Several exciting events have occurred since our last issue of *Update for Veterinarians*. On April 24th we held an open house for our referring veterinarians at the VMC at Dublin. I hope you were able to attend and meet the emergency veterinarians, internists, practice manager and staff who will be working with you and your patients.

**From the Director**

The veterinarians at the Galbreath Equine Center have added a new member to the team treating Northstar: Dr. Larry Jones, director of the Burn Center at Ohio State’s Wexner Medical Center. Dr. Jones, along with Dr. Sam Hurcombe and his team, have performed two skin graft procedures on the seven-year-old American Paint Horse, who suffered severe burns to almost half of his body when he was doused in flammable liquid and set on fire late last summer.

The experts at the equine center got the healing off to a good start with relentless wound management, a series of smaller skin grafts and the implantation of cell cultures in the wound bed. These procedures were performed to bring top-layer skin tissue to the central area of the wound bed on Northstar’s neck and shoulders, where all his skin had burned away.

For the enormous wound spanning the horse’s back, Drs. Hurcombe and Jones removed ultrathin sheets of skin from Northstar’s chest and expanded them with a meshing tool before placing the grafts across the back. The same instruments used in a typical human burn surgery were used for the horse’s grafting procedures.

The doctors’ collaboration has provided a rare learning experience for both clinicians and their colleagues. They observed one another’s surgeries and studied human and veterinary medicine journal articles before teaming to accelerate Northstar’s care.

Northstar will likely undergo a series of additional sheet graft surgeries to completely heal the wound.

The clinicians hope that he will have a complete layer of skin coverage by his eighth birthday in January. But the road ahead is a long one, both acknowledge. The location of the back burn is such that Northstar’s every movement slightly disturbs the grafted areas.

“His skin graft take is a little less than what I am used to in humans,” Jones noted. “But as Dr. Hurcombe reminds me, considering his hospital bed is in a barn, he is doing very well.”

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Welcome our new veterinarians to the VMC at Dublin

In our last issue of *Update for Veterinarians*, we introduced you to the emergency and critical care veterinarians who will serve your clients at the Dublin facility, as well as our new practice manager. This month we introduce you to our surgery and internal medicine specialists.

Please visit vet.osu.edu/vmc-dublin for more information or call (614) 889-8070 to make an appointment.

**Surgery Specialists**

Dr. Cory Brown received his DVM in 1999 from Oklahoma State University. He completed a rotating internship in small animal medicine and surgery at the University of Montreal, Canada, and a surgical internship at a DVM referral center also in Montreal. Dr. Brown completed a three-year residency program in small animal surgery at Michigan State University. He is a Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Surgeons (DACVS). He comes to us from Palm Beach Veterinary Specialists. Dr. Brown has broad clinical experience in internal medicine, with special interests in immune mediated and endocrine disorders. He is proficient in all forms of endoscopy, abdominal/thoracic ultrasonography, aspiration cytology interpretation and tracheal/urethral stenting.

Dr. Laurent Guiot graduated from the University of Liege, Belgium, in 2004, and then completed a general internship in small animal medicine at the same institution. After performing general surgery in Paris for one year, he rejoined academia as an international surgical fellow at Michigan State University. He completed a three-year residency program with emphasis in orthopedic surgery. A Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Surgeons (DACVS), Dr. Guiot was most recently an assistant professor of orthopedic surgery at the Veterinary Teaching Hospital at Michigan State University.

Dr. Reunan Guillou is a 2004 graduate from the University of Nantes, France. He completed a rotating internship in small animal medicine and surgery at the University of Montreal, Canada, and a surgical internship at a DVM referral center also in Montreal. Dr. Guillou completed a three-year residency program in small animal surgery at Michigan State University. He is a Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Surgeons (DACVS). He comes to us from the Veterinary Teaching Hospital at Michigan State University, where he was an assistant professor of small animal orthopedic surgery.

**Internal Medicine Specialists**

Dr. Karen Tefft is a 2001 graduate of the University of Wisconsin. She worked in small animal emergency medicine before completing a three-year residency in small animal internal medicine at the University of Prince Edward Island. A Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine (DACVIM), Dr. Tefft has broad clinical interests in all areas of internal medicine, including feline medicine. She has served as a clinical assistant professor in small animal internal medicine at the Ohio State Veterinary Medical Center since November 2011.

