

V^{ol}unteer Vet

The University of Tennessee • College of Veterinary Medicine

KNOWLEDGE COMPASSION DISCOVERY

UTCVM Welcomes New Dean

The University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine is pleased to welcome Dr. Jim Thompson as its new dean. Before joining UTCVM on October 1, 2008, Thompson served as executive associate dean and professor in the Department of Small Animal Clinical Sciences at the University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine. He also held a joint appointment in the Department of Molecular Genetics and Microbiology in the university's College of Medicine.

A graduate of Purdue University, Thompson earned his D.V.M. at the University of Florida in 1981 and his Ph.D. in Immunology and Medical Microbiology from that institution's College of Medicine in 1984. Thompson is board-certified in the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine in the specialties of internal medicine and oncology and in the American College of Veterinary Microbiology in the specialties of immunology, bacteriology/mycology, and virology.

A native of Greenville, Pennsylvania, Thompson succeeds Dr. Michael Blackwell, who retired as UTCVM dean in March 2008.



appreciate and support the college in its responsibilities to protect the health of animals, people and the environment.

Since the college opened in 1974, we've graduated nearly 1,800 veterinarians and have treated more than 1 million animals. This year, we were happy to announce the completion of the 32,000-square-foot expansion of the John and Ann Tickle Small Animal Hospital, which now houses world-class programs in

- animal physical rehabilitation and therapy;
- medical and radiation oncology;
- avian, wildlife and exotic zoological medicine; and
- veterinary social work.

In addition to treating animals, our college also plays a prominent role in protecting our nation's agricultural resources. You can read about two significant grants we received on page 2 of this newsletter.

Over the last two years, 98 percent of UTCVM graduates have passed the North American Veterinary Licensing Examination, and since 2003, the average pass rate of our graduates has been 97 percent.

The UTCVM provides advanced medical care to veterinary patients and an exemplary educational program for veterinary students – yet the teaching, research and large animal hospital facilities are in need of significant upgrades if this level of excellence is to be sustained.

The American Veterinary Medical Association Council on Education recently found the college in compliance with nine of 11 standards and awarded the college “limited accreditation status,” which gives the college a two-year window to resolve infrastructural issues related to our large animal hospital, in particular non-contemporary isolation and surgery facilities and flooring. The COE also noted several strengths which include faculty and student support for the administration of the college and the recently completed small animal teaching hospital expansion.

Our large animal hospital has not received major renovation or building infrastructure repair since the hospital opened its doors 30 years ago. This hospital serves crucial herd health needs of the state and has exceptionally strong programs in

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Message from Our Dean

Great colleges are made of great people, and I believe the UT College of Veterinary Medicine has great people. As the new year unfolds, I look forward to working side-by-side with faculty, staff and students who are passionate about veterinary medicine and agriculture. I am excited about accomplishing our objectives of delivering strong research, education, patient care and service to society. My personal goal is to work to ensure the people of Tennessee understand,

Dean's message continued from page 1

medicine and surgery, hyperbaric oxygen therapy, bovine hoof care, and metabolic diseases, but the facility must be upgraded. This issue is critical and can and must be fixed. We have worked through a facility needs assessment and have determined a \$20.9 million investment is needed to make

the necessary upgrades to ensure our educational program remains strong.

While this challenge is large and must be dealt with quickly, we are fortunate that we have the complete support of the University of Tennessee system, as well as strong stakeholder support, for this critical need. Resolving this challenge and

creating a world-class large animal hospital which matches our expertise is our number one goal.

With your help we can continue to move veterinary medicine forward, and serve Tennesseans with enthusiasm in regard to medical, surgical and agricultural successes I know are on our horizon.

Joie Thompson

College Center Receives More than \$5 Million in Federal Grants

UTCVM's Center for Agriculture and Food Security and Preparedness (CAFSP) will have a key role in ensuring the safety of the nation's food supply and promoting an effective response to a disaster involving animals thanks to grants from the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Of the 11 grants the agency awarded, the veterinary college received two of them totaling nearly \$5 million. The two grants were the only ones awarded related to food and agriculture safety.

The first award is for a training program to aid in the coordination of resources between the public and private sectors and across state lines by using national credentialing standards in the event of an animal-related disaster. The second award is for the development of effective information sharing networks between law enforcement, public safety agencies, and the private sector on the importation and transportation of food and animal feed in the United States. CAFSP will develop and deliver both training programs nationally.

UT Vice President for Agriculture Joseph DiPietro said it is important that communities have the resources and training in place either to prevent problems or to address them before they become potentially devastating. "Veterinarians play a key role in animal health, food safety, and public health," said DiPietro. "The veterinary college takes very seriously its role in protecting public health on a national scale."

"This funding continues our already developed leadership role in assisting the nation in protecting its critical infrastructure with a focus on the agriculture and food sectors," said Dr. Sharon Thompson, director of CAFSP. The center also recently received a \$500,000 continuation grant to continue delivery of its existing DHS training program. The program focuses on agricultural vulnerability assessment training for agricultural facility managers and state, county and local officials to assist in the prevention and deterrence of an attack using weapons of mass destruction.



Dr. Sharon Thompson, director of the Center for Agriculture Food Safety and Preparedness, says the Department of Homeland Security awards validate the work the college is doing.



The college's Center for Equine Veterinary Research (CEVR) was born from the need to train clinical researchers by offering a Ph.D. degree program in equine veterinary science. Recognizing that Tennessee has the second highest equine population in the United States, CEVR is focused on investigating new diagnostics and treatments of importance to clients, referring veterinarians and the equine industry.

Dr. Nicholas Frank, a key researcher in the new center, says one of CEVR's strengths is that its researchers are also specialists in clinical medicine and surgery. "They are experts in their field and several are known nationally and internationally for their clinical work, as well as their research," Frank says. Current areas of strength include research in laminitis, anesthesia, endocrine disease, hyperbaric oxygen therapy, nutrition, lameness, gastrointestinal disease and reproduction. "Our mission is to improve the understanding of these issues and to discover new approaches for prevention and treatment of disease." Frank emphasizes that training graduate students to become the equine researchers of the future is one of the most important goals for the CEVR.

To support the center, please visit www.vet.utk.edu/giving.

Sura Strikes Again

Dr. Patti Sura, assistant professor and small animal surgeon, won *Veterinary Surgery's* Resident Clinical Publication award, a very prestigious award for surgeons. The journal provides two awards, one for the best basic science research paper and one for the best clinical research paper. Sura's paper, which surpassed all of the clinical research projects performed by any resident for the entire year, was based on a scintigraphy technique (trans-splenic injection), which was developed by UTCVM's radiologists. Drs. Karen Tobias and Federica Morandi co-authored the paper.

The Loss of a Friend

Coping with the death of a pet can often-times be a stressful experience. Veterinary Social Work, a program of the Colleges of Veterinary Medicine and Social Work, is offering the Pet Loss Support Group to help those experiencing the grief process. The group meetings are free and are designed for anyone whose pet has died or is terminally ill. During the spring, the meetings will be held the first and third Tuesday of every month (in March they will be held the first and fourth Tuesday) from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. on the UT agricultural campus. Contact the Veterinary Social Work office at 865-755-8839 or visit www.vet.utk.edu/socialwork for more information.



A special thanks to all of our sponsors and everyone who attended Petstock. Thanks to your generosity, more than \$14,000 was raised for the Rescued Animal Assistance Fund for the college's large and small animal departments.

Bemis Knows His Bacteria



Dr. Dave Bemis, professor of bacteriology at UTCVM, recently received the prestigious Trek Award for Excellence in Diagnostic Veterinary Microbiology (bacteriology). The award recognizes distinguished scientists for research accomplishments in the field that result in new scientific findings that have application for the betterment of veterinary medicine. Bemis, along with fellow faculty Drs. Stephen Kania and Linda Frank, traveled to Copenhagen, Denmark, this summer to present at the Antimicrobial Resistance in Zoonotic Bacteria and Foodborne Pathogens Conference.

Does Your Dog Have Seizures?



The small animal hospital at the University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine is enrolling dogs experiencing seizures in a clinical trial.

Qualified dogs must not have been previously treated with seizure medication. In addition to state-of-the-art care, benefits include:

- A thank-you gift bag
- Free diagnostic tests and evaluation
- Free medication
- Up to \$330 in goods and services at your veterinary clinic

Contact your veterinarian or call
888-k9tr1al (598-7125), ext. 208.



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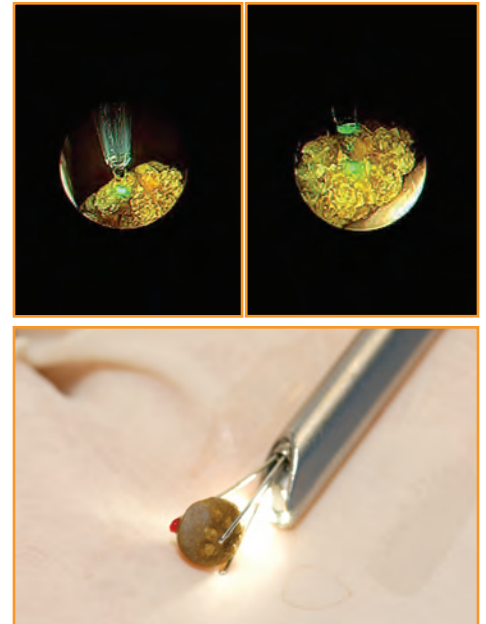
We're rolling out the welcome mat for the public at the 30th annual vet school Open House. The free, family-oriented event will be held on the UT agricultural campus Saturday, April 18. Tours, scientific displays, exhibitions and the popular Teddy Bear Clinic for stuffed animals are part of the fun. Visit www.vet.utk.edu/openhouse for continually updated information.

Shed a Little Light on the Subject

Each year, many dogs and cats suffer bladder stones making it one of the most common conditions diagnosed. While some animals may never show any signs of the disease, symptoms can include frequent urination, inappropriate urination, bloody urine, lethargy or even the inability to urinate. The stones can be quite painful and many animals have to undergo surgery for relief.

UTCVM now performs laser lithotripsy, a safer and quicker alternative to surgery.

Doctors insert a cystoscope through the urethra into the bladder and use a laser to shatter the larger stones into smaller pieces that can be removed without surgery. The procedure can be done on bladder or urethral stones, and the benefits for the patient include less time under anesthesia, quicker recovery time and no stitches. Contact Shanna Hillsman or Joe Bartges (865-974-8387) or visit the UTCVM web site to learn if your animal is a candidate for this cutting edge procedure.



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