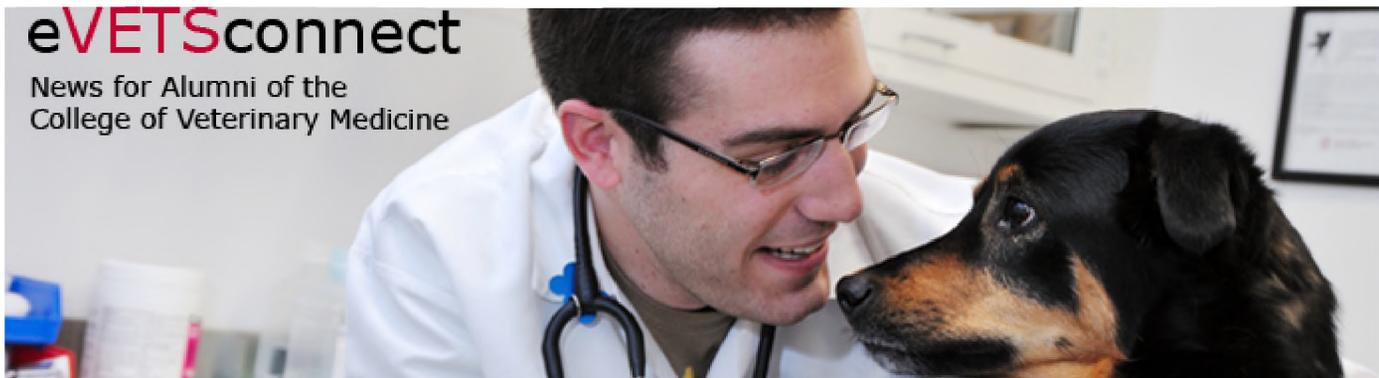


- [Home](#)
- [About](#)
- [Admissions](#)
- [Academics](#)
- [Research](#)
- [Outreach](#)
- [Hospitals](#)
- [Diagnostic Center](#)
- [Giving](#)



## To stay in the know

### November 2012

- [ALUMNI ASSOCIATION NEWS](#)
  - [Alumni Association News](#)
  - [New board members](#)
  - [2012 Salmon Award winner](#)
  - [A tribute to Dr. Zweighaft](#)
- [COLLEGE NEWS](#)
- [ALUMNI NEWS](#)
- [STUDENT NEWS](#)
- [DEVELOPMENT NEWS](#)
- [EVENTS](#)
- [ARCHIVES](#)
- [CURRENT ISSUE](#)

[Apr13\\_Center](#) > [Apr13\\_hayashi](#) > [Apr13\\_blog](#) > [pneumo virus test](#) > [Apr13\\_youngalum](#) > From the Office of Alumni Affairs

## From the Office of Alumni Affairs

Thank you for casting your vote in our elections for the Alumni Association Executive Board. Your votes have been counted, and we want to introduce you to your new at-large members.

Dr. Jerry Bertoldo was an animal science major in the College of Agriculture at Cornell before attending and graduating from the NYS College of Veterinary Medicine in 1977. He was first employed



at a mixed practice near Millbrook, NY, until 1979. For the next 20 years he was a partner with Attica Veterinary Associates, a primarily dairy practice in western New York. In 1999 he accepted a position with Agway Feed and Nutrition in dairy technical services with responsibilities related to the company's heifer raising facilities, support of field reps and educational programs. In 2004 he joined the Northwest New York Dairy, Livestock and Field Crops Team, a regional, 10-county program of Cornell Cooperative Extension and Pro-Dairy as a dairy management specialist. As one of only two veterinarians on staff with CALS Department of Animal Science, he is called on to be involved with projects outside of his team's area that have a statewide outreach. Jerry lives outside of Attica, NY, with his wife Bridget (a horse devotee). They have two sons, Scott and Peter.

He has had a longtime distraction with railroads from college days including ownership and management of a tourist line.



Dr. Katie Garrett graduated from Dartmouth College in 1999 and received her veterinary degree from Cornell University in 2003. She then completed a rotating internship and a surgical residency at Rood and Riddle Equine Hospital in Lexington, KY, where she now heads the diagnostic imaging department. She is also the chairperson of the Educational Programs Committee of the American Association of Equine Practitioners.



Dr. Ann Huntington grew up traveling the world as a military brat, finishing high school in Brooklyn, NY. She went to Penn's Wharton School as an undergraduate, only realizing that big business wasn't for her after spending time working on Madison Avenue. She received her DVM from Cornell in 1977 and then worked six years in mixed practice at Cheshire Veterinary Hospital, in Cheshire, CT, before purchasing Suffield Veterinary Hospital in 1983. This practice has grown from the part-time practice she purchased into a five-veterinarian exclusively small animal practice. From 1985 to 1998, Ann wrote a pet care column syndicated in the US and Canada by Tribune Media services. After filling various capacities in the Connecticut VMA, in 1987 she was the first woman elected CVMA President. Ann did some canine reproduction work while in Cheshire, but that aspect of the practice mushroomed after marrying a Labrador breeder and becoming more visible in the dog show and field trial world. She has been involved in freezing canine

semen since 1990 and now has one of the largest canine reproduction practices in New England and one of the 20 largest in the US. Since graduation, Ann has served Cornell as Class of 1977 Reunion Chair every five years and on both the Dean's Advisory Council and the Dean's Leadership Committee. A widow, she lives in West Suffield, CT, with her four dogs, two cats, 18 hens, one rooster,

and an African Grey Parrot. Her two grown sons come home periodically to disrupt her comfortable routine.



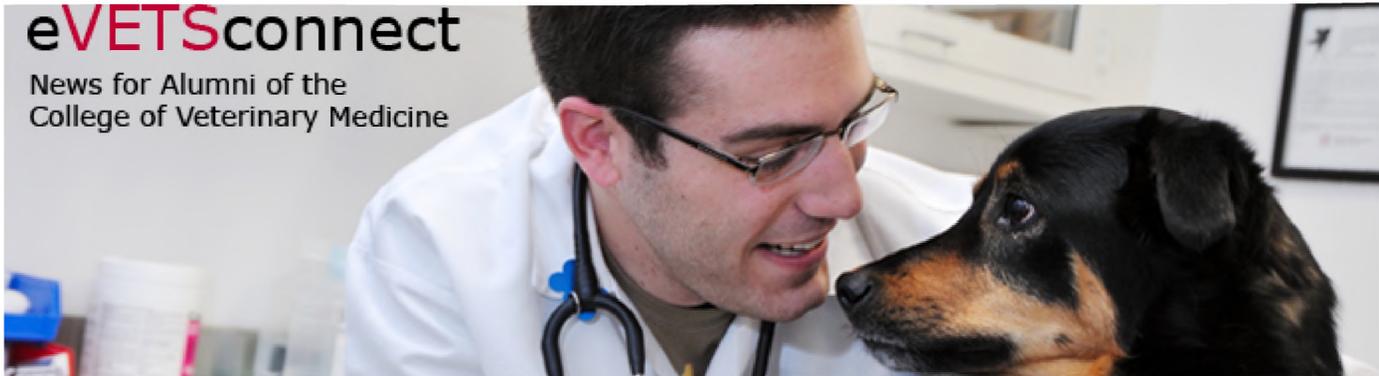
Currently an Assistant Director in the American Veterinary Medical Association's Governmental Relations Division, Dr. Ashley S. Morgan has been with the AVMA since August 2008. As an Assistant Director, Ashley spends her time advocating to Congress and the federal government on behalf of the veterinary profession, animal health and animal welfare. Her portfolio focuses on public health, animal health, and pharmaceutical issues. Prior to joining the AVMA staff, Ashley completed an AVMA Congressional Science Fellowship (2007-2008) through the American Association for the Advancement of Science. During her yearlong fellowship with U.S. Senator Richard Burr (NC), Ashley worked on public health issues, particularly focusing on disease-specific and bioterrorism legislation. Ashley is a 2004 graduate of Cornell's College of Veterinary Medicine, and upon completing an internship in equine medicine and surgery in 2005,

