

Dr. Sean Owens Leaves Successful Legacy in Laboratory Services

Dr. Sean Owens was recently appointed Associate Dean for Student Programs. As he moves on, we take a look back at his VMTH legacy...



Dr. Sean Owens, Associate Director of VMTH Clinical Laboratory Services

It's been three years since Dr. Sean Owens took over as Associate Director of Clinical Laboratory Services, and the transformation of the lab in that time has been remarkable. He and his team streamlined workflow and implemented programs that quickly took the lab to national prominence.

Highlights of Dr. Owens leadership include:

- Implementing a Good Laboratory Practice compliance program
- Opening Central Laboratory Receiving, a much-needed hub for lab submissions that was 15 years in the making
- Developing the Transfusion Medicine Service and the VMTH Blood Bank, the second largest university-based, veterinary blood bank in the country

- Creating the largest university-based, veterinary Regenerative Medicine Laboratory in the country
- Tripling of lab revenue by increasing productivity and effectiveness, thereby generating income that can be used to fund other teaching programs at the VMTH

"The main reason we were able to achieve so much success is because of the team we have in the labs. None of these accomplishments would have happened without their hard work," states Dr. Owens. "I feel that a solid infrastructure for the lab services unit is in place for a new director to capitalize on the opportunities that we've built. Our campus reputation is one of providing quality results in a timely manner, and I'm confident that a new leader will have no problem maintaining that reputation. But what I'm most proud of is that through all the growth, we were able to ensure that we still provided the highest level of diagnostic patient care, and I have my team to thank for that."

We thank Dr. Owens for his visionary leadership, and wish him the best in his new role as Associate Dean for Student Programs.

Are Home-Prepared Meals Better Than Packaged Dog Food?

Dog owners may choose to serve home-prepared meals for a variety of reasons. Maybe it helps with picky eaters. Maybe they're more comfortable with familiar ingredients. But is it more nutritious?

The VMTH Nutrition Service looked into this with a study that evaluated 200 recipes for alternative canine diets. The Service evaluated whether these home-prepared recipes met minimum requirements and recommended daily allowances for nutrients. The 200 recipes were taken from two veterinary textbooks, nine pet care books and 22 websites. Sixty-four percent of the recipes were from veterinarians, 36 percent from laypeople.

The VMTH study found many flaws in the recipes. Ninety-five percent had at least one nutritional deficiency; 84 percent had multiple deficiencies. Eighty-five percent of the recipes did



Dr. Stockman receives his HOSD award from Dr. Wilson.

not provide specific feeding directions. The range of calories in the recipes measured a meager 380 to a whopping 16,348 per serving. Six percent of them included garlic or onion (which can be harmful to dogs). Most recipes had deficiencies that may cause adverse effects if fed long-term.

"Despite being readily available, the majority of home-prepared recipes are nutritionally inadequate," states Dr. Jennifer Larsen. "This underscores the importance of obtaining a thorough nutritional work-up if dog owners choose to provide home-prepared meals."

VMTH resident Dr. Jonathan Stockman presented this study, "Evaluation of Published Recipes for Home-Prepared Canine Maintenance Diets," at the 2013 House Officer Seminar Day. Dr. Stockman's presentation won the award for Outstanding Small Animal Research Study and Presentation.

UC Veterinary Medical Center – San Diego Starts Pharmacy Fellowship

The UC Veterinary Medical Center – San Diego has announced a new Pharmacy Fellowship Program. This program is unique in its concept to offer veterinary clinical pharmacy training with a small animal focus to pharmacists. Outside of UC Davis, there is no other program of this type available in the United States, as pharmacist training in veterinary medicine is very limited.

The intent of the program is to provide opportunities for pharmacists, with prior pharmacy practice experience and post-graduate training, to expand their knowledge of small animal clinical veterinary medicine; participate in basic and clinical research; and develop teaching and leadership skills vital to veterinary clinical pharmacy practice. This new program at UCVMC-SD will expand those opportunities and offer solutions to a clear need for pharmacists trained in this specialty.

“Our hope is to foster new and dynamic relationships between pharmacy practice, veterinary medicine, academia, research and industry,” states Dr. Margo Karriker, UCVMC-SD’s Clinical Pharmacy Specialist.

The first Fellow is Dr. Masato Fukui from Japan. Dr. Fukui received his pharmacy degree from Tokyo University of Pharmacy and Life Sciences. After also completing a PhD at Kyoto University’s Graduate School of Pharmaceutical Sciences, he trained as a postdoctoral fellow at Duke University Medical Center. From there, he was hired by a veterinary pharmaceutical company in Japan.

