

UF Large Animal Clinical Sciences

NEWSLETTER

UF | **Veterinary Medical Center**
Advancing Animal, Human and Environmental Health

View from the Chair LACS Update

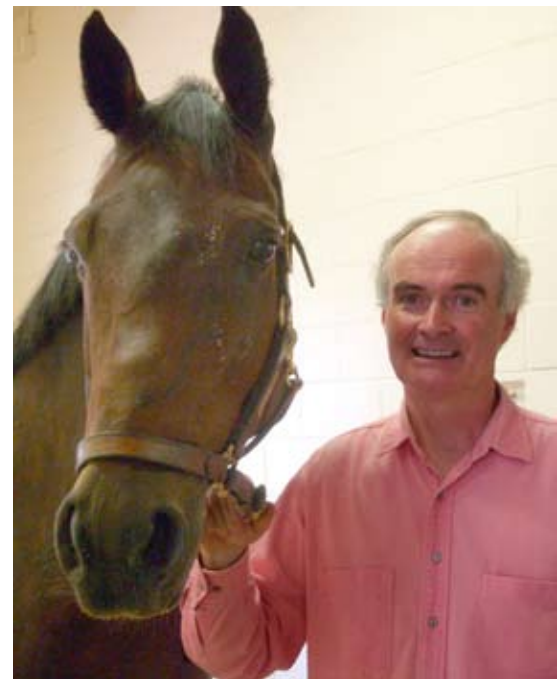
I was deeply honored when our dean, Glen Hoffsis, asked me to serve as Interim Department Chair and Chief of Staff in the Department of Large Animal Clinical Sciences after the departure of Dr. Eleanor Green to Texas A & M University, where she is serving as the Dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences. Over the years, Dr. Green oversaw the growth of a very strong clinical department, with superb faculty, that had established national and international reputations. Unfortunately, we have been the victim of a declining economy, much like everyone else in veterinary medicine. In addition to the economic downturn and the associated decline in caseload, the state of Florida also asked the University to impose a series of budget cuts over recent years.

Despite the current economic climate, our overall attitude towards the future of the department and of the College is one of optimism. We must look at ways to make the best of available resources and to preserve our department functions in research, teaching and service to the highest level possible, and to be prepared for meeting the increased demands on our services when the economy recovers. Our hospital has made some important improvements along those lines, particularly in large animal imaging, as highlighted by our 1.5 Tesla high-field magnetic resonance unit, a recently installed nuclear medicine camera, and our state of the art computed tomography suite. The latter was made possible through kind support from George Steinbrenner and family,

and includes an Aquilion Toshiba 8 slice multidetector-row CT scanner and a specially designed table for large animal patients. Although our large animal studies are limited to the skull and lower extremities, the advantage of this CT scanner is production of high quality images at great speed, so that the associated anesthesia time is shortened considerably. This facilitates planning of any surgery that follows, and allows completion of scanning and surgery during a single anesthetic period, a great improvement in efficiency and in safety for the patient. We have also made some repairs and improvements in our facilities, especially in our large animal surgery suites, again with emphasis on improved efficiency and patient safety.

I accepted Dean Hoffsis' invitation to serve as interim Department Chair provided that I could continue to function as a clinician, investigator, and teacher. I fully realize that some concessions need to be made for administrative responsibilities, but hope that continued involvement in Department missions should prepare me to sustain them with a greater chance of success. This goal has been enormously helped by Dr. Dana Zimmel, who has stepped in as Associate Chief of Staff. Dana and I are fully committed to support our department and hospital and invite you to contact us to discuss your needs and concerns as they arise.

Please be assured, the budget cuts and economic woes that have befallen us and others will not detract from our commitment to provide the highest quality service that our stakeholders deserve. As with all



industries that we serve, we must readjust to the needs of our clients, referring veterinarians and students in the face of new challenges. It is our belief, and one embraced by our college as a whole, that adjusting to the current financial downturns should only produce a stronger unit to serve our friends in the future.

Sincerely,

David Freeman, MVB, DACVS, PhD
*Professor and Interim Chair, Chief of Staff
Large Animal Clinical Sciences*

**UNIVERSITY of
FLORIDA**

Large Animal Medicine

Large Animal Medicine is available for case evaluation and consultation for all of your internal medicine cases. The large animal medicine faculty are Dr. Dana Zimmer, Dr. Chris Sanchez, Dr. Rob MacKay and Dr. Amanda House.



Dr. Dana Zimmer



Dr. Chris Sanchez



Dr. Rob MacKay



Dr. Amanda House

We would like to introduce our residents:

First-Year Large Animal Medicine Resident- Martha Mallicote, DVM

Dr. Mallicote completed her undergraduate work at College of Charleston and received her DVM in 2006 from the University of Tennessee. She has worked primarily with horses in ambulatory and referral hospital settings, most recently completing an internal medicine fellowship at Rood and Riddle Equine Hospital. Since the fall of 2008, she has been an adjunct faculty member of the Veterinary Technology program at Trident Technical College. Dr. Mallicote will be the first-year Large Animal Internal Medicine resident starting July 15th, 2009.



