



## UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

### College of Veterinary Medicine

Driven to Discover<sup>SM</sup>

#### 2012 Highlights

##### Preparing the next generation of veterinarians and veterinary researchers

- **Commencement.** Doctor of veterinary medicine degrees were awarded to 88 students at the college's annual commencement ceremony on May 12. Seven PhD degrees, 10 DVM/MPH degrees, and five M.S. degrees were also awarded. The commencement speaker was Dr. Catherine Woteki, undersecretary for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Research, Education, and Economics mission area and the department's chief scientist.
- **Scholarships.** The college awarded 78 scholarships totaling more than \$300,000, recognized the generous support of donors, and presented the college of Veterinary Medicine Outstanding Service Award to Dr. Bill Hartmann, executive director of the Minnesota Board of Animal Health, at the annual spring awards ceremony on April 27.
- **Education Day.** The college hosted its third annual Education Day on May 30, when faculty attended breakout sessions, presented posters, and made presentations related to education and innovative teaching methods. Education Day also included the presentation of teaching awards, including the Pfizer Distinguished Teacher Award, presented to Dr. Rob Porter, and the Mark of Excellence Award, presented to Dr. Jaime Modiano. Veterinary Medical Center Technician Teaching Awards were presented to Elizabeth Olmstead, Small Animal Hospital, and Sonja Field, Large Animal Hospital. Also presented were departmental and graduate teaching awards, excellence in course coordination awards, and a continuing education award.
- **Maheswaran Fellowship.** The inaugural Sam Maheswaran Fellowship in Food Animal Health, which recognizes a Ph.D. student of exceptional potential whose thesis research has made a significant contribution to the beef, dairy, pork, or turkey industry, was awarded to Dr. Cesar Corzo, a third-year Ph.D. student in the veterinary medicine graduate program.
- **Pijoan Fellowship.** Dr. Carlos Andres Diaz was named the 2012 recipient of the Carlos Pijoan Graduate Student Fellowship in Swine Medicine. Dr. Diaz is a student in the veterinary medicine graduate program whose research is evaluating influenza virus genetic diversity in pig populations.
- **AAEP Foundation Past Presidents Research Fellow.** Doctoral candidate Dr. Nichol Schultz was named the 2012 American Association of Equine Practitioners (AAEP) Foundation Past Presidents Research Fellow at the AAEP meeting on December 3. The \$5,000 grant is awarded each year to a doctoral or residency student who has made significant progress in the field of equine health care research.
- **Applications for fall admission.** The college's admissions office received 1,031 applications for the 100 seats in the fall 2013 freshman class. Nine 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.

##### Discovering and sharing new knowledge

- **Points of Pride Research Day.** The college hosted its annual Points of Pride Research Day on October 10, presenting the Distinguished Research Alumnus award to Dr. Ramesh Akkina, a professor of virology at Colorado State University who earned his PhD at the University of Minnesota in 1982. Dr. James Mickelson, professor in the Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences Department, was honored with the Pfizer Research Excellence Award, and Dr. Randy Simonson, chief operating officer of Newport Labs, was presented with the Distinguished Research Partner Award. The event also included seminars and a poster competition, where graduate students, summer scholars, postdoctoral scholars, and residents presented posters about their research.
- **Annual swine conference.** The college hosted the 2012 Allen D. Lemman Swine Conference at RiverCentre in St. Paul September 15-18. One of the international swine community's premier events, the Lemman conference draws approximately 900 swine veterinarians, producers, research scientists, industry experts, and government officials from around the world. In addition to two days of presentations and seminars on topics ranging from swine diseases to production to consumer issues, the conference included a two-day pre-conference program,

trade show exhibits, keynote sessions, lectures, and scientific poster presentations. The Allen D. Leman Science in Practice Award was presented to Dr. Julie Ménard, a swine practitioner consultant from Quebec.

