

EXCELLENCE AND LEADERSHIP IN RESEARCH, TEACHING AND SERVICE

THE HITCHING POST

Recognition and Honors

Frank Booth, professor, BMS, received the American College of Sports Medicine 2010 Honor Award. The award is granted for a distinguished career of outstanding scientific and scholarly contributions to sports medicine and exercise sciences.

Charles Brown, associate professor, Pathobiology, was selected to the editorial board of *Infection and Immunity*.

Michael Calcutt, associate professor, Pathobiology, was selected to the editorial board of *The Journal of Microbiological Methods*.

Leah Cohn, professor, VMS, was appointed president-elect of the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine, June 2010.

James Cook, professor, VMS, was named to the national One Health Initiative Advisory Board, Fall 2010.

William Fales, professor, Pathobiology, VMDL, received a Distinguished Service Award from the Missouri Veterinary Medical Association.

Harold Laughlin, professor and chairman, BMS, received the Schmidt-Nielsen Distinguished Mentor and Scientist Award by the American Physiological Society, Spring 2010.

Richard Meadows, professor, VMS, was named recipient of the 2010 National Pfizer Teaching Award, the most prestigious veterinary teaching award given in the United States.

A COMPLEX CHARGE

Welcome to the inaugural issue of the *The Hitching Post*. This publication will be distributed quarterly in order to share information between the college's departments and programs.

The comprehensive mission of the College of Veterinary Medicine is to provide excellence in professional, graduate and undergraduate education; animal disease diagnosis; patient care; extension education of the public, continuing education of veterinarians; and research.

Clearly, our current mission statement reflects a wide variety of objectives. With such multifaceted undertakings ongoing throughout our many facilities, we need to remain ever vigilant that our individual ef-

forts are conducted in concert with those of our colleagues.

Each quarter, department chairmen and associate deans will supply newsworthy items and accomplishments enjoyed by their teams. Those reports will be incorporated into this newsletter and disseminated throughout the college. The insight we will gain into the efforts of our fellow associates within the college will serve to enhance cooperation and collaboration and in turn we can each enjoy the benefits of a united team.

We hope you enjoy this first newsletter and encourage you to submit suggestions for improvement to Dean Neil Olson and items for the next issue to your department chairman.

MARTY BECKER TO ADDRESS GRADUATING CLASS

The college's commencement ceremony will be held at 1:30 p.m. on Friday, May 13, 2011, in Jesse Auditorium. Marty Becker, DVM, America's Veterinarian, will deliver the commencement address for the 69 members of the Class of 2011 and their guests. Carrie Duran has been elected by the class to assist with placing the hoods that signify the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine Degree and Sara Spidel has been elected to deliver the traditional response from the class. A reception will follow the ceremony in the Reynolds Alumni Center.



OPENING OF THE NEW CANCER CARE CENTER IN WENTZVILLE IS PLANNED FOR JUNE



VMDL New Membership Status with National Network

The VMDL continues to be actively engaged in the National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN). The NAHLN is a state and federal partnership that provides for adequate infrastructure throughout the United States to test for key high consequence diseases and certain foreign animal diseases.

The VMDL currently conducts tests for swine influenza virus, pseudorabies virus, contagious equine metritis, avian influenza, exotic Newcastle disease, and classical swine fever in the context of the NAHLN. The VMDL is also certified by the NAHLN to test for foot and mouth disease (FMD) although no program currently exists for routine FMD monitoring.

The biggest change with respect to the VMDL's NAHLN status is that it has recently transitioned from being a "contract laboratory" to a "member laboratory" of the NAHLN.

CONNAWAY TURNS 100

The College's first building, Connaway Hall, was built in 1910-11 to house veterinary science faculty who taught courses to agricultural students, investigated animal and poultry diseases, performed diagnostic and extension work, and produced animal vaccines. The building was named after John Waldo Connaway (professor of veterinary science and comparative medicine at the University of Missouri Agricultural Experiment Station from 1888 to 1947). Modifications to the building included an east wing addition in 1947 and a research addition in 1964.

