

Chicago VMA Bulletin  
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### **Your College in Chicago: An Update**

*By Herb Whiteley*

With a lot of help from our friends, the University of Illinois Chicago Center for Veterinary Medicine is continuing to move forward.

As you know, we are opening a facility at 2242 West Harrison in space leased from the University of Illinois at Chicago. Initially we will offer small animal primary care services there, with the presence of a board-certified internal medicine specialist soon to follow. Students will be engaged in providing animal care and managing the business side of this fast-paced practice.

Ultimately this location will also serve as our headquarters for recruiting students from underrepresented groups, collaborating with biomedical researchers in Chicago, and connecting with new donors. We expect eventually to offer specialties such as oncology, dentistry, behavior, dermatology, and ophthalmology here, working either with College faculty or with Chicago-area specialists.

I'd like to thank the local practitioners and members of the Chicago and Illinois State VMAs who have met with us to give their input on this exciting initiative. Serving on our advisory board are Drs. Kathi Berman, J.B. Bruederle, Cindy Charlier, Jeff Fortman, and Natalie Marks. Faculty advisers for this initiative are Drs. Anne Barger, Tom Graves, and Sandy Manfra. A subcommittee of these groups is reviewing applications for primary care veterinarians.

Our focus over the summer will be on designing the space and developing the programs. We are working with Bailey Edward Architecture, a firm with offices in Chicago and Champaign that specializes in laboratory design and renovations of existing facilities, and Animal Arts/Gates Hafen Cochrane, architects who have garnered 30 design awards from *Veterinary Economics* since 1986. We hope to begin construction this fall and open for business in early 2009.

Students would begin completing rotations there in summer 2009, but we have involved students throughout the planning process. Students interested in business and practice management have participated in every stage, from creating a business model to working with architects.

We are looking forward to having a facility in Chicago, knowing it will help us strengthen relationships with Chicago-area practitioners. It will be a home base for providing continuing education for veterinary professionals and otherwise supporting the profession in the Chicago-area.

If you have any questions or ideas about this venture, please get in touch with me at [dean@cvm.uiuc.edu](mailto:dean@cvm.uiuc.edu).