



MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN



July 2024

Happy Summer & Bon Voyage!

If I've counted correctly, this will be the 143rd and final Dean's Message that I will author. Starting August 1, Dean Jon Levine will be authoring future messages. The last twelve years as dean has been a fantastic ride (with the exception of the COVID pandemic)! I am so grateful to have worked with so many outstanding individuals who support this amazing profession led by our students and our faculty and staff. I am privileged to have played a part in the creation of a shiny new building and eventually a shiny old one! Some joke that it started with the construction of a multi-story parking ramp some called the Markel Memorial parking garage where I quickly pointed out that the "memorial" part might not yet be accurate. I look forward to the implementation of our new curriculum, starting in 2025, and very much view the future for the UW School of Veterinary Medicine as extremely bright under the leadership of Dean Levine.



As you may know, I'll step back into our faculty ranks continuing to help run the Comparative Orthopedic Research Laboratory. I'm immensely grateful for all of you and others who I've been able to work with over my 34 years here at the School of Veterinary Medicine and the last 12 as the school's dean. Have a fantastic summer and wishing everyone the best in the coming years.

Mark D. Markel
Dean, UW School of Veterinary Medicine
Vilas Distinguished Achievement Professor

Mark your calendar

Incoming Dean Jon Levine will host an all-SVM listening session on Friday, August 2 at 12pm in room 2360.

Alumni Picnic Recap



It was wonderful to welcome alumni from our classes of 1989, 1994, 1999, 2004, 2009, 2014 and 2019 back to campus and SVM on June 22 for our annual Alumni Reunion. Thank you to all who joined the fun!

UW Veterinary Care News

Update from Chris Snyder, director, UW Veterinary Care, and associate dean for clinical affairs

It has been a busy month as we successfully transitioned many services into the North Building and are getting accustomed to the layout and new workflow. On behalf of myself and associate director Meenu Verma, we'd like to offer our gratitude to hospital staff and the SVM IT and Facilities teams for all their hard work. This was truly a team effort and we are grateful for all who came together to make this move happen, special thanks to hospital supervisors, Kate Hawley, Dr. Ruthanne Chun, Jesse Waters, Sean Bossinger, Sandy Gordon, Kennels and UWVC Purchasing Teams. There is still more exciting work ahead – on July 1, we will turn over large spaces in the South Building to the contractors to begin the significant renovations there.



Also in June, we celebrated our finishing house officers with a few special events (see photo at right), we thanked the finishing rotating interns and wished them well on their next adventures and welcomed our new class of rotating interns. We look forward to helping guide them and watching them grow on their journey. We also are pleased to have several other new team members join UWVC including Julia Matiszik, veterinary nurse; Ella Meinhardt, small animal nurse assistant; Taylor Andaverde, CVT, veterinary nurse in anesthesia; and Rachel (Quamme) Rice, transitioning into a new role as the CCL Supervisor.



Coming up in July, we will wish our finishing residents and specialty interns a big congratulations and good luck as they move on to the next chapters in their careers and we look forward to welcoming the new residents and specialty interns to the UWVC and SVM.

School News

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

Congratulations to:

- Following preference balloting by departmental members, Gillian McLellan, Nigel Cook, Chad Vezina and Kristen Bernard will continue to serve as Chairs of their respective departments.
- Dean Markel announced the recipients of the Walter and Martha Renk Chair for Preharvest Food Safety, Johanna Elfenbein, and the Dr. Bernard C. Easterday Professorship in Infectious Disease, Lyric Bartholomay. Both will be effective July 1, 2024, for a five-year term.
- PBS faculty members Johanna Elfenbein and Matthew Reynolds were both granted promotion to Associate Professor with tenure.

Enjoy a fun night of baseball with the Madison Mallards on Wednesday, July 3 – with post-game fireworks, too! – and a portion of your ticket price will support [WisCARES](#), an SVM initiative that provides veterinary care for families experiencing low income and/or homelessness. We believe all families deserve access to veterinary care for their pets, and that everyone – regardless of their financial or housing status – benefits from the human-animal bond.

Meenu Verma, associate director, UWVC, attended the [Wisconsin Idea seminar](#) saying, “The Wisconsin Idea Seminar is an immersive experience and goes way beyond any work conference you would ever attend. We got to hear many impactful stories and meet incredible people during our journey, and it touched every sense of being — from the food we ate, to the stories we heard, to the people we met and the places we visited. I have a greater appreciation for people in Wisconsin who have been caring for the land for thousands of years and for those who have moved to Wisconsin in recent years.”

Check out the recently launched The Dairyland Initiative Podcast where your hosts, Courtney Halbach and Dr. Nigel Cook, discuss practical dairy cattle housing solutions and showcase approaches dairy farmers are taking to enhance cow welfare and animal health in their herds through improved barn design and management. Visit the [main website](#) to find links to the podcast on your preferred platform.

SVM in the News



Hear from Dr. Lyric Bartholomay, professor in the department of pathobiological sciences and co-director of the Midwest Center for Excellence in for Vector-Borne Disease to find out more [about their mission to reduce ticks](#) and tick-borne disease.

The topic of bird flu in dairy cattle continues to make news. State Veterinarian Dr. Darlene Konkle, WVDL director Dr. Keith Poulsen and UW professor of food science Dr. John Lucey discussed the topic on a recent episode of the [UW Now Livestream](#). Poulsen was also interviewed for this [Wisconsin Public Radio story](#).

Check out what Dr. Amy Nichelason has to say about [preventive health care for pets](#) as part of MarketWatch Guides “Ask An Expert.”

Kind Words from Happy Clients

“Dealing with my sweet dog Paddy is challenging because she has cardiac issues and an auto immune disease. I’m getting the best advice and treatment I can get and we are doing everything possible to make Paddy’s life continue to be great. She’s been seen by Dr. Mollie and the cardiology team and also by dental and dermatology. Everybody has treated me and her with great respect.”

– Doug M., Pewaukee



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