

ONTARIO VETERINARY
COLLEGE



UNIVERSITY
of GUELPH

2021-2022
ONTARIO VETERINARY COLLEGE
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL REPORT

IMPROVE LIFE.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AGENDA

10 am Saturday, June 25, 2022

OVC Lifetime Learning Centre



- 1.0 Call to Order..... Dr. Paul Woods
- 2.0 Welcoming Remarks & Land Acknowledgement..... Dr. Paul Woods
- 3.0 Welcome from the Associate Vice President (Advancement) at the University of Guelph, Mr. Jason Moreton
- 4.0 Moment of Silence Dr. Paul Woods
- 5.0 Recognition of Volunteers & Call for Board Members Dr. Paul Woods
- 6.0 Approval of the Agenda Dr. Paul Woods
- 7.0 Approval of the Minutes from the 2021 Annual General Meeting, Saturday, June 26, 2021 Dr. Paul Woods
- 8.0 Business Arising from the Minutes Dr. Paul Woods
- 9.0 Dean’s AddressDr. Jeff Wichtel
- 10.0 President’s Report Dr. Paul Woods
- 11.0 Treasurer’s Report Dr. Chris Doherty
- 11.1 Review Engagement Report
Motion: “Appoint two persons to conduct a review engagement and submit a Review Engagement Report. The two persons should not include the OVC Alumni Association Treasurer.”
- 12.0 Development Report Amy Tremaine
- 13.0 Resolution Approving Acts of the Directors Dr. Paul Woods
Motion: “That all resolutions passed and all acts, contracts and business transacted by the Directors since June 26, 2021, be ratified and confirmed by the members of the Ontario Veterinary College Alumni Association”.
- 14.0 Election and Ratification of Officers Dr. Paul Woods
Motion: “That all officers and directors as listed on the slate be elected”.
- 15.0 Presentation of OVC AA Awards..... Dr. Paul Woods

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

10 am Saturday, June 26th 2021

Zoom



- 1.0 Call to Order & Land Acknowledgement (10:05 AM) Dr. Paul Woods
- 2.0 Welcoming remarks Dr. Paul Woods
- Given the uncertainty caused by the early stages of the COVID-19 pandemic, we made the decision to postpone our 2020 AGM and to gather together virtually now to provide a cumulative OVCAA update since our last general meeting.
- 3.0 Video address from the President of the University of Guelph..... Dr. Charlotte Yates
- 4.0 Moment of Silence Dr. Paul Woods
- 5.0 Recognition of Volunteers & Call for Board Members Dr. Paul Woods
- 6.0 Approval of the Agenda Dr. Paul Woods
- Motioned, seconded, carried
- 7.0 Approval of the Minutes from the 2019 Annual General Meeting, Saturday, June 22nd, 2019
- Motioned, seconded, carried
- 8.0 Business Arising from the Minutes
- None
- 9.0 Dean's Address..... Dr. Jeff Wichtel
- As a founding college, OVC has a rich heritage, and OVC alumni are a strong community.
 - Despite many challenges facing the veterinary profession, OVC students, alumni, faculty and staff have shown great resilience. OVC is proud of our alumni and veterinary colleagues who have continued to offer care to the community, support student learning, continue driving research and to support our rural industries, in spite of these challenges.
 - OVC maintains its rankings as fifth best veterinary school in the world and number one in Canada.
 - Student learning objectives continued to be met throughout the pandemic through a combination of remote classes and physically-distanced in-person learning (in accordance with public health guidelines.)
 - » Students have continued to safely complete clinical rotations and externships - thank you to all alumni who have hosted students in your clinics.
 - » Graduates are well prepared with the competencies they require for their careers as veterinarians in a COVID-19 era.
 - OVC is developing a comprehensive Equity, Diversity and Inclusion plan. The college has engaged an external consultant, and this consultation work will lead to the development of a 5-year EDI strategy. A survey will be sent to alumni as part of this process, and alumni are encouraged to take part.
 - New spaces and renovations at OVC:

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

10 am Saturday, June 26th 2021

Zoom



- Newly renovated Surgery and Anesthesia facilities are now open
- Renovations to the ICU and Critical Care are currently underway
- Enhanced Clinical Learning Building is open, with new teaching spaces and clinical learning models.
- Thank you for your ongoing support of OVC and the college, through class projects, volunteering and mentorship

