From the President

Cory Brayton, DVM, ACLAM
2014 ACVP President


I am honored to serve as President of an organization of colleagues that I admire so much. ACVP has 22 active committees, multiple subcommittees, and 5 task forces in 2014, with more than 300 participating Diplomates, from among 1,900 active members. AVMA and ABVS developments, new technologies, and the economy have all contributed to upcoming and ongoing changes in the exam, the meeting, and the journal.

These changes represent exciting as well as challenging opportunities to grow and improve our college. ACVP officers, committees, and task forces work hard to increase the value of ACVP membership to its members, and to increase the recognition of pathology in clinical practice, biomedical research, and public health, in One Medicine and One Health. You can learn more about the committees and their activities at http://acvp.org/members/CommitteeInfo.cfm, and contact committee chairs to get involved.

Major initiatives in 2014 involve the examination (discussed further in Dr. Topper’s message in this newsletter), upcoming Maintenance of Certification (MOC) (more at http://acvp.org/members/CommitteeInfo.cfm, thejournal, and our joint meeting with ASVCP and ASIP in Atlanta, November 9-14, 2014). The Veterinary Pathology Strategic Plan Implementation task force is working with the journal’s 2012 strategic plan (at http://acvp.org/members/documents.cfm). The VP Contract Renewal task force is working on the journal’s publishing contract. Another task force is looking into feasibility and strategies for case report publication, with greater benefit to authors, students, members, and with more impact on the broader veterinary and biomedical community. The Shared Resources task force is working with ASVCP, ASIP, and... continued on page 2

The Secretary/Treasurer’s Corner

Michael J. Topper, DVM, PhD
Secretary/Treasurer

Certifying Examination Updates

In this section, I want to give the membership some updates on various aspects of the Certifying Examination.

Two-Phase Examination

The first strategic goal in the current ACVP Strategic Plan (http://www.acvp.org/members/docs/ACVP%202012-2017 %20Strategic%20Plan.pdf) is to “Uphold the high standards of veterinary pathology by advancing American College of Veterinary Pathologists (ACVP) certification as the premier credential in the field of veterinary pathology.” To facilitate this, Council formed the Certifying Examination Board (CEB) chaired by Keith Harris. The CEB was tasked with the implementation of a two-phase certifying examination, and this task was discussed at the Town Hall Meetings of the past two ACVP Annual Meetings. Beginning in 2015, the certifying examination will transition to a two-phase format. The detailed information on this can be found on the website at http://www.acvp.org/residents/Exam/2014/ACVP_CEB_2-part_announce_21-Jan-2014.pdf, with the frequently asked questions answered at http://www.acvp.org/residents/Exam/TwoPartExamFAQ.cfm. The General Pathology section (Phase I) will be administered as an Internet-based examination in regional North American and international testing centers in March of each year. The remaining sections of the examination (Phase II) will be administered in Ames, IA in September of each year. Phase II will be administered in partnership with Castle Worldwide Inc. (Castle), a certification and licensing testing company. Castle utilizes more than 500 testing locations throughout the United States and Canada, as well as more than 225 international testing centers. This information has been disseminated to the Training Program Committee and Network.

continued on page 2

On the Inside:

Page 3
- Community Outreach
- Student Chapter Award
- Thank You

Pages 4-7
- 2013 Annual Meeting Awards and Recognition

Pages 8-9
- 2013 Meeting Snapshots
- Obituaries

Page 10
- ACVP joins VCS in a Joint Venture of the Oncology-Pathology Working Group
- Members in the News

Page 11
- A Young Killer Whale Presents Opportunity of a Lifetime for Judy St. Leger and Her Team

Page 12
- Dr. Corrie Brown Wins Prestigious XLIIth International Veterinary Congress Prize

Pages 13
- A Young Killer Whale Presents Opportunity of a Lifetime for Judy St. Leger and Her Team

Page 14
- Extern Scholarship Reports

Page 15
- 2014 Call for Abstracts
other organizations to take better advantage of new technologies and resources that will mutually benefit the organizations and their members.

Website upgrades will accommodate MOC tracking and will offer more utility and resources for ACVP members. All of these changes are accomplished by ACVP members who invest their time and effort (service), apply their expertise, research, and analytical skills to these challenges, and then subject their ideas and efforts to the generous critical analysis of their ACVP colleagues. Continued growth and improvement of ACVP and its activities also require investment of ACVP financial resources, and there is great effort to be fiscally responsible and judicious in an economically-challenging environment. You're invited. Help us to help us. Get involved, reach out to officers, committee members and chairs, respond to member surveys, and vote.


Examination Passing Point
Another task for the CEB from the Strategic Plan was to conduct a cut-score analysis for the determination of the examination passing point. This will be performed this August. The detailed information on this is at http://www.acvp.org/residents/Exam/passingpoint.cfm. There will be three primary changes to the candidate's examination experience. First, 60% may not be the passing point for each section of the examination. Second, examination results will not be available as quickly as they have in the past. It will take several weeks (currently estimated as less than two weeks) before results are available to candidates. It will take this amount of time for the psychometricians to conduct their statistical evaluation of the test-related data and make a recommendation to Council for setting the passing point. Third, because of the need to reuse a significant number of test items from year-to-year in support of the equating process, the current practice of reviewing test items from previous examinations at the annual meeting will need to be restructured so that candidates and training program coordinators are provided a solid understanding of examination structure and content without compromising the integrity of future examinations.

