



# MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN



March 2024

## Searching for Our New Dean

As you know, our Search and Screen Committee has been actively working to find the UW School of Veterinary Medicine's next Dean. The campus has interviewed four candidates over the last two weeks with the final candidate's second day of interviews today. I'd encourage you to visit <https://provost.wisc.edu/2024/02/27/dean-of-the-school-of-veterinary-medicine-search/> to review the candidates' CVs and presentations. The presentations will be available online until 11 a.m. on March 4, and I would strongly encourage you to provide feedback through the online feedback form, which will be open until the same time on March 4. My understanding is that it is likely the next dean will be named sometime in mid-March. Please join me in thanking the Search and Screen Committee, chaired by Kristen Bernard, for all their hard work to find the next Dean of the School of Veterinary Medicine.



Construction of the school's North Building is nearing completion, at least for the first and second floors. Some of our services will begin operations in the new building in March, including clinical pathology, medical records and UWVC's administration. Our goal is to complete our move-in in April, with targeted opening of the new hospital on April 22, 2024. I want to thank everyone for their hard work throughout the course of this challenging project. As you know, we will face approximately an additional year of construction in the South Building, as well as completion of the new large animal arena and large animal isolation facilities. We plan on holding an Open House for SVM employees and students on March 18, 2024, so you have an opportunity to see our exciting new facilities.

As you'll note below, I want to congratulate John Svaren for being appointed as an Distinguished Achievement Professor, an accomplishment that we should all be proud of him for.

I hope you have a fantastic March and Spring Break.

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

# UW Veterinary Care News

Update from Chris Snyder, director, [UW Veterinary Care](#), and associate dean for clinical affairs



Please join me in welcoming the following new employees who joined our team in January:

- **Nicholas Ford** is joining the hospital Pharmacy this week as a new pharmacy technician. Nicholas comes to UWVC from CVS Pharmacy, where he's worked since 2019. Nicholas brings years of skilled technician services and exceptional customer service to his position with UWVC.
- **Nicolette Lee** is joining the Oncology service this week as a new veterinary nurse assistant. Nicolette comes to UWVC from Blue Pearl, where she's been a veterinary assistance since 2023. She brings many years of animal handling experience to her position with oncology.
- **Jacob Yang** is joining the Clin Path lab this week as a new medical lab technician. Jacob comes to UWVC from the private sector where he's worked labs since 2019. He has skills in specialty equipment operation, maintenance, and calibration.
- **Melissa Vossekuil** is joining the UWVC pharmacy today as a new pharmacy technician. Melissa comes to UWVC from QuadMed, and she has been a practicing pharmacy technician for over 10 years.
- **Dylan North** is joining the UWVC small animal facilities and kennel crew today as a new custodian. Dylan has been the City of Janesville's Ice Arena supervisor for the past 8 years, and brings many great sanitation and safety practices with him to UWVC.

I'm also proud to share the following client comment, which highlights the excellent care and customer service delivered by all members of our team. From the reception staff to the students, nurses, clinicians and everyone behind the scenes, we all play an important role in delivering compassionate care to our patients.

*"The care and services provided were nothing short of pure excellence. All of the staff was very friendly, communicative, understanding, thorough, compassionate, and dedicated. If it were not for the professionalism and services offered by UW Veterinary Care, I do not know how much my cat's quality of life would have continued to decline. His 3rd degree AV block made any kind of anesthesia extremely challenging, and he was in need of quality oral/dental care. The doctors and staff at UW stepped forward and took on the challenge when no one within 3-4 hours of Chicago would, or could, and they excelled at it. The compassion and understanding that the staff shows towards the customers and their patients sets the bar to a new level, and I would not hesitate to refer UW Veterinary Care to others."*

Thank you for all that you do!

Chris

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## SVM Students Visit with WI Congressional Delegation



*From left: SVM students Cady McGee (VM2), Caroline Berge (VM1), Nicolette Leston (VM1), and Ethan Elazegui (VM2) participated in the AVMA legislative fly in February 5th in Washington, D.C. The program is designed to help future veterinarians learn how to develop relationships with their elected officials and become trusted voices of veterinary medicine.*

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## Teaching and Learning News

*An update from Peggy Schmidt, associate dean for professional programs*

In February, three module co-lead teams presented updates on their respective development journeys during two all-SVM Curriculum Revision Town Halls.

### **Cognition, Senses, and Response**

Co-leaders Jessica Rippe-Martinez and Lindsey Snyder began their update by outlining their initial development process. They started with learning outcomes honed by the Nimble Group, then organized content from the Topic Inventory into a workable document. Utilizing drafted unit learning outcomes from previous working groups, they refined all outcomes and streamlined the topic list by removing redundancies. They then expanded their team by inviting additional faculty and clinicians to join and collaboratively develop the module. The larger team further refined learning outcomes and began to organize content into CNS, PNS, and Special Senses blocks and a delivery sequence. This process involves communication with other modules and looking ahead to connect Phase 1 and Phase 2 of their module, fostering both vertical and horizontal integration. Jessica and Lindsey highlighted a draft of the first week of the CNS block demonstrating how they are populating and developing didactic materials, active learning activities, and labs.