10.0 President's Report Dr. Paul Woods

- Congratulations to classes with 5- and 10-year anniversaries in 2020 and 2021, in particular OVC 1970 and OVC 1971 as they celebrate their 50th anniversaries.
- The OVCAA's last in-person alumni event prior to the pandemic was the OVCAA Alumni Reception at the OVMA Conference in January 2020.
- The COVID-19 pandemic has had an unprecedented impact on the way we live and work, but OVC alumni have continued to provide exemplary veterinary care, undertake vital research, deliver first-class education, and provide public health guidance and expertise.
- The OVCAA paused in-person events due to the pandemic, but the shift to virtual activities allowed us to connect with alumni in new ways:
 - » The OVCAA partnered with the Toronto Academy of Veterinary Medicine to offer a pre-recorded CE webinar on topics related to emergency medicine in the fall of 2020.
 - » The OVCAA's "OVC Connect: Virtual Alumni Q&A" took place in March 2021. 65 alumni from across North America joined via Zoom for college updates and a conversation with the Dean, followed by a virtual social hour. Given the success of the virtual get-together, the goal is to repeat this event in the future.
- The OVCAA partnered with OVC to support the Ontario Veterinary College White Coat Ceremony, welcoming third-year student veterinarians to their clinical year. The OVCAA sponsored the white coats presented to students during the ceremony, as the OVCAA's student activity sponsorship of choice.
- The Words of Wisdom project for the incoming OVC class continues to be appreciated, alumni invited to provide more!
- Thanks again to the board members for all their work over the course of the year, and welcome to our newest Board member, Dr. Amy Butler, OVC 2009.

11.0 Treasurer's Report Dr. Chris Doherty

- The financial review will include both the 2019-20 and 2020-21 fiscal years
- 2019-20 endowment results were negative, but the market corrected and resulted in an unrealized gain in 2020-21 that more than offset the unrealized loss from 2019-20.
- Expenses and revenues were both low due to the pandemic's impact on in-person events.
- Expenses over the past two years were primarily in support of student scholarships and expenses for virtual events.
- Balance sheet remains strong.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

10 am Saturday, June 26th 2021

Zoom



11.1 Review Engagement Report

Motion: “Appoint two persons to conduct a review engagement and submit a Review Engagement Report. The two persons should not include the OVC Alumni Association Treasurer.”

- Motioned, seconded, carried

12.0 Development Report Amy Tremaine

- OVC alumni continue to maintain their strong connections to their classmates, colleagues and college:
 - » When the pandemic hit, alumni reached out to ask if they could help support students.
 - » Alumni classes held virtual reunions and class get-togethers
 - » First-ever virtual OVC Alumni Q&A with the Dean had alumni from 7 provinces and 4 states. This new format provided OVC and alumni new opportunities to discuss key issues facing the veterinary profession.
- Alumni class project tradition remains strong, with 20 active class projects.
- Alumni have also supported OVC through individual gifts to support areas such as scholarships, veterinary well-being and OVC Pet Trust.
- Thank you to the alumni who have given their time by acting as mentors, volunteering for the virtual personal interviews during the admissions process, hosting externship students in their clinics, and as part of the OVCAA Board.

13.0 Resolution Approving Acts of the Directors

Motion: “That all resolutions passed and all acts, contracts and business transacted by the Directors since June 22nd 2019, be ratified and confirmed by the members of the Ontario Veterinary College Alumni Association.”

- Motioned, seconded, carried

14.0 Election and Ratification of Officers..... Dr. Paul Woods

Motion: “That all officers and directors as listed on the slate be elected.”

- Motioned, seconded, carried

15.0 Presentation of OVC AA Awards..... Dr. Paul Woods

- Young Alumni Award: Dr. Katie Clow (OVC 2011)
- Alumni Volunteer Award: Dr. Karyn Jones (OVC 2000)

16.0 Adjournment 11:00 AM

2021
2022

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Paul Woods,
President, OVC Alumni Association

To begin, let us congratulate all of the classes celebrating milestone anniversaries in 2022, including the class of OVC 1972 who are celebrating their 50th anniversary of graduation during Alumni Weekend. Whether you are gathering together for an in-person reunion either now or in the future, or meeting virtually for a reunion this year, we hope you and your classmates have the opportunity to connect with one another to celebrate these important milestones.

