Investigating Pathology: Students Get a Close Look

Fourth-year veterinary student Jennifer Reese begins the morning reviewing case notes for today's necropsies. The first case is an alpaca. There will also be two horses, a cat and a large frog. Other animals this week have included an iguana, snake and hawk.

While the class of 2007 will have a comprehensive veterinary education, Ms. Reese, with her special interest in equine surgery and lameness, has chosen to hone her veterinary education in the equine track. She and five classmates are in the second week of their pathology rotation. They are learning, says Reese, how to evaluate postmortem cases, sample tissues appropriately, observe,

“No one else in the world has this. It’s revolutionized the way we teach.”

Reese joins the others at the conference table for student rounds with Professor Dennis Wilson and pathology resident Alejandro Garcia.

As Dr. Wilson maneuvers a histology slide on the microscope, the image is digitized and beamed across the room. He says, “I’m so impressed by the stunning quality of this projection system!”

The projected image is nearly as sharp and tonally accurate as the image on the computer monitor, even at higher magnifications.

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Following voter approval of California Proposition 1D last November, the school is now in line to receive $4.5 million this year and move to the next phase of building Veterinary Medicine III B—an essential part of the plan to modernize and expand school facilities.

Vet Med III B will provide 55 faculty members with the sophisticated laboratory resources needed to conduct 21st century research in basic and applied clinical science.

“Vet Med III B is needed to meet requirements set forth by the AVMA Council on Education in its 1998 accreditation review and to meet National Institute of Health facilities standards,” says Dean Bennie Osburn.

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UC Davis is the leader among the nation’s 27 other veterinary institutions in the number of peer-reviewed scientific research papers published annually.

Last year extramural research funding awarded to the UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine faculty rose 44 percent to $96 million. Yet some faculty members are forced to turn away grants

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