

On June 4, VA-MD Vet Med's new dean, M. Daniel Givens, held a livestreaming town hall to discuss his ideas around the values that shape the college, his service in the dean's role, and his plans for engaging faculty, staff, students, alumni, and college partners in his decision-making process. In closing, Dean Givens answered questions submitted by the community.

[Get to know Dean Givens →](#)

Around the College



InclusiveCVM blog in the works

As the VA-MD Vet Med community continues to strive to make the college a welcoming and affirming environment for all, we're in the process of building a blog that collects a variety of resources. To ensure that the blog is a dynamic space for learning and sharing, your voice is needed. Please share your thoughts, experiences, and resources by emailing inclusivecvm@vt.edu (with subject line: "InclusiveCVM blog").



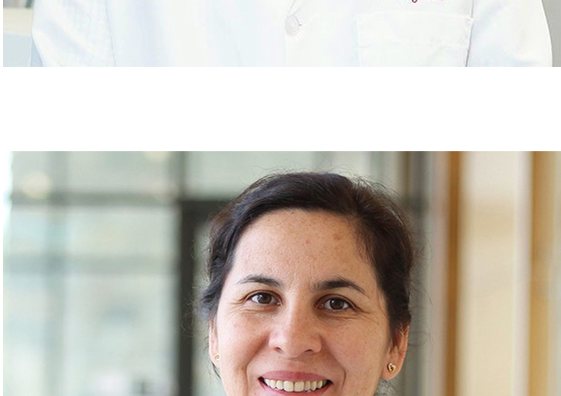
Molecular profiles reveal similarities between gliomas

A team of researchers, including John Rossmesl, the Dr. and Mrs. Dorsey Taylor Mahin Professor of Neurology and Neurosurgery in the Department of Small Animal Clinical Sciences, analyzed tumor samples from dozens of gliomas in adults, children, and dogs, and discovered a remarkable degree of similarity between canine and human tumors. The team's original findings appear in the journal *Cancer Cell*.



Researchers establish a reverse genetics system to facilitate COVID-19 research

With funding from the the Fralin Life Sciences Institute at Virginia Tech, Department of Biomedical Sciences and Pathobiology assistant professors James Weger-Lucarelli and Nisha Duggal are creating a genetics system — the foundation for vaccine design studies — to examine the viral mutations associated with COVID-19 severity and viral transmission.



Meng contributes to World Knowledge Forum

"Prevent Future Pandemics by Addressing Root Cause" by X.J. Meng, University Distinguished Professor of Molecular Virology in the Department of Biomedical Sciences and Pathobiology, has been featured as part of a pre-event for the 2020 World Knowledge Forum, for which he is an invited speaker. "Scientists have been warning for years that a pandemic like this is destined to happen," Meng writes.



Balogh named JoAnne S. O'Brien Professor of Theriogenology

Orsolya Balogh, associate professor in the Department of Small Animal Clinical Sciences and a diplomate of the American College of Theriogenologists, has been named the JoAnne S. O'Brien Professor of Theriogenology by the Virginia Tech Board of Visitors. As one of the original faculty members of the newly founded College of Veterinary Medicine, Balogh served as a senior clinician and researcher at the University of Zurich for nearly a decade.



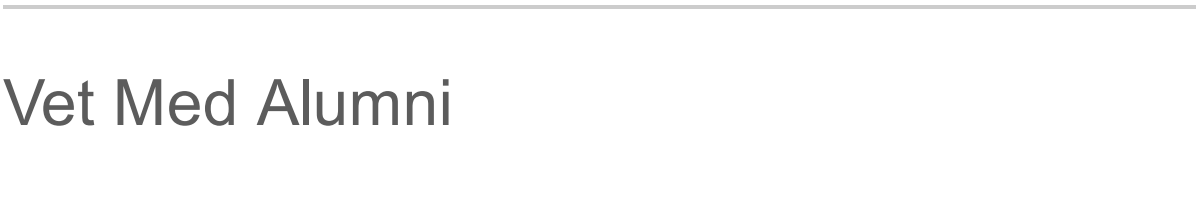
Kent Scarratt honored with emeritus status

In recognition of exemplary service to the university, Kent Scarratt, associate professor of large animal medicine, has been conferred the title of associate professor emeritus by the Virginia Tech Board of Visitors. As one of the original faculty members of the newly founded College of Veterinary Medicine, Scarratt has been a key contributor to the college's success and advancement since 1982.



Promotions and tenure

At its June 2 meeting, the Virginia Tech Board of Visitors approved promotions and tenure for the following VA-MD Vet Med faculty: Sherrie Clark-Deener, professor of theriogenology, Large Animal Clinical Sciences; Lara Bartl, clinical associate professor of community practice, Small Animal Clinical Sciences (SACS); Julie Cecere, clinical associate professor of theriogenology, SACS; and Michael Nappier, clinical associate professor of community practice, SACS.



The future of cancer care and research at VA-MD Vet Med

VA-MD Vet Med's oncology clinicians share highlights of the college's brand-new Virginia Tech Animal Cancer Care and Research Center (ACCRC) in Roanoke, Virginia. Preparing to open to patients, this state-of-the-art center will provide comprehensive animal cancer care and research, including advanced diagnostic imaging, surgery, chemotherapy, and the region's only radiation oncology service for pets. A vital part of the Virginia Tech Carilion Health Sciences Campus, the center will integrate researchers investigating human and veterinary biomedical interests that seek to advance cancer treatment in pets and people alike.

