**DEVELOPING ACADEMIC AND RESEARCH CAREERS**

The veterinary profession needs more scientists to aid biotechnology and pharmaceutical companies in discovering new therapies for animal and human diseases. Veterinarians educated for academic careers are expected to be in especially high demand as up to 40 percent of the nation’s 27 veterinary school faculty members retire in the next decade.

Anticipating this shortage, the school has created a new dual degree program to provide financial support and a flexible course of study to students pursuing concurrent DVM and PhD degrees.

The Veterinarian Scientist Training Program will encompass up to seven years of combined academic study and clinical training. In addition to receiving financial assistance, students may finish their PhD degrees sooner than those pursuing nonconcurrent PhD degrees. The program will cover tuition and fees and an annual stipend of $17,000 for two students chosen each year. As further funding is secured, 14 or more students may be supported.

School officials have established endowments to support the DVM/PhD candidates. “We want students to choose academic and industry career paths. This program knocks down one roadblock to advanced training—the cost of staying in school,” says Dean Bennie Osburn. Initial funding comes from the Orpha Beall Scholarship Fund, a pledge from Fort Dodge Animal Health—a pharmaceutical manufacturer-distributor specializing in veterinary medications and related products—and a new gift from the William and Audrey Samson Memorial Trust.

Additional short-term funding has allowed the selection of four initial participants: Debbie Chou, Cara Field, Sara Thomasy and Jennifer Larsen. These candidates, chosen from a pool of veterinary students now pursuing graduate studies in comparative pathology, pharmacology/toxicology and nutrition, will formally enter the combined program in July, 2001. Future applicants will apply as they enter veterinary school.

Veterinarian Scientists will participate with students in the Physician Scientist Training Program at the UC Davis School of Medicine. Students from both programs will attend some graduate courses together and will share their unique perspectives as they learn to integrate science with clinical medicine.

“Early mentorship will ensure a successful program,” says Dallas Hyde, associate dean for research and graduate education at the School of Veterinary Medicine. Students will work with faculty members in several laboratories to find the best fit for their research abilities and career interests. Graduates of the program may pursue careers at universities and schools of veterinary medicine or be employed by health institutes, biotechnology firms or pharmaceutical companies.

**NEW VMTH SERVICE FOR COMPANION ANIMALS**

INVESTIGATING INHERITED DISEASES

Diagnosis of inherited diseases in companion animals, especially purebred dogs, cats and horses, and genetic counselling are now offered through a new service of the UC Davis Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital. Danika Metallinos is chief of the Genetics Service, established last summer as one of only two such services in the country (the other is at University of Pennsylvania).

“Veterinary clinical genetics is a very new field, and new DNA tests are being developed at a rapid rate,” says Dr. Metallinos, who completed her DVM degree and residency in clinical genetics at UC Davis and PhD in molecular genetics at Princeton University. “The practice and study of molecular genetics, such as DNA-based testing for genetic diseases, will have a major impact on veterinary medicine in the next decade.”

In addition to clinical services, Dr. Metallinos also carries out scientific studies of inherited diseases. “New knowledge gained in the study of genetically based diseases will greatly affect our ability to make diagnoses and manage cases for all companion animals,” says Dr. Metallinos. The Genetics Service accepts referrals of dogs, cats and horses, and provides telephone consultations for genetics inquiries. For more information about the Genetics Service, contact the Small Animal Clinic at the Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital, (530) 752-1393.

**New Faculty Members**

**Jose Eduardo Santos**
Assistant professor, Population Health and Reproduction
Education PhD, University of Arizona, 1997
MSc, University of Arizona, 1995
DVM, São Paulo State University, Brazil, 1992
Experience Residency, dairy production medicine, VMTRC, UC Davis, 1998–2000
Private practice, 1993
Specialty Dairy cattle nutrition, transition cow nutrition, dietary and hormonal manipulation to improve conception and embryo survival in dairy cows.

**Nicole Baumgarth**
Assistant professor, Pathology, Microbiology and Immunology, and Center for Comparative Medicine
Education PhD, School of Veterinary Medicine, Hannover, Germany, 1989
DVM, School of Veterinary Medicine, Hannover, Germany, 1987

**David Lipsitz**
Assistant professor, Surgical and Radiological Sciences
Education DVM, University of Tennessee, 1988
Experience Clinical associate professor, University of Wisconsin, 1993–2000
Residency, UC Davis, 1991
Specialty Neurology/Neuro-surgery, remyelination and neural transplantation, oligodendroglial cell responses to primary brain tumors; diplomat, American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine