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2016 GDB Will Feature Baseball-Themed Fun

The 2016 Gentle Doctor Benefit will be held beginning at 5 p.m. April 9 at the Holiday Inn Executive Center in Columbia. The annual event is the MU College of Veterinary Medicine's only fundraiser for student scholarships.

This year's theme is A Night at the Ballpark, and will include a baseball-oriented photo booth, ballpark snacks, baseball décor and baseball activities. As in past years, the GDB will feature silent auctions, a fast-paced live auction, musical entertainment, appetizers and a dinner.

The gala is a long-standing tradition that supports the college's scholarship fund for veterinary medical students. The interest from the endowment provides much-needed scholarships to incoming students each year. Two significant scholarships are awarded. Additionally, in recent years the endowment has funded \$100 scholarships to each member of the incoming class to help offset the cost of textbooks.



To learn more about the event, ways to become involved, and meet some of the students who have received GDB scholarships, please visit the [website](#).

Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care Facility Earns Top Certification

The Small Animal Emergency and Critical Care Service at the University of Missouri Veterinary Health Center has received certification as a Level 1 Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care Facility. The Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care Society bestows the certification to recognize hospitals that meet and exceed established minimum standards.

There are three possible levels of certification available to veterinary facilities that provide emergency and critical care. Level 1 facilities must be open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year with staff specifically devoted to care of emergency patients including at least one doctor of veterinary medicine and a certified technician on duty at all times. They must have specified equipment on hand, and staff in place who have undertaken specialty training needed to provide sophisticated emergency and critical patient care. They must also employ full time someone who has achieved diplomate status in the American College of Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care and are recognized as specialists in the field. The Small Animal Emergency and Critical Care Service at MU has three faculty members who are diplomates.

The MU VHC is one of only 24 facilities in the country and the only one in Missouri that have earned Level 1 certification from the Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care Society.

"We can offer our patients advanced care, mechanical ventilation, surgery, anesthesia and the highest level of pain management and control," said Marie Kerl, DVM, MPH, DACVIM – Small Animal Internal Medicine, DACVECC, teaching professor at the MU Veterinary Health Center.

Kerl said to obtain the certification, she submitted an application to document that the facility, staffing and level of patient care provided met the VECCS' criteria. The certification is valid for two years. The VECCS is an international, professional society of veterinarians, veterinary technicians and managers dedicated to promote the advancement of knowledge and high standards of practice in veterinary emergency medicine and critical patient care.



The Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care Society has stringent staffing requirements before emergency veterinary facilities can achieve Level 1 certification. The MU Veterinary Health Center Small Animal Emergency and Critical Care Service includes licensed DVMs (from left) Heather Honious, resident, Christa Bernhard, resident, Meghan Harmon, clinical instructor, Nicole Trenholme, resident, Marie Kerl, teaching professor, Vibha Rajagopalan Asokan, resident, Tony Mann, professor and section head, and Elizabeth Easley, clinical instructor.

Dermatology to be Added to Menu of Services at Wentzville Clinic

The Veterinary Health Center at Wentzville will soon expand its services to offer a dermatology clinic for companion animals. Karen Campbell, DVM, MS, DACVIM – Small Animal Internal Medicine, DACVD, will begin seeing patients on March 2 at the VHC – Wentzville, which was previously known as Mizzou Animal Cancer Care. The Wentzville location is a satellite facility for the University of Missouri Veterinary Health Center. Veterinarians at the Wentzville location offer cancer treatment and behavioral services for dogs and cats.

Campbell will treat allergies, bacterial and fungal infections, parasitic skin diseases, endocrine and metabolic disorders, immune-mediated diseases, skin tumors, nail and nail bed diseases, and other dermatoses. She will offer intradermal testing to identify allergies, injectable and oral allergen-specific immunotherapy, and video otoscopy for deep ear flushes, myringotomies, bulla cultures and removal of foreign bodies and polyps from the ear canal.

Campbell received a bachelor of science degree in animal sciences and DVM from the University of Missouri. She worked for Asheville Veterinary Associates in North Carolina before pursuing a rotating internship in small animal surgery and medicine at Auburn University. She went on to complete a residency in small animal internal medicine and a master of science in clinical pathology at the University of Georgia. She undertook an additional residency in dermatology at the University of Illinois. Campbell is a diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine (Small Animal) and the American College of Veterinary Dermatology.

Before joining the VHC – Wentzville, Campbell served as a faculty member at the University of Illinois for more than 32 years. During that time, she taught dermatology and endocrinology to more than 3,000 veterinary students and more than 30 graduate students, including 15 dermatology residents, all of whom successfully achieved board certification. Her research interests include endocrinology, immunology and the effects of nutrition and topical products on skin barrier function. She has served on advisory panels for pet nutrition and pharmaceutical companies. She has authored numerous scientific



Graduate Students Awarded Fellowships to Support Biomedical Sciences Research

Three graduate students in the MU College of Veterinary Medicine Department of Biomedical Sciences recently received fellowships to support their research projects. The American Heart Association awarded a predoctoral fellowship to Greg Ruegsegger and a postdoctoral fellowship to T. Dylan Olver. Jessica Hiemstra received the Ruth L. Kirschstein Institutional National Research Service Award from the National Institutes of Health National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute.

Jessica Hiemstra

Hiemstra earned a bachelor of science in animal science at Michigan State University and worked in animal research for several years. She came to MU three years ago to pursue a doctorate in biomedical sciences. She said she was attracted to Mizzou because of the university's reputation as a leader in cardiovascular research.

The NIH grant will fund a research project she began in August under the mentorship of Craig Emter, PhD, an assistant professor in the CVM Department of Biomedical Sciences, and Tim Domeier, PhD, assistant professor in the MU School of Medicine Department of Medical Pharmacology and Physiology. Hiemstra is investigating heart failure with preserved ejection fraction, which occurs when the heart contracts normally, but the ventricles do not relax correctly as they refill with blood. Her study focuses on the role hormones play in that process.

"Women are more likely to experience heart failure after menopause, but we don't know why," she said.