[Learn more about the ACCRC →](#)

Vet Med Alumni



MPH alumni contributions in response to COVID-19

From a preventive medicine officer at the U.S. Military Academy to a program manager at a vaccine institute to a veterinary epidemiologist with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Virginia Tech Master of Public Health (MPH) alumni are helping in the response to COVID-19 across the country and beyond.



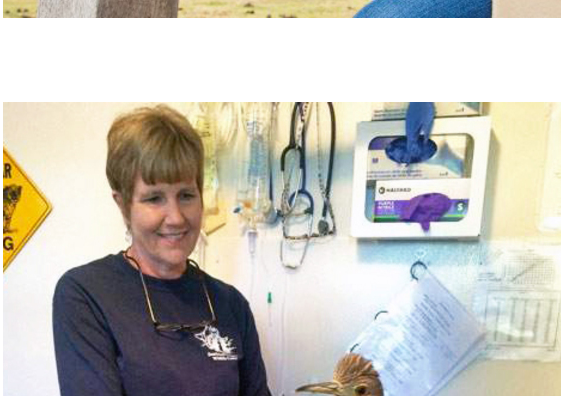
Alumna profiled by ABC News

A COVID-19 survivor, Erin Kulick (DVM '10), who works in general practice at Long Island City Veterinary Center in Queens, New York, shares the challenges of providing veterinary care during the pandemic. Also, in audio diaries she recorded, Kulick discusses how the coronavirus has directly impacted her and her community, and how she has continued to perform essential veterinary procedures in the midst of a pandemic.



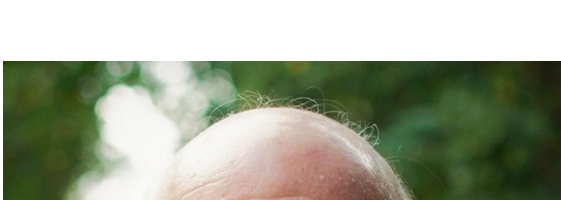
Alumna establishes and expands BlackDVM Network

As one of only five Black students in a class of 127, Tierra Price (DVM '20, MPH '20) created an Instagram page in 2018 to bring together Black veterinary students. When she began receiving messages seeking Black veterinarians to shadow or work for because of discrimination faced, she created a website with a directory of Black veterinary students and professionals. Now, the network, which continues to expand its services, is thriving.



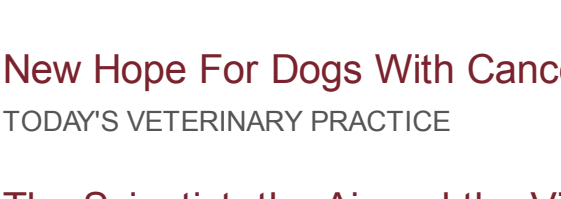
Alumna featured as front-line worker in video campaign

Alison Rhoades (DVM '97) appears in a video campaign from NBC12, a Richmond, Virginia, news station, thanking front-line workers during the pandemic. "NBC12 wanted to showcase our heroes in a new way — with just a little bit of attitude, to show we can all 'rise up' during this tough time," said the station. Veterinarians are always heroes in our book!



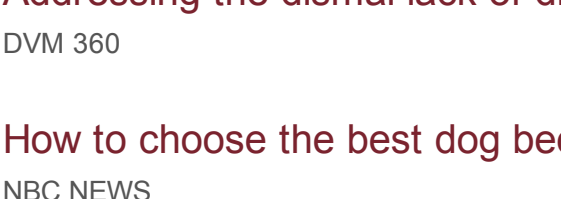
Alumna launches resource website for veterinarians

Stacey Ward Cordivano (DVM '08), of Chester County, Pennsylvania, has established a website and podcast to help veterinarians become happier, healthier, wealthier, and more grateful for the life they have created. For the second episode of her podcast, Cordivano interviewed fellow Vet Med alumna Cara Wright (DVM '09), an equine veterinarian, to discuss making time for oneself, among other topics.



In memory

Beloved Southwest Virginia veterinarian and wildlife advocate Diane D'Orazio (DVM '85), who treated countless local wildlife and zoo animals as the first veterinarian for the Southwest Virginia Wildlife Center and also worked with the Carilion Clinic Hospice "Pet Peace of Mind Program," died May 28 after a courageous battle with breast cancer.



In memory

Joseph P. Garvin (DVM '87) died at home in Sperryville, Virginia, on June 14, following a brief illness. After joining the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services' Division of Animal and Food Industry Services as a veterinarian in Meat and Poultry Services in 1988, Garvin was promoted to veterinary diagnostic for the Office of Laboratory Services (OLS) in 1990 and then to OLS program manager in 2003.

Vet Med in the News

New Hope For Dogs With Cancer
TODAY'S VETERINARY PRACTICE

The Scientist, the Air and the Virus
THE NEW YORK TIMES

Health experts on NBA's restart plan: 'Haven't seen anything that's this comprehensive'
USA TODAY

Addressing the dismal lack of diversity in veterinary medicine
DVM 360

How to choose the best dog bed, according to experts
NBC NEWS

Perfectionists, meet vet school: do's and don'ts
VETERINARY PROFESSIONALS' NEXT GEN

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