Ashley practiced equine medicine in her southern Virginia hometown.



Dr. Marina Tejada received her BA from New York University in 2004 and her DVM from Cornell University in 2010. She is currently a Staff Veterinarian at North Shore Animal League in Port Washington, NY. Her veterinary interests include shelter medicine, wildlife medicine, and disaster preparedness/emergency response. She resides in Queens, NY, with her three cats and dog, all shelter rescues.

- [Home](#)
- [About](#)
- [Admissions](#)
- [Academics](#)
- [Research](#)
- [Outreach](#)
- [Hospitals](#)
- [Diagnostic Center](#)
- [Giving](#)



## To stay in the know

### November 2012

- [ALUMNI ASSOCIATION NEWS](#)
  - [Alumni Association News](#)
  - [New board members](#)
  - [2012 Salmon Award winner](#)
  - [A tribute to Dr. Zweighaft](#)
- [COLLEGE NEWS](#)
- [ALUMNI NEWS](#)
- [STUDENT NEWS](#)
- [DEVELOPMENT NEWS](#)
- [EVENTS](#)
- [ARCHIVES](#)
- [CURRENT ISSUE](#)

[Apr13\\_Center](#) > [Apr13\\_hayashi](#) > [Apr13\\_blog](#) > [pneumo virus test](#) > [Apr13\\_youngalum](#) > salmon

## From the Office of Alumni Affairs

Dr. Jeanne Barsanti '74 was recognized with the Daniel Elmer Salmon Award for Distinguished Alumni Service, given annually by the Alumni Association of the College of Veterinary Medicine at Cornell University. Presented at the New York State Veterinary Conference, in September 2012, the award recognizes and honors Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine graduates who have distinguished themselves in service to the profession, their communities, or to the College. [Read Dr. Barsanti's acceptance speech.](#)



The award is named in honor of Cornell's first DVM graduate, who is remembered for his pioneering work in controlling contagious animal diseases in the early 20th century. D.E. Salmon was one of Dr. James Law's first students when Cornell University opened its doors in 1868. He received the Bachelor of Veterinary Science degree from Cornell in 1872, and he was awarded the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree in 1876, the first DVM degree to be awarded in the United States of America. Dr. Salmon's contributions to veterinary medicine and human medicine were numerous and significant, including private practice, government service, foreign service, food inspection, and leadership in identifying significant bacterial diseases, including salmonella.

During her 30-year career as a professor, clinician, and scientist, Dr. Barsanti saw many changes in the profession, recalling in particular, early approaches to teaching that incorporated a lot of paper and 2 by 2 slides. As one of the advocates for shelving these approaches, she gained a reputation as a leader in the movement to bring technology into the classroom.

"Dr. Barsanti developed innovative web-based learning modules before the turn of the century," said Dr. Sheila Allen '81 in her nomination of Dr. Barsanti for the award. "These materials were ahead of

their time, and many are still in use today."

In recognition of her contributions to the classroom, Dr. Barsanti has received 14 teaching awards, including the University of Georgia College of Veterinary Medicine's highest teaching honor twice and her university's two highest teaching awards. As department head, she played a key role in establishing and maintaining a culture of teaching excellence in her department and college, serving on 15 college, 9 university, and 3 national committees related to teaching.

"Largely as a result of her efforts, the department of small animal medicine and surgery is recognized internationally for its teaching excellence," said Dr. Allen. "In the classroom, she was known as an exceptional, innovative, and demanding teacher."

Dr. Barsanti, who is also known internationally for her expertise in urologic disorders, was drawn to academia, because of the variety it offers. And, like with teaching, she also saw changes in the clinics.

"When I started at the University of Georgia, there were few specialties," recalled Dr. Barsanti, who completed a residency in internal medicine in the late 1970s. "We taught in all areas of medicine and we treated everything that came through our doors – from dermatology and cardiology to oncology and neurology."

Once again, though, Dr. Barsanti helped to facilitate this change, holding various leadership positions with the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine (ACVIM) and playing a major role in the creation of the generalist and specialist tracks within the ACVIM Forum program, which, Dr. Allen said, “helped shape the cutting-edge continuing education the ACVIM Forum is known for today.”

One of the biggest changes Dr. Barsanti has witnessed is a change in attitude. Nearly 40 years ago, when she was considering career options, she was originally told that applications from women to Cornell’s veterinary college were not encouraged. Noting that she was not told they weren’t accepted, she persisted, eventually receiving an application and interview, and convincing Cornell to accept her.

“I knew that Ezra Cornell believed in educating women,” said Dr. Barsanti, who picked veterinary medicine because of a television advertisement that said good veterinarians like science, medicine, and animals. “He wanted his daughters to receive an education. Historically, Cornell had taken women, I knew not many, but they couldn’t discourage me, and I am happy to say my career was all that I had hoped it would be.”

Dr. Barsanti is now an emeritus professor at University of Georgia’s College of Veterinary Medicine. She earned her veterinary degree from Cornell, completed an internship at Auburn University, and finished her residency at the University of Georgia, where she was hired as a faculty member and rose through the ranks to serve as Small Animal Medicine and Surgery Department Head from 1999-2004, before retiring at the end of 2004.



# Veterinary Legacy

If you enjoyed James Herriot's tales, you will cherish these stories about veterinarians and their passion for serving animals and people in an ever-changing veterinary profession.

