Serving our community in Minnesota and around the world

Expanded building and testing capability to serve Minnesota’s poultry industry
The Minnesota Poultry Testing Laboratory in Willmar, Minnesota, officially reopened September 22 after an extensive building expansion project. Serving farmers, poultry producers, and veterinarians in the area, the project provided additional diagnostic testing labs and enhanced equipment and office spaces.

Legislative funding for the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory
Nearly $2.1 million from the state of Minnesota provided for improved services from the College of Veterinary Medicine’s Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (VDL), allowing the VDL to provide faster service with higher-quality reporting. The official laboratory of the Minnesota Board of Animal Health, the VDL continued to be a national leader in providing rapid diagnosis of animal diseases, identifying emerging diseases, developing new diagnostic methods, and training diagnosticians and veterinarians. The VDL’s full-service laboratories perform approximately 1.3 million procedures annually.

One Health Workforce
Under a five-year United States Agency for International Development (USAID) award of up to $50 million, college faculty and staff continued their work as part of the One Health Workforce, an international group of universities working to strengthen global workforce development against emerging pandemic threats. The effort is part of the Emerging Pandemic Threats 2 program, which is focused on mitigating the impact of novel, high-consequence pathogens that originate in animals, with a goal of enabling early detection of new disease threats, controlling those threats, enhancing national preparedness, and ultimately reducing the risk of these diseases emerging by minimizing human behaviors and practices that trigger the spillover and spread of new pathogens. In collaboration with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), the University of Minnesota piloted the One Health Systems Mapping and Analysis Resource Toolkit (OH-SMART) in Minnesota and at a USDA-led workshop, with more than 30 U.S. states participating.

Investment in agriculture research and education
A nearly $5-million state investment in agricultural productivity at the University of Minnesota created nearly 20 new positions for faculty members and scientists and improved infrastructure across seven areas of collaboration, including the College of Veterinary Medicine, other U of M colleges, and research, outreach, and Extension sites across Minnesota. The plan covered the first years of a multiyear investment known as the Agricultural Research, Education, Extension and Technology Transfer Program.

New project to advance animal health on organic dairy farms
The University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine and College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences were awarded a $1.4 million collaborative grant sponsored by the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Organic Research and Extension Initiative to develop animal health care practices for organic dairy farms. The U of M is leading the collaboration with veterinary researchers at the University of Colorado, Iowa State University, and the Ohio State University.

Federal grant to develop web-based dairy educational materials
A new two-year grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s National Institute of Food and Agriculture is providing support for the development and implementation of web-based educational materials in dairy production medicine and food safety. The grant was one of 12 awards in 10 states to help relieve shortages of veterinary services through education, extension, training, and support for new or existing veterinary practices in designated rural shortage areas. The grants were funded through the new Veterinary Services Grant Program authorized by the 2014 Farm Bill.
New primary, urgent care, and teaching facilities in the Veterinary Medical Center
The Veterinary Medical Center (VMC) completed lobby renovations and the addition of a primary and urgent care unit, which provided improved exam and treatment room space, and supported the training and preparation of veterinary students for careers in general practice.

Reaccredited by AAHA
The American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA) reaccredited the Veterinary Medical Center’s Small Animal Hospital for another three years in 2016. Only 12 percent of U.S. veterinary hospitals, clinics, and practices are AAHA-accredited. The most advanced, full-service referral care center for large and small animals in Minnesota, the VMC has more than 40,000 patient visits annually, making it one of the busiest veterinary teaching hospitals in the world.

New Veterinary Referral Center
The Veterinary Medical Center joined forces with South Metro Animal Emergency Care in Apple Valley to provide specialty care to pets at the new Veterinary Referral Center (VRC) starting June 1. South Metro offers emergency services in the evenings, on weekends, and on holidays, while the VMC operates the VRC on weekdays. A satellite practice of the Veterinary Medical Center, the referral-only practice offers internal medicine and surgical services by board-certified specialists.

Leatherdale Equine Center
Thanks to longtime donors Bill Dudley and Cindy Piper, the Leatherdale Equine Center’s Piper Equine Hospital acquired a standing MRI, which allows a horse to stand under mild sedation while undergoing a scan. Each scan generates 300-500 images, offering unique insight into equine lameness. The Leatherdale Equine Center also continued its equine genetics and genomics research, provided veterinary education through internships and residencies, treated approximately 1,400 patients, and hosted a variety of events in the Baren scheer Arena and Nutrena Conference Center.

The Raptor Center
The Raptor Center (TRC) treated a record-breaking 1,058 birds of prey in 2016 while completing a new strategic plan, continuing raptor conservation efforts with Galapagos National Park, and preparing to launch Raptor Academy, an online instructional lab. Scientific projects explored lead toxicity, a major problem for bald eagles; anticoagulant rodenticides and coagulation in raptors; and the sublethal effects of neonicotinoids, the most commonly used insecticides in the world, on birds. TRC also continued training veterinary students and veterinarians from around the world and presenting educational programs to thousands of people of all ages.