Bylaw Revisions Approved
The American Board of Veterinary Specialties (ABVS), which accredits the ACVP as a specialty organization, recommended that the College clarify its appeal process. Using the suggested wording in the ABVS Policies and Procedures Manual, the Bylaws were revised and submitted to the members for approval. The amended Bylaws were approved on 3 January 2014 and can be found at http://www.acvp.org/members/pdf/Bylaws_FINAL.pdf.
Community Outreach at Le Coffre aux trésors du Chainon

Thank you to all of the ACVP members who donated to or assisted with our second annual community outreach activity during the 2013 annual ACVP conference in Montreal, Quebec. The idea of “giving back” to the city hosting the ACVP annual conference was initiated by Maxey Wellman in 2012, when the college rallied ACVP members to volunteer at a local soup kitchen in Seattle.

This year, 17 ACVP members and other meeting attendees spent Saturday afternoon helping organize merchandise at Le Coffre Aux Tresors Du Chainon, a local store in downtown Montreal that offers used and new merchandise at very low prices. The goods are donated by members of the community, and the revenue from these sales is the primary source of funding for Le Chainon, the local women’s shelter. The store was quite grateful for the assistance received, and ACVP members truly enjoyed the experience.

The third annual ACVP community outreach activity will be held in Atlanta during the 2014 conference. If you are interested in participating, watch for additional information in future newsletters. Also, be sure to look for information on the 2014 annual conference registration form to sign up and participate.

Thank you, again, to the 2013 ACVP Community Outreach Activity participants. Thanks to Wendy Coe, Jane Shepard, and Maxey Wellman and staff from Le Coffre Aux Tresors Du Chainon for their assistance in organizing a successful event!

Student Chapter Award Thank You

Thanks to the generous Student Chapter award from the American College of Veterinary Pathologists, three students from the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine (VMRCVM) were able to attend the ACVP annual meeting in Montréal this year. We were able to attend the opening reception, peruse posters and visit exhibitors in the exhibit hall, attend a variety of scientific sessions, and learn about student opportunities in pathology at the Veterinary Student Luncheon, the “Meet the Pathologists” session, and the Student-Resident Forum. One of our attendees was lucky enough to win a raffle prize at the Student Luncheon. Additionally, all three attendees from the VMRCVM student ACVP chapter prepared posters for the Veterinary Student Poster Session.

As all three attendees from our chapter this year are interested in pursuing pathology residencies, we especially appreciated the opportunities to meet and network with residents and residency coordinators from a variety of programs. Additional highlights included Dr. Martineau’s presentation on “The life and death of Beluga whales inhabiting the St. Lawrence estuary (Quebec, Canada)” at the first Natural Disease scientific session on Sunday morning, the Neuropathology Mystery Slides session on Sunday evening, and the ACVP/ASCVP Joint Plenary Session on Epigenetics on Monday morning. The ACVP Gross and Microscopic Examination Slide Review on Monday afternoon gave us a (somewhat terrifying) glimpse into what will hopefully be our future.

We are very grateful for the support that ACVP provided our chapter. We would not have been able to attend the meeting without it. All attendees agreed that the meeting was both educational and fun. We very much appreciate the ACVP’s demonstrated commitment to promoting student engagement, as evidenced by the student chapter awards and a full slate of veterinary student-oriented programming and networking opportunities at the meeting. We are looking forward to 2014 in Atlanta!

Sincerely,
Linda Huang (Class of 2014),
Charles Alex (Class of 2015), and
Vanessa Wallace (Class of 2016);
Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine
Distinguished Member Awards Presented at the Annual Meeting

A Diplomate of the College who has rendered exceptionally distinguished service to the College or who has contributed in an exemplary manner to veterinary pathology is accorded the status of Distinguished Member. The ACVP Council recognized Drs. Brian Summers and Steven Weisbrode in 2013 with this status.

Pictured are 2013 Distinguished Member Dr. Brian Summers (l) along with Dr. Andrew Miller (r) who supported his nomination.

Pictured are 2013 Distinguished Member Dr. Steven Weisbrode (r) along with Dr. Nathaniel Collins (l) who nominated him.

Honorary Member Award Presented at the Annual Meeting

A person who has contributed in any extraordinary manner to the advancement of veterinary pathology, but is not a Diplomate, may be elected by a majority vote of the Council and confirmed by a majority of the members of the College. Dr. George Lees was recognized in 2013 as an Honorary Member.

Special Recognition Award

President Maxey Wellman presents the Special Recognition Award to Kimberly Topper for her enthusiasm and volunteer hours spent on the Silent Auction and the VIP Program.
2013 Presidential Awards

At the ACVP Awards and Recognition Program on Tuesday, November 19, 2013, Drs. Amanda Fales-Williams, Anne Ryan and Elizabeth Whitley received Presidential Awards from President Maxey Wellman. The ACVP President gives the Presidential Award based on a nominee providing notably valuable service to the College that clearly exceeds normal expectations. Presidential Awards are bestowed by the ACVP President with ACVP Council approval.

