



The Ohio State University Veterinary Medical Center

# Update for Veterinarians



### Veterinary Medical Center— Columbus

601 Vernon L. Tharp St.  
Columbus, OH 43210

*Hummel & Trueman  
Hospital for  
Companion Animals:*

614-292-3551

*Hospital for  
Farm Animals and  
Galbreath Equine Center:*

614-292-6661

### Frank Stanton Veterinary Spectrum of Care Clinic

655 Vernon L. Tharp St.  
Columbus, OH 43210

614-292-1573

### Veterinary Medical Center— Dublin

5020 Bradenton Ave.  
Dublin, OH 43017

614-889-8070

### Ohio State Large Animal Services— Marysville

16410 County Home Road  
Marysville, OH 43040

937-642-2936

## VMC to offer PET/CT Imaging in Fall 2025

By late next year, The Ohio State University Veterinary Medical Center (VMC) will have a PET/CT scanner (positron emission tomography/computed tomography) scanner, a state-of-the-art imaging machine and the first of its kind at the VMC.

The VMC is one of the few veterinary academic institutions nationwide that will offer this type of diagnostic imaging tool for patients with cancer, says **Eric Green, DVM**, Professor of Radiology and Radiation Oncology and head of the Diagnostic Imaging service.

What makes the PET/CT machine so innovative is its capability to help clinicians determine cancer spread with more certainty than current modalities, he says. "It's going to be enormously useful in the staging of our oncology patients."

The PET/CT machine combines two imaging components into one machine. While the CT component operates with x-rays that rotate around the patient's body, the PET portion uses nuclear medicine to allow radiologists to see actual physiological changes in the body.

*continued on page 2*

## From the Director



In this issue of *Update*, we share the case story of Patton, a canine patient who is currently living his best life thanks to the collective efforts of our

Integrated Oncology team.

We are also gearing up for the installation of a PET/CT scanner and the added benefits it will provide our Radiation Oncology and Diagnostic Imaging service. Our cancer

specialists appreciate your referrals and are always happy to consult with you to discuss potential options available for your patients.

Finally, please see a special insert introducing our new class of interns and residents.

Thank you for your continued partnership and referrals.

Karin Zuckerman, MHSA, MBA  
Assistant Dean for Clinical Programs  
Director, Veterinary Medical Center



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY  
VETERINARY MEDICAL CENTER

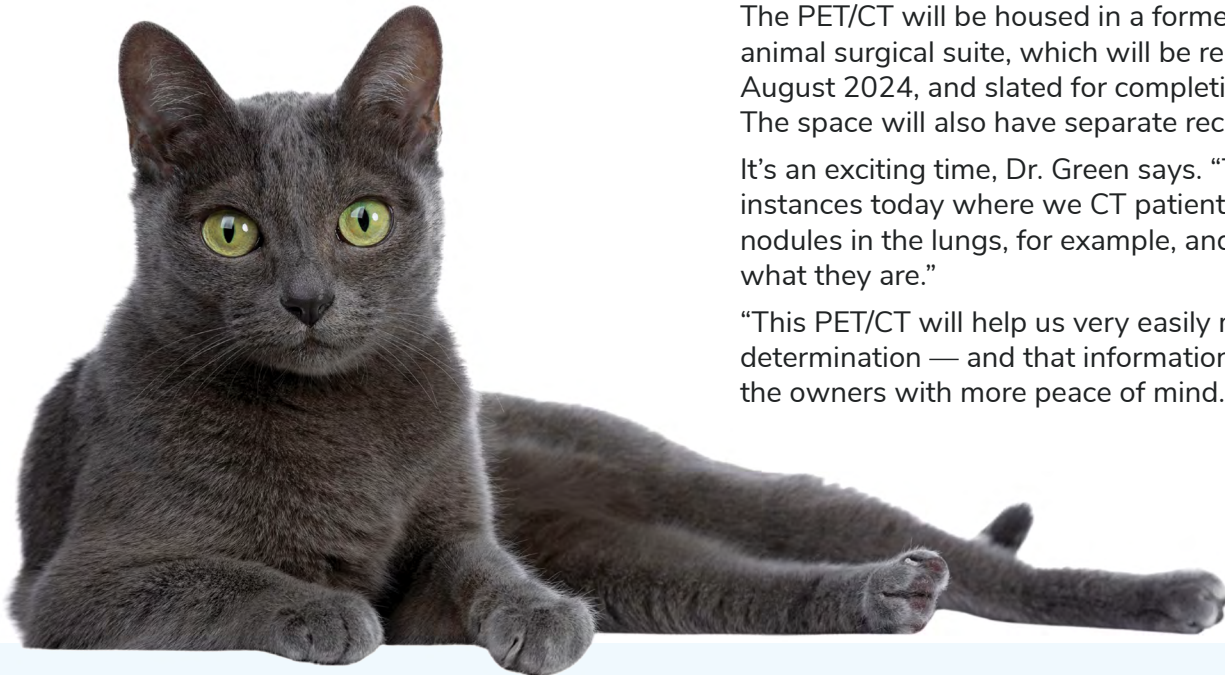
[vmc.vet.osu.edu](http://vmc.vet.osu.edu)