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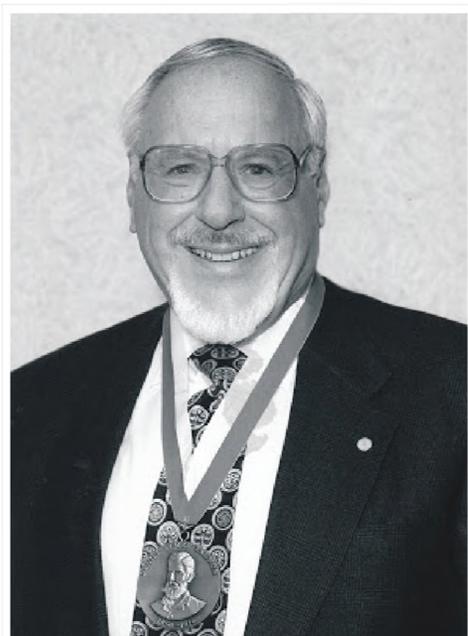
Friday, October 19, 2012

## Dr. Harold M. Zweighaft, A Tribute to a Distinguished and Caring Veterinarian

By Donald F. Smith, Cornell University  
Posted October 19, 2012

*Harold M. Zweighaft, DVM died on October 18, 2012, surrounded by his loving family.*

I don't remember when I first met Dr. Zweighaft. Perhaps it was at a Cornell function or at a meeting of the American Veterinary Medical Association; maybe it was a social function of the New York State Veterinary Medical Society. All I know is that it was a long time ago, and that our friendship and my admiration for him grew stronger with each passing year.



Harold M. Zweighaft, DVM  
presented the Daniel E. Salmon Award medal in 2000  
*Photo provided by Cornell University*

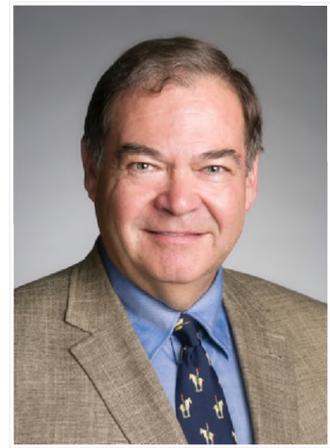
Dr. Zweighaft graduated from Cornell in 1956. Though it was an era when it was not always popular to be a Jewish student in veterinary medicine, he became one of Cornell's strongest alumni, serving in many distinguished roles including over 20 years on the veterinary college's Advisory Council.

He was director of the Tri Boro Animal Hospital in the Bronx from 1958-1984, and

### Pages

- [Home](#)
- [Interviews with Veterinarians](#)

Donald F. Smith D.V.M.



### Author

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[www.vet.cornell.edu/legacy](http://www.vet.cornell.edu/legacy);

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By Donald F. Smith, DVM, DACVS  
Posted January 18, 2015 Author's Comment: Centennial-Year tributes to the College of Veter...

of the West Parc Veterinary Clinic on the upper west side of Manhattan beginning in 1981. He was a compassionate and committed veterinarian, loved and respected by his clients and their pets. A breeder of champion Boston Terriers, Dr. Zweighaft could always be found with his wife, Dorothy, and other members of their personal and Cornell family in his floor box at the Westminster Dog Show each February, enjoying the judging of the breed groups and the Best-in-Show.

Dr. Zweighaft's influence extended to the veterinary profession at the city, state and national levels. His most distinguished role was as chair of the Executive Board of the AVMA (1997-98), a position that carried great responsibility and impact for the profession nationally.

Though his professional awards are numerous and lofty, Dr. Zweighaft was most comfortable "on the Hill" at Cornell. His lifelong love affair with Cornell has extended to the next generation of his own family and also to his clients, colleagues and friends. In 2000, he was presented with the Daniel Elmer Salmon Award, the highest distinction bestowed by Cornell veterinary college graduates to one of their own.

Dr. Douglas Aspros, president of the AVMA and a fellow New York State veterinarian wrote to me this morning regarding Dr. Zweighaft, "This is the passing of an era and the loss of a very effective advocate for veterinary medicine."

Dr. Smith invites comments at [dfs6@cornell.edu](mailto:dfs6@cornell.edu).

Posted by Donald F. Smith at 3:06 PM



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Labels: [AVMA](#), [Cornell University](#), [Harold M. Zweighaft](#), [NYSVMS](#), [Tri Boro Animal Hospita](#), [Veterinary Medicine](#), [West Parc Veterinary Clinic](#)

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[Home](#)

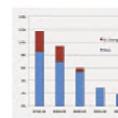
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By Donald F.

Smith, Cornell University (1) In a story posted here on February 27 th , I reported that alumni of Ross University School of...

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By Donald F. Smith, DVM, DACVR  
Posted January 14, 2016 Author's Note: This is the second of six contiguous articles on veterinary ...

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- [Women in Veterinary Medicine](#) (27)
- [African American Veterinarians](#) (16)
- [Black History Month](#) (8)
- [Careers for Veterinarians](#) (8)
- [Water for Elephants](#) (6)
- [Tuskegee Airmen](#) (5)

#### Scheduled and Recent Events:

Scheduled:

ASSOCIATION OF THE AMERICAN VETERINARY MEDICAL COLLEGES annual meeting (Washington, DC), March 5, 2016. Co-presenter, Julie Kumble

Louisiana State University, leadership workshop. Co-presenter Julie Kumble, April 1, 2016

Auburn University, leadership workshop, Co-presenter, Julie Kumble, Fall 2016

Lincoln Memorial University, leadership workshop, Co-presenter, Julie Kumble, November 2016

- [Home](#)
- [About](#)
- [Admissions](#)
- [Academics](#)
- [Research](#)
- [Outreach](#)
- [Hospitals](#)
- [Diagnostic Center](#)
- [Giving](#)



## College News

- [College Overview](#)
- [Facts and Figures](#)
- [College Leadership](#)
- [Publications](#)
- [Events](#)
- [Current News](#)
- [Archived Releases: 2014](#)
- [Archived Releases: 2013](#)
- [Archived Releases: 2012](#)
- [Archived Releases: 2011](#)
- [Archived Releases: 2010](#)
- [Archived Releases: 2009](#)
- [Archived Releases: 2008](#)
- [Archived Releases: pre-2008](#)

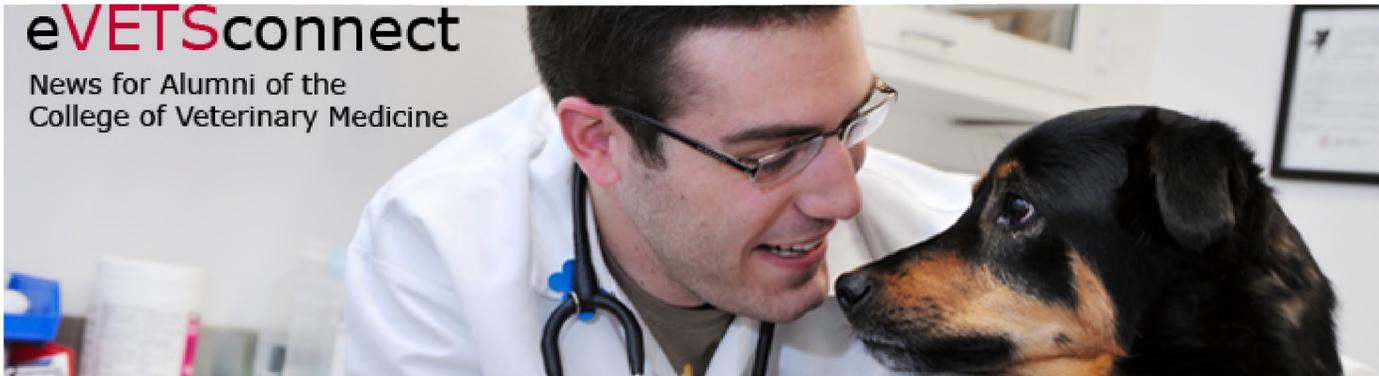
[Apr13\\_Center](#) > [Apr13\\_hayashi](#) > [Apr13\\_blog](#) > [pneumo virus test](#) > [Apr13\\_youngalum](#) > EvansBirthday