Testing for chronic wasting disease
University of Minnesota students—DVM students as well as graduate students, residents, and undergraduate pre-vet and wildlife students—were involved in testing Minnesota deer for chronic wasting disease in November. The College of Veterinary Medicine managed student participation and training in collaboration with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

Center for Animal Health and Food Safety
The Center for Animal Health and Food Safety (CAHFS) addresses global food systems challenges at the interfaces of animal, public, and environmental health. CAHFS offers a veterinary public health and preventive medicine residency program, provides risk assessments and policy summaries, facilitates collaborative research, and presents programs and courses such as Engaging Intergovernmental Organizations, Farm to Table, and Food Systems Leadership.

Donor support
A record $12.5 million was raised by the College of Veterinary Medicine in fiscal year 2016. Four new planned gift commitments totaling $7 million included a $2 million planned gift toward a new endowed chair in radiotherapy, nuclear medicine, and radiobiology. With 4,000 donors giving more than 8,000 gifts, the College of Veterinary Medicine continued to have one of the highest number of gifts University-wide.
Discovering and sharing new knowledge

Major research projects
College of Veterinary Medicine researchers were awarded funding for a variety of projects, including—

• **Fighting ovarian cancer with natural killer cells.** A National Institutes of Health grant is aiding a study for a new immunotherapy that could potentially treat ovarian cancer, the most lethal gynecologic malignancy. The research is led by the College of Veterinary Medicine’s Dr. Bruce Walcheck and Dr. Jimmy Wu with Dr. Dan Kaufman, director of the cell therapy program at the University of California-San Diego.

• **Finding a cure for HIV.** The National Institutes of Health awarded a five-year grant totaling $28 million to the George Washington University, which is collaborating with the College of Veterinary Medicine’s Dr. Pam Skinner and 17 other medical institutions and their researchers to develop a cure for HIV.

• **Understanding and preventing hemangiosarcoma.** The AKC Canine Health Foundation, a nonprofit organization dedicated to preventing, treating, and curing diseases in dogs, funded research that aims to better understand and prevent hemangiosarcoma, an aggressive form of cancer in dogs. Dr. Jaime Modiano, professor in the College of Veterinary Medicine and Masonic Cancer Center, is leading a team of researchers on the project.

• **Controlling an emerging disease in turkeys.** Dr. Kakambi Nagaraja, professor, was awarded a three-year grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Agriculture and Food Research Initiative for studies on clostridial dermatitis, an emerging condition in turkeys and broiler chickens.

• **Grand Challenges research.** Seven College of Veterinary Medicine faculty members are part of research teams that were awarded two-year Grand Challenges Research Grants as part of the University of Minnesota’s Driving Tomorrow research initiatives. The Driving Tomorrow research investment totals $3.6 million.

International Conference on One Medicine One Science
More than 300 participants from 30 countries gathered for the second International Conference on One Medicine One Science (iCOMOS) at the Commons Hotel in Minneapolis April 24-27. iCOMOS is a global forum to communicate the importance of science in solving health issues at the interface of humans, animals, and the environment; facilitate interdisciplinary, international collaborations embracing health, science, and economics; and inform public policy.

Points of Pride Research Day
Research and research partnerships were celebrated at the annual Points of Pride Research Day on October 5. Dr. Timothy Johnson received the Zoetis Award for Research Excellence; the Minnesota Board of Animal Health received the Distinguished Research Partner Award; and Dr. Bruce Walcheck received the Mark of Excellence Award. Dr. Prem S. Paul, vice chancellor for research and economic development at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, was posthumously awarded the Distinguished Research Alumnus Award.

Veterinary continuing education
The college offered a variety of veterinary continuing education opportunities

• The college hosted the 2016 Allen D. Leman Swine Conference at RiverCentre in St. Paul September 17-20. One of the international swine community’s premier events, the conference drew nearly 1,000 swine veterinarians, producers, research scientists, industry experts, and government officials from around the world. The annual Leman China Swine Conference, held a month later at the Nanjing International Exhibition Center in Nanjing,
Jiangsu, China, welcomed more than 3,000 swine veterinarians, producers, research scientists, and industry experts. More than 200 exhibitors displayed products and services.

• The China Dairy Conference took place at the Ningxia International Hall in Yinchuan, China, on October 24-26. Dairy experts from the United States and China spoke at the event, which 500 participants attended. More than 70 exhibitors displayed products and services.

• Approximately 150 dairy veterinarians, producers, and other industry professionals discussed the latest developments in dairy production science, health, management, and food quality at the annual Minnesota Dairy Health Conference May 18-20.

• The second annual Minnesota Aquaponics Symposium brought together a diverse audience to discuss topics in aquaponics economic sustainability. More than 100 people attended the conference on May 3.

Preparing the next generation of veterinarians and veterinary researchers

Commencement
Doctor of veterinary medicine degrees were awarded to 97 students at the college’s commencement ceremony at Ted Mann Concert Hall on May 7. Also conferred were five PhD degrees, five MS degrees, and three DVM/MPH degrees. The commencement address was presented by Dr. Justine Lee, CEO and founder of VETgirl.