- **First Leman China Swine Conference.** After more than a year of preparation, the first Leman China Swine Conference was held on October 15-16 at the Sofitel Hotel in Xi'an, China. The conference hosted 650 people representing over 100 companies from 10 countries, as well as 25 exhibitors and a poster session.
- **New ways to predict and control seizures.** The Mayo Clinic and partners from the University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine and College of Pharmacy, University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine, Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania, and NeuroVista Corporation were awarded a five-year, \$7.5 million grant from the National Institutes of Health to study new ways to predict and control epileptic seizures in dogs and people.
- **Genetic research.** Drs. Jim Mickelson, Molly McCue, and Jessica Petersen were among the authors of "Mutations in DMRT3 Affect Locomotion in Horses and Spinal Circuit Function in Mice," a paper published in *Nature* on August 30. The paper detailed the discovery of a naturally occurring genetic mutation in the domestic horse that likely alters the transmission of nerve signals in the spinal cord.
- **Biomedical research.** Research by Dr. Richard Isaacson, professor in the Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences Department, and his team at the University of Minnesota and University of Illinois found that antimicrobial growth promoters administered to swine can alter the kind of bacteria present in the animal's intestinal track, resulting in an accelerated rate of growth and development in the animals.
- **HIV/AIDS research.** Pam Skinner, PhD, associate professor in the Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences Department, and longtime collaborator Liz Connick, MD, professor in the University of Colorado School of Medicine Division of Infectious Diseases, were awarded a five-year research grant totaling more than \$3.7 million from the National Institutes of Health. Ultimately, the research could contribute to the development of a protective vaccine or cure for HIV-1, the most common and pathogenic strain of HIV (human immunodeficiency virus), the virus that causes AIDS.

### **Serving the community in Minnesota and around the world**

- **Economic impact.** A study by the University of Minnesota Extension and the Department of Applied Economics found that, in addition to caring for pets, safeguarding animal agriculture, ensuring public health, and protecting natural resources, the veterinary medicine industry provides an economic boost, contributing \$1.5 billion annually to Minnesota's economy.
- **Food Policy Research Center.** Led by Dr. Will Hueston, professor and Global Initiative for Food Systems Leadership Endowed Chair, food policy experts from the College of Veterinary Medicine, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences, Humphrey School of Public Affairs, and School of Public Health joined forces to create a Food Policy Research Center. The center will provide policymakers and consumers a better, more complete, and holistic view of food policy options through the examination of scientific data and policy information.
- **Food Safety Center of Excellence.** The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention selected the Minnesota Department of Health and the University of Minnesota's College of Veterinary Medicine and School of Public Health to create a regional center of excellence for food safety. Minnesota's Food Safety Center of Excellence—created as part of the Food Safety Modernization Act, which calls for the designation of five centers of excellence—will provide resources for state and local officials to improve food safety through better detection and investigation of outbreaks of foodborne illness.
- **Upper Midwest Agricultural Safety and Health Center.** The University of Minnesota was awarded \$1.6 million a year for the next five years to fund the Upper Midwest Agricultural Safety and Health Center (UMASH). A collaboration of the University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine, School of Public Health, National Farm Medicine Center of the Marshfield Clinic, and Minnesota Department of Health, UMASH is one of nine U.S. Centers of Excellence in Agricultural Disease and Injury Research, Education, and Prevention funded by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health.
- **One Health Partnerships Workshop.** Hosted by the Center for Animal Health and Food Safety on May 2, the annual One Health Partnerships Workshop focused on One Health as it relates to food policy and action through the perspective of legislation, regulation, industry, and international standards.
- **Work with endemic species in the Galapagos.** Dr. Julia Ponder, executive director of The Raptor Center (TRC), headed to the Galapagos island of Pinzón to continue TRC's work with the Galápagos hawk—which

will also help the Pinzón giant tortoise, an animal currently listed as "extinct in the wild" by the International Union for Conservation of Nature.

- **New fund for shelter animals.** In response to an outpouring of support for a Minnesota shelter dog needing surgery to correct his angular limb deformity, the Veterinary Medical Center (VMC) established a new fund, the VMC Shelter Animal Angels Fund, to help provide specialty care for Minnesota's shelter animals. One grateful client donated \$50,000 to the fund, in addition to \$50,000 to the VMC's Companion Animal Fund.
- **VetCamp reaches out to young people.** The college continued to offer VetCamp, an interactive program for students in grades 9-12 who are interested in veterinary medicine. Developed and taught by DVM students at the college and sponsored by the Minnesota Veterinary Medical Foundation, this three-hour live program educates students in grades 9-12 through interactive hands-on learning activities and games. VetCamp takes place at various venues throughout the year, including summer day camps at the college and county fairs around the state.

