

## **Hoffmann, Fredrickson Take on New Roles**

Two faculty members have moved into new leadership positions at the College of Veterinary Medicine.

Dr. Wally Hoffmann, who had served as interim director of the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory since 2005, has now stepped into a newly created position, interim executive associate dean. Dr. Rick Fredrickson, an anatomic pathologist with the diagnostic laboratory for the past eight years, succeeds Dr. Hoffmann as director of the lab.

In his new role, Dr. Hoffmann will provide high-level, coordinated leadership to the College's three service units: the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, the Veterinary Teaching Hospital, and the Chicago Center for Veterinary Medicine. He will work closely with the faculty who manage the day-to-day operations of these units: Dr. Fredrickson, Dr. Art Siegel in the hospital, and Dr. Tom Graves at the Chicago center.

## **Meet Dr. Rick Fredrickson**

*By Dean Herb Whiteley*

You may already have encountered Dr. Rick Fredrickson during the past eight years he's been at the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory as an anatomic pathologist, but you are sure to be hearing from him regularly now that he has been named director of the lab.

And he'd like to hear from you as well.

"I am always interested in feedback, both pro and con, from local practitioners and colleagues," says the Illinois native who completed most of his studies in Iowa.

Dr. Fredrickson grew up on a farm in Plato Center, a small town in Kane County, Illinois, and also farmed in Whitewater, Wisconsin.

"I've been around cows and horses all my life. I own 60 acres now in cattle and horses," he says. His agricultural background prompted studies in related fields. He earned two bachelor's degrees—in ag mechanics and in animal science—followed by a dual DVM and master's in veterinary toxicology from Iowa State University.

When it was time to select a school to complete a pathology residency, Illinois got the edge because of heavy recruiting from Dr. Gavin Meerdink—and a slightly more generous stipend than Purdue was offering at the time.

Dr. Fredrickson says his career path was most influenced by Dr. Meerdink at Illinois, Drs. Gary Osweiler and Kent Schwartz at Iowa, and Dr. John Anderson—whose career spanned both institutions.

“Dr. John Andrews and Dr. Wally Hoffmann did an excellent job of assembling a phenomenal staff in the diagnostic lab,” says Dr. Fredrickson. “I plan to continue the standard of service established under these previous directors.”

Dr. Fredrickson explains with pride that the diagnostic lab fulfills all three aspects of the university’s mission: teaching, research, and service.

“For practitioners, the emphasis is on service, but we also play an important role in teaching. Senior students spend four weeks on rotation in the lab, where they perform necropsies and learn how pathology informs clinical medicine. It’s a nice review of organ systems before the board exam,” he says.

“With the new curriculum, first- and second-year students also rotate through our lab,” he adds, noting that he could tell the second-year students had learned a lot in the intervening year since their first rotations in the lab.

“I find that the students are willing to work hard, and they are very inquisitive. They want to learn and they ask a lot of questions,” he says. “Our lab offers a great caseload for teaching, ranging from large and small animals to exotics.”

In addition to service and teaching, Dr. Fredrickson notes there is growing component for collaborative research.

Recent additions to the diagnostic lab faculty bring a range of special interests that 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
- Dr. David Coleman, ocular pathology

To stay abreast of the latest from Dr. Fredrickson and the diagnostic lab, subscribe to the monthly one-page newsletter by writing to [vdldirectoroffice@vetmed.illinois.edu](mailto:vdldirectoroffice@vetmed.illinois.edu).