



ALUMNI E-NEWS

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN SCHOOL OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

September/October 2023



CLINICAL SKILLS MODELS & SIMULATORS



Take a peek inside our state-of-the-art Maeck Family Clinical Skills Training Center! From low-resolution models to high-tech simulators, our equipment is designed to provide students with a comprehensive, hands-on learning experience, which helps to ensure our students transition from foundational knowledge to clinical competency. Watch the video below to see firsthand how these tools and techniques are helping to shape the next generation of veterinary medical experts and SVM alumni.

[Watch Video](#)

School News

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



WisCARES staff celebrate the program's 10 year anniversary during a free public event held August 27th. From left: Haidi Rodriguez, Maria Verbrugge, Hilary Cox, Lyn Empey, Jennifer Wheeler Brooks, Bucky Badger, Tina Narvaez, Ruthanne Chun, and Kelly Schultz.

More than 100 faculty, staff, students, community members and their pets showed up August 27th to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the WisCARES program (Wisconsin Companion Animal Resources, Education, and Social Services). WisCARES started in 2013 as a humble idea to provide subsidized veterinary care to houseless pet owners in Madison and has since grown into an innovative educational model that teaches cultural humility and competency to the next generation of veterinarians while simultaneously addressing the social crisis of homelessness and its attendant challenges.

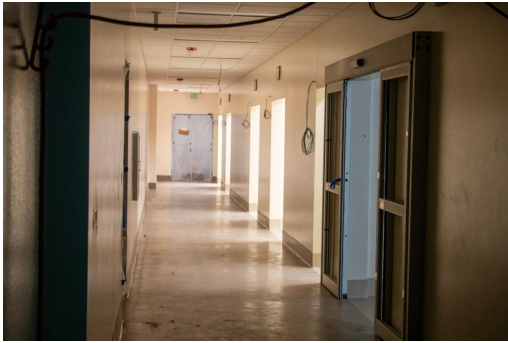
A new undergraduate major, [Animal & Veterinary Biosciences](#), offered through the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences (CALS), is expected to leverage a strong partnership with the SVM to grow Wisconsin's veterinary workforce.

The SVM recently celebrated the investiture of Professor **David Vail** (Dept. of Medical Sciences) as the Barbara A. Suran Chair in Comparative Oncology, a position he has held since 2012. This endowed professorship was created to support groundbreaking research in comparative oncology, which studies the similarities and differences of cancer across different species, helping researchers develop new treatments and cures for both animals and humans.



SVM professor **John Svaren** (Dept. of Comparative Biosciences) has been [chosen as the interim Associate Vice Chancellor for Biological Sciences](#). This position provides leadership for biological sciences and interdisciplinary research across the UW—Madison campus. While at the SVM, Svaren's research has focused on understanding how nerve cells work and finding ways to treat disorders that affect them, such as peripheral neuropathies. His lab has made important progress in unraveling the complexities of nerve function and finding potential treatments for diseases like Charcot-Marie-Tooth (CMT). Their research offers hope to those dealing with CMT and similar conditions. Congrats to John on this honor, and we wish him well in his new role.

Building Update



Progress is moving right along on the North building expansion's new surgery suite. The suite will feature ten treatment bays that provide our veterinarians and staff with more space to improve the lives of their patients and to enhance how we teach and train our students.

Research Roundup

Matt Reynolds PhD '06 (PBS) was awarded an NIH R01 grant entitled "Determining the impact of ultra-small SIV reservoirs on sustained ART-free remission."

M. Suresh (PBS), associate dean for research & graduate training, was awarded a NIH grant to investigate the role of diverse microbial exposure on mucosal T cell immunity to vaccines and respiratory viral pathogens.

Sathish Kumar (CBS) gave the NIH Award Lecture at the International Federation of Placenta Associations (IFPA) meeting in Rotorua, New Zealand earlier this month.

Freya Mowat, Callie Rodgers, Michele Salzman, Leah J. Russell, and Hannah K. Lillesand (DSS) published a study, "[Subjective vision assessment in companion dogs using dogVLQ demonstrates age-associated visual dysfunction](#)," in the journal *Frontiers in Veterinary Science*.

Freya Mowat (DSS) received an NIH R01 grant to study whether pet (companion) dogs are an efficient sentinel model for the human health impacts of home environment-derived neurotoxicants.

