

the crest

OVC NEWSLETTER • SPRING 2016



Veterinarians integral to rural and remote communities

VETERINARIANS WHO SERVICE RURAL and remote communities are many things to many people — skilled health professionals, educators, business owners, employers and community partners. And the communities and agricultural industries they serve are an important piece of the provincial economy.

Ontario's rural communities and small towns are home to more than 20 per cent of the province's population — more than 2.8 million people, according to 2014 numbers from the Rural Ontario Institute.

Veterinarians are an integral part of this rural fabric, contributing to the local economy through their practices, providing veterinary care and expertise for pet owners and agricultural producers, and taking on leadership roles in the com-

munities where they live and work.

Of the 4,570 licensed veterinarians in Ontario, more than one-third work in mixed or large animal practices. Another 420 are employed in industry or government roles.

These veterinarians provide key support to a vibrant livestock and food sector that contributes an estimated \$20 billion in economic activity to Ontario annually. Not only do they safeguard against diseases and provide essential veterinary services, they ensure regulatory and protocol standards.

While the health and care of animals is a critical part of what veterinarians do, their impact reaches far beyond primary animal care; as community partners, they are integral to the health and sustainability of rural communities.

Congratulations to OVC staff who were recognized with President's Awards for Exemplary Staff Service in September 2015. The veterinary technician team who support the OVC's Health Sciences Centre anesthesia

service received the **Exemplary Team Recognition Award** for providing an excellent teaching environment through clinical instruction and for promoting animal welfare. **Sally MacLachlan** received the **Service Excellence Recognition Award** for her exemplary work in OVC's Department of Population Medicine and the significant role she played in moving the college to a shared administrative services model.

FROM THE DEAN

OVC at forefront of veterinary medicine as new dean takes helm

THIS ISSUE OF *The Crest* highlights the role of the Ontario Veterinary College in supporting rural communities. Our graduates comprise over a third of veterinarians in Canada, and they are found in every corner of our country, contributing sustainably to rural economies. We are proud of our innovative students, graduates and faculty who contribute to the health of the people and animal populations in rural and indigenous communities. Further, our veterinary graduates have a critical role in the humane production of safe and wholesome food from farmed animals — food products that will be increasingly important to the growing populations.

Food policy has re-emerged as a critical issue in Canada. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has made food production from livestock a clear priority for this government. In the mandate letter sent to the Hon. Laurence MacAuley, minister of agriculture and agri-food, the minister is instructed to: "Develop a food policy that promotes healthy living and safe food by putting more healthy, high-quality food, produced by Canadian ranchers and farmers, on the tables of families across the country."

The Ontario Veterinary College is an acknowledged leader in supporting



Dean Jeffrey Wichtel

livestock farmers in Canada through research, service and training of personnel with the skills required to take Canadian livestock farming and safe food production to the next level of excellence.

As a food-animal veterinarian, I, like many of our OVC graduates, have devoted my career to making the lives of farm animals better and more productive, and in turn improving the well-being of farmers and rural communities. Being in a position to help teach veterinary and graduate students how we as a profession can contribute to the productivity, health and well-being of animals under our care has been one of the great privileges of my life. I am proud to be leading

OVC during the current period of Strategic Renewal, as we put in place strategies to build on our outstanding track record of innovation in supporting rural health and rural economies — a record that clearly differentiates us from other universities in Ontario.

I know you will enjoy this issue of *The Crest*, which shares some inspiring stories of our OVC graduates making a difference in many rural and indigenous communities throughout Canada. I thank all of our supporters, friends and donors who have contributed in so many ways to the success of OVC.

Dean Jeffrey Wichtel

Dr. Stefan Keller, an anatomic pathologist, recently joined OVC's Department of Pathobiology. A native of Germany, Keller began his veterinary studies at the University of Berlin before completing a Dr. Med. Vet. degree.

and obtaining board certification from the European College of Veterinary Pathologists in Zurich, Switzerland, followed by a PhD at the University of California, Davis. He has a strong background in molecular techniques and

specialty training in diagnostic immunopathology. Keller likes the comprehensive role of veterinary pathologists at OVC, allowing him to participate in teaching, research and diagnostics.