The OVC Alumni Association AGM marks our first in-person alumni event since the OVCAA Alumni Reception at the OVMA Conference and Trade show in Toronto in January of 2020. Since then, much has changed. It goes without saying that the COVID-19 pandemic has had an unprecedented impact on the way we all live and work.

Despite these many challenges, OVC alumni have been resourceful and resilient, continuing to provide exemplary veterinary care, undertake vital research, deliver first-class education, and provide public health guidance and expertise throughout the pandemic. We're incredibly proud of our alumni, and all that they contribute to our profession and to their communities.

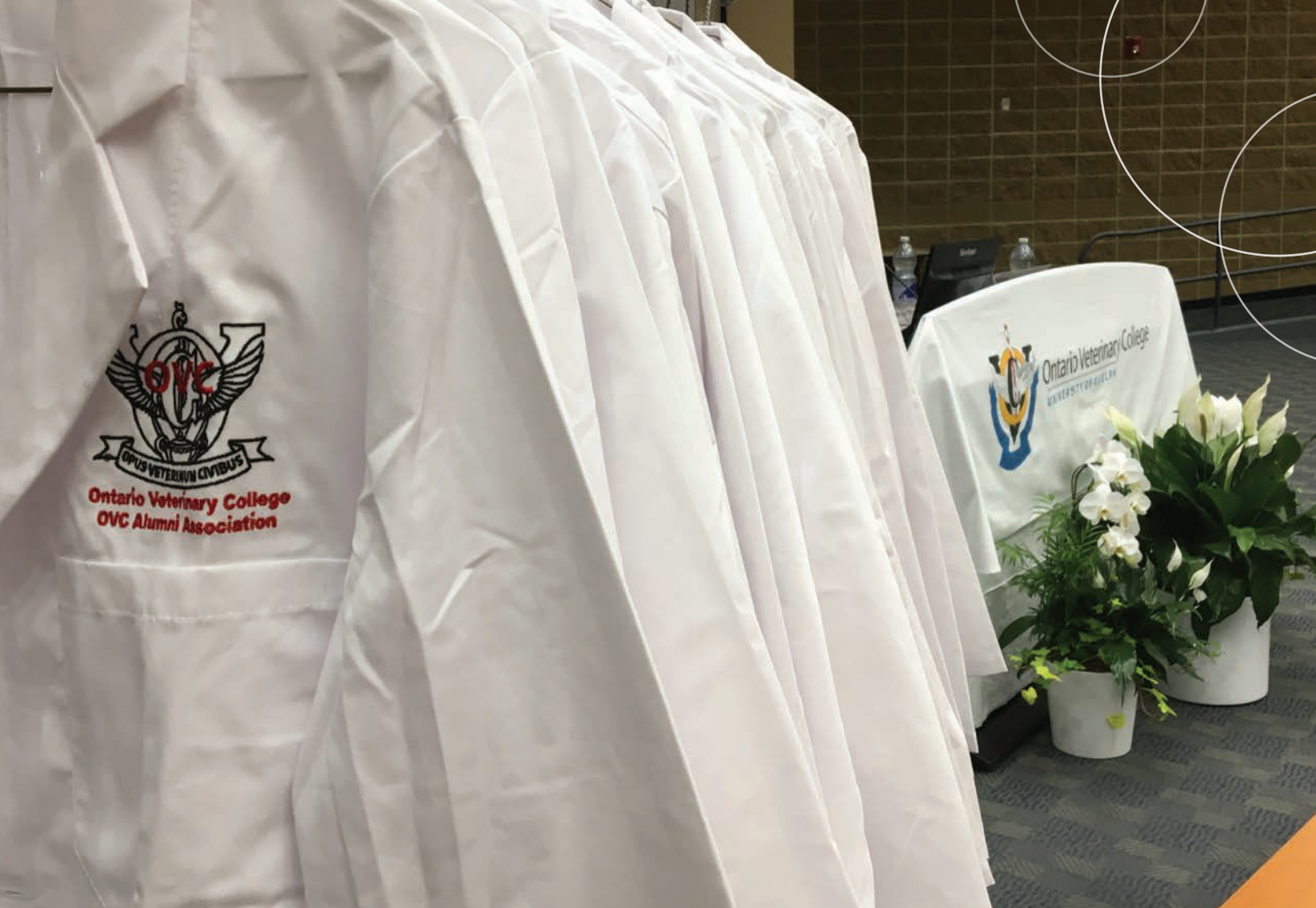
While the pandemic meant that we had to pause our usual OVCAA events, the shift to virtual activities has offered the opportunity to connect with many of you in new ways. As we look forward to 2022-23, we are excited to begin hosting our in-person events again, while

