



UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN
Western College of
Veterinary Medicine
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WCVM COMMUNITY REPORT

2025 Annual Report

KEEPING ANIMALS AND PEOPLE HEALTHY TOGETHER

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Executive summary

If you take a close look at this report's front cover, the design includes a sampling of photos taken during a very special weekend for the Western College of Veterinary Medicine (WCVM). In early June, more than 600 WCVM current and former students, faculty, staff and donors gathered in Saskatoon to celebrate the college's 60th anniversary with a welcome reception, open house and a memorial tea for the late Dr. Barry Blakley (DVM'75). As well, WCVM graduates from 12 classes held individual class reunion events during the busy weekend.

It was a wonderful celebration, and we were thrilled to have so many of our alumni from across Western Canada and around the world joining us for the anniversary. And, while many of the weekend's conversations focused on the college's past, it was exciting to share a few recent achievements that are setting up this college for future success.

AVMA COE accreditation. Last fall, the WCVM was preparing to host a team from the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) Council on Education (COE) for the college's accreditation site visit. I'm happy to report that the WCVM received accredited status from the AVMA COE in March 2025 with only one minor deficiency that has already been addressed.

AAHA accreditation. Following a full-day site visit in April 2025, the American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA) reaffirmed the WCVM Veterinary Medical Centre's (VMC) accreditation — highlighting the VMC's ongoing commitment to providing top-tier veterinary care for animals across Western Canada.

IPA renewal. In May 2025, the Governments of Saskatchewan, British Columbia and Manitoba renewed their financial commitment to the WCVM for the next five years — continuing a longstanding interprovincial collaboration that has been in place for six decades.

Renewed technologies. Late in 2024, the WCVM had to deal with not one, but two, aging pieces of critical equipment reaching the end of their use in the veterinary teaching hospital. Ten months later, we celebrated the grand opening of the hospital's new magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) machine and linear



Dr. Gillian Muir

accelerator on October 2. This outcome wouldn't have been possible without the tremendous support of our donors, who have contributed more than half the cost of this \$9.1-million construction project that included vital renovations to our oncology and medical imaging suite.

These announcements reflect our college's strong foundation, which is especially important as we continue studying the option of expanding the college's DVM program. We are grateful to the Government of Saskatchewan for providing financial assistance in support of the college's feasibility study and investigations into WCVM space expansion and renewal needs.

At the same time, we're also working with the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA) to seek federal funding support for the development of a national training and testing centre for internationally trained veterinarians. The WCVM is Canada's only English-language host site for the CVMA's National Examining Board program, which helps to place up to 55 qualified veterinarians into the profession each year. Dedicated space for training and testing at the WCVM would eliminate some significant bottlenecks and allow this program to grow so we can sustainably increase the number of internationally trained veterinarians who can practise in Canada.

In alignment with the WCVM's objective to ensure that the college becomes a more welcoming, inclusive place to work and study, the past year has seen substantial engagement across the WCVM community as we continue to refresh the college's mission and values.

This work continues in the coming year, when we plan to launch and integrate our values-as-actions approach throughout the college. We also initiated anti-racism awareness training in the VMC this year, with the leadership of Tammy Lucas, the VMC's chief operating officer. This initiative will serve as a pilot program before integrating an anti-racism strategy across the college. It's a long journey and a necessary one, and we are strongly supported by USask for this work. I also want to recognize the efforts of the college's Committee on Indigenous Engagement and Elder Roland Duquette, who shares his insights and his sense of humour with our college's community.

In 2024 the AVMA COE made a change to its educational standard, which now requires all accredited veterinary schools to provide a minimum of 40 weeks of hands-on clinical education in the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) program's final year. For the WCVM, this means adding an extra eight weeks to our fourth year and having those plans in place by summer 2026.

After careful consideration and consultation, the WCVM is splitting the eight weeks between two programs: veterinary students will take an additional four weeks of clinical rotations at the WCVM, plus they will need to take a four-week primary care experience hosted by a general veterinary practice in Western Canada. The latter program will allow all fourth-year veterinary students to gain more hands-on, practice-ready experience in primary care for small animals, horses and livestock. The value of this new primary care experience is supported by feedback from our veterinary graduates and western Canadian veterinarians, and our academic team has made good progress in recruiting general veterinary practices as rotation hosts.

Inside this annual report, you will find stories highlighting initiatives, awards, research and events along with facts and figures gathered from the college's academic, research, clinical and community engagement programs over the past year. While it's difficult to choose only one accomplishment out of so many, I do want to give special mention to Dr. Ken Mould, a 1975 graduate of the WCVM, who practised for many years in Winnipeg, Man. Dr. Mould was recently appointed to the Order of Canada in recognition of his many contributions to the veterinary profession. It was a privilege to have Dr. Mould join us for the WCVM's 60th anniversary celebrations and to learn more about his amazing career that included founding the Canadian Animal Blood Bank over 30 years ago. Like so many of our alumni, Dr. Mould possesses a forward-thinking "can-do" attitude that has sparked innovative ideas and helped to raise the calibre of animal health care across Canada. We owe so much to his efforts.

While this year marks an important milestone in the WCVM's history, it's also been a year of exploring new opportunities for the college and its future path in the veterinary profession.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gillian Muir".

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 2024-25.

Outstanding numbers



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



1 Order of Canada
WCVM alumnus Dr. Ken Mould (DVM'75) was appointed a member of the Order of Canada. He earned the honour for his many contributions to veterinary health care — including the creation of the Canadian Animal Blood Bank.

\$194+ million
British Columbia, Saskatchewan and Manitoba renewed the WCVM's Interprovincial Agreement for five years (2025-30). This longstanding agreement provides the college with more than \$194 million over five years — stable funding for education, research and clinical programs.



Based on SciVal data, USask is the #1 academic institution for scholarly output in beef cattle research in Canada. USask is also #8 worldwide for beef cattle research work. WCVM bovine health specialists are key contributors to USask's top research position.

#1 in beef cattle research

13 class reunions
Twelve WCVM classes held reunions during the 60th anniversary weekend in June 2025. Members of the Class of 2010 also met in August for their reunion — making it a baker's dozen of class reunions this summer.



Academic

354 **4 CLASS YEARS**
Total DVM student population for the four class years at the WCVM (fall 2025).

BC | 164 SK | 102 MB | 78
OTHER* | 5 INTL** | 5

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

86% Percentage of WCVM Class of 2025 graduates who practise veterinary medicine in western Canadian communities.

The WCVM presented 107 awards worth more than \$357,000 to outstanding students, faculty and staff during its spring and fall awards ceremonies.



1 Provost's Outstanding Teacher Award
WCVM associate professor Dr. Nicole Fernandez received this campus-wide honour in recognition of her top-notch teaching.



56th Faculty Gold Medallist
Dr. Rachel Haner of Oakbank, Man., is the 56th recipient of the WCVM's most prestigious student honour.

5 **equine head models**
These five heads are part of gastrointestinal tubing labs in the BJ Hughes Centre for Clinical Learning. One head belongs to Bubbles the mare, the new foaling simulator model.

8 **students from then and now**
Members of the Class of 1969 and Class of 2026 compared notes about vet school during a panel discussion at Vetavision 2024 (WCVM's open house).

Research & Graduate Studies



79 New research grants awarded to WCVM researchers in 2024-25, with a value of more than \$9.2 million.

255 Peer-reviewed research articles authored or co-authored by WCVM researchers in 2024-25.



Graduate studies

Graduate students	
2024-25	2023-24
204 students	198 students
Funding (graduate/undergraduate research)	
2024-25	2023-24
\$5.1M	\$4.19M



25 Undergraduate student researchers who worked with WCVM faculty mentors during the summer of 2024.

37 Number of USask post-secondary students based at the WCVM who completed graduate programs (MSc, MVSc and PhD) and clinical internships — convocating in fall 2024/spring 2025.

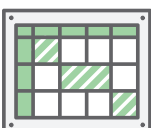


Clinical Programs

22,090 Total VMC patient visits in 2024-25.



3,076 Total number of referred cases to the VMC's Small Animal Clinic and Large Animal Clinic in 2024-25.

