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Nominate now for the 2013 Salmon Award

Continue the Legacy

You know your peers best. You know what they do day in and day out to serve their patients and clients. You know the passion they commit to furthering the profession of veterinary medicine. And, you know the loyalty that drives their service to your alma mater.

Help us honor our alumni by nominating a Cornell graduate for the Daniel Elmer Salmon Award for Distinguished Alumni Service. 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, the award

was established by the Alumni Association in 1986 to recognize graduates who have distinguished themselves in service to the profession, their communities, or to the College.

Nominations are accepted throughout the year until May 1. The recipient of the award is notified by September 1 and is honored at the annual New York State Veterinary Conference.



**Nominate
Now**

Additional news from the Alumni Association

Visit our [website](#) for a listing of our board members and our meeting dates. Each fall, we welcome nominations to the board.

To reach the Office of Alumni Affairs, Development, and Communications, call 607.253.3745 or [email](#) – subject line “Alumni Association.”

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Hear it first at the Clinical Investigators' Day

The second annual College of Veterinary Medicine Clinical Investigators' Day will be held on Monday, March 18, 2013, and is open to alumni, faculty, students, staff, and friends of the College. The event will be held in Lecture Hall 1 of the College's Veterinary Education Center.

The event offers College interns and residents an opportunity to showcase their research programs in basic sciences, clinical research, and applied diagnostics and provides a forum for trainees to sharpen written and oral presentation skills, competencies that will become increasingly important in their professional lives as they compete for prestigious awards at national and international conferences.



"The 2012 event provided a jump-start on preparing for the 2012 Annual Meeting of the American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians national presentation and competition, where Dr. Brian Butler, an anatomic pathology resident received an award for the best pathology presentation," said Dr. Gerald Duhamel, professor of anatomic pathology and member of the Clinical Investigators' Day planning committee. "Providing opportunities for our residents to demonstrate their skills and share their findings with peers in a peer-reviewed environment is invaluable experience."

The Day will include keynote speakers, an overview of career opportunities offered in the College of Veterinary Medicine after completion of residency training, and a panel discussion of individual research training and career path experiences. The day will conclude with a reception, during which travel award presentations will be made.

"This event provides valuable information for a variety of people," said Dr. Joel Baines, Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Education. "Our residents and interns gain tremendous insights by presenting their work in a safe and constructive environment. Those who avail themselves of the presentations are the first to know about hypotheses that question conventional wisdom, investigations that will yield foundational knowledge to delve deeper into some of the most challenging issues facing society, and insights that have the potential to open new avenues for diagnoses, treatments, cures, and prevention strategies."

More than a dozen residents and interns are expected to offer presentations at the 2013 event, with topics ranging from iPhone applications to canine cancer investigations.

"This year's program promises to be very exciting," said Dr. Mary Martin, a co-chair of this year's event along with Drs. Joe Wakshlag and Elizabeth Buckles. "The questions being asked by the interns and residents are thought-provoking, and the research conducted is cutting edge. All of these efforts are destined to improve the quality of life for animals and people."

Please RSVP for the event with [Judy Wood](#). Lunch will be provided and light refreshments will be made available throughout the day.

"We look forward to hearing from you and hope you will be able to join us in support of the dedicated work our Interns and Residents perform for the veterinary profession," said Martin, Wakshlag, and Buckles.

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Excellence in teaching recognized

Dr. Dorothy Debbie has won the inaugural Excellence in Teaching Award, presented by the College's Department Microbiology and Immunology. The award, which recognizes her dedication and commitment to helping students learn, was presented in December. Her name will be inscribed on a publicly displayed plaque. In addition, she received a certificate of appreciation, a gift certificate to the Campus Bookstore, and a letter sorter with the Cornellian medallion for her desk.

A senior lecturer at the College, Debbie explains bacteriology and mycology to veterinary students in Block IV as well as undergraduate and graduate students from different colleges at the University. She also serves as a tutor group leader and is probably best known for introducing innovative teaching techniques into her classroom. For instance, she has been using iclickers in one of her veterinary



classes for four years, giving students the opportunity to respond electronically to polls.

“Their responses confirm understanding,” said Debbie, who is cognizant of providing safe environments for people to learn and test their own comprehension. “Cold-calling on students is not incredibly effective. It makes them nervous. With the iclickers and using electronic polling, no one knows how one student responded to my question versus another, unless they share among themselves. The aggregate data provides a roadmap for me. Can I move on? Do I need to revisit a particular topic? Is the learning

complete?”

Debbie also uses case-based learning, the “pair-share” approach where students discuss thoughts in pairs and then share insights if called upon, online videos and podcasts, and traditional lectures. In the future, she hopes to incorporate polling options that use cellular technology and allow for more response options.

The selection process was very competitive, with nominations for the Department’s Excellence in Teaching Award submitted by faculty and students. Debbie received high marks from peers and students alike, with common themes noting her commitment to incorporating different teaching methodologies into her classes to address different learning styles and her dedication to ensuring a challenging yet supportive environment.

