

# *Veterinary* **VISION**

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A Publication of the University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine

Volume 11/Number 1



**Premier Equine Facilities  
at UTVMC**

**Bringing Our Hospital to  
You: Field Services**

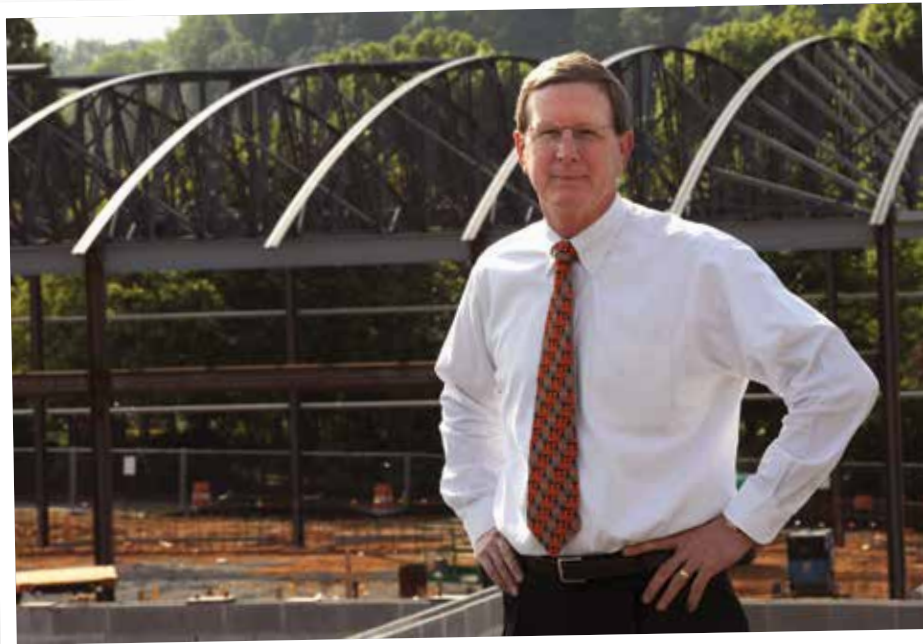
**The Heart of the Matter:  
Vascular Risk Factors and  
Alzheimer's Disease**

THE UNIVERSITY of  
**TENNESSEE**   
INSTITUTE of  
AGRICULTURE

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from the DEAN




The 2012-2013 academic year for the College of Veterinary Medicine is an especially exciting one.

The grand opening of our new and expanded Equine and Farm Animal hospitals will take place in April 2013. As of that time, our Veterinary Medical Center will encompass four contemporary animal hospitals — small animal, exotics and wildlife, equine, and farm animal — essential to our mission of teaching, research and public service and to our commitment to the people and animals of Tennessee and the southeastern states. We are working hard to increase public awareness of the expertise and quality of care available in our new large animal hospitals, especially those specialty areas where our faculty/clinicians are leaders both regionally and nationally. As a large part of these efforts, we look forward to working more closely with UT Institute of Agriculture Extension agents to increase veterinary outreach across all of our Tennessee counties. Working to increase public awareness of the work we do as a college of veterinary medicine extends to our focus this year on redesigning the college's website, making it easier to use for referring veterinarians and the general public.

This academic year is the first during which veterinary students will no longer pay summer semester tuition and fees. This new structure results in a significant reduction in costs, as our students now receive nine semesters of veterinary education for the price of eight! The UT Board of Trustees approved this College of Veterinary Medicine initiative to help decrease our students' educational debt

burden, a nationwide concern among veterinary colleges and within the veterinary medical profession. A further initiative this year is to explore with our sister veterinary colleges across the region ways in which we can collaborate to deliver quality veterinary education in increasingly more cost-effective ways, considering the high cost of a veterinary education today.

This academic year also marks another important milestone as the college launched its emergency medicine and critical care hospital service. Our mission to educate generations of veterinary medical professionals must include training our fourth-year students to meet not only professional standards, but also the expectations of community veterinary practices seeking to employ new professionals with quality experience in this crucial field of medical service and care. We are pleased to step up to meet this professional need.

I invite you to review the features enclosed within this issue of Veterinary Vision and to join us in April 2013 for our grand opening. Please watch our newly refurbished website at <http://www.vet.utk.edu> for more information about this event. Thank you from each and every one of us at UTCVM for your sustained interest in our work and your support of our services, programs, animals and people. We value you highly! 

James P. Thompson, DVM, Ph.D.  
Dean and Professor

# Veterinary VISION

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At the front of the UT Veterinary Medical Center, centrally positioned along Neyland Drive, is the new signage generously funded by the Ingram Family Foundation of Nashville, Tenn.



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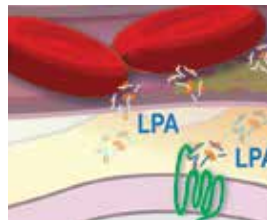
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## Premier Facilities Taking Shape at UT Veterinary Medical Center

### The nearly 85,000-square-foot expansion and renovation includes:

- Client reception area.
- Equine Hospital with dedicated intensive care unit (includes mare/foal ICU stalls); isolation facility for contagious disease containment; orthopedic, standing, soft tissue and colic surgical suites.
- Farm Animal Hospital with dedicated wards for sheep and goats, llamas and alpacas, and cattle; outpatient cattle working facility; inpatient treatment facility; farm animal rehabilitation suite with dedicated down-cow stalls and hydrofloatation units; standing surgery; general surgery suites; and intensive care unit capabilities.
- Diagnostic Imaging Center (for both large and small animals) which includes spiral CT scanner, MRI, nuclear medicine.
- Equine Performance and Rehabilitation Center, which includes a lameness diagnostic center complete with event-sized arena, diagnostic imaging unit, podiatry and farrier facility with forge, in-ground underwater treadmill, free walker, cold saltwater spa, and solarium.
- Ambulatory/field services unit including four fully equipped mobile service vehicles.

The Equine Hospital began treating patients in the new facility in January 2013. Completion of the Farm Animal Hospital is slated for this spring.

“We have tremendous people with tremendous expertise,” says Dr. David Anderson, Large Animal Clinical Sciences department head. “But we’ve outgrown a facility built in the mid-’70s, so what we didn’t have was a tremendous workspace.” The \$20.9 million project nearing completion will change that. “This will be a crown jewel of veterinary medicine: a premier state-of-the-art facility that will enable us to set the tone for the future of veterinary medicine within the performance and rehabilitation specialty.” Anderson says with the expansion UT has made a commitment to not only define excellence and innovation, but also to bolster the educational opportunities for students pursuing rural practice and for regional large animal veterinarians.

Dr. Jim Thompson, UT College of Veterinary Medicine dean, says the entire project is essential to the college’s commitment to the people and animals of Tennessee and across the southeastern states. “The expansion will help the college protect the food supply from farm to fork, provide the most advanced technologies and medical therapies available and meet all the medical needs of our equine owners and industries in one location,” says Thompson, adding the expansion will also ensure the college maintains its responsibility to provide a strong teaching program for its students.

Dr. Steve Adair, equine surgeon and veterinary sports medicine and rehabilitation specialist, says the expansion will help the veterinary medical center focus as much



Walking track



Arena

attention on rehabilitation as is traditionally given to the areas of diagnosis and treatment. “Not only will we have equine surgery, internal medicine, dermatology, ophthalmology, cardiology, oncology, anesthesiology and all the other specialties as always, but we also will have facilities and the abilities to treat diseases and injuries from diagnosis, to treatment to rehabilitation and return to performance all in one location.”

#### **Premier Service, Premier Care and Premier Education at a Premier Facility: Critical to Our Mission**

Agriculture is a vibrant industry in Tennessee, and as part of a land-grant institution, the college has an obligation to ensure it continues to contribute to the vitality and sustainability of its agricultural stakeholders. “The only way we can do that is with expertise,” says Anderson. “And this facility will ensure that we can attract and retain the

*The expansion will help the college protect the food supply from farm to fork, provide the most advanced technologies and medical therapies available and meet all the medical needs of our equine owners and industries in one location.*

kind of expertise that allows us to service that land-grant mission and continue to expose our students to an experience they can't get elsewhere.” Despite the evolution of the family farm toward large animal operations across the country, the family farm remains an important commodity and an important part

of the state's agricultural vitality, and the services and equipment available at the Farm Animal Hospital will help family farmers maintain genetically superior animals and help them return animals to productivity and profitability. “Also, there is a huge companion livestock industry in the state, people involved in cattle, sheep, goats, llamas, alpacas, pigs and horses because they love the lifestyle and the idea of working with animal agriculture. They aren't making a living at it, but it's supplementing their lifestyle.” Anderson says the college is an important part of serving that mission as well. “The role agriculture plays in helping

## **Continuity of Care for our Farm Animal Patients**

The expansion and renovation of the Equine Hospital and Farm Animal Hospital required relocation of the existing Farm Animal Hospital services. In August, all farm animal services were temporarily relocated to the college's nearby teaching facility located behind UT Medical Center off Alcoa Highway. The off-site facility, referred to as Cherokee Farm, allows clinicians to provide uninterrupted client service, to maintain a high level of commitment to animal care, and to continue meeting the educational needs of our students during construction of the new hospital. We want to thank all our clients for their patience during the construction phases at the UT Veterinary Medical Center. The new state-of-the-art farm animal hospital is expected to open in April 2013.

