



UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN
Western College of
Veterinary Medicine
WCVM.USASK.CA

2025–26 WCVM COMMUNITY REPORT

KEEPING ANIMALS AND PEOPLE HEALTHY TOGETHER

The WCVM's mission is to keep animals and people healthy together.

The Western College of Veterinary Medicine (WCVM) is a trusted leader in animal health, serving communities across Western Canada, the North and beyond.

We educate the veterinarians, specialists and researchers of tomorrow. We provide clinical and diagnostic expertise to improve the health of animals and livestock herds. We address animal and human health challenges through research and innovation.

Situated on Treaty Six Territory and the traditional homeland of the Métis, the WCVM is part of Canada's agricultural heartland — a place of wide-open prairie skies and a rich history of collaboration and community.

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On our front cover: Dr. Nora Chavarria (left), WCVM equine field service veterinarian, examines a foal with the assistance of Elizabeth Shirley, a second-year WCVM veterinary student.

 Christina Weese

Dean's message

In June, I had the pleasure of presenting the WCVM Faculty Gold Medal (the college's highest honour for veterinary graduates) to Dr. Quinten (Quin) Bateman at the University of Saskatchewan (USask) Spring Convocation. When Quin stepped on stage, his classmates held up the proceedings with a long, loud ovation for him — it was a proud moment for all of us representing the veterinary college!

Like most of his classmates, Quin found his first job in Western Canada: he's now practising at Head for the Hills Veterinary Health Services, a mixed-animal clinic in southeastern Saskatchewan. And based on data gathered from our WCVM alumni five and 10 years after graduation, we know that our graduates are staying in Western Canada over time.

For example, over 80 per cent of veterinarians who graduated from the WCVM in 2012 through to 2016 are living and working in western Canadian communities 10 years after graduation. Those numbers tell us we're meeting our college's core mandate: training western Canadian students to become the region's future veterinarians. And when we include WCVM alumni who are working across Canada and internationally, well over 90 per cent of graduates from these WCVM classes are actively practising veterinary medicine 10 years after graduation. While some have paused to care for young families or to pursue further education in related areas, we know that WCVM graduates are staying in the veterinary profession.

This low rate of professional attrition may be linked to the high demand for veterinarians: many practices are willing to offer more flexible work schedules or to accommodate personal leaves so veterinarians can continue working and still have time for their families or for further education. Studying to become a veterinarian also takes a lot of preparation and commitment, and veterinary medicine is a lifelong pursuit — we know that our graduates are dedicated to working in the profession for many years.

Learning more about our graduates and their career outcomes has been a valuable experience as we wrap up another project that means a lot to me: refreshing



the college's mission statement. I feel it is vital for our mission statement to not only describe what we do but why we do it. It's the why that keeps us coming into work every day.

With generous input from members of a college-wide working group and valuable insights from the WCVM Advisory Council, we have developed a statement that reflects why we do what we do. Our mission statement also demonstrates our strong sense of place, and in this, aligns with the mission of USask. Our updated mission statement is included on the inside front cover of this document.

With our mission in mind, I hope that this report will help to give you an overview of what members of the WCVM community have accomplished over the past year. Looking back, it's been a year of growth in terms of developing new programs, building relationships and collaborating on plans for the college's future — I've included some highlights below.

Primary care experience rotation. Members of the WCVM Class of 2027 were the first students to successfully complete the college's new primary care experience — a rotation that gives fourth-year students more hands-on experience in general veterinary practice. Developing this new rotation was an unexpected challenge that arose in 2025 after the

American Veterinary Medical Association's Council on Education, the accrediting body for all North American veterinary schools, made it mandatory for all accredited schools to schedule a 40-week clinical year for senior veterinary students. To meet that requirement, the WCVM added the four-week primary care experience along with four additional weeks of elective rotations in the WCVM Veterinary Medical Centre.

When our academic team put the call out for veterinary practices to host 88 student placements, the response from clinics in B.C., Saskatchewan and Manitoba was incredible. Seventy-six clinics across three provinces hosted one or more veterinary students this past spring and summer. Based on early reviews, the rotation's four-week format worked well since it allowed students to become more integrated into clinical teams and capable of taking on greater responsibilities.

New technologies for our patients. Purchasing and installing a new magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) and a new linear accelerator in the WCVM Veterinary Medical Centre all in one year was a major hurdle that our college managed to overcome in 2025. Both pieces of equipment are critical to our clinical services and patient care, plus they play an important role in training our veterinary students and graduate veterinarians.

The project's overall cost was \$9.1 million, but it still amazes me to say that contributions from the college's family of donors covered more than half of the cost (visit page 24 to learn more). When the college needed help, our donors were quick to recognize the critical need for the WCVM to restore these clinical services. We can't thank them enough for their generosity and commitment to the college.

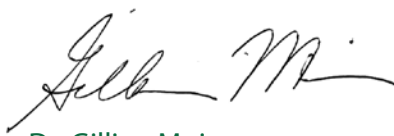
Planning for a college expansion. Across Canada, there's an urgent and chronic need for more veterinarians to meet public demand. The WCVM increased its annual class size to 88 students about four years ago, but we're now at maximum capacity for the college's facilities and resources. A significant expansion and renewal of our college's building will allow us to train more veterinarians who will work, live and contribute to communities across Western Canada. It will also help to address longstanding space issues in our WCVM Veterinary Medical Centre — the starting point for any future expansion due to its critical role in student training.

Representatives from WCVM and USask continue to work with consultants on planning and designing a potential expansion of the college, and in March 2026,

it was encouraging to receive \$500,000 in funding support from the Government of Saskatchewan for these essential planning activities. The WCVM will require a significant investment to complete this multi-year project, and while much of the funding will be requested from the federal and provincial governments, there will be opportunities for the college's family of donors to support this exciting initiative.

I hope this report will make you as proud as I am about all that the WCVM community has accomplished over the past year — as always, thank you for your interest and support.

Sincerely,



Dr. Gillian Muir
Dean, WCVM

IN MEMORIAM

In the past six decades, seven deans (including me) have led the WCVM. We lost two of those leaders within a span of six months in 2025: Dr. Ole Nielsen, who served as the WCVM's second dean (1974–82), passed away on May 28, 2025, and Dr. Charles Rhodes, the college's fifth dean (2002–10), passed away on October 30, 2025. Their terms as deans spanned different stages of the college's history, but they shared many things in common — including a great love for the WCVM and dedication to the college's community. The legacies of these two individuals are inspiring, and I'm so thankful for all their work in strengthening the college's foundation for the future.

As I begin my second five-year term as WCVM dean, I'm grateful that I can stand on their shoulders and those of the many people in the WCVM's history who believed in this college's potential and helped to make it such a success. Among that group, I want to recognize two well-known large animal faculty members who recently passed away: Dr. Lyall Petrie (professor emeritus) and large animal clinician Dr. Jim Smart. Both were known for their dedication and willingness to mentor and support students, and we know their families and friends miss them dearly.

Year at a glance

Highlights, facts and figures from the Western College of Veterinary Medicine's academic, clinical and research programs in 2025–26.

Outstanding numbers



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



1 Distinguished Professor

WCVM professor Dr. Claire Card received the university's honorary title of "Distinguished Professor," which recognizes her contributions to education, research, clinical service and global development.

The Government of Saskatchewan's 2026-27 provincial budget included \$500,000 in capital funding to support the planning and design of a potential expansion of the WCVM.

\$500K



\$9.1 million

Total cost of buying and installing a new MRI unit and linear accelerator at the WCVM Veterinary Medical Centre. Donors gave more than \$5 million (over half the project's cost) toward the initiative.



15 patients at the VMC

whose families/caregivers received vital financial support in 2025–26 from the Leslie and Irene Dubé Good Samaritan Fund.

47

Number of USask post-secondary students based at the WCVM who completed graduate programs (MSc, MVSc and PhD) and clinical internships and convocated in fall 2025/spring 2026.

Academic

355

veterinary students

Total DVM student population for the four class years at the WCVM (fall 2026).

BC | 161
OTHER* | 4

SK | 100
INTL** | 2

MB | 80

*Includes students from northern territories

**International students previously accepted through WCVM's non-Interprovincial Agreement admissions program



Number of veterinary clinics in 61 unique communities in B.C., Saskatchewan and Manitoba that hosted one (or multiple) senior veterinary students for the new primary care experience.

57th Faculty Gold Medallist



Dr. Quinten (Quin) Bateman of Whitehorse, Yukon, is the 57th recipient of the WCVM's most prestigious student honour. Bateman graduated with great distinction from USask in June 2026.