COLLEGE NEWS



Renewed emphasis on rural community practice

RECENT REVISIONS TO OVC's fourth-year clinical streams have increased emphasis on rural community practice.

Previously known as the mixed animal practice stream, the rural community practice stream now provides students with four additional weeks in a rural community practice as a required rotation to better prepare those who wish to work with multiple species, says Dr. Terri O'Sullivan, assistant professor in OVC's Department of Population Medicine.

The change ensures that opportunities in the rural community practice

stream are more reflective of the interests of students selecting these areas and “provides more flexibility within the stream for students to tailor their learning experiences to what they feel will benefit their career,” adds O’Sullivan, who co-ordinates the rural community practice stream.

The OVC class of 2015 was the first group to graduate with this change to the curriculum.

Students select their career emphasis or “stream” prior to their fourth year, selecting food animal, small animal,

equine or rural community practice. The number of students choosing the revised rural community practice stream has increased in the last two years, indicating it better reflects their interests.

Core rotations in the rural community practice stream include ruminant health management, anesthesia, swine health management, anatomic and diagnostic pathology, and companion animal primary care, as well as internal and external electives, including rotations in rural veterinary practices that service multiple species.



Pathobiology professors **Nicole Nemeth** and **Leonardo Susta** received a Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI) grant worth \$125,000 to advance their studies in infectious avian diseases. The OVC professors will investigate

novel emerging and re-emerging viral pathogens in hopes of improving disease surveillance, control and prevention. The CFI funding for five U of G research projects spanning three colleges was announced in July 2015.

ALUMNI NEWS

Veterinary clinic gives back to community

WHEN DR. TAMMY RIBEY opened the Paisley Veterinary Clinic in 1994, the people of Paisley responded enthusiastically.

"I'll never forget our first accreditation," says Ribey, DVM '88. "Members of the community kept coming and looking in the window while the accreditor did his inspection. They were so eager to use our services and have us succeed. We are forever grateful for their support."

Ribey and her colleagues (Drs. Dana Wharry, Jenny Spurrell, Julia Kremer and Victoria Stycynski) make a point to

give back as well. Ribey points out that simply offering care for all types of animals, especially emergency services, is a big boost to this rural community, but they also sponsor and take part in many activities, such as judging pet shows at local fairs, speaking at equine clubs and ploughing matches, and helping with a local program to introduce medical students to the rural community.

Their local commitments include 4-H: Ribey was an active 4-H member as a teen and now leads the Paisley 4-H Beef Club. "I really enjoy working with

the members as they learn," she says. "This year in our club there is a member who always struggled in showmanship class. He'd get distracted and always placed near the bottom. This year he nailed it! He won his division at one of our bigger shows. I was so proud of him for not giving up and working so hard to improve."

Ribey includes farmers across Canada in her definition of community; she is currently president of the Canadian Angus Association.

"I have raised purebred Angus cattle all of my life and currently have a herd of 50 black Angus cows," she says. After eight years on the Ontario Angus board and two years as their president, she was selected to represent Ontario on the Canadian board and was then elected president.

"My work with the association supports the beef farming community — improving the quality of beef cattle improves their profitability, which helps all farmers. I have travelled all over the country, the United States and Mexico, and have seen many different methods for raising cattle. I've learned so much and I am eager to share with local clients to help them improve their operations."

She adds that "helping to improve the quality of life for all animals is a great way of life. Both our small-animal clients and our farmers care about the welfare of their animals and want to do their best for them. I just enjoy helping them."



Dr. Tammy Ribey

Dr. Jennifer McWhirter joined the Department of Population Medicine in the new public health promotion and communication faculty position in August 2015. Her research focuses on the promotion of health and pre-



vention of disease through effective communication, education and policy. McWhirter completed her PhD in the School of Public Health and Health Systems at the University of Waterloo.

ALUMNI NEWS

No cold feet for northern vet

IN MOST YEARS SINCE 1999, Dr. John Overell has spent 14 long days in February travelling the 1,600 km of the Yukon Quest International Dog Sled Race to work with a team of veterinarians who check and monitor the dogs along the grueling route from Fairbanks, Alaska, to Whitehorse, Yukon.