## Surprise party for Dr. Howie Evans' 90th



Happy 90th Birthday to Dr. Howie Evans, anatomist extraordinaire and beloved professor of countless Cornell veterinarians! Dr. Evans continues coming to work even today, updating his seminal text on dog anatomy and collecting goodies for volunteer visits to local schoolchildren. He continually inspires people of all ages with show-and-tell wonders from across the animal kingdom. We held a surprise birthday party for Howie, shown in this video. You can post your own birthday wishes on [the video on our Facebook Page](#).

- [Home](#)
- [About](#)
- [Admissions](#)
- [Academics](#)
- [Research](#)
- [Outreach](#)
- [Hospitals](#)
- [Diagnostic Center](#)
- [Giving](#)



## To stay in the know

### November 2012

- [ALUMNI ASSOCIATION NEWS](#)
  - [Alumni Association News](#)
  - [New board members](#)
  - [2012 Salmon Award winner](#)
  - [A tribute to Dr. Zweighaft](#)
- [COLLEGE NEWS](#)
- [ALUMNI NEWS](#)
- [STUDENT NEWS](#)
- [DEVELOPMENT NEWS](#)
- [EVENTS](#)
- [ARCHIVES](#)
- [CURRENT ISSUE](#)

[Apr13\\_Center](#) > [Apr13\\_hayashi](#) > [Apr13\\_blog](#) > [pneumo virus test](#) > [Apr13\\_youngalum](#) > hume

## Program inspires exchanges at the borders ... of communities and professions

Since 2009, a partnership between Weill Cornell Medical College (WCMC) and the Cayuga Medical Center has ensured that WCMC medical students have the opportunity to gain first-hand experience with community and rural medicine by completing a six-week primary care rotation in Ithaca. This year, faculty and students at the College of Veterinary Medicine helped to expand the initiative, now



giving participants the opportunity to also look at issues from a One Health perspective.

“The One Health initiative recognizes that the health of our planet and the species that inhabit it is a tightly woven fabric that depends upon the stability of every thread in the fabric: humans, animals, and the environment,” said Dr. Kelly Hume, a veterinary oncologist who helps to organize the sessions with the College of Veterinary Medicine.

“Sessions at the vet college are designed to tap into this interconnectedness and to help students understand that answers to some of the most pressing medical issues will

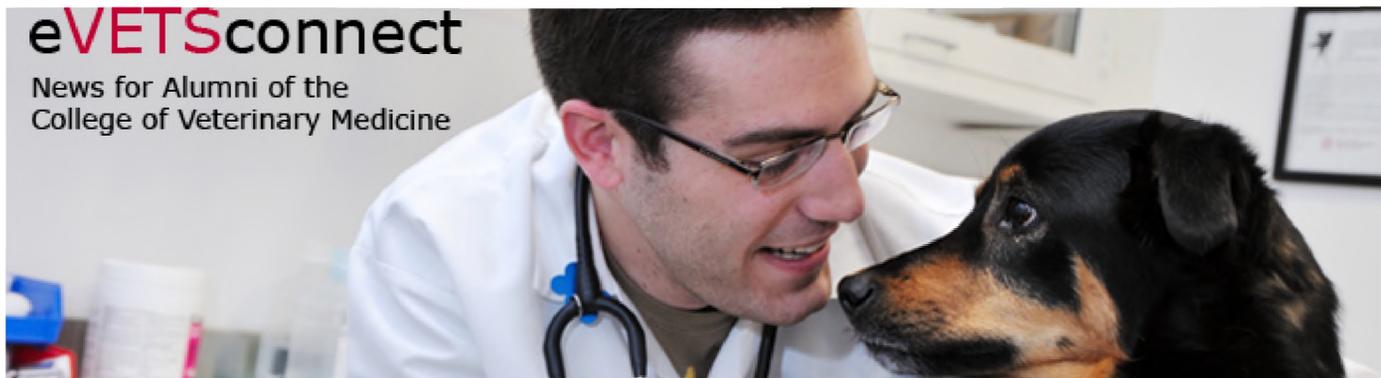
likely only be found at the interface of animal and health. Our program emphasizes the value of collaborating and leveraging the knowledge that resides in human and veterinary medicine for the benefit of all.”

Piloted with a session that compared and contrasted hyperthyroidism in cats with Graves disease, an autoimmune disorder that leads to overactivity of the thyroid gland in people, the idea has expanded to include student presentations from students from Weill and the veterinary college followed by interactive, faculty- and clinician-led discussions. Since then, sessions have explored veterinary and human medical conditions that range from lymphoma and breast cancer to Lyme disease and diabetes.

“The presentations have been very interesting,” said Dr. Adam Law, an endocrinologist with Cayuga Medical Center who initiated the collaboration with the College. “We’ve had cases with a lot of overlap between species and some that are very particular to one species. In all cases, we’ve found value in the comparisons. How are the cases investigated in the veterinary and human worlds? What are the standard treatments? We’ve identified some very fascinating information as we’ve discussed the differences.”

These afternoon sessions with faculty and students at the veterinary college are just one component of the experience. Throughout the year, WCMC students shadow local physicians, gaining clinical experience often different from that found in Manhattan hospitals, such as managing mononucleosis on a university campus or conducting family medicine in rural villages and farms. The partnership with the College, according to Dr. Law, gives the students from Weill an opportunity to meet similarly-minded students while in Ithaca and to experience first-hand the intriguing similarities between veterinary and human medicine.

- [Home](#)
- [About](#)
- [Admissions](#)
- [Academics](#)
- [Research](#)
- [Outreach](#)
- [Hospitals](#)
- [Diagnostic Center](#)
- [Giving](#)



## To stay in the know

### November 2012

- [ALUMNI ASSOCIATION NEWS](#)
  - [Alumni Association News](#)
  - [New board members](#)
  - [2012 Salmon Award winner](#)
  - [A tribute to Dr. Zweighaft](#)
- [COLLEGE NEWS](#)
- [ALUMNI NEWS](#)
- [STUDENT NEWS](#)
- [DEVELOPMENT NEWS](#)
- [EVENTS](#)
- [ARCHIVES](#)
- [CURRENT ISSUE](#)

[Apr13\\_Center](#) > [Apr13\\_hayashi](#) > [Apr13\\_blog](#) > [pneumo virus test](#) > [Apr13\\_youngalum](#) > davisson

## Davisson earns prestigious honor

The American Heart Association recently awarded Dr. Robin Davisson one of the most prestigious scientific prizes of her discipline: the 2012 Arthur C. Corcoran Memorial Award and Lecture. Presented since 1977, the international prize honors its namesake and is presented annually at the High Blood Pressure Research Scientific Sessions to a distinguished honoree from the field of hypertension.



