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ALUMNI E-NEWS

March/April 2020



## Responding to COVID-19

**To our alumni of the School of Veterinary Medicine,**

Like all of the world, COVID-19 has forced the School of Veterinary Medicine to adjust our operations as we join collective efforts to protect the health of our communities. I'll share more on that below. But first, I want to say that I know that the COVID-19 pandemic is also affecting you, and that many of you are on the front lines in responding and adapting to this challenging situation. Whether you're part of response operations across the country or world (thank you!), having to adapt your clinical practice or other professional work in the face of this pandemic, or trying to find calm and balance amidst change and uncertainty, please know that whatever you may be experiencing you have our concern and support.

Here at UW-Madison and the School of Veterinary Medicine, on-campus staffing has been reduced sharply, with most employees telecommuting. On-site research has been limited

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to essential research only (including several SVM scientists leading efforts to **understand and thwart the virus**). **UW Veterinary Care** has scaled back operations to serve life-threatening emergencies and urgent rechecks. The hospital also had to close temporarily in mid-March when an SVM employee was diagnosed with COVID-19.

For our students, **instruction** has shifted online for the remainder of the semester, externships have been canceled, and clinical rotations are being taught virtually. We are planning for our Class of 2021's entrance into this "virtual clinic" until we can safely bring students back to campus. Sadly, in-person spring commencement ceremonies and the school's annual celebratory events have been canceled, though we're currently developing creative, virtual alternatives. To follow more updates about the university's response to COVID-19, visit [covid19.wisc.edu](https://www.wisc.edu/covid19).

Throughout this unprecedented situation, the school's faculty, staff and students have demonstrated creativity, flexibility, commitment and compassion to ensure that we all help one another, that students make it successfully through the semester, and we have the opportunity to celebrate their achievements. We remain focused on continuing to provide outstanding education to our professional veterinary medical and graduate students to support their success and leadership in all that they do.

As you personally navigate these stressful times, I along with my colleagues here at the SVM hope that you and your families are safe and well. If we might be able to help in any way, please be in touch.



**Kristi V. Thorson**

Associate Dean for Advancement and Administration

**P.S.** We would like to hear about your involvement in COVID-19 response operations or ways your clinical practice or other work has been affected by the pandemic. If you're comfortable sharing your experience for future coverage of COVID-19 in SVM publications, please send an email to [oncall@vetmed.wisc.edu](mailto:oncall@vetmed.wisc.edu).



## **Continuing Education**

*Upcoming courses to help advance your career.*

Several upcoming conferences and other continuing education events have been canceled or are being rescheduled due to the current coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. For more information, visit the [Upcoming CE Events](#) page on the SVM website.

## **Continuing Education via Distance Learning**

On-demand courses on a wide variety of topics also are available through our [distance learning site](#) .

[Additional course details and registration information](#)

## Alumni Updates

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

**Ruthanne Chun DVM'91** and **Kelly Schultz DVM'15** are among the leadership team of Wisconsin Companion Animal Resources, Education, and Social Services (WisCARES), an outreach partnership of the UW-Madison schools of veterinary medicine, pharmacy, and social work that was **recently awarded** a two-year, \$600,000 grant from PetSmart Charities.

**Jessica Quimby DVM'03**, an associate professor at The Ohio State University, was a recent guest on the Morris Animal Foundation podcast **Fresh Scoop**. Quimby discussed feline chronic kidney disease, the causes of this common disease of older cats and her research into how kidneys age and become damaged.

## Ongoing Clinical Trials

### Dogs With Skin Infections

UW Veterinary Care's Dermatology Service is **investigating the effectiveness** of a new staphylococcal vaccine product intended to prevent recurrent skin infections, helping alleviate the need for repeated courses of antibiotics. Eligible dogs must have had at least three episodes of staphylococcal skin infection in the last six months and had hypothyroidism, parasites or food allergies ruled out or under control. Exams, follow-up visits, diagnostic evaluations, cultures, blood and allergy tests, and medication costs are paid by the study. The trial for each dog will last approximately 18 weeks, with visits to UW Veterinary Care every six weeks. Patients are prescribed injections, skin sprays and shampoos for home use .

*Note: Due to limited specialty service availability, we are currently unable to enroll new patients in clinical studies.*

[Learn about other clinical trials.](#)

## Upcoming Events

### April 18-25

SAVMA Wags for Wellness

*\*Now a virtual 5K event*

[More](#)



### June 27

Alumni Reunion

*\*Note: A decision will be made in May on whether or not to hold the reunion*

SVM Classes of 1990, 1995, 2000, 2005, 2010 and 2015

UW Veterinary Medicine Building

11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

[More](#)

[SVM Events Calendar](#)



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