

## **New Surgery Team Covers All the Bases**

*By Herb Whiteley, dean, College of Veterinary Medicine*

As we head into the fall season, an all-star lineup in our small animal surgery section—including four new faculty members—will be in place to provide comprehensive services in soft tissue, orthopedic, oncologic, neurologic, and oral/maxillofacial surgery and rehabilitation.

“We are taking a team approach, with all the surgeons working together,” explains Dr. Sandra Manfra Marretta, who joined the college in 1990 and is the senior member of the team.

Double-boarded in surgery and dentistry, Dr. Manfra has built a strong dentistry program at Illinois. In addition to her clinical service, she plays a big role in education of students, residents, and practitioners. Her online dentistry modules have brought dental education to veterinary students at many institutions without boarded dentists as well as to practitioners around the world, and her intensive hands-on workshops fill quickly.

“We are all available for discussion, informal consultations, referrals, and ongoing patient management,” says Dr. Heidi Phillips, who joined our faculty in March.

Dr. Phillips, who will lead the soft tissue service, earned her veterinary degree and completed a small animal surgery residency at the University of Pennsylvania. She worked in a private surgical practice and taught at Penn, where she trained in renal transplant medicine and surgery and microvascular surgery.

A search is currently under way for an additional soft tissue surgeon.

Dr. Phillips also notes that the surgeons are available to speak at regional VMA meetings. She and Drs. Michael McFadden and Devon Hague will be presenting at the annual Fall Conference for Veterinarians, scheduled for September 13 and 14 in Champaign.

Dr. McFadden officially joined our faculty last fall, but many of you may have worked with him during his surgical residency at Illinois. After earning board certification, he took a position at VCA Northview Veterinary Specialty Services in Pittsburgh, Pa. We are pleased to have him back at Illinois. Dr. McFadden earned his veterinary degree at Ross University and completed a one-year internship at Louisiana State University. He also has a master's degree in biology from Texas State University-San Marcos.

Dr. McFadden and Dr. Tisha Harper will see orthopedics cases. Their service will work closely with the rehabilitation program run by Kim Knap, CVT, CCRP, who can be reached at 217-265-5314.

Dr. Harper arrived at Illinois in July, joining us from the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine in Blacksburg, where she had served the faculty since 2006 and had previously completed a master's degree and surgical residency. Her veterinary degree is from the University of the West Indies.

The newest member of the team is Dr. Devon Hague, who joins us in August to see neurology cases. Dr. Hague earned a veterinary degree at Ohio State University and completed a general internship in Connecticut followed by a neurology internship in the Dallas area. She recently completed a three-year neurology residency at Bush Veterinary Neurology Service in Virginia.

Our surgery team is focused on excellent patient care and responsiveness to owners and their veterinarians. They are backed by outstanding technicians, anesthesiologists, critical care specialists, and radiologists at the Veterinary Teaching Hospital. Advanced capabilities include laparoscopy, arthroscopy, thoracoscopy, and minimally invasive fracture repair. A harmonic scalpel and LigaSure™ are available to aid in minimally invasive procedures, amputations, and removal of large masses, and intraoperative fluoroscopy is available to aid in fracture repair.

I invite you to contact any member of the team for informal consultations or referrals. Reach them through the referring veterinarian line, at 217-333-5311, or by contacting the relevant clinical coordinator.

**Devon Hague, DVM (Residency Trained in Neurology)**

■ Neurology and Neurosurgery, including spinal and intracranial surgery, electrodiagnostics, neurorehabilitation, and medical management of central and peripheral nervous system diseases. *Clinical coordinator Allison Lutz, 217-265-5533.*

**Tisha Harper, DVM, MS, DACVS**

■ Orthopedic surgery, including total hip replacement, stifle and elbow diseases, angular limb deformities, arthroscopy and fracture repair; rehabilitation therapy. *Clinical coordinator Allison Lutz, 217-265-5533.*

**Sandra Manfra Marretta, DVM, DACVS, DAVDC**

■ General dentistry, digital dental radiography, advanced periodontal surgery, root canal therapy, cleft palate repair, endodontic therapy, jaw fracture and oral tumor management, and treatment of unusual oral lesions. *Clinical coordinator Misty Croy, 217-333-5859.*

**Michael S. McFadden, DVM, MS, DACVS**

■ General orthopedic surgery and soft tissue surgery, including minimally invasive surgery (minimally invasive fracture repair, arthroscopy, and laparoscopy), and surgery of exotic animals. *Clinical coordinator Allison Lutz, 217-265-5533.*

**Heidi Phillips, VMD, DACVS**

■ General soft tissue surgery, including thoracic and abdominal surgery, oncologic surgery, and reconstructive surgery; complicated soft tissue surgeries, including advanced urinary tract surgery, and microsurgery; and placement of tracheal and urethral stents (coming in 2013). *Clinical coordinator Michelle Jaeger, 217-333-6808.*