Because pigs have a cardiovascular physiology that is similar to humans, she is working with intact female and male miniature swine. She is comparing different groups of swine, those with and without heart failure and those with and without hormones, to determine if sex hormones are protective.

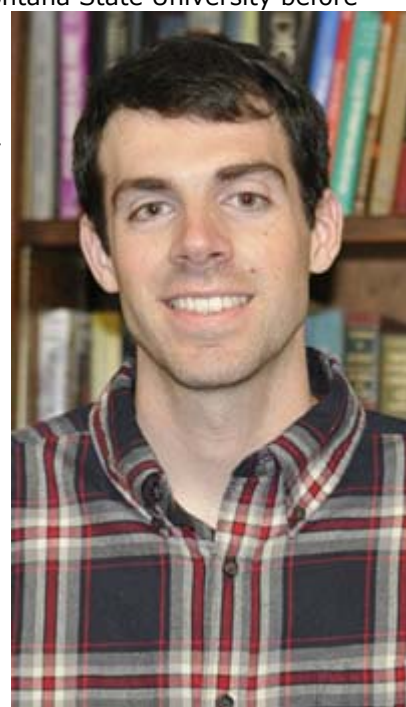
Greg Ruegsegger

Ruegsegger earned bachelor degrees in exercise physiology and biochemistry at Montana State University before coming to MU 2 ½ years ago to pursue a doctorate. Ruegsegger is looking into which genes may drive differences in behavior and lead to laziness. His research mentor is Frank Booth, PhD, a professor in the CVM Department of Biomedical Sciences, School of Medicine Departments of Medical Pharmacology and Physiology and Nutrition and Exercise Physiology, as well as a research investigator at the Dalton Cardiovascular Research Center.

"More than 90 percent of Americans don't get the recommended amount of activity, and this leads to a lot of health problems," Ruegsegger said.

The American Heart Association fellowship will allow Ruegsegger to continue his work with rats that have been bred to be extremely active or sedentary. Ruegsegger said he determined varying levels of naturally produced dopamine and opioids, which are pleasure-inducing chemicals, exist in the different groups of rats. Using chemicals, Ruegsegger blocks the receptors in the rats' brains that are acted on by dopamine and opioids to study whether the rats' activity level is affected.

Ruegsegger said his goal is to help prevent the onset of diseases caused by sedentary lifestyles by learning how molecules and receptors can make exercise more enjoyable.



Dylan Olver, PhD

Olver earned his doctoral degree in integrative physiology at the University of Western Ontario. His dissertation studies focused on how blood flow is controlled in peripheral nervous tissue and how microvascular function affects overall neural health in a diabetic setting with and without an exercise treatment intervention.

Olver has been at Mizzou for 1 ½ years. Working in Emter's lab and that of M. Harold Laughlin, PhD, professor in the Department of Biomedical Sciences, he is studying the relationship between blood flow control in the brain and cognitive function. The American Heart Association grant will fund his research comparing the effects of interval training versus continuous training on blood vessels supplying the brain in pigs with heart failure.

For the study Olver created a cognitive testing scheme involving a spatial hole board task. He teaches healthy swine and swine with heart failure where to find food rewards in the hole board while monitoring how long it takes them to learn where the food is hidden. He then introduces a novel paradigm for the animals to overcome as they search for the hidden treats.

"Some pigs are very strategic, while others search randomly, which leads to short-term memory errors," Olver noted.

Swine that have heart failure have stiffer arteries, which compromises blood flow to their brains and potentially impairs their cognitive function, Olver said.

"In the pigs with heart failure that exercised, we saw those vascular issues reversed and improved cognitive abilities. Now we want to look at what genes or vasoactive agents cause this. Our working hypothesis is that in pigs with heart failure, their sympathetic nervous system may be overactive causing vasoconstriction in the arteries supplying the brain. How does exercise circumvent that and can we determine the optimal therapeutic dose?" he said.

The grant will fund the study for two years.



MVMA President Honors CVM's Fales

MU College of Veterinary Medicine Professor Emeritus William H. Fales, PhD, was the recipient of this year's Missouri Veterinary Medical Association President's Award. Outgoing MVMA President Chuck Barry, DVM, honored Fales with the award Saturday night during the organization's annual convention held at Tan-Tar-A resort in Osage Beach.

The award is given to an individual who was instrumental to the efforts of the organization's president to advance the veterinary profession for the betterment of animal health in the state.

A native of Redding, California, Fales served in the U.S. Army Medical Service Corps from 1966-69. He then pursued a master of science and a doctorate in bacteriology at the University of Idaho, Moscow. He began his career at the University of Missouri in 1974 as a research associate in the Department of Veterinary Microbiology. From 1975 to 1981 he was an assistant professor in the Department of Microbiology and served as a clinical microbiologist for the Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory and the Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital. In 1981 he became a tenured associate professor, and in 1986 was named a full professor. He was elected as an honorary diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Microbiologists in 1992. In August of 2015 he retired from MU, but accepted an adjunct appointment and was named professor emeritus.

Fales was elected to full membership in the Missouri Veterinary Medical Association in 1991 and was elected to honorary membership in the Missouri Academy of Veterinary Practice in 1999.

"Dr. Fales has been a consistent supporter of the MVMA, attending West Central District meetings, policy forums, MVMA Day at the Capitol events, board meetings, committee meetings and annual conventions," Barry said about his choice for the award. "He has always represented the MVMA and the College of Veterinary Medicine with the highest level of character, confidence and enthusiasm. I know he has been an encouragement to me, others in the MVMA and countless students during the last year and over the last several decades."

The President's Award is the third award the MVMA has bestowed upon Fales. He is a previous recipient of the organization's Distinguished Service Award and Mixed Microbial Practitioner Award.

CVM alumnus Scott Fray, DVM '91, was also honored. The MVMA named Fray Veterinarian of the Year.

The MVMA's 124th Convention took place Jan. 21-24. A number of CVM faculty members presented continuing education lectures on a variety of topics, including Alex Bukoski, DVM, PhD, Leah Cohn, DVM, PhD, Meghan DuHadway Harmon, DVM, Alisa Hutchison, DVM, Leslie Lyons, PhD, Craig Payne, DVM, MS, Shannon Reed, DVM, MS, Dawna Voelkl, DVM, Catherine Vogelweid, DVM, PhD, Dietrich Volkmann, BVSc, MMedVet, and Dee Whelchel, DVM, MS.