207

Number of students who received scholarships and bursaries in the 2025–26 academic year.

Total value: \$612,536



3 Outstanding teachers

Three WCVM teachers — Drs. Michael Wu, Madison Ricard and Gabrielle Achtymichuk — were among the recipients of the USask Provost's Awards.

35



"pawsome" volunteers

Number of dogs that participated in the BJ Hughes Centre for Clinical Learning during the 2025–26 academic year, helping students learn how to safely handle canine patients. All dogs are owned by WCVM faculty, staff and students.

Research & graduate studies

64 new research grants awarded to WCVM researchers in 2025–26, with a value of more than \$8.4M.



One Health Community Partnerships (OHCP) in Africa

379 women took part in community education

144 women recruited as One Health workers

50 households completed gender model family training



111 publications authored or co-authored by WCVM scientists in 2025–26 (includes peer-reviewed articles, books, chapters, notes and reviews).

Graduate students

2025–26
203 students

2024–25
204 students



Graduate and undergraduate research funding

2025–26

\$5.2M

2024–25

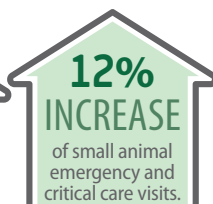
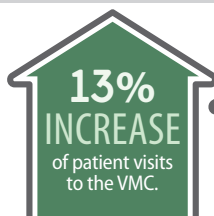
\$5.1M



38 undergraduate student researchers who worked with WCVM faculty mentors during the summer of 2025.

Clinical programs

24,929 total VMC patient visits in 2025–26.



3,451

total number of referred cases to the VMC's Small Animal Clinic and Large Animal Clinic in 2025–26.



215 Total number of referring veterinary clinics to the VMC.

6,372 visits

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



625 spay and neuter procedures completed in 2025–26 at the VMC.

Medical imaging's big

3,452
X-ray exams

1,098
ultrasound exams

763
CT scan studies



14,785
DOGS

4,759
CATS

2,834
HORSES

Canine patients top the species list at the VMC, with a total of 14,785 visits to the hospital in 2025–26. Cats are next with 4,759 followed by equine patients (2,834).

Academic

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

Curriculum review

To meet accreditation standards set out by the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) Council on Education, each accredited veterinary college must review its Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) curriculum every seven years. The WCVN completed this curriculum review process in 2025–26 with invaluable input from the college's students, faculty and staff.

These regular reviews — along with continuous feedback from both students and teaching staff — help to identify what's working and what can be improved in the college's veterinary program. One recent change will reduce the frequency of exams for WCVN students in Years 1 to 3. With the support of WCVN faculty, the college has shifted to using monthly "multiple mini assessments" (MMAs) versus scheduling multiple single-course exams throughout the academic year. These cumulative tests include questions covering content taken in multiple courses during the previous month.

Both medical and veterinary schools have successfully adopted this integrated learning approach so students have more time for independent study and correlating subject material for all courses in the study blocks.

Primary care experience rotation

Eighty-eight members of the WCVN Class of 2027 were the first students to complete the college's new "primary care experience" in spring/summer 2026. The college's new four-week primary care rotation is designed to give fourth-year veterinary students more hands-on experience with the routine cases they will encounter as veterinarians in practice.

Altogether, 76 veterinary clinics in 61 unique communities across B.C., Saskatchewan and Manitoba hosted one (or multiple) veterinary students for the new rotation. During the month-long experience, the students worked alongside veterinarians, managed routine cases and developed skills in client communication and clinical decision-making.

2025-26 ACADEMIC YEAR

Senior DVM students: core/elective rotations

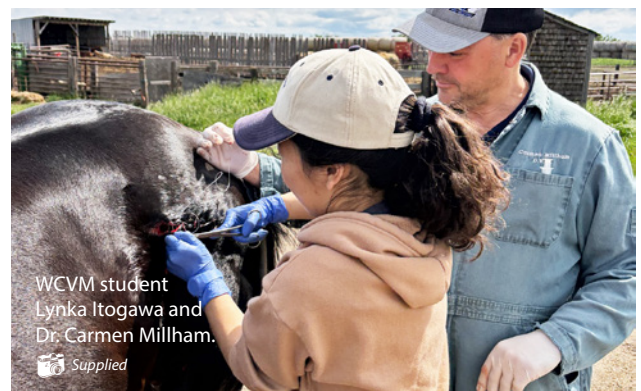
88 WCVN students 4 visiting students

Veterinary technology students:
required rotations or practicums

22 Saskatchewan
Polytechnic students
(including three
distance students) 3 practicum students
(Olds College, NAIT and
Lakeland College)

The rotation will help new veterinary graduates enter practice with stronger practical skills, greater confidence and an overall smoother transition into their careers.

The rotation's creation was prompted by new requirements established by the American Veterinary Medical Association's Council on Education, the accrediting body for all veterinary schools in North America. Beginning in 2026, the council made it mandatory for all accredited schools to offer a 40-week clinical year. This change meant that the WCVN had to increase the length of its DVM program's fourth year from 32 to 40 weeks. Four of these additional weeks will be filled with elective rotations in the WCVN Veterinary Medical Centre (VMC) while the four-week primary care experience will complete the 40-week requirement.



Clinical skills co-ordinators

Two WCVN graduates, Drs. Katelyn McIntyre and Allison Sproat, are the college's new clinical skills co-ordinators who will be responsible for delivering Veterinary Clinical Skills I, II and III (VINT 202.5, VINT 302.5 and VINT 402.5) to veterinary students in Years 1 to 3. Developed several years ago after an extensive review of the WCVN's curriculum, this course delivers 70 hours per year of clinical skills instruction to veterinary students during the first three years of their program.



Dr. Katelyn McIntyre (left) and Dr. Allison Sproat are the WCVM's new clinical skills co-ordinators.

 Christina Weese

"We took the lab components for various courses and combined them all into one," said Dr. Bruce Wobeser, the WCVM's associate dean academic. "It's a fundamental course in years one, two and three, and it's designed to give the students the essential clinical skills that they need when they go in to practice."

The clinical skills course provides multiple learning opportunities for veterinary students to master key clinical skills that will form the foundation for their clinical practice as they progress through the veterinary program.

"I think clinical skills [are foundational to] being a vet," said McIntyre, who graduated from the WCVM in 2014. "Starting with the basic skills and building on those skills year after year, that is the foundation of what they'll be doing once they've graduated."

McIntyre and Sproat will work closely with the team of registered veterinary technologists (RVTs) and animal care attendants who operate the college's teaching laboratories and spaces — including the BJ Hughes Centre for Clinical Learning. This centre is home to a wide range of high-tech simulation models and technologies used by students to learn and practise practical skills in a safe environment.

In addition to the simulation centre, the WCVM's academic team members are responsible for delivering clinical skills involving live animals and cadavers in the bovine teaching unit, the medical and surgical exercises rooms, and the Ryan/Dubé Equine Performance Centre.

Promoting a veterinary career

The WCVM is launching a new recruitment strategy to promote veterinary medicine as a career option to high school students. The strategy aims to create more awareness of the WCVM as the veterinary school for B.C., Saskatchewan, Manitoba and the northern territories. It's also addressing some "myths" associated with WCVM admissions that often deter younger students from pursuing a career in veterinary medicine.

The college is setting up a new web page with information about its DVM program, along with helpful steps for students who want to prepare for veterinary school. The new content also includes videos spotlighting WCVM students that showcase their diverse backgrounds and the paths they have taken on their way to becoming veterinarians.

Faculty Gold Medallist

Dr. Quinten (Quin) Bateman, a member of the college's Class of 2026, received the WCVM Faculty Gold Medal at the USask Spring Convocation on June 3, 2026. The award recognizes the graduating veterinary student who achieves the highest overall academic standing throughout the four-year program. Bateman was born in Pincher Creek, Alta., and raised in Whitehorse, Yukon. Following graduation, he joined Head for the Hills Veterinary Health Services, a mixed-animal practice with locations in Carlyle, Kipling and Redvers, Sask.



Dr. Quin Bateman

R.V.L. Walker Award

Kasey Keohane of Saskatoon, Sask., a WCVM fourth-year student, accepted the 2026 R.V.L. Walker Award during the annual conference of the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA) in Charlottetown, P.E.I. The annual award is presented to the president of the Students of the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (SCVMA), recognizing outstanding leadership and commitment to representing veterinary students on the CVMA Council.



Kasey Keohane

During her term as SCVMA president, Keohane's dedication to student advocacy, leadership and service strengthened the connection between veterinary students and the CVMA while helping to shape the profession's future.

