

## Message from Dean Whiteley

I've enjoyed talking with CVMA members lately at meetings in Chicago, at the Dog Jog, and at Fall Conference. Many of you have asked about new faces at our Veterinary Teaching Hospital.

In September I heard a presentation made by two members of our oncology team, Dr. Tim Fan and Dr. Louis-Philippe de Lorimier, at a meeting of the Eastern Illinois VMA. While their faces aren't entirely new—both have been in Urbana for several years for internship, fellowship, or residency programs and both are now pursuing PhDs here—they, along with Dr. Sarah Charney, have recently taken charge of our medical oncology program.

As many of you know, Dr. Barbara Kitchell, who brought these three on board here, last summer accepted the challenge of creating an oncology program at Michigan State. We wish her all the best there and know that she left the Illinois program in good hands.

Dr. Fan, an ACVIM diplomate, is eager to share his excitement about the oncology section. Their mission is to make substantial contributions to new knowledge in cancer biology while providing superior care to companion animals. Clinically relevant research incorporated into ongoing service sets this program apart from other animal cancer units.

Currently, the group has two research focuses. One, for which Illinois oncology is widely known, is the use of aminobisphosphonates to manage bone pain associated with canine osteosarcoma. Another research focus just beginning is COX-2 inhibition and radiosensitization. The oncology section plans to evaluate several tumor types, including nasal adenocarcinoma, oral squamous cell carcinoma, and transitional cell carcinoma.

A full account of the oncology program, with photos and bios on all its clinical staff members, is available on our Web site at [www.cvm.uiuc.edu/vth/oncology](http://www.cvm.uiuc.edu/vth/oncology). I encourage you to look them up.

Elsewhere in the college this fall, construction projects have been improving service and research capabilities. The lobby to the Small Animal Clinic was renovated to improve traffic flow and make the clinic experience more pleasant for owners and animals. In the Basic Sciences Building, 14,000 square feet of newly constructed research laboratory space was just dedicated for seven NIH-funded faculty members. Read about these projects in your next issue of the college's *Veterinary Report* newsletter.

And please continue to share your comments and questions with me in person or by email to [dean@cvm.uiuc.edu](mailto:dean@cvm.uiuc.edu).