Mid-Career Excellence Award Update

The inaugural Mid-Career Excellence Award was given to Thijs Kuiken, DVM, Ph.D., at the 2013 Annual Meeting. Along with the recognition certificate, recipients receive a $5,000 award to be used at their discretion. Dr. Kuiken has designated his award to be given to the Dutch Society for Wildlife Health, which he co-founded several years ago. Specifically, the award will establish a fund for invited speakers at annual conferences to present research on wildlife health and/or conservation where veterinary pathology has played a substantial role. This is truly a gift that will keep on giving.

Appreciation of Service

ACVP President Maxey Wellman thanks Dr. Carl Alden for his service as the Editor-in-Chief of Veterinary Pathology at the Awards and Recognition Program held on November 19, 2013 at the ACVP Annual Meeting in Montréal.

Change in Officers

Outgoing President Maxey Wellman (r) and 2014 President Cory Brayton (l) take a moment for a picture before the Presidential Reception begins.
ACVP/AAVLD Diagnostic Pathology Travel Award

The American College of Veterinary Pathologists (ACVP) and the American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians (AAVLD) encourage trainees in veterinary pathology to participate in the Annual Meetings of both organizations. The Diagnostic Pathology Travel Award is available to graduate students and/or residents in veterinary pathology for participation in the Annual Meeting of the AAVLD. A scholarship of $1,000 was awarded to the following individual:

Jamie Rothenburger, University of Saskatchewan

Lesions Associated with Capillaria Sp. in the Forestomach of Wild Urban Rattus Norvegicus and Rattus Rattus

J.L. Rothenburger1, F.A. Leighton1, M. Lejeune1, P.M. Treuting1 and C.G. Himsworth2,3,4

1Department of Veterinary Pathology and Canadian Cooperative Wildlife Health Centre, Western College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, SK; 2Canadian Cooperative Wildlife Health Centre, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Calgary, Calgary, AB; 3Department of Comparative Medicine, School of Medicine, University of Washington, Seattle, WA; 4Animal Health Centre, British Columbia Ministry of Agriculture, Abbotsford, BC; 5School of Population and Public Health, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC; 6Canadian Cooperative Wildlife Health Centre, Animal Health Centre, Abbotsford, BC

Judges:
Thomas Cecere, DVM, PhD*
Robert A. Foster, BVS,c, PhD*
Murray J. Hazlett, DVM, DVS,c*
Margaret A. Miller, DVM, PhD*

ACVP Young Investigator Awards

Diagnostic Pathology

1st Place: Zoltan Demeter, University of Illinois

Congenital Spongiform Leukodystrophy in Two Female Littermate German Shepherd Puppies

Z. Demeter1,2, D.W. Hague3, D.A. Coleman3, and S. Lezmi1,2

1Department of Pathobiology, University of Illinois, Urbana, IL; 2Department of Veterinary Clinical Medicine, University of Illinois, Urbana, IL; 3Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, University of Illinois, Urbana, IL

2nd Place: Jessica Beck, Purdue University

Multifocal Idiopathic Nodular Bone Formation in the Dermis and Subcutis of a Cynomolgus Macaque (Macaca Fascicularis)

J.A. Beck1, J.F. Lane2, R.C. Smedley3, S.M. Howell1, P.R. Morales4, J.L. Wagner5

1Department of Comparative Pathobiology, Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana; 2Hamam Ranch, La Belle, Florida; 3Diagnostic Center for Population and Animal Health, Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan; 4Mannheimer Foundation Inc., Homestead, Florida

3rd Place: Meaghan Broman, Purdue University

Small Intestinal Muscularis Thickening in Dogs: Correlation of Histologic and Ultrasonographic Findings

M.M. Broman1, M.A. Miller1, J.D. Ruth2, H.G. Heng3

1Departments of Comparative Pathobiology and Veterinary Clinical Sciences3, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN

Experimental Disease

1st Place: Heather Tillman, National Cancer Institute

Deregulation of the RAS Signaling Axis Promotes Metastasis Via the NFKB Pathway in the PTEN-I-TP53-I-Mouse Prostate Cancer Model

Heather S. Tillman, Juan Juan Yin, Yen-Nien Liu, Musaddiq Awan, Orla Casey, Paul Hynes, Philip Martin, and Kathleen Kelly

Cell and Cancer Biology Branch, National Cancer Institute, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, MD

2nd Place: Naoyuki Aihara, Azabu University

Identification of Cryoglobulin-Producing Cells in a Capillariha Hepatitis-a-Infected Cryoglobulinemia Mouse Model

N. Aihara, M. Yamada, J. Kamei, and K. Shirota

Laboratory of Veterinary Pathology, School of Veterinary Medicine, Azabu University, Sagamihara, Kanagawa, Japan

3rd Place: Chandrassegar Saravanan,

Molecular Characterization of a Novel Dietary Mouse Model or Nonalcoholic Steatohepatitis