“Dorothy’s self-motivation and extraordinarily high expectations of herself and her students are inspiring,” said Dr. Avery August, professor of immunology and chair of the Department of Microbiology and Immunology. “It is clear that her peers and students hold her in high esteem. I am delighted that her talents and compassion are being recognized and look forward to the rewards that her innovative approaches to teaching will bring in the future.”

Debbie earned her bachelor’s degree at Johns Hopkins and her doctorate at Stanford, although she is an avid believer in life-long learning and regularly takes advantage of programs offered by Cornell’s Center for Teaching Excellence. She enjoys hiking, biking, and running and likes to read, a passion she says is perfect for professors: “I get paid to read and then share what I’ve read with my students. How could it be better?”

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Friendly face set to retire later this month

Known to many as "Ithaca Mom" and described as "fantabulous," Margie Williams has filled many roles during her 25-year career at the College. She began with the pathology unit doing data entry and has spent the last 19 years as the administrative assistant for the Office of Educational Development.

In this position, she spent much of her time scheduling meetings, providing course materials to students, and offering office support to her colleagues. Beyond this, though, she also did whatever she could to help the students, including making nearly a dozen quilts that SCAVMA sold or raffled at its annual auction.



“Early in my career, the students were about the same age as my daughters,” said Williams. “I knew from conversations with them, how important personal attention is to students. They wanted to feel like they were more than a number, more than a file.”

Earning a reputation as the either the person who will know or the one who will know who to ask, Williams also enjoys answering random questions: How do I get the lock cut off my locker? When do the buses run? What is my class rank? What credits do I need? How late are the doors unlocked? Where can my club meet?

“Margie is the glue that has held many a student together,” said Dr. Elizabeth Berliner '03. “She is a front-line resource who is very accessible and wonderfully kind.”

But as all faculty and staff eventually do, Williams is preparing to retire (on January 30) and is excited to begin a new chapter in her life. With her husband, who will retire from his position the very next day, Williams plans to travel the country: Florida in February, Kansas in the spring, and who knows after that.

“Given our ages, our years of service, and the time, it just makes sense,” said Williams. “There’s a lot that we want to do. We don’t want to miss out on the opportunity to be able to do and experience all the opportunities that are out there and to be able to enjoy doing them. Too many people wait to retire until they’re not healthy enough or have lost interest in ‘doing.’ We decided that would not be us.”

Still, though, it will be difficult for Williams to totally walk away. The students and alumni, she said, have become friends, many of them joining her in the Facebook world.

“They’re like my own children,” Williams said, recalling a quick conversation with a mother at a White Coat ceremony a few years ago. “She asked me if one of the participants was my son or daughter. I told her every one of them was.”

Please feel free to congratulate Margie with a [message](#).

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Faculty member joins national board to set standards of veterinary surgery

Dr. Susan Fubini, section chief and professor of large animal surgery at the Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine's Equine and Nemo Farm Animal Hospitals, was appointed to the Board of Regents of the American College of Veterinary Surgeons (ACVS) in November, 2012. During her three-year term she will contribute her expertise to help craft the future of veterinary surgery by aiding the organization in establishing guidelines for residency training programs, educating and certifying practitioners, and setting the standards for advanced professionalism in veterinary surgery.

"I am honored to have been elected to serve on the Board," said Fubini. "I have been on several other committees but this is special because it is the governing board that sets the standards for veterinary surgery. I hope to contribute to the monitoring of the residency training programs, the changes in the



examination procedures, and the continuing education mission of the College. These issues will shape the future practice of veterinary surgery.”

Dr. Fubini earned her DVM at University of Georgia in 1980. She then came to Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine to complete a Large Animal Medicine and Surgery Internship in 1981 and a Large Animal Surgery Residency in 1983. She was certified by the board of the ACVS in 1987, joining its ranks of Diplomates.

The ACVS includes more than 1,636 Diplomates and approximately 70 new veterinarians earn Diplomate Credentials each year, according to its website. Since its founding in 1965 the ACVS has “defined the standards of surgical excellence for the profession, promoted advancements in veterinary surgery, and provided the latest surgical educational programs,” according to the site. “By fostering the highest standards of excellence in veterinary surgery, the ACVS helps the veterinary profession achieve its goals of providing outstanding service to the public and care of animals” (acvs.org).

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New research will help to unravel the mysteries of Johne's disease



Every day, more than 16 million gallons of milk are consumed in the United States. And despite the technology and safety standards currently in place, some of that milk contains a nasty bacterium with identified links to Johne's disease in cattle and possible connections to Crohn's disease in people. With a new grant, Cornell researchers will continue their research to identify the bacterium in milk, determine risk factors for milk contamination and document recommended intervention strategies to make milk safe.

The bacterium, known as *Mycobacterium avium* subspecies *paratuberculosis* or MAP, incites an infection in ruminant animals that takes approximately four years to show clinical signs. In the meantime, dairy cows have had two calves that may contract the infection during pregnancy or birth and have also produced thousands of gallons of milk headed for store shelves. Recent studies have shown that MAP present in milk can survive pasteurization, which has raised human health concerns due to the widespread nature of MAP in modern dairy herds.