continuing to connect with alumni across North America through virtual offerings. We encourage you to watch for updates about upcoming events in your email.

In March of 2022, the OVCAA hosted our 2nd annual OVC Connect: Virtual Alumni Q&A with OVC Dean Jeff Wichtel. This year, we were joined by two exceptional alumni guest speakers: Dr. Andria Jones-Bitton (OVC 2000) presented on Mental Health and Well-Being in the Veterinary Profession, and Dr. Melanie Barham (OVC 2007) spoke about Top Trends for Retaining and Recruiting Staff in a Post-COVID World. More than 45 alumni from across Canada and the USA joined us via Zoom for college updates, our guest speakers, and a Q&A with Dr. Wichtel, Dr. Jones-Bitton and Dr. Barham. The formal program was followed by a virtual social hour for alumni to connect with classmates and colleagues.

The OVCAA also partnered with OVC to support the Ontario Veterinary College White Coat Ceremony, which welcomes the third-year student veterinarians to their fourth and clinical year. Last year, the OVCAA selected sponsorship for the white coats presented to students as part of the ceremony as our student activity sponsorship of choice, and we were pleased to be able to attend this year's ceremony in person to welcome OVC students to their clinical year.

Finally, our "Words of Wisdom" project continues to be a success, and we encourage alumni to submit their helpful words of advice or encouragement for the incoming OVC Class



of 2026. These comments will be placed in the pocket of the lab coat that the students receive as part of their Professional Welcoming Ceremony in September. If you would like to submit your words of wisdom, please contact the OVCAA.

With the academic year coming to a close, it is my pleasure to thank the entire OVCAA Board of Directors for all of their hard work over the past year. In particular, I would like to thank Dr. Maureen Anderson, OVC 2003, for all of her contributions to the OVC Alumni Association. Dr. Anderson is stepping down from the OVCAA Board this year after an incredible 17 years of service, and on behalf of the Alumni Association, I would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to Maureen for her dedication and immeasurable contributions to the OVCAA. We would also like to congratulate our Phase 4 OVCAA Student

Representative, Dr. Bethany Bass of OVC 2022, on her recent graduation.

Finally, I would like to mention the help that the OVC Alumni Association has received from Amy Tremaine of Alumni Affairs and Development at the University of Guelph.

We hope that you all are staying safe and healthy, and we look forward to seeing you virtually or in person in the year ahead!

2021
2022

DEAN'S REPORT: 2021-2022

Dr. Jeffrey Wichtel,
Dean, Ontario Veterinary College

It is a pleasure to connect with all of you for the Ontario Veterinary College Alumni Association Annual General Meeting after an extended in-person pause.

Without question, there have been many challenges over the past two years for our community as we navigate the various challenges related to the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as the complex and evolving pressures on the veterinary profession and in health-related industries.

Our faculty, staff, students and alumni have demonstrated courage, commitment and perseverance, continuing to pursue innovative discovery and high standards of excellence in teaching and care.

More than ever, the world needs the exceptional skillset that our graduates and alumni will bring, to solve today's problems and ensure that we are prepared for whatever comes next.

Here are a few of the initiatives we have underway at OVC and some examples of the many ways our community is helping make the world a better place.

Accreditation - the foundation for a world-class veterinary medical program

We are rapidly approaching our next accreditation site visit, which will take place October 23 to 27, 2022, one piece in our on-going American Veterinary Medical Association / Canadian Veterinary Medical Association accreditation process.