C. Saravanan1, C. Spence2, J. Trevaskis2, X. Wang2, JR. Galameau1, W. Chutkow2 and K. Mansfield1

Novartis Institute for Biomedical Research, Cambridge, MA

Judges:
Gillian L. Beamer, VMD, PhD*
Lisa Berman-Booty, VMD, PhD*
Richard Luong, BVS,c
Joshua Webster, DVM, PhD*

Natural Disease

1st Place: Molly Church, University of California, Davis

Gene Expression and Tissue Tropism of Natural Raccoon Polyomavirus (RACPYV) Infection

M. Church, F. Dela Cruz Jr., and P. Pesavento, University of California, Davis

2nd Place: Jamie Rothenburger, University of Saskatchewan

Survey of Respiratory Pathology in Wild Urban Rattus Norvegicus and Rattus Rattus

J.L. Rothenburger1, C.B. Clifford2, F.A. Leighton1,3, P.M. Treuting4, C.G. Himsworth5,6,7

1Western College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, SK; 2Charles River, Wilmington, WA; 3Canadian Cooperative Wildlife Health Centre, Saskatoon, SK; 4School of Medicine, University of Washington, Seattle, WA; 5Animal Health Centre, British Columbia Ministry of Agriculture, Abbotsford, BC; 6School of Population and Public Health, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC; 7Canadian Cooperative Wildlife Health Centre, Animal Health Centre, Abbotsford, BC
STP Student Poster Award
Charles Halsey, Colorado State University
Development of an In Vitro Model of Acquired Resistance to Toceranib Phosphate (Palladia®) in Canine Mast Cell Tumor

Student Poster Award Judges:
Wayne Dochterman, DVM*
Jessica S. Hoane, DVM*
Keith G. Nelson, DVM, PhD*

Veterinary Student Poster Awards

Clinical Case Report/Series
Megan Schreeg, University of Missouri
Cytauxzoon Felix Cytochrome B Pharmacogenomics: Development of a Rapid Cytochrome B Genotyping Assay Using High Resolution Melt Analysis
M.E. Schreeg¹, H.S. Marr¹, J. Tarigo¹, L.A. Cohn¹, M.G. Levy¹, and A.J. Birkenheuer¹
¹Department of Clinical Sciences, North Carolina State College of Veterinary Medicine, Raleigh, NC and ²Department of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery, University of Missouri College of Veterinary Medicine, Columbia, MO

Clinical Series/Case Judges:
Bruce E. LeRoy, DVM, PhD*
Elizabeth W. Uhl, DVM, PhD*

Experimental Disease
Yeu Kouch, Stanford University
Is Toxoplasma-Induced Chronic Wasting in Mice Caused by Immune-Mediated Pathological Changes in the Gut or Changes in Commensal Microbiota?
Y.M. Kouch, S.E. Ewald¹, J.L. Sonnenburg¹, and J.C. Boothroyd¹, and D.M. Bouley²
¹Department of Microbiology and Immunology, ²Department of Comparative Medicine, Stanford School of Medicine, Stanford, CA

Judges:
Amanda J. Fales-Williams, DVM, PhD*
Janet C. Patterson-Kane, BVSc, PhD*

ACVP/ASIP Meeting Travel Award
Famke Aeffner, The Ohio State University
Mice Heterozygous for the F508del Mutation in the Cystic Fibrosis Transmembrane Conductance Regulator Anion Channel Display Attenuated Cardiopulmonary Dysfunction and Lung Injury After Influenza H1N1 Infection
F. Aeffner¹, L.M. Joseph¹, A.A. Gaughan¹, B. Abdulrahman¹, J.M. Hickman-Davis¹, P. Janssen¹, D. Hayes¹, A. Ameri¹, D.M. Bedwell¹, E.J. Sorscher², I.C. Davis¹
¹Departments of Veterinary Biosciences; ²Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine; ³Veterinary Preventive Medicine; and ⁴Physiology and Cell Biology, The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH, USA; ⁵Nationwide Childrens Hospital, Columbus, OH, USA; Departments of Microbiology and ⁶Medicine, University of Alabama at Birmingham, Birmingham, AL
ACVP Newsletter • March 2014

ACVP & ASVCP 2013 Annual Meeting
November 16-20, 2013
Montréal, QC, Canada

Montréal
ACVP Newsletter • March 2014

ACVP & ASVCP
2013 Annual Meeting
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Obituaries

Choudari (Vera) Kommineni

Choudari (Vera) Kommineni, DVM, Ph.D., MD, DACVP, of Tenali, India and formerly of Morgantown, WV, passed away on December 22, 2013. Dr. Kommineni received his veterinary degree from the University of Madras in 1962, a MS in Microbiology and Immunology from the University of Wisconsin in 1965, and a Ph.D. in Pathology and Microbiology from the University of Nebraska in 1972. He became a Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Pathologists in 1975 and was board-certified in toxicology by the American Board of Toxicology in 1981. He was a Veterinary Medical Officer with the Food and Drug Administration from 1973-1974, at the Environmental Protection Agency from 1974-1976, and at the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) of the Centers for Disease Control from 1976 to 1980. From 1980 to 1994, he was a Senior Pathologist at Mobile Oil Corporation. In 1996, he became the first team leader of the Experimental Pathology team in the Pathology and Physiology Research Branch in the newly-established Health Effects Laboratory Division of NIOSH in Morgantown, WV. Under his wise leadership, the team flourished and became highly productive. In 2002, Dr. Kommineni left NIOSH to further his contributions to public health by obtaining a MD degree. He was a great mentor and a prolific writer with more than 50 scientific publications.

