



Making Rounds

Monthly Internal Newsletter from Cornell University's College of Veterinary Medicine

Welcome!

Making Rounds is a new monthly internal newsletter that will help keep you up-to-date with the activities and accomplishments happening at the College of Veterinary Medicine. This online publication is available internally, for faculty, staff, and students.

To keep our alumni and friends up-to-date, we will reinstitute the College's magazine (last published in October 2006). 'Scopes will share news and updates about the College, faculty, students, and alumni. In addition, you can now find the College on two social networking sites, including Facebook.com and VetsU.com. The latter site was created solely for the veterinary profession and brings together veterinarians and vet students from universities across the USA (with plans to expand globally).

Please let us know what you'd like to see in this newsletter. All questions, comments, concerns, and ideas are welcome at mem368@cornell.edu.



Fossa at Rosamond Gifford Zoo in Syracuse, NY

“IF YOUR ACTIONS INSPIRE OTHERS TO DREAM MORE, LEARN MORE, DO MORE AND BECOME MORE, YOU ARE A LEADER.”

~ JOHN QUINCY ADAMS

Upcoming Events

JANUARY 30-31	Information Session
FEBRUARY 6-7	Information Session
FEBRUARY 6-8	Zoonotic Diseases Symposium
FEBRUARY 13-14	Information Session
APRIL 4	Cornell CVM Open House
APRIL 17-19	Special Species Symposium
APRIL 24-25	Large Animal Symposium
MAY 2	2009 Vet School Bike-A-Thon
MAY 18	Honor Day
MAY 23	Hooding Ceremony
MAY 24	Commencement Ceremony
JUNE 4-7	CVM Alumni Reunion

FEATURES

- 2 FROM THE DEAN: BUDGET BRIEF AND PEDAL FOR PETS
- 4 CORNELL RESEARCHERS PURSUE THE DOG'S ANCESTOR
- 5 THE QUEST TO DEVELOP NOVEL DRUGS
- 6 TEACHING AWARDS

COLLEGE NEWS

- 7 FLOWER-SPRECHER VETERINARY LIBRARY
- 7 HUMAN RESOURCES
- 8 INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

IN BRIEF

- 9 ON THE ROAD
- 9 IN THE NEWS

**INTERESTED IN KEEPING IN TOUCH WITH YOUR FELLOW ALUMS?
JOIN **CORNELL VETS** ON FACEBOOK.COM OR **CORNELL** ON VETSU.COM!**

FROM THE DEAN



ABOUT THE BUDGET

As Cornell continues to address the unprecedented financial challenges resulting from the nation's economic crisis, it is clear that the necessary actions approved by the university trustees and outlined in President Skorton's email message of January 25, 2009, will impact the College beyond the mid-year cuts already enacted. During the next three to four weeks, the College will work closely with University administration to ensure that the College's commitment to our top ranked educational program, research that is at the root of life-saving treatments and cures, and clinical programs that serve our patients, clients, and stakeholders, is preserved. I will share with you more information as financial decisions are made at the University and College levels. Please continue to make suggestions that will allow us to seize appropriate opportunities for cost savings, belt-tightening, and revenue-generation. Thank you for your continued support.

FIRST ANNUAL PEDAL FOR PETS

Last July, a columnist in the Ithaca Journal extolled the virtues of our companion animal hospital in a

first-person essay about the care we offered Irie, his cockatiel. If you would like to read it again, it's available at <http://www.vet.cornell.edu/hospital/beat/08Nov/story4.htm>. I am constantly approached by people who describe the tremendous care and compassion that they received at the Cornell University Hospital for Animals. The commitment that faculty and staff display is apparent and comes through to our clients particularly as they struggle with difficult decisions and overpowering emotions. Thousands of people a year bring their animals to the CUHA, which also serves as the veterinary college teaching hospital and the laboratory for our clinician scientists seeking new cures for animal disease.