4-H kids develop into the type of people we all want them to be — responsible, self-sufficient contributors to society who can see the bigger picture in the way agriculture supports our society as a whole — is valuable. The college plays a big part in this, too, because we are about animal health, animal welfare, animal well-being, and we have an education mission that reaches far beyond the walls of our institution and the walls of our new hospitals.”

*continued, page 6*




### Partnering with Practitioners

Anderson views the facility as an extension of the local veterinarian's practice and anticipates maintaining a strong partnership with practitioners. "We will continue to foster an atmosphere of collaborators sharing the mission of providing excellent care for animals which will enable us to stay on the leading edge of meeting the needs of the practicing community," says Anderson. "When

*We want to emphasize our role as a resource for [referring practitioners] to expand their practice through our facilities and expertise.*

practitioners refer cases to us, they are, in effect, simply bringing more people onto their health management team for their clients, and we want to emphasize our role as a resource for them to expand their practice through our facilities and expertise."

Upon the completion of this project, the UT Veterinary Medical Center will be one of the largest and most comprehensive hospitals in the nation for the diagnosis, treatment, and rehabilitation of animals and will be a tremendous resource for Tennessee and the southeast. 



Above: UTCVM's Dr. Sarel Van Amstel performs a surgery. Below: A UTCVM farm animal surgery team completes the re-bandaging of a llama patient's leg.




# Bringing Our Hospital to You: Field Services

The Field Service at the UT Veterinary Medical Center brings the hospital to you via our four fully stocked veterinary ambulatory trucks.

The service is divided into Equine Field Service and Farm Animal Field Service. Our faculty members, residents, interns and fourth-year veterinary students travel within a 40-mile radius of the UT Veterinary Medical Center. The service provides routine health care, preventive medicine, sports medicine, surgery and emergency care.

While taking the hospital to the patients is a convenience for some clients (especially those who do not have a way to trailer the animals), it is also a necessity at times: some conditions, such as fractures, require the animal not be moved, and in the case of an outbreak, limiting animal movement is essential to containing and limiting the spread of disease.

While the client on the farm may only see the members of the Field Service team that emerges from the ambulatory truck, that team is fully supported by all the specialists at the UT Veterinary Medical Center, including surgery, parasitology, clinical pathology and radiology just to name a few.

The Field Service is one of the college's nine core three-week rotations for fourth-year veterinary students. They split their rotation between Equine and Farm Animal. The rotation is an opportunity for the students to participate in veterinary care outside the hospital setting. Clinical instructor Dr. José Castro, DABVP (Equine), DACVS (Large Animal), says the students witness a different aspect of veterinary medicine while on a Field Service call. "Outside of the climate-controlled environment they learn to innovate, improvise and overcome: the job must be done." 



## Field Services for Equine and Farm Animals

- Herd Health/Production Medicine:  
Blood Work, Deworming, Health Papers, Herd Disease Investigations, Nutrition Evaluations and Recommendations, Vaccination, etc.
- Field Restraint:  
Anesthesia, Portable Chute, etc.
- Field Medicine and Surgery:  
Gastrointestinal, Musculoskeletal, Reproductive, Wound Management, etc.
- Reproduction:  
Artificial Insemination, Assess Fetal Sex, Breeding Soundness Exams, Pregnancy Exams (Including Ultrasound), etc.
- 24-Hour Emergency Care:  
Birthing Assistance, Choke, Colic, Down Animal, Founder, Wounds, etc.

## Equine Specific Services:

- Acupuncture
- Dental Work  
(Including Mechanical Teeth Float)
- Endoscopy, Insurance Exams
- Lameness Workup  
(Including Digital X-ray Capabilities)
- Pre-purchase Exams





# The Heart of The Matter: Vascular Risk Factors and Alzheimer's Disease

On April 18, 2012, Pat Summitt announced she would step aside as the University of Tennessee's women's basketball coach, ending an extraordinary career in which she built a program of prominence in the sport, having guided the Lady Vols to eight national championships. At the beginning of the 2011–2012 season, Summitt revealed that she had been diagnosed with early-onset dementia, Alzheimer's type, at the age of 59. The news shocked many Tennesseans but also made the importance of finding a cure for Alzheimer's disease more prominent not only in this region but also nationwide.

Dementia is a broad term for loss of memory and cognitive ability severe enough to affect everyday life. Alzheimer's disease is the most common form of dementia. It is a progressive neurodegenerative disorder clinically defined by a decline in intellectual function beyond what we might expect from normal aging. The majority of people with Alzheimer's are age 65 or older; therefore, the greatest known risk factor for the disease is increasing age. However, Alzheimer's is not just a disease of old age. In fact, of the 5.3 million people in the United States affected by the disease [1, 2], about 5 percent of them (265,000) have the early-onset form, so-called because it is diagnosed before age 65, as seen in Summitt. Alzheimer's-type dementia, since originally reported by Dr. Alois Alzheimer, has been recognized for just over 100 years and is still without an effective cure.





## Vascular risk factors and Alzheimer's disease

The main pathological features of Alzheimer's disease are formation of plaques containing beta-amyloid peptide ( $\beta$ -amyloid) and intracellular neurofibrillary tangles (NFT). Alzheimer's can be subdivided into two distinct categories: the so-called familial form and the sporadic forms of the disease. Genetic studies have linked the early-onset familial form to mutations in three genes: the amyloid precursor protein (APP), presenilin 1 (PS1), and presenilin 2 (PS2). Each of these genes plays a role in producing  $\beta$ -amyloid, the accumulation of which is widely thought to trigger the disorder's characteristic neurodegeneration. However, most cases of Alzheimer's do not exhibit such genetic autosomal-dominant inheritance and are termed sporadic. The etiology of the sporadic form of the disease remains largely unknown.

When Dr. Alzheimer reported the first case of the disease, he also observed and recorded the co-existence of vascular (blood vessel) changes in the brains of persons dying with dementia. In recent years, it has become clear that considerable overlaps exist between Alzheimer's and vascular pathologies. In this context, there has been a strong impetus to investigate the hypothesis that vascular factors contribute to the pathogenesis of Alzheimer's disease. The first identified risk factor for both cardiovascular disease and Alzheimer's was the occurrence of different forms of

Apolipoprotein E (ApoE), a protein that combines with fats in the body to form lipoproteins, which themselves package cholesterol and move it through the bloodstream [3]. In addition, evidence emerged from epidemiologic studies that cardiovascular risk factors [4] and subclinical atherosclerotic disease are associated with Alzheimer's [5]. Cardiovascular risk factors, including elevated cholesterol and triacylglycerol (triglycerides), increase the likelihood of Alzheimer's disease, as well as vascular dementia (dementia caused by a lack of sufficient blood flow to the brain). Therefore, atherosclerosis (hardening of the arteries), stroke, hypertension, mini stroke, heart disease, obesity and diabetes are risk factors for both vascular dementia and Alzheimer's disease. Specifically, one vascular factor in particular, oxidized low density lipoprotein (oxLDL), may play an important role in neuronal cell death in Alzheimer's [6]. Post-mortem analyses have revealed that the overall level of oxidative damage to proteins and lipids is elevated in patients who had Alzheimer's disease [7, 8].

