



WCVM COMMUNITY REPORT 2024

KEEPING ANIMALS AND PEOPLE HEALTHY TOGETHER

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Dean's Message

On behalf of the Western College of Veterinary Medicine (WCVM), I welcome you to our college's annual community report. In the following pages, you will find updates from the WCVM's education, clinical, research and community engagement programs. We've also strived to highlight some of the outstanding achievements and work done by members of the WCVM community in the past year.

This fall, the WCVM will host a team of veterinarians for an on-site visit at the college. Their five-day visit is part of the American Veterinary Medical Association-Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA-CVMA) Council on Education accreditation — a rigorous external review process for all North American institutions that offer a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) program.

AVMA-CVMA accreditation, which occurs every seven years, is a big deal. Accreditation means that all WCVM graduates are eligible for licensure in Canada and the U.S. without going through further clinical assessment. It assures the public that our graduates have achieved a defined level of competency. It also allows our college to be nationally and internationally recognized as an accredited veterinary institution that provides a high quality of education — a vital requirement in the global veterinary profession.

While it takes months to prepare for accreditation, the experience is a great opportunity to review where we are and what we've accomplished in the past seven years. What's important to note is that the accrediting body needs assurance that the college is on secure financial footing. Thanks to strong support from our three provincial funding partners — British Columbia, Saskatchewan and Manitoba — the WCVM is in a sustainable position for the future.

The accreditation process has also helped to identify areas where we need to expand our efforts. Here are some key areas where more work is being done.

Fine tuning a new curriculum. The process of renewing the college's DVM curriculum came full circle when all 85 members of the Class of 2024 graduated this spring. They were the first class to experience



Dr. Gillian Muir

all four years of the revised program that's designed to provide more practical knowledge and hands-on clinical skills training. Based on graduate survey results, students' overall satisfaction with the new curriculum shows an encouraging trend. Students report increased satisfaction with the program — particularly with the curriculum's relevance — and in areas such as professional knowledge and business skills, including employment searches. They also report higher levels of preparedness across multiple subject areas such as small animal surgery, nutrition and veterinary business.

But there's still more to do. Formal and informal assessments of the new DVM curriculum help direct ongoing adjustments — including better content alignment across courses and a maintained focus on clinical relevance. We're studying the alignment of student examinations with program competencies, and we're exploring ways to enhance student integration into the clinical environment of the WCVM Veterinary Medical Centre (VMC). As more student cohorts experience the new curriculum, the college will monitor graduate outcomes and address any emerging shortcomings for different clinical and subject areas.

Looking ahead, we're increasing opportunities for our students to obtain community practice experience. Dr. Steve Manning (associate dean, clinical programs) and I visited the B.C. communities of Prince George and

Vanderhoof in October 2023. We caught up with several of our alumni and toured through their veterinary practices, met with local livestock producers, and talked to high school students about veterinary medicine as a career option. It was a rewarding and insightful trip that led to great discussions and more connections between the college and B.C. communities. It also garnered several new fourth-year clinical rotations at B.C. clinics, which is mutually beneficial for our students as well as for practices that want to recruit new graduates.

Exploring an expansion and renewal project.

We've made progress on the college's feasibility study that is examining the resources needed for a future expansion of our DVM class size. A recent space optimization study has determined that in addition to a renewal of existing spaces, the college will need new space to sustain an increased class size. As part of the expansion planning, the WCVM and the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association are exploring the option of developing permanent clinical testing and training facilities for the clinical proficiency examinations (CPE) so they could be offered more frequently at the WCVM — the only Canadian site to administer the exam in English. That piece of the expansion puzzle has gained widespread attention because of high demand for more veterinary professionals and the waiting list of internationally trained veterinarians who need to pass the national exam before becoming licensed to practise in Canada. It's an exciting prospect and the WCVM appreciates the continued support of USask and the Government of Saskatchewan as the college meets with WCVM stakeholders — including governments, industry, alumni and donors — to discuss the possible expansion and renewal project.

Committing to diversity, equity and inclusion.

The WCVM is developing a diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) program that will dovetail with the university's policy as well as principles outlined in *ohpahotân* | *oohpaahotaan* (translated as "let's fly up together"), the USask Indigenous strategy. Expanding the number of DVM seats dedicated for Indigenous students, contributing to the USask Indigenous strategy, supporting events organized by the committee on Indigenous engagement, and recognizing students who have made an active commitment to DEI are some

examples of actions that we have done so far and are part of the overall program.

Another key action is creating an anti-racism strategy for the college that will build on the teachings incorporated in anti-racism education offered at USask. The senior WCVM leadership team has been taking this training since 2022, and the plan is to provide anti-racism education more broadly for the WCVM community. I'm also meeting with faculty and staff, many of whom are members of visible minorities and 2SLGBTQIA+ communities. Their opinions, insights and experiences will help to inform and guide our plans. As the WCVM develops its anti-racism strategy, students, staff and faculty will continue to learn and change as the college moves toward becoming a more welcoming, inclusive place to work and study.

Of course, there's always more to be done. Later this fall, members of the WCVM community will be part of discussions to review and refresh the college's mission and values. It's time to ensure that our mission and values reflect the college we are today, fully encompassing the work we do and the impact we have on our communities.

We also have a significant milestone to celebrate in 2025: it will be 60 years since the college's first veterinary students began classes at USask. Our alumni and development team are planning an anniversary celebration on June 6 and 7, 2025, that will bring together students, faculty, staff, alumni, donors and other stakeholders. We will keep everyone informed of our plans.

I hope you enjoy this snapshot of the past year at the WCVM. This college is a vibrant, exciting place to study and work, which is reflected in these pages.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gillian Muir". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Dr. Gillian Muir
Dean, WCVM

Year at a glance

Highlights, facts and figures from the Western College of Veterinary Medicine's academic, clinical and research programs in 2023-24.

Outstanding numbers



13 WCVM faculty and staff who received national, provincial and campus-based awards in recognition of their exceptional work.



1 GG Gold Medallist

Dr. Scott Dos Santos (PhD) received the Governor General's Gold Medal award in June 2024. His research focused on the impact of the maternal vaginal microbiome on infants' gut bacteria.

\$40K

Graduate student Agnes Truc Nguyen received the International Student Award in STEM for a Better World (\$40,000 over four years) in Aug. 2023.



PetSmart Charities of Canada invests in Northern Engagement and Community Outreach (NECO) program to support efforts addressing access to vet care in SK, MB, BC and Canada's North.

\$860K investment in NECO

18

USask graduate students based at the WCVM completed their MSc and PhD programs and graduated in fall 2023 and spring 2024.



DEGREES IN HIGHER LEARNING

3

Photos taken by three WCVM representatives won awards in the annual USask Images of Research contest — including the Grand Prize.



Academic

354

4 CLASS YEARS

Total DVM student population for the four class years at the WCVM (fall 2024).

BC | 154
MB | 75

AB | 2
OTHER* | 5

SK | 97
INTL** | 9

*Includes students from northern territories
**International students accepted in 2021 and 2022 (one student deferred to 2024)

14% increase

The WCVM's veterinary student population has increased from 311 students in the 2019-20 academic year to 354 students in 2024-25.

Based on a 2023 survey of WCVM alumni two years post-graduation, most respondents felt that the WCVM's veterinary program prepared them for a vet career.

80%



79%

Percentage of WCVM Class of 2024 graduates who are practising veterinary medicine in western Canadian communities.

80%

Based on a 2023 survey, 80 per cent of employers of WCVM graduates are satisfied or very satisfied with graduate competence.



17

Number of DVM students who qualified for agriculture-focused seats at the WCVM in the 2024-25 academic year.

The WCVM increased its DVM seats for Indigenous students from two to five seats, beginning in 2023.

5

USask honoured Drs. Gregg Adams, Vikram Misra and Barry Blakley of the WCVM as "Distinguished Professors."



Research & Graduate Studies



101

New research grants awarded to WCVM researchers in 2023-24, with a value of more than \$14.5 million.

105

Papers published in peer-reviewed research publications by WCVM researchers in 2023-24.



Graduate studies

Graduate students

2023-24	2022-23
198 students	191 students

Funding (graduate/undergraduate research)

2023-24	2022-23
\$4.19M	\$3.85M

33

WCVM's group of graduate students represents 33 countries around the world.