The CVM also coordinated a speed networking event for veterinary students, and hosted a continental breakfast, Coffee with the College, on the final day of the convention for attendees. During the breakfast, CVM Dean Neil C. Olson, DVM, PhD, and members of his administrative team offered updates on the college, its service units and the university.



CVM Alumnus Paul Nicoletti Passes Away

MU College of Veterinary Medicine alumnus Paul Nicoletti, DVM '56, of Gainesville, Florida, passed away Jan. 31, 2016. Nicoletti was born in 1932 in Goodman, Missouri, and grew up on a small dairy farm. After graduating from the CVM, he earned a master's degree in 1962 from the University of Wisconsin, where he wrote his thesis on brucellosis.

From 1962 to 1968, Nicoletti worked as a U.S. Department of Agriculture regional epidemiologist in Albany, New York. From 1968 to 1972, he served in Iran as an epizootiologist for the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization. He then returned to the United States and to his work as a regional epidemiologist with the USDA. In 1975 he was transferred to Gainesville, Florida.

In 1978 Nicoletti joined the faculty at the University of Florida's College of Veterinary Medicine. He was a member of the American Association of Bovine Practitioners, the Florida Cattlemen's Association and the American Association of Food Hygiene Veterinarians. He was a past president of the American Veterinary Medical Association, the American College of Veterinary Preventive Medicine, the Florida Veterinary Medical Association, the Alachua County Veterinary Medical Association and Animal Disease Research Workers in the Southern States.

Nicoletti was an internationally recognized authority on bovine brucellosis, and his efforts led to the eventual eradication of the disease in Florida. Brucellosis is a bacterial disease that can affect humans as well as animals.

Over the course of his long and distinguished career, Nicoletti received numerous awards and honors. In 1994 he was named Veterinarian of the Year by the Florida Veterinary Medical Association, and in 2003 he was presented with the Distinguished Service Award by the University of Florida's College of Veterinary Medicine. His most prestigious award came in 2010 when he was recognized with the Meyer-Steele Gold-Headed Cane Award, the highest honor of the American Veterinary Epidemiology Society. This award recognizes scientists who have significantly advanced human health through the practice of veterinary epidemiology and public health. In 2013 he was inducted into the Florida Agricultural Hall of Fame. He retired from the University of Florida in 2003.

He and his wife, Earlene, established the Paul and Earlene Nicoletti Scholarship in Veterinary Medicine at MU.

He was preceded in death by his wife in 2011 and daughter, Diana Nicoletti. He is survived by his children, Nancy Leader of Hattiesburg, Mississippi, and Julie Nicoletti of Louisville, Colorado; sister, Ruthann Eads of Grove, Oklahoma; and four grandchildren.

A gathering to honor Nicoletti will be held from 3 to 5 p.m. Feb. 6, with a service beginning at 5 p.m., at Williams-Thomas Funeral Home Downtown, 404 N. Main St., Gainesville, Florida, with Rev. Carl Romey officiating. Tributes may be left on the funeral home's [website](#).



For One Cancer Patient, A Super Bowl Fitting For Her Fight

USA Today featured the story of a former MU College of Veterinary Medicine resident who has been battling lung cancer. Kimberly Ringen completed her residency in small animal oncology in 2010. Her husband, Davin, also completed a residency at the CVM in food animal medicine. Kimberly Ringen won a trip to the 2016 Super Bowl by raising more than \$24,000 in the fight against cancer.

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/sports/nfl/super/2016/02/08/kimberly-ringen-super-bowl-50-denver-broncos/80027466/#>

College Welcomes New Senior Director for Advancement

Veteran fundraiser Janie Harmon has joined the MU College of Veterinary Medicine as the senior director for Advancement. Harmon has been with Mizzou for 27 years. She started at the university in a campuswide public relations position helping to promote the university's sesquicentennial.

Harmon's first position in Advancement was with the College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources where she helped secure funding for the Anheuser-Busch Natural Resources Building. She spent 17 years at the School of Law and also with the Trulaske College of Business and Harry S Truman School of Public Affairs before joining the College of Veterinary Medicine.

"As I looked around the university, there are programs that have always been highly respected; the CVM is one of them," Harmon said of her decision to join the College of Veterinary Medicine.

Harmon is a Columbia native who grew up on a farm where her family raised sheep, cattle and chickens. She said her childhood, including an involvement with 4-H, instilled a love for agriculture and animals. She is a graduate of Hickman High School and Stephens College.

She said she is looking forward to leading the college's fundraising efforts during the recently launched campaign. "The College of Veterinary Medicine is poised to make significant contributions to the success of Mizzou: Our Time to Lead, and I look forward to building on the excellent work that Dean Olson and others have done toward fundraising goals," Harmon said.

She said her top priority will be to develop relationships with the faculty and get better acquainted with their work. She also plans to focus on the need for support for a new academic building, specialty programs, the Dean's Fund for Excellence, and endowments for scholarships and faculty positions, as well as develop a grateful clients program for the Veterinary Health Center.

"My goal is continue the success that is already in place and carry it to the next level," she said.

When she is not working, Harmon enjoys gardening at her home in Millersburg and spending time with her granddaughter.



Rescue Dog's Advanced Disease Illustrates Need for Preventive Dental Care

Lois Hoover of Kansas City has rescued many dogs of a variety of breeds over the years, but Italian greyhounds hold a special place in her heart.

"They're tiny and fragile, but so strong in spirit," she said. Hoover is a foster parent for the Missouri/Kansas chapter of the [Italian Greyhound Rescue Foundation](#). "Spirited" is how Hoover describes "Lady Blue," the Italian greyhound she began fostering in January. Lady Blue and her sister were surrendered to the rescue organization by someone who could no longer care for them. Hoover took in Lady Blue while her sister was sent to another foster home in St. Louis. The foster families will care for the dogs until as many medical needs as possible have been met. For Lady Blue, who is believed to be about 9 years old, that has meant extensive veterinary intervention to correct severe dental problems.