Once MAP has infiltrated a herd, the cows are widely susceptible to Johne's disease, which is contagious, chronic and often fatal in cases of clinical disease. The disease affects primarily the small intestine of ruminants and is blamed for financial losses that total upwards of \$250 million annually among the dairy community in the United States.

The newly received \$500,000 grant from the USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) will build on the results of the current \$2.5 million project, which was funded by the Agricultural Research Service, USDA, Johne's Disease Integrated Project (JDIP) and other sources and has been underway since 2009, making this project one of the few in the world to span nearly a decade.

"In the 9-year longitudinal study, we will have DNA from four generations of cows and bacteria," said Dr. Ynte Schukken, principal investigator for the study and professor of Epidemiology and Herd Health at Cornell's College of Veterinary Medicine. "Our study covers the entire spectrum, with data and samples collected from the field, cultured in the lab and bacteria and host DNA sequenced using the most modern genomic methods. Because of this unparalleled 9-year data set, we have the potential to unravel the mysteries of Johne's disease, a very slow-going and devastating infection on dairy farms."

To do this, the team of researchers, which includes scientists from Penn State University, the University of Pennsylvania, the University of Maryland, and Drs. Schukken and Yrjo Grohn from Cornell, will walk through four steps: They will validate the use of a current test used to identify MAP; analyze data from two herds with a known MAP infection prevalence and cross-sectional data from 300 dairy herds with the complete range of MAP infection prevalence, focusing on the relationship between management practices and MAP contamination of milk; use the collected data to develop risk assessment models that explain and predict MAP contamination of raw milk; and use the collected data and the developed models to design optimal sustainable MAP-free milk programs.

The grant is one of 17 research projects that were announced by NIFA in November 2012, all designed to improve food safety by helping control microbial and chemical contamination in various foods. Schukken's investigation will extend prior results that have already explained transmission patterns of MAP at the molecular level, developed mathematical models for predicting transmission, devised control programs, and monitored those programs' success rates.

"Our immediate goal is to provide dairy farmers with the tools they need to produce milk that is free of MAP bacteria," said Schukken. "Evidence from previous work we've done proves that a high percentage of dairy farms in the US have MAP-infected cattle, so reducing viable MAP in raw and pasteurized milk is of importance. First for the health and well-being of the cows, but also, because of the possible connections to Crohn's disease, for the health and well-being of people."

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New simulation-based veterinary learning paradigm expands at Cornell

What started with the world's first robotic rescue dog for medical training is evolving into a new teaching paradigm in veterinary medicine. When bioengineer-turned-emergency-specialist Dr. Daniel Fletcher invented a sophisticated programmable dog simulator in 2010, it planted the seed of a teaching revolution at Cornell's College of Veterinary Medicine. Now as the College opens its first simulation center and develops new advanced pet simulators, it is expanding the simulation learning model throughout its curriculum and preparing tools for other institutions to follow suit.

Multi-room simulation center opens

Cornell's new simulation center grants space dedicated exclusively to simulation-based learning. It



occupies a four-room suite in the College's former pathology wing, including two fully equipped exam rooms, two rooms for live video-feed observation and debriefing, and space for storage and developing new models, like a newly released robotic cat and a second more-advanced dog.

"Simulations like this have been used to teach human doctors for decades," said Fletcher, assistant professor of emergency and critical care (ECC). "The idea is to bridge preclinical lecture learning and actual clinical experience, letting students practice applying what they've learned in a

safe setting before the stakes get high. The new center gives us much more room to work with."

In the ten-minute simulations, a small student team enters the exam room, collects basic patient info from the robotic dog or cat, assesses, plans, and treats. They can use a full crash cart, medical supplies, defibrillator, and other tools to take the robo-pet's pulse, listen to heart and lung sounds, insert catheters, and hook up monitoring devices to get feedback orchestrated through Fletcher's software. Others watch in the observation room, then all meet in the debriefing theater with a big projector screen split four ways (three exam room camera angles and the patient monitor data) to watch recordings and debrief.

The center is part of a greater plan to form a clinical skills complex: a self-paced multi-station lab open 24/7. Students will have access to direct hands-on practice with basic skills like suturing on skin models or putting catheters into fake limbs before labs or clinics.

Simulations in Cornell's veterinary teaching

Simulations are quickly weaving into Cornell's curriculum: First-year students now practice listening to heart and lung sounds on the robo-dog and cat. Second and third-year students started performing scenarios in required core classes this year. Students role-playing with actors in the required client communications class now get a mock patient thrown in the mix. They take cases from start to finish and juggle assessing a patient while communicating with technicians, clients, and other clinicians in the same room.

Preparing to expand the learning model further, ECC specialist Dr. Gretchen Schoeffler and an ECC resident will attend formal trainings on running simulations before offering a new ECC course in Spring 2013 in which they will conduct a formal study evaluating the effectiveness of simulation-based veterinary teaching. Meanwhile Fletcher is developing new simulation-based tools for the clinical competency assessments students must complete before earning a DVM.

New tools empower learners beyond Cornell

Other institutions are eager to explore the new paradigm. Fletcher has brought his robo-dog to curious schools across the country and world. To meet the demand at Cornell and beyond, he is building a second, more advanced model code-named "Butch." Butch is being designed to use inexpensive, off-the-shelf electronic components and sports a more realistic airway, a soft abdomen compartment, articulating joints, more areas for catheters, more space inside the body, and a more realistic overall feel.