In order to achieve our goal of providing the best care available anywhere in the world for our patients, and the best teaching experience to our students, our dedicated faculty and staff need state-of-the-art medical equipment. Funds for equipment replacement and upgrades are a constant need and the waiting time is far too long. To insure that our clients and patients benefit from the most up-to-date equipment, and as a way to show our appreciation of the extraordinarily dedicated faculty and staff of the Cornell University Hospital for Animals, I am delighted to announce our first annual CUHA Benefit Bike-a-thon. Proceeds from this event will fund the needed replacement and repair

of hospital equipment, benefitting our patients and clients. I hope that all supporters and friends of the College will join us on May 2, 2009, for this benefit organized by SCAVMA. While much of the groundwork is done, thanks to Jess Dowling '11 and a team she leads, there is still a tremendous amount of work to do and a variety of ways for us to show SCAVMA our support and appreciation.

Complete information on the CUHA Benefit Bike-a-thon—dubbed “Pedal for Pets”—will be available soon. But briefly, riders may complete either a 30-mile or 50-mile course. Participants, who may pedal individually or as a team, can be members of the Cornell University, Ithaca College, or greater Ithaca community. SCAVMA has set a registration fee per person or team

and has also set additional fund-raising goals, again for individuals or for teams.

For those who don't relish the idea of pedaling down the street, let alone for 30 miles, SCAVMA is looking for logistical and moral support, too. The student group needs people to staff rest areas and has creative ideas for making this fun. Help is needed at the start and finish line (which will be in the B lot). And SCAVMA is hoping that people will cheer the riders between rest stops. In addition, I'm sure riders would greatly appreciate your financial support to meet the fund-raising goals.

This is one of the many ways I have watched our community at the Vet College come together over the last few months during difficult financial times and just one of the many

reasons I continue to be honored to lead this tremendous College. If you'd like to discuss the bike ride or have ideas for businesses that might be willing to support the ride or grassroots opportunities to promote it, please visit my blog at <http://web.vet.cornell.edu/college/deans/blog/>. Because the blog is only available to the College community, logging in requires a password that gives you access to the College's networked resources. However, this blog is completely confidential and anonymous. I look forward to interactive discussions.

Sincerely,

Mike Kotlikoff

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

FUN FACTS (provided by Guinnessworldrecords.com)

TALK ABOUT ALL EARS!!

The longest ears on a dog measured 34.9 cm (13.75 in) and 34.2 cm (13.5 in) for the right and left ears, respectively, on September 29, 2004. They belong to Tigger, a bloodhound, who is owned by Bryan and Christina Flessner of St Joseph, Illinois, USA.



The longest rabbit ears measured 79 cm (31.125 in) in a complete span on November 1, 2003. The ears belong to an English Lop called Nipper's Geronimo who is owned by Waymon and Margaret Nipper of Bakersfield, California, USA.



PURSUING THE DOG'S ANCESTOR

Research explores the domestication of dogs

Dr. Marta Castelhana will spend most of December in Portugal, traveling from village to village in a car equipped with a centrifuge and clipboard. On the lookout for village dogs, Castelhana will encourage these semi-feral to completely feral dogs to cooperate long enough for her to draw four to five milliliters of blood. Halfway around the world, Dr. Patricia Arrais and Dr. Natalia Santos will work with spay and neuter programs in Brazil to capture similar data from indigenous dogs that are anesthetized for the procedure. This will be their first time collecting samples, but Castelhana has been involved with the project since early 2007.

A research associate at the College of Veterinary Medicine, Castelhana is engaged in a collaborative partnership with Adam Boyko, a research associate in Carlos Bustamante's laboratory in biological statistics and computational biology. Together, they are looking for the roots of canine domestication by studying the DNA of dogs that one would only find in those regions of the world.

"We want to understand how dogs evolved, how they became domesticated, and where dogs came from," said Castelhana, who is responsible for recruiting and training faculty to help collect the samples. "The data we're collecting will also shed new light on the genetic diversity of dogs and provides information useful to those mapping various diseases."