In 1998, Connaway Hall underwent a 17-month, \$4 million remodeling project that reconfigured the three-story building to enhance cooperation among researchers. The project created nine new state-of-the-art research labs specializing in infectious disease research, genetic testing,

and reproductive biology. Connaway Hall is home to the Department of Veterinary Pathobiology.



FUNDRAISING RECORD EYED FOR ANNUAL EVENT

The Special Events Office continues to play host to the college's largest scholarship fundraiser, the Gentle Doctor Benefit. This year's April 9 event will be the college's 23rd GDB. Organizers hope to break last year's record of \$67,000 raised for the GDB Scholarship Endowment. This event has become recognized as one of the University's largest and most well-attended fundraisers.

Each October, the college hosts the annual Vet Products Night, which allows 21 vendors to display their wares in the Adams Conference Center with 400-plus students, faculty and staff in attendance. Gina Damico Landeck serves as the college's primary organizer of special events and functions both on and off campus.



TEAM CREATES BIOLOGICAL JOINTS

James Cook, a researcher in the University of Missouri College of Veterinary Medicine and Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, participated on a team that created new cartilage in rabbits using a biological scaffold in the animals' joints. Rabbits infused with the scaffolds were able to put weight on their limbs and use them faster and more consistently than rabbits treated without the scaffolds.

After four months, researchers found that cartilage had formed in the scaffolds, creating a cartilage surface for the humeral head.

Cook said in a statement. "It is unique in design and composition and in how it stimulates the body's



own cells. This is the first time we have seen cartilage regeneration using this type of scaffold."

Unlike previous biological joint research, this new technique eliminated the need to harvest and implant stem cells, which requires multiple surgeries.

Cook, who also was involved in the study design and data analysis, said

the next step toward FDA approval and clinical use is to study the technique in larger animals.

"If we continue to prove the safety and efficacy of this biologic joint replacement strategy, then we can get FDA approval for use of this technology for joint replacements in people," Cook said. "We are still in the early phases of this process, but this study gives a big boost to its feasibility."

"Our goal at Mizzou's Comparative Orthopaedic Laboratory is to do away with metal and plastic joints, and instead, regenerate a fully functional biologic joint for everyone who needs one. We think this is the future of orthopedics, and we hope that future is starting here and now."

RADIL ENDOWMENT ESTABLISHED TO SUPPORT VETERINARY RESEARCH SCHOLARS PROGRAM

The Veterinary Research Scholars Program (VRSP; <http://www.cvm.missouri.edu/vrsp>) was established in 2005 to provide veterinary students the opportunity to explore research and to aid in the development of a much-needed community of veterinary research scientists. Because the objectives of the VRSP are also closely in line with the training mission of the RADIL, this unit recently established an endowment that will provide some stability to this important and productive program by supporting approximately 10 students per year. While the program will continue to seek funds to support individual students, the endowment will serve as an ideal foundation for future solicitation of major contributions from other sources such as industry and private donors.



Researchers Receive Grant For Sleep Apnea Study

According to the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute, the average sleep apnea sufferer stops breathing and loses oxygen between five and 30 times a night. This lack of oxygen leads to a host of complications, including high blood pressure, vascular disease, an abnormal heart rhythm, or even a fatal cardiac event.

To learn more about sleep apnea, the National Institutes of Health awarded University of Missouri researchers a \$2.83 million multi-investigator grant to continue work on neurohumoral control of the circulation and breathing — studying how the brain responds to hypoxia, or the lack of oxygen. The team includes Eileen Hassler, professor in the Department of Biomedical Sciences and adjunct professor of medical pharmacology and physiology; Cheryl Heesch, professor in the Department of Biomedical Sciences; and David Kline, assistant professor in the Department of Biomedical Sciences.

Researchers hope the information can be used to develop drugs or procedures to correct or slow the dangerous effects of sleep apnea.

TEST MAY REPLACE COLONOSCOPIES

Nobody enjoys colonoscopies, including mice. University of Missouri researchers are excited about the potential of using genetic biomarkers to predict colon cancer caused by inflammation. A new method developed at the MU Research Animal Diagnostic Laboratory (RADIL) could eventually lead to a method that might eliminate colonoscopies altogether.