28

Undergraduate student researchers who worked with WCVM faculty mentors during the summer of 2023.

\$1.46M

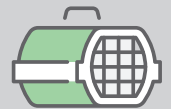
Two WCVM researchers, Drs. Adelaine Leung and Tony Ruzzini, will receive nearly \$1.5 million in funding over five years from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR).



Clinical Programs

22,865

Total VMC patient visits in 2023-24.



3,364

Total number of referred cases to the VMC's Small Animal Clinic and Large Animal Clinic.

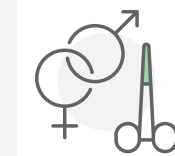


381

Total number of referring veterinary clinics to the VMC.

5,845

visits to the VMC's small animal emergency and critical care service.



496

Spay and neuter procedures completed in 2023-24 at the VMC.

MEDICAL IMAGING: the big 3

2,495

cases requiring X-rays

1,023

cases requiring ultrasound exams

665

cases requiring CT scans

Top 3 species for VMC patients (2023-24)

13,354
Dogs

3,953
Cats

3,430
Horses

Academic

The year's highlights from the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) program at the Western College of Veterinary Medicine (WCVM).



Fourth-year students in LFCE calving rotation.
 Christina Weese

WCVM completes curriculum roll-out

The WCVM began introducing a revamped DVM curriculum in 2020-21, incorporating competency-based veterinary education and a system-based approach. During the 2023-24 academic year, members of the Class of 2024 experienced the final changes incorporated in the updated curriculum. After a review of Year 4 rotations, the college has removed medical imaging as a core clinical rotation in response to the increase of diagnostic imaging content in Years 1 to 3. Further changes include more flexibility in meeting the small animal surgery requirement and increasing large animal rotations to four weeks from two weeks of large animal surgery. The WCVM has also added many specialty and general practices (small animal and mixed animal) to its list of elective clinical rotations.

While the college continues adapting the curriculum based on responses from the WCVM community, results from the 2024 graduate outcomes survey were positive. Compared to previous years, graduates report an increased satisfaction with the program in areas such as professional knowledge and skills, business skills and employment searches as well as with the relevance of the curriculum. They also report higher levels of preparedness across multiple subject areas.

Aligning admissions to DEI principles

The WCVM admissions committee has worked to ensure that the student recruitment and admissions process aligns with the college's commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) and the USask Indigenous Strategy (*ohpahotân | oohpaahotaan*). After conducting a survey of pre-veterinary and veterinary students in 2022, the admissions committee decided to continue offering online recruitment presentations. The live virtual presentations, which are recorded and offered online, are accessible to all interested applicants, regardless of location or resources.

As well, the WCVM strives to ensure that admissions committee members are diverse in background and trained to avoid bias in the selection process. In the last review of the admissions process, the college also identified factors that inadvertently favoured students from privileged backgrounds, such as a focus on volunteer work and processes that benefited students who could afford to complete additional years of university study.

Indigenous leadership award

Kree Byrne, a third-year student at the WCVM, is a 2024 recipient of an Indigenous Student Achievement Award in leadership from USask. Originally from Abbotsford, B.C., Byrne previously worked as a teacher in his home province where he enjoyed mentoring students and served as a soccer coach and referee.



Kree Byrne

At the veterinary college, Byrne is part of the WCVM DIVERSE executive and is a student representative on the WCVM's Committee on Indigenous Engagement. He's appreciative of the student support he's received from Indigenous organizations such as Indspire and the Métis Association of British Columbia in helping him achieve his veterinary goals. While he's still considering options for his future in veterinary medicine, he can see himself working in a mixed animal practice in rural B.C.

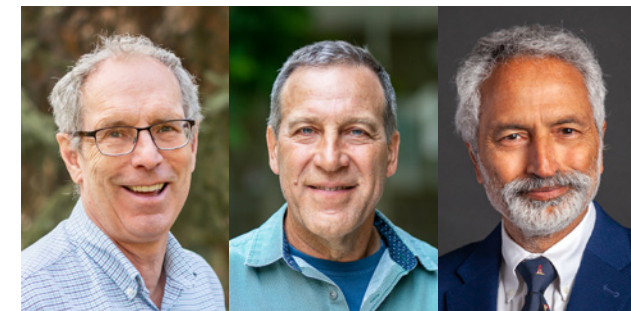
WCVM's distinguished professors

Three WCVM faculty members were among the latest USask faculty members to earn the title of "distinguished professor" — honouring their outstanding achievements in research, scholarly and artistic works.

Dr. Gregg Adams, a professor in the WCVM Department of Veterinary Biomedical Sciences, has built a global reputation for heading innovative reproductive research at the WCVM and USask. His many research interests include the long-term goal of creating the world's first bison genome biobank, which aims to conserve and repopulate bison species through frozen genome technology.

Dr. Barry Blakley was a professor in the WCVM Department of Veterinary Biomedical Sciences at the time of his passing on March 10, 2024. Blakley made significant contributions to veterinary toxicology through his research, teaching and consulting work in the veterinary profession and agriculture industry. His many awards include the J.J. Murison Distinguished Veterinary Award from the Saskatchewan Veterinary Medical Association.

Dr. Vikram Misra is a professor emeritus in the WCVM Department of Microbiology whose career spans nearly 50 years. He examined the effects of stress on the relationship between viruses and their hosts — an interest that led him to discovering the signals that trigger the reactivation of herpesviruses and learning how fungal infections and environmental stressors cause bats to shed more coronaviruses. Misra's work has helped to shape One Health at USask as well as around the world.



FROM LEFT: Drs. Barry Blakley, Gregg Adams and Vikram Misra.



Danielle Groenendijk (centre) and local students at her family's dairy.
 Supplied

Pilot program promotes veterinary careers

To help support the college's recent admissions initiatives, the WCVM launched a pilot program promoting veterinary medicine to Indigenous youth and students in rural areas. The program's aim is to recruit future applicants — especially for seats designated for Indigenous applicants and agriculture-focused students.

During their summer break, several WCVM students organized presentations and activities in their home communities for elementary school classes as well as for 4-H groups. One of the students who participated in the program was Danielle Groenendijk of Duncan, B.C., who organized two outreach events for youth in her local community. One elementary class and a 4-H group had the chance to visit her family's dairy farm where she toured each group through the dairy parlour, gave a milking demonstration and talked about treating common cattle ailments.

"I found it a great opportunity to share more about being a vet but also about dairy farming and agriculture," says Groenendijk. "I even had at least two girls say they want to be a vet when they grow up!"



Dr. Tasha Epp (right) and WCVM Dean Dr. Gillian Muir. Photo credit: David Stobbe

Outstanding teaching

Dr. Tasha Epp, a professor in the Department of Large Animal Clinical Sciences, is the WCVM's 2024 recipient of the USask Provost's College Award for Outstanding Teaching. This annual award series highlights outstanding teachers at each college on campus. Epp, who holds a joint appointment at the USask School of Public Health, is a leader and expert in the fields of epidemiology, zoonotic disease and public health. She has taught various topics ranging from ecosystem health to zoonotic disease and infection control.

Epp often uses real-world One Health issues to help students learn skills such as preparing for disease outbreaks. Epp also played a key role in developing the USask Centre for Applied Epidemiology, for which she serves as director.

Pauline Sang Award

Dr. Sophie Adams of Saskatoon, Sask., who graduated from the WCVM in June 2024, is the first recipient of the Pauline Sang Award for Compassionate Animal Welfare. Sang, who passed away in 2021, was devoted to animal welfare advocacy and was a passionate philanthropist. The scholarship is supported by a \$1-million endowed gift from Sang's estate. The annual award will cover a year's tuition for one or more WCVM senior veterinary students.



Dr. Sophie Adams

Participating in a northern service-learning rotation and working as a research student in Canada's North inspired Adams to help provide veterinary resources to underserved areas. She is now a clinical intern in rural Australia.

Gold medal recipient

Dr. Maya Kliewer of Saskatoon, Sask., is the 2024 recipient of the WCVM Faculty Gold Medal. Selected by faculty, this annual award is the highest honour given to a graduating veterinary student and recognizes outstanding general proficiency in the science and art of veterinary medicine during the DVM program. Kliewer's veterinary ambitions began at an early age, and during her time at the WCVM, mentorship and support from WCVM medical imaging specialist Dr. Sally Sukut helped her decide to pursue specialization in veterinary medicine. Kliewer is now a small animal rotating intern at the University of Guelph's Ontario Veterinary College (OVC) and plans to pursue a residency in veterinary radiology.



