

## Exploring Careers: Roger Jero Panciera



Roger Jero Panciera was born in Westerly, Rhode Island and spent his formative years understanding the importance of hard work. Upon graduation from high school and pre-vet at the University of Rhode Island, he traveled to Stillwater Oklahoma for his veterinary training. He graduated with the DVM in 1953 from Oklahoma A & M School of Veterinary College, shortly married and was offered a position at the New York State College of Veterinary Medicine, Cornell University by Dr. Peter Olafson.

Dr. Panciera began his pathology training at Cornell in July 1953 as Peter Kennedy was finishing and Ken Jubb was settling in after completing his first year. Two years later, John King would make the same journey from Stillwater as an Oklahoma A & M 1955 graduate veterinarian to Ithaca, NY. Dr. Panciera completed his Masters degree in 1955 and his residency training the fall of 1956. He returned to his alma mater where he has spent his entire career! A short hiatus in Ithaca, NY in 1960 allowed him to finish his thesis and complete his PhD on aging changes in dogs.

In the process of trying to understand “nature’s experiments,” Dr. Panciera has made many significant discoveries and contributions to veterinary pathology, including: publication of the initial case of cryptosporidiosis in calves, describing blister beetle toxicity in horses, hairy vetch poisoning in cattle, early contributions to *Histophilus septemicus* in cattle, and characterization of *Hepatozoon americanum* in dogs. He has authored numerous publications and was a co-author for the Urinary System in *Pathologic Basis of Veterinary Disease* for the first 4 editions. He is a distinguished member of the ACVP, a distinguished alum of various organizations and one of the few recipients of the Peter Olafson Medal awarded for excellence in teaching, service and research. However, two of his greatest legacies include the legions of veterinary students he taught and more than 146 current pathologists that owe either veterinary training or pathology training to Dr. Panciera.

Although he officially retired from Oklahoma State University in 2000, he continues to come in and consult on cases or publications weekly. He is always willing to debate and discuss issues, whether related to pathology or politics but does so with a playful sparkle in his eyes. Dr. Panciera is the epitome of what a mentor can be!

Dr. Panciera is an example of how exciting a career veterinary anatomic pathology can be. His contributions to the advancement of veterinary medicine also underscore the importance of veterinary pathologists in cutting-edge research. His role as a front-line diagnostician continues to lead to numerous discoveries, inspiring generations of up-and-coming pathologists.