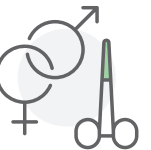


277 Total number of referring veterinary clinics to the VMC.

5,592 visits to the VMC's small animal emergency and critical care service.



706 Spay-neuter procedures completed at the VMC and through community programs.

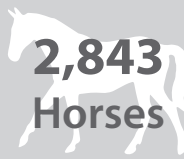


MEDICAL IMAGING: the big 3

3,009 X-ray studies
1,098 ultrasound exams
672 CT scan studies

Top 3 species for VMC patients (2024-25)

13,085 Dogs **3,787** Cats **2,843** Horses



Academic

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



Dignitaries and students at IPA announcement.

Christina Weese

Interprovincial agreement renewal

The Governments of Saskatchewan, British Columbia and Manitoba renewed their financial commitment to the WCVM, continuing a longstanding interprovincial agreement that has been in place for six decades. The renewed agreement provides more than \$194 million to the WCVM over the next five years, helping to ensure the college can deliver critical veterinary medicine programming, research and clinical services that address the needs of each province.

“Ongoing financial support from the Governments of Saskatchewan, Manitoba and British Columbia has played a vital role in maintaining the WCVM’s reputation as a centre for excellence in education, research and clinical services,” said WCVM Dean Dr. Gillian Muir during the funding announcement in May 2025. “We look forward to working together with the college’s funding partners on strategies that address Western Canada’s increasing need for veterinarians and animal health care services.”

WCVM maintains international accreditation

In March 2025, the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) Council on Education granted the WCVM accredited status after a successful site visit in October 2024. A minor deficiency in Standard 3 (Physical Facilities and Equipment), which was related to operator safety in an equine isolation stall at the WCVM Veterinary Medical Centre, has already been addressed.

Members of the AVMA site team made special note of two WCVM programs. They described the Northern Engagement and Community Outreach (NECO) program as “exemplary” for allowing veterinary students to participate directly in outreach activities in remote communities. They also praised the college’s overall research enterprise — including its undergraduate research program that offers hands-on experience in high-quality research to undergraduate students.

NECO program

Since 2013, the Northern Engagement and Community Outreach (NECO) program has been working in partnership with northern, remote and Indigenous communities. NECO organizes two remote clinics per year in La Ronge, plus an annual spay-neuter and wellness clinic in Île-à-la-Crosse, Sask. Funding from PetSmart Charities of Canada also supports the work of Katara Chanin, a registered veterinary technologist (RVT), who supports NECO programs and connects with new communities. In 2024 and 2025, NECO held one-day wellness clinics in the Saskatchewan communities of Cumberland House, Buffalo Narrows, Muskeg Lake Cree Nation and La Loche.

In November 2024, NECO organized a senior veterinary student rotation in Manitoba’s Sagkeeng First Nation in partnership with Manitoba’s Office of the Chief Veterinary Officer, Winnipeg Humane Society (WHS) and Manitoba Underdogs Rescue. NECO’s involvement helped provide additional services including dedicated wellness appointments and community knowledge exchange. In spring 2025, WCVM senior students participated in a second rotation in northern Manitoba.

SCVMA honours

In 2024, WCVM students selected **Dr. Trisha Dowling** as their college’s recipient of the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA) Teacher of the Year Award. Dowling, who retired in June 2025, was a WCVM professor who taught veterinary pharmacology for 32 years and the college’s Mindful Veterinary Practice elective course



Dr. Trisha Dowling

for 13 years. In addition to teaching, Dowling consulted with veterinarians about drug therapy and conducted drug research. She is also a founder and co-director of the Canadian Global Food Animal Residue Avoidance Database (CgFARAD). During her career, Dowling received numerous teaching awards including the University of Saskatchewan’s Master Teaching Award and a previous CVMA top teaching award.

Dr. Hayley Jenkins’ lifelong passion for working with animals and improving animal welfare helped her earn a 2024 Student Leadership Award from the Students of the CVMA (SCVMA). Jenkins, who graduated from the WCVM in June 2025, received the award for her outstanding leadership, community service and advocacy work in student affairs.



Dr. Hayley Jenkins

As the WCVM Class of 2025 president, Jenkins worked hard to represent her classmates and foster an inclusive learning environment. Jenkins now practises as a mixed animal veterinarian in St. Claude, Man. She also plans to volunteer in northern communities — including her hometown of Thompson, Man. — where veterinary resources are extremely limited.

A heartfelt class gift

More than 50 years after launching their veterinary careers at the WCVM, members of the Class of 1973 raised an impressive total of \$113,000 in support of the college’s BJ Hughes Centre for Clinical Learning, the college’s simulation centre. The additional funds will be used to purchase vital pieces of simulation equipment that students can use to hone their skills and techniques. This type of learning resource is invaluable to students — and it’s something that the Class of 1973 would have appreciated when they were first in the classroom. While they learned through hands-on experiences, the students didn’t have a lot of opportunities to build their clinical skills through repetition.

“Everybody [in our class] was overwhelmed with the difference between how skills were being taught now compared to when we were in school,” says Dr. Trent Watts, a Class of 1973 member who practised as a small animal veterinarian in Saskatoon, Sask. A talented woodworker, Watts also designed a unique plaque to commemorate his class’s generous gift to the BJ Hughes Centre. The plaque now hangs in the centre, sending an inspiring message to others about the impact of giving back.



Carolyn Cartwright uses one of the new equine head models.

Christina Weese

Merck grants boost equine training tools

Two recent grants from Merck Animal Health Canada — totalling over \$50,000 — have helped the WCVM enhance its equine teaching tools. The BJ Hughes Centre for Clinical Learning used the funding to purchase several high-tech simulation models, including three life-sized equine nasogastric tubing systems. The new models allow veterinary students to practise procedures like stomach tubing and IV injections without relying on live horses.

“These models will not only decrease but potentially eliminate live horse use for that GI tubing lab,” says centre manager Carolyn Cartwright, noting the procedure often causes discomfort for the horses.

Portable and standardized, the models also reduce testing variability, making them ideal for hands-on exams. Merck’s support additionally funded simulation tools for bovine, equine and swine care.

Mare-foal models enhance training

WCVM students now have access to life-sized mare and foal models, thanks to a generous donation from Calgary author Dr. June Donaldson. “Bubbles” the mare was inspired by a beloved draft horse owned by Donaldson’s grandparents while “Biscuit” the foal is named after Seabiscuit, an American thoroughbred racing superstar.

“Foaling is a critical time for the mare and the foal,” says WCVM Dean Dr. Gillian Muir. “That’s the kind of skill you can’t be practising for the first time when a real animal is in trouble.”

Veterinary students can also use Bubbles to learn how to insert a tube in a horse’s esophagus and stomach — a technique that veterinarians often use in equine colic cases. The mare and foal now reside in the BJ Hughes Centre for Clinical Learning.



Bev Hughes in the BJ Hughes Centre for Clinical Learning.
Christina Weese

Honouring Bev Hughes

In fall 2024 the WCVM and USask honoured Calgary philanthropist Bev Hughes for her extraordinary contributions to the college’s veterinary education program. The event celebrated her lasting impact on the college and her unwavering dedication to enhancing the learning environment for future veterinarians. Since 2009, Hughes has donated more than \$1.29 million to the WCVM in support of an annual student award (the BJ Hughes Scholarship) as well as the BJ Hughes Centre for Clinical Learning — the college’s high-tech clinical skills laboratory that opened in 2016. The centre enables veterinary students to practise their clinical skills in a safe learning environment.

“It’s hard to believe it was really only nine years ago that the centre opened because it has become such an integral part of who we are and what we do in this college,” says WCVM Dean Dr. Gillian Muir. “It’s the generosity of Bev Hughes that allowed us to set this up.”

‘Discover what brings you joy’

Gavin Fleck, a fourth-year veterinary student from Lampman, Sask., is the first recipient of the Dr. Arran Lamont Memorial Award — a new WCVM scholarship that highlights the value of students enjoying other passions outside of veterinary medicine. The \$1,500 award pays tribute to the well-rounded personality of the late Dr. Arran Lamont, a WCVM alumnus who passed away in 2022.