Hoover first took Lady Blue to her veterinarian in Kansas City, who referred the dog to the University of Missouri Veterinary Health Center (VHC) Small Animal Hospital. Eva Ulery, DVM, clinical instructor of community practice, determined the dog had end-stage periodontal disease.

"Lady Blue's lower jaw was broken because of chronic infection that had eaten away gingiva and jaw bone," Ulery said. "Our goal was to eradicate the infection and pain."

Unfortunately, there was not enough healthy gingiva and bone left to repair her mandible. Ulery removed the unhealthy bone, gingiva and teeth, and sutured the remaining tissue to create a functional lower jaw. Now, Lady Blue is infection-free and eating comfortably.

"Dogs usually recover well from oral surgery," Ulery said. "Lady Blue has adapted nicely and has a better quality of life. However, we as pet owners should take the time to educate ourselves on proper preventive dental care for our pets."

February is National Pet Dental Health Month, an annual effort to raise awareness of the importance of oral health care for dogs and cats. VHC [Community Practice](#) veterinarians suggest that pet owners do the following:

Watch for symptoms of dental disease. Pets often show no symptoms of periodontal disease. Signs of dental problems can include reluctance to chew, especially on hard toys or food, using only one side of the mouth, excessive drooling and bad breath. If pets have an odor to their breath, bacteria could be growing underneath the gum surface.

Brush their pets' teeth. "Removing soft food before it hardens into plaque and tartar is key," Ulery said. After 48 to 72 hours plaque turns into calculus, which harbors bacteria and cannot be brushed off the teeth. Ulery suggests that owners could train their pets to accept the toothpaste as they would treats. "Always use



Eva Ulery, DVM, clinical instructor, works with fourth-year veterinary students Brett Sexton and Brittany Hofman to take radiographs of Lady Blue's jaw.

Veterinary student Brittany Hofman holds Lady Blue after her dental surgery. (Photo courtesy of Lois Hoover.)



MU Veterinary Oncologists Part of Osteosarcoma Study

The Veterinary Health Center at the University of Missouri College of Veterinary Medicine is joining forces with 15 other veterinary programs across North America and the National Cancer Institute to improve the odds for dogs diagnosed with osteosarcoma, the most common form of bone cancer in dogs. The VHC is part of the Comparative Oncology Trials Consortium, and the current clinical trial is sponsored by the Morris Animal Foundation.

“Currently we are stuck at an average survival time of one year in dogs with osteosarcoma that are treated with surgery and chemotherapy,” said Brian K. Flesner, DVM, an assistant professor of veterinary [oncology](#) who is serving as the study’s principal investigator at the VHC. “Many different chemotherapy drugs have been used, with no real advancement past one year of survival.”

Osteosarcoma is most often diagnosed in large breed dogs, such as the Rottweiler, Great Dane, golden retriever, Doberman, German shepherd and St. Bernard.

The study will involve a total of 500 dogs and is expected to last between one and three years. Flesner said he anticipates enrolling 20 to 40 dogs at the VHC. He will evaluate the first potential candidate for the trial Monday.

All participants will receive surgical removal of their tumors and standard-of-care chemotherapy at the VHC. Once chemotherapy is completed, dogs may receive an investigational agent, rapamycin, which is an immunosuppressant that has shown anticancer activity. The study is to determine if the rapamycin improves survival rates. To be eligible to participate in the study, dogs must have a confirmed osteosarcoma diagnosis and have had no prior treatment for the disease. Clients will receive \$1,000 to offset the cost of surgery, and chemotherapy will be provided at no cost.

“The really neat thing with this current trial is that 16 vet schools across the nation are teaming up to treat animals in a standardized fashion so we can glean the most evidence from this trial,” Flesner said. “It’s a rare event and one we are very excited about.”



Dr. Brian K. Flesner

MU Researchers Investigate Sleep Apnea and Hypertension Connection

Three MU College of Veterinary Medicine Biomedical Sciences researchers are taking a “team science” approach to learn how obstructive sleep apnea leads to hypertension and whether that response can be mitigated through medical intervention. Eileen Hasser, PhD, and Cheryl Heesch, PhD, professors in the Department of Biomedical Sciences, and David Kline, PhD, an associate professor in the department, are partnering on a study funded by the Heart, Lung and Blood Institute within the National Institutes of Health.



Dr. Eileen Hasser

“This multi-investigator grant is a unique program from the NIH to promote collaborations among independent investigators,” explained Hasser. “This differs from many other collaborative grant programs in that each individual is recognized by both NIH and the university as a principal investigator who has responsibility and authority for the grant.”

Hasser and Heesch both focus on integrative control of cardiorespiratory functions. In addition, Hasser’s lab is involved in extracellular recordings of single neurons in the brain; and Heesch uses laser capture microscopy to isolate particular cell types in the brain for further analysis of gene expression. The role of Kline’s lab is to provide detailed evaluation of neuron-to-neuron communications in isolated brain tissue.



Dr. Cheryl Heesch

The NIH recently awarded a competitive renewal of the grant, which has been funded since 2009. The renewal, for \$2,824,843, will underwrite the project from January 2016 through December 2019.

The brain normally adjusts to hypoxia, or low oxygen levels, by activation of a reflex called the arterial chemoreflex. This normal response is why people breathe harder when traveling to high altitudes, which helps increase oxygen available to the tissues of the body. However, overactivity of the chemoreflex is associated with pathological conditions such as heart failure and hypertension. For example, individuals with obstructive sleep apnea become hypertensive.

