



# Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine

## Pre-Vet Newsletter

August 2011



### Applicants for the Class of 2016

The Fall 2011 Application process is up and running for the Class of 2016.

*Cornell Supplemental Application:*  
<http://www.vet.cornell.edu/admissions/CornellSupplementalApplication.cfm>

*VMCAS Application:*  
<http://www.aavmc.org/Students-Applicants-and-Advisors/Veterinary-Medical-College-Application-Service.aspx>

### MCAT is an option

If you were not able to take the GRE's by the end of July 2011 and would like to apply to Cornell in this application cycle, **you can still take the MCAT's** (until the end of September). Visit the AAMC web site for dates and details on how to register: [www.aamc.org](http://www.aamc.org).



### Pre-Vet Club Saturday

**Saturday, October 22, 2011  
12:00-3:00**

Please join us on October 22<sup>nd</sup> to learn more about Cornell and our DVM degree program, how to prepare for a future application, and how to apply. Your Club will also have the opportunity to take a tour of the Vet College, meet current DVM students, and have pizza and talk with students from other Pre-Vet Clubs.

To register your Club for this program please email [vet\\_admissions@cornell.edu](mailto:vet_admissions@cornell.edu)

### Inside This Issue

- ~Fall 2011 Applications
- ~ MCAT's are an option
- ~ Pre-Vet Club Saturday on October 22<sup>nd</sup>
- ~ Article: "To speak for those who can't"
- ~ How to apply~ 'at a glance'
- ~ Article: "Connecting the dots"
- ~For High School Students
- ~ Fall Admissions Presentations & Tours



### ***To speak for those who can't***

*Dr. Elizabeth Berliner has found her niche in shelter medicine.*

Elizabeth Berliner DVM '03 wasn't the stereotypical child who dreamed of being a veterinarian. In fact, besides the stray neighborhood cats that she fed when she could, her childhood was pretty much pet-free. But every event in her life—even caring for the stray cats—prepared her for her current position at the College, where she is the director of clinical programs for Maddies'® Shelter Medicine Program.

One of the early steps in her journey to Cornell began in Washington, DC, where she was an English teacher. Working with at-risk and emotionally challenged students, Dr. Berliner found herself taking them to animal shelters, encouraging her students to work through their own difficulties by helping homeless animals.

“As I watched how the students benefited from their interactions with the animals and came to understand the satisfaction the experience was giving me, I realized that I wanted to focus on veterinary medicine,” said Dr. Berliner. After graduating veterinary school, she

combined her professional aspirations and her commitment to community outreach by volunteering with RAVS ([www.ruralareavet.org](http://www.ruralareavet.org)). “Every decision I've made has moved me closer to finding an opportunity to embrace a community that embraces homeless and needy pets. I didn't expect to be teaching again, but the benefits of exposing all veterinary students to shelter medicine are so vast. In addition to clinical training, the experience helps them to develop empathy, a skill that benefits all companion animals and their owners.”

Today, Dr. Berliner's time is all about hands-on, blending individual patient care with population health management, preventive medicine, and behavioral health. Working with Dr. Janet Scarlett, director of Cornell's Maddies'® Shelter Medicine Program, Dr. Berliner developed a two-week shelter medicine clinical experience for veterinary students; strengthened the collaboration with the Tompkins County SPCA where students have additional opportunities for supervised first-hand clinical training; and launched a shelter medicine internship, one of only a handful in the country.

Dr. Berliner's first two internship recruits, Drs. Michael Greenberg and Kathleen Riley, are completing rotations in Cornell's teaching hospital as well as in shelters with veterinary programs. Dr. Berliner designed the internship experience with opportunities for the graduate veterinarians to provide high quality, high volume spays and neuters; manage the spread of infectious disease in shelters; provide preventive care in

shelters; and discuss opportunities to redesign shelter facilities.

Her work, though, has just begun. She hopes to follow Dr. Scarlett's lead and engage more proactively in the national conversation around shelter medicine and to expand the reach of Cornell's program by placing additional veterinary students in more shelters along the eastern seaboard.

"The need is there," said Dr. Berliner, referring to the more than 8 million animals residing in more than 4,500 shelters across the country. "The best way I can help these animals is to introduce veterinary students to shelter medicine and to prepare a new generation of professionals with an understanding of its challenges."

*Article & photo by Stephanie Specchio*

### ***How to Apply ~at a glance~***

- Complete and submit both VMCAS & Cornell Supplemental Application
- Make sure you have 3 VMCAS eLor's (evaluations) requested
- Request official transcripts from EACH of the colleges you attended to be sent DIRECTLY to our Admissions Office from the Registrar's office
- Take the GRE's by the end of July, 2011 and have the scores sent to college code 2549 ([www.ets.org](http://www.ets.org)); **MCAT's can be taken up until September 30, 2011**
- If using AP for General Chemistry and/or Physics (score of 4 or higher) have official scores sent to us from the College Board- college code 4818 ([www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com))
- International Applicants- see information at the following link <http://www.vet.cornell.edu/admissions/OAInternational.cfm>
- Dual Degree applicants- 3 additional letters of evaluation required (see section 6 of application if applying for the dual degree)
- New York Residents- complete the residency form found on the tracking page
- Dean's Certification <http://www.vet.cornell.edu/admissions/CADeansCertification.cfm>