Since launching the initiative, 500 DNA samples have been collected from animals in countries

around the globe: Egypt, Uganda, Namibia, the Azores Islands in Portugal, Indonesia, Mexico, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. Plans to collect samples in Honduras, France, and the Solomon Islands are in discussion. These samples have been added to the DNA Bank. The Cornell DNA bank was established in early 2006 to discover genes that underlie inherited traits and diseases in domestic animals using animals admitted to the Cornell University Hospital for Animals. An NIH grant now helps to fund the canine part of that bank which contains over 4,000 DNA samples from dogs and other domestic animals with genetic diseases. Castelhana and Laboratory Technician Liz Corey manage the DNA bank with Dr. Rory Todhunter, a professor of surgery at Cornell.

Castelhana has coordinated the collection effort in several of these countries by recruiting individuals to collect samples, securing the necessary permits to export the samples, and shipping the supplies needed to collect the samples and record GPS coordinates and phenotypic data from the dogs. Typically, collectors work with village elders who encourage community members to bring semi-feral dogs to a central location on a certain date or with established spay and neuter/vaccination programs. In the most remote locations, where there is no refrigeration, the collectors complete the first half of the DNA extraction in the field with a portable centrifuge. Samples are then shipped back to the Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine where Corey undertakes the rest of the extraction

and the phenotype is recorded.

Working in collaboration with other canine genetic researchers, Boyko has completed sequencing and genotyping at several important genetic markers in the hopes of finding important clues to the early history and domestication of dogs, the genetic signatures of human migration and trade routes echoed in the dogs' genomes, and the background data on naturally breeding populations that will help us understand the genetic basis of dog traits and diseases.

"We believe that this work has the potential to revolutionize how we think about village dogs and the process by which dogs were domesticated from their wolf ancestors," says Boyko. "This information has the potential to illustrate why certain breeds have these diseases and may help researchers develop new treatments."

This research is possible because of strong and effective collaborations with several people: Dr Ricardo de Matos, Professor Miguel Saraiva Lima (for Portugal) and Dr Sueli Cristina Ribeiro (for Brasil).



SEEKING THE SEEDS OF HOPE

The quest to develop novel drugs

In research that spans three continents Dr. David Russell is searching for the seeds that will grow new drugs. Specifically, he wants to discover drugs with the capacity to prevent respiratory infections in people with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and pulmonary tuberculosis.

This work has taken him to Malawi, where he happily sits at the research bench, heart and hands hard at work conducting scientific experiments that have the potential to significantly improve life for people who are dying from tuberculosis and HIV. Working with collaborators from the University of Massachusetts, the College of Medicine in Malawi, and the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, Dr. Russell believes one of the clues to understanding how to treat these diseases lies inside macrophages, white blood cells within tissues that eat bacteria and cellular waste.

As such, Dr. Russell's research team has focused on the functional capacity of macrophages found in the lungs of patients infected with HIV and pulmonary tuberculosis. While most cell biologists use immunofluorescence, a technique that labels antibodies with fluorescent dyes to demonstrate the presence of a particular antibody in a tissue preparation or smear, Dr. Russell's team developed a new technique that uses fluorescence to measure different enzyme activities in situ and in real time.



“The phagosome (compartment created when the macrophage “eats” particles), functions like our stomach, it digests material and kills microbes,” said Dr. Russell, explaining that a better understanding of the environment is particularly useful when studying pathogens that can live within macrophages. “We have developed a recorder system that measures enzyme activity, acidity or alkalinity, the level of reactive oxygen ions, and other characteristics key to killing microbes.”

With this information, the team can explore whether the functionality of alveolar macrophages – those tasked with cleaning the surface of the lungs – is impaired by the presence of HIV or whether the macrophages are still able to mediate protective responses. Early indicators, according

to Dr. Russell, suggest that HIV does directly affect the function of macrophages, and as such, is a driving force for the development of respiratory infections in patients infected with HIV and tuberculosis.

A recent grant from the NIH, supplemented by resources from Cornell University, will propel his research to the next level. The acquisition of a high-throughput screening device will allow his team to identify small molecules that have the potential to be developed into drugs. In addition, he has secured access to a new library of compounds from a biotechnology company.

