

Vet Med News

MARCH 2021

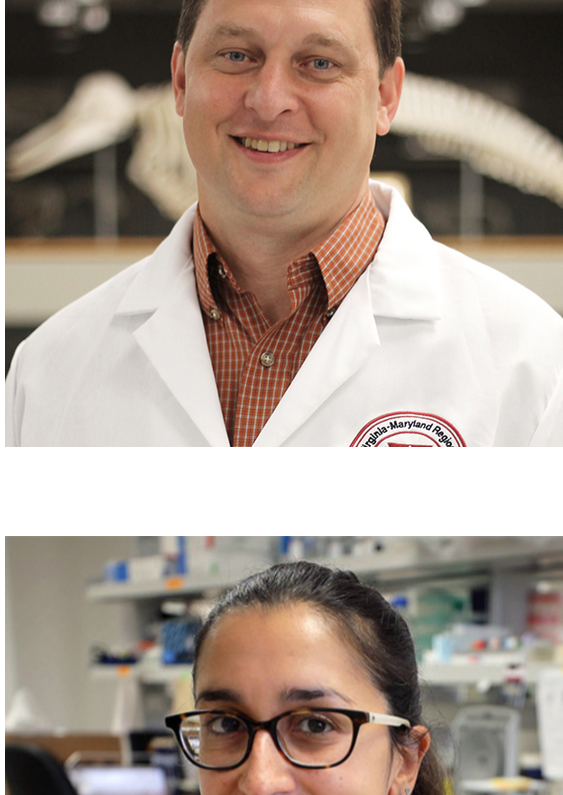


Virologists collaborate to develop broadly protective coronavirus vaccines

VA-MD Vet Med University Distinguished Professor of Virology [X.J. Meng](#) and UVA Health Professor of Pediatrics and Infectious Disease Steven L. Zeichner have created a candidate vaccine that could provide protection against the COVID-19 virus and other coronaviruses.

The virologists' coronavirus vaccine offers several advantages that could overcome major obstacles to global vaccination efforts. Not only would the vaccine be easy to store and transport – even in remote areas of the world – it also could be produced in mass quantities using existing vaccine-manufacturing factories.

Around the College



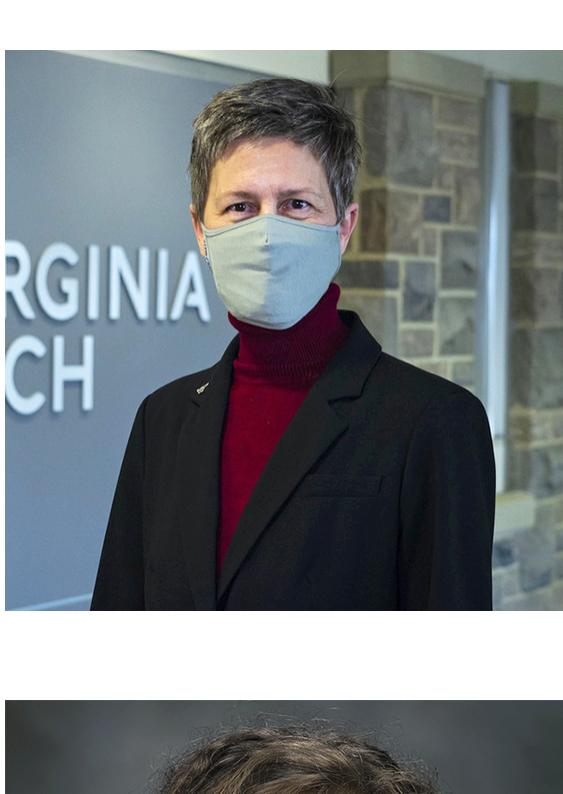
College recruiting for director of diversity, equity, and inclusion

In line with VA-MD Vet Med's commitment to developing and promoting a college culture that values inclusion, equity, and diversity, the Dean's Office is recruiting for the new position of director of diversity, equity, and inclusion. The director will provide leadership, vision, and direction to the development, coordination, and facilitation of new and existing programs and initiatives designed to promote an inclusive and diverse learning, living, and working environment.