“I am honored to be here to participate in the Fellowship program and work in veterinary medicine,” states Dr. Fukui. “Since my



Dr. Masato Fukui recently started the Pharmacy Fellowship Program at UCVMC-SD.

training in veterinary medicine was limited prior to the Fellowship, I look forward to the opportunities with the staff, patients and clients. I am pleased to learn more about veterinary research, clinics and pharmacies. This training will provide beneficial information of commercial drug use and novel drugs in veterinary clinics and academies of veterinary medicine.”

The Fellowship is a two-year program.

Did You Know?

... that canine parvovirus can live in soil for several months?

... that Clinical Lab Services processes about 400 tests per day?

... that the majority of horses foal at night?



A mare usually prefers to foal at night.

From The Director's Corner

Welcome to the April issue of *VMTH View*. I am pleased to hear that this newsletter is meeting the goal of keeping you updated on a broad range of programs, activities and people in the multi-faceted and complex organization that is the VMTH. With all of us leading such busy lives, it is easy to get caught up in the activities of only our little corner of hospital and not know what is going on down the hall. Hopefully, this newsletter has brought some further insight into the capabilities of other service units, and has potentially set the stage for referrals to colleagues who can provide services of which you were previously unaware.

In this issue, we bid "farewell" to Dr. Sean Owens as he completes his term as Associate Director for Laboratory Services, and reflect on his accomplishments in that position over the past three years. Thankfully, Sean will continue to be active as a faculty Clinical Pathologist in the labs, albeit with a reduced time commitment. In this instance, the VMTH's loss will be the School of Veterinary Medicine's gain as Sean transitions into his new administrative role as Associate Dean for Student Programs. We wish him all the best in his new position, and thank him for everything he has done for the VMTH.

On March 22nd, we enjoyed another tremendously successful, educational and enjoyable House Officer Seminar Day, the 35th renewal of this annual event, but the first to be named in honor of its founder, Dr. Gerald V. (Gerry) Ling. Dr. Ling, a small animal medicine clinician and world

authority on lower urinary tract diseases in dogs and cats, was a faculty member in the School of Veterinary Medicine for 35 years, prior to his retirement in 2003. During his distinguished career, he fulfilled many leadership roles, including Chief of the Small Animal Internal Medicine Service and Associate Director for the Small Animal Clinic. Dr. Ling would have been very proud of the quality of the research presented by the residents at HOSD this year and would, no doubt, agree that the presentations just continue to get better and better every year. With so many excellent presentations, it was a difficult decision for the judges to determine this year's six winners for outstanding presentations: Drs. Katherine Hansen, Jonathan Stockman, Matt Kinney, Gema Vidal, Daniel Dugger and Tatiana Ferreira. Congratulations to all of you and thank you for your dedication to helping us advance veterinary medicine at the VMTH. We are indeed very fortunate to have so many talented House Officers on the VMTH staff.



W. David Wilson, BVMS, MS
Director, VMTH

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "W. David Wilson".

Dr. W. David Wilson, BVMS, MS
Director, William R. Pritchard VMTH

Laboratory Services Upgrades Order System

The VMTH Diagnostic Clinical Laboratories have recently advanced their services through an on-line order system. On April 1, 2013, after months of testing and a slow roll-out to the hospital, the labs began accepting orders exclusively through the VMACS-based online order system.

With a goal of providing better patient care and improved tracking of laboratory requests, the online order system constitutes an important and significant change to the labs. Behind the scenes, the online order system interfaces with the Laboratory Information System (LIS), which allows for digital orders to be placed on lab instruments and automated results processing. Based on the VMACS lab orders, LIS recognizes all patient identifying information and provides appropriate reference ranges.

"The implementation of the online order system has revolutionized our laboratory testing processes," states Julie Burges, Assistant Lab Manager. "We are now able to track the who/what/when/where/why of lab orders and from there, derive metrics to facilitate staffing and reagent ordering, and also identify which lab tests are frequently or infrequently used."

"Understandably, there has been a learning curve for all involved. We would like to thank IT, lab staff, and the early adopters of the online ordering program," adds Dr. Danielle Carrade, Research and Development Manager. "Their feedback and hours of hard work has been absolutely invaluable to the whole process."

For more information about the online ordering program, please contact Dr. Carrade at ddcarrade@ucdavis.edu or 530-718-8431.

