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From the Dean:

Dear faculty, staff, and students,

Welcome to the 2009-10 academic year. We've had a busy summer and have great expectations for the months ahead. As has been mentioned in previous issues of this newsletter, negotiations with the Qatar Foundation are moving ahead, as are discussions with the City University in Hong Kong. We expanded our partnership with the Shelter Outreach Services of Ithaca to provide students with more hands-on opportunities in clinical training, and are considering options to



Dr. Michael I. Kotlikoff,
Austin O. Hooey Dean of
Veterinary Medicine

more fully develop the College's relationship with the Tompkins County SPCA. Plans for the satellite facility in the metro New York area are underway; currently, we are considering location and business model options and discussing our plans with stakeholders.

I'd like to extend a special greeting to the Class of 2013 and share some information about the newest members of our community. At 92-members strong, this year's incoming class hails from Homer, New York, to London, England. They bring with them a median undergraduate GPA of 3.72 and a combined median GRE score of 1375. Fifteen students have expressed a desire to work in production medicine; 11 with equine; 10 with exotics, zoo, and wildlife; 18 with mixed animals; 12 with small animals; five in public health and government; 14 in biomedical research; and seven are considering their options. Five members of the incoming class have a relative who graduated from the College; more than 25% of the class holds a Cornell undergraduate degree; and they have diverse professional goals ranging from teaching to research to entrepreneurship.

Beyond the statistics, though, members of this year's class are committed, well-rounded, and enthusiastic. Many have a special passion for horses and hiking. Most have a favorite sport (although there appears to be a dearth of interest in ice hockey), and others have expressed interests in cooking, biking, knitting, community service, and music. Members of the Class of 2013 have begun to prepare themselves to contribute to the profession, having already spent time working in animal clinics, surgery departments, and research labs.

To the Class of 2013, welcome. Please remember my five pieces of unsolicited advice: 1) Take full advantage of the opportunities at Cornell; 2) Keep an open mind about your future in the profession; 3) Remember that you represent Cornell; 4) Keep your debt burden as low as possible; and 5) Don't be afraid to ask for help if you need it.

And to those who are returning, welcome back. I look forward to an exciting and productive year.

Sincerely,

Mike Kotlikoff

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2009 Calvin W. Schwabe Award Winner Announced

Dr. Hollis N. Erb, professor of epidemiology in the Department of Population Medicine and Diagnostic Sciences, has been selected as the 2009 recipient of the Calvin W. Schwabe Award for Lifetime Achievement in Veterinary Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine. The award recognizes Dr. Erb's significant contributions to veterinary epidemiology and preventive medicine. Dr. Erb will be giving a keynote address at Schwabe Symposium, held in conjunction with the Conference of Research Workers in Animal Diseases (CRWAD) on December 6, 2009, where she will be presented with



Dr. Hollis Erb

the award.

The award is especially important to Dr. Erb, who was a former student of the late Dr. Schwabe. She credits him for sparking her interest in epidemiology as a DVM student at the University of California-Davis.

"Dr. Schwabe academically founded veterinary epidemiology and was very prolific in training students who became faculty (including my own graduate supervisor)," said Dr. Erb, the first DVM-PhD to graduate from Ontario Veterinary College in the field of epidemiology. "Through teaching, he was able to open students' eyes, showing them that there was more to veterinary medicine than just looking at one organism, one animal. Dr. Schwabe helped define the relationship between veterinary medicine and human health. I'm honored to be receiving an award named after a man who had such an impact on my career."

An analytical epidemiologist, Dr. Erb provides clinicians and those working in diagnostic laboratories conducting clinical research with guidance on topics ranging from establishing effective control groups and appropriate eligibility criteria to sample-size justifications and plans for formal data analysis. She is also dedicated to mentoring residents and graduate students and is committed to helping them understand the logic behind data analysis and making decisions for grant proposals, abstracts, journal submissions, and proceedings papers. This work has led to Dr. Erb having exceeded 300 co-authorships in refereed papers to date.

In addition, Dr. Erb held the role of editor-in-chief for *Preventive Veterinary Medicine* (now releasing 16 issues annually) for more than 20 years before she turned the reins over in January. Today, she is a senior associate editor for the international journal.

"As the editor-in-chief of *Preventive Veterinary Medicine*, Dr. Hollis Erb has helped scores of young veterinary epidemiologists and herd health specialists learn how to publish quality manuscripts," explained Dr. Jan Scarlett, director of Maddie's Shelter Program at Cornell and a colleague of Dr. Erb's in the Epidemiology unit. "Her leadership and dedication to this journal has been instrumental in establishing veterinary epidemiology and preventive medicine as respected and vital disciplines in veterinary medicine."