*However, the answer to the question of how vascular risk factors contribute to Alzheimer's development remains elusive, and this answer is the focus of extensive research in our laboratory.*

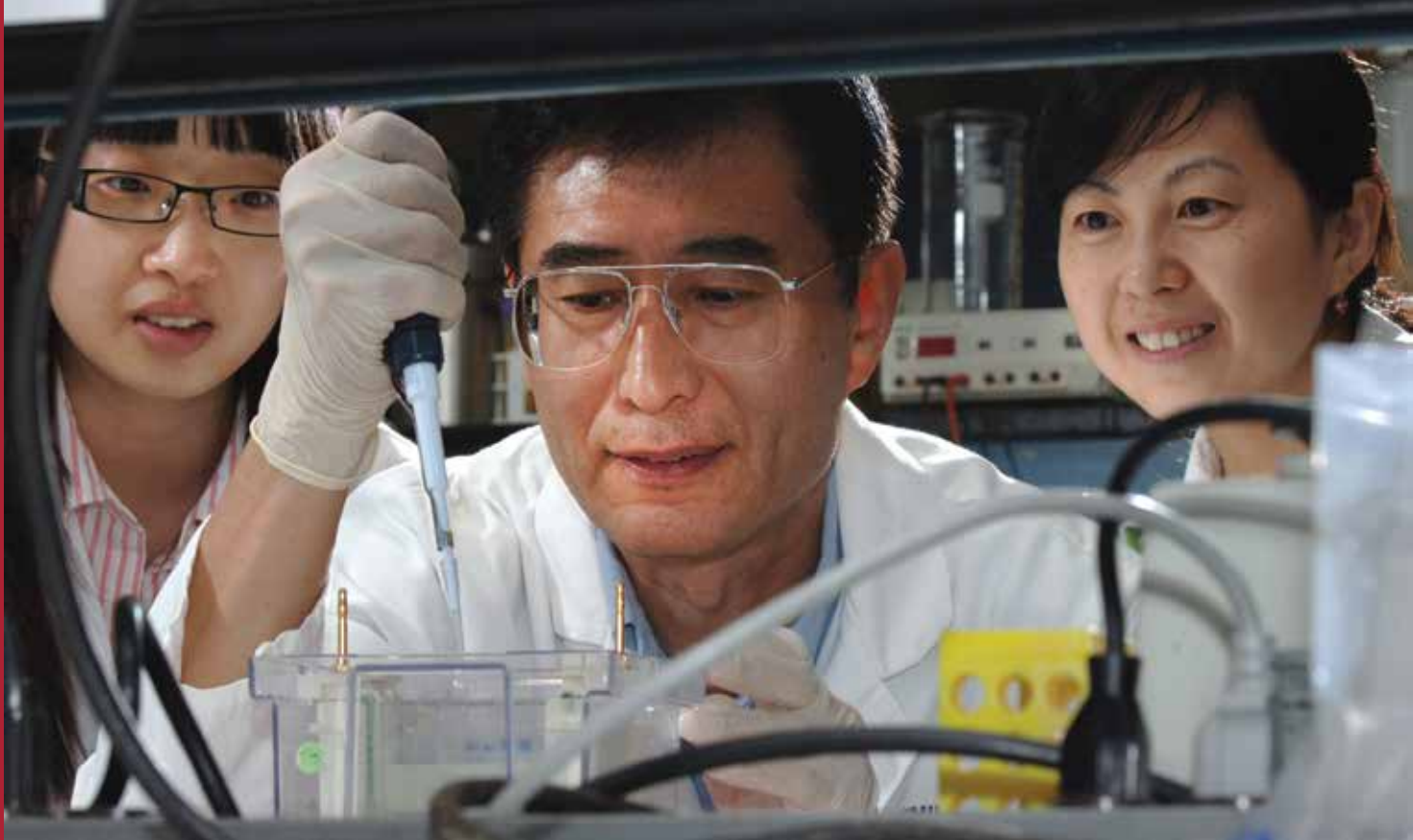
However, the answer to the question of how vascular risk factors contribute to Alzheimer's development remains elusive, and this answer is the focus of extensive research in our laboratory.

## Vascular risk factors may contribute to Alzheimer's disease by regulating $\beta$ -amyloid formation

A recent study revealed a positive correlation between cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) levels of  $\beta$ -amyloid and oxLDL in Alzheimer's patients, suggesting that oxLDL may contribute to the disease by manipulating neuron toxic  $\beta$ -amyloid production [9]. Studies have further shown that lysophosphatidic acid (LPA), the major bioactive component of oxLDL, can disrupt blood-brain barrier function and cause Alzheimer's-related cellular events [10]. Interestingly, we found that LPA can enhance  $\beta$ -amyloid production in a cultured cell system. This finding strongly suggests that the vascular risk factor oxLDL may, at least in part, contribute to Alzheimer's disease by helping increase the formation of  $\beta$ -amyloid.

Alzheimer's and vascular dementia, once seen as mutually exclusive disorders, are now recognized as coexisting processes. Recent evidence indicates the two disorders greatly overlap on the basis of risk factors, pathological hallmarks, and clinical symptoms. Many of the risk factors for cardiovascular disease, such as diabetes and obesity, are also now recognized as risk factors for Alzheimer's disease. LPA, which is a major risk factor for cardiovascular disease, has also been implicated in Alzheimer's development [11]. LPA is present in several biological fluids (serum, plasma, aqueous humor) and can be synthesized and released by several cell types (platelets, fibroblasts, adipocytes, cancer cells). The key enzyme that governs the synthesis of LPA is autotaxin [12]. Autotaxin expression is enhanced in the frontal cortex of Alzheimer's patients, suggesting that autotaxin and its LPA product may be involved in the disease pathology [13]. Thus, our finding that LPA can enhance  $\beta$ -amyloid production may provide new insight into the mechanism by which autotaxin and its LPA product may contribute to Alzheimer's pathology.

Several lines of evidence support the hypothesis that progressive accumulation of amyloid- $\beta$  is an early and critical event in the pathogenesis of Alzheimer's disease [14]. The accumulation of  $\beta$ -amyloid initiates a series of downstream neurotoxic events that result in the forma-




Dr. Xuemin Xu, center, professor of Biomedical and Diagnostic Sciences, is pictured here with UT Ph.D. student Ting Li, left, and Dr. Jing Shi, right, a postdoctoral associate. Xu's research is supported by the National Institutes of Health and the American Health Assistance Foundation.

tion of plaques, neuronal dysfunction, and death [15].  $\beta$ -amyloid is derived from APP by the enzymes  $\beta$ -secretase and  $\gamma$ -secretase [16]. Thus, it is clear that increased expression of either of these two secretases or APP itself would result in increased production of  $\beta$ -amyloid. However, our data demonstrate that LPA induces increased expression of  $\beta$ -secretase, but has no effect on the expression levels of  $\gamma$ -secretase and APP, suggesting that LPA causes an increase in  $\beta$ -amyloid production by helping to increase  $\beta$ -secretase expression. This hypothesis is further supported by our finding that LPA markedly induces activation and binding activity of the cAMP response element-binding protein (CREB). CREB is a possible regulator of the  $\beta$ -secretase gene [17]. Thus, our results suggest that in response to LPA stimulation, it is CREB that mediates the increase in  $\beta$ -secretase expression. This notion is further strongly supported by our finding that LPA induced the activation of an intracellular signaling cascade that led to the activation of CREB: first PKC was activated, followed by MEK, MAPK, and p90RSk.

Previous studies have shown that PKC is involved in regulation of  $\alpha$ -secretase-mediated APP processing [18-21], but that its involvement may be via indirect regulation

of  $\beta$ -amyloid formation. However, whether PKC has any direct regulatory effect on amyloid- $\beta$  formation remains unclear. In our studies, we examined the effects of several PKC isoforms on amyloid- $\beta$  formation. Our data revealed, for the first time, that overexpression of the isoform PKC $\delta$ , but not PKC $\alpha$ , leads to increased production of A $\beta$ . This finding provided strong support to our notion that PKC $\delta$  is important in the LPA-induced pathway that leads to activation of the  $\beta$ -secretase promoter, increased expression of  $\beta$ -secretase, and an eventual increase in the production of  $\beta$ -amyloid as discussed above.