Amy Nichelason, Nathan Bollig, Tom Bach, Molly Harris, Peggy Schmidt published a paper, "[Comparison of Community Practitioner and Clinical Educator Expectations of Veterinary Graduates](#)" in the *Journal of Veterinary Medical Education*.

John Svaren (CBS) received a new 5yr R01 entitled "Schwann Cell Reprogramming after Nerve Injury."

Elizabeth Alvarez, Amy Nichelason, Simon Lygo-Baker, published a paper "[Virtual Clinics: A Student-Led, Problem-Based Learning Approach to Supplement Veterinary Clinical Experiences](#)" in the *Journal of Veterinary Medical Education*.

Tricia Fry, Kristen Friedrichs DVM '91, and Tony Goldberg (CBS) published a paper "[Long-term assessment of relationships between changing environmental conditions and the physiology of southern Beaufort Sea polar bears](#)" in the journal *Global Change Biology*. The research was a collaboration with Alison Ketz and Timothy Van Deelen from the UW-Madison Department of Forest and Wildlife Ecology and colleagues at Colorado State University and the US Geologic Survey- Alaska Science Center.

Lorelei Clarke (PBS) and **Kathy Deering** (WVDL) published a paper, "[Follicular dysplasia and hair loss in white-tailed deer](#)" that will appear in a special edition of the journal *Veterinary Pathology*.

Adel Talaat, Bubacarr J.B. Touray, and Rachel Hildbrand (PBS) published “[Protective RNA nanovaccines against *Mycobacterium avium* subspecies *hominissuis*](#)” in the journal *Frontiers in Immunology*.

Lyric Bartholomay PhD '04 (PBS/CBMS) published the following papers: “[Ultra-low volume \(ULV\) adulticide treatment impacts age structure of *Culex* species \(Diptera: Culicidae\) in a West Nile virus hotspot](#)” in the *Journal of Medical Entomology*; and “[A Comparative Analysis of RNAi Trigger Uptake and Distribution in Mosquito Vectors of Disease](#)” in the journal *Insects*. The latter was co-authored by **Paul Airs** and **Bieneke Bron** (CBMS alumni) and **Katie Kudrna, DVM '23**.



SVM in the News

Starr Cameron MS '21, clinical associate professor in small animal neurology, was featured in a [Washington Post](#) story about the signs and symptoms of dementia in cats and dogs and what people can do to support their pets.

Associate Dean **Lynn Maki** and SVM mental health counselor **Christina Frank** were guests on the [AAVMC Diversity & Inclusion On Air podcast](#) to discuss the prevalence of trauma in student backgrounds and the need for trauma-informed teaching.

The **SVM Shelter Medicine Program** was featured in [a story on MSN.com](#) about their role in helping to slow the spread of distemper at an animal shelter in Austin, Texas.

Chelsea Holschbach DVM '14, veterinarian and assistant professor in large-animal and food-animal-production, is featured in a story in [Agri-View](#) about the key role that SVM researchers had in identifying a genetic defect affecting Holstein calves and the steps being taken to protect future generations of dairy cattle.

Dean **Mark Markel** was interviewed by NBC 26 in Green Bay about the [shortage of veterinarians](#) across the state and in rural communities.

Lyric Bartholomay PhD '04, professor and director of the comparative biomedical sciences graduate program, was interviewed for [a story in Entomology Today](#) about how mosquito sprays can reduce the risk of West Nile Virus.

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

November 11
Tailgate 2023
UW vs. Northwestern
Details TBD



Clinical Trial: Older dogs needed for study on healthy aging

UWVC is seeking dogs 7 years or older for a new clinical trial designed to test whether

Rapamycin, a drug that affects both the immune system and metabolism, can improve healthy aging in companion dogs. A secondary purpose is to determine whether rapamycin improves cardiac function in aging dogs.

If eligible, costs of all scheduled study examinations, including physical exams, blood and urine collection and testing, echocardiogram, ECG, blood pressure testing, and the study drug (rapamycin or placebo), will be covered.

[Learn More](#)



Literary Animals

“Owners of dogs will have noticed that, if you provide them with food and water and shelter and affection, they will think you are god. Whereas owners of cats are compelled to realize that, if you provide them with food and water and shelter and affection, they draw the conclusion that they are gods.”

Christopher Hitchens, [The Portable Atheist: Essential Readings for the Nonbeliever](#)

