk were shared by Professor [Yoshihiro Kawaoka](#) (pathobiological sciences) and [Dr. Keith Poulsen](#), director of the WVDL, in a [letter published in the New England Journal of Medicine](#).

Professor [Douglas DeBoer](#) (medical sciences) was recently interviewed for a comprehensive look at [whether dogs suffer from seasonal allergies](#), and how it presents differently than allergies in their human companions.

**CDR Catherine (Ryan) Rockwell**, who says the passage of time since she received her DVM degree in 1993 has not dampened her fond memories of her time here, was recently honored to be the subject of an "[Officer Spotlight](#)" published by the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps. She serves as a senior public health advisor in the Office of Public Health Science at the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service (USDA FSIS).