Award honours teen with passion for animals

Arabelle Gola of Prince Albert, Sask., had a passion for all animals — from the goats and sheep on her and her grandparents' farm to all wild creatures. After Arabelle passed away in 2023 at the age of 16, Valerie MacDougall and Chuck Hawkins chose to establish a new WCVM award called the "Arabelle Gola Pursuit of Passion Award" in honour of their granddaughter who dreamt of pursuing an animal-related career. MacDougall says the word passionate is "the best way to describe [Arabelle]."



Jordan Laviolette

Because everything she did, she did it fully, passionately, completely."

The annual award recognizes a WCVM student who displays their passion for animals and demonstrates why they want to become a veterinarian. Based on a gift from MacDougall and Hawkins as well as contributions from many others, the annual WCVM scholarship provides \$1,500 to each recipient. The first recipient was Jordan Laviolette, a veterinary student from Eston, Sask. MacDougall and Hawkins were on hand to present the scholarship to Laviolette during the WCVM's fall awards program in October 2025.

Student awards honour Blakley

Even after his passing in 2024, WCVM professor Dr. Barry Blakley continues to celebrate students who excel in veterinary toxicology — the specialty he loved.

"He knew how important it was to support students and certainly to recognize students who were excelling in an area that he loved," said Dr. Pat Blakley, Barry's widow. "He was a storyteller and a detective. Toxicology lends itself to that."

Barry was a WCVM faculty member and veterinary toxicologist for nearly 44 years. He had originally planned to retire in June 2024 and had started initial work on two scholarships before his cancer diagnosis in early 2024. Both awards were established in his memory after his death in March 2024. Based on gifts from Barry's family, the annual awards provide \$1,500 each to recipients.

Pat presented the Dr. Barry Blakley Graduate Student Award to its first recipient, PhD student Dr. Chinelo Uju, in fall 2025. This award recognizes a graduate student who best combines academic excellence, research productivity and service in their field of study and/or broader community while in the WCVM Department of Veterinary Biomedical Sciences.



Dr. Chinelo Uju

The second scholarship, the Dr. Barry Blakley Award for Veterinary Excellence in Toxicology, recognizes one WCVM student who has excelled in veterinary toxicology. The award's inaugural recipient is Saylor Martian of Vernon, B.C.



Saylor Martian



Dr. Mike Jelinski and his wife Jo-Ann (left) presented their family's award to Lauren Roberts (centre).

'A top-notch education'

Dr. Mike Jelinski of Rocky View County, Alta., established the "Dr. Michael Jelinski and Family Student Award in Veterinary Medicine" in 2025 to encompass a long and storied history with the WCVM. Jelinski, who is a founding partner of Veterinary Agri-Health Services Ltd. near Crossfield, Alta., graduated from the veterinary college in 1986.

"We've had a very long and rewarding relationship with the WCVM through our vet practice, having been involved in numerous research projects over the years, and we've had many students come visit us from the WCVM," said Jelinski, whose brother Murray is also a WCVM faculty member.

Jelinski wanted to support a fourth-year student and give them some financial reprieve from the costs associated with their final year of training. The new award, currently valued at \$7,500, covers half the cost of annual tuition for the recipient. The new award recognizes a senior veterinary student who demonstrates the most improved academic performance in their third year over their first two years of veterinary school. The award's inaugural recipient was Dr. Lauren Roberts, who graduated in June 2026. Originally from Victoria, B.C., Roberts is now completing a one-year rotating internship at VCA Central Victoria Veterinary Hospital.

For Jelinski, the award expresses his gratitude for the education he received at the WCVM four decades ago. "It was an absolute top-notch education, and they continue to produce excellent students. The award was a way for our family to give back to the profession that's been so good to us."



Provost's awards honour teachers

Three WCVM teachers — all from the college's Department of Veterinary Biomedical Sciences — are among this year's recipients of the USask Provost's Awards. This annual cross-campus award series celebrates USask faculty, staff and graduate students who have demonstrated exceptional skills in the practice of teaching and have made outstanding contributions to teaching and learning on campus.



Dr. Michael Wu,
an associate professor at the WCVM, received the Provost's College Award for Teaching Excellence (WCVM).



Dr. Madison Ricard,
an assistant professor at the WCVM (now on faculty at the University of Calgary), received the Provost's New Teacher Award.



Dr. Gabrielle Achtymichuk,
a postdoctoral fellow at the WCVM, received the Provost's Graduate Student Teacher Award.

Research and graduate studies

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

Bovine vet of the year

The Western Canadian Association of Bovine Practitioners (WCABP) named WCVN professor Dr. Murray Jelinski as the 2026 Bovine Veterinarian of the Year. Presented jointly by the WCABP and Boehringer Ingelheim, the award honours veterinarians who advance bovine health and demonstrate leadership within the veterinary profession and cattle industry in Western Canada. Jelinski is recognized for his longstanding contributions to cattle health, research and veterinary student mentorship at the WCVN and the region's large animal practices.

The WCABP also established the Dr. Murray Jelinski Scholarship Fund that will support externship costs for western Canadian veterinary students at the WCVN and University of Calgary.

Bacterium behind a pig disease

A WCVN research team identified the cause of pig ear necrosis, a painful affliction that causes pigs' ear tissue to rot away. Dr. Matheus Costa and his team identified the culprit: a common bacteria called *Fusobacterium necrophorum* found in the gastrointestinal tract of many mammals. Pig ear necrosis occurs when the bacteria are transferred via saliva through biting or chewing ears, a habit of pigs. The WCVN team's research was published in *PLOS One*.

HIGHER LEARNING AT THE WCVN

203 graduate students, residents, clinical interns and visiting students

33 countries represented in population 93 Canadian 110 international

14 postdoctoral fellows and research professional staff

38 summer research students

Honorary title

Dr. Claire Card received the honorary USask title of "distinguished professor," recognizing her outstanding contributions to teaching, research, clinical service and global outreach. Since 1991, Card has mentored generations of trainees and conducted research in areas such as hormone regulation in horses, congenital disorders in foals and reproductive technologies. Card has also spent more than 20 years supporting international development, and she leads the One Health Community Partnerships project — a five-year global health initiative supporting African women and families.



Dr. Claire Card.
Christina Weese



OCT. 2025

Dr. Sarah Wood, WCVN associate professor and USask Research Chair in Pollinator Health, receives the Zoetis Award for Research Excellence at the WCVN fall awards program.



NOV. 2025

WCVN researcher Dr. Matheus Costa and his team identify a common bacterium, *Fusobacterium necrophorum*, as the cause of pig ear necrosis. Their findings are published in *PLOS One*.



JAN. 2026

The Western Canadian Association of Bovine Practitioners (WCABP) names WCVN professor Dr. Murray Jelinski as the 2026 Bovine Veterinarian of the Year.



JAN. 2026

Saskatchewan's Agriculture Development Fund (ADF) invests nearly \$4.7 million to support 17 USask-led agricultural research projects, including three WCVN projects targeting poultry, swine and sheep.



MAR. 2026

Sixty-one graduate students present their research during the 2026 WCVN Graduate Student Research Poster Day — the highest participation the college has ever seen for the event.



MAY 2026

The WCVN-based Omics Resource Centre (ORC) introduces the ATIV24 sequencing platform, a first-of-its-kind service in Canada for multidisciplinary research.



The Omics Resource Centre's liquid handling station — part of its genomics resources.

 Christina Weese



WCVm RESEARCH REVENUE FUNDING, 2025-26

 Federal government	\$2,580,754
 Provincial governments	\$995,970
 Non-government grants	\$2,959,276
 Other government grants	\$1,380,994
 Internal USask/WCVm	\$562,275
Total	\$ 8,479,269

WCVm RESEARCH FUNDING

2023-24	 \$11,615,721	 \$2,857,890	
	 \$14,473,611		
2024-25	 \$7,825,877	 \$1,410,018	
	 \$9,235,895		
2025-26	 \$7,916,994	 \$562,275	
	 \$8,479,269		

 External funding  Internal funding  Total funding

Omics Resource Centre

The Omics Resource Centre (ORC), a USask facility based at the WCVm, provides genetic sequencing, research consultation and sample processing resources to researchers at USask and beyond. ORC recently introduced the ATIVI24 sequencing platform, a first-of-its-kind service in Canada for multidisciplinary research. The technology combines sequencing, imaging and protein detection, allowing scientists to collect multiple layers of biological information within a single service.

ORC is part of IntegrOmics (Integrated Genomics for Sustainable Animal Agriculture and Environmental Stewardship), a \$17.5-million research initiative supported by USask and the governments of Canada and Saskatchewan. The project aims to advance beef and bison genetics, support sustainable livestock production and provide researchers with genomics tools.