"No other schools are using this kind of simulation yet," said Fletcher. "Our model can enhance CPR scenarios and can simulate a slew of other conditions, and we've seen interest in it growing. We're gathering evidence and tools to help bring the simulation capability and teaching model outside Cornell."

Fletcher and information-technology collaborators are working on a new simulation toolkit for veterinary education. The framework will include an open-source software platform with affordable

hardware that can be shared with other institutions interested in introducing simulation teaching. It is slated for release in Spring 2013.

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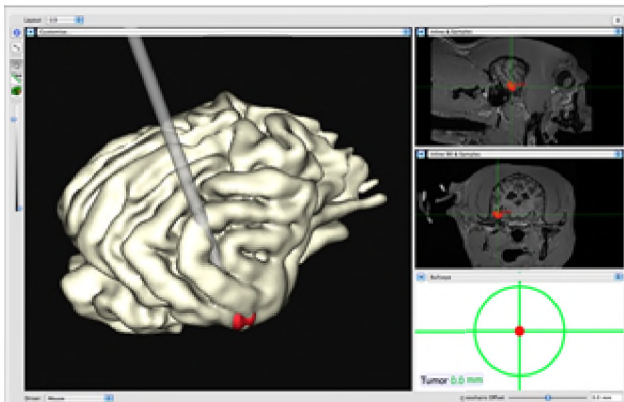
New neuronavigation system gets safer brain diagnoses in dogs

Brains leave little room for error. Encephalitis, cancer, and other causes of dangerous brain tissue swelling can quickly derail the nervous system while diagnostic difficulties can send treatment in the wrong direction. Now veterinarians at the Cornell University Hospital for Animals plan to change these prospects for dogs suspected to be suffering from encephalitis using a new computer-guided brain biopsy device with unprecedented potential for safe and precise diagnosis.

Young toy and small-breed dogs are especially vulnerable to encephalitis, brain inflammation that causes symptoms from circling, stumbling, personality changes, and blindness to seizures, coma, and death. Many things can cause it, including a slew of non-infectious disorders. These are clumped together under one imprecise presumptive diagnosis because there is no reliable way to definitively

diagnose them safely in living dogs. Current diagnostic methods, mostly imaging and cerebrospinal fluid taps, aren't definitive and can lead to inaccurate presumptive diagnoses of disorders such as infections, autoimmune problems, and cancer. Misdiagnosis often leads to suboptimal treatment and shortened survival.

"We can do better," said Dr. Sofia Cerda-Gonzalez, assistant professor of neurosurgery at Cornell's College of Veterinary Medicine. "Encephalitis is one of the things we see most commonly in neurology, especially in small dogs. When a dog comes in with seizures you might see a lesion on an MRI but you still can't prove anything. Brain biopsies obtained through a craniotomy give better diagnoses, but they're invasive. Our new device merges both methods. We're now using it in a clinical study we think will show that veterinarians can use this technology to definitively diagnose encephalitis's causes more safely and reliably than ever before."



The device, a frameless magnetic resonance imaging (MRI)-guided brain biopsy system called Brainsight®, is one of only five in the country. Such machines are the standard of care for diagnosing brain lesions without surgery in humans, but Brainsight is the only one designed specifically for veterinary use. Unlike any other machine, it allows pre-surgical planning through 3-D visualization of a biopsy needle's intended trajectory through the brain. Its frameless setup gives unlimited choice of trajectory angles, and surgeons can watch the biopsy's path through the brain real-time, while performing a biopsy. It is also the first machine that lets surgeons change trajectories during a biopsy if needed, to minimize potential neural damage.

"We attach the halo-like hardware to a dog's head and the computer learns where the dog is in space, shows any brain lesions, and tells us where to go," said Cerda-Gonzalez. "Its safety and biopsy precision in dogs has already been well established; we've used it in several cases and we're conducting a clinical study to determine its ability to aid diagnoses. We're glad to have this technology in our hospital and think it will transform the future of diagnosing canine encephalitis, giving a better outlook for the dogs it affects."

Dr. Cerda-Gonzalez is recruiting dogs with encephalitis for a clinical trial to determine diagnostic accuracy. If interested, contact sc224@cornell.edu

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Griffy's Legacy

Griffy was Dr. Katherine Goldberg's '04 companion for years. The Bernese Mountain dog provided comfort and companionship on long walks in a field outside of her apartment, especially on days when she questioned the wisdom of pursuing veterinary medicine! And, he celebrated her successful completion of the program by walking with her at graduation.

When Griffy needed someone to help him meet his final needs, Dr. Goldberg knew it would be one of the hardest things she'd ever do and that it needed to be as soothing for Griffy as possible. Together with friends, Dr. Goldberg and Griffy returned to the Varna field where they had walked so often, encircled Griffy's neck with a ring of wildflowers, fed him hamburgers, and comforted him while the drugs induced his final sleep. In those last minutes, Griffy was comfortable, he was at ease in his



surroundings, and he was with people who loved him.