Dr. Kommineni’s commitment to helping people extended well beyond his scientific achievements in public health. His record of kindness both professionally and personally is remarkable. He was a lifetime benefactor of ACVP, established the Choudari Kommineni DVM, PhD, Professorship of Pathology at the University of Nebraska, founded the Kommineni Atchuta Narayana Veterinary Hospital, established and funded a girls’ school in India, helped establish a small hospital near his home town, and provided support for numerous educational scholarships, including a full scholarship through graduation for an orphaned girl in Thailand.

Judith A. Taylor

Judith (Judy) A. Taylor, DVM, DVSc, Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Pathologists, passed away on Sunday, January 26, 2014. She left behind her husband, Richard, and children, Lauren, Brandon, and Ryan along with her canine companions, Belle and Dallas. Judy was energetic and highly professional in all that she did. She was an expert in clinical pathology and worked in various capacities, including serving as special graduate faculty, at the Ontario Veterinary College, University of Guelph, where she did research and teaching at the graduate and undergraduate levels. Over her career, she published numerous scientific articles and had many presentations at conferences. Judy was an active participant in the provision of continuing education seminars for veterinarians and technicians. In recent years, she focused on diagnostic and toxicological pathology, working as a consulting clinical pathologist for Medi Cal/Royal Canin Veterinary Diets, Vice President and consulting pathologist for CanBioPharma Consulting Inc., and President and consulting pathologist for LabVet Consultations Inc. Throughout her career, Judy was an exceptionally strong and compassionate mentor and an incredibly supportive colleague to many. A full obituary may be found at http://www.lifenews.ca/announcement/4339725-taylor-dr-judith-annette-nee-val.

Peter S. MacWilliams

Peter S. MacWilliams, age 68, died on January 1, 2014. Dr. MacWilliams was born in Concord, New Hampshire, but was primarily raised in Pleasant Valley, New York. He received his DVM from Cornell University in 1969, worked in a mixed animal practice until 1971, and a large animal practice from 1972-1973. He earned a residency certificate in clinical pathology and a doctorate from the University of Saskatchewan in 1972 and 1978, respectively. He was certified as a diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Pathologists (Clinical Pathology) in 1980. Dr. MacWilliams served on the faculty of the Western College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Saskatchewan from 1978-1979, and the School of Veterinary Medicine, Louisiana State University from 1979-1981, before moving to Madison, Wisconsin, to become Director of Clinical Pathology for Hazleton Laboratories (now Covance), and then Associate Professor of Clinical Pathology at the School of Veterinary Medicine, University of Wisconsin-Madison, in 1989. He retired as Professor of Clinical Pathology in 2007 and worked with the Marshfield Labs (Veterinary Services) until 2011.

At the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Dr. MacWilliams was a strong and capable leader, serving as Chair of the School’s Strategic Planning Committee, Chief of Staff for Diagnostic Services in the VMTH, Faculty Advisor for SCAVMA, and in many other positions. Dedicated to his specialty area and to organized veterinary medicine, he was Chair of the ACVP Examination Committee (1988-1989), a long-time member of the ASVCP, and President of the Wisconsin Veterinary Medical Association (1996). He was named WVMA Veterinarian of the Year in 1998 and received the Walter F. Rank Distinguished Professor Award in 2002.

Teaching was Dr. MacWilliams’ greatest passion, and he was much beloved by students at all stages of their careers. He received the Norden (then Pfizer, now Zoetis) Distinguished Teacher Award multiple times at Wisconsin and was nationally recognized in 2005. He was awarded the Student AVMA Teaching Award in both basic and clinical sciences, and received the Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Teaching in 1994. Students often selected him to deliver the keynote address at their graduation. Residents, graduate students, veterinary technicians, medical technologists, practicing veterinarians, and fellow faculty were all beneficiaries of his commitment, passion, and gifts as a teacher.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to be made in the name of Peter S. MacWilliams for a future scholarship fund to the UW Foundation, and sent to Kristi Thorson, School of Veterinary Medicine, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 2015 Linden Drive, Madison, WI 53706.
ACVP joins VCS in a Joint Venture of the Oncology-Pathology Working Group

The Oncology-Pathology Working Group (OPWG) was established in 2011 within the Veterinary Cancer Society with two primary missions: 1) to foster and promote an integrated working relationship between veterinary oncologists (medical, surgical, and radiation) and pathologists (anatomic and clinical), and 2) to facilitate and ensure the highest standard of pathology support and reporting for the advancement of veterinary clinical oncology and cancer research.