New Researcher Award

Dr. Arinjay Banerjee, a WCVm adjunct professor and principal scientist at the Vaccine and Infectious Disease Organization (VIDO), was one of two scientists to receive a USask New Researcher Award in June 2026. He was recognized for his outstanding contributions to virology and infectious disease research.



Dr. Arinjay Banerjee



JUNE 2026

USask graduate student Dr. Chinelo Uju, whose research is based at the WCVm, receives the 2026 USask Global Research Leadership Award for Students.

JUNE 2026

Dr. Cody Malone earns the top graduate thesis award (life sciences) at USask and the Wildlife Disease Association's 2026 Graduate Student Research Recognition Award.

JUNE 2026

Dr. Arinjay Banerjee, principal scientist at the Vaccine and Infectious Disease Organization (VIDO) and WCVm adjunct faculty member, receives a USask New Researcher Award.

JUNE 2026

WCVm professor Dr. Claire Card is one of five USask faculty members to receive the honorary title of "distinguished professor" in recognition of her many contributions.

JULY 2026

The college launches its new podcast, *WCVm Next Gen Scientists*, which showcases the diverse research and experiences of USask graduate students based at the veterinary college.

AUG. 2026

A North American team of researchers — including Drs. Gregg Adams, Steve Yang, Jaswant Singh and Todd Shury — publish their detailed findings about bison genetics in *Science*.



Dr. Jaswant Singh.
Erin Matthews

Vital discovery in bovine reproduction

USask is a national leader in beef cattle research, and one important contributor to this reputation is Dr. Jaswant Singh, WCVm professor and bovine reproduction specialist. He has spent more than two decades seeking an alternative for estradiol-based synchronization protocols, which are no longer used due to concerns about hormone use in food animals. The solution emerged from a discovery involving cetrorelix, used in human fertility therapy. Singh and his team found the drug leads to improved reproductive management, reduced labour demands and improved herd productivity. The team published their results in *Biology of Reproduction* and *Theriogenology*.

Global learning

USask graduate student Dr. Chinelo Uju, who is based in the WCVm's Department of Veterinary Biomedical Sciences and supervised by Dr. Suraj Unniappan, was the 2026 recipient of the university's Global Research Leadership Award for Students. During her PhD studies, Uju has partnered with scientists from Ottawa, Iran, Italy and Brazil and contributed to scientific publications and conference presentations. Uju determined that a molecule called the brain-derived neurotrophic factor (BDNF) plays an important role in egg maturation and reproductive success in zebrafish. Uju is now a postdoctoral fellow at the USask College of Medicine.



Dr. Chinelo Uju

Reproduction scientist gains NSERC support

Dr. Rodrigo Carrasco, an assistant professor in the WCVm's Department of Veterinary Biomedical Sciences, received vital federal funding to pursue investigations of neuroendocrine mechanisms controlling seasonal reproduction in mammals. Carrasco received a five-year Discovery Grant valued at \$222,500 from the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC).

Indigenous student research award

Camiryn Kardal, a USask Métis graduate student based at the WCVm, received a 2026 USask Indigenous Student Achievement Award in the research category. For Kardal, the award validates her research efforts as an Indigenous scientist. She's exploring how bacteria may affect the effectiveness of ivermectin, a commonly used antiparasitic drug for livestock. Using a model roundworm, her work aims to better understand factors contributing to growing antiparasitic drug resistance, an issue with implications for animal health, agricultural sustainability and food security.



Camiryn Kardal

Bison research scholarship

Dr. Maitê de Almeida, a USask master's student based at the WCVm, was one of eight recipients across North America to receive a scholarship from the National Bison Association's Throlson American Bison Foundation and the Rich Zahringer Memorial Scholarship Fund. The only recipient from a Canadian university, de Almeida received US\$5,000 to support her research. Supervised by Dr. Diego Moya, her work aims to advance bison nutrition while supporting animal welfare and environmental sustainability.



Dr. Maitê de Almeida

WCVm RESEARCH IN NUMBERS (2025–26)

\$8.5M in new research funding (internal and external)

\$5.5M in research funding from public sources

\$3.0M in research stemming from non-government sources

64 new research grants awarded

23 non-government grants awarded

10 federal government grants awarded

7 provincial government grants awarded

24 new USask-related grants awarded

TEDx talk focus: cats and parasites

WCVM professor Dr. Emily Jenkins found a novel way to present her research to the public during the annual TEDx series at USask in February 2026. Her talk, which earned the title of “Editor’s Choice,” explored the impact of domestic cats and their parasites — particularly *Toxoplasma gondii*, a parasite that has been found as far north as the Canadian Arctic. Jenkins, who co-leads the USask One Health Signature Area of Research, talked about how this parasite moves and manipulates its way around the world, and how people can optimize the relationship with their cats to protect the health of people and animals at home and in the wild.



An Arctic fox in Canada’s North.

Supplied

Trichinella tracker

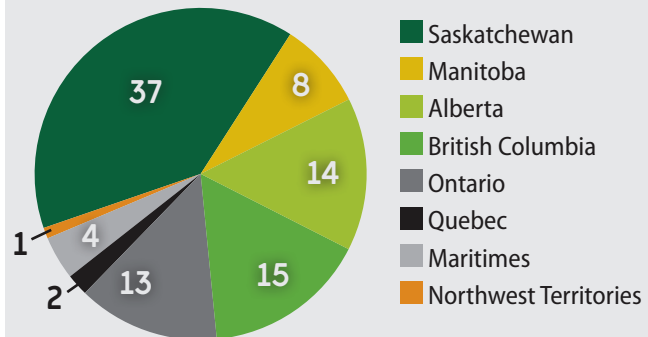
USask PhD graduate Dr. Cody Malone is advancing knowledge of *Trichinella chanchalensis*. This newly discovered parasite is circulating among Arctic fox and other carnivores, posing potential food safety concerns for northerners. Working with his supervisor, Dr. Emily Jenkins, Malone investigated the parasite’s distribution, host range and survival characteristics. The parasite can cause trichinellosis in people who consume infected meat. Malone’s work earned him the university’s top graduate thesis award (life sciences category) and the Wildlife Disease Association’s 2026 Graduate Student Research Recognition Award.



Dr. Cody Malone

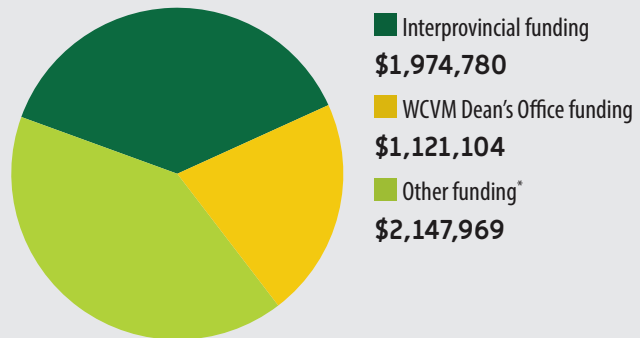
WHERE ARE THEY FROM?

Canadian graduate students, interns and postdoctoral fellows



STUDENT TRAINING AND RESEARCH FUNDING SOURCES

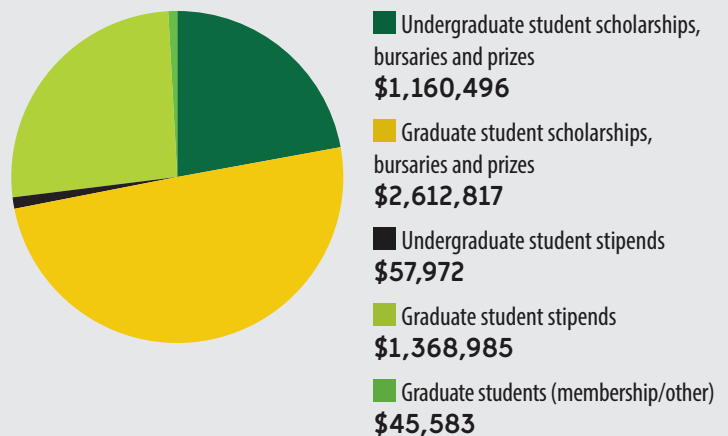
Undergraduate and graduate students (2025–26)



*Other refers to funding from USask, departments and external sources.

TYPES OF STUDENT TRAINING AND RESEARCH FUNDING

Undergraduate and graduate students (2025–26)



The WCVM invested **\$5,243,853** 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.

