



Veterinary Diagnostic
Laboratory
College of Veterinary Medicine
University of Illinois
2001 South Lincoln Avenue
Urbana IL 61802

VDL Interim Director
Dr. W. E. Hoffmann

VDL Faculty

Anatomic Pathology
Dr. Susan Ball-Kell
Dr. Rick Fredrickson
Dr. Laura Kohrt
Dr. Carol Lichtensteiger
Dr. Kuldeep Singh
Dr. Matt Wallig

Clinical Pathology
Dr. Anne Barger
Dr. Amy MacNeill

Microbiology
Dr. Carol Maddox

Parasitology
Dr. Al Paul

Virology
Dr. Gail Scherba

Phone: 217-333-1620
Fax: 217-244-2439
E-mail:
vdldirectoroffice@
vetmed.illinois.edu

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VETERINARY DIAGNOSTIC LABORATORY

Featured in this issue: Director's Message, Featured Faculty, Classical Swine Fever Surveillance, Mycology Service

Issue No. 10

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Director's Message

The VDL now has available to our clients a Diagnostic Lookup for Referring Veterinarians. It is located on our Web site at vetmed.illinois.edu/vdl/. Just click on "VDL Test Lookup." Once you access the lookup, you can type in a simple name for the test(s) you are looking for and descriptive information will be provided. This will include test name, sample requirements, fee, species for which test is applicable (unless applicable for all), the days analyses are conducted if not every day, and other pertinent information. This Web site should answer most of your questions. However, if it does not provide answers to all of your questions, or you have problems or concerns with the Web site, please e-mail us at vdldirectoroffice@vetmed.illinois.edu. We will happy to provide you with the information you need or correct any problems with the lookup.

Walter E. Hoffmann, DVM, PhD, Interim Director

Featured Faculty

Dr. Carol Lichtensteiger is a board-certified pathologist who joined the faculty in 1992 after completion of her PhD at Washington State University. She received the DVM degree from The Ohio State University and completed her residency training in pathology at the University of Pennsylvania. While Dr. Lichtensteiger has broad professional interests in pathology, her research has focused on infectious diseases. Of particular interest to her is dermatopathology, an area where she collaborates with Dr. Karen Campbell at the Veterinary Teaching Hospital on dermatology biopsies and with the dermatology residency training. She serves as course coordinator for the 4th year veterinary student four week rotation through the VDL and is part of the core faculty of the pathology residency program. Dr. Lichtensteiger is active in regional and national pathology meetings, in the Illinois State Veterinary Medical Association (ISVMA), and in the local Eastern Illinois VMA, where she has served as president-elect and president.

Classical Swine Fever Surveillance: Dr. Gail Scherba

The Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory is participating in a surveillance program for classical swine fever being conducted by the National Animal Health Laboratory Network. Veterinarians submitting eligible samples will be given a \$50 credit for any additional testing conducted on the same animal. Nasal swabs from sick pigs/swine are requested. Animals for necropsy or specimens from a field necropsy are especially of value for the teaching program.

Mycology Service: Dr. Carol Maddox

We'd like to introduce you to our closet mycologists, Dr. Pat Hoiem-Dalen, MS, DVM, and the technician behind the 18S rRNA, Therese Eggett. We say "closet" because they haven't received much attention, but as Pat's interest grows, we have expanded our mycology services and skills. Referring veterinarians may submit fungal isolates for LPCB staining and identification. If a morphological identification can be made using the submitted culture and subculture is not required, results are usually available within 2 to 4 days at a cost of \$10. Alternatively, swabs or biopsies may be submitted for culture and morphological identification of filamentous fungi or Biolog Micro-Identification of yeasts at a cost of \$28 with a 3 to 4 week turnaround. Difficult specimens or hard to identify isolates may be identified using 5S -18S ribosomal RNA gene sequences. PCR amplification detects fungal DNA (\$25) and the DNA is then sequenced and compared to GenBank or other databases for identification (\$75) within approximately 1 week. Our super sleuthing team was even able to modify the standard protocol and amplify DNA from a cytology slide of a corneal scraping to confirm *Aspergillus flavus* infection (100% homology) in a feline. (LaBelle et al. 2009 *Vet Ophth* 12(1):48-52). We have added a 9 drug anti-fungal MIC panel for yeast susceptibility testing (\$40). Filamentous fungi are currently referred to the University of Texas Health Services Center in San Antonio (\$75/isolate/drug), but we plan to develop in-house anti-fungal MIC susceptibility testing in the near future.