Gavin Fleck

In Fleck’s case, he learned how to play banjo, mandolin, fiddle and guitar during his childhood and now performs in Sask Steel, a local band.

Dr. Eddie Rasmussen, a classmate and close friend of Lamont, says that Fleck’s essay submission closely represented Lamont’s outlook on life. For Fleck as well as for future recipients, Rasmussen hopes that this award can be beneficial in multiple ways: “It provides financial support for students, but it also shows encouragement to try new things. Discover what brings you joy because that’s how Arran lived his life.”

Celebrating immigrant students

A WCVM graduate has established a new veterinary scholarship that pays tribute to her parents’ selflessness in immigrating with their family to Canada. The Giti Golmohammadi Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Award, which is named after the mother of Dr. Azy Behnam (DVM’23), supports a student whose path to veterinary medicine has involved the challenges of immigration. The award’s first recipient is Lillian Lu, a fourth-year WCVM veterinary student. Originally from China, Lu immigrated to Vancouver, B.C., when she was five years old with her parents. “It’s very motivational to be chosen as the recipient of such a special award,” says Lu.



Lillian Lu

Outstanding educators

The University of Saskatchewan (USask) recognized two WCVM faculty members for their exceptional contributions to education and scholarship during the university’s annual staff and faculty awards in June 2025.

Dr. Claire Card, a professor, researcher and therio-genologist at the WCVM, was the 2025 recipient of the USask Provost’s College Award for Outstanding

Teaching. The recognition spotlights outstanding faculty members at each USask college who exemplify excellence in teaching, mentorship and leadership. She joined the WCVM faculty as a therio-genologist in 1991, and over the past three decades, she has built a reputation as a trailblazer in equine and production animal reproduction research and education. Beyond the classroom and the clinic, Card uses a One Health approach to actively address the broader social and economic challenges facing communities globally.



Dr. Claire Card

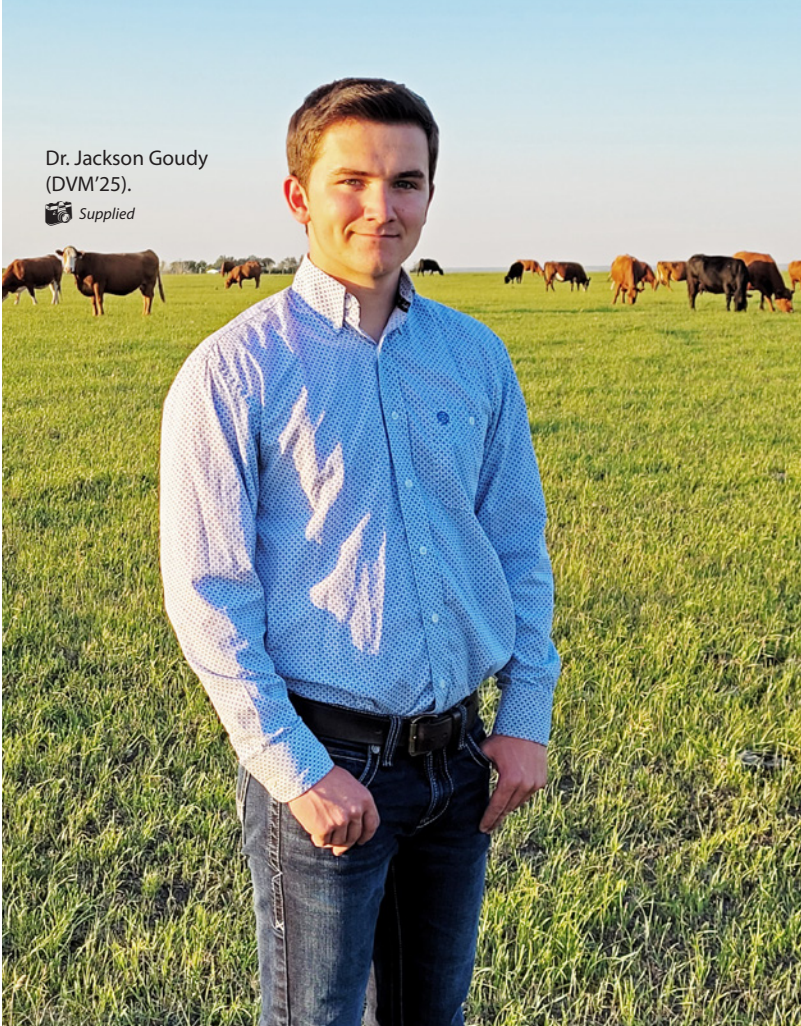
As a mentor and educator across many unique settings and environments, Card’s philosophy on teaching is rooted in her belief of being a “co-learner” alongside her students. She believes in the value of lifelong learning, and she encourages students to embrace the idea that education is a collaborative process where both teacher and learner grow together. “I try to model the fact that I don’t know everything because it’s truly amazing how we all learn from each other when we keep an open mind,” says Card.

Dr. Nicole Fernandez, an associate professor in the WCVM Department of Veterinary Pathology, received the USask Provost’s Outstanding Teacher Award. This campus-wide award is presented to a USask faculty member who exemplifies a range of qualities including active learning and curiosity, and leadership in teaching and learning. Fernandez is an innovative educator who has introduced new approaches to veterinary education — including the use of fine arts instruction to improve cytology-related observational skills. She is a member of the college’s new teaching and learning committee that aims to foster best practices among WCVM faculty. She was also instrumental in developing Innovation in Veterinary Education (IVE), a national resource group that supports veterinary education in Canada.



Dr. Nicole Fernandez

“For me, good teaching doesn’t just happen,” says Fernandez. “Good teaching is hard work. It is as much about learning as it is about teaching. It takes time and thoughtful reflection. It involves seeking out feedback and working to improve. It is about knowing you will never be done improving, and that there is always more to learn.”



Dr. Jackson Goudy (DVM’25).
Supplied

WCVM student earns bovine health award

During his fourth and final year at the WCVM, Dr. Jackson Goudy of Stoughton, Sask., was one of nine veterinary students to receive a prestigious North American bovine health award in September 2024. The American Association of Bovine Practitioners (AABP) Foundation Amstutz Scholarship, which is valued at US\$11,000, recognizes third- or fourth-year veterinary students in North America who have shown academic excellence, leadership and potential for becoming outstanding bovine veterinarians.

Goudy began calving and branding duties early on his family’s ranch in southeastern Saskatchewan and eventually started his own purebred and commercial cow herd. “One of the main reasons that I wanted to get into veterinary medicine was to pursue a career in bovine embryo transfer,” says Goudy. “I’m really interested in how technologies will grow and how it is going to change the way that beef is produced.”

As part of his final clinical year at the WCVM, Goudy completed an externship at Trans Ova Genetics in Sioux Center, Iowa, where he gained experience in bovine reproduction and related tools. Goudy, who graduated in June 2025, now practises at BoviGen Genetic Services in Moose Jaw, Sask.

Research and Graduate Studies

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

IntegrOmes funding

Through the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership, the Governments of Canada and Saskatchewan is allocating \$3.4 million over four years to support two USask research facilities that are part of the IntegrOmes (Integrated Genomics for Sustainable Animal Agriculture and Environmental Stewardship) project. The Omics Resource Centre (ORC) is a core genomics and microbiomics service and research support laboratory at the WCVM. The Beef Reprotech facilities, which will be located at the Livestock and Forage Centre of Excellence, will offer a new high-throughput genome sequencing service for western Canadian beef cattle producers, allowing the selection

HIGHER LEARNING AT THE WCVM

204 graduate students, residents, clinical interns and postdoctoral fellows

94 Canadian students



110 international students

33 countries represented in population

of optimum physical traits (phenology) in livestock. IntegrOmes will advance beef genetics by matching genomic markers with desirable traits and evaluate reproductive efficiencies. This integrated approach will enable producers to make more precise and data-driven breeding decisions that improve livestock productivity.