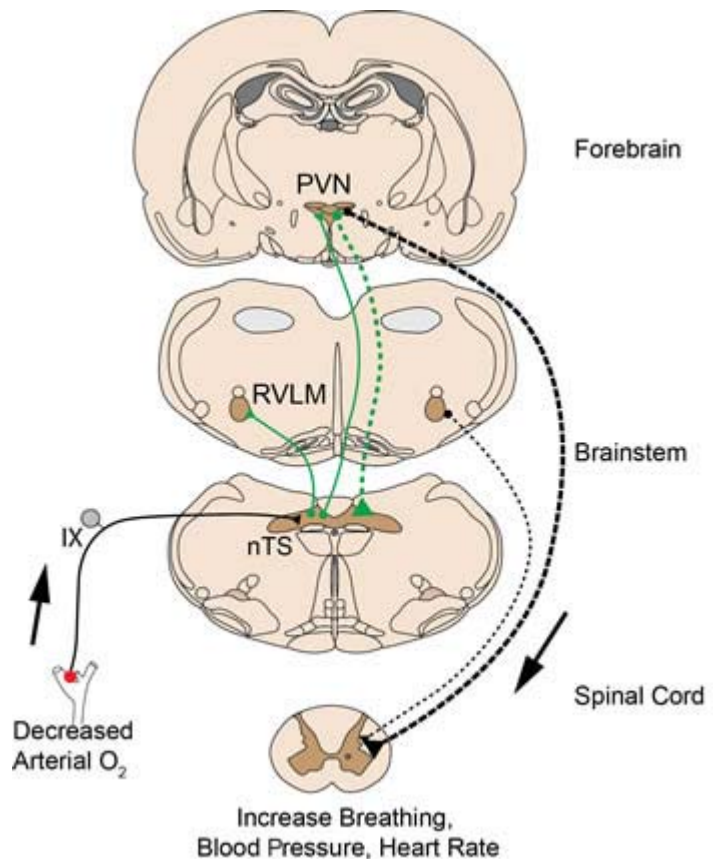


Dr. David Kline

“As a person experiences more hypoxia, the brain changes how the body responds,” Heesch said. “With long-term hypoxic challenges we often end up with pathological changes.”

Using rat models, the researchers have identified some of the regions in the brain and the neural pathways connecting them that are responsible for the maladaptations in response to hypoxia. As shown in the schematic, those regions include two areas of the brain stem, the nucleus tractus solitarii (nTS) and the rostral ventrolateral medulla (RVLM), and one area of the forebrain, the paraventricular nucleus of the hypothalamus (PVN). The nTS is the region of the brain that receives sensory information from the body, including information from chemoreceptors on blood oxygen levels. This information is relayed to the RVLM, which is a major brain region for control of sympathetic nervous system activity and breathing. The PVN brain region also receives information from the nTS and is thought to contribute to the changes in cardiorespiratory function that are seen in disease.

Their research so far has led these investigators to conclude that the PVN plays a larger role than previously believed in how the body normally responds to low oxygen. The next phase of the study will focus on the role of connections to and from the PVN during both brief (normal physiology) and longer term (pathophysiology) exposure to hypoxia. Identifying CNS transmitters and receptors that are involved in these processes, could lead to potential therapies for treating diseases such as obstructive



EXPERT AVAILABLE: MU Veterinarian Offers Insight into Canine Influenza, Suggests Pet Owners Consider Risk Factors before Vaccinating their Dogs

Feb. 22, 2016

<http://munews.missouri.edu/expert-comment/2016/0222-expert-available-mu-veterinarian-offers-insight-into-canine-influenza-suggests-pet-owners-consider-risk-factors-before-vaccinating-their-dogs/>

CVM Alumnus Honored with Lifetime Theriogenology Award

Dickson Varner, DVM, MS, who earned a bachelor's degree at the University of Missouri in 1976 and doctor of veterinary medicine from the MU CVM in 1978, has been named the recipient of the David E. Bartlett Lifetime Achievement Award from the Society for Theriogenology and the American College of Theriogenologists. Varner is a professor and Pin Oak Stud Chair of Stallion Reproductive Studies in the Department of Large Animal Clinical Sciences at the College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences at Texas A&M University in College Station. The award was established in 1971 and named after the American College of Theriogenologists' first president. The award honors excellence in theriogenology, or animal reproduction, and is presented to one person annually. Varner will receive the award during the 2016 Therio Conference this July in Asheville, North Carolina.

The award honors Varner's work in equine theriogenology, which includes assisted reproduction, stallion fertility, and in-vitro preservation of stallion sperm. He played a pivotal role in starting the stallion reproductive studies program at Texas A&M. He was also instrumental in developing the use of procedures and technologies now used worldwide in the equine industry, including new methods for examining and preserving sperm.

"I feel very honored," Varner said. "It's no different than when a football player gets an award. He never accepts it himself. It's a team effort. It's the same in academia. It's based on a team effort. The recognition is for our group, as opposed to me as an individual. It's definitely an honor, a humbling experience to get a lifetime achievement award."

An avid horseman, Varner values working closely with those in the equine industry and considers it an integral aspect of his research. "We've had a lot of contacts with people in the industry, and that's one area that you have to really focus on to be successful. You have to know the industry. You have to immerse yourself in the industry," he said.

Varner earned a master's degree from Texas A&M University in 1990. He has been on the A&M faculty for more than 30 years. He is diplomat of the American College of Theriogenologists, an honor he earned in 1984.



CVM Alumnus Fingland Takes Leadership Post at Ohio State

University of Missouri College of Veterinary Medicine alumnus Roger Fingland, DVM, MS, MBA, has been named executive director and chief medical officer of the Veterinary Medical System at The Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine. Fingland received his doctor of veterinary medicine from the MU CVM in 1981 before going on to earn a master's degree from The Ohio State in 1985 and an MBA from Baker University in Kansas in 2002. He is a diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Surgeons.

Fingland previously served as executive associate dean at Kansas State University College of Veterinary Medicine, director of the college's Veterinary Health Center and professor of small animal surgery. The position he will fill at Ohio State is a newly created post that encompasses all divisions of the college. He will also serve as executive associate dean and professor in the Department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences.



Equine Organization Honors CVM Alumnus

The American Association of Equine Practitioners (AAEP) honored Kenton Morgan, DVM, a 1983 graduate of the University of Missouri College of Veterinary Medicine, with its 2015 President's Award. The award was presented during the organization's convention held Dec. 7-8 in Las Vegas.