“Dr. Davisson’s selection to deliver the Corcoran Award lecture recognizes her leadership in the field of hypertension research and her enormous impact on the careers of young scientists,” said Dr. Michael I. Kotlikoff, Austin O. Hooey Dean of Veterinary Medicine. “Robin has made superb contributions that have both changed conventional thinking about cardiovascular science and traditional strategies for treating cardiovascular disease. We are extraordinarily proud of Robin in receiving this prestigious recognition of her outstanding science.”

Professor Davisson’s research focuses on mechanisms of function, control, and signaling of the cardiovascular system as well as disorders of these mechanisms in the context of diseases such as hypertension, heart failure, and pre-eclampsia. Continually funded since 1998 by organizations such as the National Institutes of Health and the American Heart Association, her investigations employ the interdisciplinary approach of “functional genomics,” an endeavor at the interface of physiology and molecular biology. She has received numerous awards for her research throughout her training and faculty career. Each has been an honor, but this award, she says, holds special significance.

“Arthur Corcoran was one of the forefathers of hypertension research,” said Davisson, who is the Andrew Dickson White Professor of Molecular Physiology at Cornell and holds a joint appointment at Weill Cornell Medical College and the College of Veterinary Medicine. “He helped established the field and was an advocate for research funding and higher education. His activist spirit inspired me to take my lecture in a somewhat unusual direction.”

At the award ceremony in Washington, DC, surrounded by former students, postdoctoral associates, many of her mentors, and numerous long-term colleagues, Davisson shared highlights of her research program and also described the importance of a robust research ecosystem - a set of scientific research and educational elements - that she said is currently at risk, given a variety of political and economic issues.

“[A scientist’s] work is dependent not only on the knowledge and skills of an incredibly talented investigative team but, in a more fundamental sense, upon a robust research ecosystem that has led to the unprecedented opportunities for discovery that all of us enjoy – opportunities that will quickly fade if we don’t defend and maintain the ecosystem,” said Davisson, explaining that this ecosystem begins in K-12 and requires supportive families; motivated science and technology teachers; adequate facilities; research opportunities throughout undergraduate, graduate, and postdoctoral study that is guided by devoted and talented faculty; job security for productive faculty to support the academic freedom needed to test risky or controversial ideas and hypotheses; and access to competitive, peer-reviewed research support. “We must effectively and tirelessly defend the need for our elected officials to appropriate sufficient funds for our various federal research agencies and programs. Our argument must be convincing and must include first, the critical need for more knowledge of life processes for the sake of understanding, as well as for the translational potential of that knowledge.”

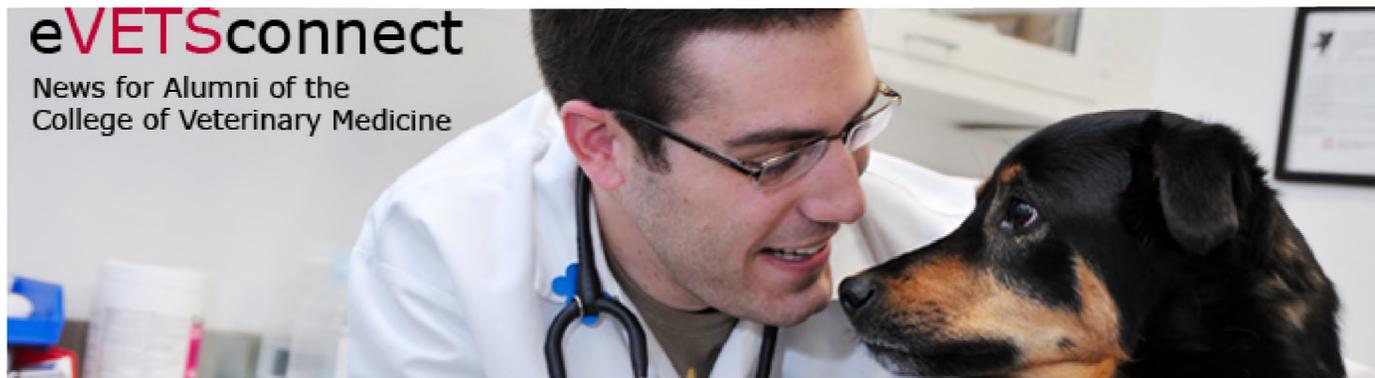
Davisson has been actively engaged in graduate student education and professional development since the start of her faculty career. At the University of Iowa, she developed and taught a course called Survival Skills for a Research Career, which focused on the full spectrum of communication,

grant-writing, and other essential skills needed to establish a successful research laboratory in an academic setting. She also spearheaded the first Master in Teaching program at Iowa, designed to educate graduate students about teaching in higher education. She has continued these efforts at Cornell and has received several awards for mentoring undergraduate, graduate, and postdoctoral students in the areas of research, teaching, and career development.

“Dr. Davisson has distinguished herself at each stage of her career,” said Dr. Curt Sigmund, professor at the University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine, noting that she has essentially won every possible award for someone at her career stage in hypertension research. “But perhaps Robin’s greatest gift to the hypertension and greater scientific community has been her mentorship of numerous trainees. Among them are 20 past or current postdoctoral fellows and graduate students who appear to be receiving as many accolades as Robin did at similar career stages, thereby amplifying her impact on science many fold.”

Davisson has a longstanding interest in fiber arts and is an avid runner, skier, and scuba diver. She enjoys reading, cooking, and spending time with her husband, David Skorton, and their two Newfoundland dogs Billie and Louie.

- [Home](#)
- [About](#)
- [Admissions](#)
- [Academics](#)
- [Research](#)
- [Outreach](#)
- [Hospitals](#)
- [Diagnostic Center](#)
- [Giving](#)



## To stay in the know

### November 2012

- [ALUMNI ASSOCIATION NEWS](#)
  - [Alumni Association News](#)
  - [New board members](#)
  - [2012 Salmon Award winner](#)
  - [A tribute to Dr. Zweighaft](#)
- [COLLEGE NEWS](#)
- [ALUMNI NEWS](#)
- [STUDENT NEWS](#)
- [DEVELOPMENT NEWS](#)
- [EVENTS](#)
- [ARCHIVES](#)
- [CURRENT ISSUE](#)

[Apr13\\_Center](#) > [Apr13\\_hayashi](#) > [Apr13\\_blog](#) > [pneumo virus test](#) > [Apr13\\_youngalum](#) > stokol

## Keeping blood free to flow

Even in their mothers' wombs unborn foals need proper blood flow to survive and grow. A clot cutting off blood to the wrong place can spell disaster or death.

That's exactly what happens when the infectious disease equid herpes virus-1 (EHV-1) causes its infamous effects: abortions and adult neurological disease. Infected horses can form clots in blood vessels feeding the placenta or spinal cord. But how does the virus trigger these clots?



