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UI Cancer Care—and More—Comes to Chicago

By Herb Whiteley, Dean

University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine

Referring clients to the oncologists at the Veterinary Teaching Hospital in Urbana just got a lot easier for veterinarians in northeastern Illinois, because oncology has come to Chicago.

Every other week, our board-certified veterinary cancer specialists will see patients at the College's Chicago Center for Veterinary Medicine, located at 2242 West Harrison in the Illinois Medical District. As caseload grows, they plan to add appointment days in Chicago.

Section head Dr. Tim Fan, who has headed the group since 2003, and Dr. Jackie Wypij, who completed her residency at Illinois and returned as a faculty member last year, will be offering many of the services they provide in Urbana:

- second opinions on newly diagnosed cancers;
- bone, bone marrow, and other tissue biopsies;
- consultation on difficult cancers with complicating medical factors;
- alternate rescue protocols for patients out of remission;
- palliative treatment plans for advanced-stage cancers;
- individualized treatment plans to be implemented at your clinic;
- delivery of melanoma immunotherapy and Palladia (novel targeted cancer therapy), treatments restricted to use by oncologists; and
- administration of chemotherapy.

Radiography and ultrasonography will be among the diagnostics available at this location. Patients requiring weekly chemotherapy from our specialists would visit the Urbana hospital during the weeks the service does not take appointments at the Chicago center. Several new cancer treatment clinical trials are under way, and those patients enrolling in a clinical trial, requiring advanced imaging (CT/MRI), or those receiving radiation therapy would also receive treatment in Urbana.

Cancer specialists are also participating in the College's small animal continuing education series at the Chicago Center; on April 15, 2010, Dr. Laura Garrett will speak on "Indications for Radiation Therapy" and "Targeted Therapy for Cancer: What Are These TK Inhibitors All About?" Register at vetmed.illinois.edu/ope/saceseries/.

No matter where they see patients, our specialists focus on providing client-centered, compassionate care and the latest in oncologic treatments.

Other Urbana specialists are available for teleconference consults from our Center headquarters. Just call to arrange an appointment.

Two Chicago Center veterinarians are also available for specialty referrals: director Dr. Rosemary LoGiudice has recently completed her certification as a canine rehabilitation therapist, and Dr. Kelly Morgan is completing a residency in animal behavior.

To make an appointment for a client, please call the Chicago center at 312-226-2588.

You may reach the oncology service in Urbana by contacting Nancy George, chief clinical case coordinator, at 217-244-7789. Other information about specialists at the Teaching Hospital can be found online at vetmed.illinois.edu/4dvms/.

[For sidebar:]

Mark Your Calendar for CE at the Chicago Center:

Jan. 21: **Managing Ear Diseases**, *Karen L. Campbell, DVM, MS, DACVIM, DACVD*

Feb. 11: **Canine and Feline Dental Radiology**, *Sandra Manfra Marretta, DVM, DACVS, DAVDC*

March 18: **Immune Mediated Hematologic Abnormalities in Cats and Dogs**, *Amy L. MacNeill, DVM, PhD, DACVP*

April 15: **An Evening of Oncology**, *Laura D. Garrett, DVM, DACVIM*

May 20: **End of Life Communication**, *Cheryl A. Weber, MSW, MBA, JD*

Register at vetmed.illinois.edu/ope/saceseries/.