Morgan is an equine veterinary specialist with Zoetis in Kansas City, Missouri. He recently concluded a three-year term on the AAEP board of directors. In presenting the award, 2015 AAEP President G. Kent Carter, DVM, MS, praised Morgan as a proactive advocate for the organization and his fellow practitioners.

Morgan joined the AAEP in 1985. He has served as a member of the Stem Cell and the External Parasite and Vector Control task forces. He was also the chair of the Biological and Therapeutic Agents Committee and a member of the Pediatrics and the Leadership Development committees.



Scientists Discover Community of Bacteria May Be Responsible for Male Reproductive Disorders

Bacteria harbored in the male reproductive system may be responsible for prostatitis, a precursor for prostate cancer, and later health disorders in offspring

March 15, 2016

<http://munews.missouri.edu/news-releases/2016/0315-scientists-discover-community-of-bacteria-may-be-responsible-for-male-reproductive-disorders/>

MU to Host Symposium on Zoonotic Disease Research

The University of Missouri College of Veterinary Medicine and Mizzou Advantage will bring several experts on zoonotic diseases to campus this May for an interdisciplinary research symposium. The symposium, "Infectious and Zoonotic Disease Emergence: Recognizing Challenges and Identifying Opportunities for Impactful One Health Research," will take place May 23-24 at the Bond Life Sciences Center.

Zoonoses are infectious diseases of animals that can be transmitted to people. The symposium will focus on raising awareness about zoonoses through the exchange of scientific information about these diseases, and provide an opportunity for scientists to work with policymakers and stakeholders to identify priority areas for research. The symposium is open to clinicians, veterinarians, students, other health professionals and scientists interested in research and clinical topics on the growing risks of zoonotic diseases.

Featured speakers will include physicians, veterinarians, scientists and educators, who will provide insight into zoonotic disease emergence and opportunities to integrate human and animal health, particularly in settings where resources are limited. The keynote speakers are Tony L. Goldberg, PhD, DVM, MS; John A. Crump, MB ChB, MD, DTM&H, FRACP, FRCPA, FRCP; and M. Kariuki Njenga, BVM, MS, PhD.

Goldberg is a professor of epidemiology in the University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Veterinary Medicine, associate director for research at the university's Global Health Institute and the John D. MacArthur research chair. He received his bachelor's degree from Amherst College, his doctorate from Harvard University, and his doctor of veterinary medicine and master of science from the University of Illinois. He maintains a large research program funded by grants from the U.S. National Institutes of Health, the U.S. National Science Foundation, Sea Grant, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, and several other governmental and non-governmental agencies.

His research focuses on the ecology, epidemiology and evolution of infectious disease, combining observational and experimental studies to understand how pathogens in dynamic ecosystems are transmitted among hosts, across complex landscapes, and over time. He is involved in a number of projects around the world that use traditional and molecular epidemiological methods to track the movement and evolution of microbes. Goldberg leads long-term studies of emerging zoonoses in African primates, arbovirus ecology in the United States, emerging viruses of aquatic and marine fishes, and microbial communities in humans and animals. His goal is to discover generalized mechanisms that govern pathogen transmission, evolution and emergence, and to improve the health and well-being of animals and humans while helping to conserve the rapidly changing ecosystems that they share.

Crump is the McKinlay professor of global health and co-director of the Centre for International Health, at the University of Otago in Dunedin, New Zealand. He also serves as an adjunct professor of medicine, pathology and global health at Duke University, and a guest researcher with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. He graduated from the University of Otago School of Medicine in 1993 and trained as both an internist in infectious diseases and as a pathologist in medical microbiology at Christchurch Hospital, New Zealand; the Royal Free Hospital, London; the Canberra Hospital, Australia; Duke University Medical Center; and with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. He is a Fellow of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians, the Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia, and the Royal College of Physicians of the United Kingdom, and a diplomate of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

His main interests are in the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of infectious diseases in developing countries, with particular focus on febrile illness, invasive bacterial diseases especially the salmonellosis, bacterial zoonoses, HIV, tuberculosis and enteric infections.



Dr. M. Kariuki Njenga



Dr. John A. Crump



Dr. Tony L. Goldberg

Njenga coordinated the One Health Program of the Global Disease Detection Program for the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Kenya. He is a virologist and head of the One Health Program at the Kenya Medical Research Institute, and is a professor in the Paul G. Allen School for Global Animal Health at Washington State University. Notably, he initiated studies to determine etiologies of acute febrile illness in a remote region of Kenya that identified a new strain of rickettsia, and documented high prevalence in humans of another rickettsial pathogen not previously reported in East Africa. His primary responsibilities include enhancing collaboration between human and animal health in Kenya, and enhancing the capacity for disease surveillance and outbreak management at the Ministry of Livestock Development in Kenya.

More information and online [registration](#) can be found on the symposium [website](#).

The Science of Dance: CVM Researcher Steps Out for the Arts

[Craig Franklin](#), DVM, PhD, was focused. Beads of sweat had broken out along his temples, and the stern look on his face was only occasionally relieved by a brief smile. The University of Missouri College of Veterinary Medicine professor and director of graduate studies for the Comparative Medicine Program, looked intently at his jeans-clad legs reflected in the mirror running along the length of a dance studio.

"I am outside of my comfort zone — big time," he said.

Caitlin Sloan, a company member with the Missouri Contemporary Ballet in Columbia, patiently explained to Franklin that he was trying to put the wrong leg forward.

"My two left feet are getting in the way," Franklin said.

The renowned scientist is typically found investigating the gut microbiota and its relationship to diseases, such as inflammatory bowel disease, cancer and multiple sclerosis, not practicing dance moves. However, his daughter, who majored in dance at Stephens College in Columbia, convinced him to help her friends at the ballet company with an annual fundraiser. Franklin is one of eight local celebrities from the community who have been paired with a professional dancer and given three months to learn two dances. They will then compete against each other at the 10th Annual [Dancing with the Missouri Stars](#) at the Holiday Inn Expo Center in Columbia.

Franklin said he had little dance experience before agreeing to the contest. He and his wife, Shelia, had taken a few lessons. Based on that brief experience, he told Sloan his least favorite dance styles were the waltz and foxtrot. Sloan, who is choreographing both of the team's dances, selected a tango set to the "James Bond Theme," and a jive that they will perform to a Queen song.