"We're often working in the middle of the night with the northern lights as a backdrop, which helps you forget that it's 40 below," he says. Volunteering for this event is just one way he gives back to his far north community.

The cold weather is a familiar challenge for Overell, DVM '98, who has had a clinic in Dawson City, Yukon, since 1998 and also provides mobile clinics to many other communities in remote areas. "As well as driving to some places, I do a fly-in clinic in Old Crow — there are no roads there — and I have also done mobile clinics in Inuvik in the Northwest Territories, which is about a two-day drive on the Dempster Highway." He's the only veterinarian for 525 km.

Overell's biggest challenge is not having access to the right equipment, so he appreciates that his OVC profs taught him how to diagnose and treat animals even if he doesn't have all the latest technology. Knowing that he planned to practise in this remote part of Can-



Dr. John Overell

ada, Overell says he often asked questions in class such as, "How would you assess that if you didn't have an X-ray machine?" His professors always had an answer for him.

Some of his mobile clinics have been in firehalls (set up between the fire trucks), hotel rooms, people's homes and empty garages. "Any clean, warm space with access to water and a way of venting gas will work."

Adds Overell: "I was taught at OVC that being a vet means being part of the community." That motivates his volunteer work and willingness to be available. The community showed their

appreciation after he was involved in a motorcycle accident in 2008 (he recalls nothing after the accident until he woke up in the hospital three weeks later) by organizing a fundraiser to support him as he recovered. Today, he has recovered enough to perform most surgeries and continue providing much-needed care for the community's animals.

Although he lived in several southern Canadian cities while growing up, Overell has fallen in love with the beauty of Canada's northern landscapes and the people who call it home. "It's an amazing community to be part of," he says.

Life is full of important moments — marriage, babies, new homes and retirements to name a few. In 2014, Alumni Affairs and Development created the “**Milestone Program**” with Manulife Financial to recognize U of G alumni

milestones. Almost 500 packages have gone out to alumni since then. If you know OVC alumni celebrating a milestone, contact Stefanie Sharp, OVC alumni advancement manager, at 519-824-4120, Ext. 56679, or ssharp03@uoguelph.ca.

RESEARCH NEWS

Community partnerships key to research

RESEARCHERS STUDYING THE HEALTH of Inuit people in Canada’s North were intrigued to find those who ate frozen fish had higher statistical odds of diarrhea and stomach problems, and considered working with local public health units to advise people to avoid this food. But when OVC professor Sherilee Harper and her students talked with people in the community, they learned that frozen fish was not causing illness, but was considered a local Inuit treatment for an upset stomach. Cause and effect were the reverse of what was initially suspected.

In another study, Harper and her students were going to monitor tap water for waterborne pathogens. But after inviting the community to co-design the research project, the local Inuit people explained that they rarely drank tap water and primarily drank water from local brooks and streams. This information completely changed the design of the study to focus on brooks and streams instead of tap water.

Experiences like this reinforce for Harper, a professor in OVC’s Depart-



Prof. Sherilee Harper (lower right) and her students work with Inuit communities.

ment of Population Medicine, the importance of community partners in research. “Community partnerships allow us to get more accurate data and to interpret the data better,” she says.

Harper, who focuses primarily on food- and waterborne diseases in indigenous communities in northern Canada, Uganda and Peru, sees community

involvement as the foundation for her work. “We study issues that are important to the community, as identified by our community partners.”

Her projects follow ecohealth principles, including writing grants and collecting data alongside community partners, and when possible, analyzing the data with community participation.

Our fall 2015 issue of *The Crest* included a photo with the incorrect OVC 2015 honorary class presidents. The correct honorary class presidents for OVC 2015 are, from left, **Sue Kinsella**, RMT; **Dr. Shigeto Yamashiro**, pro-



fessor emeritus, Biomedical Sciences; and **Dr. Stephanie Nykamp**, OVC associate dean, clinical program. We apologize for this error.