Dr. Maya Kliewer

'Creating an understanding and respect'

Yas Ranjbar is a third-year veterinary student who serves as the president of WCVM DIVERSE (Diversity and Inclusivity in the Veterinary Environment: Respect, Solidarity and Empowerment). In September 2023, Ranjbar became the third recipient of the WCVM DIVERSE award — a \$2,000 scholarship that the college introduced in 2022. The award, which is presented to the club's leadership each year, aims to honour the students' dedication and commitment to fostering diversity, inclusion and equity.



Yas Ranjbar

Ranjbar, who is a queer person of colour, is Persian and was born and raised in Iran. They have helped to plan and host a variety of social events and activities at the college, including a cultural potluck and the club's first DIVERSE drag party. Ranjbar says that WCVM DIVERSE's active presence in these events has been crucial to the club's goal of offering education to a wide range of people. Understanding the importance of diversity and inclusion also serves the club's members as they prepare to interact with a diverse population of animal owners that includes many cultures and backgrounds.

"Everybody has their own personal story and journey, and so being aware of the needs of others can be crucial when working with clients of different backgrounds," says Ranjbar. "It's creating an understanding and respect so you can communicate and help them in the best way possible."

SMART targets swine vet shortage

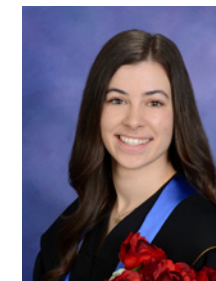
As Canada faces a shortage of veterinarians, the country's swine industry is finding it challenging to convince more practitioners to choose a career in swine medicine. With support from the pork industry, swine veterinarians and USask, WCVM professor Dr. John Harding has helped to launch the Swine Medicine Advancement, Recruitment and Training (SMART) Trust that will help to boost recruitment, retention and advanced training of swine veterinarians. One key aspect is the Pharmhouse Summer Student Experience program, a 12-week summer work term for early-year veterinary students at the WCVM and other Canadian veterinary colleges. Four Canadian students successfully completed work terms in 2023 and another student cohort participated in 2024. The program's other elements include a clinical competency training and verification process, a foreign-trained swine residency certification program, and advanced education for swine vets.



Dr. Hayley Bowling (DVM'23), swine veterinarian. Photo credit: Supplied

Award recipients selected by students

Dr. Kiri Stephenson, who graduated in June 2024, received the 2023 Student Leadership Award from the Students of the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (SCVMA). The peer-selected award highlights leadership and achievement in student affairs and is annually presented to a student at each of Canada's five veterinary colleges. Originally from Yellowknife, N.W.T., Stephenson was the student-teacher educational progress committee representative for her class and an executive member of the Western Canadian Veterinary Students' Association (WCVSA). She now practises at a large animal clinic in Chilliwack, B.C.



Dr. Kiri Stephenson



Dr. Jen Loewen

Dr. Jennifer (Jen) Loewen, an assistant professor in the WCVM's Department of Small Animal Clinical Sciences, won the 2023 CVMA Teacher of the Year Award. This award, whose recipients are selected by students, is annually presented to a teacher at each of Canada's veterinary colleges. Loewen is the only emergency and critical care specialist at the WCVM's Veterinary Medical Centre (VMC), where her passionate teaching methods and supportive mentorship play a key part in student learning.

Future of animal care in North

Two Western College of Veterinary Medicine (WCVM) veterinary students from Canada's North have received scholarships from Veterinarians Without Borders-Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Canada (VWB/VSF). Kandis Villebrun, a second-year student from Yellowknife, N.W.T., and Tannicka Reeves, a fourth-year student from Whitehorse, Yukon, received the VWB/VSF's "Access to Care" awards for 2023.



Kandis Villebrun



Tannicka Reeves

Valued at \$10,000 each, the northern student scholarships aim to decrease barriers for access to veterinary care in the northern regions of Canada where animal health resources are severely limited. Established in 2022, the VWB/VSF "Access to Care" program is open to applicants living in the northern territories, with priority given to Indigenous applicants. Both Villebrun and Reeves plan on returning to Northern Canada to practise veterinary medicine after graduation.

Research and Graduate Studies

The year's highlights from the research and graduate studies programs at the Western College of Veterinary Medicine (WCVM).

Beef research award

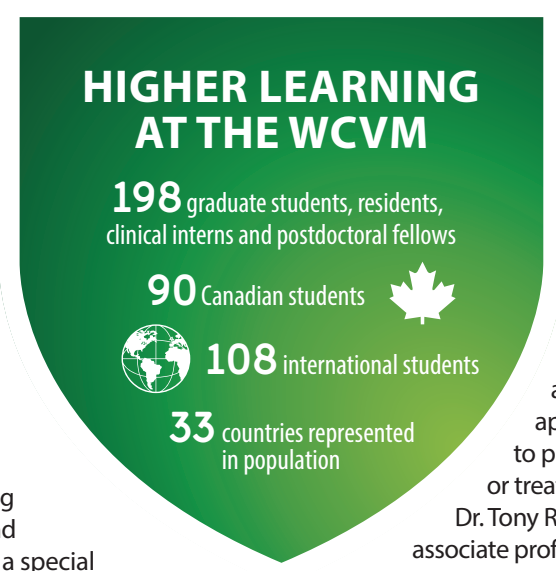
The 2024 recipient of the Canadian Beef Industry Award for Outstanding Research is Dr. Cheryl Waldner, professor in the Department of Large Animal Clinical Sciences. The Beef Cattle Research Council (BCRC) presents the award each year to celebrate scientists and academics whose work enhances bovine health and supports Canada's beef industry.

Waldner, who holds the NSERC/BCRC Industrial Research Chair in One Health and Production-Limiting Diseases, investigates the health and productivity of cow-calf herds with a special interest in developing tools for on-farm decisions using new technologies. Waldner's extensive research has contributed to the development of tools for veterinarians and producers to monitor antimicrobial resistance and identify respiratory viruses and bacteria, including the recent creation of a Johne's disease testing decision tool.



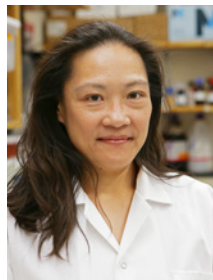
Dr. Cheryl Waldner

"Waldner's work has no doubt improved the competitiveness and sustainability of the Canadian beef industry," says Craig Lehr, BCRC chair. "Her extensive and proactive efforts while supporting others is greatly admired and appreciated."



CIHR funding success

Two WCVM researchers have received nearly \$1.47 million in funding from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR). Dr. Adelaine Leung, assistant professor in the Department of Veterinary Biomedical Sciences, was awarded \$627,300 over five years for her project that uses fruit flies as models to explore sex-specific approaches to preventing or treating obesity.



Dr. Adelaine Leung

Dr. Tony Ruzzini, associate professor in the Department of Veterinary Microbiology, will receive \$841,500 over five years to support research focusing on antimicrobial resistance genes and mechanisms. Dr. Lynn Weber, WCVM associate dean of research and graduate studies, commends Leung and Ruzzini for their persistence in navigating the federal agency's challenging application process. "Applicants for CIHR funding typically apply four to five times before they're successful, so this is a major accomplishment," says Weber.



Dr. Tony Ruzzini

Foxes help solve health mystery

A mix of ecological and biological methods in studying wildlife has helped WCVM scientists track a parasite that's dangerous to people. *Toxoplasma gondii* (*T. gondii*), known as the parasite associated with kitty litter, is found in humans living in northern communities at a disproportionately high rate. The reason for the high exposure rates of *T. gondii* in the North has long been a mystery, but scientists believe they've found a critical answer by examining Arctic foxes.