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Changing the Learning Paradigm for Veterinary Students

Many professions, like teaching, require some form of hands-on learning before a professional is welcomed to the community. Although experiential education is an extremely valuable technique, it can be difficult to implement in the medical arena, where the need to ensure patient safety and optimal treatment outcomes must be priority. To teach clinical skills, it seems, requires a different learning pedagogy.

To address this need, faculty and staff at the Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine have pioneered a new multimedia approach to developing and strengthening procedural skills in veterinary

medicine. A team of professionals, including Dr. Jodi Korich, director of Partners in Animal Health; Dr. Luis Campoy, lecturer of Anesthesiology; and Dr. Abraham Bezuidenhout, senior lecturer of anatomy, created a DVD course on Peripheral Nerve Blocks in the Dog. Accredited by the RACE American Association of Veterinary State Boards, the course is a six-hour, self-paced training DVD that focuses on peripheral nerve blocks in the dog, an approach that Dr. Luis Campoy helped to pioneer in veterinary medicine.

“Peripheral nerve blockade is a relatively new procedure that significantly improves the ability to manage patient pain,” said Dr. Campoy. “The procedure has many advantages over more traditional pain management techniques, including reducing the amount of anesthetic required during surgery and superior post-operative pain relief and quicker return to normal function. In the past, it’s been very challenging to try to teach this procedure to students, residents, and veterinarians. With this new course, we’re finding it’s much easier for them to understand the anatomy involved in the blocks, and we anticipate this will translate into a more rapid mastery of the techniques.”

The multimedia DVD course includes a variety of 3D models, videos, and interactive objects, providing an immersive learning experience. According to Dr. Korich, “The team designed the course to increase the efficiency at which students and veterinarians are able to master these clinical skills. This is the first step in a progressive series of new approaches that will ultimately provide more opportunities for students and clinicians to practice clinical procedures on a computer simulator, before attempting them on patients.”

The Cornell community can access the DVD course free of charge through the Flower-Sprecher Veterinary Library. The public may purchase the DVD course online for \$389.

“For practitioners who find it challenging to attend continuing education conferences due to scheduling conflicts and travel budget constraints, this type of computer-based continuing education represents an excellent alternative,” said Dr. Lorin Warnick, associate dean for veterinary curriculum. “The course uses the latest in three-dimensional imaging and digital technology to help practitioners relate anatomy to the anesthetic technique that they are learning.”

For more information about Partners in Animal Health, or to access the Peripheral Nerve Blocks in the Dog DVD course, visit www.partnersah.vet.cornell.edu/product.

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Meet Your Neighbor:

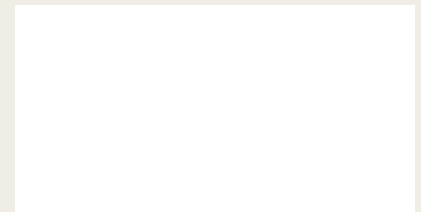
Jean Spencer

Years at CVM: 7 years

Position: Veterinary Technician

What does your job entail?

I work as an anesthetist for radiation treatments in the Oncology



Department. I administer anesthesia and monitor the patients throughout their radiation treatment.

The patients are the best part of my job. Even though you know that they're in so much pain, they're always so happy!



Jean Spencer

What are some of your personal interests or hobbies?

This year, I represented Cornell at the Grapehound Wine Tour at the end of July. The event benefits regional greyhound adoption groups. The Cornell team talked to the public about myths and misconceptions related to animal health.

I enjoy running with my Doberman Pinscher, Cap (short for Cappuccino!). I adopted him from Doberman Rescue Unlimited (DRU) in New Hampshire. I also bike a lot and participate in 5k races, 10k races, and triathlons.


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Flower-Sprecher Veterinary Library

HOW CURRENT IS YOUR VIVO PROFILE?

VIVO: <http://vivo.cornell.edu>

As you know, VIVO began as a research-focused discovery tool in the life sciences over five years ago. It is continually being improved and has been greatly expanded into the social sciences and humanities now covering all of Cornell's research and scholarship at the request of the Office of the Provost.

VIVO content includes information about Cornell people, sponsored programs, courses, core facilities, publications, and much more across the entire University, including some data from Weill Cornell Medical College. Additional WCMC information is anticipated in the future.

