School of Veterinary Medicine
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN–MADISON

MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

August 2021

Fostering a Vibrant Community for All

Over the past several dean's messages, I have highlighted the priorities outlined within the School of Veterinary Medicine's new strategic plan. Our fifth and final strategic priority is to create and support a vibrant community for all. We have four specific goal areas to help achieve this priority:

1. Foster a diverse, equitable and inclusive environment
2. Encourage and model wellbeing through support of physical and mental health
3. Amplify a collegial and welcoming community among students, faculty, staff and alumni
4. Utilize the SVM climate survey to identify and address climate concerns or issues

You can read more here about our efforts to support each of the above goal areas. The school, its leadership and each of us need to remain dedicated to this important priority. As we all know, this past year has been extraordinarily challenging with the COVID-19 pandemic and social and racial justice issues at the forefront of our lives. As I've highlighted previously, the school has created a diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) strategic plan in order to better focus our efforts around creating a vibrant community.

In addition, I recently highlighted the results of the school's climate survey, which overall were positive, particularly considering that the survey was conducted in the middle of the challenges we faced with COVID-19.

We have also created a wellbeing task force, led by Associate Dean Lynn Maki, that will provide recommendations, anticipated by the end of the year, regarding how best to address the wellbeing of our faculty, staff and students.

As we approach the fall semester, the school is preparing to return to much more typical in-person instruction and activities in accordance with campus guidance. The Class of 2022 has been actively working in the hospital since May. In September I look forward to welcoming the Class of 2025 and welcoming back our Classes of 2023 and 2024.

We'll have our first in-person Dean's Get Together on Friday, September 10, under the Veterinary Medicine building overhang, and I look forward to seeing all of you in person again. Enjoy the rest of your summer.

UW Veterinary Care Updates from the Director

On behalf of the entire hospital and school, I want to send a tremendous thank you to our outgoing interns:

- **Elizabeth Cutchin**, **Brigid Lemburg** and **Melody Ward** *(all staying as Emergency and Critical Care residents),* **Jennifer Heyward** *(staying as an Ophthalmology resident)*, **Emily Janik**, **Graham Rossi** *(staying as a Cardiology resident)*, **Natalie Smith**, **Mary Ann Thaliath** and **Natalie Worden**, Rotating
- **Shakuntala Makhijani** and **Kimberly Perley**, Shelter Medicine
- **Rachel McMahon** and **Ann Marie Picone**, Oncology – *both staying as residents*
- **Rebecca Johnson**, Primary Care
- **Rachel Hilliard**, Large Animal Surgery
- **Chelsey Tournade**, Zoological Medicine – *staying as a resident*
- **Jamie Welker**, Small Animal Surgery – *staying as a resident*
- **Rachel Wright**, Comparative Ocular Pathology Laboratory Fellowship

And with gratitude to our outgoing residents:

- **Hernan Angulo Bracho** and **Andrew Taylor**, Emergency and Critical Care
- **Eva Frantz**, Cardiology
- **Martin Granick** and **Alexander Saver**, Small Animal Internal Medicine
- **Caitlin Heaton** and **Samuel Keepman**, Oncology
- **Michelle Piccione**, Dermatology – *staying as a clinical instructor*
- **Alexis Powers**, Large Animal Medicine – *staying as a clinical instructor*
- **Tessa Smith**, Neurology
- **Jenna Boram**, Pharmacy – *staying as a pharmacist*
- **Erika Hoffeld**, Anatomic Pathology
- **Omer Lerman**, Clinical Pathology
- **Kevin Snyder**, Ophthalmology
- **Richard Brooksby**, **Andrew Eitzer** and **Sara Tolliver**, Diagnostic Imaging – *Tolliver is staying as a clinical instructor*
- **Shawna Hawkins**, Zoological Medicine – *staying as a clinical instructor*
- **Kelly Shaw**, Large Animal Surgery
- **Marilia Takada**, Radiation Oncology
- **Alexander Geddes**, Dentistry and Oral Surgery
- **Kyle Bartholomew**, Anesthesia – *staying as a clinical instructor*

I also want to share a hearty welcome to our incoming specialty interns:

- **Matthew Buesing**, Emergency and Critical Care
- **Kaitlyn Jonk**, Large Animal Surgery
- **Sarah Adrianowycz**, **Caitlin Feiock** and **Rachel Uyehara**, Oncology Clinical Trials
- **Adam Lepold**, Primary Care
- **Sarah Hefferan**, Shelter Medicine
- **Lauren Mumm**, Special Species

And to our new residents (in addition to those mentioned above, who are staying on following internships):

