I hope your summer was a fruitful one. In this issue of Update for Veterinarians, we welcome our new interns and first-year residents, clinical instructors, and a new emergency clinician at our Dublin hospital.

We’re also excited to share developments occurring in Phase 2 of the VMC Enhancement & Expansion Project. This summer’s renovation continued with the new companion animal and farm animal reception and lobby areas, as well as new companion animal exam rooms, emergency room and radiology reading area. The lobby, and its inviting entrance with a modern canopy, is quickly taking shape. See page 3 for recent renovation photos, and look for an announcement of the completion of Phase 2 in early November. Thank you for your patience as we continue to improve our clinical facilities to provide the best possible customer experience for your clients and their animals.

As you know, our mission is to continually strive to improve care with innovations in clinical practice. In this issue, you’ll read about how Dr. Anne Metzler, clinical professor of ophthalmology in the Department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences, and Dr. Kristin Gervais, an ophthalmology resident, use state-of-the-art, high frequency ultrasound in cataract surgery. In equine medicine, Dr. Naomi Chiero, assistant professor in the Department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences, shares a case study that involves a minimally invasive, dental surgical technique.

As always, we thank you for your continuing partnership and the trust you place in our hands with each referral. Please feel free to contact me with questions or concerns.

From the Director

Our team of specialists at The Ohio State University Veterinary Medical Center (VMC) continues to make advances in veterinary medicine. From the newly established Integrated Oncology Service—a comprehensive program in which medical, surgical and radiation oncology are brought together under one umbrella—to the new mobile ultrasound service, to evolving techniques in cataract and dental surgery, our specialty teams are able to provide the highest level of care for clients of referring veterinarians.

Learn more about the VMC Integrated Oncology Service and mobile ultrasound on page 4. Read about how two recent surgical cases—one in small animal medicine, the other in equine—illustrate the exciting developments that show the breadth and depth of the patients the VMC serves, and the extraordinary clinical care our patients receive.

Advances in Veterinary Medicine at the Veterinary Medical Center

Veterinary Medical Center–Columbus
601 Vernon L. Tharp St.
Columbus, OH 43210
Hospital for Companion Animals:
614-292-3551
Hospital for Farm Animals and Galbreath Equine Center:
614-292-6661
Veterinary Medical Center–Dublin
5020 Bradenton Ave.
Dublin, OH 43017
614-889-8070
vet.osu.edu/vmc
Cataract Surgery Returns Eyesight to Fifi

Cataracts in dogs most often occur when they are older, but a recent case at the VMC shows that a positive prognosis can also be expected in younger dogs with congenital cataracts.

Jackie Searfos, age 11, noticed Fifi, her 3-year-old 4-H show dog, was having problems during obedience competitions. “We knew something was wrong,” said Jennafor Searfos, Jackie’s mother.

At the time Fifi was evaluated in February 2015 by Dr. Kristen Gervais, an ophthalmology resident, and Dr. Anne Metzler, clinical professor of ophthalmology, her vision was about 30 percent affected. By fall 2015, however, she had more than 70 percent vision loss. Fifi was then a candidate for surgery, performed in July this year.

The ophthalmology team used phacoemulsification, a state-of-the-art technique that uses high frequency ultrasound to break down and remove the cataract. A very small incision is made in the cornea to allow the instrument into the eye for cataract removal and implantation of the artificial lens.

Jennafor said that after her surgery, Fifi crawled up cautiously to a dandelion and gave it a couple of good sniffs. “She sneezed, and then looked up at Jackie and smiled. She had never seen a dandelion before. It was priceless! This has been the most amazing experience for us, too,” she said. “The VMC team was fantastic!”

Jackie played a big part in supporting Fifi in her surgery. She made handmade dog toys to sell to help pay for the surgery, and came to know the dog’s veterinarians. “She even did a presentation for 4-H about cataracts in animals, Fifi’s case and her visit to the VMC,” said Gervais. “Now she wants to be a veterinary ophthalmologist.”

Metzler notes that the Ophthalmology Service sees approximately 15-20 appointments for new cataract cases per month. Typically owners notice a behavior change and may see a cloudy appearance to the eye.

For diabetic dogs, cataract surgery should be performed as early as possible to avoid complications due to inflammation and cataract progression. She also noted that patients with advanced cataracts do best if first treated with an anti-inflammatory drop.

“It’s never too early for local veterinarians to refer patients with cataracts for evaluation and possible surgery,” said Dr. Metzler.
Dental Innovation Offers New Life for Rescued Pony

Marley, a 9-year-old pony, was rescued by the Human Society of Morrow County in December 2015. She was afraid of people and had facial sores from a tight fitting halter.

After rescue, Marley was cared for at the Circle P Sanctuary in Marengo, Ohio, where veterinarian Dr. Heidi Immegart found firm swelling on the left side of Marley’s face. An oral exam revealed multiple fractured cheek teeth that would require extraction.

Today Marley is much healthier, thanks to the efforts of the VMC’s equine team and their work to remove Marley’s fractured teeth.

Prior to her arrival at the VMC, an initial plan was made for a CT scan and surgical extraction under general anesthesia, due to the extent of her dental disease and semi-feral behavior. Because of her excellent care at Circle P and her more relaxed nature, however, she did not need general anesthesia, nor a CT scan, and could undergo oral sedation.

Marley was evaluated at the VMC’s Galbreath Equine Center by Dr. Naomi Chiero, assistant professor and equine ambulatory veterinarian, Dr. Margaret Mudge, clinical associate professor and Equine Medicine and Surgery service head, and Dr. Jeffrey Reiswig, board-certified equine dentist in Newark, Ohio. They identified three teeth for removal.

