

# MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

November 2022

## Wrapping Up a Great October

The school had a number of exciting events this past month. First and foremost, we celebrated National Veterinary Technician Week and National Pharmacy Week. I want to thank every one of our veterinary technicians, as well as our pharmacy staff, for all they do to teach our students, take care of our patients and advance all that we do in the hospital. Congratulations to Kate Lafferty and Sandy Eklof, both recognized at a reception on Oct. 21 as this year's UW Veterinary Care Technician of the Year award recipients.



Also, on Oct. 21, we had the opportunity to dedicate and name our community mural project with artist Tia Richardson. The mural is entitled "Leading, Learning and Loving" and is now installed in the school's Renk Learning Center.

We also celebrated Fall Research Day that same day, with faculty presentations and our DVM Summer Scholars recognized at the event (see more in Research News below). I want to congratulate all of our Summer Scholars students on the outstanding projects they conducted and presented.

I'm sorry to share that Gerald (Jerry) Bisgard, a founding member of the UW School of Veterinary Medicine faculty, [passed away in October](#). Jerry was instrumental in building our SVM community and the Department of Comparative Biosciences' culture. He will be missed.

The 50th annual [Partners In Giving](#) campaign kicked off in October, providing an opportunity for UW–Madison employees to donate to local, national and international charities of their choice. I would encourage you to consider this opportunity.

Have a great November!

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## UW Veterinary Care Updates from the Director

Welcome to new employees **Kaitlin Reiman**, a veterinary assistant with Primary Care, and **Rebecca Sauer**, reception supervisor.

Congratulations to our UW Veterinary Care Veterinary Technician of the Year Award recipients, **Kate Lafferty** (less than five years of continued service at UWVC) and **Sandy Eklof** (more than five years of service), recognized as part of a celebration of National Veterinary Technician Week.



Congratulations also to clinical instructors **Megan Climans**, **Kirstin Cook** and **Stephani Ruppert**, who passed Phase II of the American College of Veterinary Pathologists (ACVP) examination to become diplomates of ACVP, and to Diagnostic Imaging resident **Kaitlin Jones**, who successfully completed her American College of Veterinary Radiology preliminary examination.

And congratulations to all at UW Veterinary Care; if you hadn't yet seen, the hospital was named the best veterinarian clinic in the 2022 Madison.com [People's Choice awards](#). Bravo!

Christopher Snyder, DVM, DAVDC  
Director, [UW Veterinary Care](#)  
Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs

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## From the Archives



As the fall sun sets in the background, a cyclist makes their way along the Howard Temin Lakeshore Path at UW-Madison in October 2016. Less than a half-mile from the School of Veterinary Medicine, the path is the perfect place for a study or work break. Have you visited recently? (Photo by Bryce Richter / UW-Madison)

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## School News



The UW School of Veterinary Medicine's 2022 [holiday cards](#) are now on sale, providing a perfect gift for the animal lovers on your list. Recipients will enjoy beautiful artwork and you will support our school, hospital and students in their honor. This year's card, "Winter Shimmer," features an original design by Wisconsin artist **Yongjing Li**. Fun fact: Li worked at the School of Veterinary Medicine as an electron microscopist and facility manager for many years. She started painting at an early age and that remains her first love.

On Oct. 26, **Makenzie Peterson**, director for wellbeing at the American Association of

Veterinary Medical Colleges, presented a Health Sciences Equity & Diversity Lunch & Learn discussion, Wellbeing in the Workplace, co-sponsored by the UW schools of pharmacy, nursing, veterinary medicine, and medicine and public health.

## Diversity, Equity and Inclusion News

*An update from Richard Barajas, assistant dean for diversity, equity and inclusion*

- At the Oct. 21 dean's get together, artist **Tia Richardson** joined the School of Veterinary Medicine once again to dedicate and name the [community mural](#) she designed, now installed in the school's Renk Learning Center.
- Students working with the school's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) program hosted their first potluck on Oct. 13. It was a successful community-building event with faculty, staff and students participating.
- The school's next DEI event will be in November and will include a visit to the [Sifting and Reckoning exhibit](#) at the Chazen Museum of Art.
- This year's [UW-Madison Diversity Forum](#) will be held on Nov. 14-15 with the theme of The Power of Remembering: Reclaiming Our Legacies to Imagine New Futures. You can [register here](#). The conference is free, with options to participate in person and online.