As difficult as the experience was for Dr. Goldberg, it was one that she needed, that Griffy needed, and that was only possible because she was a veterinarian and could euthanize her beloved companion in an environment that had been especially created for him. This, she knew, was an opportunity that everyone should have ... not just veterinarians. This revelation was the birth of Whole Animal Veterinary Hospice Services, where Dr. Goldberg provides compassionate care when and where it is most comfortable for both geriatric patients, and those who are at the end of

their lives.

"My job is to honor the relationship between people and animals at the time when it is the most precious," said Dr. Goldberg, who finds this role to be the most fulfilling, enriching, and satisfying veterinary experience she's ever had. "People experience intense feelings and are often afraid to share them. All feelings – joy, sorrow, stress, fear, guilt, and worry – are ok. This is a poignant time of bonding, reflection, and selflessness. The unifying characteristic of my families is the determination to revolve their days, their schedules, their everything around the needs of their beloved companions. In the human world, we have support services for this. We have home health aides and nursing homes and hospice care givers. Little exists in the pet world, but the need is overwhelming. My service is an option; I am here to help."

Dr. Goldberg started her business from the ground and worked her way through challenges and issues, as very few animal hospice care programs exist in the country. Skilled in veterinary emergency and critical care, she was very familiar with animals in crisis and all too familiar with animals suffering and sometimes dying without their families in sterile ICUs. She was also too familiar with a phrase that she would prefer not be in her vocabulary: "there's nothing more that can be done."

"Many times, I arrive at a location expecting to find an animal that is ready to leave this earth only to find a pet in need of pain management or palliative care," said Dr. Goldberg. "This experience was really the birthplace of my geriatric practice; there may be many more good days ahead for a family with their pet. I can help support that with focused geriatric care. I am not at all against euthanasia. But even with a euthanasia experience, there is more that can – and often should – be done. We can create a beautiful and meaningful experience that will help people process their grief and bereavement and be as peaceful and soothing for the animal and human family members as possible. Some people find ritualizing the experience meaningful, others do not. It's not about what I would want; it's about what feels best for the family. A 'good death' is best defined by the people who know that animal best, and I am there to facilitate that. The issues associated with euthanasia create a rich emotional terrain that I try to help people navigate. It is not as simple as we may like to believe."

With her practice booked, Dr. Goldberg is now looking to the future and hopes to see more people professionally trained in her specialty.



“The last decade has seen a growing interest in veterinary hospice and palliative care,” said Dr. Goldberg, who is a trained volunteer with Hospicare & Palliative Care Services of Tompkins County and provided direct-care volunteer hours for human patients until her business became all-consuming. She is now on Hospicare's Ethics Committee. “We need to integrate end-of-life training into the veterinary curriculum.”

To learn more about Dr. Goldberg and her practice, which is the only veterinary practice in our region to partner with a licensed social worker, and one of very few in the country exclusively focused on geriatrics, hospice and palliative care, visit <http://www.wholeanimalvet.com/>.

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Living the oath

Dr. Jordyn Boesch '06 recently joined Cornell University's College of Veterinary Medicine, adding expertise and capacity to the Hospital's Anesthesia service and talent and ambition to the College's research program.

Anesthesiologists serve the needs of some of the sickest patients at the Hospital, administer to all species, and support specialty areas that range from surgery and internal medicine to cardiology and neurology. This versatility is one of the features that attracted Boesch to the specialty. Her experiences through the Expanding Horizons study abroad program while a veterinary student at Cornell confirmed her desire to further the profession's understanding of anesthesia's effects on wildlife through evidence-based investigation.



"We have so many questions surrounding wildlife anesthesia," said Boesch, explaining that some animals are not able to get enough oxygen into the bloodstream while anesthetized and others do not breathe deeply or frequently enough. "While I was at the Cheetah Conservation Fund's clinic in Namibia, I was exposed for the first time to some of the challenges of wildlife anesthesia. Our findings will hopefully improve the safety of anesthesia of wild animals that is done in the field as well as in state-of-the-art facilities like Cornell's."

At Cornell, Boesch will leverage the most up-to-date thinking on pain management techniques to ease suffering in all species. Noting that physical cues are often the only way she can tell that her patients are in pain, Boesch is committed to getting to know her patients as good as possible.

"Sometimes it's obvious," said Boesch, who plans to conduct research in pain relief that will be useful for Hospital patients as well as zoo animals, production animals, and wildlife. "An animal might display fairly obvious signs of pain, such as not putting weight on a limb

or yipping in pain, or might display only display very subtle signs of pain. Sometimes we have to rely on observation skills of the owner or our own observation skills after spending time with the patient. It's a process, but one that we have to complete quickly so that that animal hurts for as short a period as possible. We all pledged to relieve suffering when we took the Veterinarian's Oath. It's an honor to be able to live that promise every day."

After graduating from Cornell, the Massachusetts native completed a small animal and exotics internship at a private practice in Ohio and then returned to Cornell for additional residency training in anesthesiology. With the three-year residency under her white coat, Boesch was hired as an assistant clinical professor at the University of Illinois' College of Veterinary Medicine where she worked until rejoining the Cornell community this past November.