No one yet knows why horses with EHV-1 get clots, but clinical pathologist Dr. Tracy Stokol plans to find out and is looking at platelets (small cells in blood) as potential culprits. Platelets are involved in normal blood clotting, which stops bleeding after an injury. Following injuries, platelets start attaching to blood vessels, become activated, and stick together, helping a clot to form. But this same process that closes off wounds to stop blood flowing where it shouldn't can also form clots that stop blood from flowing where it should.

“My theory is that EHV-1 is somehow activating platelets to start forming clots and encouraging them to grow,” said Dr. Stokol. “The question is how: is it through direct contact between the virus and platelets, indirect contact with virus-infected cells releasing fragments that turn platelets on, or some combination?”

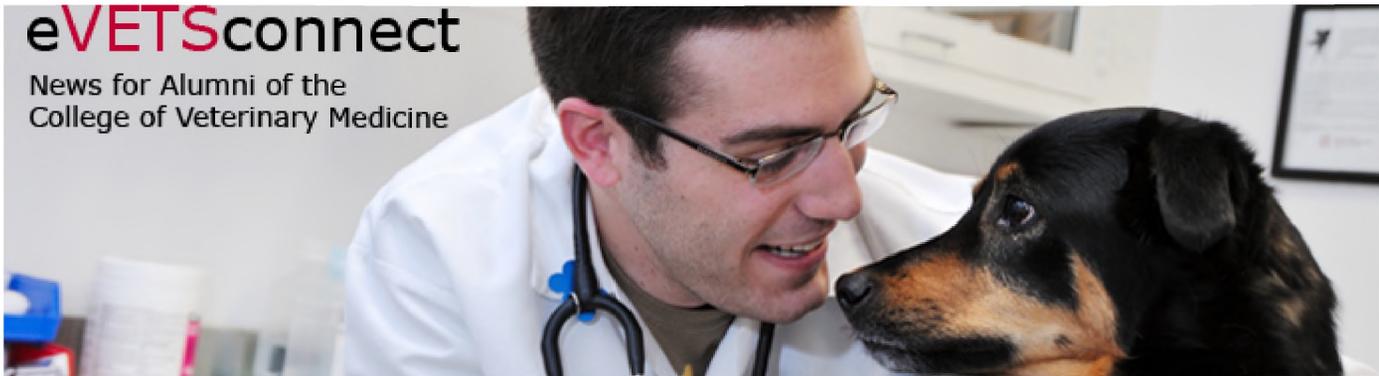
Using flow cytometry, Dr. Stokol's lab tested whether certain neurologic and abortion-causing strains of EHV-1 directly bind to and activate equine platelets. The project's preliminary data suggest they do. Yet questions remain: how does EHV-1 activate platelets? Can we prevent this from happening? Can cells infected with EHV-1 activate platelets that haven't been exposed to the virus?

A technique novel to veterinary medicine will also help Dr. Stokol determine whether platelets are activated by EHV-1-infected cells that make up the inner lining of blood vessels (endothelial cells). Using a microfluidic device her lab produced in 2010 with help from Cornell biomedical engineers, Dr. Stokol has grown a life-sized model one tenth of a millimeter thick that simulates real equine endothelium using living cells from a horse. By infecting the model endothelial cells with EHV-1 and infusing platelets over the cells, her lab can watch the platelets' interactions with infected endothelium in real-time using digital video microscopy, then analyze the recordings.

“This device allows us to examine what's happening in a life-like environment,” said Dr. Stokol. “If we can show platelets are the missing link bridging EHV-1 infections to the clots that cause EHV-1-related abortions and neuropathy, we'll have found a new target for therapies. There are several commercially available platelet inhibitors, such as clopidogrel and aspirin, that could easily be tested for their ability to prevent platelet activation after EHV-1 infection. If effective, these medicines could potentially help change the outlook for infected horses and their young.”

*Funded by the Zweig Memorial Fund for Equine Research*

- [Home](#)
- [About](#)
- [Admissions](#)
- [Academics](#)
- [Research](#)
- [Outreach](#)
- [Hospitals](#)
- [Diagnostic Center](#)
- [Giving](#)



## To stay in the know

### November 2012

- [ALUMNI ASSOCIATION NEWS](#)
  - [Alumni Association News](#)
  - [New board members](#)
  - [2012 Salmon Award winner](#)
  - [A tribute to Dr. Zweighaft](#)
- [COLLEGE NEWS](#)
- [ALUMNI NEWS](#)
- [STUDENT NEWS](#)
- [DEVELOPMENT NEWS](#)
- [EVENTS](#)
- [ARCHIVES](#)
- [CURRENT ISSUE](#)

[Apr13\\_Center](#) > [Apr13\\_hayashi](#) > [Apr13\\_blog](#) > [pneumo virus test](#) > [Apr13\\_youngalum](#) > cytology

## \$20 off coupons from the AHDC's Cytology Service for Cornell alumni

The Clinical Pathology Laboratory at Cornell University has re-established a high quality diagnostic cytology service to all clients of the AHDC. We would like to offer Cornell alumni two coupons for \$20 off your next cytology.

When you choose the AHDC cytology service you will receive:

- The consistency and quality of service that we offer all of our clients, including the specialists at the Cornell University Hospital for Animals!
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For further information see: <http://ahdc.vet.cornell.edu/Shipping/> For further details on the cytology service please follow the cytology links on the clinical pathology website under <http://ahdc.vet.cornell.edu/Sects/ClinPath/test/>.

Please detach and return the coupon below with your specimen and completed cytology submission form available at: [http://ahdc.vet.cornell.edu/docs/Cytology\\_Submission\\_Form.pdf](http://ahdc.vet.cornell.edu/docs/Cytology_Submission_Form.pdf)



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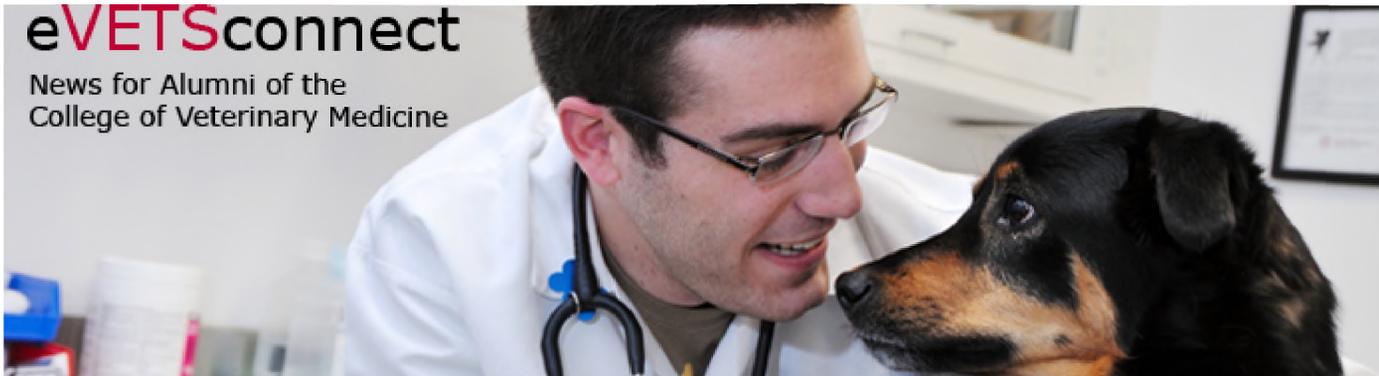
*Coupon 1: Expiry date: 6/1/2013  
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- [Home](#)
- [About](#)
- [Admissions](#)
- [Academics](#)
- [Research](#)
- [Outreach](#)
- [Hospitals](#)
- [Diagnostic Center](#)
- [Giving](#)