One of Harper's newest projects involves collaborating with Prof. Ashlee Cunsolo Wilcox at Cape Breton University, along with Prof. Dan Gillis in U of G's School of Computer Science, to develop an iPad app for use by Inuit residents of Rigolet, Labrador. The app allows users to easily record near-real-time information about the weather, their location, their health and related topics.

"The idea is that when people are out on the trails hunting or staying in a cabin, they can bring their iPads," she explains. "If they see a bad spot on the trail that could be dangerous and cause injury, they record a video of it. If the temperature is low, the app will ask questions about frostbite or other symptoms."

Accumulated data are posted on a community portal, making the information available to others. As Harper says, "This kind of sharing is part of the Inuit culture, but the iPad app makes it easier, especially when people are out of town."

The data will also be used by Harper and her students to gather environmental and health-related information for future planning. "We are aiming to figure out how much rainfall is needed before the risk of water-borne diseases increases, or at what temperature the risk of frostbite starts to go up in order to trigger public health units to respond with programming."

Grad students focus on the North

- **Alexandra Sawatzky** (PhD candidate) is exploring the deep, intrinsic relationships between the environment and people in the Inuit region of Nunatsiavut, Labrador, to generate a better understanding of how changes in the environment impact various aspects of well-being. She is helping to develop a comprehensive environment-health surveillance system using a participatory approach to facilitate adaptation to environmental change.
- **Manpreet Saini** (M.Sc. candidate) is looking at knowledge transfer and exchange approaches between community members and researchers in Rigolet, Labrador, co-developing an evaluation framework for Inuit Public Health programs, and co-developing a whiteboard animation video with community members to share information on acute gastrointestinal illnesses.
- **Carlee Wright** (M.Sc. candidate) is using community-based participatory methods to assess microbial contamination of drinking water stored in containers at home by Rigolet residents, and whether this is associated with acute gastrointestinal illness. She is also investigating drinking water consumption patterns and how they have changed over time.
- **Jacqueline Middleton** (M.Sc. candidate) is examining how changing environments impact mental well-being and mental health-care service provision. This research project is co-designed, co-implemented and co-directed with community partners. It aims to support Nunatsiavut's mental health needs and advocate for resources to improve their adaptive capacity in a culturally appropriate and locally relevant manner.
- **Anna Manore** (M.Sc. candidate) is examining potentially harmful microbes on store-bought and traditionally-hunted meats in Iqaluit to find out how these microbes could affect rates of acute gastrointestinal illness within the indigenous community. She will consult with community members and involve northern research partners in sampling and testing meats.
- **Stephanie Masina** (M.Sc. candidate) is working with Inuit organizations and partners to explore waterborne disease in Iqaluit and examine molecular source attribution for pathogens in tap and brook water. The team will develop a culturally acceptable and effective knowledge translation program to reduce waterborne illness.

Eight custom-designed doghouses found homes at the Kettle and Stony Point First Nation near Sarnia, Ont., last fall. Designed by OVC student veterinarians during the **Nestlé Purina Doghouse Design Challenge**, the houses were

part of the student-run Community Outreach Club's successful five-year relationship with the First Nation community, which also includes regular wellness clinics offering core vaccinations and physical exams for pets.

RESEARCH NEWS

New drug targets deadly parasite in sheep

THERE IS A NEW tool to fight a deadly parasite in sheep with the recent approval in Canada of closantel, a therapeutic drug targeting *Haemonchus contortus*.

Haemonchus is one of the most pathogenic parasites found in sheep, causing anemia and sudden death in ewes at lambing and in lambs on pasture, says Trisha Westers, a PhD student supervised by Profs. Andrew Peregrine and Andria Jones-Bitton in the Departments of Pathobiology and Population Medicine. On some farms in Canada, *Haemonchus* kills large numbers of sheep.

As a tropical parasite, *Haemonchus* is not considered by some to be a significant problem in countries with a Canadian climate. However, ask Ontario sheep producers and they will tell you otherwise.

Earlier work by PhD student Laura Falzon in Population Medicine found that *Haemonchus* in Ontario showed widespread resistance to the most common dewormers used in sheep in 90 per cent of farms studied.