Patient visits: snapshot

The WCVM Veterinary Medical Centre (VMC), the college's veterinary teaching hospital that serves as a referral centre for all western Canadians and their animals, finished the 2025–26 year in a strong position. From May 1, 2025, to April 30, 2026, the hospital's annual count for patient visits (all three services combined) was 24,929 patient visits — an increase of nearly 13 per cent from the previous year. While a rise in small animal patient visits (18,155 visits in 2024–25 to 20,853 visits in 2025–26) was the biggest contributor to this increase, patient visits also rose in the Large Animal Clinic by 9.9 per cent, and in Field Service (1.2 per cent increase). The number of referrals received last year also rose by 12.6 per cent, from 3,016 to 3,451 referrals.

Small animal emergency services

In 2025–26, the VMC recorded 6,372 patient visits to its small animal emergency and critical service — a 12 per cent increase in emergency cases from the previous year and nearly one-third of all hospital visits in the Small Animal Clinic. This increased caseload, combined with logistical challenges in bringing internationally trained clinical interns to Saskatoon, caused an immediate and significant shortage of veterinarians to cover the small animal emergency service during the spring and summer months.

In June 2026, the WCVM called for temporary assistance from Saskatchewan's veterinary community to help fill the serious gap in veterinary resources and retain the 24/7 resource serving so many animals. Thanks to strong support from local practitioners, the hospital successfully filled open shifts during the months of July and August. The WCVM is grateful to all local veterinarians who stepped in to work emergency shifts and to the Saskatchewan Veterinary Medical Association for its support in reaching provincial members.

CLINICAL TEAM

(as of June 30, 2026)

75+ registered veterinary technologists

58 veterinary clinicians; **35** are board-certified veterinary specialists

30 administrative and support staff

12 management and strategic leadership team members

63 clinical interns and residents

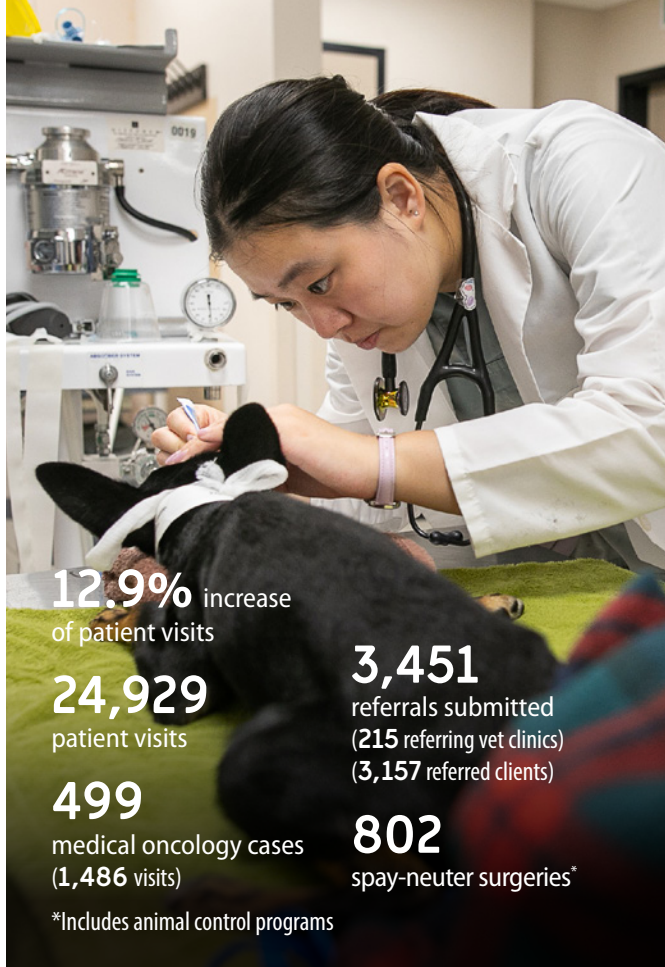
The WCVM expects the need for small animal emergency services to continue growing. To help address this rising demand, the college has hired a veterinarian with emergency experience and plans to hire a professor of teaching in emergency and critical care (tenure track). As well, the college is exploring options for recruiting more clinical interns in Canada to avoid chronic visa-related challenges in hiring international professionals.

The VMC leadership team also plans to meet with members of the Saskatchewan veterinary community to discuss sustainable options for offering and maintaining 24-hour small animal emergency services for animal owners and referring veterinarians.

New MRI unit and linear accelerator

In October 2025, the college celebrated the grand opening of a new magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) machine and linear accelerator in the college's Veterinary Medical Centre (VMC). The college's donors contributed more than half the cost of this \$9.1-million construction project that included vital renovations to the college's oncology and medical imaging suite.

Western Canadian animal owners and referring veterinarians now have access to an MRI unit that produces highly detailed images for diagnosing animal patients and developing treatment plans. The new linear accelerator, a vital tool for treating pets with cancer, optimizes image-guided radiotherapy and provides high-speed radiation treatment. Both technologies are part of the college's oncology and medical imaging services that offer specialized care to animal patients as well as hands-on training experience for WCVM veterinary students and graduate veterinarians.



12.9% increase
of patient visits

24,929
patient visits

499
medical oncology cases
(1,486 visits)

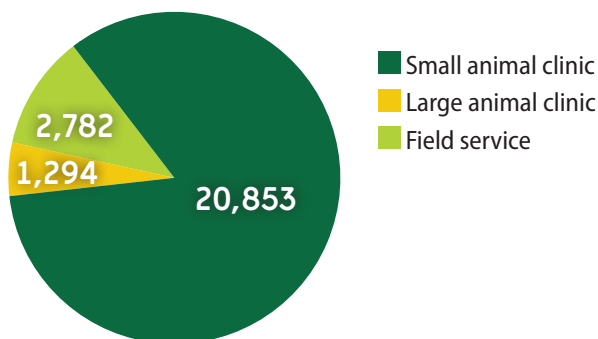
*Includes animal control programs

3,451
referrals submitted
(215 referring vet clinics)
(3,157 referred clients)

802
spay-neuter surgeries*

VMC PATIENTS

From May 1, 2025, to April 30, 2026, the VMC completed a total of 24,929 patient visits.



Clinical-focused radiation oncologist

To maximize the linear accelerator's use for treating cancer patients, the VMC created a new clinical-focused role and hired Dr. Eric Walther, a board-certified specialist in veterinary radiation oncology. Walther's extensive training included a radiation oncology internship at Texas A&M University, followed by a combined Master of Science-radiation oncology residency at the WCVI. He went on to complete a two-year clinical residency at Arizona Veterinary Oncology in Gilbert, Ariz., before joining the VMC in December 2025.



Dr. Eric Walther

Walther and all the new technological resources allow the VMC to expand its oncology services for all western Canadian animal owners and veterinarians — working toward the goal of building the most advanced pet cancer therapy centre in the country.

Veterinary social worker

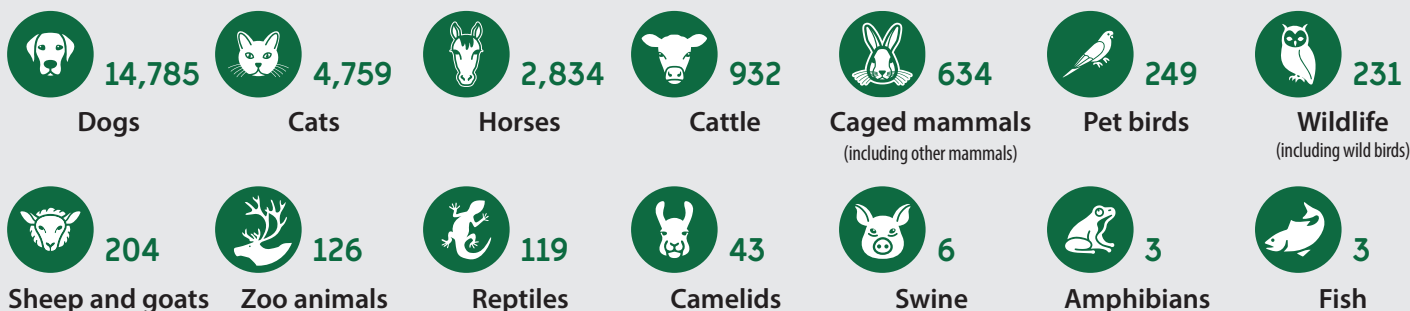
Brittney Mitchell became the VMC's new veterinary social worker in spring 2026. Originally from Saskatoon, Mitchell is a graduate of the University of Regina's Bachelor of Social Work program. Her background includes 10 years of experience in disability services and mental health support. Besides her deep commitment to supporting others, Mitchell has a lifelong love of animals. In her work as the hospital's veterinary social worker, she will help to support mental health and wellness for veterinary faculty and staff as well as for VMC clients.