In order to maintain currency, the intent from the beginning has been to automate updates electronically as much as possible through regular feeds from as many university data sources as possible. Currently these include the following:

- OSP Data Warehouse for grants and research awards
- Office of Human Resources for people's names, titles, departments, status
- Registrar's System for Tracking Administrative Records for Students for course information
- Public data reported annually by faculty through college reporting systems for CALS and CHE; efforts are ongoing to ensure that public data reported through a system newly adopted by several Cornell colleges will also be accurately represented in VIVO
- PubMed, BIOSIS for journal publications, although these are not current, and a more comprehensive approach to publications is being explored

Did you know that you can update your personal profile in VIVO yourself?

Recent system enhancements make it possible for people—faculty, research associates, and staff included in VIVO—to log in using their Cornell net ID and password and add or modify the data already in the six categories within their individual profiles: Affiliations, Research, Teaching, Service, Background (education), and Publications (selected).

To self-edit, click the “Manage your page” button in the top right of the VIVO home page at <http://vivo.cornell.edu>, and sign on via CUWebLogin. This will display an individual's own profile with “add” and “edit” links. Use the pull-down menus for choices and/or editing tools for the free-text sections before clicking the Save Change buttons when finished. It will not be possible to change information obtained from the University sources listed above. Also, consider adding research keywords to help others connect more easily with your work and interests. Although it is currently not available, efforts are ongoing to enable proxy editing by designated persons, such as administrative staff in departments, in the near future.

You can also watch a short video tutorial on self-editing by clicking on the link at the top of your profile page.

Please feel free to send questions, comments, or suggestions about profile self-editing or VIVO in general to “Contact Us” on the VIVO main page. If sent to vetref@cornell.edu, we will forward your messages to the appropriate person or office. VIVO is a campus-wide development initiative of the Cornell University Library.

Thank you for your support and utilization of VIVO.





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Office of Graduate Education

Melanie Craven's abstract at DDW/AGA was selected by the American Gastroenterological Association (AGA) Foundation as a recipient of the 2009 AGA Student Abstract Prize (one of ten awardees). Over 5,000 abstracts were presented from around the world at this meeting, which is the premier meeting for gastroenterology. Her abstract was entitled, "Acute intestinal inflammation decreases microbial diversity and triggers the proliferation of adherent and invasive E. coli." Mel's abstract was selected for oral presentation, and she did an excellent job presenting to a packed house!

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State Fair Update

Please visit the Veterinary Hall of Health (building #35) at the New York State Fair this year, which opens on August 27 and runs through September 7. Several members of the College community will represent Cornell this year, including Dr. Kathy Earnest-Koons (August 27 with presentations at 10:30, 1;30, and 4:30); Drs. Rory Todhunter and Marta Castelhana (August 29, talking about medical genetics and health screenings for healthy Labradors as certified by their veterinarians); Dr. Janet Scarlett, Kelley Bollen, and Kelly Garner from the Maddie's Shelter Medicine program (August 31); and Dr. Joe Wakshlag (September 3 talking about pet nutrition). In addition, three veterinarians -- Drs. Kyla Ortved, Heidi Reesink, and Theresa Ollivett -- will provide medical care for exhibitors' animals throughout the 12-day event.

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Empire Farm Days Recap

Empire Farm Days was held last week. Several members of the College helped to make that event a success: Dr. Dorothy Ainsworth, Dr. Paul Virkler, Dr. Thomas Divers, Michael Wildenstein, Dr. Geoffrey Grocock, and Mary Linton represented the College, sharing information on their research and ways in which the College supports the needs of New York State. The College's participation was organized by Carol Merkur. Thank you to all.

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Upcoming Events

Aug. 31, 2009

Stem Cell Seminar in G10 Biotech Auditorium from 4-5pm: Presenter, Dr. Vivek Mittal from Cornell University Medical Center

Sept. 4, 2009

Seminars in Infection and Immunity in Boyce Thompson Institute Auditorium from 12:15-1:15pm: Presenter, Dr. Meta Kuehn from Duke University