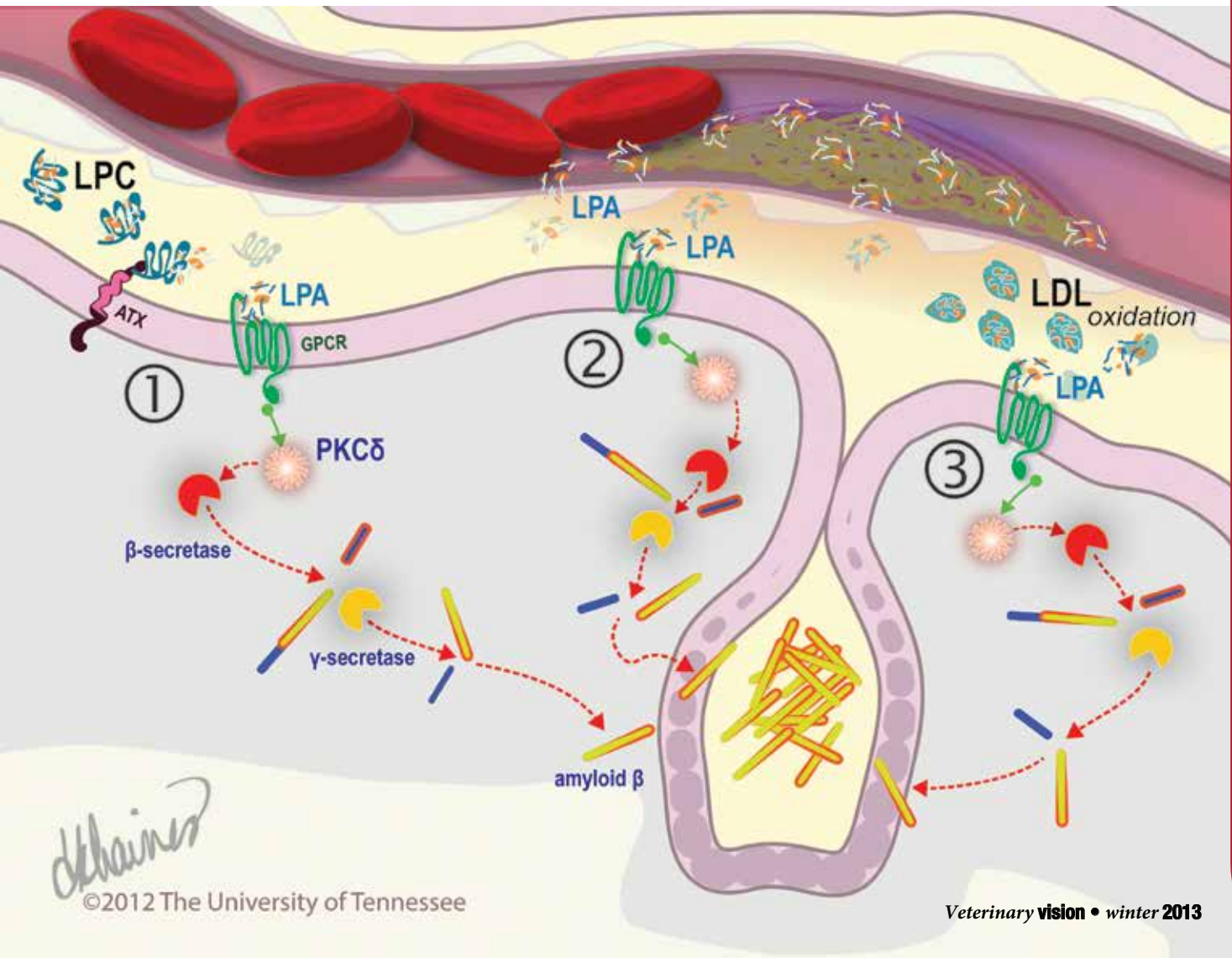
Our findings provide biochemical evidence that suggests that the cardiovascular risk factor LPA, a major bioactive lipid component of oxLDL, may contribute to Alzheimer's disease by increasing  $\beta$ -amyloid production and that different isoforms of PKC may regulate APP processing and  $\beta$ -amyloid production in different ways. Thus, our findings may open a new avenue of investigation into the mechanisms by which the vascular risk factor oxLDL contributes to the development of Alzheimer's disease and lead to the identification of new therapeutic targets for the development of methods to diagnose and treat the disease. 



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**Figure.** A schematic summary of the molecular pathway by which LPA is produced and induces Aβ production.



*delheimer*




# Arwen's Journey

What Arwen wants, Arwen gets. According to Amanda Stoermer, Arwen's "person," the 10-year-old poodle is the alpha dog who runs the house. Spring 2011, surgeons at Memphis Veterinary Specialists removed a thymoma, a tumor of the thymus gland which is located near the heart. In June, the tumor was back and too big for surgery. "When we found that surgery wasn't possible, we felt our only recourse for Arwen was to go forward with radiation," Stoermer says. "We talked to Dr. Lorin Hillman, our oncologist in Memphis, got in gear, got everything together and came here." While her husband holds down the household in Memphis, Stoermer, Arwen and Strider, the other four-legged family member, put their lives on hold to stay in an apartment in Knoxville for Arwen's course of 20 Intensity Modulated Radiation Therapy (IMRT) treatments.

Only a handful of places, academic and private, in the United States have the ability to offer IMRT, and Arwen is the first patient undergoing the therapy at UT Veterinary Medical Center. The treatment allows our board-certified radiation oncologist, Dr. Nathan Lee, to target a wider array of tumors and reduce the amount of side effects of radiation. "IMRT differs from conventional 3-D conformal radiation in that the multileaf collimator constantly moves throughout the treatment process varying the dose across the treatment field in order to spare normal surrounding tissues within millimeters of the tumor," Lee says. Basically, the tumor receives a very high dose of radiation while the normal tissues, in Arwen's case the heart and lungs, around the tumor are spared. IMRT can be used for tumors close to critical structures such as the brain, eye, heart, lungs, prostate and bladder. "This is the most sophisticated radiation therapy available in the area right now for veterinary patients," says Lee. "It is the same type of treatment they would get if they went to a human cancer center for radiation therapy."

The goal for Arwen is to shrink the tumor while avoiding the heart and lungs and send her back to her surgeon in Memphis to have it surgically removed. Halfway through her 20-course treatment, the tumor is already half its original size.

*"This is the most sophisticated radiation therapy available in the area right now for veterinary patients," says Lee. "It is the same type of treatment they would get if they went to a human cancer center for radiation therapy."*

Stoermer says family and friends are dog lovers and are just as vested as she and her husband in "Team Arwen Get Well." She believes having UT's advanced medical care and specialists who work with her Memphis veterinary team from home is everything. "Arwen is a vital part of our family: there was no question we were going to do what we had to do to get her well." Stoermer says even being able to spend just a few more years with Arwen is important. "She's just like our child, and it's the same thing anyone else would do for their child — what we're doing." 





# Tsavo: Treating the King of the Jungle



Above: Dr. James Steeil, a third-year resident in Zoo Medicine, prepares Tsavo for a radiation therapy treatment. Below: Dr. Nathan Lee, a board-certified radiation oncologist, positions Tsavo for a radiation therapy treatment

When Tiger Haven director Mary Lynn Haven saw Tsavo for the first time, she cried. The lion was malnourished, infected with intestinal parasites and covered with mites causing mange. That was 11 years ago. Tiger Haven is a big cat sanctuary — home to 288 animals. “When we take in animals, we promise to give them the best life possible,” Haven says. When Tsavo was diagnosed with a malignant melanoma on his face last summer, his medical team and caregivers turned to radiation therapy via the linear accelerator at the UT Veterinary Medical Center. A CT scan, radiographs and other diagnostics indicated the tumor had not yet spread.



Dr. Nathan Lee believes Tsavo is the first lion treated with radiation and hopes the knowledge gained from Tsavo will help others. After four radiation treatments and immunotherapy, the tumor’s size decreased by about 50 percent. Advanced medical techniques used in domestic animals to treat cancer can be used in big cats.

Several weeks after Tsavo’s last radiation treatment, UT veterinary surgeons were able to remove the tumor as well as the mandibular lymph node (near the tumor site) which was enlarged and appeared metastatic. Histopathology confirmed that the melanoma had metastasized to the lymph node.

At press, Tsavo has a healthy appetite and appears to be free of pain. Haven says that quality of life is top priority. “The medical care our cats receive from UT helps us accomplish that.”

## The Ladies’ Hound

Following ACL surgery last January, Smokey IX is back to 100 percent! According to small animal orthopedic surgeon Dr. Darryl Millis, force plate analysis of Smokey’s gait indicates he is bearing weight normally on all four limbs. The beloved UT mascot continues to “work out” twice a week in the underwater treadmill at the UT Veterinary Medical Center.





The two-day Comparative and Experimental Medicine and Public Health Research Symposium (CEMPH) garnered awards for several CVM doctoral students and house officers:

**Dr. Tamara Veiga-Parga**, Gamma Sigma Delta Excellence in Agricultural and Related Research Award

**Dr. Ricardo Videla**, first place, Graduate Student Award, Comparative and Experimental Medicine

**Eman Anis**, Ph.D. student, third place, Graduate Student Award, Comparative and Experimental Medicine

**Dr. Rebecca Hodshon**, Intern/Resident Award of Excellence, Small Animal Clinical Sciences

**Dr. Maria Cekanova**, research assistant professor, Award of Excellence, Small Animal Clinical Sciences



Mabel emerges! As she gets closer to her goal weight, the scales are moving slower — but not Mabel! Ten months into her weight loss journey, she has lost 37 pounds! Keep up with her on [www.facebook.com/mabelthedog](http://www.facebook.com/mabelthedog).



