



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

College of Veterinary Medicine

Driven to DiscoverSM

2010 Highlights

Discovering new knowledge

- **Points of Pride Research Day honors researchers and research programs** – The College hosted its annual Points of Pride Research Day on September 29. Dr. Michael T. Collins, professor, University of Wisconsin School of Veterinary Medicine, received the Distinguished Research Alumnus Award. The Pfizer Research Excellence Award recipient was Dr. Stephanie Valberg, professor in the Veterinary Population Medicine Department and director of the Equine Center. The Distinguished Research Partner was Morris Animal Foundation. In addition to seminars and awards, the event included a poster competition, where graduate students, summer scholars, postdoctorate scholars, and residents presented a record number of posters (84) about their research.
- **Turkey genome sequence published** – An international consortium of researchers, including Dr. Kent Reed, professor, Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences Department, completed the majority of the genome sequence of the domesticated turkey. The sequence was published in *PLoS Biology*, a peer-reviewed open-access journal published by the Public Library of Science.
- **Carol Cardona appointed to Ben Pomeroy Chair in Avian Medicine** – Carol Cardona, D.V.M., Ph.D., an expert in avian influenza, joined the College as the Ben Pomeroy Chair in Avian Medicine, succeeding Dr. Jagdev Sharma. The Pomeroy Chair is one of the few endowed poultry chairs in the United States.
- **First translational medicine research grant awarded** – Clinical and Translational Science Institutes at the University of Minnesota, Indiana University, and Purdue University awarded the first veterinary translational medicine research grant to Dr. Jaime Modiano, Perlman Professor of Animal Oncology, and his colleagues at the University of Minnesota, Purdue University, and the University of Pennsylvania. The team's initial project explores lymphoma-initiating cells.

Preparing the next generation of veterinarians and veterinary researchers

- **First veterinarians receive funds from loan forgiveness program** – The Minnesota Rural Veterinarian Loan Forgiveness Program, passed into law in 2009, provided funding to three veterinarians. The program aims to recruit and retain food animal veterinarians in areas of need in rural Minnesota, providing funds for repayment of qualified educational loans.
- **First Education Day emphasizes excellence** – The College held its first annual Education Day, celebrating the expertise and excellence in teaching within the College, on May 17. Among the awards presented at the event were the Award for Outstanding Contributions to Post-Baccalaureate, Graduate, and Professional Education, presented to Dr. Al Beitz; the Mark of Excellence Award, presented to Dr. David Brown; and the Pfizer Distinguished Teacher Award, presented to Dr. Tina Clarkson.
- **College joins forces with Academic Health Center for 1Health initiative** – College of Veterinary Medicine faculty, staff, and students joined colleagues from other Academic Health Center colleges and schools for the 1Health initiative, a new interprofessional education initiative. A talk by Dean Trevor Ames provided examples of the “One Health” concept, including emerging zoonotic diseases, food- and water-borne diseases, environmental change, and mutually prevalent, but non-transmitted, human and animal diseases and conditions like cancer.
- **Scholarships presented at annual awards ceremony** – The College presented more than \$150,000 in scholarships, recognized the generous support of donors, and celebrated the accomplishments of students and faculty at the annual spring awards ceremony on April 23.
- **Degrees awarded at annual commencement ceremony** – At the College's 59th annual commencement ceremony on May 1, 100 students received D.V.M., M.P.H., M.S., or Ph.D. degrees. The commencement speaker was CVM alumna Dr. Rene Carlson, president-elect of the American Veterinary Medical Association.
- **Over 1,000 applications received for fall admission** – The College's admissions committee received 1,051 applications for the 100 seats in the freshman class. In fall 2010, 10 Animal Science students were accepted for admission into the first-year class through the VetFAST program, an early admission program for students interested in food-animal veterinary medicine.

Serving the community in Minnesota and around the world

- **Tata Chair in Veterinary Orthopedic Surgery established** – Dr. Michael Conzemius was appointed to the Tata Chair in Veterinary Orthopedic Surgery, which was established with a \$3 million gift from the Tata Group, a worldwide

business conglomerate based in India. The goals of the new chair are to expand research and teaching in veterinary orthopedic surgery at the College of Veterinary Medicine and improve veterinary care and education in India.