- Sept. 11, 2009** Seminars in Infection and Immunity in Boyce Thompson Institute Auditorium from 12:15-1:15pm: Presenter, Dr. Ana Rodriguez from Langone Medical Center, New York University
- Sept. 16, 2009** Molecular Medicine Seminar Series in LHIII: Samara Reck-Peterson presents "Mechanism and Regulation of Cytoplasmic Dynein"
- Sept. 18, 2009** Seminars in Infection and Immunity in Boyce Thompson Institute Auditorium from 12:15-1:15pm: Presenter, Dr. Anthony Gaspari from University of Maryland Medical Center
- Sept. 18-19, 2009** Equine Advanced Tenoscopy and Bursoscopy Specialty Course
- Sept. 23, 2009** Molecular Medicine Seminar Series in LHIII: Presenter, Joe Fetcho
- Sept. 24-25, 2009** Baker Institute for Animal Health Fall Advisory Council Meeting
- Sept. 25, 2009** Seminars in Infection and Immunity in Boyce Thompson Institute Auditorium from 12:15-1:15pm: Presenter, Dr. Stephen Davies from Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences
- Sept. 26, 2009** [2nd Annual Stem Cell Symposium](#)
- Oct. 1-4, 2009** [NYS Veterinary Conference 2009](#)
- October 2 , 2009** Seminars in Infection and Immunity in Boyce Thompson Institute Auditorium from 12:15-1:15pm: Presenter, Dr. Michele Swanson from University of Michigan Medical School
- October 5 , 2009** Stem Cell Seminar in G10 Biotech Auditorium from 4-5pm: Presenter, Dr. Valerie Gouon-Evans from The Mount Sinai Medical Center
- October 9 , 2009** Seminars in Infection and Immunity in Boyce Thompson Institute Auditorium from 12:15-1:15pm: Presenter, Dr. Magnus Hook from Texas A&M University Health Science Center
- October 23 , 2009** Seminars in Infection and Immunity in Boyce Thompson Institute Auditorium from 12:15-1:15pm: Presenter, Dr. Nihal Alton-Bonnet from Rutgers University
- October 26 , 2009** Stem Cell Seminar in G10 Biotech Auditorium from 4-5pm: Presenter, Dr. Valera Vasioukhin from Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center
- Oct. 28, 2009** Molecular Medicine Seminar Series in LHIII: Presenter, Dean Michael Kotlikoff
- Oct. 28 - Nov. 1, 2009** [Syracuse Invitational Sporthorse Tournament](#)
- Oct. 30, 2009** Seminars in Infection and Immunity in Boyce Thompson Institute Auditorium from 12:15-1:15pm: Presenter, Dr.

Nov. 6, 2009

Moriya Tsuji from Aaron Diamond AIDS Research Center
Seminars in Infection and Immunity in Boyce Thompson
Institute Auditorium from 12:15-1:15pm: Presenter, Dr.
Giorgio Trinchieri from National Cancer Institute

Nov. 13, 2009

Seminars in Infection and Immunity in Boyce Thompson
Institute Auditorium from 12:15-1:15pm: Presenter, Dr.
De'Broski Herbert from University of Cincinnati College of
Medicine

Nov. 20, 2009

Seminars in Infection and Immunity in Boyce Thompson
Institute Auditorium from 12:15-1:15pm: Presenter, Dr.
Eicke Latz from University of Massachusetts Medical
School

Dec. 4, 2009

SCAVMA Auction

Dec. 5, 2009

White Coat Ceremony for the Class of 2011

If you don't see your group's event listed, please let us know
(mem368@cornell.edu) so we can add it to the list.

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In the News

In **The Times-Union** article, "Health-care crisis, Part II," Dean Michael Kotlikoff is quoted as saying: "We have many, many more applicants than we can accept." The article focuses on the shortage of large animal veterinarians in New York State.

Dr. Julia Albright's research findings from a study on cribbing in horses are revealed in the article "Little evidence that cribbing is learned, study finds" on **Horsetalk.co.nz**. Dr. Albright's study did not find that cribbing was a learned behavior from watching other horses crib-bite.

The **Horsetalk.co.nz** article "Champion mare's legacy lives on with birth of filly," explains how Dr. Sylvia

Bedford-Guaus and her laboratory team, in collaboration with veterinarians at Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine, harvested eggs from a deceased mare, fertilized them, and transferred them to a surrogate mare. The resulting filly was born nearly a year after her biological mother died.

Physorg.com recognizes Cornell's College of Veterinary Medicine for assisting with the spaying of does in the article "Research explores options for deer population control."

In articles about African village dogs showing more genetic diversity than modern breeds, **Unrealthemovement.wordpress.com**, **OBBc.com**, and **Eurekalert.com**, Dr. Rory Todhunter is listed as one of the co-authors for the study which was published online August 3 in the **Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences**. Dr. Marta Castelhana is also a co-author.

Dr. Paul Maza was quoted in the article, "Pets that don't chew up your wallet," in **The Buffalo News** as saying: "Any particular dog can be prone to any disease. But in the case of purebreds, the chances are higher of the animal coming down with a disease that's common to their family line. For example, Labrador retrievers, Rottweilers and German shepherds are more likely to be plagued with orthopedic diseases."