Happy New Year! I hope your holidays were joyful.

As we welcome the New Year, we are once again providing you with a retrospective of the developments over the past year that are enabling us to better meet your needs and the needs of our shared patients and clients.

**Clinical Growth**

The Veterinary Medical Center recently launched a Digital Cytology service, which transforms laboratory diagnostics to real-time. Read more about this exciting new development on page 3.

In July, we expanded our ophthalmology service to our Dublin hospital, giving clients greater access to our specialists. We also put a plan in motion to add Urgent Care services to our Dublin facility, with an anticipated launch date in Q1 2020. With the help of your client referrals, our Blue Buffalo Veterinary Clinical Trials Office continues to grow and realize significant successes. Among one of the most recent efforts was a study that successfully demonstrated the use of a transdermal gel to stimulate appetites of young cats with chronic kidney disease.

**Facility, Faculty Updates**

Last March, the VMC unveiled a redesigned, more efficient workspace for our Integrated Oncology service that has enhanced collaboration among our medical, surgical and radiation oncologists. Most recently, we have launched the expansion of our emergency department, including a dedicated fluid ward, to meet the increased demand for emergency and critical care services. In addition, the flooring in the Galbreath Equine Center’s orthopedic ward and triage area was completed in December.

We are also deeply entrenched in the design phase for The Frank Stanton Veterinary Spectrum of Care Clinic to benefit our fourth-year students, with a groundbreaking scheduled for April 15, 2020.

In 2019, we also welcomed several new faculty members: Dr. Shannon Reed, associate professor of equine surgery; Dr. Jenessa Winston, assistant professor of small animal internal medicine; Dr. Randoph Winter, assistant professor of cardiology and interventional medicine; Dr. James Howard, assistant professor, small animal surgery; Dr. Joe Lozier, assistant professor, farm animal medicine; and Dr. Ashely Hechler, assistant professor of neurology.

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2019 VMC Retrospective - cont’d

VMC Operations and Administrative Enhancements

As of April 1, 2020, the VMC will have a fully-integrated electronic medical record, including laboratory and radiology systems, complete with client and referring veterinarian portals. This new Hospital Information System will standardize and automate day-to-day processes across all services and help improve communications with our referral partners and clients.

Our practice outreach and continuing education offerings continue to be well received. Dr. Doug Graham, VMC Practitioner Liaison, has visited more than 500 practices within Ohio and West Virginia through 2019 and has coordinated 19 CE programs, which will continue to expand in the coming year. We are proud to be one of two academic veterinary medical centers nationwide with a dedicated practitioner liaison.

The results of CalPro client and referral partner surveys, insights gathered from our practitioner board, and the results of the operational process and workflow assessment by external process management experts, have given us a clear direction and action plan for improvements as we move into 2020.

As always, we thank you for your continued partnership and welcome your comments and suggestions.

Karin Zuckerman, MHSA, MBA
VMC Director

Welcome New Faculty

Samantha Evans, DVM PhD, DACVP
Assistant Professor – Clinical Pathology

A native of Boulder, Colorado, Dr. Evans joined the VMC Clinical Pathology Service in July 2019. As part of a combined DVM/PhD program at the University of California, Davis, she received her PhD in Integrated Pathobiology in 2013, and her DVM in 2015. She went on to complete her medicine and surgery internship at Michigan State University in 2016, and completed her residency in clinical pathology at Colorado State University in June 2019. Her research interests include infectious disease diagnostics and the use of digital pathology for veterinary diagnostics and education.

Care Credit Available January 6

Beginning January 6, 2020, the Ohio State Veterinary Medical Center will accept Care Credit as a payment option for clients.

Blue Buffalo Veterinary Clinical Trials Office Seeks Participants

If you have a patient that might be eligible for any of the following trials, please contact our Blue Buffalo Veterinary Clinical Trials Office at cvm-clinicaltrials@osu.edu or 614-247-8706.

• Dogs with skin mast cell tumors
• Surgical margin assessment of injection-site sarcomas
• Efficacy of a novel pain medication for treatment of osteosarcoma in dogs (upcoming)

For a full list of current trials, visit: vet.osu.edu/vmc/clinical-trials
VMC Launches Digital Cytology Service

Thanks to the use of cell phone technology, our clinical pathologists can now provide referring veterinarians with real-time diagnoses.

Our new digital cytology service, launched in November 2019, involves a seemingly simple process: The practitioner points a smartphone through a microscope eyepiece, takes a photo of a targeted area of the stained-glass slide, then digitally sends the photograph to the VMC clinical pathologists who can typically provide a diagnosis within two hours. The technique provides our pathologists with high resolution images that most smartphones now capture, say the VMC specialists.

“Practitioners already have the equipment to do this — a cell phone and a microscope,” says Dr. Samantha Evans, assistant professor of pathology. She notes that learning how to locate an optimal area on the slide and adjusting the camera angles and microscope are important for taking diagnostic images.