"I've always wanted to be at Cornell," said Boesch. "In many ways, I believe the standard of care is set here, and I want to be a part of that."

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Alumna leads Association

It is one of the highest honors for an equine practitioner and carries with it an equally high degree of responsibility. Dr. Ann Dwyer '83 assumed the presidency of the American Association of Equine Practitioners (AAEP) in December 2012.

"I am honored to serve in this capacity," said Dr. Dwyer, who is a co-owner of Genesee Valley Equine Clinic in Scottsville, N.Y. "I bring no specific agenda to the role, but will keep my nose to the grindstone to carry out the goals of the Association's strategic plan."

Dr. Dwyer has a long-standing relationship with the AAEP. She served on the AAEP's Problems Analysis, Nominating and Executive Director review committees, represented District 1 on the board



of directors from 2006 to 2008, and joined the Executive Committee in 2010. Last year, she planned the annual convention and is currently assisting fellow alumna Dr. Katie Garrett '03 to plan this year's event.

Dr. Dwyer, who can't imagine life as an equine practitioner without the AAEP, is equally passionate about continuous improvement, responding to changing needs, and keeping priorities straight: in all that we do, she said, the needs of the horse must come first.

To accomplish this, Dr. Dwyer and her team plan to focus on providing excellent continuing educational offerings; implement new approaches that will encourage participation by all members and respond to the membership's needs, which, she noted, have changed with the times; and develop stronger relationships with all of the people and organizations who help to keep horses healthy.

"I hope that through my efforts, together with the organization's officers, board of directors, and staff, we can find ways to partner effectively with all of the stakeholders

of the horse world – racing and sporting organizations, breed organizations, and pharmaceutical companies – to ensure the health and welfare of horses," said Dr. Dwyer. "Once we've connected with these stakeholders, we need to help them understand how we can help them and provide more informational and educational resources that will help them keep horses healthy.

Dr. Dwyer's passion for horses began as a child, when she divided every second of her free time between riding horses and music. She originally aspired to be a scientist, but after spending time working with race horses as a walker, groomer, and exercise rider, she decided to combine her love of horses and science and become an equine veterinarian.

"Cats and dogs are great," she said. "But there's just something special about a horse."

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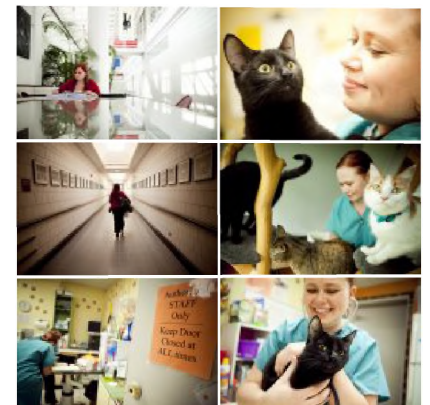


Kamilla Shmakalova

College of Veterinary Medicine
Class of 2014

Never-ending lines for loaves of bread. Dogs and cats roaming in the streets. The selling of family belongings in preparation for a secret escape. The long and melancholy train ride from Gorky to Moscow before the flight to the United States. At the young age of nine, Kamilla Shmakalova DVM '14 witnessed the collapse of the Soviet Union, but she also glimpsed a new and distant life.

Now 29, the third-year veterinary student links her interest in shelter medicine to her memories of stray animals in Russia.



“I wanted to rescue every single one I found on the street, but my parents were afraid of infectious diseases,” she says with a faintly rueful smile.

Shmakalova, who speaks with a slight accent, has adjusted very well to life in America. Growing up among immigrant communities in Brooklyn, she developed a taste for different kinds of food and an appreciation for other cultures. She excelled in school and graduated cum laude from Brooklyn College with a major in biology and planned to become a doctor.

But—on the verge of medical school—doubt struck. “Before taking out a bunch of loans and making a huge commitment, I needed to be sure I wanted to be a doctor. The most difficult decision for me was to actually take time off,” she says.

Must love cats

As she tried to discover what she loved to do, she started living out what she loved. Biding her time as an office manager in a paralegal firm, she eagerly responded to a Craigslist job posting that said “must love cats” and soon found herself gleefully employed as a receptionist and veterinary assistant at Manhattan Cat Specialists, a small, upscale clinic with a staff and clientele made up of fellow feline aficionados. Shmakalova also began volunteering at the New York Aquarium, where she cleaned cages and hand-fed buckets of fish to ever-hungry fur seals, otters, penguins, and walruses.

As busy and exhausted as she was at that time, Shmakalova felt a deep sense of fulfillment. Under the mentorship of the Manhattan clinic’s founder and head veterinarian, Arnold Plotnick (whom Shmakalova describes as having a “profuse knowledge” of feline medicine), she was inspired to pursue veterinary studies. Cornell’s College of Veterinary Medicine was her top choice since Tina Waltke DVM ’07, a former lawyer-turned-veterinarian who had joined the clinic soon after graduating from the premier school, strongly encouraged her to apply.

Looking back, Shmakalova explains that the choice of becoming either a physician or a veterinarian was not really a mutually exclusive proposition. “As veterinarians, we are serving people and serving the animals at the same time,” she says, citing the parallels and intersections of human-animal medicine and the ways in which pets increase the vitality and joy of their keepers.

