

Update on Clinical Services

By Herb Whiteley, dean

To be sure you're up on all the news on clinical services from your College of Veterinary Medicine, here's a recap of the top stories of 2011 and previews of what's ahead for this year. I welcome your feedback at dean@vetmed.illinois.edu.

The Return of Brendan McKiernan

It's great to have Dr. Brendan McKiernan back at the Veterinary Teaching Hospital, this time as director. An internationally renowned specialist in respiratory diseases of dogs and cats, Dr. McKiernan spent his early career at Illinois, from 1974 to 1998. Now he is back after spending the past 13 years at private specialty practices, first in Denver, Colo., and later in Medford, Ore.

"Among my primary goals as director is helping our hospital strengthen relationships with referring veterinarians. We are implementing new procedures to get communication about your patients back to you quickly and often," he says. Look for more from Dr. McKiernan in the next issue of the hospital's *rVet Report*.

In addition to serving as the chief administrator for the hospital, Dr. McKiernan will be involved in training residents and will provide his expertise as part of the team approach to care for patients with severe respiratory problems. Dr. McKiernan is also collaborating with veterinary radiologist Dr. Bob O'Brien, who is working to image pulmonary structure. Dr. McKiernan will be looking at ways to assess pulmonary function without using anesthesia.

Dr. McKiernan was founder and first president of the Veterinary Comparative Respiratory Society. His interests encompass evaluation and surgical repair of airways in brachycephalic breeds; pulmonary diseases including chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, asthma, pulmonary fibrosis, and chronic bronchitis; and diagnosis and treatment of nasal, pharyngeal, and laryngeal disease, including placement of tracheal stents for severe tracheal collapse cases.

Please feel free to get in touch with Dr. McKiernan to introduce or reacquaint yourself, ask a question, or offer feedback on hospital services. He can be reached at VTHdir@vetmed.illinois.edu or at 217-265-6554.

Chicago Animal ER: It Happened!

Last summer, under the leadership of director Dr. Tom Graves, our Chicago Center for Veterinary Medicine began offering 24/7 emergency services at its location in the Illinois Medical District, 2242 West Harrison Street. Staffing the service are Drs. April Finan and Donna Jacobsen, both Illinois graduates who bring prior emergency experience to their new roles.

In addition to emergency care, round-the-clock monitoring of patients is now available at our Chicago facility. Clients referred by partner clinics receive reduced ER fees, and the transfer fees are waived for patients needing overnight care that are referred by partner clinics.

For more information about Chicago Animal ER, see ChicagoAnimalER.com or call 312-226-2588.

Drs. Labelle and McFadden Return

We're very pleased that two specialists trained at Illinois returned last fall to join the faculty.

Dr. Amber Labelle is a board-certified ophthalmologist interested in ocular manifestations of systemic disease, equine ophthalmology and treatment of equine glaucoma, novel ocular imaging techniques, and infectious keratitis. She invites you to call her with questions and to follow the progress of her long-term study of pigmentary keratitis in pugs at pigmentarykeratitis.blogspot.com/.

Dr. Michael McFadden is a boarded small animal surgeon who performs both soft tissue and orthopedic surgeries. He oversees the rehabilitation program with Kim Knap, and he has a special interest in the surgery of exotic animals.

For a complete list of clinicians at our Urbana hospital, see vetmed.illinois.edu/4dvms/ or call our referrers hot line: 217-333-5311.

New Faces in the D-Lab

Dr. Rick Fredrickson, director of the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, brought two new pathologists on board last fall.

Dr. Elizabeth Driskell, a boarded anatomic pathologist, is especially interested in dermatopathology, ocular pathology, and diagnostic electron microscopy.

Dr. Stephane Lezmi came to Illinois from France. His interests include neuropathology, toxicology, infectious diseases and comparative pathology.

You can find more information about the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory online at vetmed.illinois.edu/vdl/, or call with your questions: 217-333-1620.

Coming in April: New Docs in Small Animal Surgery and Medicine

Dr. Heidi Phillips, a board-certified surgeon, will soon join us from the University of Pennsylvania. Her interests include feline kidney and other organ transplants, microvascular surgery, reconstructive surgery, and surgery of the urinary tract.

She's a 2001 graduate of the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine. After gaining board certification, she practiced with a referral hospital in the Pittsburgh area for two years and then joined the faculty at the University of Pennsylvania, where she directed the small animal surgery residency program and helped run the renal transplant program.

Canadian-born Dr. Stanley Rubin will be returning to Illinois, where he completed his residency, and returning to an academic setting after spending the past few years at a private specialty practice in Tucson, Ariz. The boarded internal medicine specialist previously spent 25 years on faculty at the University of Saskatchewan Western College of Veterinary Medicine (where he had earned his veterinary degree).

His interests include nephrology/urology, gastroenterology, metabolic disease, and electrolyte and acid-base disorders. Dr. Rubin is a co-editor of *Canine Internal Medicine Secrets*, published in 2007, and has written numerous scientific articles and textbook chapters.