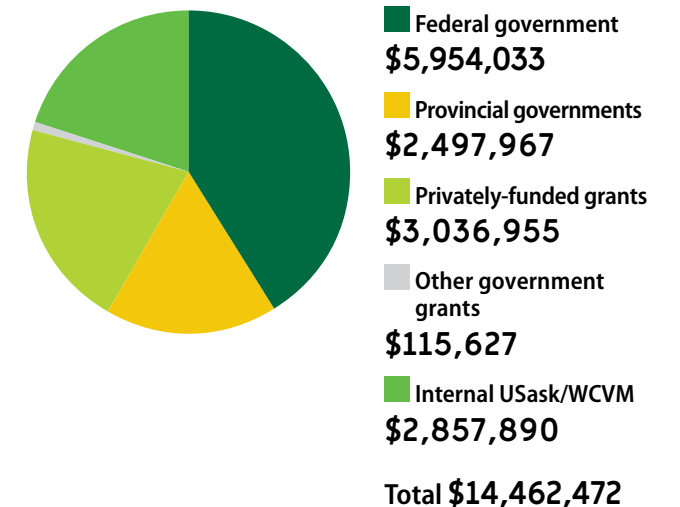
WCVM parasitologist Dr. Emily Jenkins and Dr. Émilie Bouchard, her former PhD student, published their research in *Scientific Reports* that highlights a heightened presence of *T. gondii* in foxes in the Nunavik region of northern Québec. Nunavik has Canada's highest human exposure rate of this parasite. The parasite can cause toxoplasmosis — a parasitic disease that can cause flu-like symptoms in most cases but is particularly dangerous for fetuses and immunocompromised individuals.

"Foxes are a good indicator species for how much a parasite is circulating in the environment because they eat a lot of meat — they scavenge a lot of meat. They can be exposed through similar routes to how people can be exposed," says Jenkins.

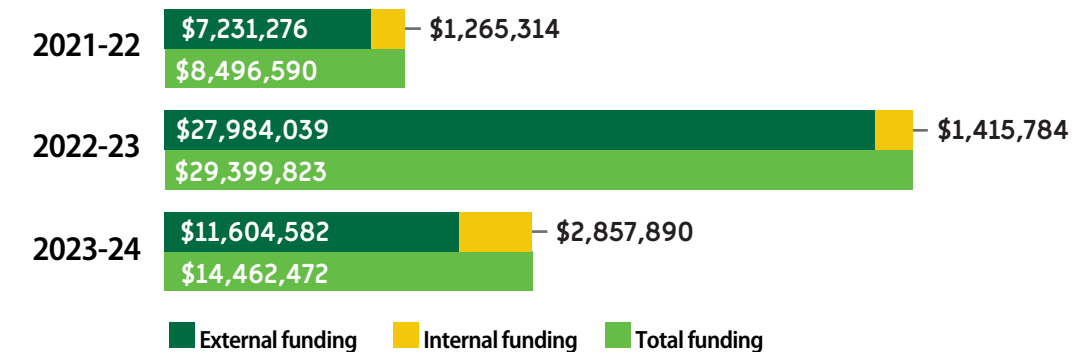


Dr. Émilie Bouchard

WCVM RESEARCH REVENUE FUNDING, 2023-24



WCVM RESEARCH FUNDING



- AUG. 2023** Dr. Thomas Jurrissen receives USask Misiwëskamik International Postdoctoral Fellowship. WCVM faculty member Dr. Dylan Olver is one of his advisers.
- SEPT. 2023** WCVM professor Dr. Cheryl Waldner receives the Zoetis Carl J. Norden Animal Health Award for Research Excellence at the WCVM Fall Awards program.
- JAN. 2024** WCVM professor Dr. Jaswant Singh becomes associate dean, academic excellence and innovation, at USask College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies.
- JAN. 2024** WCVM beef specialist Dr. Nathan Erickson receives Veterinarian of the Year award from Western Canadian Association of Bovine Practitioners and Boehringer Ingelheim Canada.
- JAN. 2024** An art exhibition called *Atim Maskikhiy* (Cree for "Dog Medicine") and developed from Dr. Jordan Woodsworth's dog-human relationship research, opens at Wanuskewin Heritage Park.
- JAN. 2024** Saskatchewan's Agriculture Development Fund invests over \$1.75M in WCVM-based food animal research.
- FEB. 2024** Vet student Samantha Nixon receives \$5,000 scholarship for swine research presentation at American Association of Swine Veterinarians.
- MAY 2024** WCVM oncology researcher Dr. Behzad Toosi receives Best Supervisor Award (Doctoral) at USask Life and Health Sciences Research Expo.
- MAY 2024** WCVM professor Dr. John Ellis receives 2024 Distinguished Veterinary Microbiologist award from American College of Veterinary Microbiologists.
- MAY 2024** First group of WCVM veterinary students travel to Africa as part of "Feminist Focused One Health Community Partnerships," a \$5-million research project led by WCVM professor Dr. Claire Card.
- JUNE 2024** Drs. Ali Honaramooz and Arinjay Banerjee receive combined total of nearly \$500K through Government of Canada's New Frontiers in Research Fund.
- JUNE 2024** Three WCVM researchers (Drs. Jaswant Singh, Susantha Gomis and Lynn Weber) receive a total of \$790K for their research projects through NSERC Discovery Grants program.

WCVM RESEARCH IN NUMBERS

\$14.5M in new research funding (internal and external)

\$3.04M in research stemming from non-government sources

21 non-government sources of research funding

2 Saskatchewan government agencies providing research funds

9 other government agencies (provincial and U.S.) providing research funds

\$8.6M in research funding from public sources

101 new research grant awards

8 federal government agencies providing research funds

6 USask units providing research funds

New poultry vaccine

A WCVM research team has developed an aerosol vaccine that's effective in protecting young broiler chicks against necrotic enteritis, a disease in poultry and a One Health issue affecting both animals and humans. PhD student Dr. Hemlata Gautam and her WCVM supervisor, Dr. Susantha Gomis of the Department of Veterinary Pathology, created the vaccine in response to the re-emergence of the disease due to the decreased use of antibiotics in broiler chicken production.

Gautam injected synthetic DNA into chicken eggs several days before hatching to help activate the birds' immune systems. The process stimulates the lungs of the embryos, allowing them to recognize live bacteria more quickly and produce an immune response in the gut. A few days later, researchers placed the newly hatched chicks in a nebulizer chamber where they received a single dose of a live, aerosol vaccine through the lungs. Gautam discovered that the chicks' intestines were completely healthy even after being exposed to the bacterium *Clostridium perfringens* — proving that the live vaccine had been effective.



Reaching new frontiers in research

The Government of Canada's New Frontiers in Research Fund is supporting the innovative, "high-risk, high reward" projects of two WCVM researchers. Dr. Arinjay Banerjee, adjunct professor in the Department of Veterinary Microbiology, received \$247,912 for his research that investigates the relationship between viruses and bats, and the factors that allow the transfer of viruses from bats to other living animals. Dr. Ali Honaramooz, professor in the Department of Veterinary Biomedical Sciences, was awarded \$250,000 for his research into exploring the use of use xenotransplantation (organ transfers from animals to humans) as a possible solution to Canada's ongoing organ shortage crisis.



Dr. Arinjay Banerjee



Dr. Ali Honaramooz

Gold medal honour

Dr. Scott Dos Santos, a health science researcher whose doctoral studies were based at WCVM, was one of two USask graduate students to receive a 2024 Governor General's Gold Medal. Dos Santos worked with WCVM microbiologist Dr. Janet Hill to investigate the impact of the maternal vaginal microbiome on infants' gut bacteria. The project began as a response to the concerns of pregnant women about "vaginal seeding." The USask team's findings dispelled the scientific basis of the procedure. Dos Santos is now a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Western Ontario.



Dr. Scott Dos Santos

Top USask supervisor award honours

Dr. Behzad Toosi, an assistant professor in the Department of Small Animal Clinical Sciences and the WCVM's Allard Research Chair in Oncology, received the Best Supervisor Award (Doctoral) at the USask Life and Health Sciences Research Expo in May 2024. The student-nominated award honours a faculty supervisor who provides outstanding mentorship and guidance to graduate students. Toosi's dedication to mentoring graduate students and creating an environment that encourages their success made him an ideal award recipient. His nominator was Dr. Jessica Sharpe, a PhD student in Toosi's lab who describes her graduate supervisor as someone who always goes the extra mile to meet the needs of his students, whether in a lab setting or outside of regular hours.



Dr. Behzad Toosi

Veterinary microbiologist honoured

Dr. John Ellis, a professor and researcher in the WCVM's Department of Veterinary Microbiology, earned the 2024 Distinguished Veterinary Microbiologist Award from the American College of Veterinary Microbiologists (ACVM) in spring 2024. This honour recognizes Ellis's career work in both veterinary microbiology and pathology along with his many contributions through research, education and service.