Dr. Maria Cekanova



The Tennessee Veterinary Medical Association recently announced an annual scholarship for UT College of Veterinary Medicine students who pursue veterinary careers in Tennessee. Pictured during the presentation at the college are Dr. Jim Thompson, UTCVM dean; Dr. Joe Ed Conn, TVMA treasurer; and Dr. Dennis Geiser, TVMA president.

## Student News:

University of Tennessee Chancellor's Awards for 2012 included UTCVM's **Caroline Horner, '12**, who received the Extraordinary Professional Promise and Top Collegiate Scholar Awards, and **Vanessa Hale, '12**, who also received the Extraordinary Professional Promise Award.

DVM student **Stacy Taylor, '14**, won the 2012 IVSA Scholarship, assisting her in her travels to Sweden to volunteer at the Kolmarden Zoo and Wildlife Park.







Faculty members of the Milam Center research team include Dr. Maria Cekanova, oncology; Dr. Joe Bartges, Acree Family Endowed Chair in Small Animal Clinical Research, Metabolic Diseases and Nutrition; and Dr. Al Legendre, professor and chief oncologist.

## Milam Center Making a Difference

Understanding that research can be expensive, Kelly and Beverly Milam of Knoxville established the Milam Center for the Study of Diabetes, Metabolic Disease and Oncology at the UT College of Veterinary Medicine (their son, Dr. Wade Milam, is a 1995 graduate of the college). The Milams chose to support areas of study that impact veterinary medicine and have major implications for human medicine.


In the few years since its creation in 2005, the Milam Center members have received more than 100 funded grants totaling more than \$2.5 million dollars resulting in more than 400 published peer-reviewed papers, abstracts, review articles and book chapters. In addition, Dr. Joe Bartges co-edited a textbook, *Nephrology and Urology of Small Animals*.

Two doctoral students completed their studies in nutrition, including Dr. Angela Witzel, who is now on faculty at the college. Four other doctoral students have begun their programs, and the center also has provided resources for several residents and veterinary students to complete research projects.

Milam Center members have made great contributions to veterinary medicine:

**Oncology:** The center has supported many of our oncologists who are involved in research with new therapeutic agents and advanced modalities of diagnostic testing. Our oncologists are involved in collecting and storing tissues for gene analysis used to evaluate markers of cancer and evaluate and develop new treatments used to treat certain cancers. Several projects have involved evaluation of a new class of chemotherapeutic agents

**Nutrition:** Focus has been on obesity and obesity-related diseases such as diabetes mellitus. The center has supported research in this area, which has led to the only approved drug for weight loss in dogs and a diet for managing cats with diabetes mellitus.


**Translational:** Collaborative efforts between the College of Veterinary Medicine and the Pre-clinical and Diagnostic Molecular Imaging Center at the UT Graduate School of Medicine continue to increase. The center has supported research on application of positron emission tomography, or PET scans, to dogs and cats with oncological and metabolic diseases. 



# “Come Back Home”

“Inviting alumni to ‘Come Back Home!’ to the UT College of Veterinary Medicine to see the latest improvements and help plan the college’s future was a great joy,” says Megan McMurray Dugan, associate director of alumni relations. In 2011, the college’s Alumni Council was inaugurated under the umbrella of the University of Tennessee Alumni Association. The council was established with one class representative from each graduating class (1979 being the first) and an appointed council chair for 2011-2012, Dr. Greg Helton, ’88. The council serves several purposes: to provide a link between UTCVM, its graduates and external constituencies; to contribute to the vitality of the college by maintaining and creating new connectivity among all alumni and the faculty, staff and current professional students; to provide guidance to the college administration regarding its programs and services; and to encourage fellow alumni’s financial support of the college. Already faced with a tall order, council representatives also volunteered to organize alumni gatherings and activities!

During its first year the Alumni Council planned and hosted a dinner for some 35 West Tennessee and Mississippi area alumni and their guests (including CVM faculty members, Drs. Al Legendre and Bob DeNovo). In the spring, they agreed, with so many fond memories of the student-hosted, annual Open House, to extend the day to include alumni and their families for a VIP event — a great boost for school spirit! On April 14, “2012” balloons were ready and perched atop a table of “adoptable” stuffed dogs and cats just waiting for future UTCVMers to bring them home. In May, the council hosted the first All Alumni Weekend in Nashville. Weekend events included a casual Friday night dinner; a Steeplechase horse race tailgate on Saturday followed by the grand evening event — a Honky Tonk celebration of live music, barbecue and Moon Pies on Music Row!

The new academic year started off with a bang as the 2012-13 Alumni Council co-hosted the Tennessee Welcome with Class of 2015 veterinary students. This event is the college’s official welcome for the incoming class of 2016, their families and guests. Following a morning of registering, touring and visiting with the incoming class and guests, council members settled into their second annual meeting. The group set numerous plans into action including establishing a reference system to grow the college’s Companion Animal Memorial Gifts program, an interview skills mentor/mentee program and a job fair, and a fall Ag Day celebration with current students. Council members were excited to see the planning come to fruition as the council works to strengthen alumni relations with the college, faculty and current students. 



2012 CVM Open House guests included Dr. Kelly Miller, '92, with daughter Josie and husband Kevin Hamby.



Enjoying the Steeplechase horse race tailgate are Dr. Greg Helton, '88; Dr. Ian O'Connor, '11; Cheryl Macon; Dr. Mike Fenwick, '82; Vicki Halford; Dr. Chuck Halford, '81; Deborah Fenwick; Dr. Sherrie O'Brien, '94; and Lani O'Connor.



Music Row Honky Tonk guests included Dr. Mike Fenwick, '82; Deborah Fenwick; Lani O'Connor; and Dr. Ian O'Connor, '11.





*the Annual Donor*

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Honor Roll of Giving

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The Annual Donor Honor Roll of Giving for the gift period of July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012 is now available at [www.vet.utk.edu/giving](http://www.vet.utk.edu/giving).

*Thank you for your continued support for the College of Veterinary Medicine!*

**News**

**Dr. Sherrie O'Brien, '94**, will serve as the next president of the UTCVM Alumni Council, following inaugural president, **Dr. Greg Helton, '88**.

**Dr. Kathy Kunkel, '89**, has been appointed the College of Veterinary Medicine representative to the new UT Alumni Association Advisory Board.

**In Memoriam:**

**Dr. Timothy Alan Cudd, DVM '82**, passed away in August 2012 in Gainesville, Fla. His lifelong interest in horses sent him to England for British Horse Society certification and then to the UT College of Veterinary Medicine. Cudd practiced in Lexington, Ky., where he developed the first private practice neonatal foal clinic in the U.S. With his growing interest in mother-fetal interaction, he then moved to Gainesville, Fla., where at the University of Florida he earned a Ph.D. in physiology, specializing in endocrinology of the mother-fetal interaction controlling parturition. In 1994, Cudd joined the faculty at Texas A&M where he ran a large laboratory funded by the National Institutes of Health that was devoted to more effectively diagnosing and treating fetal alcohol syndrome. He worked tirelessly over his career to improve teaching methods that would achieve his goal of developing compassionate and caring veterinarians.



Photo courtesy of Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences.


**Facebook Group Just for Alumni!**

The group is closed and requires authentication to join. Log on to Facebook, search for the University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine \*ALUMNI\*, and request to join.



It's a great way to stay updated about college and alumni activities and stay in touch with classmates and other alumni. Problems? Email [utcvmalum@utk.edu](mailto:utcvmalum@utk.edu).

Alumni, want to know about the latest UTCVM alumni happenings and upcoming events? Subscribe to our VOLVet Connect e-newsletter by emailing "Subscribe me to VVC" to [utcvmalum@utk.edu](mailto:utcvmalum@utk.edu).

 Please cut out form, fill out both sides, and mail in.

**Support the UT College of Veterinary Medicine**

Visit our website at [www.vet.utk.edu/giving](http://www.vet.utk.edu/giving) for a full listing of gift fund options and directions.

*Your gift to the College of Veterinary Medicine will help us maintain and enhance our tradition of excellence in academics, patient services and clinical research benefiting animal and human health.*

Mail to: UTCVM Development Office, 2407 River Drive, Ste. A301, Knoxville, TN 37996-4550



Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime phone: \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ Preferred email address: \_\_\_\_\_

I/we would like to make a gift of  \$2,500  \$1,000  \$500  \$250  \$100  Other:  \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my/our check made payable to the UT College of Veterinary Medicine

Please charge my/our credit card:  MasterCard  Visa  Discover

Acct. #: \_\_\_\_\_ Code #: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

# House Plans

Like many people, your house is probably the single largest asset in your estate. It represents a significant investment, something you paid faithfully for over the years. Consequently, it's only natural that you want to move cautiously in making any decisions about the future of your home. Nevertheless, you are willing to consider some new ideas.

