



Update

for Veterinarians



January-February 2016

VMC to Launch Integrated Cancer Care Service

The Ohio State University Veterinary Medical Center (VMC) will soon be at the forefront of cancer care in veterinary medicine. Early this year the VMC will offer patients an Integrated Oncology Service, a comprehensive program that links medical, radiation and surgical oncology services under one umbrella. The service means referred patients will receive care from a team of specialists in these areas who collaborate on diagnosis and treatment decisions.

The service also will benefit veterinary research and education, with medical residents and interns training in an environment of collaborative decision-making, and with increased opportunities for clinical trials.

Currently only two veterinary hospitals across the country—Colorado State University and the University of Florida—offer cancer services as an integrated model. The VMC's development will make it the third. Read more about the benefits of the VMC's Integrated Oncology Service on page 2.

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From the Director



Happy New Year! I hope you found time to relax with family and friends over the holiday. We appreciate your partnership on cases and look forward to a continued relationship in 2016.

In this issue of *Update for Veterinarians*, we feature a discussion with **Drs. Mary McLoughlin** and **Emma Warry**, who, along with their colleagues, are developing the

Integrated Oncology Service whereby we bring together the medical, surgical and radiation oncology services. We're excited to note that this comprehensive program soon will be one of just three in the country using a team-based approach, and focused on the highest standards of clinical care while advancing research and education.

State-of-the-art technology also will play a role in the planned Integrated Oncology Service. **Dr. Eric Green** talks about the benefits of the linear accelerator we've acquired from The James—The Ohio State University's Comprehensive Cancer Center—including how this new and improved technology can provide options for cancer patients.

Please join us in welcoming Dr. Roger Finland to the college. Dr. Finland has taken the newly created role of executive director and chief medical officer of the Veterinary Medical System. We are thrilled he has returned to Ohio State. Read more about Dr. Finland on page 4.

As always, if you have any questions about our services, please don't hesitate to contact me or any of our faculty. Best wishes to your clients and patients in 2016!

Integrated Oncology Service Offers Multiple Benefits

The Integrated Oncology Service, soon to be unveiled at the VMC, offers a program of care where medical, surgical and radiation specialists work together as a team, ultimately leading to a treatment plan that improves patients' survival rates and quality of life.

These benefits are significant in several ways, agreed both **Dr. Mary A. McLoughlin**, associate professor in the Department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences and service head for Small Animal Surgery and Oncology, and **Dr. Emma Warry**, assistant professor of clinical services in the oncology service. Patients receive improved and advanced quality of care; communication among veterinarians is streamlined; and opportunities for cutting-edge research and resident instruction are created.

"The Integrated Oncology Service in veterinary medicine is patterned after successful models of care in human cancer diagnosis and treatment, such as breast cancer," said Dr. Warry. "We know that in the human field, patients are no longer just seen by a medical oncologist or just seen by a surgical oncologist," she said. "They're seen by a group working on their case."

For instance, Dr. Warry explained that breast cancer was once considered a surgical disease, and is now seen as a multiple disciplinary disease, for which a medical, surgical, and radiation team collaborates on a treatment plan.

Dr. McLoughlin noted this type of decision-making will help advance the veterinarians' discussion around diagnosis and treatment.

"Sometimes when veterinarians work by themselves, they don't think about what another colleague can bring to the table," she said. Soon, however, if a referring veterinarian makes a diagnosis of nasal disease, the patient will come into the integrated service. "We've since learned that nasal disease can involve many things."

Dr. McLoughlin, who has practiced at the VMC for 28 years, said the timing is right for integrated service, given the VMC's large oncology and surgery caseload. "At least 60 to 70 surgical cases are cancer patients."

Dr. Warry noted the new service will offer opportunities for clinical trials and multi-disciplinary learning for rotating residents. She also envisions other auxiliary support services as part of integrated oncology, including hospice, nutrition, pain management, and rehabilitation and sports medicine, to name a few. "Exciting specialty and technology exchanges with The James will offer advantages to patients and owners as well," she said, creating "a unique service to our patients that other veterinary hospitals don't have access to."

To learn more, contact the VMC at 614-292-3551, vet.osu.edu/vmc.



Online CE Program

The Nephrology Series

Upcoming sessions:

January 19, 2016: Kidney Stones in Cats

February 16, 2016: When to Biopsy Kidneys and What to do with the Results

For more detailed information, please go to vet.osu.edu/vet-expert-express-nephrology

Vet Expert Express
Free, web-based continuing education for veterinarians

Clinical Trials

We always have a need for participants in veterinary clinical trials. If you have a patient that might be eligible, please contact the Ohio State Veterinary Clinical Trials Office at cvm-clinicaltrials@osu.edu or 614-292-4559.

For a list of current trials, please visit: vet.osu.edu/vmc/clinical-trials.

Linear Accelerator a Leading-Edge Cancer Tool

The Veterinary Medical Center recently acquired from The James Comprehensive Cancer Center a linear accelerator capable of performing intensity modulated radiotherapy (IMRT), a technique that allows focused high radiation doses to be delivered to tumors without destroying neighboring healthy cells.