Brittney Mitchell

VMC PATIENTS BY SPECIES

May 1, 2025, to April 30, 2026





WHAT'S NEW AT THE VMC?

Latest initiatives at the veterinary teaching hospital

Radiation therapy is back. VMC resumed offering a full range of radiation oncology therapies to companion animal patients in December 2025. During the first four months of 2026, the clinical team provided radiation therapy to 26 oncology cases (over 37 visits).



Partnership with LFCE. A new agreement between the VMC and the university's Livestock and Forage Centre of Excellence (LFCE) secures preventive and emergency veterinary care for all the centre's livestock herds and highlights training opportunities.

Clinic tours. On the first Wednesday of every month, the VMC offers tours of the hospital to WCVm students and to external groups such as 4-H groups, pre-veterinary students and breed organizations. The VMC team gave more than 25 hospital tours last year.



AI scribe. VMC clinical teams are testing the use of artificial intelligence (AI) tools to support their work in the hospital. Team members will always ask clients' consent before using any scribing tool during a medical visit, and any AI tool must also meet USask security requirements.

SMALL ANIMAL CLINIC PATIENTS

From May 1, 2025, to April 30, 2026, the Small Animal Clinic had a total of 20,853 patient visits.

CLINICAL SERVICE	PATIENT VISITS
Behaviour	187
Blood donors	63
Dentistry	678
Dermatology	671
Emergency and critical care	6,372
Medicine	2,407
Nutrition	0*
Oncology (medical)	1,486
Oncology (radiation)	118**
Ophthalmology	885
Rehabilitation	2,533
Surgery	2,381
Wellness	1,861
Zoo, exotic and wildlife medicine	1,211
Total	20,853

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

**Radiation oncology service reopened mid-year (Dec. 2025 to present).

FIELD SERVICE PATIENTS

From May 1, 2025, to April 30, 2026, the Field Service completed a total of 2,782 patient visits.

SPECIES	PATIENT VISITS
Equine	1,783
Bovine	752
Goats	47
Sheep	106
Swine	6
Camelids	34

LES AND IRENE DUBÉ GOOD SAMARITAN FUND

(May 1, 2025, to April 30, 2026)

13 animal patients
owned by families

3 ownerless animals
in care of humane
organizations

Total amount requested:
\$50,181



Outstanding VMC staff

- Registered veterinary technologist Sharon Martin is the 2026 VMC Employee of the Year. Always willing to help, Martin provides guidance and assistance to team members while fostering teamwork and co-operation. Her positive attitude and dedication contribute to a collaborative and supportive workplace culture at the VMC.
- Rae McLean, RVT, received the 2026 VMC Spirit Award. McLean's dedication to excellence, strong advocacy for her patients, and her solution-focused approach have earned the respect and appreciation of her coworkers.

Planning a potential expansion

The WCV and USask continue to study the option of a future expansion of the college's DVM program and supporting resources. The Government of Saskatchewan's 2026-27 provincial budget included an additional \$500,000 in capital funding to support the planning and design of a potential expansion of the veterinary college.

The starting point for any future expansion is the VMC, which plays a critical role in the college's DVM program. In the next planning stage, a consultant team is developing a conceptual plan and strategy for phasing renovations in the hospital, which must be able to maintain full operations during future construction. The consultants met with WCV students, staff and faculty who work and learn in the VMC in February 2026. These conversations and insights, combined with the findings gathered through the 2022 WCV Master Plan and the 2024 WCV Space Optimization Study, have contributed to the conceptual plan.

LARGE ANIMAL CLINIC PATIENTS

From May 1, 2025, to April 30, 2026, the Large Animal Clinic had a total of 1,294 patient visits.

CLINICAL SERVICE	PATIENT VISITS
Medicine	462
Surgery	499
Ophthalmology	24
Theriogenology	309
Zoo, exotic and wildlife medicine	0

BUILDING A BETTER WORKPLACE

Behind-the-scenes actions to improve daily work

New supervision models.

Supervisors' new staggered shifts enhance daily hospital coverage (including weekends). Less focus on administrative work also allows supervisors more time to be on the hospital floor, providing support to clinical teams. The VMC is also working to train "charge RVTs" (registered veterinary technologists) as effective and skilled points of contact for after-hours staff.



Proactive staffing. The VMC has ramped up recruitment for RVTs by participating in career fairs and sharing job opportunities through regular social media promotions. The hospital has also added more animal care attendant roles to the Large Animal Clinic team.

Reviewing clinical services. To support growth and enhance the hospital's overall clinical program, members of the VMC leadership team have been meeting with each clinical service team. These meetings are fostering a greater understanding of each clinical service's resources, needs and challenges with the goals of enhancing patient care, supporting student training and providing staff with opportunities to develop their skills.



REFERRED CASES

From May 1, 2025, to April 30, 2026.

	REFERRALS RECEIVED	ADMITTED REFERRALS
SMALL ANIMAL SERVICES	3,270	2,290
Behaviour	84	34
Dentistry	173	114
Dermatology	131	85
Emergency and critical care	489	432
Exotic pets medicine and surgery	46	34
Medicine	761	506
Oncology	435	341
Ophthalmology	481	340
Rehabilitation	67	43
Surgery	603	361
LARGE ANIMAL SERVICES	181	129
Emergency and critical care	5	4
Medicine	37	29
Surgery	81	56
Ophthalmology	15	14
Equine standing MRI	43	26
TOTAL	3,451	2,419

LOCATION OF REFERRED CASES

From May 1, 2025, to April 30, 2026.

LOCATION	NO. OF CLINICS	NO. OF REFERRALS	NO. OF CLIENTS
Saskatchewan	102	2,993	2,701
Manitoba	76	305	290
Alberta	71	170	132
British Columbia	18	24	17
Ontario	10	17	14
Newfoundland	1	1	1
United States	-	-	2
TOTAL	215	3,451	3,157

Planned gift supports oncology training

Dogs have always been an important part of Richard Spracklin's life. After seeing the compassionate care his golden retriever, Higgins, received from the WCV's veterinary oncology team, Spracklin decided to give back by including a legacy gift to the college in his will.

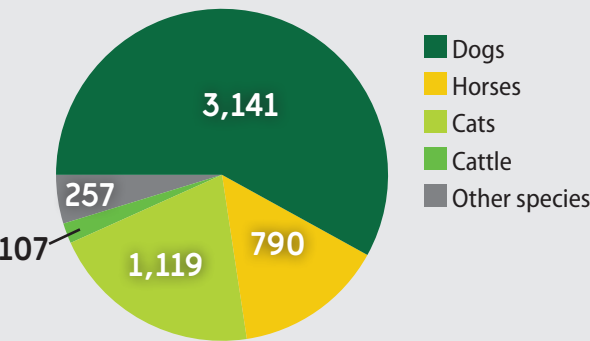
Spracklin's relationship with WCV spans more than 30 years, beginning with emergency treatment for one of his dogs and later through Higgins' cancer care. He credits Dr. Charles Boisclair, a former WCV oncology resident, and Boisclair's colleagues for their compassion and professionalism during a difficult time.

Spracklin's gift will establish the "Dr. Charles Boisclair Scholarship in Oncology in Memory of Higgins," honouring both his beloved dog and the veterinary oncology resident who helped care for him during cancer treatment. The scholarship will support graduate students enrolled in the WCV's combined Master of Science-medical oncology residency program. Spracklin hopes the award will inspire more veterinarians to pursue careers in oncology.



MEDICAL IMAGING

From May 1, 2025, to April 30, 2026.



84 MRI scans

7 PET-CT scans

763 CT scans

1,098 ultrasound exams

3,452 X-ray exams

Total studies: 5,414 | Total patients: 3,114



Gratitude sparks fundraiser

Eryn Audette of Regina, Sask., trains dogs for scent detection, a specialized skill where dogs — including her own dog Suzy, a 10-year-old basset hound — are trained to identify and locate specific odours. After watching Suzy receive life-changing radiation therapy for a nasal tumour at the WCVN Veterinary Medical Centre, Audette knew she wanted to give back to the college's veterinary oncology team.

She organized a raffle for her scent detection club, HD Scent Detection, and secured donations for 40 raffle prizes. With support from the scent detection community, the fundraiser raised \$2,000 for the WCVN's Inspiration Oncology Fund. Created in memory of a golden retriever named Inspiration, the fund supports canine cancer research conducted at the college, improving outcomes and quality of life for dog patients.