Scholarships and fellowships
The college awarded 76 scholarships totaling nearly $600,000 in 2016, recognizing the generous support of donors at an annual spring scholarship reception in April and a fall scholars reception in October.

Applications for fall admission
The college’s admissions office received 811 applications for the 102 seats in the fall 2017 freshman class. Eight University of Minnesota students were accepted into VetFAST, an early admission program for students interested in food-animal veterinary medicine.

Education Day
The college hosted its annual Education Day on May 25, when faculty members presented posters, attended seminars, made presentations, and participated in roundtable discussions related to education and innovative teaching methods. Education Day also included the presentation of the Zoetis Distinguished Teacher Award to Dr. Robert Porter;

departmental and graduate advising/teaching awards; excellence in course coordination awards; and Veterinary Medical Center technician teaching awards.

Facilities updates
To support the training and preparation of veterinary students for careers in general practice, the VMC completed the addition of a primary and urgent care unit. The college finished work on “food centric corridor” research labs in the Animal Science/Veterinary Medicine building and renovations to research and teaching labs, exam rooms, and offices. Construction continued on a new veterinary isolation building.
Distinguished achievements

New Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory director
The college welcomed Dr. Jerry Torrison as director of the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory in March. Torrison earned his DVM and PhD degrees from the college and is a diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Preventive Medicine.

McKnight Land-Grant Professor
The University of Minnesota named Dr. Meggan Craft, assistant professor, a 2016-18 McKnight Land-Grant Professor.

New AVMA executive vice president
Dr. Janet Donlin, class of 1981, was named executive vice president/chief executive officer of the American Veterinary Medical Association.

Lifetime membership
Dr. Patrick Redig, cofounder of The Raptor Center, was awarded an honorary lifetime membership in the Association of Avian Veterinarians.

Distinguished Leadership Award for Internationals
Dr. Muhammad Younus Rana, principal of the University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences in Lahore, Pakistan, received a 2016 Distinguished Leadership Award for Internationals from the University of Minnesota's Global Programs and Strategy Alliance. Advised by CVM faculty member Dr. Scott Wells, Rana did postdoctoral work in veterinary pathology and public health at the college from 2007 to 2008.

Distinguished Service
Dr. Jim Collins, professor, was honored with the 2016 Minnesota Pork Board Distinguished Service Award.

Veterinary student scholars
Alyssa Anderson, the college’s first DVM/MS student, was one of five students from around the nation to be awarded an American Association of Swine Veterinarians-Merck Animal Health Veterinary Student Scholarship. Susan Baley, class of 2018, was among 26 students from the United States and abroad to be named a Morris Animal Foundation Veterinary Student Scholar. Laura LoBuglio, class of 2018, was selected for the Merial Veterinary Research Scholar Award.

Outstanding Faculty Award
The Minnesota Veterinary Medical Association presented Dr. John Fetrow with its annual Outstanding Faculty Award.

Samuel Maheswaran Fellow
Dr. Mike Rahe was named the college’s 2016-2017 Samuel Maheswaran Fellow. A PhD candidate in the comparative and molecular biosciences graduate program, Rahe was advised by Dr. Michael Murtaugh.

Fellowship in public outreach
Nicole Emmitt, class of 2019, was awarded the Michael D. Hayre Fellowship in Public Outreach. Established by Americans for Medical Progress, the fellowship promotes peer education about animal research among students and young adults.

WTS Thorp Scholar
Dr. Sylvia Wanzala, a PhD candidate in the veterinary medicine graduate program, was the CVM’s new WTS Thorp Scholar in veterinary diagnostic pathology. Her adviser was Dr. Srinand Sreevatsan.

Vaughn Larson Award
Sian Durward-Akhurst, a student in the comparative and molecular biosciences graduate program, and Nandita Mirajkar, a student in the veterinary medicine graduate program, were the 2016 recipients of the Vaughn Larson Award, which recognizes superior scholastic ability, citizenship, and leadership.

Exemplary leadership
Dr. Dale Lauer, class of 1981 and director of the Minnesota Poultry Testing Laboratory in Willmar, received the Willmar Area Lakes Chamber of Commerce Exemplary Leadership Award.

Research recognition
The Leonberger Health Foundation recognized Dr. Kari Ekenstedt and Katie Minor, researcher, with the Waltraut Zieher Memorial Leonberger Health Award for their work in uncovering the mutations that cause two genetic diseases in the Leonberger giant dog breed.

Books published
Dr. Laura Lefkowitz, class of 1993, published the book Bite Me: Tell-all Tales of an Emergency Veterinarian. Dr. Herbert Rebhan, class of 1984, published All Things Strange and Wonderful: My Adventures as a Vet in Africa.

Presidential Award
Dr. David Halvorson, professor emeritus, received the President’s Award from the Minnesota Turkey Growers Association.

Pork Master
National Hog Farmer magazine named Dr. Bob Morrison as a Master of the Pork Industry.

Lifetime achievement
The Association for Veterinary Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine honored Dr. Will Hueston, professor emeritus, with the Calvin W. Schwabe Award for a lifetime of professional achievements.