Serving animals and people

A member of Veterinary Students as One Culture and Ethnicity (VOICE) at Cornell, Shmakalova believes that understanding different cultures and social contexts is critical for the profession. “We need to know and understand where people come from and not make assumptions or judgments when it comes to animal care or welfare,” she emphasizes.

Last summer she joined a team of doctors and students from across the nation to provide free animal care at a remote and impoverished Native American reservation in South Dakota. As a volunteer for the Humane Society Veterinary Medical Association-Rural Area Veterinary Services program (HSVMA-RAVS), she was at first dismayed to find dogs and other pets living outside of houses, exposed to the elements. However,

Facts and Figures

Hometowns

- Gorky (now Nizhny Novgorod), Russia
- Brooklyn, New York

Jobs

- The Big Red Barn (BRB) graduate and professional student center as an attendant
- The Tompkins County SPCA as a medical staff member
- The Cornell University Janet L. Swanson Wildlife Health program as a supervisor-trainee

Degree

BS, biology, Brooklyn College, 2005

Shmakalova later realized how much the owners treasured and cared for their animals, especially in light of their own medical needs and lack of resources. She was touched to see how community members waited patiently for a chance to have their pets examined and treated, often forming lines very early in the morning when the clinic's doors were still closed.

In Ithaca, where she works as a part-time medical staff member for the Tompkins County SPCA, Shmakalova passionately advocates for pet adoption. "We have so many animals in the shelter, and people need to know that these animals are not diseased and dirty. They're great and perfectly adoptable," she says.

Shmakalova's belief in the immeasurable value of pets is evident. While she explores internships and externships to help her specialize in shelter medicine and focus on the treatment and care of small animals, she only offers praise for these special creatures. "They offer us unconditional love," she says. "They are our companions for life."

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Beloved faculty member establishes charitable gift

College supporters have a variety of options to express their commitment to animal health. One certainly worth considering, according to Dr. Alexander de Lahunta DVM '58, PhD '63, is a planned gift that has the power to benefit both the College and the donor. With his recent charitable gift annuity, Dr. de Lahunta has officially joined the circle of friends who choose to express their commitment to animal health and the education of those who are preparing themselves to advance the health and well-being of animals and people.

"All donors are important, and through their gifts they have the power to change lives," said Dr. Michael I. Kotlikoff, Austin O. Hooey Dean of Veterinary Medicine. "Gifts that come from faculty like Dr. de Lahunta, however, are especially rewarding, as our faculty know the College best. Dr. de Lahunta



has done so much to advance veterinary medicine and impact students' lives, and this annuity will permanently continue his amazing contributions to Cornell."

A leader in the field of neuroanatomy for more than 50 years and an emeritus professor at the College, Dr. D. is best known for his positive impact on students. His commitment and dedication to making sure students succeed might only be matched, he mused, by the commitment and dedication Cornell graduates devote to the veterinary profession.

"Dr. D. has been invaluable to my (and hundreds if not thousands of other veterinarians') education," said Dr. Paul Bookbinder '86. "He is certainly one of the best teachers I have ever had. He is a world-class scientist, having discovered and clarified myriad neurologic conditions of animals. He has penned three of the world's most important veterinary textbooks and dozens of research articles ... works that will enrich the lives of veterinarians for generations. And he is the greatest veterinary neurologist I've ever met."

Through his charitable giving, Dr. de Lahunta continues to care for veterinary students with unrestricted funds to the College.

"I agonized over how to structure my gift," said Dr. D., who receives monthly payments from the annuity as well. "Finally, I decided to let the dean decide how best to use the resources. Times change. The College's leader and those who advise him are in the best position to know where the need is greatest and to see opportunities that would be a shame to miss. Financially, a charitable gift annuity made sense."

For Dr. D., the timing also made sense. With his children grown and provided for, he said he has reached a stage in his life where he could give a gift of this magnitude.

"Philanthropy is a very personal decision," said Dr. D. "Many factors need to be considered: the stage of your family, your financial situation, predictions for the future. But for those of us who find ourselves in a position like mine—my family and my future have been planned for—helping the College of Veterinary Medicine prepare the next generation of veterinarians is one of those opportunities that would be a shame to miss."

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70 1/2 or Older? IRA Charitable Rollover Is Back, and This Time It's PERMANENT!

The Protecting Americans from Tax Hikes (PATH) Act of 2015, which was passed by Congress and signed into law by the president on December 18, 2015, made permanent what is popularly known as the IRA charitable rollover.

Charitably minded taxpayers have enthusiastically embraced the IRA charitable rollover as an opportunity to transfer up to \$100,000 each year to charity without it being treated as a taxable distribution. Despite its popularity since being introduced in 2006, the IRA charitable rollover has faced extinction several times and had actually expired on December 31, 2013. Now it has been reinstituted and made permanent.

