

Coming Soon to a Facility Near You...

By Herb Whiteley

We've been working on a new initiative for a long time, and many of you have been rooting for us. It's the University of Illinois Chicago Center for Veterinary Medicine.

Thanks to faculty leadership, our vision of establishing a presence in Chicago will soon be a reality. This new center will initially offer small animal primary care services, engaging students in the clinical and management aspects of the practice. Ultimately we expect this venture to augment our specialty caseload and help us attract faculty, recruit students from underrepresented groups, collaborate with biomedical researchers in Chicago, and connect with new donors.

The location is 2242 West Harrison in the medical district just south of the Loop, with easy access from the Eisenhower expressway. That area is rapidly growing residential neighborhood that is currently underserved by primary care veterinary practices.

Our suite includes 6,400 sq ft of space we'll lease from the University of Illinois at Chicago. We are in the process of designing and building out the space, purchasing equipment, and hiring personnel to get it up and running.

Befitting a program of the world-class University of Illinois, the primary care facility will be envisioned as a state-of-the-art 21st century practice. Among its chief roles will be providing veterinary students with exposure to a fast-paced caseload of routine veterinary appointments. Students will be engaged in practice management as well as patient care.

Clinical specialists in Urbana will be able to teleconsult with the Chicago staff on puzzling cases. Our oncology section and other hospital services hope this site will also greatly increase access to cases to enroll in clinical trials. In time we hope to offer expand the services offered to include some on-site specialties, especially since an attractive metropolitan location could make it easier to recruit in-demand clinical experts.

Having a facility in Chicago also gives us a home base for providing continuing education for veterinary professionals and otherwise supporting the profession in the Chicago-area.

The timeline is still being worked out, but I hope that by next summer we will be seeing cases and inviting all of you in for a grand opening. Until then, if you have any questions or ideas about this venture, please get in touch with me at dean@cvm.uiuc.edu.