## PET/CT Imaging - continued from page 1

Together, the PET/CT can more reliably map cancer, as compared with the typical tools using X-rays, ultrasound and conventional CT, Dr. Green says. To obtain a PET image, the patient is injected with a radioactive drug, typically an analog of glucose tagged with radioactive fluorine, which is absorbed by cells with atypical metabolic activity.

“The PET machine will allow us to see where that radioactive material has localized,” Dr. Green says. “Very frequently we know where the primary tumor is because we can either see it or the patient has a lameness attributed to it, but we don’t always know where it has spread,” he says.



### Benefits, construction

The PET/CT would be appropriate for any patient with highly metastatic cancer but unknown spread, or for patients that present with what looks to be metastasis, such as an enlarged lymph node, but with an unknown origin, he adds.

Patients benefit because there is more certainty about cancer spread, which means better-informed decisions about appropriate therapy and whether or not an aggressive surgery or chemotherapy is worth the risk of potential morbidity or associated health risks, says Dr. Green.

The PET/CT will be housed in a former VMC large animal surgical suite, which will be renovated beginning August 2024, and slated for completion in Fall 2025. The space will also have separate recovery rooms.

It’s an exciting time, Dr. Green says. “There are so many instances today where we CT patients and we find nodules in the lungs, for example, and we don’t know what they are.”

“This PET/CT will help us very easily make that determination — and that information also can provide the owners with more peace of mind.”

## Welcome New Faculty



**Stasia Sullivan, DVM, DACVS**  
Assistant Professor – Clinical Equine Emergency and Critical Care

Dr. Sullivan joined the VMC in June. She received her DVM in 2016 from Oklahoma State University, followed by a rotating equine internship in California. She then completed her Equine Surgery residency in 2020 at Ohio State and her Large Animal Emergency and Critical Care fellowship in 2023 at the University of Georgia. During and after fellowship, she worked as a relief surgeon/criticalist at various private practices and academic hospitals. Her main clinical interests include equine emergency, critical care and soft tissue surgery.



**Kelsey Turley, DVM, DACVECC**  
Assistant Professor – Clinical Small Animal Emergency and Critical Care

Dr. Turley joined the VMC in August after serving as an Emergency and Critical Care specialist at WestVet Boise in Garden City, Iowa, since 2022. She received her DVM in 2017 at Tufts University and completed both a Small Animal Medicine and Surgery and a Critical Care internship at Pittsburgh Veterinary Services and Emergency Center. She completed her residency in Small Animal Emergency and Critical Care at Angell Animal Medical Center, in Boston, Massachusetts. Her clinical interests include sepsis, coagulopathies, metabolic emergencies and ventilation.

# Patton: A new chapter after lymphoma diagnosis



Thanks to collaborative clinical decision making and efforts of the Integrated Oncology team at The Ohio State Veterinary Medical Center (VMC), Patton McAvoy, an 8-year-old black Labrador Retriever continues to enjoy life with his people.

On Christmas Eve, December, 2022, Patton was diagnosed with B-cell lymphoma, an aggressive blood cancer. At the time, his primary veterinarian told the McAvoy family that Patton had a month to live.

“We were told to go home and say our good byes,” says owner Mary McAvoy. The other option presented was to seek further help from the oncology specialists at Ohio State.

