



March - April 2019

Update

for Veterinarians



Newly Designed Space Enhances Integrated Oncology Service

This March, The Ohio State University Veterinary Medical Center (VMC) unveils a newly designed, more efficient workspace for the Integrated Oncology service. Patients benefit from the open floor plan, as it provides improved collaboration relative to diagnosing and developing treatment plans across the team of medical, surgical and radiation oncologists. Clients benefit from a comprehensive plan for their pet's care while having only one point-of-contact—a customer service liaison—to help them easily navigate scheduling, messaging and overall case coordination.

The redesigned space includes a large clinical treatment area with exam tables, plus small and large dog wards, which allow specialists from all three disciplines to work on patients in one, shared workspace. Rooms off the main treatment area include two chemotherapy/procedure rooms; two hooded pharmacy preparation spaces; a quiet room for recovery from sedation; and a learning conference room for rounding and student education. Windowed walls throughout the space allow for improved patient monitoring and team communication.

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From the Director



In this issue of *Update for Veterinarians*, we highlight our integrated oncology service – now two years old - including the service's newly renovated space, a multidisciplinary case study, and we introduce our newest surgical oncologist, **Dr. Laura Selmic**.

The new service space allows for greater efficiency while still ensuring multidisciplinary collaboration and comprehensive cancer care for your clients and patients, as well as an

improved learning experience for students. Read more about these exciting enhancements from our specialists' point-of-view, including **Drs. Eric Green, Noopur Desai, Vincent Wavreille** and **Laura Selmic**, together with our VMC pharmacy manager **Andy Whicker** and VMC assistant director of customer service, **Lora Montgomery**.

In addition to the expansion of the service space and team, the highlighted case study provides a great example of our integrated model in action.

As always, if you have any questions about our services, please do not hesitate to contact me or any of our faculty.

Karin Zuckerman, MHS, MBA
VMC Director



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

VETERINARY MEDICAL CENTER

Integrated Oncology Service Space *continued from page 1*



Pre-renovation treatment space was limited.

“Every patient that comes through the service is first discussed among all of the disciplines. We decide what role each of us may play in the patient’s management so that we can then present the client with a comprehensive plan for that patient’s tumor,” says **Dr. Eric Green**, professor of radiology and radiation oncology, and head of the Integrated Oncology Service.

As an example, there may initially be a role for the surgical oncologist to remove the tumor. If there is residual disease left behind, Dr. Green may perform radiation therapy. However, he says, in a case where metastasis is a strong clinical concern, the case would involve the medical oncologist, who would develop a chemotherapeutic approach.

With two, side-by-side clean rooms, the new space design also allows the VMC to maintain compliance with Ohio pharmacy laws on chemotherapy preparation and sterile compounding preparations.

VMC pharmacy manager **Andy Whicker** notes that the two clean rooms “allow us to better serve our clients and ensure the safety of our employees in dealing with chemotherapy drugs.”

He adds that the integrated approach has improved work flow overall, including efficiency with the surgical team’s submissions to the pharmacy and with pharmacy’s follow up with the cancer team. “We can now contact one person if we have any questions.” And, he adds, “We’re constantly evaluating our processes to see what we can do better from a client treatment standpoint.”

When a patient is first referred, clients connect with Genie Bragg, the customer service liaison for the integrated oncology service, says **Lora Montgomery**, assistant



New treatment area offers expansive space.

director of customer service for all VMC operations.

Genie follows up with the referring veterinary office to obtain the records needed (blood work, x-rays, etc.), at least three days ahead of time via fax or email, so that the oncology team is prepared for the new patient. Prior to the visit, new clients receive a packet describing what to expect during their visit, directions to the hospital and other pertinent information to prepare and plan accordingly. When patients and their owners arrive for their appointment, the veterinary student completes the initial intake and explains the process for the day. Clients have responded with how much they appreciate this personal touch.

To learn more, contact the VMC at **614-292-3551** or visit vet.osu.edu/vmc/oncology



Learning Conference Room is adjacent to the treatment area.

Integrated Oncology Case Study

Collaborative Cancer Team Addresses Canine Tumor

In November 2018, Nalani, a 6-year-old female German Shepherd from Chicago, presented for evaluation of a large mass behind her right ear. Prior to her visit, Nalani's veterinarian had performed a fine needle aspiration, and a veterinary oncologist had performed a CT scan.

