

Pittsburgh Veterinary  
Specialty & Emergency Center  
807 Camp Horne Road  
Pittsburgh, PA 15237

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PITTSBURGH, PA  
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## REFERRAL DISPATCH

SUMMER 2010  
VOLUME 2, NUMBER 3

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER FOR REFERRING VETERINARIANS

### CONTINUING EDUCATION IS BACK!

After our hiatus from continuing education and many requests from previous attendees of PVSEC CE events, we are pleased to offer several lectures in the next few months! PVSEC hopes to offer CE credit for all of the lectures and has submitted applications to the State Board of Veterinary Medicine. At press time, the separation anxiety talk on July 15 has been approved for CE credit, all other courses are still pending approval.

Thanks in part to the support of Novartis Animal Health, Dr. Meghan E. Herron, head of the Ohio State University Department of Behavioral Medicine, will lecture at PVSEC on the diagnosis and treatment of separation anxiety in dogs on Thursday, July 15, 2010.

Karen A. Litzinger, a local pet loss grief and career counsellor will present a talk on pet bereavement geared toward veterinary technicians on Wednesday, August 25, 2010.

PVSEC's new cardiologist, Dr. Eva Sikorska, will present a lecture on the warning signs and treatment of pericardial diseases to veterinarians on Thursday, September 16, 2010.

The following week, on Wednesday, September 22, 2010, PVSEC will again host a visiting speaker. Thanks to the support of Pfizer Animal Health, Kimberly Em Knap, Certified Veterinary Technician and Certified Canine Rehabilitation Practitioner, will present a talk to veterinary technicians and veterinarians on common therapeutic exercises and their clinical applications. Dr. George Rodgers, Specialty Hospital Liason with Pfizer Animal Health will contact local general practitioners in an effort to survey the injuries and conditions of most interest to them. Ms. Knap will then incorporate the results of the survey into her discussion of specific therapeutic exercises.

Please contact Andie Furda at [afurda@pvs-ec.com](mailto:afurda@pvs-ec.com) or 412-348-2564 with any questions or suggestions regarding continuing education events at PVSEC.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**July 15, 2010 7:00-8:30 PM**

**"Don't Leave Me Home Alone – Diagnosis and Treatment of Separation Anxiety in Dogs"**  
Presented by Meghan E. Herron, DVM, DACVB  
(1.5 hours DVM CE Credit)

**August 25, 2010 7:00-9:00 PM**

**"Understanding Pet Loss Through Mental Health and Veterinary Perspectives"**  
Presented by Karen A. Litzinger, MA, NCC, LPC  
(2 hours CVT CE Credit, pending board approval)

**September 16, 2010 7:00-9:00 PM**

**"Pericardial Diseases"**  
Presented by Eva Sikorska, DVM, DACVIM  
(Cardiology)  
(1.5 hours DVM CE Credit, pending board approval)

**September 22, 2010 7:00-9:00 PM**

**"Physical Therapy & Rehabilitation in General Practice"**  
Presented by Kim Em Knap, BS, CVT, CCRP  
(2 hours CVT CE Credit, pending board approval)

facebook

BECOME A "FAN" AND FOLLOW US ON...

Dr. Sandra Sargent (PVSEC Dermatology) and several other PVSEC practice owners recently attended seminars on traditional and social media use in the veterinary field. Impressed by the opportunities for timely and effective communications to those people interested in PVSEC events and other information, the practice owners decided to launch a Facebook Fan Page to begin to wade into the "new media" tide that has swept over the world in recent years.

Clients, veterinarians (and even pets!) with facebook pages can become "fans" of PVSEC and receive updates. PVSEC news and upcoming events, interesting cases and information about our departments and doctors will be posted by PVSEC doctors and staff regularly. Clients can also post comments and pictures of their pet to let us know how the pet is doing after leaving the hospital.





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#### **Editor**

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#### **Contributors**

##### PVSEC Welcomes the 2010-2011 Internship Class

Rachel Keller, DVM,  
DACVO (PVSEC –  
Ophthalmology)

##### UPMC Sports Medicine Grand Rounds Hosted by PVSEC

Karen Seger, LVT (PVSEC  
Referral Liaison); John  
Payne, DVM, MS, DACVS  
(PVSEC-Surgery)

##### Seruset Scramble

##### Openings for Golfers, Sponsors

Beverly Seruset, Clinical  
Supervisor (PVSEC-  
Surgery)

##### PVSEC News Outlet:

##### Facebook Fan Page

Karen Seger, LVT (PVSEC  
Referral Liaison); Sandra  
Sargent, DVM, DACVD  
(PVSEC—Dermatology)

## PVSEC WELCOMES 2010-2011 INTERNSHIP CLASS

With the close of the 2009-2010 program year scarcely behind it, PVSEC will welcome four recent veterinary school graduates to its Small Animal Rotating Medicine and Surgical Internship Program on July 1, 2010. Three of the incoming veterinarians are graduates of the Ohio State University and they bring with them a diversity of experiential backgrounds and clinical interests and are eagerly anticipated by the doctors and staff of PVSEC.

A native of Latrobe, PA, Pamela Bollinger, DVM is a 2010 graduate of the Ohio State University, College of Veterinary Medicine. Prior to attending OSU, Dr. Bollinger obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in biology from Pennsylvania State University in 2006. Dr. Bollinger's school breaks were spent working as a veterinary assistant at a private practice in Derry, PA and as a Kennel Assistant at a shelter in Latrobe, PA. While at the Ohio State University, she coordinated the first year of the "Safe Summer Program", which found permanent homes for pets who might otherwise be abandoned at the end of the OSU school year. Dr. Bollinger's clinical interests include both small animal internal medicine and shelter medicine, and she aspires to pursue a residency in internal medicine or work in private, general practice.