- **Zoe Bailey**, Neurology
- **Kelsey Brown** and **Clara Cole**, Anatomic Pathology
- **Michael Congiusta**, Dentistry and Oral Surgery
- **Gillian Davies**, Small Animal Surgery
- **Claire Faletti**, Radiation Oncology
- **Nicholas Fleissner**, Anesthesia
- **Jenn Hergert**, Shelter Medicine
- **Taylor Opgenorth**, Ophthalmology
- **Elizabeth Luciani** and **Rae McAtee**, Small Animal Internal Medicine
- **Kari Means**, Large Animal Surgery
- **Betsy Murdock**, Clinical Pathology
- **Victoria Riggs, Katherine Weber** and **Jessica Wild**, Diagnostic Imaging
- **Emma Stapley**, Large Animal Internal Medicine
- **Alyssa Bernard**, Pharmacy

Welcome also to our rotating interns, who started with us in June – **Mary Carter**, **Danielle Creamer**, **Sienna Drizin**, **Allysa Galloni**, **Lizabeth Lueck**, **Callie Rogers**, **Daniel Rothschild**, **Sara Saikalis** and **Annie Showers** – and to several new employees: **Kimberly Crauswell**, a

vet assistant with the ER; **Hannah Evert**, CVT, joining Anesthesia; **Amy Hippen**, an administrative specialist in the hospital admin office; and **Katrina (Kate) Lafferty**, CVT, a surgery ward night technician.

And congratulations to **Ana Cecilia Escobar Lopez (Ceci)**, a former necropsy technician, who is stepping into a new supervisory role this week as the new Anatomic Pathology Lab Manager.

I know there have been many times, during the pandemic and well before, when all of us have gone above and beyond to serve our patients, clients and colleagues. I share the below comment from a client of Dermatology and Ophthalmology as an example of the appreciation felt for your steadfast support.

"Today's experience was outstanding, and it has been that way for some time. I wouldn't return if it weren't. Let me share something that happened back in the winter. Teddy was seeing ophthalmology because he needed eye surgery for entropion. I have a love/hate relationship with my cellphone because it's inconvenient to use. Consequently, this old gal avoids using the cell and prefers to use our landline. One of the vet techs remained behind to help me with my phone after explaining what would happen at the appointment. She had asked what my cell number was, and I confessed that I didn't even know how to find out the number. She stuck around, located it, then called/texted me my cell number. Now I can search my messages (which are few) if I ever need to provide my cell number. She was so nice and helpful! I can't imagine such customer service being provided by other groups that were requiring cellphone use during the COVID quarantine. I wish I had her name, but alas, it's been many months since the appointment experience." -Nancy, Madison, Wisconsin

Christopher Snyder, DVM, DAVDC
Director, UW Veterinary Care
Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs

From the Archives

Summer fun! ☀ Runners in the 30th (and final) Dog Jog take off after the starting flag is dropped in September 2012 at the School of Veterinary Medicine. The two-mile walk/run, founded by the SVM's inaugural class and sponsored by the school's Companion Animal Club, raised more than $500,000 over 30 years for Madison-area animal shelters and humane organizations. Photo credit: Nik Hawkins

School News

The summer issue of *On Call* has been mailed and is online, highlighting new associate dean for clinical affairs **Chris Snyder** and more than a decade of leadership in this role from **Ruthanne Chun DVM'91**; UW School of Veterinary Medicine efforts to enhance the wellbeing of students, employees and the veterinary medical profession; innovative online surgical instruction for our third-year veterinary medical students, an alpaca patient who required hospitalization as a premature baby but has gone on to excel in the show ring; and more.

Teaching and Learning News

An update from Peggy Schmidt, associate dean for professional programs

The SVM welcomes **Andrea Kunze** to the Office of Academic Affairs as the new assessment and curriculum specialist. Andrea is a PhD candidate in Educational Psychology from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. In her new role, Andrea will work with faculty to further develop assessment and evaluation strategies to improve student learning. She will also play a pivotal role in the incorporation of Competency-Based Veterinary Education into our revised DVM curriculum. Andrea's expertise lies in understanding how to assess evidence of learning and engagement in traditional and non-traditional Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics and Medical (STEMM) classrooms. Her current research interests include exploring student success within DVM programs.

The PREPARE Graduates task force continues to move forward with curriculum revision efforts. Two proposed curricular structures have been shared with the SVM community through a series of town hall sessions during July. Feedback gathered from these sessions and other interactions with faculty, staff and students is being incorporated into a single proposed curricular structure. The next steps in the revision process will be directed towards individual course development to align with the revised structure. Look for more opportunities to get involved in the revision process this fall.

Faculty and Staff News

Colleen Crummy-Mousseau, a faculty management specialist, is one of several university staff members honored for their outstanding dedication and commitment to excellence with a 2021 University Staff Recognition Award.