Award-winning mentor

WCVM professor Dr. Janet Hill is the 2024-25 recipient of the USask Distinguished Graduate Mentor Award that’s annually awarded by the university’s College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (CGPS). Hill serves as the head of the WCVM’s Department of Veterinary Microbiology and principal investigator of the Hill Lab. Since 2007, over 50 undergraduate students, graduate students and postdoctoral scholars have contributed to the lab under Hill’s supervision. In her eyes, a mentor’s responsibilities in the partnership are to set expectations, to build trust, and above all: to be there. “Grad school is really hard,” says Hill. “If a student can come out of that experience feeling positive enough about it to thank me, it truly means so much to me.”



Dr. Janet Hill



Technician Rick Goertzen in the new Omics Resource Centre.
Christina Weese

African One Health initiative

A five-year global initiative in community health and One Health — in collaboration with USask faculty and students — will help empower poor, marginalized farmers in rural Africa, especially female-headed households, women and girls. The One Health Community Partnerships (OHCP) project, supported by nearly \$4 million from Global Affairs Canada and additional USask funding, addresses health challenges in rural African communities with a high prevalence of zoonotic diseases and human-animal-environment related illnesses. Led by WCVM professor Dr. Claire Card, the project gives USask faculty and students the opportunity to collaborate with rural communities in Ghana, Uganda and Ethiopia. In 2024 the first cohort of students volunteered in Ghana and Uganda, conducting health education and building relationships to better understand and develop sustainable solutions within these areas. A second group travelled to Africa in summer 2025.

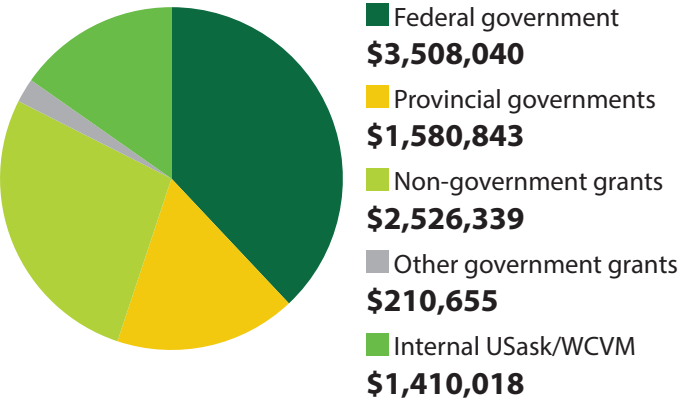


A paravet checks on goats in Uganda.
Supplied

SMART program

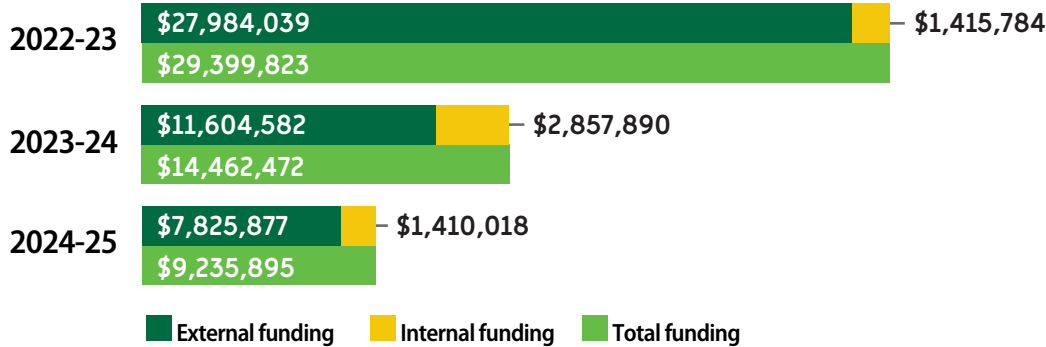
The shortage of veterinarians entering Canada’s swine industry has prompted a new initiative from Dr. John Harding, a WCVM professor and swine practitioner who launched the Swine Medicine Advancement, Recruitment and Training (SMART) program in July 2024. The program aims to attract veterinary students

WCVM RESEARCH REVENUE FUNDING, 2024-25



Total \$9,235,895

WCVM RESEARCH FUNDING



SEPT. 2024

WCVM beef cattle ethologist Dr. Diego Moya receives 2024 Metacam Bovine Welfare Award from Canadian Association of Bovine Veterinarians/ Association Canadienne des Vétérinaires Bovins.

SEPT. 2024

Dr. Barbara Ambros, WCVM professor and anesthesiologist, receives 2024 Zoetis Carl J. Norden Animal Health Award for Research Excellence.

JAN. 2025

Dr. Yolande Seddon, WCVM associate professor in swine behaviour and welfare, is named the renewed USask Chair in Swine Welfare after industry partners commit over \$1 million over five years.

JAN. 2025

WCVM-affiliated researchers receive over \$2.46 million from Saskatchewan's Agriculture Development Fund for livestock-focused research projects.

FEB. 2025

Vaccine and Infectious Disease Organization (VIDO) receives up to \$24 million for vaccine development from Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations.

FEB. 2025

Two PhD students, Sauhard Shrivastava and Arkadeb Bhuiya, are selected for first cohort of Canadian One Health Training Program on Emerging Zoonoses.

MAY 2025

Dr. Lorne Babiuk, WCVM professor emeritus and former director of Vaccine and Infectious Disease Organization, earns honorary title of USask Distinguished Professor.

MAY 2025

PhD candidate Dr. Marina Bezerra da Silva receives Best Research Paper Award (translational, clinical or applied science category) at 2025 USask Life and Health Sciences Research Expo.

JUNE 2025

WCVM professor Dr. Janet Hill receives USask Distinguished Graduate Mentor Award for her exceptional mentorship of WCVM graduate students.

JUNE 2025

WCVM professor Dr. John Harding receives Merck Veterinary Award for his 30-plus years of research, clinical and academic contributions to Canada's swine industry.

JUNE 2025

Five WCVM faculty members receive \$320,000 in funding from the Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation for health research projects.

JUNE 2025

PhD student Jinnath Rehana Ritu is one of three USask students to receive Vanier Scholarship. Her co-supervisors are Dr. Doug Chivers (College of Arts and Science) and WCVM professor Dr. Maud Ferrari.

WCVM RESEARCH IN NUMBERS

\$9.2M in new research funding (internal and external)	79 new research grants awarded in 2024-25	8 provincial government grants awarded in 2024-25
\$5.3M in research funding from public sources	25 non-government grants awarded in 2024-25	28 new USask-related grants awarded in 2024-25
\$2.5M in research stemming from non-government sources	16 federal government grants awarded in 2024-25	2 new grants from other government agencies

to swine medicine, enhance their skills, and support foreign-trained veterinarians (FVTs) seeking Canadian certification through a residency program. The SMART program also included hands-on summer experiences for veterinary students and a clinical competencies framework. The initiative is supported by funding from top producers in Canada’s pork industry and provincial pork boards across Western Canada. Through mentorship, education and funding from these partners, the program strives to build new growth and sustainability in Canada’s pork industry and swine sector.

Swine welfare chair renewed

Thanks to additional funding support from Canada’s swine industry, Dr. Yolande Seddon’s research role as the USask Chair in Swine Welfare has been renewed. Fourteen Canadian pork industry partners committed more than \$1 million over five years to support her innovative work in improving pig welfare and advancing sustainable farming practices. Seddon, a WCVM associate professor, conducts research aimed at improving the welfare of farmed pigs with studies on early-life management, play, biological markers and welfare indicators. She and her research team will continue to develop strategies for improving social behaviours and reducing stress responses. Seddon is a leading resource for pork industry partners in shaping a sustainable future of swine farming practices in Canada.



Swine health champion

WCVM professor Dr. John Harding is the 2025 recipient of the Merck Veterinary Award. Harding has dedicated his career to swine health, education and research. With more than 30 years of contributions to the swine industry, his impact spans clinical practice, diagnostics, epidemiology and vaccine development. Harding has also played a pivotal role in veterinary education, and through his Swine Medicine Advancement, Recruitment and Training (SMART) program, he’s addressing Canada’s shortage of swine veterinarians.



Dr. John Harding

SHRF funding

Five WCVM faculty members received \$320,000 in support for their research activities through the Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation (SHRF).