## To stay in the know

### November 2012

- [ALUMNI ASSOCIATION NEWS](#)
  - [Alumni Association News](#)
  - [New board members](#)
  - [2012 Salmon Award winner](#)
  - [A tribute to Dr. Zweighaft](#)
- [COLLEGE NEWS](#)
- [ALUMNI NEWS](#)
- [STUDENT NEWS](#)
- [DEVELOPMENT NEWS](#)
- [EVENTS](#)
- [ARCHIVES](#)
- [CURRENT ISSUE](#)

[Apr13\\_Center](#) > [Apr13\\_hayashi](#) > [Apr13\\_blog](#) > [pneumo virus test](#) > [Apr13\\_youngalum](#) > katie

## Young alumna assumes leadership roles quickly

Dr. Katie Garrett '03 says she had all the right influencers in her life. Her parents encouraged her fascination with horses by facilitating riding lessons. Her teachers nurtured her scientific interests. And the veterinarians who allowed her to ride with them inspired her to pursue her dreams.

"I've had excellent mentors at every stage of my life," said Dr. Garrett. "I wouldn't be where I am right now if it weren't for all of them, looking out for me and guiding me."



Today, Dr. Garrett is repaying that mentorship by stepping forward in a variety of ways. She recently agreed to serve as a member of the College's Alumni Association Executive Board. In addition, she has agreed to help plan the 2012 American Association of Equine Practitioners annual convention. As the chairperson of the Educational Programs Committee, Dr. Garrett helped review proposals, recruit speakers, and select topics for discussion at various break-out sessions.

"We received about 250 abstracts for consideration, and approximately 80 will be included in the program" said Dr.

Garrett, who is working with the convention's program chair and AAEP president-elect Dr. Ann Dwyer '83. "Each of them describes some of the newest thinking in our field. No one can read them all, but I tried to read as many as I could. The work that is being done to help improve life for horses is fascinating."

Dr. Garrett's interest in horses dates back to her childhood.

"I grew up riding horses and competing in hunter/jumper competitions," said Dr. Garrett, explaining that although her parents likely believed her interest was a phase, they humored her. "I've always wanted to be a veterinarian."

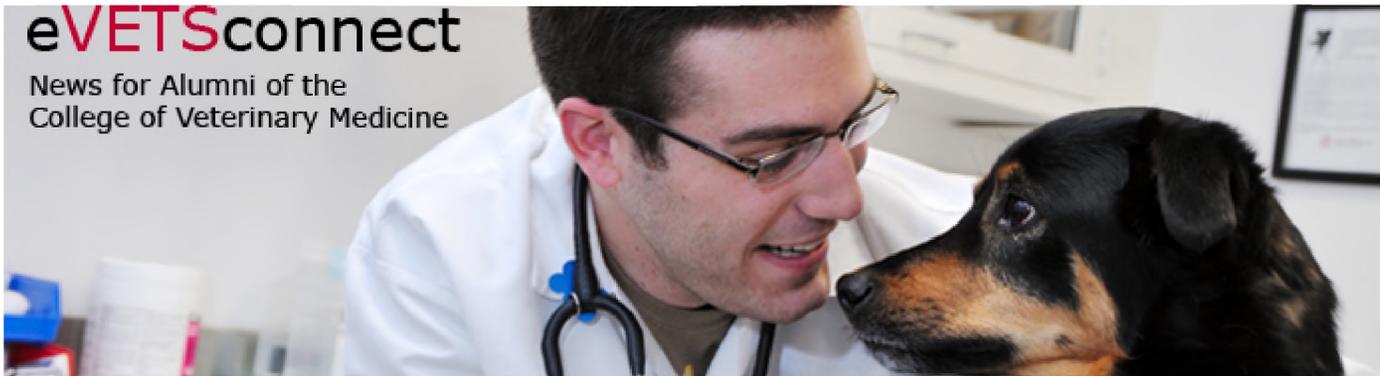
That interest was solidified when she began riding with equine doctors from the Genesee Valley Equine Clinic as a senior in high school. All Cornell-trained, Dr. Garrett said she was impressed with their technical prowess, incredible commitment to customer service, and genuine interest in their patients and clients.

After earning her veterinary degree, she completed an internship with Rood and Riddle Equine Hospital in Kentucky. Although she initially expected to return to the northeast, her colleagues and clients at Rood and Riddle and the opportunity to work with incredible athletes enticed her to stay at Rood and Riddle. She spent some time in ambulatory medicine, completed a residency in surgery and today works in diagnostic imaging.

"I've always loved puzzles," said Dr. Garrett. "My images offer clues to what's ailing our patients and can provide insights into how best to heal them and get them back to work. Beyond that, though, much of diagnostic imaging is based on physics, and science was one of the aspects of this profession that I found attractive."

When she's not at Rood and Riddle, Dr. Garrett is likely at home with her horse, Earl, a retired steeple chase runner who suffered a tendon injury before Dr. Garrett adopted him.

- [Home](#)
- [About](#)
- [Admissions](#)
- [Academics](#)
- [Research](#)
- [Outreach](#)
- [Hospitals](#)
- [Diagnostic Center](#)
- [Giving](#)



## To stay in the know

### November 2012

- [ALUMNI ASSOCIATION NEWS](#)
  - [Alumni Association News](#)
  - [New board members](#)
  - [2012 Salmon Award winner](#)
  - [A tribute to Dr. Zweighaft](#)
- [COLLEGE NEWS](#)
- [ALUMNI NEWS](#)
- [STUDENT NEWS](#)
- [DEVELOPMENT NEWS](#)
- [EVENTS](#)
- [ARCHIVES](#)
- [CURRENT ISSUE](#)

[Apr13\\_Center](#) > [Apr13\\_hayashi](#) > [Apr13\\_blog](#) > [pneumo virus test](#) > [Apr13\\_youngalum](#) > aziza

## Out of this world research

Aziza Glass is focused. Her goals are crystal clear, and she has visualized a future for herself that includes healing a variety of species as a veterinarian and conducting research that will make her more effective in the exam room. This past summer, she conducted research with the potential to help others “see” as well.