As the field of veterinary oncology and various therapeutic options have continued to advance, the integration of these two disciplines has become increasingly important. Therapeutic decisions are no longer solely dependent upon tumor type (histogenesis) and stage but more and more rely on prognostic parameters, such as tumor grade, margins, mitotic index, and molecular biomarkers with proven clinical outcomes. Reliance on prognostic factors will continue to evolve, as will the area of predictive markers--molecular signatures that directly impact therapeutic choices based on a drug's target and mechanism of action. As optimal therapeutic decisions in the best interest of the cancer patient become more reliant on pathological processes and molecular phenotype, it is essential that the discipline of pathology keep pace in order to provide optimal and requisite diagnostic support. Additionally, it is as, if not more, critical to strive to establish intra- and inter-laboratory, standardized approaches and reporting to address and achieve uniformity, consistency, and integrity within oncologic diagnostic pathology on a national and global scale.

To this end, while fostering a vital interdisciplinary relationship, it is the larger mission of the OPWG to collaboratively establish consensus documents with the primary goal of standardizing aspects of and providing guidelines for various parameters of species-specific tumors in oncologic pathology based on critical review of the literature. In doing so, the OPWG holds an additional mission of recognizing areas of weakness or deficiency requiring further investigation and/or stronger data and to propose such studies be considered and adopted by institutions or groups interested in doing so.

For more information about the OWPG, please visit www.vetcancersociety.org/members/opwg/. If interested in becoming a member and working with the OWPG, please download the Membership Application Form, which can be found at the website above, and submit to opwg.vcs@gmail.com.

The next annual business meeting of the OPWG will be held during the annual 2014 ACVP/ASVCP conference in November in Atlanta, GA. Join us and learn more about the missions and activities of the OPWG! We hope to see you there.

Debra Kamstock, DVM PhD Dipl. ACVP
President, OPWG

Members in the News

James Carpenter - Stange Award for Meritorious Service

James Carpenter, DVM, emeritus Diplomate of the ACVP, received the Stange Award for Meritorious Service from Iowa State University.

Dr. Carpenter has held positions at Harvard University, Tufts University, and the University of Pennsylvania. Most of his career was spent at Angell Memorial Animal Hospital in Boston, where he was an intern, staff veterinarian, director of clinics, and head of the pathology department.

Dr. Carpenter was instrumental in the initial recognition and reporting of conditions and diseases such as canine parvovirus, feline hyperthyroidism, lead poisoning, and xanthomatous keratitis in Cuban tree frogs. His book section on tumors of the cat in “Diseases of the Cat” is still widely used as a reference by veterinary oncologists and pathologists.

Steven Stockham - Veterinary Clinical Pathology Hall of Fame Award

Dr. Steven Stockham (KSU ‘72), Professor of veterinary clinical pathology at the Kansas State University College of Veterinary Medicine, is the 2013 recipient of the Veterinary Clinical Pathology Hall of Fame Award from the European Society of Veterinary Clinical Pathology. Award qualifications include having practiced clinical pathology for 25 years or more and having made substantial contributions to the profession.

Dr. Stockham was recognized for his roles as an educator of veterinary students and clinical pathology residents, for his numerous contributions to the discipline, for co-authoring the textbook “Fundamentals of Veterinary Clinical Pathology,” and for his annual review of the certifying examination of the European College of Veterinary Clinical Pathology.

Dr. Stockham became a Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Pathologists in clinical pathology in 1980. He taught at Michigan State University and the University of Missouri-Columbia. In 2001, he returned to KSU with the primary responsibilities of teaching second-year veterinary students, training clinical pathology residents, and providing diagnostic services in the Clinical Pathology Laboratory. He is also an honorary member of the European College of Veterinary Clinical Pathology.
Dr. Corrie Brown Wins Prestigious XIIth International Veterinary Congress Prize

Because of her contributions to an international understanding of veterinary medicine, University of Georgia Professor and ACVP diplomat, Corrie Brown, recently received the XIIth International Veterinary Congress Prize from the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA). The prize, given annually, recognizes outstanding global service by an AVMA member.

Dr. Brown, a professor of anatomic pathology in the Department of Pathology at University of Georgia’s College of Veterinary Medicine, has worked for more than 25 years building international animal health infrastructure and diagnostics. She specifically studies emerging diseases, pathogenesis of diseases in food-producing animals, and diagnostic infrastructure in developing countries.

But don’t expect her to rest on her laurels any time soon. Using her Fulbright Senior Scholar Teaching/Research Award, Dr. Brown recently worked at the Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST), in Irbid, Jordan, for 5 months. “JUST is one of the largest universities in the Middle East, and has excellent schools of human medicine, veterinary medicine, and engineering,” said Dr. Brown. “I taught general pathology to second year veterinary medical students and coordinated a seminar series for graduate students on global issues in animal health.” She also worked with the Head of the Pathology Department and the founding Dean of the JUST College of Veterinary Medicine, Dr. Nabil Hailat, on development of pathology-based diagnostic tests for trans-boundary animal diseases. “Jordan has experienced a recent influx of these transboundary animal diseases, largely as a result of refugees moving with their animals, from Syria, Iraq, and Palestine,” said Dr. Brown. “The tests developed will also enhance the US capacity to diagnose these diseases, should they be introduced onto US soil.”

