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Helping control BVD in real world scenarios

Doctors develop online tool for managing BVD in cow-calf operations

Maintaining and managing the health of any type of herd animal can present some daunting challenges for producers and veterinarians, when considering diseases such as bovine viral diarrhea, or BVD, in cow-calf operations. Now, those trying to develop strategies to control BVD can rely on a new Internet-based tool developed at the Kansas State University College of Veterinary Medicine called BVD CONSULT. This BVD management aid was created after Drs. Bob Larson and Brad White decided that there was need for the results of BVD research to be more accessible.

“One of the struggles that we have is how do you implement treatment in the different types of herd situations that you run into in the real world,” Dr. Larson said. “And so we wanted to develop a tool that takes a lot of the works that’s been done by scientists all over the world, and make that into a decision aid that producers and their veterinarians can come up with the best specific protocol for them.”

Drs. Larson and White worked with faculty from the University of Nebraska, Mississippi State University and Auburn University and developed a basic structure for the program. Envisioning the tool to mimic a conversation between a veterinarian and a client, Dr. Sherri Merrill, who earned her DVM from K-State in 2007, was hired to help guide the development of the final program.

“It’s set up as a series of questions asking whether or not you have BVD in your herd and then it asks about different management practices that you can use to either get rid of BVD if you have it in your herd or keep it out if you don’t have it in your herd,”

Dr. Merrill said. “Then they just select, yes,



Dr. Rob Larson explains to Dr. Shelie Laflin how the tool works to help manage BVD.

I can do that, or no, I can not. And they’ll receive a response based on that question.”

While the online tool is meant to be used with veterinarian input, it can also be accessed by anyone who has questions related to BVD management.

“I also can see if producers have those questions. Maybe they don’t have that relationship with their veterinarian or they’re just wondering about it and are looking for information on the Internet, they may come across this program and be able to work through it,” Dr. Merrill said. “Of course, we encourage them to go through it with their veterinarian and it specifically says on there, to work closely with your veterinarian and make sure they’re involved.”

Depending on how much interest BVD CONSULT receives, similar decision tools could be developed for other diseases.

“We think this type of tool can be really be valuable for a number of different diseases, kind of helping producers and veterinarians ask a series of questions that help the design the best program for that particular farm,” Dr. Larson said.

Watch the full video about this new tool online at: www.vet.k-state.edu/depts/development/lifelines/1302.htm

Susan Rose goes on an 'Art Walk' in Topeka

A long-time bird enthusiast, photographer and painter, Susan Rose, facility manager in the Comparative Medicine Group, has often turned to art to relax after a long day. She never expected to be the featured artist at SouthWind Gallery in Topeka, Kan. Nonetheless, on Feb. 1, her series, "Birds of the Mid-West," held an opening reception during Topeka's First Friday Art Walk.

"The idea for this bird series grew out of a suggestion by the gallery owner, Gary Blitsch, a year ago when he saw one of my paintings of a meadowlark and suggested it would be a good theme to a series," Susan said.

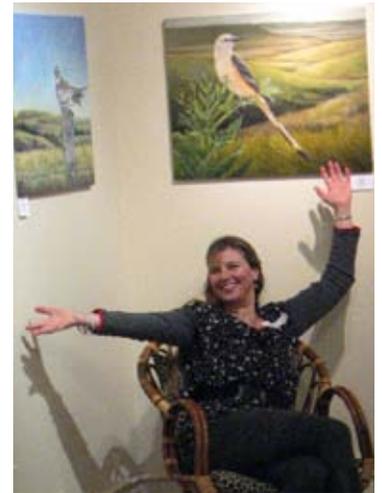
She then spent the last year capturing photographs of interesting bird species around the area. Once she had a significant body of work, she picked a gallery — SouthWind — to represent her.

Top Right: Susan Rose proudly exhibits her hard work.

Bottom: Art and bird enthusiasts alike walk through the gallery admiring the variety of pieces.

"This was an exciting new experience for me to be the featured artist in a well-established gallery," Susan added. "I really enjoy seeing people's reactions to the work, and engaging people in conversation either about art techniques, or the subject, in this case — birds and bird watching."

Susan is an active member in the local Columbian Artist Group, the Missouri Valley Impressionist Society, The National Oil and Acrylic Painters Society and the International Acrylic Painters Society. If you don't have a chance to visit SouthWind Gallery, you can find her work on her website: www.SusanRoseFineArt.com.



Certara names ICCM at K-State a 'Center of Excellence'



Dr. Jim Riviere, director of the ICCM.