Research team publishes findings in PNAS

Led by principal investigator [Xin Luo](#), associate professor of immunology in the Department of Biomedical Sciences and Pathobiology (DBSP), a research team used rodent subjects to show a causal relationship between neonatal antibody production and the mother's microbiota. The paper, "[Regulation of Neonatal IgA Production by the Maternal Microbiota](#)," was published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS).



Lahmers guest-edits special journal issue

[Kevin Lahmers](#), DBSP clinical associate professor of anatomic pathology, served as guest co-editor of the Journal of Veterinary Diagnostic Investigation's special issue on applied next-generation sequencing in veterinary diagnostic laboratories, published March 1.



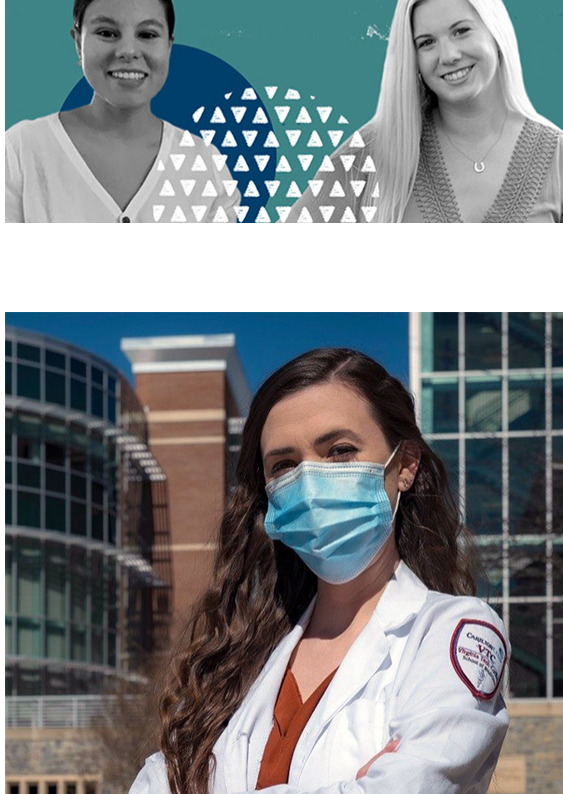
Duggal awarded seed funding for transdisciplinary research

[Nisha Duggal](#), DBSP assistant professor of molecular and cellular biology, is among five early-career faculty members awarded seed funding from Virginia Tech's Institute for Critical Technology and Applied Science to facilitate transdisciplinary partnerships that pair younger researchers with more-experienced researchers. Duggal will work with Charles P. Lunsford Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering Linsey Marr.



Virginia Tech experts answer questions about vaccine concerns

[Laura Hungerford](#), who heads the Department of Population Health Sciences (DPHS), was one of two experts on public health and vaccine efficacy who provided answers to common questions about the safety, timing, and testing process of the coronavirus vaccine.



Lee in service to public good

Since March 2020, Virginia Tech's Associate Vice President for Research and Innovation [Lisa Lee](#), DPHS research professor, has been quoted in response to the pandemic more than 1,800 times by broadcast, print, and online news outlets in more than 35 countries. This month, Lee was [appointed to the Education Board of the American Public Health Association](#).



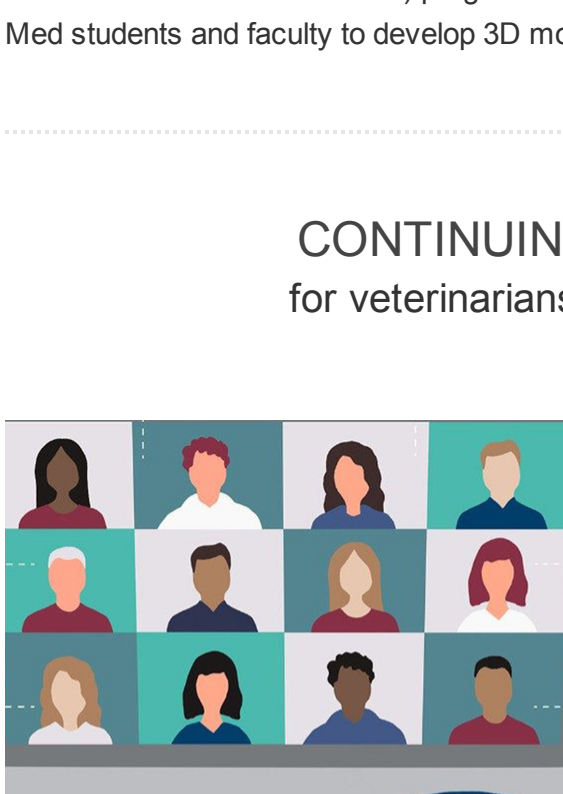
Team develops COVID-19 database to spur policy and social science research

[Julia Gohlke](#), DPHS associate professor of environmental health, was part of an interdisciplinary team that conceived and guided the development of a curated "[database of databases](#)" to facilitate research on policy changes in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.