### **Circulation and Respiration**

Following the established pattern, co leaders Heidi Kellihan and Steve Johnson presented their development progress during the second February Town Hall. Mirroring the format of previous updates, they presented their module and unit learning outcomes alongside a draft of the first week. This initial week included detailed breakdowns of didactic material, active learning activities, and labs, each associated with corresponding learning outcomes and estimated

timeframes.

### ***Eating and Eliminating***

Johanna Elfenbein presented updates on the Eating and Eliminating module while co-lead Grayson Doss was absent due to a teaching conflict. Similar to the previous presentations, Johanna outlined their module and unit learning outcomes alongside the four content blocks they've established. She shared the module and unit-level outcomes, providing estimated timeframes for all four blocks. To conclude, Johanna presented a comprehensive list of didactic materials, active learning activities, and labs for the module.

These Town Hall presentations provide a brief glimpse into the amazing work of many dedicated faculty and staff working diligently to create an “adaptable, relevant, evidence-informed, and competency-based educational program to develop current and future veterinarians.” (2021-2025 Strategic Priority)

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## **School News**

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

**John Svaren** (comparative biosciences) was appointed as a Vilas Distinguished Achievement Professor, which reflects the high esteem in which he is held by his colleagues.

**Masa Suzuki** (comparative biosciences) received a pilot grant from Roslin Technologies, a stem cell company located on the University of Edinburgh campus. The project aims to develop ES/iPS progenitor cell lines derived from livestock to facilitate cell-based meat production. The plan is to continue/expand the project in the future.

The next **Iverson Bell Midwest Regional Diversity Summit** will be hosted by the University of Minnesota from May 21-23 and the SVM will be taking a small group of interested individuals and providing registration and accommodations. This group will travel to Minneapolis on the afternoon of May 20th and return the evening of May 23rd. If you are interested in participating, contact Richard Barajas at [barajas@wisc.edu](mailto:barajas@wisc.edu) for more details.

The **SAVMA Chapter** at UW-Madison welcomed SVM professor **Lisa Forrest** for a conversation about her experiences in the field of veterinary medicine with a disability. With a career spanning over three decades, she has been at the forefront of TomoTherapy research, advancing our understanding of radiation therapy as a treatment for cancer. She currently holds the role of Chair of the Committee on Disability, Access, and Inclusion on campus, advocating for inclusivity and accessibility for all.

Residents from the University of Wisconsin Department of Anesthesiology at the School of Medicine & Public Health recently attended a workshop at the School of Veterinary Medicine on emergency invasive airway management, facilitated by SVM clinical assistant professor **Carrie Schroeder**. In this training, residents improved their clinical ability to perform key airway access techniques. Although these high-risk cases are rare, they necessitate specialized equipment and training, which the residents gain through this partnership.

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# Comparative Oncology Clinical Trials

The inclusion of companion (pet) species  
in developmental therapeutics  
MARCH 6 | 1 - 2 PM

DR. DAVID VAIL  
UW VETERINARY MEDICINE

[UWClinicalTrials.org](http://UWClinicalTrials.org)

PRESENTED BY:  Clinical Trials Institute  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON  
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AND PUBLIC HEALTH

Learn more about comparative oncology clinical trials, including examples of studies from the SVM, that demonstrate the potential positive impact these trials may have on the health of our pets and how clinical research discoveries in dogs and cats might translate to advances in human oncology research and treatment. [Registration required.](#)



## ICTR

UW Institute for Clinical and Translational Research

### ICTR Announces Spring 2024 Manuscript Writing Series

Good writing requires continuous training for new and experienced researchers alike.

Are you:

- New to writing scientific manuscripts?
- Ready to publish research?
- Brushing up writing and editing skills?

Beginning in February, ICTR will host monthly one-hour webinar (via Zoom) that will teach skills and techniques to help researchers during the publication process, from manuscript planning to the use of generative AI to storytelling techniques to navigating reviewer critiques. The series will also include an in-person workshop in May. While attending every session is not compulsory, each installment contributes toward a comprehensive grasp of essential techniques. To learn more or to register for the series, visit the [institute's site](#).

## Upcoming Events



**March 8**

**Invited Applicant Open House**

12:30 pm - 4:30 pm

SVM South - 2350, 2201, and 2255

**March 21**

**Wiesner Scholars Shelter Medicine presentations**

Noon - Room 2360

[RSVP](#) by March 15

**March 27**

**Career Networking Fair (OAA)**

3 pm - 4:30 pm

SVM South 2201 & Hallways

**March 29**

**Breakfast with Sally**

7:30 am

SVM Lobby