The two have been rehearsing the tango once a week. Franklin said between the weekly studio sessions, he practices his steps in his driveway.

"I learn the steps, and up next is learning the style. When we started putting it to music, the speed really picked up," he said.

For Sloan, this is her third year participating in Dancing with the Missouri Stars. She said each of the partners she has coached has had a different method of learning the routine.

"Craig is really meticulous about writing down all of the steps," she said. I haven't had a partner who has done that before. He writes down everything and then goes home and practices, and by the next week he knows it and is ready to add more," she said.

Once he has mastered the tango, they plan to start practicing the jive.

The contest will be held May 19. Franklin said there will be two awards: the Judges' Choice Award based on overall points given by the panel of judges for dance performances and Overall Champion which is given to the team who raise the most money. Contestants are encouraged to hold fundraising events in advance of the actual dance contest. Franklin has several events planned, including a tailgate for the Mizzou spring football game on April 16, a [Tie Dye Carnival](#) April 17 at Rose Music Hall and an event May 1 at Logboat Brewing Company. The teams can add to their funds raised totals on the night of the contest by impressing audience members who are invited to cast votes for their favorite team votes costing \$1 each.



Caitlin Sloan, a member of the Missouri Contemporary Ballet in Columbia, teaches College of Veterinary Medicine Professor Craig Franklin a tango for his upcoming performance in the 10th Annual Dancing with the Missouri Stars.



CVM Professor Craig Franklin is first learning the basic steps for each of two dances before his coach, Caitlin Sloan, adds some flair to their performance.

Potential Cholesterol-Lowering Drug Molecule Has Prostate Cancer Fighting Capabilities

April 14, 2016

<http://munews.missouri.edu/news-releases/2016/0414-potential-cholesterol-lowering-drug-molecule-has-prostate-cancer-fighting-capabilities/>

Senior Adults Can See Health Benefits from Dog Ownership

Study also shows that seniors who form strong bonds with their pets tend to exercise longer and more often

April 20, 2016

<http://munews.missouri.edu/news-releases/2016/0420-senior-adults-can-see-health-benefits-from-dog-ownership/>

Veterans Affairs Research Conference to be Held in Columbia

The Harry S. Truman Memorial Veterans' Hospital has been selected to host the Second National Veterans Health Affairs Research Conference in partnership with the University of Missouri College of Veterinary Medicine and the School of Medicine. The conference will be held from 4 to 10 p.m. on May 18 at the Holiday Inn Executive Center in Columbia and from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. on May 19 in the hospital auditorium.

The theme of the conference is "21st Century Translational Medicine: Path to Progress for Improving Veterans Health." The U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs launched the annual conference in 2015 to accelerate the development of patient-specific medicine using the latest discoveries of nanotechnology, tissue engineering and regenerative medicine.

Serving as co-chairs coordinating the conference are Rajiv R. Mohan, MSc, PhD, FARVO, Ruth M. Kraeuchi Endowed Professor in Veterinary Ophthalmology at the CVM; resident research coordinator at the Mason Eye Institute, MU School of Medicine; and health research scientist, ophthalmology and molecular medicine at Truman Veterans' Memorial Hospital; and Adam Whaley-Connell, DO, MSPH, Med, associate chief of staff for research and development at Truman Memorial Veterans' Hospital; and associate professor of medicine in the Division of Nephrology and Hypertension, Department of Medicine, MU School of Medicine.

Activities scheduled for May 18 are by invitation and include a keynote speech and panel discussions.

Scientific sessions begin at 8:15 a.m. on May 19, and are open to the public. Topics and speakers for each include:

8:30 to 10:30 a.m.: "Innovative Cancer Therapy and Diagnostic Imaging"

Moderators: Suzanne Patton, MD, Kunal Chaudhary, MD, and Mike Lewis, PhD.

Speakers: Jeff Smith, PhD, research scientist, Truman Veterans' Memorial Hospital; Susan Deutscher, PhD, research scientist, Truman Veterans' Memorial Hospital; Shyam Mohapatra PhD, research career scientist, James A. Haley Veterans' Hospital, Tampa, Florida; Slava Glinskii, MD, research scientist, Truman Veterans' Memorial Hospital; Jeffrey Bryan DVM, PhD, DACVIM-Oncology, director, Comparative Oncology and Epigenetics Lab and Scott Endowed Program in Veterinary Oncology; and Sharad Khare, PhD, research scientist, Truman Veterans' Memorial Hospital.

10.45 a.m. to 12:45p.m.: "Diabetes and Cardiovascular Diseases: Bench to Bedside Translation"

Moderators: Kul Aggarwal MD, Muzow Zuidena MD, and Anand Chockalingam MD.

Speakers: William Sivitz, MD, research career scientist, Iowa City VA Health Care System; Anjan Kowluru, PhD, senior research career scientist, John D. Dingell VA Medical Center, Detroit, Michigan; and Lakshmi Pulakat, PhD, research scientist, Whaley-Connell, William Fay, MD, research scientist, Bysani Chandrasekar, PhD, research career scientist, and Shawn Bender, PhD, research scientist, all of Truman Veterans' Memorial Hospital.

1 to 2.30 p.m.: Lunch and poster viewing

3 to 5 p.m.: "Translational Life Changing Therapies for Eye, Sleep, and Neurological Diseases"

Moderators: Frank Rieger, MD, Elizabeth Giuliano, DVM, MS, DACVO, and Pradeep Sahota, MD.

Speakers: Ruth Caldwell, PhD, research career scientist, Charlie Norwood VA Medical Center, Augusta, Georgia; Mohan; Nathan Heeseman MD, Truman Veterans' Memorial Hospital; Shubra Mohapatra, PhD, research scientist, James A. Haley Veterans' Hospital, Tampa, Florida; Mahesh Thakkar, PhD, research scientist, Truman Veterans' Memorial Hospital; and Asgar Zaheer, PhD, research career scientist, Truman Veterans' Memorial Hospital

Whaley-Connell will deliver closing remarks after the final speaker.