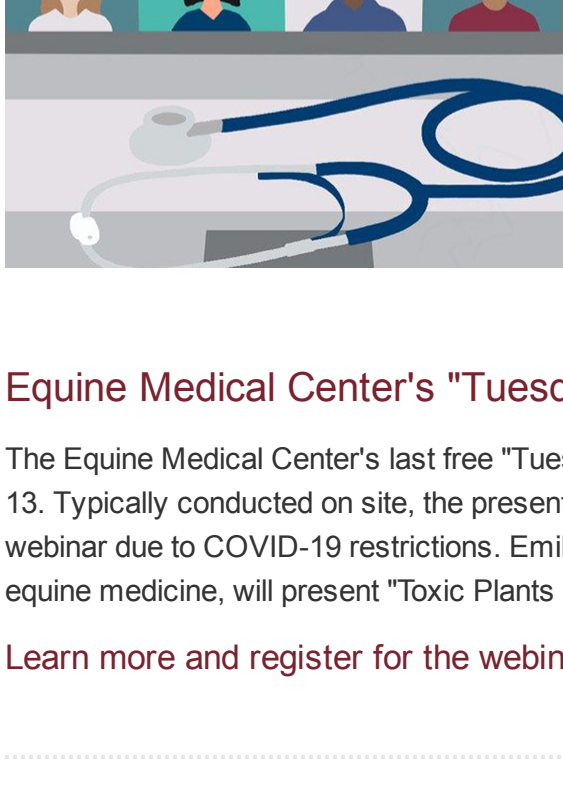
MPH students serve as COVID-19 case investigators and contact tracers, develop public health skills, navigate disparities

Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, Virginia Tech Master of Public Health (MPH) students have served as regional case investigators and contact tracers – roles that are key to limiting the virus's transmission.