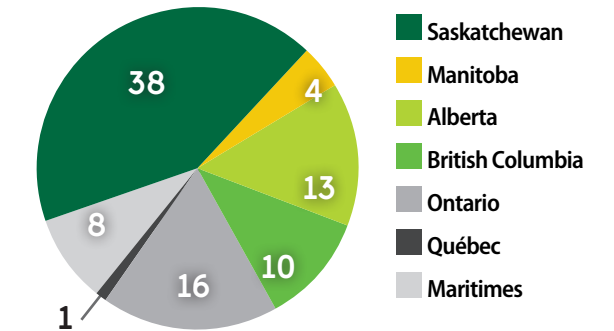


Dr. John Ellis

Ellis attributes his curious and contrarian nature behind his aptitude for studying disease across various species including *Bordetella bronchiseptica* in dogs, bovine respiratory syncytial virus in calves, and lentiviruses in sheep. Ellis led a WCVM research team whose members were the first to isolate porcine circovirus 2, one of the most important viral pathogens in swine. Their work contributed to the development of porcine circovirus vaccines, the most widely used veterinary vaccines in history. He has written or co-authored more than 250 peer-reviewed publications and textbook chapters, and during his 45-year career, Ellis has supervised and mentored over 60 graduate students and taught thousands of veterinary students in various subjects.

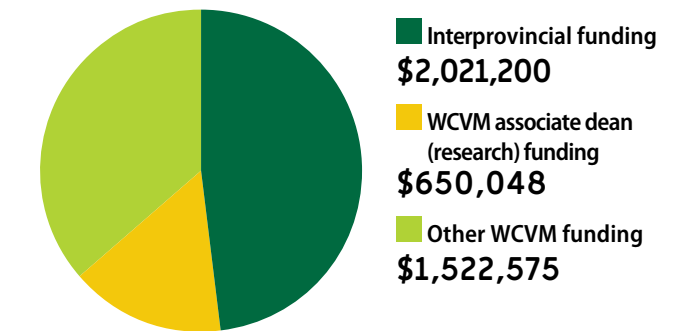
WHERE ARE THEY FROM?

Canadian graduate students, interns and postdoctoral fellows



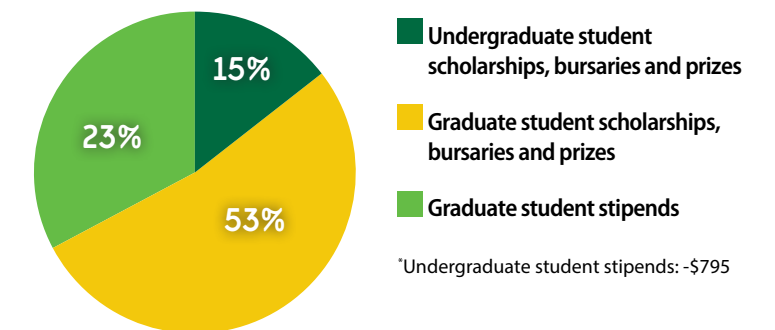
STUDENT TRAINING AND RESEARCH FUNDING

Undergraduate and graduate students (2023-24)



STUDENT TRAINING AND RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

Undergraduate and graduate students (2023-24)



The WCVM invested **\$4,193,824** to support undergraduate and graduate student training and research activities.

Clinical Programs

The year's highlights from the clinical programs offered at the Western College of Veterinary Medicine's Veterinary Medical Centre (VMC) and in other related areas.

The WCVM Veterinary Medical Centre (VMC) offers primary and specialized services along with a range of diagnostic and therapeutic technologies. It serves as a vital hub for the college's clinical, education and research programs, with the primary mission of providing clinical training for senior veterinary students. The VMC is a full-service veterinary teaching hospital that provides high-quality animal care to the community, and in turn, a diverse caseload that students require for their veterinary training. The VMC provides trainees with access to the routine cases typically seen in private practice as well as exposure to more complex referral cases.

THE VMC TEAM
(as of June 30, 2024)

- 67 registered veterinary technologists (RVTs)
- 64 veterinary clinicians; 31 are board-certified veterinary specialists
- 36 administrative and support staff
- 6 management and strategic leadership team members
- 32 clinical interns and residents

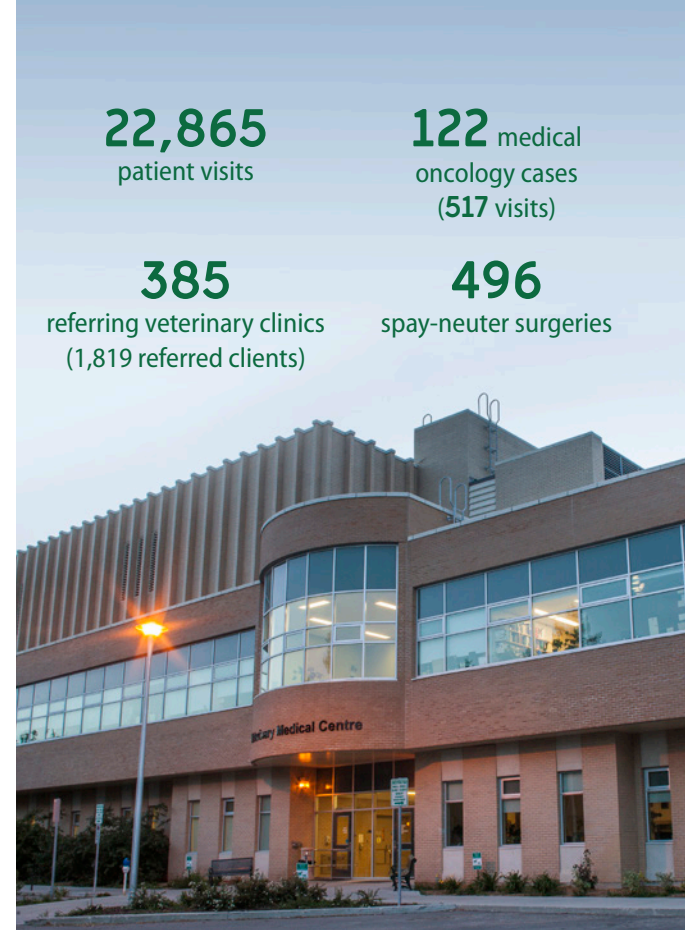
Caseload snapshot
The VMC's caseload is a mixture of first-opinion cases from the Saskatoon area as well as referral cases from across Saskatchewan and Western Canada. In the 2023-24 year, the hospital experienced a slight decrease (four per cent) in the number of overall patient visits. While the small animal caseload remained relatively the same, the number of in-clinic large animal patient visits dipped while field service (both ruminant and equine) patient numbers rose. The VMC's in-clinic equine caseload is stable and growing in recent years, but the in-clinic bovine caseload is variable — reflecting the current situation in food animal practice. The equine and ruminant field service caseload remains robust. The VMC's number of referrals remained relatively stable at more than 3,360 cases from 385 referring veterinarians who are mostly based in Western Canada.

Veterinary training
In 2023-24, the VMC provided clinical training for 85 fourth-year veterinary students from the WCVM as well as seven senior students from the University of Calgary Faculty of Veterinary Medicine who completed specific, single clinical rotations in the hospital. Last year's student cohort was the largest to go through the VMC in a single year, and with all members of the Class of 2024 graduating in June, the clinical year was deemed a success. Most senior students gave positive feedback about their clinical experience, indicating that they were very grateful to clinicians and staff for their mentorship, caring and support.

Many students also stressed the value of having an onsite veterinary teaching hospital — a valuable resource that's not available to many veterinary students across North America. WCVM students must complete 18 weeks of core clinical instruction at the VMC, and thanks to the hospital's breadth of specialty services, senior students have the option of completing the rest of their clinical year (another 14 weeks) on site at the WCVM. In 2023-24 the VMC and WCVM offered 26 elective rotations onsite in addition to 64 external elective rotations across Canada.

