

Diagnostic Lab Continues Excellent Service Under New Leadership

By Dean Herb Whiteley

The Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory in our college routinely serves up extra information to make your jobs easier. More than just delivering test results, the experienced personnel working here want to provide you with details about how to interpret the numbers, and which tests are best for the health conditions you are seeking to diagnose and manage.

In January, the leadership of the VDL changed hands, but the quality and commitment to serving you remain the same.

I extend my deepest gratitude to Dr. Wally Hoffmann, who led the lab over the past four and a half years as interim director. He performed a crucial service for our college and the Illinois veterinary profession.

Dr. Rick Fredrickson, an anatomic pathologist with the VDL for the past eight years, is the new director. He plans to continue the standards of service established under previous directors.

“Dr. John Andrews and Dr. Hoffmann did an excellent job of assembling a phenomenal staff. I’ve been pretty blessed to be part of it,” says Dr. Fredrickson, who grew up on a farm in Plato Center, in Kane County, Illinois. He later earned two bachelor’s degrees—in ag mechanization and in animal science— followed by a DVM and a master’s in veterinary toxicology from Iowa State University. He first came to Illinois to complete a residency.

As the new director, Dr. Fredrickson says he is “always interested in feedback, both pro and con, from local practitioners and colleagues.” He hopes to gain more exposure for the VDL by attending local and regional meetings of veterinary medical associations in the state.

Meanwhile, he’d like to introduce the newest members of the VDL staff, who bring a range of special interests to expand the mission of service, teaching, and research:

- Dr Adam Stern, dermatologic pathology and forensics, especially animal abuse cases
- Dr. Vincent Hsiao, broad background in food animal

To stay abreast of the latest from the VDL, subscribe to the monthly one-page newsletter by writing to vdldirectoroffice@vetmed.illinois.edu. It’s another way they enhance your practice effectiveness by sharing the hows and whys of the latest testing options.