## Faculty and Staff News

At the annual Veterinary Dental Forum in September, Clinical Professor **Chris Snyder** was named president-elect of the [American Veterinary Dental College](#).

## Student News



The school's PrideSVMC chapter held a [National Coming Out Day T-shirt fundraiser](#), raising \$820 for GSAFE, a local organization working to create just schools for LGBTQ+ youth in Wisconsin.

**Amelia Corona DVMx'25** was [awarded the 2022 Walkin' Pets Veterinary Scholarship](#). The New Hampshire-based pet mobility company annually awards this scholarship to support the next generation of veterinarians who will provide compassionate care to animals.

**Lia Spencer DVMx'23**, the senior Student American Veterinary Medical Association delegate for UW, attended the Midwest Pre-Vet Symposium at Iowa State University in October. Approximately 65 undergraduate students attended and Spencer spoke with many at a UW School of Veterinary Medicine table.

## Research News

Congratulations to the student participants in the school's [Summer Scholars](#) research program, pictured with Dean Mark Markel and Professor Joan Jorgensen, at right, who received poster presentation awards at the school's Fall Research Day in October:

- First place: **Jacob Rastas** (Steve Johnson lab), Neuroplasticity Induced To Improve Breathing in

- Vulnerable Neonates Undergoing Inflammation
- Second place: **Rachel Illgen** (Barry Hartup lab, International Crane Foundation), Mercury and Lead Exposure in Eastern Whooping Cranes: Cause for Concern?
- Honorable mention: **Keegan Lim** (Rob Lipinski lab), Environmental Modulators of DNA Methylation in Cranial Neural Crest Cell Biology and Orofacial Cleft Risk, and **Matthew Aviles** (Doerte Doepfer lab), Metagenomic Shotgun Sequencing of Microbes from Digital Dermatitis Lesions to Assess Virulence Factors and Presence of Antimicrobial Resistance Genes



The Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA) One Health Alliance held its third Translational Research Immersion Program for early career veterinary faculty in September at UW-Madison. A [CTSA Innovation Award grant](#) from the National Institutes of Health funds the program, housed at the UW School of Veterinary Medicine (Professor **Lauren Trepanier** serves as principal investigator). Nearly 70 veterinary clinician scientists from 25 institutions attended the event. Sessions covered creating protected time for research, crafting research aims and highlighting impact, writing grants and manuscripts, collaborating across disciplines, managing a research team, and more. The next program is planned for the fall of 2024.

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## A Day in the Life



**Leandro Teixeira**, left, professor of pathobiological sciences in the School of Veterinary Medicine, describes his research to UW-Madison Science Journalist in Residence Latif Nasser, as Nasser looks at a blue whale eye while visiting the Comparative Ocular Pathology Laboratory of Wisconsin, or COPLOW. Nasser, co-host of New York Public Radio's Peabody Award-winning show Radiolab, toured research laboratories and brought his science journalism expertise to campus in October. (Photo by Elise Mahon / UW-Madison)

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## Upcoming Events

November 18

December 9

**Dean's Get Together: Breakfast with Sally**  
7:30-9 a.m.  
School of Veterinary Medicine  
[More](#)

**34th Annual SVM Craft Fair**  
8 a.m.-1 p.m.  
School of Veterinary Medicine Second Floor  
[More](#)

**November 20**  
**Wisconsin Alumni Reception at AAEP Convention**  
6-8 p.m.  
Casa Rio, 430 E. Commerce St., San Antonio  
RSVP to [Kristi Thorson](#)

**December 16**  
**Dean's Get Together**  
\*Featuring holiday cookie decorating  
11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.  
School of Veterinary Medicine  
[More](#)

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## SVM in the News



[With Fall Migration, Bird Flu Flies Back Into Town](#)  
The New York Times

[New Genetic Test Identifies Dogs' Risk of Cruciate Ligament Rupture](#)  
American Veterinary Medical Association

[Sick as a Dog: How Understanding Canine Diseases Will Save Human Lives](#)  
Nature Medicine

[Vet School Welcomes Class Of 2026](#)  
The Midwest Farm Report

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**“It’s like bringing the kids to daycare from different suburbs. As they commingle, that’s where the virus moves around on a global scale.”**

*-Keith Poulsen DVM'04, PhD'12, associate clinical professor with the School of Veterinary Medicine and director of the Wisconsin Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, in [a New York Times story](#) about avian influenza and renewed concerns around fall migration.*