- **RESPOND program aims to improve global response to emerging pandemics** – The College continued its work with the School of Public Health, School of Nursing, Medical School, College of Education and Human Development, and College of Food, Agricultural, and Natural Resource Sciences on the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) RESPOND project, which is working to help developing countries better respond to emerging animal diseases that pose a threat to human health.
- **Raptor Center tapped to work with Galapagos hawks** – Galapagos National Park invited the Raptor Center (TRC) to work with Island Conservation, the Charles Darwin Foundation, Bell Laboratories, and the Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust on a project to protect Galapagos hawks during a rat-eradication effort on the Galapagos Islands. Dr. Julia Ponder, executive director of TRC, traveled to the Galapagos to provide consultative input on the project, veterinary expertise with raptors, and care and management of the hawks during their time in captivity.
- **Animal Trauma Center launched** – The Veterinary Medical Center (VMC) unveiled a new Animal Trauma Center. Based on requirements developed for human medicine, the animal trauma center leverages the unique capabilities of the VMC's emergency and critical care team and partner specialty services.
- **Funding renewed for National Center for Food Protection and Defense** – The Department of Homeland Security renewed funding for the University of Minnesota's National Center for Food Protection and Defense, allocating approximately \$20 million over six years.

Distinguished achievements

- **Al Beitz appointed chair of Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences Department, receives Distinguished Teaching Award** – Dean Trevor Ames appointed Dr. Al Beitz chair of the Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences Department Population Medicine Department in June. Dr. Beitz was awarded the University of Minnesota Distinguished Teaching Award for Outstanding Contributions to Postbaccalaureate, Graduate, and Professional Education in April.
- **Leslie Sharkey inducted into AHC Academy for Excellence** – Dr. Leslie Sharkey, associate professor in the Veterinary Clinical Sciences Department, was inducted into the Academic Health Center Academy for Excellence in the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning. A nationally recognized teacher in veterinary and cardiovascular pathology, Sharkey has contributed to didactic and clinical instruction, research mentorship, and continuing education for veterinarians.
- **Michael Conzemius appointed director of Clinical Investigation Center** – Dr. Michael Conzemius, professor and Tata Chair in Veterinary Orthopedic Surgery, was appointed director of the College's Clinical Investigation Center (CIC). Dr. Conzemius is working with associate directors Dr. Kelly Hall and Dr. Vicki Wilke to develop the CIC as a national site for clinical trials research.
- **Jeff Bender named to FDA Science Advisory Committee** – Dr. Jeff Bender, director of the Center for Animal Health and Food Safety, was named to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Science Advisory Committee, which provides expert advice on scientific, technical, and policy matters.
- **Elizabeth Wagstrom and Cindy Wolf appointed to agriculture advisory committee** – Dr. Elizabeth Wagstrom, associate professor, and Dr. Cindy Wolf, assistant clinical professor, were appointed to two-year terms on the Agriculture Secretary's Advisory Committee on Animal Health. Dr. Wagstrom was also a member of the U.S. delegation to the Codex Alimentarius Task Force on Antimicrobial Resistance, which met in Muju, Korea, in November.
- **Faculty members awarded Morris Animal Foundation grant** – Drs. Jane Armstrong and David Polzin of the Veterinary Clinical Sciences Department were awarded a grant from the Morris Animal Foundation for a study comparing low-dose aspirin versus individually monitored un-fractionated heparin on survival in dogs with immune-mediated hemolytic anemia.
- **Lisa Powell publishes book** – *Small Animal Emergency and Critical Care: Case Studies in Client Communication, Morbidity and Mortality*, by Lisa Powell, Elizabeth Rozanski, and John Rush, was published by Wiley-Blackwell, an international scientific, technical, and medical publishing company. Dr. Powell is an associate clinical professor in emergency and critical care.
- **Jill Schappa receives inaugural HHMI-Burroughs Wellcome fellowship** – Jill Schappa, a fourth-year veterinary student, received the first Howard Hughes Medical Research Institute-Burroughs Wellcome fellowship ever to be awarded to a veterinary student for her project "Development of Targeted Toxins for Cancer Therapy Using Comparative Models." Her mentors are Drs. Jaime Modiano of the College of Veterinary Medicine and Daniel Vallera of the Masonic Cancer Center.
- **Kari Ekenstedt wins Young Investigator Award** – Kari Ekenstedt, post-doctoral associate, won first place in the 2010 Young Investigator Award competition sponsored by the American Veterinary Medical Association and American Veterinary Medical Association Foundation.
- **Gail Buhl receives Roger Tory Peterson award** – Gail Buhl, manager of environmental education at The Raptor Center, received the Roger Tory Peterson Nature Education Achievement Award.
- **Olivia Kilian receives University award** – Olivia Kilian, a third-year veterinary student, was honored with the President's Student Leadership and Service Award.