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“We all work hard in residency,” said Dr. Kubiski. “Just being nominated for this award was a huge honor. To get this kind of recognition and support from my training coordinator and other faculty is humbling—now I have to live up to it!”

Dr. Church’s Young Investigator Award recognizes outstanding oral presentations given by residents or graduate students in the field of veterinary clinical pathology. Candidates must have a degree in veterinary medicine and be enrolled in a residency or graduate program in veterinary clinical pathology or a related discipline.

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Both Drs. Kubiski and Church are part of Dr. Patty Pesavento’s research group in the SVM. Kubiski’s graduate research on canine viral diseases is being supported in part by the Ted Vandling Estate, for the study of those specific diseases.

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The Distinguished Teacher Award, sponsored by Zoetis, recognizes excellence in professional veterinary medical education, and is presented to an educator whose sustained record of teaching excellence and ability, dedication, character and leadership has contributed significantly to the advancement of the profession. It is considered the most prestigious national teaching award in veterinary medicine, and is more than 50 years old.

“Dr. Mellema exemplifies the qualities we seek in an honoree,” said AAVMC President Dr. Kent Hoblet. “Students and colleagues alike applaud his dedication and passion for education. Teaching is his priority, and his emphasis on critical thinking, problem-solving and self-directed learning maximizes students’ chances for lifelong success.”

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Connan Kilgallon and Kristen Phair completed the UC Davis Zoological Medicine residency, and Dr. Olivia Petritz completed the CAPE residency. The ACZM is a small specialty college with a very strong UC Davis representation. Congratulations to our former residents!

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WILLIAM R. PRITCHARD VETERINARY MEDICAL TEACHING HOSPITAL • UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, DAVIS

LEADING VETERINARY MEDICINE, ADDRESSING SOCIETAL NEEDS
From The Director’s Corner

We highlight some well-deserved awards in this issue. It’s seems that every month, another VMTH faculty, resident or staff member is being recognized for outstanding achievement. We are fortunate to have such a dedicated team of veterinarians and staff who are so focused on improving the level of patient care they are able to provide our clients while providing outstanding instruction to our students.

While these awards are given to individuals, it takes a team to achieve them. I am certain that every award recipient will tell you that many people played a part in the recognition. That attitude is what makes patient care at the VMTH so special. Our focus on teaching the next generation of veterinarians and training residents in their chosen specialties helps foster that team environment needed for us to succeed. One more set of eyes on a case can make all the difference in finding the solution and bringing an animal back to optimum health.

I congratulate our latest award recipients on their achievements. Your accolades reflect your continued efforts, dedication and teamwork. I look forward to hearing of many more to come.

Regards,

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

CASE OF THE MONTH – OKI

Oki, an 8-year-old Burmese cat, whose usual personality focused on cuddling up to her owners—especially on their shoulders—and interacting regularly with house guests, was not acting like herself. She was having difficulty passing urine. Her owners, both UC Davis veterinarians, brought her to the Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital’s Small Animal Emergency and Critical Care Service, where she was diagnosed with kidney failure and an obstruction in her right ureter (the tube that takes urine from the kidney to the bladder) from a birth defect.

Oki spent four days in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU), and her condition was treated with medications. She was able to return home, but her ureteral obstruction remained. Seven months later, Oki’s condition worsened, and she returned to the VMTH’s ICU. After a week in the ICU, her condition stabilized with medications, but the emergency specialists knew that the obstruction was causing kidney failure and something more needed to be done.

It was decided that Oki should undergo surgery with the VMTH’s Soft Tissue Surgery Service to have the obstruction relieved. Due to the type of obstruction, a technique known as a “subcutaneous ureteral bypass” was chosen. This procedure creates a new “ureter” with synthetic tubing to connect the kidney to the bladder, resulting in the bypassing of the native ureter. While this is a relatively new technique, it shows tremendous promise for treating cats with ureteral obstructions.

Oki’s procedure was a success, and she has steadily improved. Her blood work is now normal, and she is feeling like herself again, back in her favorite spot on her owner’s shoulders.

Novel Theriogenology Residency Now Offered at VMTH

The VMTH is adding a new residency in reproductive medicine for companion animals, thanks to a generous gift from the American Kennel Club (AKC) and the Theriogenology Foundation. The novel two-year Theriogenology Residency Program will provide specialty training in all aspects of veterinary reproductive medicine and surgery, as well as all features of clinical practice related to male and female reproduction, obstetrics and neonatology in companion animals.

Not only will the resident receive specialty instruction in all aspects of reproductive medicine, the resident will also rotate through the Surgery Service and be jointly supervised by board-certified specialists in our Internal Medicine Service and/or Surgery Service, as well as our Small Animal Theriogenology Service. Such training will qualify the resident to perform surgery when necessary.

“This will be one of the first theriogenology residencies in the nation with a companion animal focus,” said Dr. David Wilson, director of the VMTH. “The AKC and the Theriogenology Foundation are making a significant financial commitment to train people to address real societal needs.”

Since board certification in theriogenology requires experience with multiple species, the resident will receive on-site and off-site training with enthusiastic collaborators in private practice to gain all necessary experience and skills. The resident will also spend two months of the two-year program working with farm animals with the Livestock Herd Health and Reproduction Service; another two months will be spent with the Equine Reproduction Service.

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“Theriogenologists are needed to help manage the millions of domestic cat, dog and horse pregnancies that occur each year,” said Dr. Bruce Christiansen, Ghislaine Dujonne and Autumn Davison will lead the VMTH’s new Theriogenology Residency Program.

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