- **Dr. Olamide Adibiyi** received \$150,000 for her multiple sclerosis (MS) studies. Her team is stimulating the activity of neurons to restore myelin (insulating layer for nerves) and improve cognition in mouse models of MS.
- SHRF awarded \$150,000 to **Dr. Sarah Wood** who is working to establish the honey bee as a social animal model for fetal alcohol spectrum disorder (FASD) — an approach inspired by previous studies where scientists used honey bees to study autism.
- SHRF awarded \$10,000 to **Drs. Emily Jenkins** and **Maarten Voordouw** in support of their team’s Saskatchewan-based surveillance program for blacklegged ticks, which can transmit Lyme disease to animals and people.
- **Dr. Ali Honaramooz** is part of a USask research team focused on osteoarthritis. The team received \$10,000 in support of their project, “Bioprinting novel constructs for articular cartilage engineering.”

Reproductive failure detection

Researchers at the WCVM and Prairie Diagnostic Services Inc. (PDS) have developed an innovative genomic sequencing tool that’s designed to identify pathogens causing bovine reproductive failure. Dr. Yanyun Huang, chief executive officer of PDS and a WCVM adjunct professor, led the project with WCVM microbiologist Dr. Janet Hill and USask master’s student Dhinesh Periyasamy. BovReproSeq can detect 17 types of pathogens associated with infertility, abortions and stillbirths in cattle. In the study, the genomic sequencing tool proved to be more effective than traditional diagnostic methods, which often require multiple rounds of testing and higher costs. Funded by Saskatchewan’s Agriculture Development Fund, the tool is in its second phase of validation and shows potential for becoming the gold standard for diagnosing reproductive issues in cattle.

Bovine welfare award

Dr. Diego Moya, a WCVM beef cattle ethologist, received the 2024 Metacam Bovine Welfare Award for his exceptional work in advancing the scientific understanding of bovine welfare and implementing improvements in the beef cattle sector. The Canadian Association of Bovine Veterinarians annually presents the Metacam Bovine Welfare Award in partnership with Boehringer Ingelheim Animal Health Canada Inc. Moya, who joined the WCVM faculty in 2018, investigates the connections between animal welfare, behaviour and disease. His work focuses on how nutritional management can enhance animal welfare and how to mitigate pain associated with castration in beef cattle.



Dr. Diego Moya

Best research paper

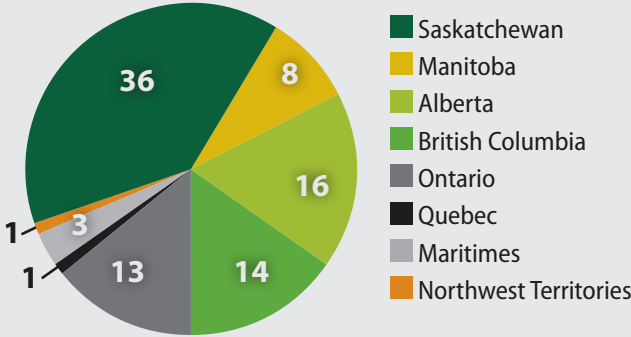
Marina Bezerra da Silva, a PhD candidate under the supervision of Drs. Sarah Wood and Elemir Simko of the WCVM, received the Best Paper Award (basic science category) at this year’s USask Life and Health Sciences Research Expo. Her paper, “From larva to adult: In vitro rearing protocol for honey bee (*Apis mellifera*) drones,” has the potential to improve future reproductive safety assessment of pesticides for honey bees.



Marina Bezerra da Silva

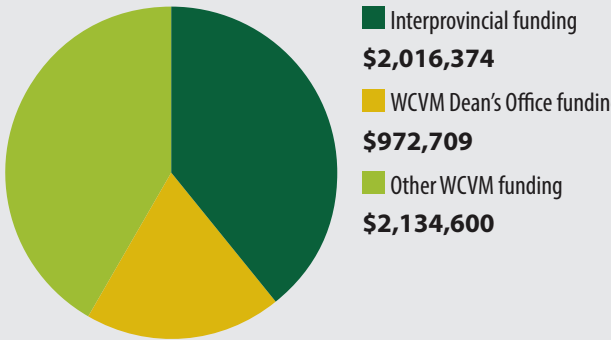
WHERE ARE THEY FROM?

Canadian graduate students, interns and postdoctoral fellows



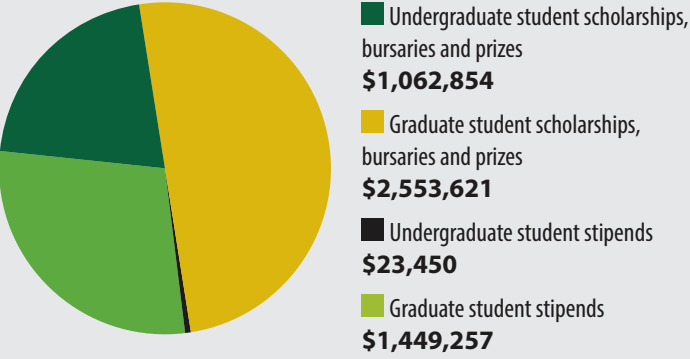
STUDENT TRAINING AND RESEARCH FUNDING

Undergraduate and graduate students (2024-25)



STUDENT TRAINING AND RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

Undergraduate and graduate students (2024-25)



The WCVM invested **\$5,123,683** 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.

VMC caseload

The WCVM Veterinary Medical Centre (VMC) offers primary and specialized services along with a range of diagnostic and therapeutic technologies. The VMC’s caseload is a mixture of first-opinion cases from Saskatoon and the surrounding areas as well as referral cases from across Western Canada. In 2024-25, the VMC had 22,090 patient visits — a three per cent decrease from the previous year. Despite this slight decline, the WCVM maintained an adequate caseload for veterinary student learning and training for clinical interns and residents. During the same period, the hospital’s number of referrals submitted remained stable (3,076) with 277 veterinary clinics referring patients to the VMC. While most referring veterinarians practise in Western Canada, a handful of referrals came from Ontario and the United States.



22,090
patient visits

1,263
veterinary
oncology visits

277 referring
veterinary clinics
(3,076 referrals
submitted)

CLINICAL TEAM

(as of June 30, 2025)

78 registered veterinary technologists (RVTs)

56 veterinary clinicians; 33 are
board-certified veterinary specialists

29 pharmacy, administrative and
support staff

5 management and strategic
leadership team members

66 clinical interns and
residents

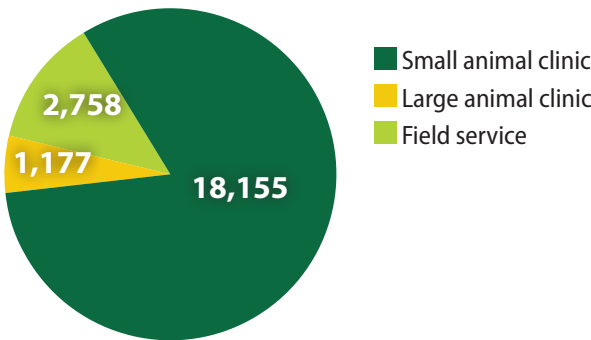
Clinical training

While the VMC makes essential contributions to the college’s clinical, education and research programs, its primary mission is to provide clinical training for senior veterinary students in their fourth year of the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) program. Senior veterinary students must complete a minimum of 18 weeks of core rotations in the hospital, but in most years, the majority of students fill the program’s remaining 14 weeks with VMC-based elective rotations. The WCVM is one of North America’s smaller veterinary institutions, but despite its size, the college offers a comprehensive range of elective rotations based at the VMC and other USask centres — a key strength of the DVM program. At the same time, the WCVM has worked with external partners to develop a growing list of elective external rotations that add more diversity to the students’ final clinical year.

In the 2024-25 academic year, 84 WCVM students completed all their core and some elective rotations in the VMC — the largest class to gain hands-on clinical training in the veterinary teaching hospital. In addition, four students from Canadian veterinary programs completed one or more rotations at the WCVM. Feedback is vital to the college’s mission of providing exceptional clinical teaching, and overall, most fourth-year students praised the mentorship and support they received from VMC clinical teams during their in-hospital rotations.

VMC PATIENTS

From May 1, 2024, to April 30, 2025, the VMC completed a total of 22,090 patient visits.