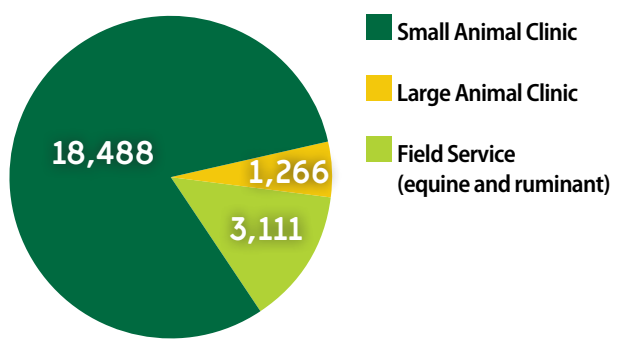


Medical imaging team members Stacey Oliynyk and Dr. Sally Sukut.
Christina Weese



VETERINARY MEDICAL CENTRE PATIENTS

From May 1, 2023, to Apr. 30, 2024, the VMC completed a total of 22,865 patient visits.



VMC leadership
As reported in 2023, the VMC created the new role of chief operating officer (COO) in 2022 after an extensive review of the VMC's organizational structure. Tammy Lucas, who has been the hospital's COO since January 2023, provides oversight of VMC operations and workflow in collaboration with Dr. Steve Manning, WCVM associate dean of clinical programs, and Ginger Appel, the WCVM's chief operations and finance officer. The hospital's senior leadership team also includes Deanne Kaar, director of quality, safety and health services, and Alyssa Dickson, director of business, finance, support and health services. They work closely with the WCVM's two clinical department heads: Dr. Cindy Shmon (Small Animal Clinical Sciences) and Dr. Chris Luby (Large Animal Clinical Sciences). As well, a team of managers and supervisors oversee daily operations throughout the hospital while five clinical heads support hospital management and supervisors with operations and liaison between clinicians and the VMC.

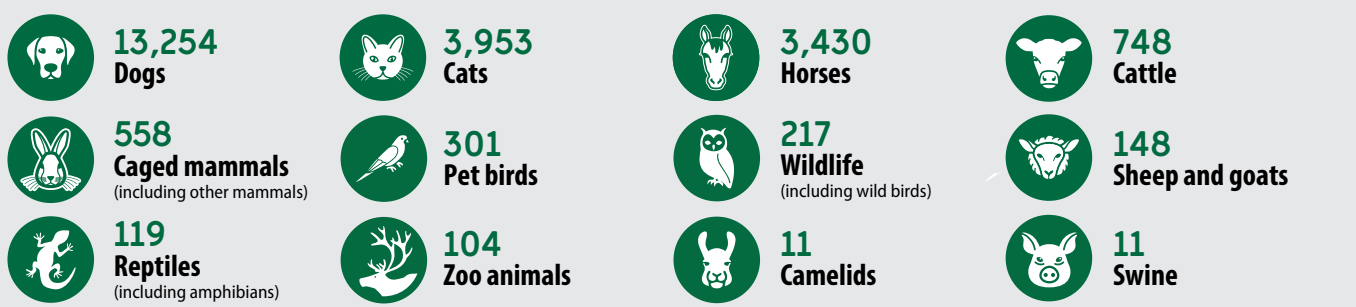
During the past year, the VMC's leadership team made an intentional effort to become more integrated and involved with other teams throughout the college. The goal is to enhance the flow of information both ways so people can work together in identifying where resources should be directed and what the college can do to help the VMC meet its mandate.



FROM LEFT: Tammy Lucas, Deanne Kaar and Alyssa Dickson.
Christina Weese

VMC PATIENTS BY SPECIES

May 1, 2023, to April 30, 2024



Instilling teamwork and collaboration

In the past few years, the VMC team has faced various obstacles including a fast-rising demand for patient care (especially in small animal emergency and critical care), a shortage of veterinary professionals, aging technology and a lack of clinical space in certain service areas. While the VMC leadership team works to address these issues through separate projects, an overarching goal is to foster a positive work environment that encourages teamwork and collaboration. After evaluating the hospital's strengths and weaknesses, the VMC leadership team is implementing new opportunities for growth that are founded on relationship-building, communication and set processes. Widespread access to training in leadership and coaching as well as increased communication between clinical services are examples of recent actions that have helped to increase safety, overall quality of patient care and workload efficiency in the VMC.



Veterinary social work

The WCVM is one of the first institutions in Canada to offer a veterinary social work program that provides essential support for WCVM staff and faculty as well as the hospital's clients. Erin Wasson, the program's clinical associate of veterinary social work, offers a variety of services to animal owners — including clinical counselling, educational resources and outreach for clients who are dealing with grief and loss, health concerns, trauma and communication needs. In 2023-24, more than 380 VMC clients benefited from the veterinary social work program's resources with most receiving direct services through assessments, counselling and referrals. Throughout the year, Wasson also provided 134 consults with veterinary team members. The top presenting concerns for all services include grief and loss, trauma and personal health concerns.

SMALL ANIMAL CLINIC PATIENTS

From May 1, 2023, to April 30, 2024, the Small Animal Clinic had a total of 18,488 patient visits (categorized by service).

CLINICAL SERVICE	PATIENT VISITS
Behaviour	145
Blood donors	85
Dentistry	682
Dermatology*	50
Emergency and critical care	5,845
Medicine	2,182
Medical oncology	1,423
Nutrition	16
Ophthalmology	945
Rehabilitation	2,282
Surgery	2,182
Wellness	1,523
Zoo, exotic and wildlife medicine	1,127
Total	18,488

*Dermatology clinical service was closed from May 2023 to May 2024.

WCVM FIELD SERVICE PATIENTS

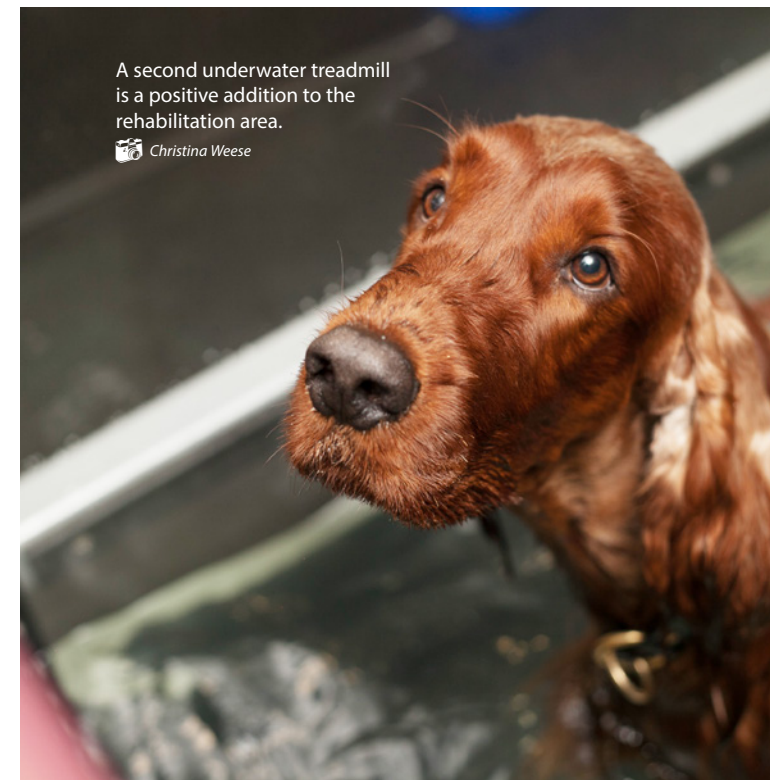
From May 1, 2023, to April 30, 2024, the Field Service completed a total of 3,093 patient visits.

SPECIES	PATIENT VISITS
Equine	2,334
Bovine	636
Goats	30
Sheep	78
Swine	6
Camelids	3
Wildlife (Field Service)	6

LARGE ANIMAL CLINIC PATIENTS

From May 1, 2023, to April 30, 2024, the Large Animal Clinic had a total of 1,266 patient visits.

CLINICAL SERVICE	PATIENT VISITS
Medicine	490
Surgery	443
Ophthalmology	15
Theriogenology	312
Zoo, exotic and wildlife medicine	6



New equipment for pet rehabilitation area

Thanks to the generosity of WCVM donors, the VMC purchased two key pieces of equipment for the hospital's pet rehabilitation area. A new underwater treadmill, in addition to the area's existing treadmill, now allows the clinical team to manage a larger caseload of post-surgery patients and pets with chronic health and mobility issues. The area's new gait analysis walkway is another welcome addition that allows the clinical team to assess and monitor lameness in animals by tracking their movements. The new walkway, which is portable and longer in length than earlier versions, also allows clinicians to assess larger dogs more easily.