“Nowadays, few companies are pursuing novel drug discovery for antimicrobials” said Dr. Russell, explaining that it is far more common for scientists to modify drugs already in use. “Scientists are trying to improve a drug that already exists, which means there are no new drugs in the pipeline – just variations. This is a big mistake. Our work aims to discover new drugs. Drugs that we hope will reverse the effects that HIV has on macrophage function and drugs that will fight tuberculosis. This is a shift in my program – from basic science to applied. We have the technology now, and I am determined to understand disease process. I interface on a very personal level with people who suffer from these diseases and spend a great deal of time in areas where they are endemic. I feel an obligation to use my scientific knowledge to fight these infections.”

MAKE LEARNING CONTAGIOUS

Awards recognize excellence at the head of the class

In recognition of those who have helped thus far to prepare members of the Class of 2010, SCAVMA presented two awards at the annual White Coat Ceremony in December. Both awards paid tribute to professors who show extraordinary dedication to teaching. According to SCAVMA representative Chereese Sullivan '10, these professors often go beyond the call of duty when it comes to reaching out to students.

TEACHING EXCELLENCE AWARD IN BASIC SCIENCES

Dr. Carolyn McDaniel was recognized for her skillful ability to facilitate discussion and encourage interaction. Dr. McDaniel makes an exceptional effort to make herself available to students, whether it is by staying a few minutes later to help

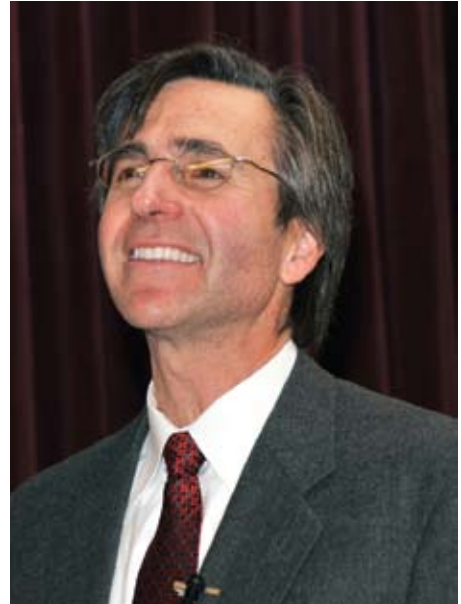


students after labs, assisting with student-run vaccination clinics, or supporting student extracurricular events.

After graduation from the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine in 1981, McDaniel worked in a rural mixed animal practice in Northern California before completing a small animal internship program in Sacramento. She remained on staff at the Sacramento Animal Medical Group until returning to Pennsylvania in 1984, where she worked in private practice for two years. In 1986 she established the Chestnut Hill Cat clinic, a feline-only practice in Philadelphia, and continued as owner and head veterinarian of the clinic, growing the practice to four veterinarians. In 2001 she sold the practice and moved to Ithaca, where she is a consultant for the Cornell Feline Health Center and an instructor at the College of Veterinary Medicine.

TEACHING EXCELLENCE AWARD IN CLINICAL SCIENCES

Dr. James Flanders was recognized for his ability to inspire and build confidence. As a professor of small animal surgery, he has trained many future veterinarians during his time at Cornell. Students find his kind and calm demeanor comforting as he reassures them that they are prepared and competent for any and all challenges that they will face.



Dr. Flanders graduated from the School of Veterinary Medicine at the University of California, Davis in 1980, earning specialty certification in surgery in 1989. In 2008, he became the medical director at the Cornell University Hospital for Animals and has been a professor of surgery at Cornell since 1985. Dr. Flanders was named the Outstanding Educator, Merrill Presidential Scholar program, in 1997, was a Fogarty International Fellow in 1999, and a visiting scientist at the Marie and Pierre Curie College of Medicine in Paris in 2006. He has published 18 book chapters and 58 papers in peer-reviewed journals.

FLOWER-SPRECHER VETERINARY LIBRARY

The Flower-Sprecher Veterinary Library is pleased to announce that citations to Veterinary College faculty publications are now accessible online in the RefWorks database. The link is located under "Resources" on the library's home page or at: <http://www.vet.cornell.edu/library/FacultyPub.htm>.

The RefWorks database includes publications by faculty, research associates, graduate students, and other academic staff dating from 2000 to present. Many of the nearly 3,500 citations have abstracts and PubMed subject headings. Publications include scientific journal articles, books, book sections, theses, conference proceedings, patents, electronic

resources, and other published non-print materials.