Martha Mallicote

Second-Year Large Animal Medicine Resident- Johanna Elefenbein, DVM

Dr. Elefenbein graduated from Harvard University in 2003 with a degree in Biochemical Sciences and a Citation of Fluency in Italian. She received her DVM degree from the University of Florida in 2007. She completed an internship in Large Animal Medicine and Surgery at the University of Georgia College of Veterinary Medicine. She returned to the University of Florida in 2008 for a residency in Large Animal Internal Medicine.



Johanna Elefenbein

Third-Year Large Animal Medicine Resident- Stephanie Meyer, DVM

Dr. Meyer received her DVM degree as a graduate of the class of 2006 from Texas A&M University. She then completed a one year internship at Pilchuck Veterinary Hospital in Snohomish, Washington in 2007. Dr. Meyer is currently the third-year Large Animal Internal Medicine resident.



Stephanie Meyer

Large Animal Lameness and Imaging

The Equine Lameness and Imaging service is headed-up by Dr. Matt Brokken. Dr. Brokken provides clinical services for all types of horses with performance-limiting injuries. He has extensive knowledge in lameness diagnosis with particular emphasis on the use of Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI). Dr. Brokken will be aided by the large animal surgery residents as well as Dr. Erin Gordon, DVM. Dr. Gordon is a graduate of the University of Florida in 2007 and has been in private practice in Orlando for the past 2 years. She will be returning to her alma mater to perform an Equine Lameness and Imaging internship with Dr. Brokken.



Large Animal Surgery



Dr. Pat Colahan



Dr. Ali Morton



Dr. David Freeman



Dr. Orlaith Cleary



Dr. Matt Brokken



Dr. Murray Brown

Large Animal Surgery is committed to providing quality care to our patients, 24-hour service to our clients and referring veterinarians, and prompt communications to those who wish to consult with us or use our services. We emphasize specialization within our service to capitalize on our strengths and improve our reputation and profile in critical clinical areas.

We have added a lameness/imaging specialist to our group, Dr. Matt Brokken (see above), to complement our existing specialists in that area, but with a greater clinical emphasis and clinical time commitment, thereby improving our visibility to the public and role in our fast growing, state of the art Imaging Center. We also assign a faculty member and resident to a daytime emergency service, so that these critical cases can receive undivided attention, without disruption of our routine scheduled services. Again, in commitment to specialization, the individuals assigned to this duty have a strong interest in critical care medicine and surgery, especially colic.

Our faculty are David Freeman (Service Chief), Murray Brown, Pat Colahan, Ali Morton, Matt Brokken and Sarah Matyjaszek. Sarah is a lecturer, a newly created one-year position that our third-year resident rotates into every year to help with emergency coverage and take the ACVS certifying examination (which all have done successfully at first try). Sarah will be replaced next year by Orlaith Cleary, and our residents are Sarah Graham and Jeremiah Easley. We also have a technician dedicated to our service, Emma Crockett, to improve efficiency and organization of the service, and to improve our clients' experiences when admitting inpatients and outpatients.



Dr. Sarah Graham



Dr. Jeremiah Easley

Large Animal Reproduction



Dr. Malgorzata Pozor



Dr. Margo Macpherson

The Large Animal Reproduction service is in the midst of the breeding season and offering full service capabilities in breeding management of the mare using cooled, shipped semen, frozen semen, embryo transfer and fertility evaluations. On the stallion side, activities include routine semen collection for shipment, fertility evaluation and advanced evaluations of the reproductive tract using ultrasound, endoscopy and behavioral analysis.

Full time faculty members for the Large Animal Reproduction service include Dr. Margo Macpherson and Dr. Malgorzata Pozor. Dr. Macpherson has a special interest in the late pregnant mare. The program at UF is well known for management of high risk mares, including those suffering from placentitis and post partum complications. Dr. Pozor provides expertise in stallions, including imaging of the stallion genitalia for structural and blood flow abnormalities as well as advanced behavioral analysis. Using a team approach, Drs. Pozor and Macpherson are poised to address both routine and unusual cases in equine reproduction.

In addition, the service is currently launching an ambulatory component for reproductive work in the field. Candidates are presently being interviewed for that position. A new face is expected to join the service by mid-summer. Drs. Alana King and Mouhamadou Diaw are the first and second year residents, respectively, in the theriogenology (reproduction) program. Dr. King is a native of Canada and a graduate of the veterinary program at the University of Guelph. Dr. King will sit the board certification examination for the American College of Theriogenologists in August and will then complete her program at Hagyard Davidson and Magee in Lexington, KY. Dr. Diaw, a veterinary graduate from Senegal, will enter the second year of his program at UF. Dr. Diaw brings expertise to the service not only in horses, but also in small ruminant and camelid species.