SMALL ANIMAL SURGICAL PROCEDURES

From May 1, 2023, to Apr. 30, 2024

SURGERY	PATIENT VISITS
Abdominal	33
Arthroscopic	37
Dentistry	354
Gastrointestinal	168
Head/neck	39
Laparoscopy/thoracoscopy	8
Neurologic	61
Ophthalmology	84
Orthopedic	242
Skin/reconstructive	108
Thoracic	19
Urogenital	90

Replacing critical technologies

The WCVM and the VMC are replacing the hospital's existing magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) unit and linear accelerator — two key technologies at the medical centre. In October 2023, the USask Board of Governors approved the major installation/renovation project, which will cost an estimated \$9 million — most of which will be covered through gifts from donors. The college is co-ordinating the purchase and installation of both technologies to minimize cost, resources, service disruptions and the impact to students' clinical experiences. Construction is scheduled to begin in fall 2024 with a projected completion date in 2025.

Once the new linear accelerator is in place, the VMC's veterinary oncology team can resume offering a full range of radiation therapies — including optimized image-guided radiotherapy and high-speed radiation treatment. Next door to the linear accelerator will be the hospital's new 3 Tesla (3T) MRI unit, which will produce highly detailed images and deliver a variety of diagnostic capabilities.

WCVM & DIAGNOSTIC SERVICES



Veterinary Medical Centre (VMC)

Medical imaging including digital radiography, CT, ultrasound, MRI, PET-CT, nuclear scintigraphy and fluoroscopy



Prairie Diagnostic Services (VetPath, VetMicro, VBMS)

Pathology, toxicology, parasitology, bacteriology



Disease Investigation Unit (WCVM)

Herd health (livestock)



WCVM/College of Agriculture and Bioresources

Saskatchewan Poultry Extension Service

WCVM & SURVEILLANCE NETWORKS



Canadian Wildlife Health Cooperative (CWHC)

Wildlife health monitoring



Canadian Global Food Animal Residue Avoidance Databank (CgFARAD)

Food animal drug residue monitoring



Canadian Cow-calf Health and Productivity Enhancement Network (C3H-PEN)

Cow-calf herd surveillance



Western Canadian Animal Health Network (WeCAHN)

Animal health surveillance



Canadian Companion Animal Surveillance Initiative (CASI)

Companion animal health surveillance



eTick

Tick and zoonotic disease surveillance

REFERRING CLINICS

From May 1, 2023, to April 30, 2024

LOCATION	NO. OF CLINICS
Saskatchewan	125
Manitoba	76
Alberta	122
British Columbia	30
Ontario	16
Yukon	1
Northwest Territories	2
Arizona	3
Florida	2
Utah	1
Colorado	1
Texas	1
Minnesota	1
Total:	381

REFERRED CASES BY SPECIALTY

SERVICES	SMALL ANIMAL	LARGE ANIMAL
Behaviour	59	n/a
Dentistry	129	0
Dermatology*	0	n/a
Emergency and critical care	474	4
Equine standing MRI	n/a	41
Exotic, wildlife and avian medicine and surgery	57	n/a
Medicine	824	42
Oncology	455	n/a
Ophthalmology	525	12
Rehabilitation	90	n/a
Surgery	583	69

*Dermatology clinical service was closed from May 2023 to May 2024.

Small animal referrals **3,196** Large animal referrals **168**

Total VMC referrals: **3,364**

Outstanding clinical team members

During the Saskatchewan Veterinary Medical Association (SVMA) annual conference in September 2023, two members of the VMC's clinical team were honoured for their many contributions to the veterinary profession. Dr. Karen Sheehan, a lecturer and clinical associate in the VMC's wellness service, received the SVMA Mentorship/Leadership Award in recognition of her teaching and mentorship efforts with veterinary students and veterinary technology students as well as her work with Saskatoon SPCA, Saskatchewan SPCA and other community groups. Terri Osborn Cross also received the SVMA Technologist of the Year award for her outstanding performance and dedication to the veterinary profession. Cross, who has worked as a registered veterinary technologist (RVT) for over 25 years, is an integral member of the VMC clinical team and serves as the hospital's supervisor of anesthesia, surgery and dentistry.



Dr. Karen Sheehan

Terri Osborn Cross (left)

Protecting Canadian wildlife

Dr. Damien Joly is the new chief executive officer of the Canadian Wildlife Health Cooperative (CWHC). Before joining the CWHC, Joly studied and worked in wildlife epidemiology with organizations such as the Government of British Columbia and Wildlife Conservation Society. The CWHC works with Canadian agencies to collect vital data from wildlife populations across the country and uses the information to track diseases and health issues. The CWHC operates offices in each of Canada's five veterinary schools and the B.C. Animal Health Centre, with its national headquarters and western/northern office based at the WCVM.



Dr. Damien Joly



Resident Dr. Claire Whittaker conducts an ultrasound exam.

Christina Weese



MEDICAL IMAGING

From May 1, 2023, to Apr. 30, 2024

106 MRI scans

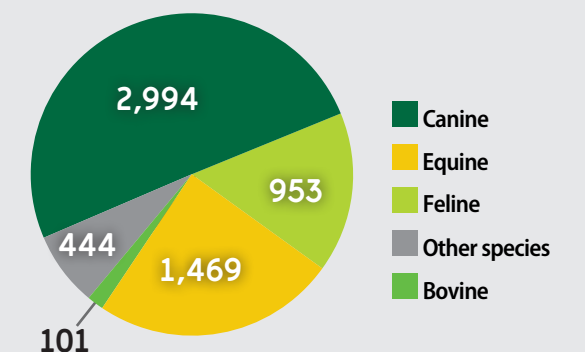
12 nuclear scintigraphy exams

27 PET-CT scans

665 CT scans

1,023 ultrasound exams

2,495 X-ray exams



Total medical imaging caseload: **3,344**

Community Engagement

The year's highlights from the WCVM's continuing education, extension and public outreach programs that are aimed to meet the diverse needs of the college's stakeholders.



Disease investigation workshop

Two WCVM faculty members were among the speakers featured in a livestock diagnostic webinar, offered through the Saskatchewan Veterinary Medical Association (SVMA) "Online Classroom" in March 2024. The webinar, which also included provincial agriculture specialists, offers a supportive resource for veterinarians and producers in diagnosing diseases and challenging health issues.

Dr. Nathan Erickson, an associate professor and beef cattle specialist in the WCVM Department of Large Animal Clinical Sciences, discussed the role of the college's Disease Investigation Unit (DIU) in diagnostic work and described some of the types of cases that the unit oversees. With financial support from the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture, members of the college's DIU work with local veterinarians to address complex and unusual animal health situations.

Dr. Vanessa Cowan, an assistant professor and veterinary toxicologist in the WCVM Department of Veterinary Biomedical Sciences, stressed the importance of submitting high quality samples to Prairie Diagnostic Services (PDS). She also talked about the provincial veterinary diagnostic laboratory's role in analyzing samples. Located in the WCVM building, PDS provides a full range of diagnostic services with a team that includes some WCVM faculty who provide diagnostic services through contract arrangements.

Global partnership addresses AMR concerns

Dr. Joe Rubin, a WCVM professor and veterinary microbiologist, and Dr. Roshan Madalagama, principal scientist at the Veterinary Research Institute in Sri Lanka, are collaborating on a project that aims to improve veterinary resources and education in the east Asian nation. It's not the first time they have worked together: Madalagama was Rubin's first graduate student 11 years ago when their research focused on antimicrobial resistance (AMR), a major global threat.

With funding from the USask Global Community Service Fund, the two scientists have begun a two-year One Health project that will help to improve laboratory capacity, build research capacity and provide continuing education to the Sri Lankan veterinary community. Their first endeavour was a lab manual, which is accessible online from anywhere in the world. Rubin travelled to Sri Lanka in March 2024 and plans to return for a second visit in 2025. These trips include teaching sessions at the local veterinary school, educational collaborations, and assessment and training sessions both in regional labs and at Sri Lanka's Veterinary Research Institute.



Dr. Roshan Madalagama (left) and Dr. Joe Rubin.



