



**Nicola Pusterla**  
*Assistant professor;  
 Center for Equine  
 Health, Medicine &  
 Epidemiology,  
 VMTH Equine  
 Internal Medicine*

**Education**

Habilitation (PhD equivalent), School of Veterinary Medicine, University of Zurich, Switzerland, 2002  
 Federatio Veterinarianorum Helvetiorum (FVH), University of Zurich, 1998  
 Doctor title (PhD), University of Zurich, 1994  
 Med Vet (veterinary degree), University of Zurich, 1991

**Experience**

Diplomate (equine medicine), Ameri-

can College of Veterinary Internal Medicine (ACVIM), 2003  
 Research and clinical fellow, UC Davis, 2003–04

Residency (large animal internal medicine), UC Davis, 2003

Postdoctoral research fellow, University of Zurich, 1994–98

House officer, Clinic of Veterinary Internal Medicine, University of Zurich, 1992–95

**Specialty**

Equine medicine; infectious disease and immunology; *Ehrlichiosis* in horses, cattle and dogs

**GRADUATE EDUCATION**

**HILL'S PET NUTRITION INC. SPONSORS NUTRITION EDUCATION PROGRAMS**

A grant from Hill's Pet Nutrition Inc. announced last May will fund a series of academic positions.

The grant, \$510,000 over six years, will fund a lecturer in clinical nutrition, a resident who will prepare for certification by the American College of Veterinary Nutrition (ACVN), and three graduate students—veterinarians who will prepare simultaneously for board certification by the ACVN and a PhD degree in clinical nutrition.

Andrea Fascetti, VMD, PhD, assistant professor of clinical nutrition and principal investigator on the Hill's grant says, "We want to educate veterinarians to think clinically about nutrition. Scientifically based approaches to feeding particular diets for various diseases are important in contrast to anecdotal information and unsupported dogma. Hill's has been supporting educational grants to provide veterinarians the opportunity to get additional training in nutrition for many years." Dr. Fascetti, who is board certified by both the ACVN and the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine, is chief of the Nutrition Support Service at the Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital (VMTH).

\* The grant will support three Hill's Fellows to encourage practicing veterinarians to come back to graduate school. The fellowships will allow those who wish to become veterinary researchers to prepare for board certification by the ACVN and earn a PhD simultaneously.

\* The Hill's Resident in Clinical Nutrition, while completing the two-year residency in clinical nutrition offered at the VMTH, will work with nutrition cases while completing the training required for board certification by the ACVN.

\* The Hill's Lectureship in Clinical Nutrition will combine teaching of academic course work with hands-on instruction to veterinary students in the Nutrition Support Service at the VMTH. The lecturer will see appointments for an array of patient issues, including nutritional care for animals affected with various health problems, and healthy animal nutrition.

The Nutrition Support Service provides consulting services for VMTH patients and all referring veterinarians from California and across the United States. Consultations include recommendations for commercial or home-cooked diets for pets with previously diagnosed diseases or obesity, and faculty members conduct laboratory analyses to assist veterinarians with diagnoses related to amino acid and mineral deficiencies in pet diets. The Nutrition Support Service also offers online consultations for veterinarians.

Zengshou Yu, PhD, analytical chemist in the school's Amino Acid Analysis Laboratory, discusses an assay with Dr. Andrea Fascetti, chief of the Nutrition Support Service. The laboratory, based in the Department of Molecular Biosciences, conducts analyses of pet diets to assist veterinarians in detecting amino acid and mineral deficiencies.