Now that Suzy is thriving at home, Audette emphasizes the importance of giving back to help other pets receive lifesaving treatment, such as supporting the WCVN's Inspiration Oncology Fund. "Do what you can, no matter what the dollar amount is," said Audette. "Whether you raise five dollars or \$5,000, every penny will count."

WCVN & 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 (WCVN)

Herd health (livestock)



WCVN/College of Agriculture and Bioresources

Saskatchewan Poultry Extension Service

WCVN & 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.



Scientific spotlight: bison research

The cover of a recent issue of the magazine *Science* featured the work of North American researchers who are working to help preserve the genetic diversity of bison. The cover photo and story highlighted the group's latest research findings: by comparing DNA from ancient and modern bison, the team has produced the most detailed picture of bison genetics to date, revealing how centuries of population decline, isolation and human management have shaped today's herds.

The paper's list of authors included WCVM researcher Dr. Gregg Adams and Dr. Todd Shury, a WCVM adjunct faculty member and Parks Canada veterinarian. Both researchers are key members of the Bison Integrated Genomics (BIG) Project that is collaborating with partners across Canada and the United States. The scientists are developing a bison gene biobank and advancing reproductive technologies to support genetic diversity in bison populations for generations to come.

Beef cattle health expert visits WCVM

In September 2025, beef cattle health expert Dr. Paul Morley spent a week at the University of Saskatchewan (USask) as the WCVM's D.L.T. Smith Visiting Lecturer. Morley is a professor and director of research at the Veterinary Education Research and Outreach Center at Texas A&M University. Morley completed his PhD program at the WCVM under the supervision of Dr. Hugh Townsend, WCVM professor emeritus.

During his stay in Saskatoon, more than 200 people attended (in person and online) Morley's three lectures on beef cattle health topics. In his recent research, the epidemiologist and veterinary internal medicine specialist used metagenomic methods to investigate the effects of agriculture production practices on antimicrobial resistance and microbial ecology as these affect human, animal and ecosystem health. Morley's lectures explored metagenomic insights into antimicrobial resistance, how sequencing is rewriting the story of *Mannheimia* and bovine respiratory disease, and new perspectives on bovine liver abscesses.





Science outreach at
Oskāyak High School.
Supplied

WCVM scientist with global impact

In 2025, WCVM assistant professor Dr. Olamide Adebisi was the recipient of an Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Fund through the Physiological Society, which represents scientists from around the world. With the fund's financial support, Adebisi and her research team organized a science outreach event for Indigenous students at Oskāyak High School in Saskatoon, Sask. The event's aim was to shed light on career paths in STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) and encourage Indigenous students to explore their career options. The event featured a lecture on the physiology of the brain, an interactive workshop on careers in neuroscience, and hands-on activities.

Honouring Saskatchewan's beekeepers

In June 2026, the WCVM hosted a special recognition event for the Saskatchewan Beekeepers Development Commission (SBDC) to honour their partnership in establishing and supporting the USask Pollinator Health Research Chair in 2022. Held by WCVM veterinary pathologist Dr. Sarah Wood, the \$750,000 chair was supported by five contributing partners: the SBDC, BASF, Saskatchewan Canola Development Commission (now SaskOilseeds), British Columbia Blueberry Council, and the Manitoba Canola Growers Association.

As one of the chair's five contributing partners, the SBDC raised its \$250,000 contribution through multiple connections with apiaries, farmers and local beekeepers in Saskatchewan. During the special event, Wood and SBDC president Simon Lalonde unveiled a plaque that celebrates the organization's contributions to the research chair.

Continuing education

A sampler of public events and activities



Dr. Vanessa Cowan, assistant professor of veterinary toxicology, presented a talk, "Strychnine poisoning in animals: clinical features, management and diagnosis," during an online CE event in June 2026 for Saskatchewan Association of Veterinary Technologists (SAVT) members.



WCVM professor Dr. Al Chicoine presented "Adventures in honey bee drug residue research" as part of a Canadian Global Food Animal Residue Avoidance Databank (CgFARAD) seminar on prudent drug use in food animals in June 2026.



In April 2026, Dr. Emily Jenkins, a WCVM professor of veterinary microbiology, gave a talk titled "Emerging disease and zoonoses" to members of the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association-Society of British Columbia Veterinarians (CVMA-SBCV). Jenkins' presentation was part of the society's 2026 Spring Sunday CE Sessions, held in spring 2026.



Dr. Cheryl Waldner, WCVM professor and Beef Cattle Research Council Research Chair in Beef Cattle Health, gave a presentation, "Insights on antimicrobial resistance (AMR) from long-read metagenomic analysis of respiratory samples," as part of a webinar organized by Saskatchewan Health in September 2025.



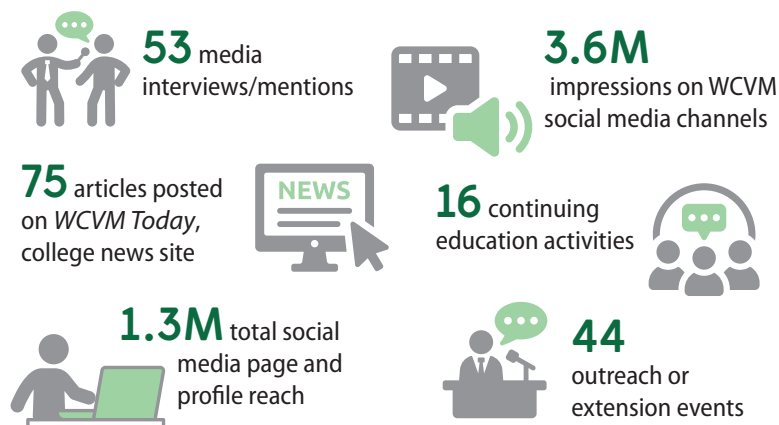
L to R: Dr. Gillian Muir, Dr. Sarah Wood,
Simon Lalonde and Dr. Elemir Simko.

Christina Weese

WCVM scholarly output



Public connections



Sharing findings from pain mitigation research

WCVM researcher Dr. Diego Moya shared his team's findings about pain mitigation techniques with attendees at the 2026 Livestock and Forage Centre of Excellence (LFCE) Summer Field Day in June. The research and teaching farm's annual field day allows scientists to share recent developments in agricultural science and veterinary medicine with members of the agriculture industry.

Moya's research team is examining different ways to mitigate pain related to castration, dehorning and branding. He's seeking methods that can be adopted without interfering with the business side of raising cattle.

The research work done by Moya's team and other international researchers served as a valuable information source during the recent review of Canada's beef cattle code of practice. By integrating the findings from research studies such as Moya's work, the revised code of practice — due to be released by the National Farm Animal Care Council in early 2027 — can provide cattle producers with additional, evidence-based options for mitigating pain in their animals.

Dr. Diego Moya presents at the LFCE Summer Field Day.

Cat Zens



SEPT. 2025

Dr. Paul Morley, an expert in epidemiology and infectious disease at Texas A&M University, gives a trio of beef cattle health talks as the D.L.T. Smith Visiting Lecturer at the WCVM.



NOV. 2025

WCVM associate professor Dr. Chris Clark, along with WCVM fourth-year students Gavin Fleck and Avery Matichuk, address common "horse health myths" and explore the science behind long-held beliefs and practices with local horse owners in Regina, Sask.



FEB. 2026

WCVM professor Dr. Cheryl Waldner discusses "Practical approaches for managing stock water" during a webinar for beef producers and veterinary teams, which was organized by the Beef Cattle Research Council.



MAR. 2026

Dr. Karen Pimentel, clinical associate with the WCVM Equine Field Service, presents on equine herpesvirus at the Saskatchewan Horse Federation's annual conference in Regina, Sask. WCVM assistant professor Dr. Vanessa Cowan also gives a talk on plants that are toxic to horses.

Celebrating graduates

Every spring, the WCVM develops a social media campaign featuring posts on Facebook and Instagram that announce the career plans of its new veterinary graduates. These popular posts are widely shared by senior students and their families as well as by many western Canadian veterinary clinics — employers of the new WCVM graduates. This year's campaign was especially successful with 56 members of the Class of 2026 (nearly two-thirds of the class) celebrating their new careers.

17,670

likes/comments



842,834

public reach



512

shares/reposts

Podcast showcases graduate research

WCVM Next Gen Scientists is a podcast showcasing the diverse research and experiences of USask graduate students based at the veterinary college. The pilot episode (released in July 2026) featured PhD student Suzana Grazielli Cortiano Stubert who discussed her swine dysentery research. New episodes highlight students' work targeting preterm births in human mothers, using honey bees as an animal model for fetal alcohol spectrum disorder, and developing a stall-side tool for analyzing horses' heart health. Cat Zens, WCVM communications co-ordinator, created the podcast and co-hosted the first few episodes with Lucas Horsman, the college's summer research communications intern. Episodes of *WCVM Next Gen Scientists* are now available on most streaming platforms.