Certara™, a leading provider of software and scientific consulting services to improve productivity and decision-making from drug discovery through clinical development, announced that the Institute of Computational Comparative Medicine (ICCM) at Kansas State University has been named a Phoenix Center of Excellence.

Certara has developed Phoenix, the leading pharmacokinetic/pharmacodynamic (PKPD) modeling and simulation platform, to support

noncompartmental analysis, population PKPD modeling and simulation and in vitro-in vivo correlation (IVIVC) analysis. This partnership will focus on the application, validation

and extension of the Phoenix platform to support studies in veterinary medicine, from toxicology to animal health. Dr. Jim Riviere recently formed the Institute of Computational Comparative Medicine (ICCM) to develop unique computational medicine capabilities that will apply to animal studies and to advance the general state of the field.

"The work we are focused on could reduce the number of animal studies required for drug approval," said Dr. Riviere, director of the ICCM. "It could improve the determination of withdrawal times of drugs in animals with diseases; it could support the modeling of chemical risk assessment."

Certara currently has six Phoenix Centers of Excellence that are focused on leveraging Phoenix to support clinical pharmacology and to train the next generation of practitioners," said Dr. Daniel Weiner, senior vice president and general manager of Certara. "We are pleased to work with Kansas State University to begin advancing the use of Phoenix to support animal health studies, aimed at both improving animal medicine as well as the reduction of animals used in clinical trials."

Under the microscope



Debra Ritchie

Research Technician - Parasitology
K-State Veterinary Diagnostic Lab

Hometown: St. George, Kan.

Family: No kids, just my husband. I also have three sisters all married with kids.

Pets: We have a zoo at our house. Dogs, cats, parrots, horses, goats, chickens and geese.

What is your favorite type of candy? Reese's Peanut Butter Cups, but I love anything chocolate.

If you could stay a certain age forever, what would it be?
I would be 33, old enough to have some sense but young enough to be very active and healthy.

What is the last book you read? "Journey" by Wanda Brunstetter.

What is your favorite day of the week? I don't really have a favorite, but Fridays are nice because the weekend is close.

What exotic pet would you most like to have? I love all kinds of animals, probably anything with fur or feathers. I don't care for the reptile types.

CVM NEWS TICKER

Dr. James Coffman, former dean of the CVM and an expert in leadership development, has been chosen to deliver the Recognition Lecture at the AAVMC Annual Conference in Alexandria, Va., Sunday, March 10.

Congratulations to **Dr. Landa Colvin-Marion**, VHC Pharmacist, and **Dr. Chris Marion** on the birth of their baby boy, Evan James Marion. Evan was born on Jan. 2, and is 9 pounds, 13.5 ounces and 21.5 inches long.

Congrats to **Drs. Chris and Lindsey Blevins**, Clinical Sciences, as they welcome a son, Aaron Allen Blevins, born Jan. 4. He joins his big sister, Clara, at home.

We would also like to congratulate **Dean Ralph Richardson** for his reappointment as the dean for the College of Veterinary Medicine for the next five years!



Dr. Justin Kastner, associate professor of food safety and security, speaks about the history of beef cattle at a Kansas Day event, Jan. 29, in Hale Library. Two years ago, Dr. Kastner led a joint project to produce the book, "150 Years of Kansas Beef," in conjunction with the state's sesquicentennial celebration.

Dr. Bob Rowland receives K-State faculty award



Dr. Bob Rowland accepts the 2012-2013 Commerce Bank Distinguished Graduate Faculty Award presented by **Dr. Carol Shanklin**, dean of the Graduate School. The award, which comes with a \$2,500 honorarium, is supported by the William T. Kemper Foundation and the Commerce Bancshares Foundation. It is coordinated through the Kansas State University Foundation and the president's office.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Feb. 21: Alumni Fellow, Dr. Terry McElwain, DVM class of 1980 and executive director of the Washington Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory at Pullman, Wash., will deliver the All-College Seminar at noon in Frick Auditorium. His presentation will be entitled: "The Many Faces Of Disease Surveillance In Global Health." A pizza lunch will be provided starting at 11:40 a.m. See <http://www.vet.k-state.edu/depts/alumni/fellows/McElwain.htm> for more information.

March 13: Meet the authors of 'Zoobiquity', Dr. Barbara Natterson-Horowitz and Kathryn Bowers, at 12:00 p.m. in Frick and at 1:30 in the Mara Conference Center. (Schedule subject to change.)

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