Drs. Chiero and Reiswig successfully removed one tooth through a routine extraction, but encountered complete crown fracture and loss in attempts to remove the two remaining teeth. Traditionally this development leads to a sinus trephine or bone flap to access a maxillary cheek tooth—an invasive and time-consuming approach that can lead to complications.

However, Drs. Chiero and Reiswig were able to perform a new, minimally invasive transbuccal screw extraction (MITSE) technique, in which a trocar is placed in the cheek to introduce dental instruments and to place an interdental screw. The screw is anchored into the tooth remnant, with the opposite end exiting the incision outside the mouth. A special slotted hammer is introduced and used to extract the teeth. The entire procedure can be carried out in a standing sedated horse.

Dr. Chiero said that the goals of the VMC veterinary team, the Humane Society, and Circle P were mutual. “We wanted to get Marley healthy enough to trust people, so that she could go on to be a normal horse and then find a good home.”

While the VMC equine veterinary team has always offered routine and surgical treatment for equine dental cases, employment of new techniques advances care for equine and large animal patients. Dr. Chiero has also started a residency program in equine dentistry under Dr. Reiswig’s supervision.

Since the surgery, Chiero has completed a follow up visit to Circle P Sanctuary and reports that Marley is healing well and on the road to “becoming a happy and adoptable pony.”

VMC Enhancement & Expansion Project
VMC Launches New Services: Integrated Oncology and Mobile Ultrasound

As of June 27, the VMC offers a newly created Integrated Oncology Service: a comprehensive approach to cancer care and treatment plans that benefits patients and families. The integrated service involves a team of cancer specialists in medical, surgical and radiation oncology that work with you and your client—from initial consultation and diagnosis, to treatment planning, implementation and follow-up care.

The new service also offers your clients access to the VMC Blue Buffalo Veterinary Clinical Trials Office, one of the largest clinical trials offices in the country, which collaborates with our partners in human health: Nationwide Children’s Hospital and the James Cancer Center in Columbus, Ohio.

Learn more at vet.osu.edu/vmc/oncology.

Welcome, Dr. DeLauter

Melissa A. DeLauter, DVM

Dr. Melissa A. DeLauter, a 2008 graduate of The Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine, joins the Emergency Service at the VMC–Dublin after working as an associate veterinarian in a multi-doctor, small animal practice at White Oak Animal Hospital in Fredericksburg, VA. Her clinical skills include digital radiography, laser surgery, therapeutic laser, in-house laboratory, and dental radiography.

The VMC also recently launched a mobile ultrasound service, operated by Dr. Amy Habing, board-certified radiologist, who previously managed the outpatient imaging service at the VMC–Dublin.

Mobile ultrasound services are available in specific geographic zones within a 30-mile radius of the VMC campus location, Monday-Thursday, between 9 a.m.-2 p.m. (patient drop offs are required by 9 a.m.).

Learn more at vet.osu.edu/vmc/mobile.

To schedule a phone consultation or to make a client referral, contact our referral coordinator, Stephanie Yochem at 614-292-0950 or by email at CVM-OSUVETReferralCoordinator@osu.edu.

Welcome Our New VMC Instructors-Practice

Judith Bertran, DVM, Fellow in Surgical Oncology

Laura Dunbar, DVM, MS, DACVIM, Equine Internal Medicine

Jaylyn Rhinehart, DVM, DACVIM, Cardiology

Fee Waiver Program

In an effort to enhance client experience and reduce the cost barrier associated with transfer or referral, we offer an Emergency Exam Fee Waiver program for select companion animal (dog and cat) patients. For details, see vet.osu.edu/vmc/referring-vets/forms-and-information.

Transitions and Departures

Dr. Anusha Balakrishnan, Small Animal Emergency and Critical Care Service, has left the VMC to join Cornell University Veterinary Specialists in Stamford, CT.

Find us on
Welcome 2016 Residents

Greg Ballash
Anatomic Pathology

Kelsey Brakel
Anatomic Pathology

Courtenay Brines
Ophthalmology

Mallory DiVincenzo
Anatomic Pathology

Lincoln Every
Radiology

Tessa Fiamengo
Theriogenology

Jason Fuerst
Radiology

Ashley Hechler
Neurology

Elizabeth Hoffman
Small Animal Surgery

Brittney Johnson
Small Animal Surgery

Caitlin Johnson
Small Animal Internal Medicine

Meghan Lilly
Behavioral Medicine

Cameron Reid
Anesthesiology

Hillary Rice
Equine Surgery

Lindsey Rings
Equine Medicine

Michelle Rohrbaugh
Cardiology

Patrick Satchell
Small Animal Emergency and Critical Care

Grace VanHoy
Farm Animal Medicine and Surgery

Daniella Vansteenkiste
Neurology

Mary White
Clinical Pathology

Amy Zide
Small Animal Surgery
Welcome 2016 Interns

Edyta Bula
Small Animal Medicine and Surgery

Yanjie Chen
Small Animal Medicine and Surgery

Kimberly Cook
Small Animal Medicine and Surgery

Vera Dyment
Clinical Trials

Margaret Gabour
Small Animal Medicine and Surgery

Ryan Gibson
Small Animal Medicine and Surgery

Lauren Green
Small Animal Medicine and Surgery

Samantha Haw
Farm Animal Medicine and Surgery

Weihow Hsue
Small Animal Medicine and Surgery

Anna McManamey
Small Animal Medicine and Surgery

Megan Mitchell
Small Animal Medicine and Surgery

David Ricketts
Small Animal Medicine and Surgery

Nora Sheehan
Small Animal Medicine and Surgery

Alyssa Shore-Khirallah
Equine Field Service

Abby Thompson
Equine Field Service

Rachel Soltys
Infection Control Practitioner