The UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine continues to upgrade its cardiology services for patients in both Northern and Southern California. Patients in Northern California are served at the Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital on the Davis campus, while patients in Southern California can be seen at the UC Veterinary Medical Center in San Diego. Both locations have each brought on an additional board-certified cardiologist in past few months.

Dr. Lance Visser joins the Cardiology Service at the VMTH as an Assistant Professor of Clinical Cardiology. He received his DVM and a Master’s degree in Comparative Medicine and Integrated Biology from Michigan State University in 2010. Dr. Visser then completed an internship in small animal medicine and surgery at North Carolina State University in 2011, and a residency in cardiology and another Master’s degree in Comparative and Veterinary Medicine at The Ohio State University in 2014. Dr. Visser became board certified in cardiology by the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine in June 2014.

Dr. Visser’s research interests are in the areas of non-invasive assessment of cardiac structure and function. Recently, he has characterized several unexplored echocardiographic indices of right ventricular function in the dog. Dr. Visser’s clinical interests are broad and include advanced electrocardiography, acute and chronic management of heart failure, noninvasive/advanced imaging (echo, CT, MRI), interventional cardiovascular medicine, congenital heart disease, and cardiovascular pathology.

Dr. Timothy Hodge joins the Cardiology Service at the UCVMC as a Clinical Cardiology Specialist. After earning his DVM from Purdue University in 2007, he completed a rotating small animal medicine and surgery internship at the Animal Medical Center of New York, followed by a cardiovascular research fellowship in Columbus, Ohio. Dr. Hodge continued his training with a residency at North Carolina State University and passed his cardiology specialty certification examination in 2013 to become a Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine. Following his residency and board certification, he relocated to Phoenix, Arizona, where he worked as a clinical cardiologist at a busy small animal specialty practice.

Dr. Hodge’s expertise lies in diagnosing and treating cardiomyopathy, valvular disease, arrhythmias, and repairing congenital defects in small and large animals. He has particular interests in arrhythmia management, minimally invasive interventional procedures, and myocardial diseases.

“We are pleased to have Lance and Tim join our already outstanding team of cardiologists,” said Dr. David Wilson, director of the VMTH. “Their research and clinical backgrounds in academia and private practice bring multiple resources to the table that will greatly benefit our patients.”

Drs. Visser and Hodge join a cardiology team consisting of Dr. Joshua Stern (Chief of Service at VMTH), Dr. Leigh Griffiths (VMTH) and Dr. Joao Orvalho (UCVMC)—all board-certified cardiologists. These five UC cardiologists are part of a small group of only 35 cardiology specialists practicing in California.