

New Leader, New Facility Integrate Clinical and Research Strengths

You will be happy to know that our College is taking concrete steps to better integrate clinical relevance throughout the veterinary education as well to translate our growing research strengths into practical results with real-world impact.

I want to share with you two new ways this is happening.

The first is the arrival in November of Dr. Duncan Ferguson as head the Department of Veterinary Biosciences. Dr. Ferguson has more than 25 years of experience in veterinary medicine, spanning three veterinary institutions. He also has a strong record of success in “translational” research in basic and clinical endocrinology, endocrine disruptor toxicology, and clinical pharmacology.

You recall that Veterinary Biosciences oversees many tough but important veterinary courses: anatomy, physiology, toxicology, and pharmacology. Dr. Ferguson’s leadership signals the value of both the clinical and the research perspectives as his department re-examines these foundational courses in our current curriculum review process.

Dr. Ferguson earned a veterinary degree and a PhD in pharmacology from the University of Pennsylvania and also completed a residency in small animal internal medicine there. He is double-boarded in veterinary internal medicine and veterinary clinical pharmacology.

He has taught at Cornell’s veterinary college and, for the past 20 years, at the University of Georgia College of Veterinary Medicine, with appointments in both Physiology/Pharmacology and in Small Animal Medicine.

The second way our College is bridging the divide between clinical and basic sciences is literal. A new building will physically link our teaching hospital with our basic sciences building. This facility will house the surgery and imaging suites of the future. It will also make it easier for faculty from diverse fields to interact and find areas of common interest.

I hope you will develop an uncommon interest in what's happening at the College and how you can play a role in our successes. Please contact me at dean@cvm.uiuc.edu to find out more. –Herb Whiteley