While working to develop novel therapeutics for colon cancer, Craig Franklin, associate professor of veterinary pathology in the MU College of Veterinary Medicine; Aaron Ericsson, post-doctoral researcher at MU; Mike Lewis, assistant professor of veterinary medicine and surgery; Matt Myles, assistant professor of veterinary pathobiology, and Lillian Maggio-Price, professor

of comparative medicine at the University of Washington, found biomarkers in mouse feces that predicted inflammation-associated colon cancer. This is the same type of cancer associated with some common inflammatory bowel diseases such as ulcerative colitis and Crohn's Disease. The team found that the bacterium that leads to inflammation-associated colon cancer in mice first results in inflammation that can be detected by screening feces for messenger RNA of genes.

Franklin believes this discovery could lead to tests for similar genes that are present in humans who have early inflammation-associated colon cancer. The study was published recently in *Neoplasia*, which also featured the study on the journal's cover.

COATING MARKS TRANSITION TO CLINICAL TRAINING

The White Coat Ceremony, initiated in 2001, has remained the most well-attended social function for the college. Each year we see approximately 500 friends and family members of the third-year students come to campus to watch as their student receives the traditional white laboratory coat for going into the clinical aspect of their education.



CVM RESPONDS TO GROWING NEED

Significant changes to the clinical curriculum were made in order to accommodate the needs of members of the first large class (Class of 2013), who will enter the clinical rotations in October 2011. Several of the clinical services revised their offerings to enhance the clinical experience. Major changes were made in the Community Practice rotation, which was expanded to six weeks to provide more exposure to topics such as dentistry and dermatology. In addition, a four-week off-campus preceptorship was formalized and is now a required part of the curriculum. The revised curriculum will be evaluated regularly to determine if the needs of the students are being met and the clinical services are being operated efficiently.



In the fall of 2010, the college received 915 applications for the 120 seats available in the Class of 2015. Of the applicant pool, 779 applications were from out-of-state residents and 136 were submitted by Missouri residents.

During the weekends of Jan. 7-9 and 15-16, 2011, 146 non-residents were interviewed. In addition to their interviews, applicants were greeted by the college's Student Ambassadors, given tours of the college and Columbia, introduced to the college's faculty during lunch and had their questions about the college and the area answered. Beginning in late February and continuing through mid-March, the admissions committee interviewed 105 Missouri residents for seats in the Class of 2015.

In addition to those interviewing for positions, 11 Pre-VetScholars and three AgScholars will be members of the Class of 2015.

Notices to those accepted were sent by the third week in March and applicants will have until April 15 to accept an invitation. Should any decline a seat in the class, alternate candidates will be offered positions until the class is filled with 120 students.



REAR HITCH

VISION 2020

In February of this year, the CVM initiated an organization-wide strategic planning effort known as Vision 2020. This process is intended to position us as a college to respond to the future direction of veterinary education, to work around the ever-increasing financial constraints of state funding, and to prepare for our upcoming re-accreditation cycle in 2013. This is a critical initiative for the college and for our student body, and one that stands to change how we view ourselves and the work that we do.

To help you remain highly involved and highly informed about the ongoing strategic planning process, this section of *The Hitching Post* will feature a different strategic question in each edition.

WHAT IS STRATEGIC PLANNING?

Strategic planning can be defined as a structured pro-

cess through which members of an organization reflect upon their challenges, opportunities, capabilities and resources; examine the needs of their stakeholders; and identify forward-thinking goals, objectives and priorities

to guide them into a new future. Organizations use strategic planning to concentrate their resources into a few critical directions in order to best maximize the benefits to stakeholders. Stakeholders include any groups we exist to serve and who are affected by the choices we make. For the CVM, this includes our students, the employers of graduates, our faculty and staff, our alumni and donors, professional veterinary medicine, and society at large.

The next installment of this “Strategic Planning Corner” will focus on WHY we are undertaking strategic planning at this time.



Advisory Boards will Help Guide CVM Leadership

Moving forward with the development charges for the college, 2011 will see the establishment of the MU CVM Strategic Advisory Board and the CVM Development Board. Both are nine-member boards that will assist the dean and development respectively. These boards will consist of members who have special relationships and ties to the college and who are visionary thinking individuals. The development board will provide leadership as the University moves into the early stages and then completes a new MU Capital Campaign.