To help you explore some of the options available to you, here are three "house plans" that involve you, your house and your interest in the College of Veterinary Medicine.

## The Live-in Plan

Perhaps you intend to make a major gift to the College of Veterinary Medicine. In fact, you would even give your house if you could. One problem: you'd have no place to live. You could simply bequeath your home to the College of Veterinary Medicine through your will.

Another way is to give your house to the University of Tennessee Foundation now, but retain the right to live in it for the rest of your life. This method could provide you with a charitable deduction — something that wouldn't happen if you were to make the transfer through your will. It would also remove the house from your estate which could possibly save estate taxes.

## The Charitable Trust Plan

This house plan is great for those who need additional retirement income and still want to make a gift of their house. Here's an example of how it might work:

Mr. and Mrs. Doe have a house valued at \$250,000. They bought it for \$50,000 more than 30 years ago and

now own it free and clear. Meeting with the College of Veterinary Medicine director of planned giving, they learn they can divide the deed and put part of the house into a charitable remainder unitrust while retaining the other part to sell for cash to buy a condominium.

They like the idea that the trustee can assume the major role in selling the property, thus relieving them of this burden. Once sold, the trustee will invest the trust's share in securities to provide a lifetime flow of income for Mr. and Mrs. Doe. Additionally, since the trust is a charitable trust, Mr. and Mrs. Doe will obtain an income tax deduction which they can apply against their taxable income.

## The Part-Give, Part-Sell Plan

This option is similar to the previous one, except there is no charitable trust involved. The donors divide the deed and give one part to the University of Tennessee Foundation for the benefit of the College of Veterinary Medicine. The donors and the Foundation then sell the house, each receiving their share of the proceeds. Because part of the deed goes to a qualified charity, the tax benefits are quite favorable.

As with most gift plans, there are variations to this plan providing an array of possibilities. In fact, the options are nearly endless.

The main point of all of this is to let you know there are various ways to use your house to meet your own needs as well as those of the College of Veterinary Medicine. Dennis Jones, our planned giving director, will be happy to discuss all of this with you and to provide various illustrations to show you more fully how planned giving and house planning can go hand-in-hand.

For more information you can contact Dennis Jones at 865-974-7423 or at [djones@utk.edu](mailto:djones@utk.edu). Of course, there is no charge for his services. 



My/our gift will be matched by my employer and my completed matching gift form is enclosed.

Please designate my/our gift to:

I would like more information about:

- Oncology
- Metabolic Disease and Nutrition
- Physical Therapy
- Advancing Equine Health
- Farm Animal Health
- Avian/Zoo Medicine
- Emergency/ICU
- Wild Animal Treatment
- Scholarships
- Rescued Animal Fund
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_ (area or fund name)

- CVM giving opportunities
- Gifts of securities or property
- Estate or planned gifts
- Creating an endowment
- Life income plans

Visit our website at [www.vet.utk.edu/giving](http://www.vet.utk.edu/giving) for a full listing of gift fund options and directions.



Thank you for supporting the UT College of Veterinary Medicine!





The UT College of Veterinary Medicine's **Dr. Mike McEntee** recently was appointed associate dean of research and graduate studies

to advance the college's research and graduate degree programs. McEntee also will continue his administrative responsibilities as department head, Biomedical and Diagnostic Sciences.



**Dr. David Anderson**, DVM, MS, DACVS has joined the UTCVM faculty as department head, Large Animal Clinical Sciences. Anderson comes to the college from Kan-

sas State University where he served as head and professor of agricultural practices and served on the advisory board for the Kansas State Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory.

Recipients of the prestigious 2012 UT Institute of Agriculture J.E. Moss Awards included **Dr. Bob Donnell**, CVM '85, associate professor, Biomedical and Diagnostics Sciences. Donnell is also director of the anatomic pathology section, doing teaching and research including working to improve the respiratory and reproductive systems of animals. **Betsy Bailey**, Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee, received the Professional/Academic Award for Outstanding Service. Bailey has been with the college for 25 years and was its first Endocrinology Laboratory section chief.



**Dr. William Hill**, clinical associate professor, was one of 10 veterinarians selected to participate in the American Veterinary Medical Association's Future Leaders Program. The yearlong program, created by the AVMA and supported by Pfizer Animal Health, will help develop leadership skills in the selected group of volunteer leaders for the future of the AVMA and other veterinary groups.



UTCVM recipients of the 2012 Charles and Julie Wharton Faculty Professors Awards were **Dr. Claudia Kirk**, Small Animal Clinical Sciences department head, and **Dr. Elizabeth Strand**, director of Veterinary Social Work. The Wharton Faculty Professors Awards were established by UT Trustee Charles Wharton and his late wife, Julie K. Wharton of Winchester, Tenn., to recognize excellence and achievement among the professoriate.

Congratulations to **Dr. Marcy Souza**, Biomedical and Diagnostic Sciences, who was named a Fulbright specialist and will spend a month in early 2013 working with the faculty at the Madras Veterinary College in India.

UTCVM's Center for Agriculture and Food Security and Preparedness team, which includes **Drs. Sharon Thompson** and **Ray Burden**, received an additional \$1.3 million in funding to continue its national food security training program.

Joining the Small Animal Clinical Sciences faculty is **Dr. Adesola Odunayo**, DVM, MS, Dipl. ACVECC.

Odunayo, who is part of the 24/7 Emergency and Critical Care service, comes to the college from Auburn.



### In Memoriam



**Dr. Lilitha Chamin-drani Handagama** (Dr. Charmi), professor, Biomedical and Diagnostic Sciences, passed away in 2012. Dr. Charmi's research included a

focus on developing oral contraception for companion animals.

**Dr. Horace Barron** was the first department head of Large Animal Clinical Sciences (formerly Department of Rural Practice). Barron passed away in Taylor, Texas, at the age of 92.



**Dr. Ralph Franklin Hall**, who joined the college's faculty in 1976, passed away in 2012. Hall maintained a joint appointment with UT Extension and the College of Veterinary Medicine until his retirement as professor emeritus in 1997.



### Celebrating Years of Service to UTCVM:

#### 35 years

**Mary J. Bryant**, Biomedical and Diagnostic Sciences

**William R. (Bill) Gogar**, Hospital Support Services

**Dr. Sharon Patton**, professor, Biomedical and Diagnostic Sciences

**Dr. Barry T. Rouse**, professor, Biomedical and Diagnostic Sciences

**Scott L. Wyrick**, Hospital Support Services

#### 30 Years

**Stephen R. Tinkel**, Small Animal Clinical Sciences



## Ruff Reading: Go, dog, go!

**Animals put children in comfort zone for reading**

*By Sandra Harbison*

Blake, a student at Knoxville's Belle Morris Elementary School, sits on the carpet reading "V is for Volunteer: A Tennessee Alphabet" in a soft voice. One hand holds the book as the other absentmindedly strokes Chili's thick fur. Chili, a border collie mix, shows her appreciation with a wag of her tail and nudge of her nose.

Chili is half of a Human-Animal Bond in Tennessee (HABIT) Ruff Reading team. At the other end of the leash is Blake's second-grade teacher, Katherine Waring (UT Knoxville '06, '07).

HABIT is an animal-assisted therapy program sponsored by the UT College of Veterinary Medicine. HABIT volunteers take their dogs, cats and rabbits, who have been medically and behaviorally screened, to places such as nursing homes, assisted living centers, hospitals and schools. At 26, HABIT is one of the oldest programs of its kind in the country.



While schools have been part of the HABIT program since its inception in 1986, HABIT coordinator Karen Armsey says Ruff Reading fills a special niche. “Ruff Reading branched off from visitation in 2001, and it’s an easy sell,” explains Armsey. “It’s a natural fit: kids and dogs, kids and cats. Seeing a child relax as he reads to an animal makes people happy.” Ruff Reading is in at least one classroom or public library in 12 East Tennessee counties, and 100 animals don their bright red uniform scarves to do their Ruff Reading jobs each week.

## Is it the human? Better books? Teacher’s style?

Research from the University of California, Davis, suggests dogs can help improve children’s reading fluency by double digits. When Ruff Reading first started in Waring’s class several years ago, an informal comparison of the second-grade classes’ reading scores at her school supported the findings.

Armsey muses, “Is it the human? Better books? Teacher’s style? We aren’t sure. What we do know, and it’s a glorious thing in these classrooms, is there’s another adult at the end of the leash the kids can count on each week.” A dog’s unconditional love and acceptance in the classroom enhances the learning process and builds students’ confidence and self-esteem.

“The dog doesn’t judge the student’s reading ability,” Armsey says. “The dog doesn’t correct the student. The dog just listens.”