Of course, accreditation encompasses much more than the actual visit. A critical component is a self-study prepared by the college and submitted in advance to the site visit team, reporting on 11 accreditation standards: organization, finances, physical facilities and

equipment, clinical resources, information resources, students, admissions, faculty, curriculum, research programs and outcomes assessment.

Accreditation sets a worldwide standard for quality in veterinary medicine education, assuring our students and our community that the college's academic program measures up against international standards. It confirms for alumni, employers and the veterinary industry that they can count on our graduates being 'day one ready' when they join the workforce.

It also contributes to setting our college apart as a world leader in education, research and training. We excel in each of these areas and our successful accreditation recognizes this.

OVC ranks first in Canada - top five worldwide for veterinary schools

For the third year in a row, the Ontario Veterinary College (OVC) placed fifth worldwide and first in Canada among veterinary schools in the 2021 World University Rankings.

The Quacquarelli Symonds ranking methodology focuses on academic reputation, employer reputation, citations per paper, and h-index, which measures both the productivity and impact of researchers.

OVC held onto its fifth-place ranking from 2020 and 2021 and has consistently placed in the top 10 since QS first included veterinary science in its rankings in 2015.

This ranking is a welcome recognition of OVC's world-class research and teaching to improve the health of animals, people and the environment. Our exceptional faculty, staff and students work tirelessly to advance veterinary medicine and health research for the betterment of animals, people and our planet, bringing value to communities, research partners and the regional economy.

Equity, Diversity and Inclusion at OVC

In 2021, OVC embarked on a journey to develop a comprehensive Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) strategy to build a more inclusive and engaged workplace and learning environment for its faculty, staff and students, and to leverage its unique role in higher education to foster diversity and inclusion in the veterinary profession and the broader health sciences community.

OVC engaged HRx Technology, a Canadian firm that provides training, consulting, and data analytics to enable equity, diversity, and inclusion in the workplace, to design and administer a self-assessment study among faculty, staff, students, alumni and partners to measure baseline dimensions of equity, diversity and inclusion across the college,

and to better understand how these issues impact the experiences of the individuals who participated.

In early 2022, HRx concluded their work and provided OVC with a comprehensive report that defines the college's current state and aspirations for EDI including key themes and findings, guiding principles, and recommendations to inform decisions going forward.

The OVC community is now working to establish a comprehensive 5-year plan with actionable short, medium and long terms goals, beginning with the appointment of a leadership position to direct EDI activities. This role is expected to be filled in the summer of 2022.

OVC unveils modernized surgery, anesthesia and critical care facilities in Health Sciences Centre

Over the past six years, OVC's Health Sciences Centre (HSC) has undergone substantial renovations to construct new surgery and anesthesia facilities and expand its critical care and specialty services, including the intensive care unit (ICU), with all new spaces anticipated to be fully operational in the fall of 2022.

The advancements made to the facilities are possible thanks to an investment of \$23-million from the province of Ontario and \$17.36-million raised through fundraising campaigns led by OVC Pet Trust.

The new James Slaight Advanced Surgical Complex, built with the support of a \$2.5-million donation from La Fondation Emmanuelle Gattuso, offers new operating rooms, including the first minimally invasive surgical suite at a Canadian veterinary school with advanced biosecurity, anesthesia and pain administration units, computer-controlled technology, endoscopic procedures and equipment, and a controlled post-operative environment.

Upgrades to the HSC's ICU have expanded the unit by approximately 50 per cent, allowing for the implementation of design elements to improve

Dean's Report

patient experiences, such as increased patient privacy and zoned lighting areas, which help patients in post-surgical recovery get some much-needed rest. Additionally, OVC will gain two specialty suites for its neurology and ophthalmology services.

Improvements to the critical care space are supported with a \$4.2-million bequest from the late Catherine Bergeron, a long-time OVC Pet Trust supporter. The unit will be named the Catherine Bergeron Centre for Urgent and Critical Care.

Envisioning a more equitable future for veterinary education and healthcare

In November 2019, longtime Ontario Veterinary College (OVC) and OVC Pet Trust supporters Kim and Stu Lang made a transformational \$11-million donation to the college through their Angel Gabriel Foundation to create the Kim and Stu Lang Community Healthcare Partnership Program (CHPP).