When Patton arrived at the VMC, he was lethargic and refused to eat, says **Kiera Sztukowski, DVM**, a third-year resident in medical oncology who was part of the team that confirmed the B-cell lymphoma diagnosis.

Patton’s cancer was multicentric, affecting the lymph nodes, which had swollen throughout his entire body, she says.

The Integrated Oncology team initially placed Patton on CHOP chemotherapy as a first-line protocol, weekly for eight weeks, then every-other-week for 16 additional weeks. CHOP is a multi-agent therapy that uses four different drugs. He was able to return home the same day of his treatments.

While B-cell lymphoma is one of the most common lymphomas in dogs and is responsive to treatment, most dogs will relapse during the protocol, says Dr. Sztukowski. She adds that Patton was in remission for about a year, then relapsed. The team started the same protocol and he is now in his second remission. “He bounced back right away,” she says.

Dr. Sztukowski credits the oncology team’s efforts in Patton’s care, from the students who work with the owner, perform exams and take vitals, to the technicians who manage the lab work, care for Patton during the day and administer the chemotherapy.

“We also rely heavily on the pharmacy to draw up and double check the medications,” she says. The front desk team also come to know the patients and owners really well, she says.

McAvoy can’t say enough about the VMC Integrated Oncology team’s efforts to give Patton a second chance. “We will forever be grateful to Ohio State for giving us more time to enjoy Patton’s famous kisses and for giving Patton more time to swim in the pool and celebrate another birthday.”

## Canine lymphoma signs: what to look for

### Large lymph nodes:

- under the chin
- in front of the shoulders
- behind the knees

## Service Announcements

### Sandra Diaz, DVM, MS, DACVD to head Dermatology and Otolaryngology service

The VMC is pleased to announce the appointment of **Dr. Sandra Diaz**, clinical associate professor in Dermatology, to service head of the Dermatology and Otolaryngology service. She joined the VMC in 2014. Dr. Diaz’s appointment follows the departure of **Dr. Lynette Cole**, who retired after 27 years with Ohio State (see June 2024 issue).

### Digital cytology service available

The VMC Digital Cytology service is now available to our referring veterinarians without having to first complete a training workshop. For helpful guidance on preparing and sending images, please visit [vmc.vet.osu.edu/referring-veterinarians](https://vmc.vet.osu.edu/referring-veterinarians).

Find us on 

[The Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine](https://www.vmc.vet.osu.edu)  
[The Ohio State University Veterinary Medical Center](https://www.vmc.vet.osu.edu)  
[The Ohio State University Veterinary Medical Center at Dublin](https://www.vmc.vet.osu.edu)

# Faculty Spotlight - Janis Lapsley, DVM, DACVS-SA



**Dr. Janis Lapsley** grew up in California riding, jumping and showing horses.

So, the desire to become a veterinarian, she says, “was a no brainer.”

Lapsley graduated with her DVM from Western University of Health Sciences College of Veterinary Medicine in Pomona, California, in 2014. After two years of general rotations and specialty surgical internships, she completed a Small Animal surgical residency at Cornell University Hospital for Animals. She then completed an additional year

of Surgical Oncology fellowship training with the Integrated Oncology service at the Ohio State Veterinary Medical Center (VMC).

Today she is an assistant professor of Surgical Oncology at the VMC, a service that provides specialized surgical care for companion animals diagnosed with cancer. She is also in the process of completing a fellowship in Oral and Maxillofacial surgery.

What drew Dr. Lapsley to surgical oncology, she says, was the specialty’s mechanical problem-solving aspects, as well as a general love for old dogs. “I like the hands-on involvement in surgery and the challenge to come up with new solutions. With surgical oncology, you often have patients without a lot of options, but we aim to give them more time.”

That means every cancer patient has a plan put together by the VMC’s Integrated Oncology team — medical, radiation and surgical oncology — to ensure the best options. “What we can offer patients is continuing to expand all the time,” she says.

Dr. Lapsley says the team also collaborates on occasion with the

surgical oncologists and other specialists in human medicine from The Arthur G. James Cancer Hospital and Richard J. Solove Research Institute at the Ohio State Wexner Medical Center.

For example, multiple specialists have given input on cases and come to help with advanced or complicated procedures, she says. “Their experience and knowledge are invaluable in being able to offer new options for cancer care.”