Waring agrees. “It’s hard for some kids to read in front of other children, so this is totally different to them. The students know the dog isn’t going to snicker if they mispronounce something. That dog will love them no matter what.

“When my first Ruff Reading volunteer team, Donna Silvey and her dog Boudreaux, came to my classroom three years ago, the kids were so quiet and polite while a student was reading to the dog,” says Waring. She believes they wanted the same respect when it was their turn. Silvey, a dedicated volunteer, knew the kids counted on her for “their turn” each week, and even when she had a broken leg, she enlisted friends to transport her and Boudreaux to Belle Morris.

## Reading with Chili

When a fellow teacher expressed an interest in Ruff Reading, Waring, a firm believer in the program, decided to take the leash in her own hands and see if her dog, Chili, would qualify as a HABIT volunteer. She did, and while Chili can’t read books, she can read signs.

“I know she doesn’t know it’s Wednesday, but when she sees her red scarf on the kitchen counter, she knows it’s HABIT day and will jump in the car, furiously wagging her tail for me to hurry.”

One hour each Wednesday, students take turns reading to Chili. Waring says the experience has changed their attitude about reading. “Sometimes I think students viewed reading as some form of punishment, but now they want to practice reading for fun.”

Waring says her students use more expression when reading to a dog. “They know Chili loves squirrels, and she’ll perk her ears at even the word ‘squirrel.’ If we’re studying grammar and she’s in the class, the students get creative and work ‘squirrel’ into their sentences.”

Waring shares the story of a boy who transferred from another school. He was reading on a kindergarten level and, by the end of second grade, was reading on a fourth-grade level. “I don’t think he had really cared about reading before, but he loved dogs and practiced like crazy. With Donna encouraging him, him reading to the dog, me staying on his case and his parents helping him, it turned things around for him. There are tons of stories like that.”

On a recent Wednesday, while the rest of Waring’s class worked quietly in small groups, scouring their readers for nouns, pronouns and verbs in a grammatical scavenger hunt, Blake continued his Ruff Reading turn with Chili, his own personal Tennessee volunteer. 🐾



# Changing Critters' Worlds

Last September, the Companion Animal Initiative in Tennessee once again partnered with the Animal



Sherry Lynn Rout, legislative director for the Southern Region; Teresa Jennings, CAIT program director; and Jaime Norris, CAIT program administrator, participate in the Tennessee Animal Care & Control Conference.

Control Association of Tennessee to host the Tennessee Animal Care & Control Conference. More than 100 shelter veterinarians, animal control officers, law enforcement, shelter managers and workers came together for this two-day conference to learn how they can better help animals entering shelters. Session topics ranged from vaccinations on intake to how to

prosecute an animal cruelty case. This year's conference looks to be even bigger and better.

In 2010, there were only 6,000 dogs euthanized (for all reasons) at shelters in the entire state of New Jersey. In many individual community shelters throughout the Southeast, more dogs than that are euthanized each year

just in a single community. So, in April 2012, The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) began transporting dogs from New Orleans to New Jersey to greatly improve their chances of finding new forever homes. Basically, they are giving dogs a ride from communities where their chances of adoption are slim and relocating them to communities where demand is high. Each month our faculty, staff and students volunteer their time performing brief physical exams and ensuring they are still doing well as they stop through Tennessee. We have now started adding dogs from shelters in East Tennessee on the transports! This experience gives our students an opportunity to see firsthand the issues of overpopulation.

Our CAIT Board of Advisors has established the CAIT Shelter Medicine Award. This award will be presented each year to a third- or fourth-year veterinary student who has shown leadership in Shelter Medicine initiatives and programs.

Minimum requirements of the recipient:

- Attended a minimum of three Feral Fixin' events.
- Successfully completed the shelter medicine elective.
- Documented volunteer experience in community animal shelters or spay/neuter clinics.

At the college's Honors Banquet, CAIT awarded its first scholarship in shelter medicine to Jessica Pruitt, class of 2013. Pruitt has established a partnership with students from UTCVM and Jefferson County Humane Society, the animal shelter that serves Jefferson County, to help provide physical exams and administer vaccinations and heartworm tests for adoptable animals. This partnership provides an invaluable opportunity for the shelter to help animals find their forever homes.



From left, Jessica Rogers, Laura Walker, Jaime Norris, Jean Lee, Tiffany Makowski, Dr. Rick Chetney and Dr. Dan DeLillo volunteer their time to help shelter dogs.



Jessica Pruitt, '13, accepts the CAIT Shelter Medicine Award from Teresa Jennings. The award honors a third- or fourth-year veterinary student who has shown leadership in shelter medicine initiatives and programs.





Ashley Schenk, Seiche Genger, Dr. Christina Crawford, Andrea Pennington, and Teresa Jennings represent CAIT at a Remote Area Medical event. The event provided spay/neuter and vaccinations to qualifying citizens in Claiborne and surrounding counties.

CAIT continues to partner with Remote Area Medical and the Lincoln Memorial University Veterinary Technician Program to provide spay/neuter and vaccinations to pets of qualifying citizens in Claiborne and surrounding counties. This year we saw 245 cats and dogs, 95 percent of which had never seen a veterinarian.

Last summer we broke records at our summer Feral Fixin' event. We have now seen more than 2,000 feral cats from all over East Tennessee. Our volunteers have put in over 9,000 hours working to decrease the feral and stray populations in our communities. This program continues to grow in popularity with our students and the community.

We would like to give a special acknowledgment to Purina, Boehringer Ingelheim and Novartis for their generous support of these programs.

To all of our volunteers, not only from the College of Veterinary Medicine, but from across the state, thank you! We could not do this without you. Together we truly can make a difference and save more lives. 🐾



Above: CVM students Mary Hall and Jackie Young participate in the summer 2012 Feral Fixin' event. Below: From left, CVM students Bri Peters, Jessica Chin, Bernadette Riemer, Megan Mitchell and Jose Grenet volunteer at a Feral Fixin' event. Photos by Allison Mueller.



A puppy thanks CVM student Kelly Chameroy for her work at a CAIT event.





# HALT Celebrates 25 Years

In 2012, Humans and Animals Learning Together — better known as HALT — celebrated its 25th year. Throughout that time the program has rescued nearly 330 dogs and helped 1,300 at-risk teens. Founded in 1987, HALT is a nonprofit program benefiting adolescents and dogs. It provides therapeutic intervention for at-risk teens, who conduct dog obedience training with shelter dogs selected for the program. During the four-week class, dogs learn basic obedience, and their trainers learn about themselves. Teens are from residential centers for treatment of substance abuse, behavioral or alienation problems.

During its 25 years, HALT dogs have found homes in East Tennessee, including several with UT College of Veterinary Medicine employees. Some HALT dogs, such as the first HALT graduate, Maxie, went on to become volunteers with Human-Animal Bond in Tennessee, or HABIT.


Wally continues that tradition. A 2011 HALT graduate, Wally visits patients as a HABIT volunteer at Thompson Cancer Survival Center.

Wally was adopted in 2011 by Julie Caldwell, a HALT volunteer who owns Dixie Dog Training in Knoxville. Caldwell said she quickly realized that Wally had the temperament to be a HABIT dog. Wally gets excited when he's heading to the cancer center and has regular "clients" who he visits there. He enjoys visiting with the center's staff as well. Caldwell says Wally loves his trips to Thompson; his smiling face and wagging tail help to brighten the day of all those he visits. Wally has also been a volunteer to help greet students during UT Knoxville's Welcome Week program in fall semester.

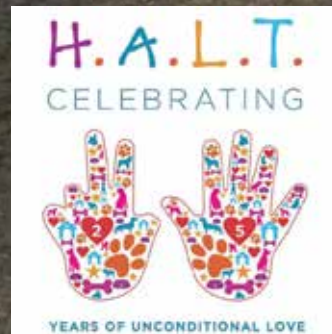
HALT dogs get hours of quality class time each week, learning basic obedience skills from their student trainers. The dogs get additional socialization with other people and dogs at adoption events during the HALT program.

Student trainers are selected by the staff of their agency and are transported to the class site for the classes. The student trainer commits to one four-week course, meeting two times per week. Up to four agencies may furnish student trainers to work with the group of dogs, training on different days.

The teens get an opportunity to develop a positive sense of accomplishment, self-worth and pride. They are given the chance to improve specific living skills such as assertiveness, patience, staying on task, communication and commitment. They also get the opportunity to have positive experiences with dogs as pets and learn about different career opportunities in animal-related fields.