‘Stamp of excellence’: accreditation visits

This spring, all facets of the WCVM Veterinary Medical Centre (VMC) were under the microscope as the facility underwent its accreditation site visit with the American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA). After a full-day visit on April 8, AAHA reaffirmed the VMC’s accreditation — a testament to its commitment to providing top-tier veterinary care. The VMC has continuously held AAHA accreditation since 1977, and this year, the hospital was also newly accredited in emergency and critical care services. Veterinary clinics and referral centres must undergo an extensive evaluation to achieve AAHA accreditation and must be re-evaluated every three years to maintain their status. Voluntary AAHA accreditation ensures that the WCVM’s teaching hospital remains current and continues offering high-quality care and service. Only about 12 per cent of North American veterinary hospitals achieve this designation.

Tammy Lucas, the VMC’s chief operating officer, was part of the committee that prepared for the AAHA visit. She says renewing the voluntary accreditation provides a meaningful “stamp of excellence” for the VMC. AAHA accreditation is one of several certifications maintained by the VMC. Since September 2024, the college’s hospital has undergone successful visits for the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) Council on Education, Saskatchewan Veterinary Medical Association (SVMA), and the USask Research Ethics Board.

WHAT’S NEW IN CLINICAL SERVICES?

The Large Animal Clinic launched two new options for equine clients.

A new in-clinic foaling service provides supportive care and monitoring for mothers and babies throughout the foaling process. Another addition is an equine ovum pick-up service. Clinical team members recover mares’ oocytes and then send the eggs on to an in vitro fertilization facility for intra-cytoplasmic sperm injection. Afterward, the frozen embryos are sent back to the VMC for the embryo transfer process.



The VMC’s busy dermatology clinical service resumed operations in 2024. To improve efficiency and collaboration, clinical teams in dermatology, small animal surgery, elective surgery and wellness share resources.

The VMC achieved certification with the Canadian Council on Animal Care (CCAC).

This national organization is responsible for setting and maintaining standards for the ethical care and use of animals in science.



VMC pharmacy offers new drugs for treatment of cats and dogs. The hospital’s pharmacy team received federal permission to import three drugs: imepitoin (Pexion), used for canine patients suffering from treatment-resistant seizures; capromorelin oral solution (Entyce), an appetite stimulant for dogs undergoing oncology treatment; and GS-441524, a groundbreaking anti-viral therapy for cats diagnosed with feline infectious peritonitis (FIP).

VMC PATIENTS BY SPECIES

May 1, 2024, to April 30, 2025



13,085
Dogs



3,787
Cats



2,843
Horses



894
Cattle



589
Caged mammals
(including other mammals)



254
Pet birds



218
Wildlife
(including wild birds)



142
Sheep and goats



145
Reptiles
(including amphibians)



109
Zoo animals



16
Camelids



6
Swine



Veterinary technology student Max Penner (right) during an equine field service visit.
Christina Weese

Veterinary technology student training

The WCVM Veterinary Medical Centre’s clinical team contributes to the training of students enrolled in the veterinary technology program at Saskatchewan Polytechnic. In 2025, the WCVM arranged lectures, labs and rotations for 17 in-person students and eight distance students at Sask Polytechnic. While labs and lectures were held in January, students took part in anesthesia, surgery, intensive care unit (ICU), specialties and large animal rotations during the months of April and June. The VMC also hosted students from Lakeland, Olds and Northern Alberta Institute of Technology (NAIT) programs who were completing practicums. Feedback was positive, demonstrating the high calibre of teaching provided by the VMC’s registered veterinary technologists (RVTs).

Cross-campus partnership

WCVM veterinary students are gaining valuable hands-on surgical experiences, thanks to a unique collaboration between the Vaccine and Infectious Disease Organization (VIDO) and the WCVM Veterinary Medical Centre (VMC). When VIDO’s containment level 2 animal surgical suites were temporarily closed due to major renovations, VIDO scientists needed an alternative space to conduct vital gut loop surgeries in calves. The gut loop surgical model helps researchers better understand immune responses in the intestines and is a critical tool in disease studies. In response, VIDO and VMC representatives worked together to create a temporary surgical suite in the hospital. The suite allows the procedures to proceed uninterrupted while offering WCVM students the opportunity to observe complex abdominal surgical procedures. It showcases the strength of cross-campus partnerships and blends research and education in a real-world setting.

Building a stronger WCVM team

Everyone who works, teaches and learns in the VMC is an integral part of the WCVM. Everyone’s actions have an impact on each other. The WCVM and VMC share resources, people and the environment as well as revenue. These are key messages that leaders are striving to convey to all WCVM community members. As part of this important work, VMC management teams are using a framework that brings together all the pieces needed for consistency, accountability, unification and continuous development as individuals and teams. VMC management team members are using this system to organize their work and to monitor all the critical components — safety, quality, innovation and research, leadership practices, standard work and processes, strategy, client-centred work, and culture — that build a successful organization. More work needs to

SMALL ANIMAL CLINIC PATIENTS

From May 1, 2024, to April 30, 2025, the Small Animal Clinic had a total of 18,155 patient visits.

CLINICAL SERVICE	PATIENT VISITS
Behaviour	90
Blood donors	70
Dentistry	590
Dermatology	606
Emergency and critical care	5,592
Medicine	2,005
Nutrition	0*
Oncology	1,263
Ophthalmology	872
Rehabilitation	2,446
Surgery	1,917
Wellness	1,572
Zoo, exotic and wildlife medicine	1,132
Total	18,155

*Nutrition clinical service closed (May 2024 to present).

be done, and the VMC team is aiming to define what processes are needed to ensure that these components are being followed. These parameters will help with accountability and to work in ways that are agreed upon by the entire team. The WCVM’s senior leadership team has been involved in anti-racism training since 2022. Building on these foundational teachings, the VMC is working on an anti-racism strategy to address racism and racial discrimination in the workplace. As part of this work, the VMC has held two sessions for those who have experienced racism or racial discrimination in the workplace, a hospital-wide workshop to discuss inclusion, diversity and anti-racism, and additional staff training. The VMC leadership team is also working to update the hospital’s code of conduct for its clients.

LARGE ANIMAL CLINIC PATIENTS

From May 1, 2024, to April 30, 2025, the Large Animal Clinic had a total of 1,177 patient visits.

CLINICAL SERVICE	PATIENT VISITS
Medicine	420
Surgery	477
Ophthalmology	13
Theriogenology	266
Zoo, exotic and wildlife medicine	1

FIELD SERVICE PATIENTS

From May 1, 2024, to April 30, 2025, the Field Service completed a total of 2,758 patient visits.

SPECIES	PATIENT VISITS
Equine	1,837
Bovine	763
Goats	42
Sheep	67
Swine	6
Camelids	10

**LES AND IRENE DUBÉ
GOOD SAMARITAN FUND**

(May 1, 2024, to April 30, 2025)

10 animal patients
owned by
10 families

Total amount requested:
\$38,751.45

The WCVM’s new 3T MRI unit.
Christina Weese

Replacing VMC’s key technologies

This fall, the VMC will resume offering two key services for its patients and their families. The VMC is installing a new magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) unit as well as a new linear accelerator — two key technologies that are in high demand for small animal patients. The hospital is replacing its old MRI machine, which was permanently shut down in October 2024, with a new 3 Tesla (3T) MRI unit that can produce highly detailed images and delivers a variety of diagnostic capabilities. The VMC’s new linear accelerator can offer optimized image-guided radiotherapy and high-speed radiation treatment — allowing the hospital’s oncology team to resume offering a full range of radiation therapies. This project included extensive renovations to the hospital’s diagnostic and treatment suites, followed by installation and commissioning of the new technologies. The project’s total cost was \$9.1 million with donors from across Canada contributing more than \$5 million in support of the animal health care initiative at the college’s primary care and referral hospital. When the VMC’s old MRI machine had to be retired last fall, the hospital’s leadership team established a specific service agreement with an alternative MRI service provider in Saskatoon, Sask. This temporary arrangement ensured that VMC clinical team members had timely access to MRI services for patients at a cost that was significantly lower in comparison to other service providers in Western Canada.