Sponsors for the conference include, the Missouri Foundation for Veterans Medical Research, Columbia, Missouri, the MU College of Veterinary Medicine Department of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery, and the MU School of Medicine Mason Eye Institute and Department of Neurology.

Animal Healthcare Industry Strategist to Address CVM Graduates

Dr. Michelle Haven will deliver the address during the MU College of Veterinary Medicine commencement May 13. Haven earned an undergraduate degree in animal science and DVM from the University of Illinois and a doctorate in physiology with a minor in pathology from North Carolina State University. Following completion of a large animal internship at the University of Missouri and three-year residency in surgery at North Carolina, Haven obtained specialty board certification in the American College of Veterinary Surgeons (ACVS).

She has worked in the animal health industry for more than 20 years. As a research fellow at Merck Animal Health, she led early research programs that progressed to three animal health products. She joined Pfizer Animal Health in 1997 and was appointed to positions of increasing responsibility, leading to head of global research for animal health pharmaceuticals and biologicals in 2003. Research programs progressed under her leadership led to animal health products in the areas of cancer, pain, inflammation, gastric ulceration, emesis, anti-infectives, obesity and allergy.

In 2007, Haven accepted the position of vice president global business development, alliances and strategic planning with Pfizer. With the spin-off of the animal health division from Pfizer in 2013, Haven was appointed senior vice president of corporate development, alliances and solutions for Zoetis with responsibility for global business development, external alliances, strategic planning and business service offerings. She led multiple business development transactions to support the growth of Zoetis, most notably the 2014 acquisition of Abbott Animal Health, and the \$765 million acquisition of PHARMAQ, the global leader in vaccines and innovative products for aquaculture.

She and her team established multiple alliances focused on open innovation, enhancement of veterinary standards, and expansion of networks to detect emerging infectious diseases. Research alliances included multi-party consortia for cattle mastitis and reproduction and emerging disease and food safety research collaborations. Partnerships established with universities and foundations to advance veterinary education include the International Veterinary Collaboration for China, the Cornell Leadership Program, the University of Missouri Veterinary Research Scholars Program, and collaboration with the Morris Animal Foundation and several colleges of veterinary medicine to provide competitive scholarships for veterinary students pursuing an advanced degree in research.



Dr. Michelle Haven

Retired CVM Associate Dean Inducted into Honor Roll

Ronald Cott, DVM, who retired last year from his position as MU College of Veterinary Medicine associate dean for Student and Alumni Affairs and executive director of Advancement, was inducted into the Missouri Veterinary Medical Foundation (MVMF) Veterinary Honor Roll on April 30. The Veterinary Honor Roll recognizes veterinarians who have been nominated for inclusion by those whose lives they have touched. Their names and photographs are presented in a display within the foundation's museum at the Missouri Veterinary Medical Association offices in Jefferson City.

Cott, who graduated the CVM in 1973, served in the U.S. Army before entering private companion animal practice in the Kansas City area. He joined the CVM in 2001 as associate dean. Since retiring, he has served as adjunct clinical assistant professor and an Advancement consultant for the college.



John R. Bates, DVM, and Ron Cott display their Veterinary Honor Roll plaques.



Ronald Cott, DVM (left), listens as William J. Shore, DVM, chair of the Missouri Veterinary Medical Foundation Board, reads comments submitted by Lauren Smith, DVM, who nominated Cott for the Missouri Veterinary Medical Foundation Veterinary Honor Roll during an induction ceremony held April 30.



Robert "Bud" Hertzog, DVM, congratulates Ron Cott on his induction into the Missouri Veterinary Medical Foundation Honor Roll.

Students and Faculty Honored During Annual Honors Banquet

Nearly \$300,000 was awarded May 10 during the MU College of Veterinary Medicine's annual Honors Banquet. The event featured the presentation of more than 70 awards acknowledging veterinary students for their scholastic achievement, clinical proficiency, community service and leadership. In addition to student awards, house officers, faculty and staff were recognized.

Students in each academic class selected an outstanding teacher to receive 2016 Golden Aesculapius Teaching Awards. Winners were Cheryl Rosenfeld, DVM, PhD, honored by the Class of 2019; Marie Kerl, DVM, MPH, honored by the Class of 2018; Alison LaCarrubba, DVM, honored by the Class of 2017; and Meghan Harmon, DVM, who was the honoree chosen by the graduating Class of 2016.

Harmon, a clinical instructor in the Small Animal Emergency and Critical Care Service, was also named this year's recipient of the Zoetis Distinguished Veterinary Teacher Award. Each year members of the graduating class select an outstanding teacher for the award, who, through ability, dedication, character and leadership, contributes to the advancement of the profession.

Zoetis also sponsored the Zoetis Award for Veterinary Research Excellence. Faculty members nominate the recipient of the award, which is presented to a faculty member or graduate student whose research related to veterinary medicine has promise of national recognition. This year's winner was Jeffrey N. Bryan, DVM, MS, PhD, associate professor of oncology, and director of the Comparative Oncology and Epigenetics Laboratory and Scott Endowed Program in Veterinary Oncology.

The Dadd Award, which honors excellence in veterinary medicine teaching as judged by peers, was presented to Fred Williams III, DVM. Wil-



Jeffrey Bryan, winner of the Zoetis Award for Veterinary Research Excellence, congratulates Meghan Harmon, recipient of the Zoetis Distinguished Veterinary Teacher Award, during the MU College of Veterinary Medicine 2016 Honors



Fred Williams III (left) received the Dadd Award from CVM Dean Neil C. Olson (center) and last year's recipient, William Fales.



CVM Associate Dean for Student Affairs Angela Tennison served as the emcee for the Honors Banquet.



(Top Left) Jeffrey Bryan (left) accepted the Zoetis Award for Veterinary Research Excellence from CVM Dean Neil C. Olson (center) and Kenton Morgan of Zoetis.

(Bottom Left) Meghan Harmon received a Golden Aesculapius Teaching Award and the Zoetis Distinguished Teaching Award, which was presented by (from left) CVM Dean Neil C. Olson, Kenton Morgan of Zoetis and last year's winner Brian Frappier.