The third floor, with its immunology and hematology theme, will be the base for clinical pathologists, immunologists and pathologists who carry out research on immune-mediated aspects of disease.

The fourth floor is dedicated to cellular and molecular pathology and will support wildlife, environmental pathology and ecosystem health, endothelial biology and cell biology-based research. One section of the laboratory floor will be occupied by the Food Animal Residue Avoidance Databank, a national food safety project in which UC Davis is a collaborative partner.

The fifth floor will support infectious disease research by virologists, microbiologists and pathologists who study ecosystem affects on hosts or vectors or agents. These researchers interact with other school programs including the Center for Vectorborne Diseases, Wildlife Health Center, Shelter Medicine Program of the Center for Companion Animal Health, and the Center for Equine Health.

Vet Med III A is expected to open next summer.

A cross section of canine tissue does not give clear indications, and Dr. Wilson says, “Oh, this is going to be a mystery case.” The lung tissue has a lot of alveolar fluid but doesn’t look particularly inflamed.

Jennifer Reese asks, “How much of this is postmortem change?” Dr. Wilson says, “Good question.” Another student consults the case notes—the dog died at home and was not euthanized, which might have caused pulmonary edema. Dr. Wilson replies, “Then this probably reflects cardiac disease. It may be secondary effects rather than the primary cause of this animal’s demise.”

The group turns to today’s cases for a look at the diagnostic data before heading to the necropsy floor.

Radiographs of the alpaca are accessed from hospital records and projected for discussion. The animal, which ran into a fence while being chased by its owner’s dogs, had a fractured spine and displaced ribs.

One of the two equine cases will be an investigation of a hind foot abscess, radiographs of which show a collapsed coffin joint. Dr. Wilson suggests adjusting the dissection protocol to include the coffin joint, and that the student, Jennifer Reese, follow the flexor tendon to find an expected rupture.

Because there are a number of large animals today, he suggests starting early and offers a strategy for efficient use of the work space. He advises the students to use a step-by-step approach to get the most information. They will have a 30-minute lunch break before regrouping to begin the necropsy procedures.

Under the mentorship of residents and hospital staff, the students will spend the afternoon physically examining their respective cases and collecting samples for further evaluation to form diagnostic conclusions.