REFERRING CASES BY SPECIALTY

From May 1, 2024, to April 30, 2025.

SERVICES	SMALL ANIMAL	LARGE ANIMAL
Behaviour	43	n/a
Dentistry	137	0
Dermatology	172	n/a
Emergency and critical care	468	4
Equine standing MRI	n/a	30
Exotic, wildlife and avian medicine and surgery	39	n/a
Medicine	722	37
Oncology	370	n/a
Ophthalmology	435	15
Rehabilitation	58	n/a
Surgery	486	60
Total:	2,930	146

Total VMC referrals: 3,076



MEDICAL IMAGING

From May 1, 2024, to April 30, 2025.

95MRI scans

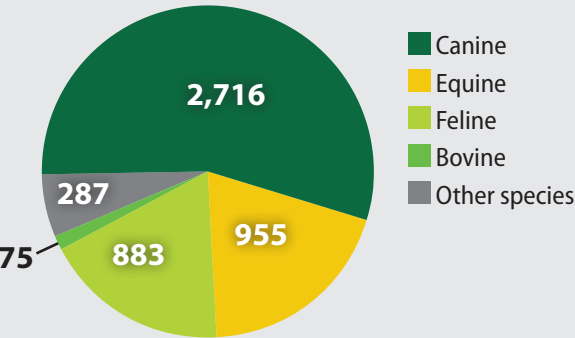
6nuclear scintigraphy exams

25PET-CT scans

672CT scans

1,098ultrasound exams

3,009X-ray exams



Total studies: 4,916 | Total patients: 2,835

REFERRING VETERINARY CLINICS

From May 1, 2024, to April 30, 2025.

LOCATION	NO. OF CLINICS	NO. OF REFERRALS	NO. OF CLIENTS
Saskatchewan	104	2,562	2,395
Manitoba	70	298	289
Alberta	71	176	141
British Columbia	19	20	17
Ontario	10	17	17
Nova Scotia	1	1	1
United States	2	2	2
Total:	277	3,076	2,862

Primary care experience

In response to survey feedback from students and western Canadian veterinarians, the WCVm is introducing a new rotation: a four-week primary care experience. This rotation will allow all fourth-year veterinary students to gain more hands-on, practice-ready experience in primary care for small animals, horses and livestock (cattle and small ruminants) in partnership with veterinary clinics across Western Canada. The WCVm Class of 2027 will be the first group of students to participate in the external primary care experiences, which will take place between the months of May and August.

In 2024, the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) Council on Education announced its new requirement of a minimum of 40 weeks of clinical experience for senior veterinary students, beginning in fall 2026. In the WCVm's case, the college must build an additional eight weeks into its final year. Fourth-year students will fulfil this requirement by taking part in the new primary care experience and completing an additional four weeks of elective rotations at the VMC or a USask-based facility.

Safety emphasis

As part of the VMC's strategic plan, the hospital's leadership is committed to building a strong safety culture that achieves the following: fosters a positive attitude toward safety, encourages reporting of hazards and near-misses, and promotes continuous learning and improvement. By developing a culture of safety, the VMC can reduce the risk of workplace accidents and injuries and improve productivity as well as employee morale and job satisfaction.

One of the first steps was having a safety resource officer, Stacey Mamer, embedded in the WCVm and VMC for a six-month pilot project. With Mamer's support, the leadership team distributed a health and safety perception survey to all

employees and will use responses to better understand the current state of the hospital's safety culture. Another step was to complete a safety management system assessment offered by Saskatchewan's Workers Compensation Board. This comprehensive, three-day evaluation is designed to measure strengths and opportunities for improvement in six key areas. Information gathered from the assessment will help the hospital's leadership team create an action plan for developing a VMC-focused safety management system.



Veterinary technologist of the year

Lindsey Fenez, health services manager at the WCVm Veterinary Medical Centre (VMC), is the 2024 recipient of the Saskatchewan Veterinary Medical Association's Technologist of the Year award. Fenez oversees the hospital's 60 registered veterinary technologists (RVTs), and with over 20 years of experience as an RVT, Fenez easily relates to their patient care work. Before joining the WCVm in 2007, Fenez worked in various places across Alberta and B.C. including volunteering at the Greater Vancouver Zoo and working in small animal and specialty practices. Those experiences helped her understand the needs of others.

In 2019 Fenez accepted a manager's role that includes creating a positive working environment for the clinical teams and facilitating the WCVm's partnership with Saskatchewan Polytechnic, which operates the two-year veterinary technology program. The VMC hosts labs, lectures and rotations offered in the program's final two semesters. "I'm the go-to [person] if the students are having any issues with their labs or their rotations, or if they need any extra assistance," says Fenez. "I'm always so proud to see students graduate and watch how much they've learned."

WCVM & DIAGNOSTIC SERVICES



Veterinary Medical Centre (VMC)

Medical imaging including digital radiography, ultrasonography, computed tomography (CT), magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), positron emission tomography-computed tomography (PET-CT), nuclear scintigraphy and fluoroscopy



Prairie Diagnostic Services (VetPath, VetMicro, VBMS)

Pathology, toxicology, parasitology, bacteriology



Disease Investigation Unit (WCVm)

Herd health (livestock)

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

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.



Industry leadership: Dr. Gillian Muir

In June 2025, the Canadian Animal Health Institute (CAHI) presented its 2025 Industry Leadership Award to Dr. Gillian Muir, the WCVM's dean. The award recognizes Muir's work in addressing the growing shortage of veterinarians in Canada through several initiatives — including boosting the number of internationally trained veterinarians licensed to practise in Canada. In collaboration with the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA), Muir is negotiating federal funding support to develop a national testing and training centre at the WCVM for internationally trained veterinarians. The college is Canada's only English-language host site for the National Examining Board (NEB) program's practical examinations. Muir has also supported initiatives to improve local health and safety in northern, remote and Indigenous communities by enhancing the accessibility of veterinary care and animal welfare services through the WCVM's Northern Engagement and Community Outreach (NECO) program.

Home community awareness program

During the summer break, a handful of WCVM veterinary students from Saskatchewan, Manitoba and B.C. returned home and gave 17 animal health-related presentations to young people living in their respective communities. Their outreach efforts were part of the college's home community awareness program, which began as a pilot program in 2024. Aimed at promoting veterinary medicine to youth across Western Canada, the program relies on current WCVM students to inspire young people and to spark their interest in animal health-focused careers. The long-term goal is to recruit future applicants for the WCVM's Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) program.

Through their talks this spring and summer, WCVM students connected with nearly 400 western Canadian students ranging in age from seven to 19 years old. The “veterinary ambassadors” visited elementary and high school classrooms as well as 4-H clubs and other youth-focused organizations across the region. While WCVM students organized most of this summer's presentations, the college also hopes to “pair up” interested WCVM students with classes or organizations that want to invite a speaker for an animal health talk.



Campers “operate” on stuffed animals at a WCVM student-led talk.



Lessons from a beef cattle health expert

Based on his 30-plus years of research experience, retiring WCVM professor Dr. John Campbell recently summarized key career takeaways during a presentation at the Livestock and Forage Centre of Excellence's annual Field Day on June 17. As co-leader for two cow-calf surveillance networks, Campbell said more producers are embracing regular vaccinations against infectious diseases. Even so, the emergence of new diseases remains an ongoing threat for producers.

Campbell's role as director of the WCVM's Disease Investigation Unit (DIU) also gave him insight into many health issues among Saskatchewan herds. Based on his experience with these cases, Campbell said that infertility investigations in cow-calf herds remain challenging. As well, about half of the unit's investigations have been linked to nutrition and toxicology issues among cattle herds. For Campbell, the hardest lesson “is that there are still a lot of unknowns out there,” highlighting the need for continuous research.

Continuing education

A sampler of public events and activities



Dr. Kathleen Linn, WCVM professor of small animal surgery, presented a talk titled, “A tap dance through small animal surgery: from silly walks to sorry bottoms,” during an online CE event. The Edmonton Association of Small Animal Veterinarians (EASAV) and the Calgary Academy of Veterinary Medicine (CAVM) hosted the event in January 2025.