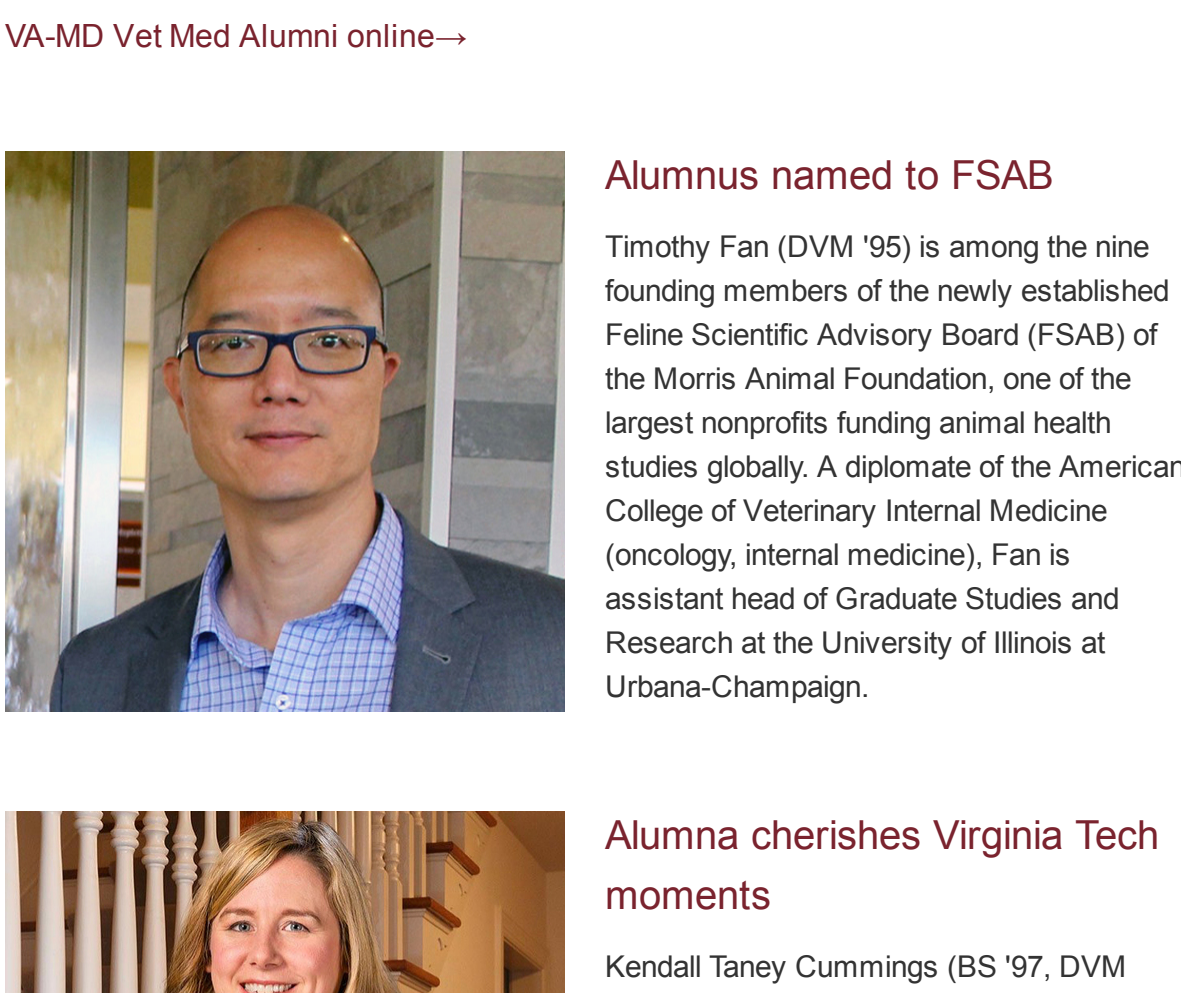
Medical student's research uncovers bacterial strain that affects brain development

Working in the Neurotrauma Research Lab of [Michelle Theus](#), DBSP associate professor of molecular and cellular neurobiology, Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine student Miranda Creasey has conducted research into the microbiome that may help understanding of how conditions like autism develop. Theus is co-director of the [Translational Biology, Medicine, and Health graduate program](#).



DVM student named to dvm360 Student Ambassador Program

Second-year DVM student Chris Hollingsworth is among 55 veterinary students worldwide selected to participate in the dvm360® Student Ambassador Program, which is designed to elevate student voices and foster networking opportunities. Ambassadors will contribute to the dvm360 website and magazine through articles, video, and networking with students and opinion leaders.



Developing 3D technology for veterinary education

By way of digital meetings, University Libraries' ARIES (Applied Research in Immersive Environments and Simulations) program continues to work in collaboration with VA-MD Vet Med students and faculty to develop 3D models of animal anatomy for instruction.

CONTINUING EDUCATION

for veterinarians and animal lovers



Career transition workshop

Hosted by VA-MD Vet Med's Center for Public and Corporate Veterinary Medicine, this online career transition workshop for veterinarians will feature information on career opportunities in public and corporate veterinary medicine, with a particular emphasis on careers in state and federal government. For more information, contact [CareerT@vt.edu](#).

[Learn more and register→](#)

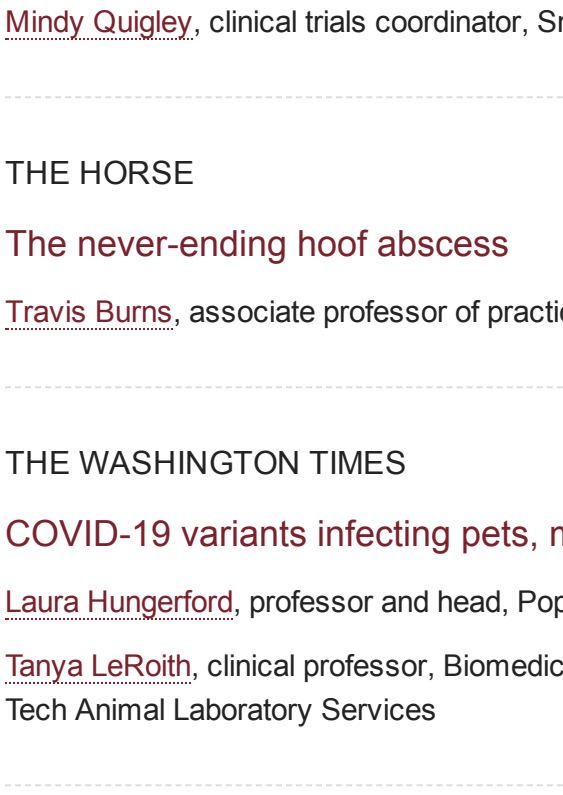
Equine Medical Center's "Tuesday Talk" for horse owners