Hope Chisnell, DVM also graduated this year from the Ohio State University, College of Veterinary Medicine. As an undergraduate pursuing a Bachelor of Arts degree in biology at the College of Wooster, Dr. Chisnell worked as a Veterinary Assistant in small animal general practice hospitals and interned at the Good Zoo at the Oglebay Resort and Conference Center and also studied abroad in Australia. Both her clinical research experience and externships during veterinary school have focused her clinical interests in the field of surgery, with particular interest in orthopedic, soft tissue and oncologic surgery. After completing her internship with PVSEC, Dr. Chisnell plans to pursue a surgical residency.

Originally from Hailey, Idaho, Matthew Cleveland, DVM, has lived and studied in a variety of places. Prior to obtaining his veterinary degree from St. George's University Veterinary Medical School in 2010, Dr. Cleveland attended Dartmouth College. While pursuing a Bachelor of Arts degree in biochemistry, he also spent a semester studying in Mexico. After graduating from Dartmouth, Dr. Cleveland then spent several years working for orthopedic implant vendors before enrolling in veterinary school. His clinical interests include small animal surgery and he plans to pursue a surgical residency upon completion of the internship program at PVSEC.

Catherine Havemann, DVM earned her undergraduate degree in studio arts and sociology at Smith College and obtained her veterinary degree from the Ohio State University, College of Veterinary Medicine. During veterinary school, Dr. Havemann gained clinical experience in emergency medicine, avian and wildlife medicine and equine research through several internships. By way of externships completed during school breaks, Dr. Havemann also gained experience studying wild and zoo animals in Thailand and both soft tissue surgery and radiation oncology in university settings in the US. After completing the internship program at PVSEC, Dr. Havemann plans to pursue a residency in either surgery or emergency and critical care.

Please join us in welcoming these new doctors to the veterinary field and take the time to introduce yourselves to them at upcoming WPVMA and PVSEC events.

## UPMC SPORTS MEDICINE DEPARTMENT GRAND ROUNDS AT PVSEC



On April 21, 2010, Dr. Freddie Fu, chairman of the UPMC Department of Orthopaedic Surgery – Center for Sports Medicine, conducted grand rounds at PVSEC. Approximately 15 members of the UPMC orthopaedic surgery program and 10 PVSEC doctors were in attendance. Dr. John Payne of the PVSEC Surgery department had collaborated with Dr. Fu in the past, performing an ACL repair on a Pittsburgh Zoo mandrill in 2007 and consulting on ACL research. Dr. Payne opened the event by speaking about canine MPL surgery and Dr. Fu and some of his research team discussed human knee surgeries.

Following the lectures, Dr. Fu and his residents toured the PVSEC hospital with particular attention given to the surgery department. To give his residents additional exposure to comparative anatomy as they prepare to become orthopaedic surgeons, Dr. Fu plans to return to PVSEC next year to conduct the grand rounds lecture on human ACL repair. He is also interested in forming a collaborative relationship between the two medical organizations to further their common interest in knee biomechanics and repair.

## EMERGENCY AND ONCOLOGY DEPARTMENT EXPANSIONS

The PVSEC Emergency department recently welcomed Dr. Kristi Sowers to its staff of 11 full-time emergency veterinarians. Dr. Sowers is originally from Winston-Salem, NC. She attended Appalachian State University, where she earned a degree in graphic arts. After college, Dr. Sowers realized her lifelong dream of being a veterinarian by working as a veterinary technician in Winston-Salem. She attended the University of Tennessee, College of Veterinary Medicine and graduated in 2009. Dr. Sowers moved to Pittsburgh in 2009 and loves everything about it!! She has a special interest in exotic pets (especially turtles and ferrets) and loves emergency medicine. Dr. Sowers is also a member of several veterinary medical associations: the AVMA, PVMA and WPVMA.

A second medical oncologist has joined PVSEC's oncology department: Dr. Todd Erfourth. Dr. Erfourth received his undergraduate degree in biology & chemistry from Albion College in Albion, MI. After receiving his Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree from Michigan State University, he completed a small animal rotating internship at Carolina Veterinary Specialists in Charlotte, NC. Dr. Erfourth completed his residency training as a medical oncologist at Michigan State University and is currently preparing a scholarly article for publication to receive ACVIM diplomate status as a medical oncologist.

## SERUSET SCRAMBLE: OPENINGS FOR GOLFERS, SPONSORS

The second annual "Seruset Scramble" golf classic to benefit the Animal Care & Assistance Fund (ACAF) Animal Blood Bank is set to take place on **Saturday, August 21, 2010** at the Lakeview Golf Course. Beverly Seruset, Clinical Supervisor for PVSEC Surgery and organizer of the golf outing, reports that there are still openings for golf twosomes and foursomes. The fee of \$75 per person includes golf, cart usage, hotdog lunch, snacks, drinks and an awards presentation dinner (with raffles, auctions, prizes and the chance to win a car for a "hole-in-one"). **The registration deadline for golfers is July 21<sup>st</sup>.**

Sponsorship opportunities also exist at various levels from tournament to individual hole to product donations for goodie bags, prizes and auctions. Contact Beverly Seruset for more information at [bevseruset@pvs-ec.com](mailto:bevseruset@pvs-ec.com) or 412-366-3400 ext. 3120.