From the Director - continued

On Saturday May 4, the College of Veterinary Medicine welcomed 137 new veterinarians at the annual Oath and Hooding ceremony. We congratulate the Class of 2013 as they begin their careers! Although most of our graduates have chosen careers in small animal medicine, many others are pursuing paths including specialty practice, government service and research. We’re certain they will all make a positive contribution to the field of veterinary medicine.

We bid farewell to Dr. Mike Schmall as he retires on July 1. Many of you have worked with Dr. Schmall in the Equine Field Service through the years. Please join us in congratulating and recognizing him for his many achievements. Best wishes, Dr. Schmall, for your well-deserved retirement!

Like the new class of veterinarians, the clinicians and staff at the VMC Columbus and Dublin are looking forward to the future! We continue to strive for better ways to serve you. Please don’t hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns.
Orthopedic surgery services continue growth

With the addition of two new surgeons at the Veterinary Medical Center (VMC) at Dublin, Ohio State’s internationally known Small Animal Orthopedic Surgery service offers a comprehensive array of services and expertise, especially in the areas of joint replacement and trauma care. ACVS board-certified surgeons Drs. Reunan Guillou and Laurent Guiot at Dublin, along with Drs. Jonathan Dyce, Bianca Hettlich, Matthew Allen (orthopedic research), and Lillian Su (director of physical rehabilitation) on the Ohio State campus, provide the highest level of orthopedic referral service and patient care.

Dr. Sandra Barnard (Oncology & Hematology) left the VMC at the end of April to move back to Sydney, Australia. She will be the first full-time oncologist on staff at the Animal Referral Hospital.

Dr. Andrew Hillier (Dermatology) resigned as a faculty member in early May to assume a position as a senior veterinary specialist with Zoetis (formerly Pfizer Animal Health).

Dr. Jennifer Au (Orthopedic Surgery) left the VMC at the end of April to join the Charleston Veterinary Referral Center in Charleston, SC.

Orthopedic surgery services offered at both Veterinary Medical Center locations

Lameness diagnosis
VMC is a tertiary center for diagnosis of orthopedic lameness and neurological dysfunction. Imaging capabilities include digital radiography, CT, MRI, musculoskeletal ultrasound and nuclear scintigraphy.

Trauma care
VMC offers comprehensive surgical and medical care for trauma patients with long bone, spinal and facial trauma. We have the most comprehensive range of orthopedic instrumentation for fracture fixation in the Midwest, including locking and non-locking plates, interlocking nail and external skeletal fixation. Our surgeons have considerable experience in minimally invasive fracture repair via fluoroscopic guidance.

Cranial cruciate ligament rupture
We have extensive experience in proximal tibial osteotomy, including tibial plateau leveling osteotomy and cranial closing wedge osteotomy. We now offer tibial tuberosity advancement in addition to standard extracapsular repair techniques. Choice of repair is optimized for the patient.

Patellar luxation
We have a robust caseload of simple patellar luxation and cases complicated by femoral angular deformity; for example, distal femoral varus associated with MPL, and MPL with associated CCL rupture.

Arthroscopy
Diagnostic and therapeutic arthroscopy primarily targets developmental joint disease such as elbow dysplasia, shoulder osteochondrosis and minimally invasive evaluation of the stifle in cases of CCL rupture.

Total joint replacement
VMC has the most productive total hip replacement program in the Midwest and draws many clients from beyond Ohio’s borders. The most common indication for total hip replacement (THR) is hip dysplasia / osteoarthritis, but you should also consider THR to restore function in cases of chronic femoral capital physeal fracture, complex hip luxation, femoral neck fracture, acetabular malunion, and Legge Perthes disease. The scope of THR now includes small through giant breeds. The first total knee replacement at Ohio State was performed in 2008, and total elbow replacement (BioMedtrix TATE) is now available.

Complex Angular Limb Deformity
The surgeons at VMC are accomplished in the management of complex angular deformity and have many years of experience with distraction osteogenesis using circular external skeletal fixation (Ilizarov technique). Preoperative evaluation can include three dimensional CT imaging and production of 3-D models to assist with surgical planning.