Dr. Mouhamadou Diaw



Dr. Alana King

Equine Extension and Educational Programs

UF's annual RDVM Appreciation Day Conference will be held on July 18, 2009 at the Gainesville Hilton. Please see our website <http://www.vetmed.ufl.edu/extension/equine/> for registration and program information. We also have our free Equine Lecture Series for horse enthusiasts and professionals beginning again on Thursday, August 20, 2009 at 7 pm with Dr. Matt Brokken. This fall, other lecture topics will include Dr. Huisheng Xie on Acupuncture (September 24), Dr. Dennis Brooks on Fungal Corneal Disease in Florida: Clinical Variations and New Therapies (October 22), and Dr. Amanda House with a Vaccination Update (November 19). We also have many health care articles and links for both you and your clients under the Publications section of our equine extension website (<http://www.vetmed.ufl.edu/extension/Equine/publications.html>).

MEDS

The Mobile Equine Diagnostic Service (MEDS) is continuing to provide referral services related to poor performance, lameness, and chronic diseases (musculoskeletal, cardiovascular, respiratory, GI, and neurologic). In the field technology, including platelet-rich plasma, bone marrow-derived stem cell, extracorporeal shockwave, digital radiography, video endoscopy, and digital ultrasound. Call Dr. Porter @ 352-258-3571 for added information and appointments.

Ophthalmology

Ophthalmology is actively seeking horses with corneal ulcers, immune mediated keratitis, cataracts, stromal abscesses, glaucoma, and equine recurrent uveitis. Our research in corneal transplantation, amnion membrane grafting, phacoemulsification with intraocular lens placement, cyclosporine implants, and fungal ulceration in horses continues to make us an international leader in the treatment of horses with eye problems.

Dermatology

The dermatology service is proud to announce the recent hire of Dr. Stefano Toma as our new clinical instructor. Dr. Toma will join us at the end of July from Europe. Allergy season is here and we look forward to providing you with consults on your patients with skin disease. If you would like to send your patients for allergy testing or simply would like to have a second opinion, we are just a phone call away (Dr. Marsella 352-392 2226 ext. 5277).

Acupuncture

Drs. Rob MacKay, Huisheng Xie, Jorge Hernandez and Carolina Medina will be conducting a research project this summer: Does Combined Treatment with Acupuncture and Herbal Medicine Cure Anhidrosis? A Controlled Study. They are recruiting horses for this project and would appreciate your help if you have horses that fit the following criteria.

This project will start on June 1, 2009 and end on October 31, 2009. We need horses and ponies at least 12 months old that are otherwise healthy but diagnosed with Anhidrosis (non-sweating). The diagnosis must be based on clinical signs and an intradermal terbutaline sweat test (to be performed during the project). Horses must be affected with non-sweating for at least one month but less than 2 years from the start of the project. The horses will receive 30 days of treatment with either the devised treatment protocol or sham protocol. Other treatments for non-sweating must cease 7 days prior to the beginning of the study. In addition to the treatment, horses will be subjected to an intradermal terbutaline sweat test prior to the study, after 30 days of treatment and 30 days after ceasing treatment. The treatments will be conducted at the farm/barn where the horses are kept. This project was selected based on the results of a retrospective study that looked at the non-sweating cases that were treated by the Acupuncture Service from 2004 to 2007. The results of this study showed that Acupuncture and Chinese herbal therapy significantly reduced the clinical signs associated with non-sweating.

If you have any questions or would like to enroll a horse in this study please feel free to contact Dr. Carolina Medina (medinac@vetmed.ufl.edu) or Linda Lee-Ambrose (ambrosel@vetmed.ufl.edu).

FARMS

The Food Animal Reproduction and Medicine Service: *Over the last two years the Food Animal Reproduction and Medicine Service has developed, received College approval and implemented a certificate program in Food Animal Veterinary Medicine.*

There is a shortage of food supply (food-animal) veterinarians; this is an important national issue that extends beyond the State of Florida. The need for well trained veterinarians in the area of food supply veterinary medicine has been identified as critical. To encourage the development of students and future practitioners capable of providing professional service to the area of food-animal veterinarian medicine, a certificate in Food Animal Veterinary Medicine (FAVM) has been developed, approved through the curriculum committee, faculty assembly and offered to interested students. The program is administered by the Food Animal Reproduction and Medicine Service in the Department of Large Animal Clinical Sciences. Students participating in the certificate program are mentored through didactic, clinical and extracurricular activities (including many weekend wet labs) that provide a strong entry level training in food supply veterinary medicine.

Students who successfully complete this program receive a certificate at graduation that documents their advanced and directed training in FAVM. This certificate identifies the new graduate veterinarian as an employment prospect for an entry level position in food animal practice or a food systems profession. The certificate provides students an edge in employment readiness due to their dedication, work ethic and commitment to the certification process. They are better prepared to provide leadership in the area of food systems veterinary medicine. This process also prepares the way for specialty training in an internship and/or residency program and (or) advanced training in a graduate education (MS, PhD) program.

As we approach the one-year mark of the program's implementation, we have 18 students (with more anticipated) actively pursuing the certificate program. A larger number of students are also taking advantage of the additional training opportunities, i.e., wet labs, field trips, speakers, provided in conjunction with the certificate program.