#### **Cornell Supplemental Application**

<http://www.vet.cornell.edu/admissions/CornellSupplementalApplication.cfm>

#### **VMCAS Application**

<http://aavmc.org/Students-Applicants-and-Advisors/Veterinary-Medical-College-Application-Service.aspx>

#### **Cornell Application Tracking Page**

<https://secure.vet.cornell.edu/admissions/application/track.asp>

#### **Cornell Application Instructions**

<http://www.vet.cornell.edu/admissions/CAApplicationsandTP.cfm>

GRE's [www.ets.org](http://www.ets.org) (college code 2549); MCAT (optional) [www.aamc.org](http://www.aamc.org) (college code 993)



### **Connecting the dots**

*Dr. Rodrigo Bicalho's career pays tribute to one undisputable fact: nothing happens in isolation.*

If a butterfly's wings can stir a hurricane thousands of miles away, just imagine what a cow's tail can do. Dr. Rodrigo Bicalho has based his career on an approach that enables him to simultaneously embrace and exploit the concept of interdependence. Shining a spotlight squarely on all things bovine, his research and clinical portfolios investigate issues that range from post-partum challenges to digital dermatitis and bridge the worlds of teaching and discovery. This means that whether the newly minted professor is collecting a sample in the field, cruising along pasture-lined roads in an ambulatory truck with a couple of veterinary students alongside him, or diagnosing a sick cow, Dr. Bicalho is happiest—and most effective—when he is putting the pieces together.

“Nothing happens in isolation,” said Dr. Bicalho, who earned his veterinary degree in Brazil before completing a residency in 2005 and his PhD in 2008 at

Cornell. “To effectively solve problems, we must know how systems work, as a single operation and in combination with other mechanisms. Nutrition, disease, physiology, biological processes ... they all have affects at the local and systemic levels. My work looks at the animal—and the issues it faces—as a whole.”

At the top of his research list is a project exploring new technology that will empower producers to better meet the nutritional needs of bovine, although the results will likely be of interest to moms, too.

“The most common approach for preparing milk for consumption is heat pasteurization,” said Dr. Bicalho. “No question it kills bacteria and the milk won't hurt us. I'm not sure the milk is providing as many health benefits as it could, though, as the process of heating raw milk decreases the overall nutritional value.”

In a paradigm-shifting study, he is testing the ability of ultraviolet light to kill bacteria by comparing the biochemical and nutritional qualities of heat-pasteurized milk to that of UV-pasteurized milk. The study also involves careful analysis of the effects of milk pasteurized with both techniques on the health of the more than 1,000 calves enrolled in his study.

Dr. Bicalho is also developing a vaccine to prevent metritis (an inflammation of the uterus), investigating multiple causes for lameness in cows, studying the microbial diversity in the post-partum bovine uterus, and conducting a field trial to evaluate the effectiveness

of four trace minerals (selenium, zinc, copper, and manganese) in a cow's overall health. A collaborator at heart, Dr. Bicalho frequently shares both the challenges and results of his work at international conferences. Before year's end, he will have offered keynote addresses at conferences in Spain, China, Argentina, Mexico, and across America. All of this, while publishing nearly a dozen new papers this year and preparing tomorrow's crop of large animal veterinarians for their own fruitful careers.

*Article & photo by Stephanie Specchio*

### **For High School Students**

Choosing courses in high school can have an impact on your preparation for a future application to veterinary medicine. Although we won't see your high school transcripts, the kind of courses you choose to take will allow you to prepare for your undergraduate college education. We require a number of science courses in college, so it would be helpful to take some of those subjects in high school. That way the first time you face those subjects is not when the courses and grades will impact your veterinary college application.

We will require courses in biology, chemistry, and physics. So consider taking a course in these subjects in high school.

Advance Placement (AP) can be used for general chemistry and physics with a score of 4 or higher.

Also note, you **do not** need a bachelors degree to enter our Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) degree program. You will need a **minimum of 90 semester credits** and all the prerequisite courses completed. You would apply during the application cycle after your sophomore year, for entrance after your junior year. Below is a recommended schedule of the (college) prerequisite courses that would allow for this option:

#### **1<sup>st</sup> Year**

Year of English Composition & Literature  
Year of Biology with labs  
Year of General Chemistry with labs

#### **2<sup>nd</sup> Year**

Year of Organic Chemistry with labs  
Year of General Physics

#### **3<sup>rd</sup> Year**

Biochemistry\*  
Microbiology with lab\*

*\*half year courses; all others are full year*

*To learn more about the prerequisite courses you will take in college, visit the following links:*

[Prerequisite Courses and descriptions;](#)

[Prerequisite Course Policies](#)





Cornell University  
College of Veterinary Medicine

## *Admissions Presentations & Tours*



### *~Fall Programs~*

*Friday, September 16<sup>th</sup> from 3:00-5:00*

*Friday, October 21<sup>st</sup> from 3:00-5:00*

*Friday, November 11<sup>th</sup> from 3:00-5:00*

Register for the Friday Admissions Presentations & Tours on our web site- <http://www.vet.cornell.edu/admissions/PresandTours.cfm>

---

### *~Pre-Vet Club Saturday~*

*Saturday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> from 12:00-3:00*

For Pre-Vet Clubs; please email [vet\\_admissions@cornell.edu](mailto:vet_admissions@cornell.edu)