

Faculty News

Alex Ardans has agreed to serve another five-year term as director of the California Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory System.

Eugene Breznock, professor in surgical and radiological sciences, retired in 1998. While a faculty member at UC Davis, his reputation, together with his innovative surgical skills, were responsible for some of the best and technically challenging surgeries undertaken at the Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital (VMTH). Dr. Breznock's special expertise and skill in cardiovascular surgery won him national and international recognition.

The school's **Robert M. Cello Distinguished Lectureship and Resident Award** was initiated in March, 1998. Professor Emeritus Cello served as a member of the faculty from the mid-1950s, established the Ophthalmology Service and was the first director of the VMTH.

Bill Lasley is serving as co-convenor and program chair, and several faculty members, including **Frederick Murphy, Jonna Mazet, David Hinton** and **Jerold Last** are involved in program development for the **4th International Congress on Ecosystem Health: Managing for Ecosystem Health** to be held in Sacramento August 15–20, 1999. The congress will be co-hosted by UC Davis and the Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources. Visit the congress Web site (www.vetmed.ucdavis.edu/centers/iseh/ecosystemhealth.html) for more information.

A new one-year **Graduate Program in Medical Informatics** offering a Master of Science degree will begin at UC Davis in the fall. Faculty members in the School of Veterinary Medicine, **James Case, William Hornof, Wasyly Malyj, Tim Carpenter**, VMTH administrators **Paul Brentson** and **Jim Self**, and their colleagues in the College of Engineering, School of Medicine and Carlson Health Sciences Library will teach courses in data acquisition, medical information, computer-based patient records and decision support systems in medicine. More information is available online (<http://medinfo.cs.ucdavis.edu/>).



Walter Boyce



Jonna Mazet



Bruno Chomel

Dual Leadership Appointed to Guide Wildlife Health Center

Two new directors of the school's Wildlife Health Center were appointed last July.

Jonna Mazet and **Walter Boyce** share administration of the multidisciplinary program dedicated to enhancing the conservation and health of wild animals and their environments through science and education.

Dr. Boyce, professor and wildlife veterinarian, has directed the school's wildlife health instructional program. The program has heightened veterinary medicine's contribution to many aspects of environmental health. "Advanced training can play a major part in an overall goal of wildlife conservation," he says. "The center will create new opportunities for postgraduate study and career development for wildlife health professionals."

The center funds a competitive grants program and encourages creative approaches to solving wildlife problems. Roughly one-fourth of the school's faculty now participate in wildlife health education and scientific research." Dr. Mazet and I intend to

build upon this strong base of faculty, student and administrative support," says Dr. Boyce.

Dr. Mazet, wildlife epidemiologist, is also director of the Oiled Wildlife Care Network (OWCN), a joint project of the school and the California Department of Fish and Game.

Drs. Mazet and Boyce seek new and innovative partnerships between UC Davis and wildlife management agencies, nongovernmental organizations and private citizens interested in conservation, public health, wildlife diseases, habitat concerns and related issues.

In addition to its university-based scientific advisory committee, the Wildlife Health Center is developing an external advisory board to address the complex issues of conservation in a rapidly developing world. Dr. Mazet says, "We must develop alliances in the public and private sectors that promote wildlife conservation while recognizing that human demands on the environment will only continue to increase."

School Names Newest Director for Master of Preventive Veterinary Medicine Degree Program

The School of Veterinary Medicine has named **Bruno Chomel** director of the Master of Preventive Veterinary Medicine (MPVM) degree program pioneered by UC Davis in 1966.

The MPVM program prepares veterinarians to investigate diseases in animal populations, with emphasis on production medicine, food safety and zoonoses (diseases transmissible from animals to humans). MPVM graduates design, evaluate and implement disease control strategies and provide

other veterinary services, including the evaluation of diagnostic tests, surveillance of disease outbreaks, and risk assessment.

Dr. Chomel, an infectious disease expert with a long-time interest in the importance of public health, began his 3-year term as MPVM program director last July.

Visit the MPVM Web site for more information about the program (www.vetmed.ucdavis.edu/mpvm/mpvm.htm).