“IMRT allows us to not only specifically contour the field to the tumor, but to also contour the dose and vary the intensity of radiation that the machine delivers to more precisely target the tumor,” said **Dr. Eric Green**, professor of radiology and radiation oncology and head of the Diagnostic Imaging and Radiation Oncology Service. Currently, the Radiation Oncology Service sees about 125 patients a year, and IMRT could be useful for nearly a third of these cases.

IMRT differs somewhat from other radiosurgery options in that the linear accelerator produces a high-energy beam of photons that is shaped and modified by the multileaf collimator, a device consisting of numerous thin leaves of lead that can move into and out of the beam path. During the procedure, the patient lies on a treatment couch, and the high-energy radiation beams are delivered and shaped by the multileaf collimator while the machine rotates around the patient. In many instances, this highly sophisticated technology may be used in lieu of surgery because of the size or location (such as in the brain) of the cancer, said Dr. Green.

“The linear accelerator is only part of the procedure,” Dr. Green added. A complex computerized treatment plan is needed for each patient, and requires a radiation oncologist be trained on a three-dimensional computing and software system to design it. A medical physicist then verifies the plan before the treatment is performed.



Planning is an intense process and may take hours to create, said Dr. Green, who has completed software training and instruction in use of the machine.

The linear accelerator will be one of several treatment modalities within the VMC’s planned integrated oncology program involving medical, surgical, and radiation oncology (see story, page 2). Dr. Green’s team will work together with other specialists to determine an individualized treatment plan for each patient. The integrated service will facilitate the treatment and care for each patient and offer clients the best options, he said.

“Referring veterinarians and clients are an important part of formulating the treatment plan,” said Dr. Green. He anticipates the software and the linear accelerator to be ready to treat patients in early January.



Teleradiology

Dr. Green reminds referring DVMs about the teleradiology service, which provides an efficient means to send digital images to a board-certified radiologist for interpretation and get a report back to the practitioner in a timely fashion; results are provided to referring veterinarians within 24 hours or less in most cases. A new online submission form expedites the process of a consultation request. The diagnostic imaging service provides interpretations for roughly 70 cases a month. See vet.osu.edu/vmc/teleradiology for more details and the online form.

Roger Fingland to Head Veterinary Medical System



In a newly created position at The Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine, **Dr. Roger B. Fingland** was named executive director and chief medical officer of the Veterinary Medical System. The Veterinary Medical System includes all divisions of the College, including the Veterinary Medical Center's Columbus and Dublin, OH, locations, Marysville Large Animal Services, Clinical Laboratories, the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections program, and Finley Farm.

Fingland, an alumnus of, and former resident and instructor at The Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine, will also serve as executive associate dean and as a tenured professor in the Department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences.

Fingland previously was executive associate dean and director of the Veterinary Health Center at the Kansas

State University College of Veterinary Medicine, where he also was a professor of small animal surgery. He received his DVM degree from the University of Missouri in 1981, his MS from Ohio State in 1985 and his MBA from Baker University in 2002. Dr. Fingland is a Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Surgeons and has served leadership roles in a number of veterinary organizations, including the Executive Committee of the American Association of Veterinary Clinicians.

His clinical interests include small animal cardiovascular and respiratory surgery, and he is known for having developed a surgical technique for treatment of tracheal collapse in dogs.

"Dr. Fingland is considered by his peers as one of the most innovative, forward-thinking, accomplished and highly respected leaders in academic veterinary medicine," said Dr. Rustin Moore, dean of The Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine. "He has the experience, insights and skills to help oversee integration of our clinical activities, programs and facilities as we advance our mission areas of education, discovery and service."

Mark Your Calendar

The 2016 Midwest Veterinary Conference (MVC), hosted by the Ohio Veterinary Medical Association, will be held February 25-28, at the Greater Columbus Convention Center.

For the MVC program schedule, see mvcinfo.org.

The Ohio State Department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences and Veterinary Medical Center will once again host a "Lunch with the Experts" at the conference on Saturday, February 27. Topics and registration details can be found at vet.osu.edu/vmc.

Please plan to attend the **Ohio State College of Veterinary Medicine Reception** at the MVC on Saturday, February 27. The reception will take place in the Hyatt Regency (connected to the convention center) from 6 - 8 p.m.

For questions, please contact Laura DeRose at derose.25@osu.edu or 614-292-8727.

Transitions and Departures

Dr. Cheryl London, has relocated to Boston but will serve in a consultative capacity until Spring 2016.

Dr. Mary McLoughlin, current service head for Small Animal Surgery, has added the role of service head for Oncology.

Dr. Lillian (Lily) Su, clinical instructor in the surgery service, left the VMC at the end of 2015.

Dr. Lisa J. Zekas, associate professor-clinical (diagnostic imaging), has left the VMC to join the faculty of Colorado State University.



The Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine
The Ohio State University Veterinary Medical Center
The Ohio State University Veterinary Medical Center at Dublin