Once at the Veterinary Medical Center (VMC), the integrated oncology team reviewed Nalani's medical records and developed a treatment plan involving surgery and radiation. "We performed another CT scan to make sure the tumor hadn't changed in size, and then we offered to remove the tumor," says **Dr. Vincent Wavreille**, assistant professor of surgical oncology.

With the owner, a decision was made to perform surgery. The surgery was major – involving removal of the ear canal in order to reach the mass and perform radiation, which would have caused significant damage to the ear canal if left in place.

"We tried to remove the entire tumor, but during the procedure we were concerned about potentially jeopardizing the health of the dog because we were very close to the inner ear," Dr. Wavreille says.

Dr. Wavreille and a surgical oncology resident were able to remove the bulk of the mass, leaving a small residual mass, which was determined to be a low-grade malignancy.

Dr. Noopur Desai, assistant professor of radiation oncology, made preparations for radiation therapy to remove the remaining gross disease. A second CT scan was performed for the radiation planning using immobilization devices.

"The planning with immobilization devices is important because with the targeted therapy, we have to be precise about positioning during treatment so that we reduce the dose to the surrounding normal tissues," says Dr. Desai.

Throughout the process, the specialists consulted with Nalani's family and referring veterinarian about the procedures and therapies. Dr. Desai also spoke to the veterinarian after the radiation treatment, to discuss side effects to look for when Nalani returned home.

Nalani

Nalani remained at the VMC for a month, beginning January 14, for daily radiation treatments, excluding weekends. As of early February, Nalani showed no side effects from the radiation and appeared healthy and happy.

Dr. Desai notes the multimodal approach shows how the surgeons could plan based on what the radiology oncologist would like to treat; likewise Dr. Desai could check with the surgeons if she had questions about the surgical techniques and other aspects that would improve the radiation planning.

"Working together in the same space translates into good patient care," says Dr. Desai.

To learn more, contact the VMC at **614-292-3551** or visit vet.osu.edu/vmc/oncology



Faculty Spotlight: Dr. Laura E. Selmic



Growing up in a small town in England, **Dr. Laura Selmic** was immersed in the world of human medicine—her parents worked for the National Health Service as radiographers—but she was also surrounded by a cadre of animals at home, and rode horses as a teenager.

“When it came to making a decision about my future, I thought it would be great to combine working with animals and medicine,” she says.

Dr. Selmic is a 2004 graduate of The Royal Veterinary College at the University of London, U.K.. Selmic’s initial interest in surgery came while doing a soft tissue surgery

rotation as a final year veterinary student. “I was inspired by one of the surgeons,” she says. Later, during her small animal surgery residency at Texas A&M, she worked closely alongside surgeons and oncologists, an experience that cemented her interest in oncology.

“I realized how much good you could do in that field, and how rewarding it was to work so closely with other specialists.” But it was during her surgical oncology fellowship at Colorado State where she had an opportunity to hone her knowledge of surgical oncology and research in the field. In 2012, she was accepted as one of the 36 Founding Fellows of Surgical Oncology of the American College of Veterinary Surgeons.

Previously assistant professor of soft tissue and oncologic surgery at the University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine, Dr. Selmic relocated to Columbus in July 2018, with her two border collies – Fly and Hero – to join the Oncology and Surgery Service at The Ohio State University Veterinary Medical Center. Dr. Selmic is an assistant professor of surgical oncology and is currently one of two surgical oncologists within the Integrated Oncology Service.

“Every day we have multidisciplinary rounds to discuss the patients coming in to our clinic, and everyone contributes to what options could be recommended for diagnostics and treatment. Our clients may see one or two team members, but they get the expertise and consultation of our entire team.”

Upcoming CE Events

College of Veterinary Medicine
Continuing Education

March 7	Columbus Academy
March 20	Greater Charleston, WV
April 9	Dayton
April/May TBD	Cleveland/Akron
May 8	Dublin
May 30	Toledo

For more details, please visit:

vet.osu.edu/alumni/continuing-education

Blue Buffalo Veterinary Clinical Trials Office Seeks Participants

We have multiple clinical trials for oncology patients and for patients with conditions such as urinary disease, cancer, heart disease and more.

For a full list of current trials, visit:
vet.osu.edu/vmc/clinical-trials, or
contact our office at:

cvm-clinicaltrials@osu.edu or
614-247-8706.



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