A scene from Elder John Halkett's painting, which is part of the dog-focused exhibit.

Art exhibit explores human-dog relationships

An art exhibit based on the USask graduate research of Dr. Jordan Woodsworth was launched at Wanuskewin Heritage Park in January 2024. *Atim Maskikhiy* (Cree for "Dog Medicine") is comprised of 17 works of art created by community artists. Woodsworth, who is also director of the WCVM's Northern Engagement and Community Outreach program, wanted her PhD research to focus on dogs in the La Ronge area where she had built strong relationships while providing remote veterinary clinics. Woodsworth says the project helps to challenge misconceptions about how dogs in northern Saskatchewan are treated — or mistreated.

After a three-month stay at Wanuskewin, the art exhibition is touring across Saskatchewan with support from the Organization of Saskatchewan Arts Council (OSAC). Woodsworth's aim is to encourage people "to consider what it might look like for community care to be incorporated into how dogs get cared for and managed in northern Indigenous communities."

Extension and public outreach

A sampler of public events and activities



Dr. Valentina Ragno, a lecturer and specialist in large animal internal medicine, teamed up with Alberta farrier Kim Lacey to deliver "Learn about laminitis" presentations at the Saskatchewan Equine Expo in October 2023.



Dr. Sarah Wood, assistant professor and USask Pollinator Health Research Chair, gave nine presentations on honey bees and pollinator health at various honey bee industry events, including the Canola Discovery Forum in Alberta, the Saskatchewan Beekeepers Development Commission convention in Saskatchewan, the B.C. Honey Producers' Association Conference and Education Days, and the Manitoba Beekeepers Convention in Manitoba.



WCVM veterinary toxicologist Dr. Vanessa Cowan presented a "beef cattle toxicology primer" to participants at the 2024 Saskatchewan Beef Industry Conference in Regina, Sask. She also gave an overview of diagnostic toxicology trends during a webinar organized by the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture.



WCVM associate professor Dr. Maarten Voordouw led the scientific planning committee that organized the inaugural Tick Net Canada Symposium, which took place in Toronto, Ont., in October 2023. The One Health event brought together scientists, health care providers and policy makers to target the threat of tick-borne diseases in Canada.



WCVM assistant professor Dr. Emily Snyder delivered an educational session on the importance of colostrum for newborn calves at the Saskatchewan Beef Expo in Saskatoon, Sask. She was also one of the guest speakers at the Livestock and Forage Centre of Excellence's annual Field Day in June 2024.



Dr. Volker Gerdts, a WCVM professor and director and CEO of the Vaccine and Infectious Disease Organization (VIDO), hosted the first Annual Health Summit in August 2023. The VIDO-led event brought together animal health stakeholders to focus on the critical issue of foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) in livestock.

WCVM's knowledge transfer

An overview of the college community's knowledge transfer activities in 2023-24

186 oral and poster abstract presentations **127** invited lectures (continuing education) **105** unique peer-reviewed publications **40** round tables, expert panels and workshops **17** symposiums or scientific meetings

Advanced sheep production course

In November 2023, several WCVM faculty members took part in an advanced sheep production course organized by the Saskatchewan Sheep Development Board (SSDB). Geared toward experienced producers, the two-day course consisted of health and industry sessions and labs led by speakers from the USask College of Agriculture and Bioresources, Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture, SSDB and members of the WCVM team — including Drs. Colin Palmer, Dinesh Dadarwal, Chris Clark and Fritz Schumann. The clinicians covered various topics including dealing with flock realities (euthanasia and necropsies), reproduction, ram breeding soundness, and flock health.

During the same weekend, the SSDB offered a one-day parasite management workshop for small ruminant producers. Held at the WCVM, the workshop was led by Drs. Fabienne Uehlinger, Emily Jenkins and Maria Jarque of the WCVM in collaboration with Dr. Camila Queiroz from the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA). In addition to lectures, the team offered a fecal flotation lab and a hands-on lab to examine the conjunctiva colour of live sheep (see photo).



Christina Weese

Public connections

301 media interviews/mentions **111** articles posted on *WCVM Today*, college news site **4** issues of publications sharing horse health and pet health (*Horse Health Lines* and *Vet Topics*) **7.77M** impressions on WCVM social media channels



JUL-AUG. 2023

More than 180 students in Grades 5 to 9 explore veterinary medicine during week-long summer day camps hosted by USask SCI-FI Camps and held at WCVM.

SEPT. 2023

WCVM professor Dr. Emily Jenkins receives Robert T. Bellamy Communications and Public Relations Award at Saskatchewan Veterinary Medical Association annual conference.

OCT. 2023

Over 80 Saskatoon-area participants attend WCVM EquineED evening targeting laminitis prevention with speakers from WCVM and Boehringer Ingelheim Canada.

JAN.-APR. 2023

WCVM receives more than 300 registrations for five animal health presentations included in college's 2024 mixed animal practitioners CE series.

JAN.-JUN. 2024

WCVM's Northern Engagement and Community Outreach team host one-day wellness clinics in Buffalo Narrows, Île-à-la-Croix, La Ronge, Muskeg Lake Cree Nation and Cumberland House.

MAR. 2024

USask scientists Drs. Sarah Wood and Ivanna Kozii give a public presentation titled, "Honey bees: what you need to know," at Café Scientifique Saskatoon.

MAR. 2024

WCVM veterinary students Gavin Fleck and Cassidy Sim promote veterinary careers to youth during mentoring sessions at the 4-H Saskatchewan's annual Community Leadership Conference.

MAY 2024

WCVM clinicians Drs. Jordan Woodsworth and Jennifer Loewen organize animal health training day for members of the Saskatoon Police Service's K9 unit.

Lung inflammation research

Dr. Gurpreet Aulakh, who holds the USask Fedoruk Chair in Imaging Science, and her graduate student, Dr. Ankon Das, were among the presenters at the 11th International Conference on Isotopes, which was held in Saskatoon in July 2023. Aulakh, whose research focuses on lung inflammation, imaging and innate immune cells, is an assistant professor in the Department of Small Animal Clinical Sciences. As part of the conference's oral presentation component, Aulakh and Das gave two presentations reporting on their research results.



Dr. Gurpreet Aulakh

Western Canada's top bovine vet

In January 2024, Dr. Nathan Erickson, an associate professor in WCVM's Department of Large Animal Clinical Sciences, received the 2024 Veterinarian of the Year Award from the Western Canadian Association of Bovine Practitioners (WCABP) and Boehringer Ingelheim Canada. The award spotlights Erickson's dedication to the veterinary profession through his research, clinical and teaching work in beef cattle production health.



Dr. Nathan Erickson

Erickson's research focuses on the use of product and management techniques to maximize sustainable herd production. Examples of his projects include controlling bovine respiratory disease in calves through developing immunization protocols and implant strategies, nutritional management for reproductive efficiency, and heifer development for longevity.

Continuing education

A sampler of public events and activities



In co-operation with Elanco Canada, WCVM professor Dr. Emily Jenkins took part in three informational videos about *Echinococcus multilocularis*, a parasite that is becoming more common in Western Canada. Geared for veterinarians, the videos target prevalence, diagnosis and treatment of the parasite; resistance of praziquantel (parasite medication); and the prevalence and treatment of *E. canadensis*. The videos are part of the Elanco4Vets educational series.



Dr. Murray Jelinski, a WCVM professor who holds the Alberta Chair in Beef Cattle Health and Production Medicine, presented on pen flooring and its contributing factors to foot issues in the feedlot at the 26th Western Canada Feedlot Management School in February 2024.



Dr. James Carmalt, an equine surgeon and professor at the WCVM, gave 16 CE presentations to veterinary audiences in Germany and Chile — several of which included hands-on labs. His sessions focused on several equine topics including the temporomandibular joint (TMJ), equine endoscopy, bone spavin, hock and back pain, colic surgery, equine lameness and enterotomies.



Dr. Jen Loewen, assistant professor and specialist in emergency and critical care, delivered presentations at the New York State Veterinary Conference and Kansas State University Veterinary Conference. Closer to home, she gave a webinar to members of the Manitoba Veterinary Technologists Association.



Dr. Isabelle Desprez, assistant professor and specialist in zoological medicine, delivered four hours of CE sessions to Italian veterinarians during the Società Italiana Veterinaria per Animali Esotici (SIVAE) Congress in May 2024.