Haemonchus resistance to ivermectin, the only other dewormer currently approved in Canada for small ruminants, is widespread, says Westers. Resistance to fenbendazole, used off label, is also common. Through her research, Westers wanted to evaluate a new drug called closantel (brand name Flukiver) to combat this deadly parasite.

Researchers studied the efficacy of closantel in ewes and lambs at six farms over a two-year period. Fecal samples were collected on the day of treatment and 14 days later. The drug



PhD student Trisha Westers tested Flukiver as a way to combat *Haemonchus contortus* in sheep.

produced substantive reductions in *Haemonchus* egg counts in ewes at lambing and in lambs on pasture.

A vital piece in this new treatment focuses on targeted selective treatment with the recommendation that only animals requiring treatment receive it. When sheep are dewormed the susceptible parasites are killed, so surviving parasites are resistant, says Westers. Some susceptible parasites need to survive to reduce the risk of resistance developing on the farm.

Westers and her team evaluated four clinical categories to help farmers decide which sheep to treat: number of lambs, number of times on pasture, body condition and anemia. On the farms studied, anemia was by far the most strongly associated with high fecal egg count, says Westers.

With fewer therapeutic drugs labelled for use in small ruminants versus the larger cattle industry, Westers is happy this drug is now available for small ruminants. It is also the first dewormer approved for use in ruminants in Canada with a recommendation to be used in a targeted selective manner.

"It is so nice to have practical research farmers can use," she adds.

Elanco Animal Health partially funded Westers' research on closantel. Funding was also provided by the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, the Ontario Sheep Marketing Agency, and NSERC Collaborative Research and Development.



The Ontario Veterinary College is hosting the **2016 Conference of the Canadian Association of Veterinary Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine**, "Thinking Outside the Epidemiological Tool Box," on May 16 and 17.

Registration is now open. Find details on conference registration, keynote speakers, post-conference courses and abstract submissions at ovc.uoguelph.ca/conference/cavempm/.

ALUMNI NEWS

Clinic impact extends beyond veterinary care



Dr. Chris Buschbeck

RURAL MIXED PRACTICE BRINGS with it a little bit of everything.

"In a small community, your veterinary clinic is everything to all people," says Dr. Chris Buschbeck, DVM '99, a veterinarian and business owner with Markdale Veterinary Services.

Buschbeck has seen some changes in rural practice since she joined the Markdale practice in 2000. "It used to be mostly large animal and less scheduled appointments with veterinarians responding to calls as they arose each

day," she says.

Emergency calls, including lame cows and horses and colic in horses, still make up a significant part of the practice, but as the agriculture industry has changed so has the practice. Now dairy herd health is a larger component, with regular herd visits and lots of discussion on protocols related to programs such as the dairy industry's quality assurance initiative, she adds.

The practice's impact extends beyond providing veterinary care, with

a team of 18 employees who live in the community and buy locally.

A founding member and current president of the Small Ruminant Veterinarians of Ontario, Buschbeck has a special interest in small ruminants. Her family has owned a dairy sheep farm since immigrating to Canada in 1988.

Small ruminants are outnumbered by dairy and beef cattle, and there are few therapeutic drugs labelled for small ruminant use. In addition to providing continuing education opportunities for veterinarians, the organization advocates with pharmaceutical companies and legislative bodies for drug label changes to provide more treatment options for farmers.

Continuing education for pet owners, agricultural industry groups and 4-H members also factors into the rural practitioner job description. Veterinarians are often the go-to people when there is a question about zoonotic disease, particularly in agricultural communities.

"The public generally doesn't have a good idea of what is a zoonotic disease and what is not," adds Buschbeck. "Something fairly benign in animals can cause real problems in people, while something that causes real problems in animals may not be a concern for people."

"When you're in a community like this you do it all. You're never bored — there's always a challenge."

An OVC professor will play a key role in a new \$9.8-million national research project to enhance Canada's pork industry. Pathobiology professor **Bonnie Mallard** is part of a team that will develop genomics tools for selecting

pigs able to resist multiple diseases, improving animal health, food quality and safety. The researchers received funding from Genome Canada's "Genomics and Feeding the Future" large-scale project competition.