The extent to which the team treats liver, oral and maxillofacial tumors is also significant, she says. “We get referrals here for extensive liver tumors because we get pretty creative on how to remove them, and we can manage the patient post-operatively if there are any problems. We have a blood bank and a full anesthesia and critical care team.”

She especially appreciates the consults with referring veterinarians.

“I want them to know that we are here to support them. Sometimes we have options they may not have thought of or don’t have experience with, and we can help them work through cases to get the best outcomes for patients.”

College of Veterinary Medicine Continuing Education

## Upcoming CE Events

<b>Oct TBD</b>	Mansfield
<b>22</b>	Pittsburgh with BluePearl Pittsburgh
<b>30</b>	Parkersburg
<b>Nov 12</b>	Central Ohio Veterinary Medical Association
<b>2024</b>	
<b>Jan 3</b>	8 <sup>th</sup> Annual Equine and Farm Animal Conference

For details, please visit

[vet.osu.edu/alumni/continuing-education](http://vet.osu.edu/alumni/continuing-education)

## Transitions

**Dr. Michelle Carman** to assistant professor-clinical, Farm Animal; **Dr. Andrew Leffler** and **Dr. Simone March** to instructor-practice, Diagnostic Imaging; **Dr. Mary Elgin** to staff veterinarian, Canine Sports Medicine & Rehabilitation (part-time until Nov. 1 official hire date); **Dr. Taylor Yurick** to assistant professor-practice, Small Animal Emergency and Critical Care (VMC–Columbus), from VMC–Dublin Urgent Care.

## Departures

**Dr. Jiwoong Her**, Small Animal Emergency & Critical Care; **Dr. Wendy Lorch**, Dermatology; **Dr. Arielle Markley**, Canine Sports Medicine & Physical Rehabilitation.

# Welcome 2024-2027 Residents

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Adams, Laura  
Anesthesiology



Buckley, Caroline  
Neurology &  
Neurosurgery



Clapham, Amanda  
Small Animal Emergency  
& Critical Care



Cohen, Emily  
Small Animal Internal  
Medicine



Dacanay-DeFebo, Sami  
Ophthalmology



Dempsey, Kayla  
Diagnostic Imaging &  
Radiology



Freeman, Caroline  
Diagnostic Imaging &  
Radiology



He, Yuan (Annika)  
Small Animal Internal  
Medicine



Hendrickson, Bailey  
Radiation Oncology



Hill, Mason  
Small Animal Surgery



Hoke, Sarah  
Ophthalmology



Horton, Julia  
Farm Animal Medicine &  
Surgery



Jensen, Kathryn  
Medical Oncology



Johnson, Carley  
Small Animal Surgery



Jordan, Hannah  
Cardiology



Marino, Alicia  
Equine Medicine



McKinley, Emily  
Equine Surgery



Melvin, Rachel  
Small Animal Surgery



Nelson, Lexi  
Small Animal Emergency  
& Critical Care



Ostrom, Kassidy  
Diagnostic Imaging &  
Radiology



Robertson, Hannah  
Medical Oncology



Rouse, Sidney  
Anesthesiology



Trumble, Josh  
Theriogenology

# Welcome 2024-2025 Interns

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Anderson, Kara  
Small Animal Rotating



Chen, Celeste  
Small Animal Rotating



Davis, Elaina  
Medical Oncology



Dowell, Samantha  
Small Animal Rotating



Drisko, John  
Small Animal Rotating



Frenberg, Maddie  
Farm Animal Medicine  
& Surgery



Hart, Emma  
Feline Clinical Trials



Hooker, Hannah  
Equine Rotating



Kido-Eastman, Keiko  
Small Animal Rotating



Krauss, Andrea  
Small Animal Rotating



Lewis, Zahrea  
Equine Rotating



Márquez, Cristina  
Small Animal Rotating



Midkiff, Amanda  
Small Animal Rotating



O'Dowd, Kelsey  
Equine Rotating



Pope, Emily  
Small Animal Rotating



Porcher, Tenley  
Small Animal Rotating



Sanossian, Jenna  
Small Animal Rotating



Simon, Kerry  
Orthopedic Surgery



Spitzer, AJ  
Small Animal Rotating



Vaughn, Andrew  
Farm Animal Medicine  
& Surgery



Yasenchack, Jocosa  
Surgical Oncology  
Research