### **Distinguished achievements**

- **Stephanie Valberg inducted into Equine Research Hall of Fame.** Dr. Stephanie Valberg, professor and director of the University of Minnesota Equine Center, was inducted into the University of Kentucky Equine Research Hall of Fame in September. The Equine Research Hall of Fame is the highest honor for a lifetime of contribution to the body of knowledge in equine research, and for a scientist to have merited such distinction is a great tribute to their work. Dr. Valberg was the first woman to receive the award. In December, she delivered the American Association of Equine Practitioners' Frank J. Milne State-of-the-Art Lecture, becoming the first female practitioner selected for the honor.
- **Tom Molitor inducted into AHC Academy for Excellence.** Dr. Tom Molitor, chair of the Veterinary Population Medicine Department, was inducted into the Academic Health Center's Academy for Excellence in the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning. The Academy for Excellence recognizes Academic Health Center (AHC) faculty who have demonstrated excellence in the educational mission of the AHC. Faculty members inducted into the Academy have made exceptional scholarly contributions to advance learning in their schools and across academic programs at the University. They also advise the AHC on issues of competitiveness and research strategy.
- **Books published.** *Canine and Feline Gastroenterology*, a book by Dr. Robert J. Washabau, professor of medicine and chair of the Veterinary Clinical Sciences Department, and Dr. Michael J. Day, professor of veterinary pathology at the University of Bristol School of Veterinary Sciences in England, was published by Elsevier. *Canine and Feline Dermatology Drug Handbook*, by Drs. Sandra N. Koch, assistant clinical professor, Sheila F. Torres, associate professor, and Donald C. Plumb, a former director of pharmacy services and hospital director at the Veterinary Medical Center, was published by Wiley-Blackwell.
- **Lifetime Achievement Award.** Hill's Pet Nutrition recognized Dr. Jody Lulich, professor, with the 2012 Mark L. Morris, Sr., Lifetime Achievement Award.
- **Distinguished Veterinary Immunologist .** The American Association of Veterinary Immunologists (AAVI) named Dr. Michael P. Murtaugh, a professor in the Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences Department, the AAVI Distinguished Veterinary Immunologist for 2012. He received the award at the annual Conference of Research Workers in Animal Diseases in Chicago in December.
- **Presidents elected.** Dr. Kari L. Anderson, clinical professor, was elected president of the American College of Veterinary Radiology for 2012. Dr. Leslie Sharkey, associate professor, was elected president of the American Society for Veterinary Clinical Pathology.
- **Award for contributions to veterinary dentistry.** Dr. Gary Goldstein received the Peter Emily AVDC Service Award, an annual award presented to an outstanding diplomate of the American Veterinary Dental College (AVDC) for contributions to the field of veterinary dentistry.
- **MVMA awards.** At the 2012 Minnesota Veterinary Medical Association (MVMA) meeting, Dr. Sandra Godden received the Outstanding Faculty Award, which is presented to a University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine faculty member who has provided outstanding service to Minnesota veterinarians, given time and talent to the veterinary profession, and been a dedicated contributor to organized veterinary medicine. Dr. John Howe, class of 1977, was named Veterinarian of the Year, and Dr. Bill Hartmann, class of 1978, received the President's Award. Buster, a boxer who was treated at the Veterinary Medical Center after being stabbed by a burglar in his St. Paul home, received the Hero Animal Hall of Fame Award.

- **National Turkey Federation Research Award.** Dr. Kent Reed, professor in the Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences Department, was presented with the National Turkey Federation Research Award at the annual meeting of the Poultry Science Association.
- **Gene Hugoson awarded Siehl Prize.** Gene Hugoson, analyst with the Center for Animal Health and Food Safety, received the Siehl Prize in Agriculture, an annual prize awarded by the College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences.
- **Randy Singer contributes to CAST Commentary.** Dr. Randy Singer, associate professor in the Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences Department, was one of a team from several universities to author the CAST (Council for Agricultural Science and Technology) Commentary "The Direct Relationship between Animal Health and Food Safety Outcomes." Based partially on work supported by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute for Food and Agriculture, the paper addresses many topics, including antibiotic use in animals, animal housing, organic production, and One Health.
- **Laura Molgaard recognized for improving access.** In October, the University of Minnesota presented Dr. Laura Molgaard, associate dean for academic affairs, a 2012 Access Achievement Award for making significant contributions to improving access on campus for students, faculty, staff, and guests with disabilities.