HALT was founded by Beth Code of Knoxville and UTCVM's Dr. John New, a veterinary professor. The program is an all-volunteer organization, relying on adoption fees and donation to provide two classes each year. The fall 2012 HALT class includes five dogs who have been medically and behaviorally screened, have received inoculations, have been spayed or neutered, and have been microchipped. The adoption fee for each is \$150. 

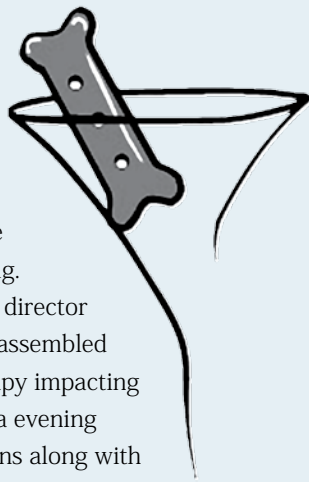
Check the HALT website at <http://www.vet.utk.edu/halt> or visit HALT on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/HALTdogs> for updates on adoption events.



Wally, 2011 HALT graduate, now serves as a volunteer by visiting patients at Knoxville's Thompson Cancer Survival Center through the College of Veterinary Medicine's HABIT program.



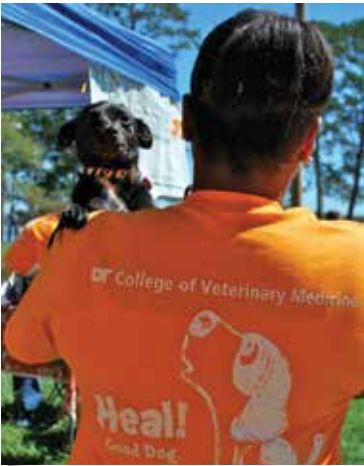
The UT College of Veterinary Medicine stepped up as a sponsor for the first PetSafe Black Tie and Tails Gala, a benefit evening for the Morris Animal Foundation, held Aug. 11, 2012. Dr. Amy LeBlanc, CVM's director of translational research, spoke to assembled guests on advances in cancer therapy impacting animal and human health. This gala evening featured both silent and live auctions along with a fabulous dinner and music.



## Heal. Good Dog.

UT College of Veterinary Medicine faculty, staff, students and clients donned the big orange and participated in the PetSafe K9 Cancer Walk benefiting Morris Animal Foundation. More than 100 people registered for the UTCVM team, which earned Top Team Honors (for the second year in a row) and raised almost \$5,000 in the process! The funds support MAF's work to create a healthier, cancer-free tomorrow for dogs. Numerous faculty members have benefited from MAF grants in support of their clinical research in cancer. The college performs cancer research at all levels (basic, translational and clinical) and provides the most advanced diagnostic and treatment therapy options for our animal cancer patients at the UT Veterinary Medical Center. Top Individual Fundraiser Award went to Dr. Kristi Lively, '99, with the Village Veterinary Medical Center in Farragut, Tenn.!

*volunteer spirit*



### *PetSafe K-9 Cancer Walk for the Morris Animal Foundation TEAM UTCVM 2012*





# UTCVM Dean Jim Thompson's interest in human behavior and the Veterinary Social Work Program

By Kirche Rogers


In addition to his interest in studying and treating animals, Dr. Jim Thompson, dean of the UT College of Veterinary Medicine, is a student of how people garner their life's energy and how they gather information. While working as a dean of academic affairs, Thompson learned about and became certified in the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator assessment. Realizing the significant pressures that go along with studying veterinary medicine, he used this information to develop programs for freshman veterinary students that provide a foundation for their success.

As dean of UTCVM, Thompson carried his concern for the well-being of his students to Tennessee, and he was pleasantly surprised to find a program dedicated to such endeavors. Thompson utilizes the special skills available through the Veterinary Social Work Program to conduct leadership training for first-year veterinary students. The goal of the training is to build camaraderie and support among the students, while helping them learn skills to cope with the pressures of studying medicine. It involves a team-building experience in which a select group of second-year students learn about the MBTI and spend time during the summer building their leadership facilitation skills. These students work with first-year students by facilitating a short, but intensive, amount of time together bonding and building a foundation of support as they progress through the training.

Dr. Elizabeth Strand, director of the Veterinary Social Work Program, notes the importance of the training: "We know that with interpersonal communication, leadership, self-awareness and conflict management skills learned in the leadership training program, veterinary students' quality of life while they are in school and after they graduate can be enhanced. Through the skills developed in the leadership program, stress can be reduced and a positive learning environment can be supported, enhancing students enjoyment in learning all the medical knowledge required to be an excellent veterinarian."

## Contributions of VSW to veterinary medicine

Thompson is enthusiastic about the future of veterinary social work and the significant impact it can have on colleges of veterinary medicine, private practitioners and caretakers who must often make difficult decisions regarding the health of their beloved companions.

"When I was an oncologist, we didn't have a social work program to help guide me. I had to rely on my empathy to put myself in the other person's shoes regarding what they were feeling," he says, adding, "What I've observed is that the Veterinary Social Work Program is essential to the health and well-being of this college. It provides faculty, students and staff an opportunity to have a more balanced life. Having a professional program that allows students to understand what social work can bring to veterinary medicine is where the future is going." 



## Veterinary Social Work

### Veterinary Social Work Summit

April 11-13, 2012

The College of Veterinary Medicine and the College of Social Work will host the third International Veterinary Social Work Summit on April 11-13, 2013. Keynote speakers will be Dr. Temple Grandin, author of "Animals Make Us Human," and Dr. Hal Herzog, author of "Some we love, Some we hate, Some we eat: Why is it so hard to think straight about animals." The summit is a scholarly conference that accepts one-hour workshops, 30-minute podium presentations, poster presentations, and table topic abstracts in the four areas of Veterinary Social Work as well as abstracts on the ethical dilemmas in social work and animals. This year there will also be specialized conferences in the four areas of veterinary social work before and after the summit. All human and animal health and welfare professionals are invited to attend. For more information go to <http://www.vet.utk.edu/socialwork>.





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## VETERINARY SOCIAL WORK SUMMIT 2013

University of Tennessee  
Knoxville TN

3<sup>rd</sup> International Veterinary Social Work Summit  
April 11-13, 2013 ~ University of Tennessee, Knoxville TN

**“Is there a role for social work in the care  
and welfare of animals?”**



### Keynote Speakers: Dr. Temple Grandin and Dr. Hal Herzog

**Dr. Temple Grandin**, author of New York Times best seller, *Animals in Translation*, as well as, *Livestock Handling and Transport*, *Thinking in Pictures*, *Improving Animal Welfare: A Practical Approach*, and *Animals Make Us Human*



**Dr. Hal Herzog** author of the critically acclaimed book, *Some We Love, Some We Hate, Some We Eat: Why It's So Hard To Think Straight About Animals*

For further information regarding this summit, please visit: <http://www.vet.utk.edu/socialwork/>

*April 11-13, 2013*  
*Registration Deadline:*  
*March 11, 2013*

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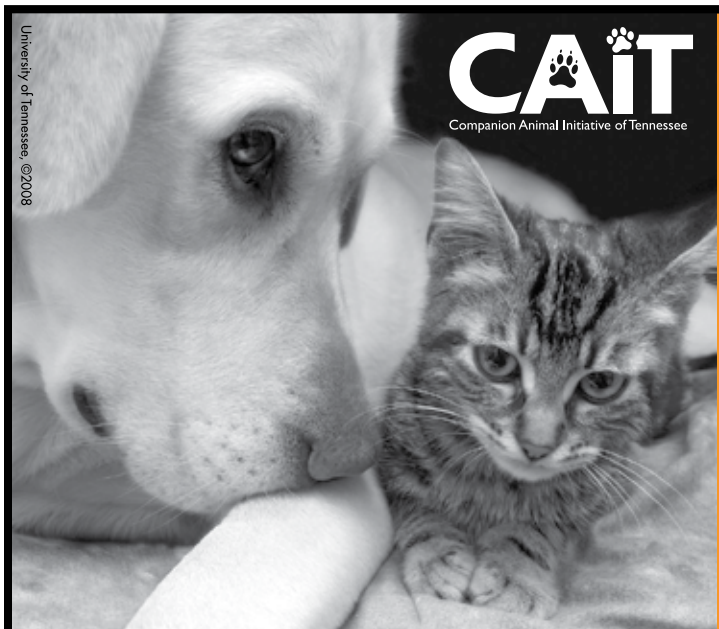
**Pet Memorial Day**  
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The University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine

**OPEN HOUSE**

9:00AM — 4:00PM  
**Saturday April 20, 2013**

Image of thymoma tumor as it wraps around the heart. This image is used to map out Intensity Modulated Radiation Therapy treatment. See page 12 for story.



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