A powerhouse team at the college successfully deployed a decontamination system that allows human health care workers to reuse scarce N95 respirator masks. Karen Hall, a University Distinguished Professor of Virology with the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, remains on the team. She is director of the Center for Emerging, Zoonotic, and Vector-Borne Diseases, which is part of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. Hall, who is also the director of the Virginia Tech research projects, has led the college’s efforts in building research capacity in anatomic pathology, will work to develop effective countermeasures against emerging infectious disease research.

A distinguished research program. VA-MD Vet Med faculty members Andrea Bertke, Population Health Sciences; Kylene Kehn-Hall, Biomedical Sciences and Pathobiology (DBSP), James Weger-Lucarelli, Population Health Sciences; Mohamed Seleem, DBSP, and Lijuan Yuan (DBSP). Seleem named Young Chair in Bacteriology by the college. Mohamed Seleem (Ph.D. ’06), recently appointed professor of bacteriology in the Department of Biomedical Sciences and Pathobiology (DBSP), is the founding director of VA-MD Vet Med's Vaccine Research and Graduate Studies (VRGS) program. The program is under the direction of Dr. X.J. Meng, University Distinguished Professor of Virology, and focuses on research and training in the fields of virology, virology and immunology, and infectious disease.

Unique collaborative benefits. Virtual technology sits at the center of the college's effort to bring together the best and the brightest from the veterinary community. The college has recently welcomed four new faculty members to its ranks. The college also welcomed a new faculty member to its ranks, Mohamed Seleem, who received a $1.6 million grant from the National Institutes of Health. Seleem, who is the John H. Fallon Professor of Microbiology, will focus on the development of new vaccines for the prevention of infectious diseases. Mohamed Seleem named Young Chair in Bacteriology by the college. Mohamed Seleem (Ph.D. ’06), recently appointed professor of bacteriology in the Department of Biomedical Sciences and Pathobiology (DBSP), and Lijuan Yuan (DBSP).

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Pancreatic cancer. Seven faculty members of VA-MD Vet Med have been named fellows of the American College of Veterinarians (ACV). The fellows, chosen for their outstanding contributions to veterinary medicine, are: Victor Gonzales (Ph.D. ’11), associate professor of internal medicine; Scott Equine Veterinary Clinical Assistant Professor at the College of Veterinary Medicine; and Lijuan Yuan (Ph.D. ’14), associate professor of internal medicine. Among the Virginia Tech researchers and engineers who initiated COVID-related research projects were the college's two respective Chairs, Mohamed Seleem named Young Chair in Bacteriology.

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