

## **Dr. Mike Biehl Named as New Teaching Hospital Director**

*By Herbert Whiteley*

By now I hope you have heard the news that Dr. Michael L. Biehl will be joining us as director of the Veterinary Teaching Hospital effective May 1. Mike not only brings outstanding credentials as a team-builder and manager, but he also brings deep roots in the Illinois veterinary community and a strong commitment to the College.

After completing his veterinary degree here in 1983, Mike worked at Carthage Veterinary Clinic for a year before returning to pursue a toxicology residency, a PhD, and board certification in toxicology. He then joined Pfizer Global Research and Development in the Department of Drug Safety Evaluation, where he managed safety assessment projects and programs for human drug development. For a time he was also responsible for departmental safety assessment activities for all global veterinary products.

Most recently he was associate director of Global Project Management in the Strategic Portfolio Operations Group, a role that emphasized strategic planning and execution, building commitment, cultivating partnerships, leading and motivating teams, change management, and customer service. He completed a master's in business administration in 2004.

In the newly created position of director of the teaching hospital, Mike will work to ensure that the hospital provides the best possible patient care, the best possible service to clients and referring veterinarians, and the best possible clinical environment to support both teaching and research activities.

“The old business operating model for veterinary teaching hospitals everywhere is changing,” says Dr. Biehl. “State funding for higher education is decreasing, while the cost of

operations is increasing. We must adapt to the dynamics of an evolving veterinary profession and new market factors, such as the emergence of private specialty practices.

“I know that Illinois can solve this new business model ‘equation’ to continue to effectively and efficiently achieve our mission of excellence in service, teaching and research.”

An important part of his role will be reaching out to the Illinois veterinary community.

“I believe all Illinois veterinarians and College alumni have a stake in seeing our Veterinary Teaching Hospital become one of the best in the country,” says Dr. Biehl. “To achieve our vision the hospital *must* foster and enhance partnerships with veterinarians throughout Illinois. We can do that by listening to their needs and consistently exceeding their expectations.”

He says that the most important asset of the hospital is the people working there.

“I was extremely impressed by the professionalism and passion of the individuals I met during the interview process. They are committed and ready to do their part in taking the hospital to the next level.”

He is looking forward to sharing in the pride that comes from “knowing we are making a difference to today’s patients, and through our training of tomorrow’s veterinarians, to the patients of the future.”

Please join me in welcoming Mike back to the College of Veterinary Medicine in his new role. You can share your comments with me at [dean@cvm.uiuc.edu](mailto:dean@cvm.uiuc.edu).

### **New Faculty Hires**

- Dr. Julia Whittington has moved a visiting faculty appointment to an appointment as a clinical assistant professor. She will see exotics cases and serve as medical director of the Wildlife Medical Clinic.
- Dr. Kristen O'Dell-Anderson has accepted a faculty position in radiology after completing her residency here.

- Dr. Laura Garrett, earned a DVM at Illinois in 1991 will join our oncology service later this summer. She currently teaches at Kansas State University.
- Dr. Ed Garrett, her husband, will join our Food Animal Reproduction, Medicine and Surgery section. He has been working in the private sector in production medicine.