Following preference voting, **Jon McAnulty** and **Gillian McLellan** will serve as co-chairs of the Department of Surgical Sciences beginning July 1 of this year, with Jon planning to step down from his chair role on June 30, 2022. **Related**: McLellan has also been appointed to the National Institutes of Health Pathophysiology of Eye Disease Study Section.

Mary Thurber DVM'14, clinical instructor of zoological medicine, presented a Badger Talks LIVE presentation in July titled A Day in the Life of a Zoo Vet. View a recording. Thurber also recently spoke with the *Wisconsin State Journal* about plans to vaccinate select species at Dane County's Henry Vilas Zoo against the coronavirus that causes COVID-19.

Student News

Recent alumna **Melissa Sheth DVM'21**, recipient of the Patricia L. Lowrie Diversity Leadership Award, was a guest on the American Association of Veterinary Medical Colleges podcast Diversity & Inclusion On Air. Sheth discussed her efforts to promote diversity and inclusion in veterinary medicine as a student at UW.

Comparative Biomedical Sciences graduate student **Abbey Williams**, in the lab of Assistant Professor Lisa Arendt, was selected for funding for a James H. Gilliam Fellowship for Advanced Study from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute.

Research News

A study led by Clinical Assistant Professor **Erin Lashnits** provides new insights into how best to diagnose Bartonella infection in dogs, a common flea-borne disease linked to heart infection, organ inflammation and other ailments. The researchers evaluated the clinical accuracy of six different diagnostic tests and Lashnits says the findings address “a big open question in veterinary medicine.”

Professor **David Vail** was part of research published in July to report that combining targeted radiopharmaceutical therapy with immunotherapy significantly boosts eradication of metastatic cancer in mice. In addition to the mouse studies, Vail and colleagues tried the combination of targeted radionuclide therapy and immunotherapy as a treatment in pet dogs who had naturally occurring metastatic cancer. The dogs tolerated this treatment combination well, without toxic side effects.

M. Suresh, the John E. Butler Professor of Comparative and Mucosal Immunology, has received a 5-year grant ($3,043,673) from the NIH entitled Combination Adjuvants to Program Durable Immunity to Respiratory Viral and Fungal Pathogens.

A Day in the Life

John Hallett DVM’90 sculpts with clay while drawing inspiration from the School of Veterinary Medicine's resident donor and teaching cows. Hallett is donating his time and talents to create a bronze sculpture, Forward Together, depicting the spirit of education, research and community at the SVM. Scheduled for completion in 2023, the sculpture will be prominently displayed in the school’s new front entrance courtyard. Thanks to a $100,000 matching gift from **Margo and Jack Edl**, longtime clients and friends of the school, allgifts to the sculpture will be matched dollar-for-dollar. Support will go directly to the physical costs of creation and installation.

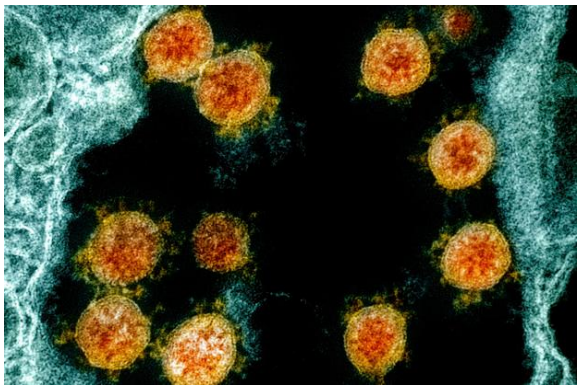
Upcoming Events

Any in-person events must follow campus policy for schools/colleges/divisions and student organizations.

August 10
SVM Education Day
8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
Mendota Room, Dejope Hall

September 10
SVM School Year Kickoff Picnic
5-7 p.m.
School of Veterinary Medicine

SVM in the News



FluGen Gets $11.4 Million Grant for Study of Experimental Flu Vaccine
Wisconsin State Journal

Veterinary Colleges Praised for Communication, Fundraising
Veterinary Practice News

Researchers Rely on Genomic Surveillance To Understand Variants
WMTV

'It's Science Fiction Until it Isn't.' UW-Madison Joins Global Institute To Help Prepare For, Prevent Future Pandemics
Wisconsin Public Radio

“I’m very proud of the work that we do in providing veterinary medical care, boarding, and fostering for animals that are such important companions. There are wonderful things that happen on this campus and in this community and I’m so proud to be a part of it.”

*-Clinical Professor **Ruthanne Chun DVM’91**, accepting the 2021 LaMarr Billups Community-University Engagement Award, which recognizes a member of the Greater Madison community who has made outstanding contributions to campus-community partnership initiatives. Chun was recognized for co-founding and helping to grow Wisconsin Companion Animal Resources, Education and Social Services (WisCARES), a community veterinary clinic for low-income and homeless families that is considered a national model for community outreach and collaboration.*