RESEARCH NEWS

Pain management makes disbudding easier on calves, farmers

DAIRY CALF HEALTH MANAGEMENT has long been a passion for Dr. Charlotte Winder. While working in a large mixed-animal practice following her graduation from OVC in 2008, Winder found it very rewarding to see continual improvements on dairy farms in this area.

The doctor of veterinary science student is now assessing online and in-person teaching of pain management techniques for disbudding calves under 10 weeks of age. Winder will evaluate the two teaching methods, working with veterinary clinics, dairy farmers and their staff across the province.

In a recent survey, Winder found that more than 60 per cent of Ontario dairy producers have changed their disbudding practices over the past 10 years, primarily due to concerns about calf welfare.

Winder is impressed by the number of producers now adopting pain control. "Many expressed how important pain control use was, and how much less stressful disbudding is now for both the calves and themselves," she adds.

Disbudding calves early in life prevents horn-inflicted injuries. Pain management techniques are highly effective but must be used properly to ensure the calf feels minimal pain.

Winder and her team will work with groups of 10 producers and farm staff to assess the two approaches. Half the group will complete an online training tutorial and accompanying online self-test. They will then complete in-person training to administer a cornual nerve block, a procedure that uses a local anesthetic to numb the nerve located a few inches behind the calf's eye, and disbudding technique on-



Dr. Charlotte Winder

farm with the rest of the group.

Once training is complete, researchers will test all participants, assessing their success in handling the calves, administering the cornual block and disbudding technique.

A summer project with student veterinarians showed the in-person training was highly successful, with all students successfully completing the cornual block and subsequent disbudding. The online tutorial also showed significant success, with 75 per cent of participants successfully completing the cornual block. The confidence level was slightly lower with online trainees, and it took them longer to complete the disbudding process, Winder notes. She believes the online option can be used as an adjunct to in-person training, as a refresher, or as a tool to train a new employee on the farm.

Funding for this research was provided by the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs Knowledge Translation and Transfer program.

Faculty and students in the Department of Pathobiology were recognized at the 2015 American College of Veterinary Pathologists (ACVP) annual meeting. Emeritus professor **Dr. Julie Yager** received Honorary Membership

for her outstanding contribution to veterinary pathology. **Dr. Dorothee Bienzle** received Presidential Recognition for her leadership in redesigning the ACVP certifying exam. **Drs. Chris Pinelli and Courtney Schott**, both PhD

students, won ACVP/ASIP Trainee Travel Awards, two of only 10 travel awards presented. The ACVP is an organization of board-certified scientists that sets the standard for veterinary pathology.

RESEARCH NEWS

B4 U GET A PET

A valuable resource for new and experienced pet owners

PETS PROVIDE companionship and nurture the human-animal bond, but getting the right information and making the right choices can be challenging for future pet owners whether they are bringing home their first pet or their 10th.

A new website eases the process, with easily accessible guidance about socialization, introducing pets to the household and realistic budget considerations.

"Research has shown that the success of a human companion animal

relationship is influenced by whether an owner's expectations can be met by the pet, and whether the needs and lifestyle of the owner and personality of their pet match," says Dr. Jason Coe, Department of Population Medicine.

Developed by Coe and his research team, the b4ugetapet.ca website brings together practical, evidence-based information in an accessible, easy-to-search



A resource for all pet owners
www.b4ugetapet.ca

website. Regular blogs, Twitter and Facebook posts provide additional tips and information on pet ownership.

Coe recently completed a five-year term as Nestlé Purina PetCare Canada Chair in Communications, focusing on research, communications and an outreach program to address positive behaviour training, pet overpopulation and pet abandonment.

Planning a reunion? We can help!