During an 11-week internship with the National Space Biomedical Research Institute at NASA's Johnson Space Center (JSC), Aziza conducted research with the potential to help people suffering from far-sightedness. More specifically, Aziza's work focused on developing a countermeasure for the risk of oxidative stress by testing the effects of a green tea extract-enriched diet.

"Interning at the JSC provides the opportunity to gain exposure into a field of science that, at first glance, does not have a correlation to veterinary medicine," said Aziza, who is a DVM candidate with the Class of 2015. "However, I have learned just the opposite. I believe that space medicine provides an accelerated model to study diseases and their development. Public and animal health improves by solving the same problems that enable astronauts to

extend their mission durations, allowing them to go to Near-Earth Asteroids and Mars."

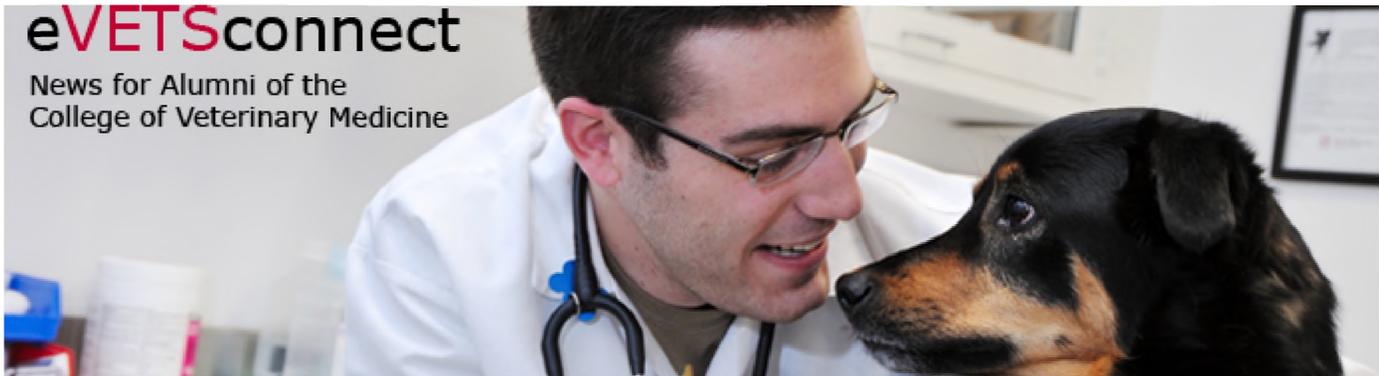
Beyond building her understanding of the relationship between the fields of space biomedicine and veterinary medicine, Aziza said the internship at the JSC helped her improve the techniques she uses in the laboratory and confirmed the direction that she hopes to take her research career.

"I really liked the subject matter," said Aziza. "It was meaningful work that has real potential for improving the quality of life for people around the world and even for those who go outside of this world."

Aziza came to Cornell because of its reputation and says that her experiences are living up to the reputation. Case-based learning, in particular, is a good fit for her, as the hands-on approach helps to put issues into perspective. She is originally from Houston and expects to return to the area after earning her veterinary degree. Before that, though, she hopes to secure another internship at the JSC.

"As I learn about life sciences research conducted at NASA, I am further convinced that a veterinary research perspective can contribute to the advancement of space biomedicine," Glass said. "I can also be a part of a great American legacy: space exploration."

- [Home](#)
- [About](#)
- [Admissions](#)
- [Academics](#)
- [Research](#)
- [Outreach](#)
- [Hospitals](#)
- [Diagnostic Center](#)
- [Giving](#)



## To stay in the know

### November 2012

- [ALUMNI ASSOCIATION NEWS](#)
  - [Alumni Association News](#)
  - [New board members](#)
  - [2012 Salmon Award winner](#)
  - [A tribute to Dr. Zweighaft](#)
- [COLLEGE NEWS](#)
- [ALUMNI NEWS](#)
- [STUDENT NEWS](#)
- [DEVELOPMENT NEWS](#)
- [EVENTS](#)
- [ARCHIVES](#)
- [CURRENT ISSUE](#)

[Apr13\\_Center](#) > [Apr13\\_hayashi](#) > [Apr13\\_blog](#) > [pneumo virus test](#) > [Apr13\\_youngalum](#) > cynthia

## Truth's path

Finding – and especially bonding with – a trusted advisor is not easily done these days. Stretched in many directions, people are frequently hurried and can be overwhelmed with responsibilities. So much so that it's difficult to find the time to build the level of connections from which trust springs. Cynthia Suprenant offers a different perspective, though, when it comes to the relationship she has with her veterinarian, Dr. Jim Glendening '70.



“Dr. Glendening is wonderful because veterinary medicine is not just a job for him,” said Cynthia, who owns two cats and two Golden Retrievers with her husband, Mike. “I can tell by the way he looks at every creature individually. He is also well-schooled, continues to stay abreast of the latest thinking in the profession, and doesn’t treat animals as people or as extensions of their owners. He treats them as the creatures they are and helps their owners understand that animals process life differently than people. They don’t anticipate the future. They live in the moment, so while a person can rationalize that taking medicine or enduring a painful procedure may lead to a better day tomorrow, an animal can’t. This advice has influenced when and how

much I’m willing to ask my pets to endure.”

This intense level of trust inspired Cynthia to learn more about one of the organizations that Dr. Glendening trusted himself: Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine. In the early 1990s, when Cynthia adopted Francine, a young cat who had contracted feline leukemia from her mother, she needed to know if it was safe to allow the kitten to mingle freely with the other cats in her family.

“I flew out to Cornell’s veterinary library and did some journal research,” Cynthia said, explaining that it was in the pre-Internet era. “When I finished my reading, I brought my notes in and talked it over with Dr. Glendening. I think I was his first client to be so invested in the science of vaccines and virus transmission. When Francine died at the age of three after a very happy and quite healthy life, he made a contribution to Cornell in her memory. I remember getting the notice of the gift and thinking that if this was something Dr. Glendening believed in, it was something I was going to support.”

That was in 1995 and began Cynthia’s relationship with the College. In 2001, another of Cynthia’s cats, Bumper, had a seizure. Convinced that cats are not subject to idiopathic epilepsy like dogs, Dr. Glendening referred Cynthia to Cornell

“I remember Dr. Glendening talking about Dr. de Lahunta, a preeminent veterinary neurologist at Cornell,” said Cynthia, who shared a videotape of Bumper having a seizure with Dr. de Lahunta. “Ultimately, I brought Bumpy out to the Companion Animal Hospital. It was quite an experience – the cat had an inoperable brain tumor, but he lived a happy and essentially seizure-free year on steroids until he died at the age of 15. Fortunately for all of us, Bumper was a great ‘car cat’: he’d roam my Suburban and end up purring on a heated seat for the 3.5-hour trips to Ithaca.”

More than a decade later, Cynthia still takes her pets to Dr. Glendening’s practice, Adirondack Animal Hospital, and has maintained her connection to Cornell with visits to the College’s animal hospital as needed and gifts to the Feline Health Center and most recently the annual fund, established to meet the College’s greatest needs as it works to advance the health and well-being of animals and people.