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School of  
Veterinary Medicine  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

Message from the Dean | December 2019

**Good Luck and Happy Holidays**

Finals are fast approaching, as is the end of the semester, and I want to wish all of our students good luck in their upcoming exams. I also hope that everyone -- students, faculty and staff -- have an enjoyable and prosperous holiday season and an upcoming fantastic new year.



I am pleased to announce that [Peggy Schmidt](#) has accepted the associate dean for professional programs position with a start date of July 1, 2020. Peggy comes to us from the College of Veterinary Medicine at Kansas State University, where she currently serves as the associate dean for academic programs and student affairs. She will help lead our curricular review and reform efforts in the coming years, including the potential implementation of competency-based veterinary education. We plan to hold a series of mini retreats over the coming year, accompanied by broad discussion with faculty, staff and students as we evaluate our current curriculum and how we can make it better.

I want to thank Robb Hardie for all of his efforts as the associate dean for professional programs for the last five and a half years. Robb has been a dedicated supporter of our curricular efforts, including playing an important role in the establishment of the school's clinical skills training center.

We have begun to undertake a strategic planning exercise facilitated by the campus Office of Strategic Consulting. We will hold a series of retreats in the upcoming winter and early spring, with the goal of finalizing our strategic plan by July 1.

We are also progressing well with the preliminary design of the school's expansion project, having completed 10 percent of design this past month. The next goal is 35 percent design completion in April 2020. I know all have noticed that the parking ramp in Lot 62 is actively under construction and I continue to encourage everyone to be safe as we use alternate crosswalks and changes in transportation routing as this and other construction continues.

Again, I wish everyone good luck with their upcoming exams and wish you happy holidays and new year .

## **UW Veterinary Care Updates from the Director**



Just a brief update this month: Welcome to new employees **Christine Alioto**, joining our call center, and **Chelsea Nagle**, a veterinary assistant in the ER/CCU.

In this holiday season, a recent client of the hospital brings good tidings and great feedback:

" No improvements needed -- extremely efficient and everyone was so caring, from the initial phone call with the triage appointment guy to the phone call from the triage vet tech to the front office and vet tech during the exam and doctors during the appointment, pharmacy staff and the final checkout staff. I sincerely appreciated the kindness and willingness to answer questions. Literally everyone I spoke to went above and beyond being kind. Keep up the great teamwork! It shows! "

- *Janice, Elmhurst, Illinois*

**Ruthanne Chun DVM'91**  
Director, [UW Veterinary Care](#)  
Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs

## School News

The winter issue of *On Call* is now mailing, [online](#), and distributed throughout the Veterinary Medicine and Hanson buildings, highlighting the inspiration and impact of supporters of the School of Veterinary Medicine, ways gifts to the school's Companion Animal Fund honor pets through critical health research, our development of a standing CT scanner for large animals, and more.

This holiday season, consider sending the SVM's [2019 holiday card](#). Recipients will enjoy original artwork by Birgit Bach and you will be supporting our school, hospital and students.



The 31st annual [SVM Craft Fair](#) will be held Friday, Dec. 6 from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. in rooms 2255 and 2259, with 20 percent of proceeds supporting the Companion Animal Fund .

## Faculty and Staff News

Congratulations to **Nigel Cook**, named the 2019 WVMA Veterinarian of the Year, and **Kristi Thorson**, recipient of the 2019 Friend of Veterinary Medicine award. The pair were honored at the [WVMA Excellence in Veterinary Medicine Awards Ceremony](#) in November. Alumnus **Eric Rooker DVM'13** of Dairy Doctors Veterinary Service was also given the Meritorious Service Award.

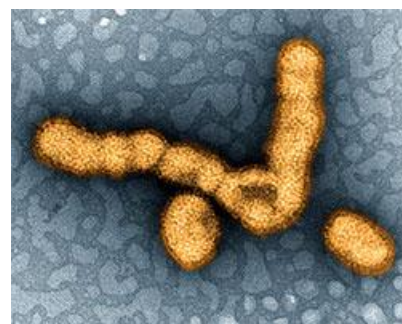
[Zoetis has honored Karen Young](#) and **Linda Schuler** with the 2019 Distinguished Veterinary Teacher Award and Award for Veterinary Research Excellence, respectively.



**Samantha Morello** and **Sara Colopy** authored two special reports in the Dec. 1 issue of the *Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association* on the [intersection of personal and professional lives](#) for male and female diplomates of the American College of Veterinary Surgeons (ACVS), as well as [demographics, measures of professional achievement and gender differences](#) for ACVS diplomats.

## Research News

**Yoshihiro Kawaoka** and colleagues describe in a study published in *Nature Microbiology* the [effects of baloxavir treatment on influenza virus samples](#) collected from patients before and after treatment, finding it drives drug resistance.



**Jorge Osorio** was involved in the development of a new vaccine to prevent dengue that, in [results published in the New England Journal of Medicine](#), was shown to be 80 percent effective in preventing participants from getting dengue and 95 percent effective in preventing cases of severe dengue.

**Sarah Raabis** was the recipient of the American College of Veterinary Microbiology's Don Kahn Award for best overall presentation at the 100th annual [Conference of Research Workers in Animal Diseases](#) in November. **Yoshihiro Kawaoka** was the keynote speaker.

**Suresh Marulasiddappa**, together with investigators in the School of Medicine and Public Health, is the recipient of a [Wisconsin Partnership Program collaborative health sciences grant](#) to study how our own immune system fights against cancers and viral infections.

**Lauren Baker** was awarded best plenary presentation in bioinformatics and computational biology at the [National Library of Medicine Informatics Training Conference](#).

The UW-Madison [O'Brien Center for Benign Urology Research](#), where **Chad Vezina** serves as associate director, was awarded \$6 million in National Institutes of Health (NIH) renewal funding. **Dale Bjorling** directs the center's biomedical core.



**Dale Bjorling** has a new four-year R01 award with **Chad Vezina** to study microRNA regulation of bladder structure and function; **Mike Cahill** will receive a highly competitive NARSAD new investigator grant from the Brain & Behavior Research Foundation and a UW-Madison Institute for Clinical and Translational Research (ICTR) pilot grant; in **Ted Golos'** lab, **Jenna Schmidt** has received an NIH K99 Pathways to Independence award and **Lindsey Block** received an F31 predoctoral NIH two-year fellowship; and **Sathish Kumar** is co-principal investigator on an ICTR grant related to vascular function in pregnancy.

## Upcoming Events

### SVM Alumni Reception at AAEP Convention

Dec. 9  
6-8 p.m.  
Earls Kitchen + Bar, Denver, Colorado  
[RSVP](#)

### Dean's Get Together: Holiday Cookie Decorating

Dec. 13  
11 a.m.-2 p.m.  
Veterinary Medicine Building, Room 2255  
[More](#)

For more SVM-related events, visit the school's [online calendar](#) .

## SVM in the News

[UW Scientists Invent Standing CT Machine for Horses](#)  
*The Badger Herald*

[Bald Eagles Across US Infected With Newly Identified Virus](#)  
*U.S. News & World Report*

[The Scientific Frontier Of Vaccinating Bats Against A Deadly Fungus](#)  
*WisContext*

[Colostrum Quality Influences Long-term Health](#)  
*Dairy Herd Management*



For more media coverage of the SVM, visit the school's [In the News page](#).



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