The Equine Medical Center's last free "Tuesday Talk" in 2021 will be held at 7 p.m. on April 13. Typically conducted on site, the presentation and Q&A session are being offered as a webinar due to COVID-19 restrictions. Emily Schaefer, clinical assistant professor of equine medicine, will present "Toxic Plants in Your Pasture: What You Need to Know!"

[Learn more and register for the webinar→](#)

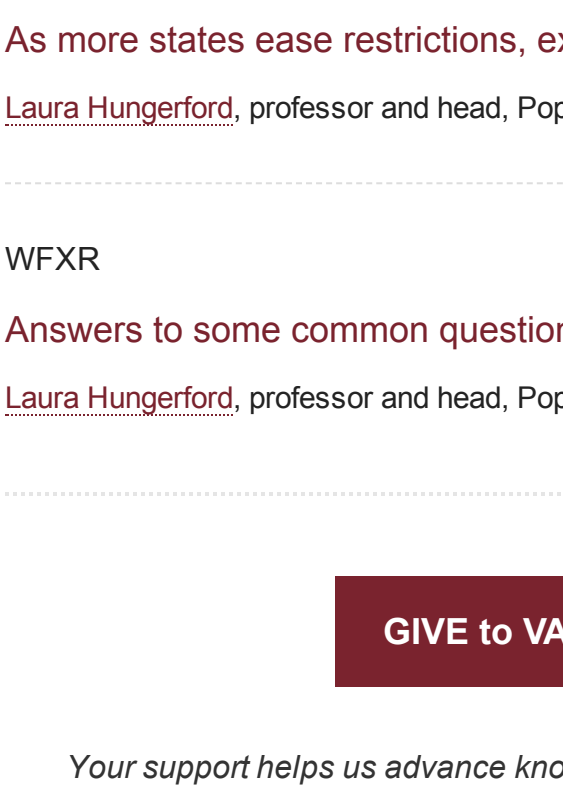
Vet Med Alumni

[VA-MD Vet Med Alumni online→](#)



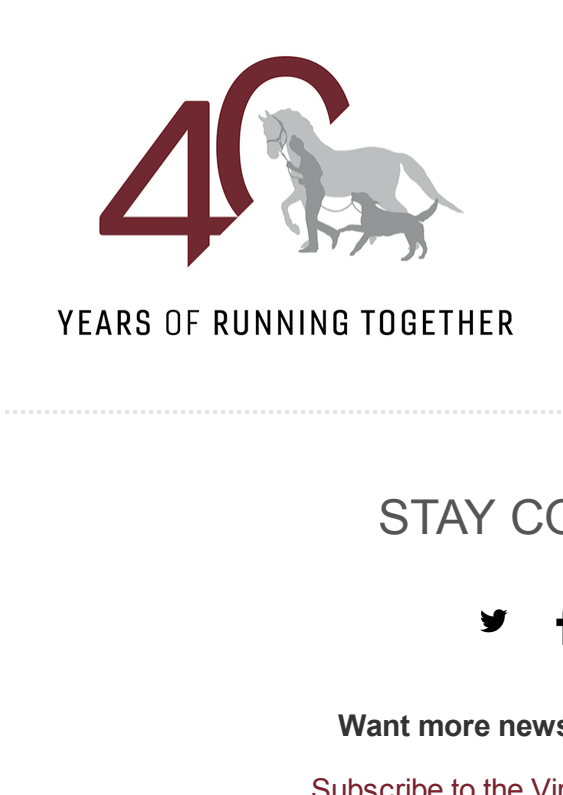
Alumnus named to FSAB

Timothy Fan (DVM '95) is among the nine founding members of the newly established Feline Scientific Advisory Board (FSAB) of the Morris Animal Foundation, one of the largest nonprofits funding animal health studies globally. A diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine (oncology, internal medicine), Fan is assistant head of Graduate Studies and Research at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.