Recent citations are added continually as they become available. Many come from PubMed MEDLINE and other bibliographic indexes on an ongoing basis while additional citations are supplied annually by departments to make the file as complete as possible.

Using RefWorks / RefShare features, it is possible to do lookup searches by author, subject keyword/descriptor, or journal; sort and select references; print bibliographies in various styles; and download portions for individual use. Limited searching by department as a descriptor is

available from 2000 to about 2006. [RefWorks is freely available to anyone at Cornell from <http://refworks.cornell.edu> or the Cornell University Library home page at <http://library.cornell.edu>. There is also a short tutorial and seven page pdf Quick Guide for new users.]

Since this is a "work in progress," authors are encouraged to check their publications and let us know if any corrections or changes are needed. Additional citations are welcome at any time by sending an email to vetref@cornell.edu, calling 253-3496/3499, or putting a printed note in campus mail. Feel free to include comments and suggestions for future enhancements, as well.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Happy New Year from the Office of Human Resources!

As always, we had an eventful year in 2008 and we look forward to 2009. With the new year, we begin to think about annual performance dialogues for all non-academic staff. Cornell University is committed to recognizing staff for their job performance and helping to develop skills, knowledge, and abilities. Though employees and supervisors should always have open communications throughout the year, the performance dialogue offers an opportunity to have an in-depth conversation about success, ways to improve, and career development. During times of financial constraint, the performance dialogue can especially offer a moment

to reassess whether past job responsibilities and tasks continue to be critical to accomplishing the overall mission.

But for many, the performance dialogue can come with some anxiety as well. To relieve some of that anxiety, here is a web page that may help as you reflect on the past year and plan for the new: <http://www.ohr.cornell.edu/careerdev/performMng/index.html>. On the page, you will find the official policy, relevant definitions, checklists, and more to help you be as informed as possible.

Last year, the College conducted two workshops related to preparing for the performance dialogue. We

are unable to conduct the session again this year, but if you would like a copy of the presentation or handouts, please contact Connie Park (cap69@cornell.edu).

In the next few weeks, performance dialogue forms will be distributed by the supervisors and will be due by March 31, 2009 (with the exception of CUHA, whose forms are due on the employment anniversary date).

Feel free to contact your HR Representative with any questions or for assistance (<http://www.vet.cornell.edu/college/HR/>).

VETERINARY MEDICINE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

JANUARY 2009 FEATURED PROJECT:

Self Service Web development and maintenance:

Adobe Contribute rollout for people in the College who want to develop and maintain their department's internal or external web pages on the CVM website. Templates with the compliant standards are provided and text, pictures and links can be updated by the user. This is ideal for those who want to 'own' their own websites and for those that want to make updates to their pages.

Send a request to vet-webmaster@cornell.edu if you are interested in subscribing.

SOME VMIT STATISTICS

VMIT Staff size: 20

Number of Servers Managed by VMIT: 35+

Number of SubNets in the Vet College: 32+

Number of wireless access points in the Vet College: 117

Total workstations supported by VMIT: 1575

IT support requests submitted to VMIT in FY07/08: 7,631

IT purchase orders for IT equipment submitted for VMIT to order and deploy during FY07/08: 791

Number of webmaster maintenance requests submitted to VMIT FY07/08: 1300

HOW TO REQUEST WEB, APPLICATION, OR REPORT DEVELOPMENT:

Submit the request form via the web:

<http://www-prep.vet.cornell.edu/college/VMIT/docs/RequestForm.doc>.

You will be contacted for a consultation so that a scope and estimate for the project can be developed. Once this is completed, upon customer approval, the project is prioritized and scheduled.

VMIT MISSION

Provide strategic leadership and oversight, support and services, and planning and implementation of Information Technology throughout the College of Veterinary Medicine.