Here are the requirements and restrictions for making an IRA charitable rollover gift:

- The donor must be 70 1/2 or older.
- The gift must be made directly from the IRA to an eligible charitable organization.
- Gifts to all charities combined cannot exceed a total of \$100,000 per taxpayer for the year.
- The gifts must be outright, and no material benefits can be received in return for the gifts. Thus a transfer for a gift annuity, charitable remainder trust, or pooled income fund is not permitted.
- Gifts cannot be made to a donor advised fund, supporting organization, or private foundation.
- The gift is not included in taxable income, and no charitable deduction is allowed.
- The gift can be made only from an IRA. Gifts from 401(k), 403(b), and 457 plans are not permitted.

The qualified distribution described above applies to a traditional IRA. Distributions from employer-sponsored retirement plans, including simple IRA plans and simplified employee pension (SEP) plans, are not eligible for the tax-free rollover.

This may be the right gift for you to make if:

- You want to make a charitable gift and your IRA constitutes the largest share of your available assets.
- You are required to take a minimum distribution from your IRA, but you do not need additional income.
- You do not itemize your deductions. In that case a personal IRA distribution increases your taxable income without the benefit of an offsetting deduction. An IRA charitable rollover will not be included in your taxable income even if you do not itemize other deductions.
- You live in a state where retirement-plan distributions are taxable on your state income-tax return, but your state does not allow itemized charitable deductions.
- You would like to make an additional charitable gift, but it would not be deductible because of the annual limitation of 50 percent of adjusted gross income for charitable contributions. The IRA charitable rollover is equivalent to a deduction because it is not included in taxable income.
- You have an outstanding pledge to a charity. The IRA charitable rollover can satisfy a pledge without violating rules against self-dealing.

Here are the steps to take to make a gift:

- If you want to make a qualifying transfer, contact your IRA administrator and instruct that person to transfer funds to the charity(ies) you designate.
- Contact our office. We will answer your questions and provide instructions for completing your gift.

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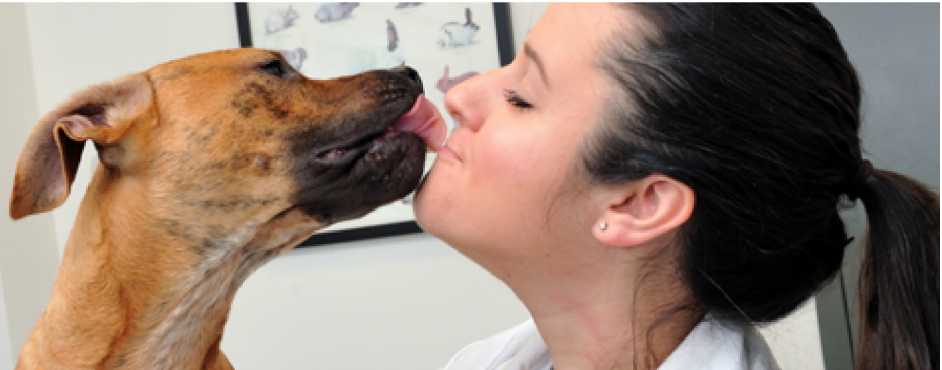
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Keeping it wild



Keeping It Wild: The Future of Wildlife ConservationFebruary 4, 2013 ~ Los Angeles, CA ([Register and more information](#))

Time: 5:30 - 8:30 PM

Dr. Alex Travis (Associate Professor of Reproductive Biology & Wildlife Conservation) of the Cornell College of Veterinary Medicine's Baker Institute for Animal Health is at the forefront of wildlife conservation, thanks to his comprehensive approach to preserving genetic diversity. He is developing cutting-edge techniques to assisted reproduction in animals ranging from elephants to cheetahs to our very own dogs and cats. His current work to develop new stem cell technologies promises to preserve the breeding potential of animals while they are young, providing the genetic foundation for rare and endangered species to avoid extinction. In work that benefits many species, Dr. Travis is also developing new techniques like embryo freezing for "frozen zoos," which already successfully resulted in the birth of a puppy named Klondike.

Please join us to hear more about the future of wildlife conservation and preservation of genetic diversity of animals from elephants to puppies!

Please join us to hear more about the future of wildlife conservation and preservation of genetic diversity of animals from elephants to puppies! Cornell alumni and friends also have the opportunity to learn more about how our host, the STAR Eco Station environmental science museum and exotic wildlife rescue center, is also advancing preservation through education. Don't miss the hands-on tour of rescued alligators, bobcats, parrots and more beginning at 5:30!

Schedule:

5:30 PM: Guided Tour

6:30 PM: Pre-reception

7:00 PM: Presentation followed by Q&A

7:45 PM: Reception

8:30 PM: Event Concludes

Cost: \$20 per person**Questions?** Contact: [Luanne M. Prosperi Stefanucci](#)**About our speaker:**

Dr. Alex Travis is a veterinarian and research scientist working to promote wildlife conservation in both zoos and in the wild. Taking a comprehensive approach to conservation, he also works on the connections between human poverty and hunger, working toward solutions utilizing sustainable agriculture to preserve wildlife and ecosystems.

Dr. Travis is the Director of the Cornell Center for Wildlife Conservation, an initiative uniting wildlife conservation activities across Cornell. He is also the current Chair of the Faculty Advisory Board of the Atkinson Center for a Sustainable Future.