Dr. Maxey Wellman, professor and service head of Clinical Pathology and Dr. Jessica Hokamp, assistant professor of pathology, got the idea for the digital service after training with Dr. Julie Piccione from the Texas Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory.

The team invited Dr. Piccione to conduct CE workshops last summer to train 50 local practitioners in the technique at the VMC. Currently, submission of digital images is limited to practitioners who completed this training, but the VMC plans to offer additional workshops in the near future, Dr. Hokamp says.

Patients benefit foremost from this technique, Dr. Evans says. With the service’s two-hour turnaround goal, she says, the animal may still be in the hospital when the pathologist’s diagnosis is made. Cost and convenience are other benefits, she adds: clinic distance is not an issue, the technique is low cost and digital archives offer referring veterinarians and owners access to the clinical record.

For practitioners who complete the workshop, images can be submitted at:
vet.osu.edu/vmc/digital-cytology-submission-form

To learn more about submitting a digital image, contact VMC.Vetlabs@cvm.osu.edu or call 614-292-7955

For more details, please visit: vet.osu.edu/alumni/continuing-education

Upcoming CE Events

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<tr>
<td>February 4</td>
<td>Dayton, Miami Valley VMA</td>
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<td>March 5</td>
<td>CE dinner - Columbus Academy</td>
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<td>March 19</td>
<td>CE dinner - Eastern Ohio, Tuscarawas VMA</td>
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Columbus veterinarian Dr. Robert Knapp completed the training workshop last year and has used the service multiple times. Digital cytology has made a big difference in some of his cases. In one case, he says, on physical examination, mast cell tumor was his initial concern. “I looked at the slides and didn’t see any mast cells, but cells that had characteristics of anaplasia,” he says.

“The diagnosis of plasmacytoma from the digital cytology service gave me the information I needed to more confidently recommend surgery.”

Digital images like this photo of a plasma cell tumor taken with a smartphone offer VMC clinical pathologists real-time cellular detail to aid referring veterinarians with a diagnosis.
Faculty Spotlight: Dr. Shannon Reed

Dr. Shannon Reed says while she grew up in a non-veterinary, non-horse family, she “definitely had the girl horse gene.” To gain more experience, she volunteered while in high school with a therapeutic riding program in her hometown of Las Vegas, Nevada. It wasn’t until she was an undergraduate student at the University of Nevada, Reno, where she had an opportunity to work as an assistant to an equine surgeon, that she decided she wanted to become one, too.

“I realized that I really liked the intricacy of surgery, particularly in horses with colic,” she says. “I got to see a lot of those late night colic cases and decided I wanted to do that.”

Today Dr. Reed is associate professor of equine surgery at The Ohio State University Veterinary Medical Center Galbreath Equine Center, where she is one of five equine surgeons on faculty. She received her veterinary degree at the University of Missouri College of Veterinary Medicine in 2003. She completed her residency and clinical fellowship in large animal surgery and medicine at Oregon State University.

Prior to joining the VMC in late 2018, she was an associate teaching professor at the University of Missouri. She devotes the majority of her time to clinic work and teaching, she says. Early morning rounds are spent with students, an endeavor involving “pushing them to translate their basic knowledge, work through problems and then apply it to the patient.”

The rest of the day is devoted to seeing referred soft tissue cases, most of which are carcinoma masses, wounds, airway problems and colic. “We’re doing more minimally invasive work, trying to avoid general anesthesia when we can,” Dr. Reed says. “We’re also focusing more on the rehabilitative process after surgery.”

What never changes, though, is the partnership with referring veterinarians, she says. “It’s a team relationship, and we want to know what services we can provide for them.”

Faculty Spotlight: Dr. Jenessa Winston

One of Dr. Jenessa Winston’s earliest childhood memories of wanting to go into veterinary medicine is when her father, a small animal veterinarian, asked for her help as he performed a C-section on a dog.

“IT was the first time I was old enough to help,” she says. “I remember I got to hold the puppy in a towel to keep him warm. I thought, ‘oh my gosh, I really want to do this.”

And so she did, receiving her degree in veterinary medicine from North Carolina State University College of Veterinary Medicine and going on to complete her internship, and then residency as a clinical investigator in small animal internal medicine at NC State. She also completed a PhD at NC State in Comparative Biomedical Sciences with a concentration in Infectious Disease.

Now, as assistant professor of Small Animal Medicine at the Ohio State Veterinary Medical Center, Dr. Winston is building a research program to help improve knowledge around gastrointestinal, hepatobiliary and pancreatic diseases in dogs and cats. The program is called CHIRP, which stands for Comparative Hepatobiliary and Intestinal Research Program. CHIRP’s team of basic research and clinical scientists work together using comparative and translational medicine on issues important to animals and humans — and collaborate with colleagues in human medicine, including at Nationwide Children’s Hospital.

The CHIRP Small Animal team involves Dr. Winston, Dr. Adam Rudinsky, Dr. Valerie Parker and Dr. James Howard. “Having them help educate clients how important that clinical research is, really makes the VMC unique in what it can do for patients,” she says.