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ALUMNI E-NEWS

January/February 2021



New Faculty Bring Clinical, Research Expertise

Chelsea Holschbach DVM'14 grew up on a Wisconsin dairy farm, aspiring from a young age to become a large animal veterinarian. Today she applies her expertise in dairy science, calf health and large animal medicine as a clinical instructor at the UW School of Veterinary Medicine. "Large animal veterinarians, namely those who work with production animals, have a huge responsibility to help ensure an abundant and safe food supply," she says.

Holschbach is one of four faculty members who recently discussed their work and background in a New Faculty Focus series -- a university effort to celebrate new faculty on campus. You can also meet **Seth Eaton**, a veterinary ophthalmologist who studies ocular pharmacology, toxicology and oncology; **Kimberly Keil Stietz PhD'14**, whose research explores how developmental exposures to environmental chemicals influence the lower urinary tract; and **Fei Zhao**, a reproductive biologist studying sex organ development.

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School News

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

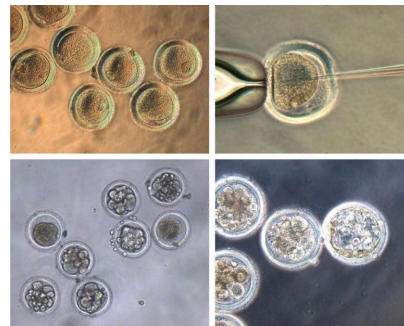
Comparative oncology livestream: This Monday, the school hosted a virtual event, Inside the SVM: Helping Pets Fight Cancer, to share the latest innovations in cancer clinical studies, treatments and technology -- and how these advancements help both pets and people. If you weren't able to join the live event, you can [view a recording here](#).

Building expansion: In December, the [school's building project](#) received authority to construct from both the UW Board of Regents and State Building Commission -- advancing through its last administrative step to move forward with construction in 2021. These votes mean the project can go out for bid in February, with construction work likely to begin in the summer.

SVM strategic plan: In January, the school presented its [new strategic plan](#). The plan articulates five priorities: leading educational excellence, cutting-edge research and scholarship, delivering outstanding animal care, thriving organization, and vibrant community for all.

Recent research advancements:

- A [study led by UW-Madison researchers](#) -- including Professor **Yoshihiro Kawaoka** and research professor **Peter Halfmann** -- found that a strain of the virus that causes COVID-19 mutated in Europe in February 2020 and became the dominant form of the virus across the globe.
- A family tree of more than 200 variations in the virus that causes COVID-19 helps explain why Dane and Milwaukee counties had such different early experiences with the pandemic -- and shows how well public health orders initially slowed the rate of infection. Researchers in the lab of Professor **Tom Friedrich** [tracked the slight mutations](#) in the virus's genetic sequences and determined the earliest introductions of the virus to each county.
- A gene that cured a man of HIV a decade ago has been successfully added to developing monkey embryos in an [effort to study more potential treatments for the disease](#). Professor **Ted Golos** and UW-Madison colleagues employed CRISPR to edit the DNA.
- Professor **David Vail** will be involved in new research efforts, led by UW School of Medicine and Public Health scientists, breaking new ground to [make cancer cells more susceptible](#) to attack by the body's own immune system. The research is laying the foundation for future human and veterinary clinical trials.



Alumni Updates

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

SVM Alumni Awards

The Alumni Advisory Board launched an [alumni awards program](#) in 2019 to recognize graduates of the UW School of Veterinary Medicine who have made significant contributions to society, and whose accomplishments, affiliations and careers have honored the legacy of excellence at the school.

Congratulations to our [inaugural alumni award winners](#): **Terrence P. Clark DVM'87** (Distinguished Service Award) and **Ryan Wallace DVM'12** (Young Alumni Award).

Submit a nomination: Nominations are now open for the 2021 alumni awards. If you would like to recognize someone with one of the awards, please **submit a nomination** by **March 14**. There are **three award categories**, allowing opportunities for both Doctor of Veterinary Medicine and graduate degree program alumni, as well as recent graduates, to be recognized. Questions? Contact uwsvmalumni@gmail.com.



Clark DVM'87 and Wallace DVM'12

Alumni News

Megan Koester DVM'18 has **joined the Hales Corners Veterinary Clinic** in Hales Corners, Wis. Her professional interests include surgery, dentistry and behavior. She also enjoys using her skills to help animal shelters and rescues whenever possible.

Devan Leistikow DVM'20 is now **part of the Cat Care Clinic team** in Madison, Wis. Leistikow had her heart and mind set on specializing in feline care, from working at the Wisconsin Big Cat Rescue and Education Center, to being president of the UW SVM Feline Club, to taking her first position as an associate veterinarian at another feline-only veterinary hospital.

Mary Thurber DVM'14, a clinical instructor of zoological medicine at the UW School of Veterinary Medicine, is a **recipient of the 2020 Society of Phi Zeta Research Manuscript Award**. Thurber's award resulted from research conducted with koalas at the San Diego Zoo during her residency in zoological medicine at the University of California Davis School of Veterinary Medicine.

Tom Yuill PhD'64, professor emeritus in the Department of Pathobiological Sciences, was elected as a Fellow of the American Society for Tropical Medicine and Hygiene at the organization's annual conference in November 2020 in recognition of his contributions to the society and field of arbovirology.

Brittany White DVM'03 has **joined Country View Veterinary Service** in Oregon, Wis. White loves being a small animal primary care doctor and seeing pets through all events of their lives. She particularly enjoys preventive care, indoor cat wellness and dentistry.



White DVM'03

In Memoriam

The UW School of Veterinary Medicine regrets to announce the loss of an alumnus.

Narayana Rao Kosuri PhD'69 **passed away in December** after an 18-month battle with cancer. He emigrated to the United States in 1962 as a graduate student. He came to the U.S. as a doctor of veterinary medicine, but went on to earn a master of science, PhD in pharmacology, and ultimately a medical degree. He made his home in St. Louis, Missouri, where he practiced medicine as a psychiatrist for 35 years with the Missouri State and BJC health systems.

Ongoing Clinical Trials

Dogs with Seizures

The Small Animal Neurology Service is **enrolling canine patients with a history of seizures** receiving end-of-life treatment at UW Veterinary Care. This study will investigate the clinical signs and physical changes to the brain that are caused by seizures in dogs. The aim is to determine if temporal lobe epilepsy occurs in dogs. This will allow better understanding of

Upcoming Events

COVID-19 Update

Decisions about in-person events, including the alumni reunion and fall tailgate, are on hold as public health guidelines continue to evolve. Whenever possible, UW-Madison recommends that events and meetings continue to be held virtually. Updates will be provided as available. For more information or to share any ideas around virtual gatherings, please contact **Kristi Thorson**.

epilepsy in dogs and advance treatment options.

[SVM Events Calendar](#)

[Learn about other clinical trials.](#)



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