Dr. Brown credits UGA for international opportunities

“I feel so fortunate to be at the UGA where it is possible to continually improve yourself by taking advantage of all the opportunities the organization provides. The Study in a Second Discipline enhanced my capacity for international work considerably, and then a Senior Teaching Fellowship helped me hone skills for delivering workshops in international settings. Now, after taking university Arabic classes for the last two years, I hope to be able to lay the groundwork for continuing and expanding UGA involvement in animal health in the Middle East.”

Why the Middle East? Dr. Brown points out that the Middle East is full of emerging economies and civil strife. “That makes it really important, for the global economy, as well as for national and international security. Helping to support human capacity and infrastructure development is a key factor in ensuring a stable civil society, which should, in turn, create better national economies and opportunities for all. And it’s probably a part of the world that we understand the least.”

In his recommendation letter for the award, Diplomate Dr. Keith Harris says, “Dr. Brown is dedicated to internationalizing the profession; she has held multiple grants, from the US Department of Education (USDA), the US Department of Defense (DoD), and the US Department of Agriculture (USDA), to send veterinary students overseas. At least 70 UGA veterinary students have traveled overseas on externships funded by Dr. Brown’s programs. She also spearheaded the International Certificate Program in Veterinary Medicine here at the University of Georgia, creating a path for veterinary students interested in global affairs to develop a portfolio that prepares them for international work. This certificate program was approved by UGA in 2000, and since then, several other colleges of veterinary medicine around the country have adopted similar programs.”

Before coming to UGA, Dr. Brown was head of the pathology section with the U.S. Department of Agriculture at Plum Island, where she specialized in the diagnosis and pathogenesis of trans-boundary animal diseases. Prior to that appointment, she was an assistant professor of pathology at Louisiana State University. Dr. Brown holds a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree from the University of Guelph. In 1986, she completed a combined residency and Doctorate in comparative pathology at the University of California, Davis.

Dr. Brown has conducted workshops in multiple countries, funded by USDA, USAID, DoD, or UN-FAO. At last count, she had delivered workshops on animal health infrastructure and diagnostics in 30 different countries. She is fluent in Portuguese, Spanish, and French and is now hard at work studying Arabic.

Dr. Brown’s work is making a global impact

Dr. Harris points out that in addition to her enthusiasm and interests, there is also undeniable impact. “Her efforts at rebuilding animal health in Afghanistan and Iraq have resulted in several USDA awards. She also received an award from the Afghan Veterinary Association for her work there, and was made an honorary lifetime member of that organization. Her book, Field Manual on Sample Collection to Enhance Diagnosis of Animal Disease, has been distributed to every veterinarian in Afghanistan.”

However, Dr. Harris says that he is most familiar with her work with the DoD, preparing veterinarians for deployments in resource-poor settings. Working with key DoD personnel, Dr. Brown has worked with military veterinarians to create a set of courses aimed at educating US military and Public Health Service specialists for overseas work. These “Veterinary Support to Stability Operations” courses, held at UGA, have been very successful and are serving to move the military away from the traditional type of clinical animal health work to a stronger focus on building capacity through sustainable public-private partnerships.

When asked why she does what she does, Dr. Brown says simply, “We’re all in this together. I hope many ACVP colleagues will join me in more global outreach. To be competitive and relevant today, this kind of work is not only important, it’s necessary for a better future for all. Also, it’s fun!”
September 3, 2013 was just another day for Judy St. Leger, Director of Pathology and Research for SeaWorld – until she got the call from Alaska. The call: a young killer whale calf washed up on St. Paul Island in the Bering Sea. The dead whale was 7 feet, 3 inches long, weighed just 300 pounds, and was in good condition. While it was sad that the young calf had died, it provided Dr. St. Leger and her colleagues with a rare opportunity to learn more about killer whales.

Dr. St. Leger has been studying killer whales for 13 years. “Killer whales are a vulnerable population in the Pacific Northwest,” she reports. “Our team is trying to learn all we can. Usually the whales we study are much larger; this small killer whale provided us with a unique opportunity to get full imaging examinations.”

The call came to Dr. St. Leger from Anchorage-based whale biologist, Barbara Mahoney, of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), who had received information from a guide who found the whale on St. Paul Island. The whale was found from the island to Anchorage, where it underwent a CT scan and an MRI at the Alaska Spine Institute’s imaging center. A British Columbia veterinary pathologist, Stephen Raverty, flew in to work on the whale. After the CT and MRI tests, Kathy Burek, an Eagle River-based veterinary pathologist, led an extensive necropsy. Dr. St. Leger participated in the research via teleconference while in New York. This was a rare opportunity to learn more from a very young, free-ranging killer whale – she’s only had one other opportunity in her career. “This is the new world of veterinary pathology – teledmedicine makes it possible for us to do our research from afar. It’s very exciting.” She said they’re specifically interested in modeling the internal organs of the animal and learning more about the ear. “We want to learn more about both how they hear and generate sound,” said Dr. St. Leger. “We wonder about the impact of noise in the ocean and how it affects the animal.”