Erin Wasson, the WCVM's former veterinary social worker, presented “Integrative care: the expanding role of veterinary social work in Canada,” as part of a January 2025 webinar organized by the Canadian Association of Social Workers. The event highlighted the importance of the growing profession through the perspectives of a panel of Canadian veterinary social workers.



WCVM professor Dr. Emily Jenkins gave a talk titled “A One Health understanding of shifting zoonoses in the Arctic” at IDWeek 2024 in Los Angeles, Calif. Jenkins, co-lead of the USask One Health Signature Area of Research, was part of a session featuring global researchers' perspectives on the correlation between climate change and the development of infectious diseases in the Arctic.



Dr. Kevin Cosford, a WCVM small animal internal medicine specialist, gave two hours of CE lectures on “feline cholangitis” during the 2024 Veterinary Education Today conference and medical exposition in Toronto, Ont.



Dr. Gurpreet Aulakh, WCVM assistant professor and USask Fedoruk Chair in Imaging, gave a presentation titled “Novel immune modulators of acute lung inflammation” at Punjabi University's Department of Biochemistry in July 2024.



Dr. Claire Card, WCVM professor and equine theriogenologist, gave six presentations on equine reproduction-related topics in October 2024 as part of the annual CanWest Conference in Banff, Alta.



Dr. Nathan Erickson, a WCVM associate professor in beef cattle health, spoke about “Science-based decision-making: using proven data to help our clients protect the most valuable cattle in history” as part of two Zoetis-sponsored CE events in September 2024. The events took place in Calgary and Lloydminster, Alta.

The Agribition experience

In November 2024, WCVM fourth-year students Emma Schaeffer and Trinity Gibney participated in a two-week clinical rotation that revolved around activities taking place at the 2024 Canadian Western Agribition in Regina, Sask. The rotation covered a range of animal health-related tasks including working as part of Agribition’s veterinary team, assisting with cases, and learning more about the critical role that show veterinarians play during major livestock events.

Another important aspect of the rotation was engaging with the public at the WCVM agriculture awareness exhibit in Agribition’s Family Ag Pavilion. Both students worked with WCVM faculty, staff and student volunteers to give calving demonstrations using Agnes and Bertha, the college’s calving models. Gibney and Schaeffer also interacted with more than 600 high school students as part of the thinkAG Career Expo, a four-day career exposition organized by Saskatchewan’s Agriculture in the Classroom and held during Agribition. Gibney and Schaeffer worked with WCVM veterinarian Dr. Chris Clark, their supervisor, to prepare an interactive presentation highlighting lead toxicity in animals during the week before Agribition. Based on positive feedback from the students and the show’s veterinary team, another two WCVM senior students will take part in the 2025 Agribition rotation this fall.



Trinity Gibney (left) and Dr. Chris Clark meet with high school students at Agribition. Rigel Smith

Johne’s disease prevention strategies

In October 2024, attendees of the Manitoba Beef and Forage Conference in Portage la Prairie, Man., gained valuable insights during a special presentation on Johne’s disease, a serious and often overlooked threat to cattle herds in Western Canada. Dr. Cheryl Waldner, a WCVM professor and the NSERC/BCRC Industrial Research Chair in One Health and Production-Limiting Diseases, and Dr. Nadine Wohlgemuth of Virden Animal Hospital shared their expertise on this chronic cattle disease, which poses a significant challenge for Canadian livestock producers. They highlighted the importance of testing, prevention and management strategies to safeguard herd health.

“We’re hard-pressed to find areas in Canada that don’t have some element of a Johne’s problem because most of them have expanded with outside cattle and, as they expanded with outside cattle, they brought it in,” says Waldner.



Extension and public outreach

A sampler of public events and activities



Dr. Diego Moya, assistant professor in food animal behaviour and welfare, presented “Mitigating pain: where is it going next?” to livestock producers at the annual Saskatchewan Beef Industry Conference on January 29, 2025, in Saskatoon, Sask.



Dr. Nora Chavarria, WCVM clinical associate in equine field service, talked about equine acupuncture with participants at the Saskatchewan Horse Federation’s High Performance Symposium in June 2025. Dr. Laura Callaghan, the 2024–25 equine field service intern, also discussed “Common conditions of the English sport horse and the rider’s role in preventive conditioning” at the event.



WCVM faculty members and graduate students gave presentations and demonstrations during the 2025 Summer Field Day at the USask Livestock and Forage Centre of Excellence (LFCE). More than 250 people attended the annual event that showcases LFCE-based research projects supporting livestock health and forage production.



Dr. Jordan Woodsworth, director of the WCVM’s Northern Engagement and Community Outreach (NECO) program, was one of the featured speakers in the annual USask TEDx Talks series, filmed in February 2025. Woodsworth’s presentation, “Dogs, humans and the key to community health,” addressed the issue of inadequate access to veterinary care in remote communities.



WCVM professor Dr. Fabienne Uehlinger delivered a hands-on presentation titled, “How can I tell if my steer is sick?” to members of the Saskatoon 4-H Beef Club at the Saskatoon Auction Mart in January 2025.



Over 1,000 dogs have had a “spay-cation” at the WCVM, thanks to a collaboration between the college and Canine Action Project (CAP). Six times a year, CAP members seek dogs in First Nations communities for the WCVM-hosted clinical proficiency examinations in which each international candidate must successfully complete a spay procedure as part of the National Examining Board program.

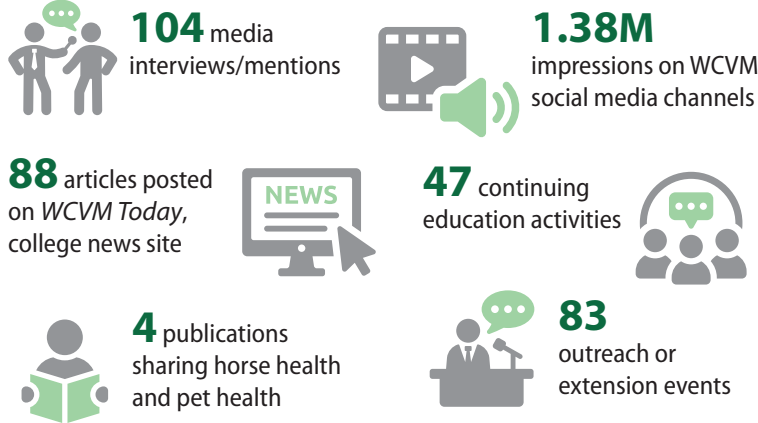


WCVM veterinary students hosted a highly successful Vetavision in September 2024, with thousands of people enjoying displays, tours and demonstrations during the college’s public open house. The event’s “Pre-Vet Night” for prospective students was also a full-house hit.

WCVM scholarly output



Public connections



AUG. 2024

Drs. John Campbell, Vanessa Cowan, Diego Moya and Emily Snyder deliver bovine health talks at 2024 Canadian Beef Industry Conference in Saskatoon, Sask.

NOV. 2024

WCVM professor Dr. Emily Jenkins is guest interviewee on USask Signature Series Podcast. Topic: “Are pets good for your health?”

FEB. 2025

Dr. Trisha Dowling, WCVM professor and endurance riding competitor, gives online presentation on equine conformation to Endurance Riders of B.C. members.

FEB. 2025

WCVM clinical associate Dr. Romany Pinto leads the veterinary team (including senior WCVM students) for 2025 Canadian Challenge Sled Dog Race in northern Saskatchewan.

FEB. 2025

WCVM veterinarians Drs. Nathan Erickson and Fritz Schumann demonstrate proper dehorning and castrating techniques at Western Canada Feedlot Management School.

APRIL 2025

Dr. Karen Machin, WCVM clinical behaviour resident, discusses importance of animal training methods at Saskatchewan SPCA’s Gathering for Animal and Human Welfare.

MAY 2025

Junior high school students from Warman and Saskatoon explore simulation tools and models with the WCVM’s BJ Hughes Centre for Clinical Learning team — led by Carolyn Cartwright and Sherry Presnell — during Biotech Blast.

JUNE 2025

WCVM team members interact with 600 Grade 10 students in Saskatchewan’s Horizon School Division at annual Agriculture Education Day in Humboldt, Sask.