Alumna cherishes Virginia Tech moments

Kendall Taney Cummings ('97 BS, DVM '02), a diplomate of the American Veterinary Dental College, feels that her time at Virginia Tech helped her grow, pushed her to get involved, and led to her success. Partner at the Center for Veterinary Dentistry and Oral Surgery in Gaithersburg, Maryland, she is pursuing a fellowship in veterinary oral and maxillofacial surgery.



Alumnus becomes first ordained deacon in parish's history

Michael Watts (DVM '00), a successful veterinarian well known to Culpeper Star-Exponent readers for his weekly columns on pet care, was ordained a Catholic deacon and assigned to serve Precious Blood Catholic Church in Culpeper, Virginia, the parish's first ordained deacon in 75 years.

Vet Med in the News

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

COVID-19 virus studies yield new clues on pandemic's origin

[James Weger-Lucarelli](#), research assistant professor, Biomedical Sciences and Pathobiology

NEWSWEEK

Serious COVID vaccine side effects still rare as 65 million shots given: 'Fantastic'

COVID variants a worry as U.S. appears to turn corner three months into vaccine rollout

[Lisa Lee](#), research professor, Population Health Sciences; associate vice president for research and innovation

'No evidence' death after AstraZeneca COVID vaccine caused by shot

[Irving Coy Allen](#), associate professor, Biomedical Sciences and Pathobiology

NPR

Coronavirus FAQ: To travel or not to travel? Plus, tattoos and vaccines can mix

[Charlotte Baker](#), assistant professor, Population Health Sciences

JAVMA

Veterinary medicine and COVID-19: 'A lot of lessons here'

[Laura Hungerford](#), professor and head, Population Health Sciences

UNDARK / SALON / SLATE

When sick cows can't be culled: India's battle with brucellosis

[Nammalwar Sriranganathan](#), professor, Biomedical Sciences and Pathobiology

ALEXANDRIA LIVING

Canine cancer treatments improve, provide hope for pet owners

[Joanne Tuchy](#), assistant professor, Small Animal Clinical Sciences; interim director, Animal Cancer Care and Research Center

[Mindy Quigley](#), clinical trials coordinator, Small Animal Clinical Sciences

THE HORSE

The never-ending hoof abscess

[Travis Burns](#), associate professor of practice, Equine Podiatry Service

THE WASHINGTON TIMES

COVID-19 variants infecting pets, mice

[Laura Hungerford](#), professor and head, Population Health Sciences

[Tanya LeRoith](#), clinical professor, Biomedical Sciences and Pathobiology; director, Virginia Tech Animal Laboratory Services

SINCLAIR BROADCAST GROUP

As more states ease restrictions, experts urge continued caution

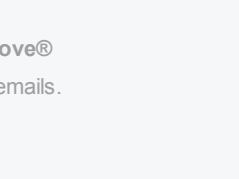
[Laura Hungerford](#), professor and head, Population Health Sciences

WFXR

Answers to some common questions surrounding the COVID-19 vaccine

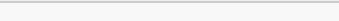
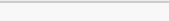
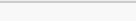
[Laura Hungerford](#), professor and head, Population Health Sciences

STAY CONNECTED



Want more news from Virginia Tech?

[Subscribe to the Virginia Tech Daily email→](#)



Share this email:

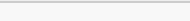
Manage your preferences | [Opt out](#) using TrueRemove®

Got this as a forward? [Sign up](#) to receive our future emails.

View this email [online](#).

205 Duck Pond Drive, Virginia Tech (0442)
Blacksburg, VA | 24061 US

This email was sent to:
To continue receiving our emails, add us to your address book.



[Subscribe](#) to our email list.

Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine
205 Duck Pond Drive | Blacksburg, VA 24061
540-231-7666 | [vetmed.vt.edu](#) | [vamdvetmed@vt.edu](#)