Here’s what they’ve learned so far, though Dr. St. Leger cautions it’s still very early in the process. “There is no apparent trauma. No congenital problems. The animal was thin. There was no in-your-face cause of death. But we still need to look at the tissues under the microscope, look at levels of toxins, and the microbiology results. We plan to have a lot more answers in the next six months.”

Wildlife pathology presents infinite possibilities for curious minds
So what does Dr. St. Leger tell others interested in following her footsteps into wildlife pathology? “I tell them that no matter what they do in veterinary pathology, they will be successful if they learn to look for details and patterns and are “big picture” thinkers.” A tall order, but for those who follow that path, they’ll have a fascinating career.

She also recommends that they become an expert in something that shows others that they want something more in their careers. Publish papers. Do extra research. Volunteer. Whatever it takes, Dr. St. Leger says they will be more prepared for what lies ahead. She did a routine food animal residency, but had a particular interest in exotic animals. She offered to do all the food animals if she could also do the exotics, too. Her mentor, Dr. Derrick Reed, took the deal. It strengthened her capabilities, and she was thankful for her expanded education.

She says that zoo pathologists are rare, but important. She enjoys learning about the different species and applying that knowledge to wildlife. “I love that I can sit at my desk and make a difference in the world.”

SeaWorld presents unique opportunity to learn about marine species
Dr. St. Leger and her colleague, Dr. Nancy Stedman, are privileged to work with SeaWorld’s Animal Rescue, Welfare, and Conservation Programs. The program has rescued more than 22,000 animals in the past 50 years and is one of the most active and respected marine rescue programs in the world. For every animal that SeaWorld rescues, the ultimate goal is to rehabilitate it back to health and successfully return it to the ocean.

“I get to work side-by-side with some of the world’s best pathologists,” says Dr. St. Leger. “SeaWorld is like a university, where you’re constantly learning about species to help populations survive and thrive. Research is a key component of SeaWorld’s larger commitment to conservation. We publish our own research, provide access to our animals for scientists conducting studies on a variety of subjects, and fund and support projects around the world. It’s such an honor to be here.”

“When the young killer whale was discovered, we didn’t know if it would be something that would impact the population,” she notes. “This looks like a single incident unrelated to a health threat for the killer whale population. In the past, necropsies in large whales have been important in evaluating animals hit by ships and changing shipping routes to protect endangered species.”

She emphasizes that it’s a true team effort. “We are all committed to learning as much as we can about marine animals. Veterinary pathologists have a strong advantage by having access to animals at SeaWorld; it makes such a difference!”

SeaWorld inspires millions of people each year to celebrate, connect with, and care for ocean animals. It is one of the world’s foremost zoological organizations. Assuring the health and well-being of the animals in their zoological parks is a responsibility SeaWorld’s skilled professionals take extremely seriously. SeaWorld is also a global leader in animal husbandry, veterinary care, enrichment and animal welfare.

The best resource to learn more about SeaWorld’s commitment to animals – those in its parks and those all over the world – is www.SeaWorldCares.com.
This letter is to express my appreciation to the ACVP for the 2013 Externship Scholarship. These funds allowed me to investigate Anatomic Pathology Residencies and PhD programs on a personal level at The Ohio State University, The University of Georgia, Colorado State University, Johns Hopkins University, and Texas A&M University. During my visits, I participated in daily resident activities and worked with final year students, performed necropsies, attended rounds, wrote biopsy and necropsy case reports, and attended resident classes. Additionally, I was able to interact with a myriad of faculty and residents and discuss PhD opportunities unique to each program.

The ten weeks spent at the various universities gave me a strong insight into a range of academic environments, and I now feel more confident in my place in the pathology community. These experiences were an invaluable resource as I pursue my future in academic research, and I cannot thank the ACVP enough for supporting my efforts.

Sincerely, Alexandra (Alix) Dieterly University of Glasgow, BVMS Program, Class of 2014
Call for Abstracts
Submission Deadline: July 1, 2014

- There will be six focused scientific groups: Clinical Pathology, Diagnostic Pathology, Education, Experimental Disease, Industrial & Toxicologic Pathology, and Natural Disease.

- Focused scientific groups will designate abstracts for either short oral presentations or posters, and your preference will not always be possible.

- Awards will be available for application:
  - ACVP/AAVLD Diagnostic Pathology Travel Award
  - Society of Toxicologic Pathology Student Poster Award
  - Young Investigator Awards (ACVP and ASVCP)

- The abstract online submission system will be open May 15, 2014 (www.acvp.org/meeting).

- The deadline for online submission is July 1, 2014.

- Presenters are required to register for the meeting.
Upcoming Events

Mid-American Toxicology Course
April 6 - 11, 2014
Kansas City, MO
http://www.midamericatoxicology.com

C.L. Davis Foundation
23rd Annual Descriptive Veterinary Pathology Course
June 16 – 20, 2014
University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine, Champaign, IL
http://www.cldavis.org

Society of Toxicologic Pathology 33rd Annual Symposium
June 22 – 26, 2014
Washington, D.C.
Translational Pathology: Relevance of Toxicologic Pathology to Human Health
http://www.toxpath.org