Services available for Alumni Weekend reunions

- Updated class lists for reunion leaders
- Mailing of one colour reunion newsletter per anniversary class
- Mailing of the Alumni Weekend brochure to each class member
- Co-ordination of registration, including payment, for all on-campus University events including on-campus reunions if details are confirmed by mid-February
- Staff to assist with event check-in at the beginning of your reunion event
- Printing of "passport" for each attendee with your name tag and a listing of on-campus events for which you have registered

Contact Stefanie Sharp, OVC Alumni Advancement Manager, 519-824-4120, Ext. 56679 or ssharp03@uoguelph.ca

Your class can't make it to Alumni Weekend? NO PROBLEM! Request a REUNION IN A BOX including a door prize, OVC information, OVC pins for the class, and more!



"OVC'65 50th Anniversary Reunion... We had it all! Camaraderie with classmates, renewal with our Alma Mater and an enlightening program! All this happened because our class planning committee was lucky enough to have the guidance and support of Stefanie Sharp, Alumni Advancement Manager from the very beginning!" Maurice W. Smith, DVM

"After each class reunion, every 5 years for 35 years, our friendships in OVC 80 have strengthened." Karol Mathews, DVM

"I really enjoyed organizing our most recent OVC class reunion. It was a great opportunity to connect with my classmates and rekindle old friendships." Colleen Best, DVM



Two OVC alumni were honoured for exceptional contributions to veterinary epidemiology by the International Society of Veterinary Epidemiology and Economics. **Dr. John McDermott**, DVM '81, received the

Peter Ellis Award for outstanding contribution to veterinary epidemiology in the developing world. **Dr. Ian Dohoo**, DVM '76, professor emeritus of epidemiology at the Atlantic Veterinary College at the University

of Prince Edward Island, received the **Roger Morris Award** for achievement in veterinary epidemiology.

ALUMNI NEWS

Mentorship key for new grad

EVER SINCE volunteering with her local veterinary clinic in high school, Dr. Dana Funnell has loved mixed practice.

Funnell, who joined the Ottawa Valley Professional Group in May 2015, sees a mix of cases with a 50-50 split between companion animals and large animals.

Food-animal cases include 60 per cent bovine, 35 per cent equine, plus a little bit of everything else, including pigs, sheep, goats and even a little poultry.

"Recently, I preg-checked a llama with an ultrasound," she adds. Funnell, DVM '15, splits her time between Osgoode Veterinary Services, Morrisburg Animal Hospital and Dundas Veterinary Services, concentrating on companion animals at the first two clinics and food animals at the third.

Her advice to new grads going into mixed practice: "Try not to be too hard



Dr. Dana Funnell

on yourself. You're trying to be good in two or three different areas when you're in a mixed practice. Every vet looks something up every day."

Also key, "Make sure you are somewhere where you'll have mentoring," says Funnell, who appreciates the strong mentorship she

first experienced with Dundas Veterinary Services during her externship.

The additional four weeks of external rotations in the rural community practice stream was a definite plus, says Funnell, and really helped to get "my feet wet." Top of the list for rotations was the primary healthcare and ruminant field service (RFS) rotations, she adds. "Those were fantastic and very practical.

"If we had down time during the RFS rotation we would talk about cases, about ketosis, displaced abomasums, torsions, calving and milk fever."

COMING EVENTS

APRIL 15 AND 16

OVC Alumni Hockey Tournament
University of Guelph Twin Pad Arenas

MAY 17

Institute for Comparative Cancer
Investigation Symposium
OVC Lifetime Learning Centre

JUNE 10 TO 12

Alumni Weekend | University of Guelph,
OVC Alumni Association
Welcome Breakfast and AGM, June 11,
OVC Lifetime Learning Centre

WEEK OF JUNE 13

OVC Convocation
War Memorial Hall

JULY 7 TO 10

Canadian Veterinary Medical Association
Niagara Falls
OVC Alumni Reception, July 8

For more information or to register for any alumni events please contact Stefanie Sharp at 519-824-4120, Ext. 56679, or ssharp03@uoguelph.ca.

The University of Guelph, and by extension OVC, is a registered charity. Your contributions can support the area of your choice or OVC's highest priority at the time. Visit our giving page at ovc.uoguelph.ca/give. Tax receipts are provided.

The Crest

Spring 2016

Number 20

Published for the interest
of OVC alumni, friends
and members of the
veterinary profession.

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ISSN 0843-5634

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