VMIT SERVICES

- Desktop Support: Hardware and Software Support
- Systems Analysis and Application Development, Maintenance, and Support
- Web Design, Development, and Maintenance
- IT Needs Assessment
- IT Purchasing
- Third Party System Implementation, Upgrades, and Support (UVIS, MedSelect, Raisers Edge)
- IT Strategic Planning
- Network Management and Infrastructure Planning
- IT Security
- Server Management and Maintenance
- Data Storage
- IT Project Management

HOW TO REQUEST IT DESKTOP SUPPORT:

Submit your IT support via the web: <http://www.vet.cornell.edu/college/VMIT/request.htm>.

Email your department's mailbox (below) for IT support requests.

If a web request cannot be submitted or an email can't be sent or in the case of an emergency, call 3-3606, the VMIT direct number for IT support.

- **AHDC-IT** New York State Animal Health Diagnostic Center, QMPS and Clinical Pathology
- **BIOMED-IT** Biomedical Sciences and Anatomical Pathology
- **MOLECMED-IT** Molecular Medicine
- **POP MED-IT** Population Medicine and Diagnostic Sciences
- **DCS-IT** Department of Clinical Sciences
- **CUHA-IT** Cornell University Hospital for Animals
- **CVMADMIN-IT** Administration
- **CVM-CARE-IT** Center for Animal Research and Lab Animal Services
- **FSLIB-IT** Flower-Sprecher Library

IN THE NEWS

Reporters from local, regional, national, and international news outlets frequently look to the College of Veterinary Medicine for expert commentary. For example:

In “Structure and Plasticity of Endophilin and Sorting Nexin 9,” published in the October issue of *Structure*, Holger Sondermann and his co-workers provide insight into the molecular mechanism of a fascinating class of proteins that regulate endocytosis, a cellular program for membrane and cargo trafficking, receptor recycling, and nutrient uptake.

Voice of America news reported on how researchers at Cornell University’s College of Veterinary Medicine are working with dairy farmers to keep the milk supply safe. *Voice of America* also filed a story on

the role Cornell is taking in solving the crisis of large animal veterinary practice in the US. This story was also covered in several regional newspapers, including the *Finger Lakes Times* and the *Corning Leader*.

In speaking about the DNA Bank, Dr. Rory Todhunter, a professor of surgery, who studies the genetics of canine hip dysplasia, was quoted as follows in the *Syracuse Post Standard*: “The reason the dog is so important is that inherited diseases are similar to those in humans. They are not exactly the same, but they are very similar.”

Veterinary Practice News recently spotlighted the College of Veterinary Medicine, commenting on the College’s problem-based approach to teaching and sharing a slideshow of images that captured the College’s depth and breadth.

In an *Associated Press* article released in January and titled “Health-conscious shoppers seek the same for their pets,” Dr. Joe Wakshlag, assistant professor of clinical nutrition, encourages people to read the labels: Pet food manufacturers are only required to have a few basic ingredients; the rest can vary widely.

ON THE ROAD

Our alumni continue to inspire philanthropy!

A Rochester, NY, couple, who visited the Companion Animal Hospital last fall, was so impressed with the care that **Dr. Heather Knapp-Hoch** offered to their dachshund, Bentley, and to them, that they have decided to leave a major portion of their estate to the College as a bequest in their wills.

We recently received notice from the estate of Byron Hipple that the College will be realizing a bequest of more than \$1 million for the College’s “Small Animal Research Endowment Fund” in honor of **Dr. Mac Donald Holmes DVM ’61**. Hipple—a friend of the College who passed away at the age of 94 in November 2007—and his wife made this bequest to honor their friend, Dr. Holmes, who “acquainted them with the capabilities of a veterinary college in caring for their terrier” (a Dandy Dinmont Terrier).

When Gigi Szollosy was laid to rest, friend Jo Ann Bieksha looked hard for an opportunity to honor her friend. Directed to the College of Veterinary Medicine by her veterinarian, **Marc Levine BS ’75, DVM ’78**, Bieksha found her answer: she has endowed the Gigi Szollosy Graduate Scholarship, which will provide financial assistance to students enrolled in the Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine.

Preference will be given to students in the dual degree DVM/PhD program or to those with fellowships engaged in post-DVM programs. In addition, all recipients of the Gigi Szollosy Graduate Scholarship will have demonstrated a commitment to volunteerism.



Gigi was dedicated to rescuing animals in need, such as the two greyhounds she saved.