Greyhound orthopedics
VMC surgeons have extensive experience in the management of breakdown injury in racing greyhounds, including complex tarsal fracture.

Revision surgery
Our surgeons are skilled in the revision of failed fracture repair, joint reconstruction and total joint arthroplasty, including referrals of cases complicated by multidrug resistant bacterial infection.

Oncologic orthopedics
Limb sparing surgeries (allograft or prosthetic) are available for selected bone tumors.

Arthrodeses
Arthrodeses, including partial and complete carpal and tarsal fusion, can be performed for intractable osteoarthritis or joint instability.

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Referring a patient for radioactive iodine therapy

For more than 30 years, radioactive iodine therapy has remained the primary treatment for feline hyperthyroidism, with the highest cure rate of all available treatment options and a well-established safety record.

The VMC Columbus offers feline radioactive iodine treatment every Monday. The following general information can aid you in screening your hyperthyroid feline patients prior to referral; please see our website at vet.osu.edu/vmc/feline-hyperthyroidism, and contact the Small Animal Medicine Service at (614) 292-3551 for details, costs and information about special cases.

Initial screening tests

A physical exam, complete blood count, serum biochemistry, total T4, urinalysis, blood pressure and a methimazole trial are required for all cats prior to radioactive iodine therapy. These tests are necessary to diagnose hyperthyroidism and also to screen for significant co-morbidities including renal disease. Cats that require more than once-daily monitoring or require medications that cannot be hidden in food are excluded from treatment.

Cardiac workup. Cardiac evaluations are only required for cats identified with dyspnea or an arrhythmia, as these cats may require immediate intervention for their cardiac disease. We also offer evaluations for cats identified with a heart murmur, but these are not required.

Hypertension. There is a substantial increased risk of hypertensive ocular injury and hypertensive encephalopathy at systolic blood pressures exceeding 180 mmHg. Hypertension should be decreased with medical therapy to below this level prior to radioactive iodine treatment.

Methimazole trial

We recommend starting methimazole on a twice daily basis prior to radioactive iodine treatment. The dose should be titrated every two weeks until euthyroidism is achieved (defined as a T4 within the lower half of the reference range). Euthyroidism should be maintained for four weeks, when a renal profile and urine specific gravity should be performed to determine if there is reasonable renal function.

We recommend a two-week washout of methimazole prior to treatment with radioactive iodine, although we realize that for some cats, discontinuation of methimazole is not feasible. In select cases, methimazole may be used up until the day of radioiodine treatment.

For cats that cannot tolerate methimazole, a trial with Hill’s Prescription Diet y/d may be considered. Euthyroidism must be induced and then maintained for four weeks. Alternatively, these cats can undergo a more in-depth workup to try to better assess the risk of post-treatment azotemia.

These recommendations for referral are general and appropriate for most cats in stable health. However, cats with special issues not addressed here may also be candidates for radioactive iodine therapy. To refer a special case, or for any other questions about radioactive iodine therapy, please contact the Small Animal Medicine Service at (614) 292-3551.

Dr. Schmall retires

Dr. Michael Schmall retired on July 1, 2013, after nearly 30 years of service to the College of Veterinary Medicine and the Veterinary Medical Center. His commitment and high level of teaching, client service and patient care will be greatly missed.

Dr. Schmall received his DVM in 1975 from Iowa State University, preceding the completion of his MS in 1981. He came to Ohio State in 1984 as an assistant professor in Equine Ambulatory and Field Services and was promoted to associate professor in 1995.

As either a principal investigator or co-investigator, Dr. Schmall’s funded research included awards of almost half a million dollars. He published nearly 30 peer-reviewed scientific journal articles as senior author or co-author, as well as many short-entries, papers and book chapters.

Dr. Schmall taught more than 25 classes of veterinary students during his years at Ohio State and provided clinical instruction and mentoring of numerous interns as well as research mentoring of graduate students.

Because of his clinical expertise, Dr. Schmall participated in many different horse shows and equine-related venues as the official veterinarian, which also helped to expand the scope and reputation of the Ohio State Equine Field Service. Until 2002, he also served as the advisor to The Ohio State University Equestrian Team.

Thank you, Dr. Schmall, for your service to the college, the VMC and the veterinary profession!