Extension and public outreach

A sampler of public events and activities



WCVM associate professor Dr. Dinesh Dadarwal presented, "What we learned: updating ram breeding soundness evaluation guidelines for accelerated lambing in Canada," during the Saskatchewan Sheep Development Board's Symposium and Annual General Meeting in January 2026.



Dr. Michelle Husulak, an assistant professor of teaching in the WCVM's Department of Large Animal Clinical Sciences, gave a presentation, "Equine dentistry: what every horse owner should know," in February 2026 as part of the Horse Council B.C.'s winter webinar series.



WCVM professor Dr. John Ellis was among the speakers at the 28th Western Canada Feedlot School in February 2026. His presentations were "Evolution of respiratory vaccines" and "Bovine respiratory disease (BRD) lessons and when to shift your protocols."



Dr. Yolande Seddon, WCVM associate professor and USask Chair in Swine Welfare, participated as a scientific advisor and chair of the scientific committee for *Canada's Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Pigs* (10-year revision).



Dr. Fabienne Uehlinger, WCVM associate professor, gave a presentation on Cache Valley virus to members of the Saskatchewan Sheep Development Board in January 2026.



WCVM equine reproduction specialist Dr. Claire Card and her resident, Dr. Josefina Ghersa, deliver two presentations on the steps involved in foaling and how to use a SNAP foal IgG test to horse owners during a horse health awareness event in March 2026.



MAR. 2026

The WCVM's Disease Investigation Unit (DIU), which has helped livestock producers and veterinarians solve complex animal health challenges for more than 30 years, is featured in the Spring 2026 issue of *Agriview*, a Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture publication.



MAR. 2026

WCVM-based graduate students Maria Janzer and Laura Kellerer present their three-minute research presentations during the finals of the university's annual 3MT competition, hosted by the USask College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies.



JULY 2026

WCVM assistant professor Dr. Candace Lowe organizes a week of presentations and activities for six participants from across Canada in the annual Verna Kirkness program on the USask campus.



AUG. 2026

Dr. Nora Chavarria, a WCVM field service veterinarian, participates as a line veterinarian at the 2026 Canadian Endurance Championships near Prince Albert, Sask. She joins three other veterinarians who are all WCVM graduates.

Development

The year's highlights from the WCVM's development office, whose team is responsible for the college's many fundraising initiatives, alumni relations and donor stewardship.



The official opening of the WCVM's new linear accelerator and magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) machine on October 2, 2025, was an unforgettable day for the veterinary college's entire community. This vital animal health care and education project included extensive renovations to diagnostic and treatment suites in the college's Veterinary Medical Centre (VMC), followed by installation of the new equipment.

The entire project wouldn't have been possible without significant support from generous individuals such as Cathy Roozen, the initiative's lead donor, and Keith Lofvendahl, another contributor, who both attended the afternoon celebration. Its total cost was \$9.1 million, with donors from across Canada contributing more than \$5 million over the past few years in support of the animal health care initiative.

This project is an impressive example of what can be accomplished with the support of amazing donors in partnership with the college's development team. Funds raised through development initiatives are critical for the college's academic, research and clinical programs.

A key priority for the WCVM's development team is to help interested donors find new opportunities to invest in student scholarships and bursaries. Other priorities are the BJ Hughes Centre for Clinical Learning, the Northern Engagement and Community Outreach (NECO) program, and the purchase of new equipment for the WCVM's veterinary teaching hospital.

As the WCVM plans for a large-scale expansion and renewal of the college's building, the development team's work will play an integral role in helping animal owners, alumni and industry discover how they can contribute to the college's future.



Donor Dr. June Donaldson (right) with “Bubbles” and Melissa Marshall Mann, WCVM’s director of development..

Christina Weese

Legacy gift inspired by love of animals

Inspired by a lifelong love of animals, Dr. June Donaldson (MBA, EdD) gave a full-size mare and foal simulation model to the WCVM in 2024. When she was invited to name the duo as part of her donation, she chose the name Bubbles for the mare and Biscuit for her foal — two names that are very meaningful for her.

Now, Donaldson is supporting the WCVM with a gift in her will. Her generosity will help to support the development of new spaces in the college. Legacy gift donations can support many different areas of the veterinary college including equipment purchases, student awards and specific programs.

“Everyone involved wanted to ensure my previous gifts, and now my future gifts, are and will be treated in a similar manner that is gratifying to me as a donor and helpful to the college and their students not only for today, but for generations to come,” said Donaldson.



Dr. Aparna Chatterjee (left) and Dr. Blossom de Bruin.

David Stobbe

Jax Award for Excellence in Critical Care

After the loss of her beloved terrier Jax in 2021, WCVM graduate Dr. Blossom de Bruin established the “Jax Award for Excellence in Critical Care” to honour his memory and support future veterinarians. Now a mixed animal practitioner on Vancouver Island, de Bruin created the award to recognize fourth-year veterinary students who demonstrate skill in emergency medicine and critical care. The inaugural award, valued at \$1,500, was presented in 2025 to WCVM graduate Dr. Aparna Chatterjee, who is now working in emergency and critical care medicine. The award reflects de Bruin’s commitment to supporting students while celebrating the lasting impact that Jax had on her life and veterinary career.



WCVM alumni and development highlights

8 class reunions and alumni events



1,758 donations received by **655** donors



1 major gift announcement



\$ 2.34M total donations to the WCVM



2 Pet-A-Paloozas (Saskatoon and Vancouver)



Baby goat yoga

In August, 80 people gathered outdoors at Saskatoon's Crossmount Cider Company for a one-of-a-kind yoga experience with 11 adorable baby goats, owned by Valerie MacDougall and Chuck Hawkins of Prince Albert, Sask. The couple organized the sold-out fundraiser in memory of their animal-loving granddaughter, Arabelle Gola, who passed away in 2023. Michelle Bevans, a local yoga instructor, and photographer Kelsey Enns donated their services. Altogether, the event raised more than \$3,000 to help purchase vital equipment for the WCVM Veterinary Medical Centre.

WCVM's family of funds



RESEARCH

Companion
Animal
Health Fund

Townsend
Equine Health
Research Fund

Inspiration
Oncology
Fund

Oncology
Research and
Equipment
Fund

Anka's Best
Friend Fund

Wildlife Health
Research Fund

Rev. H. Jason Reed
and Ann Jorgensen
Reed One Health
Research Fund



Omen, owned
by Jill Huber.
 Cat Zens

Les and Irene Dubé Good Samaritan Fund

A few weeks after Jill Huber rescued a female cane corso dog named Omen, she had to bring her new pet to the WCVM's Veterinary Medical Centre (VMC) for emergency care. Omen was very pregnant and had been in labour for more than 26 hours. After examining her, veterinarians confirmed that Omen needed an emergency caesarean section to save her and her unborn puppies.

Facing unexpected veterinary costs, Huber received assistance from the WCVM's Les and Irene Dubé Good Samaritan Fund, which provides financial support for pets whose owners can't afford treatment or ownerless animals. Thanks to the fund, Omen underwent surgery and delivered nine healthy puppies. As well, the fund covered most of the costs associated with the puppies' vaccination series — in collaboration with contributions from WCVM donor Christie Tetreault toward canine parvovirus awareness. Omen's story has a happy ending: her puppies have all been adopted, and she has a permanent home with Huber.



The WCVM's new Pet First Fund will support pet health care and student training.

 Christina Weese

Putting pet health care first

The WCVM is launching the Pets First Fund, a new fund that's dedicated to advancing companion animal care at the college and in its veterinary teaching hospital. Designed to meet the veterinary college's most pressing and emerging needs, this fund supports the care of companion animals as well as the hands-on learning of WCVM veterinary students. Whether it's purchasing specialized equipment in the WCVM's veterinary teaching hospital, helping veterinary students gain meaningful experience in animal care or investing in new facilities, this new fund gives the college the flexibility to respond quickly to new opportunities and emerging priorities where donor support can have the greatest impact.



ANIMALS

Pets First
Fund

Les and Irene
Dubé Good
Samaritan
Fund

Northern
Engagement
and Community
Outreach (NECO)



STUDENTS

VMC
Equipment
Fund

Numerous
scholarships
and bursaries

BJ Hughes Centre
for Clinical Learning

WCVM Pay
it Forward



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