The program brings OVC faculty, veterinarians and clinical staff, students and partners together to expand animal healthcare for vulnerable populations and, ultimately, help shape a more equitable future for veterinary education and care.

In early 2022, OVC announced the appointment of several key leadership positions in CHPP.

Dr. Lynn Henderson, OVC DVM 2007, has been appointed the Veterinary Director of CHPP. She will lead the program's clinical and learning teams who are engaged in community service and service learning, as well as oversee the relationships and partnerships between OVC and many community stakeholders and committed organizations with a focus on improving access to veterinary care. In addition, Dr. Henderson will be responsible for the learning environment for student veterinarians from all four phases at OVC.

Dr. Lauren Van Patter, the newly appointed Kim & Stu Lang Professor in Community & Shelter

Medicine, will lead the research enterprise. Her community-based research will focus on understanding barriers faced by marginalized communities who are underserved or do not have adequate access to veterinary care. This information will inform the future directions of the program and how the program can best serve the needs of the community. It will also ask broader questions about wellbeing in more-than-human communities and multispecies justice. In addition, her research will study the learning outcomes and impact of this program on student veterinarians and their future careers.

Meghan Longley was appointed to the role of Clinical Services Manager. In this role, she will provide critical strategic and operational support for the clinical program and student veterinarians participating in the program.

Ontario Veterinary College awards first OVC Legacy Medal to Mary and Roger Warren

OVC has honoured Roger Warren and his late wife Mary's contributions to the college by naming them the inaugural recipients of the newly established OVC Legacy Medal.

In presenting Roger with this prestigious award and honouring Mary posthumously, the college commemorated the Warrens' 35-year legacy of supporting OVC Pet Trust through veterinary learning, pet healthcare, and innovation in companion animal medicine.

The OVC Legacy Medal recognizes outstanding voluntary and philanthropic efforts that have contributed to OVC's progress in pursuit of its mission to improve life by creating healthier futures for animals, people and the environment.

Mary and Roger, through their education- and research-focused charity, the Rathlyn Foundation, have been extremely generous donors to the OVC. Their support includes contributions to OVC Pet Trust, the creation of student bursaries, and support for capital projects. Most profoundly, they have influenced

the nature of OVC's research and graduate programs by creating nine endowed funds for Doctor of Veterinary Science (DVSc) students – advancing clinical training for veterinarians pursuing a specialized area of veterinary medicine to become board-certified specialists.

OVC veterinarians and students help vaccinate Guelph community against COVID-19

In December 2021, Ontario was nearly two years into the fight against COVID-19 and was facing new variants of the virus as the holiday period approached. As case counts continued to rise, public demand for vaccines peaked in Guelph.

When a legislative change came into effect allowing Doctors of Veterinary Medicine (DVMs) to administer COVID-19 vaccines under the supervision of regulated health professionals, Wellington Dufferin Guelph (WDG) Public Health called upon OVC. A team of nine OVC faculty and student veterinarians volunteered to vaccinate their community and support their colleagues in human healthcare.

Dr. Brad Hanna (OVC DVM 1989, MSc 1992, PhD 1997), a professor in OVC's Department of Biomedical Sciences, was one of the nine individuals who participated. He shares that, "after almost two years of living through this pandemic, it was a relief to have an opportunity to help in an active manner."

Reflecting on the success of this initiative, Hanna anticipates that veterinarians' involvement in public health won't stop here. "WDG was the only public health unit in the province that employed veterinarians to perform any clinical procedure on humans during the pandemic, which I understand is a first in Ontario history. I think the setting of this precedent is the main long-term benefit of our collaboration with public health, and that veterinarians everywhere will soon be viewed as one of the standard resources for responding to human health emergencies in the future."

OVC and U of G's new DVM-MPH combined degree program

A new program at the U of G and OVC will allow student veterinarians to complete both a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) and Master of Public Health (MPH) degree in a reduced overall number of semesters.

The combined DVM/MPH program will provide future veterinary graduates with formal training in public health in addition to their veterinary medical training and is intended to support graduates working in traditional clinical settings, as well as those who wish to pursue alternative careers in public or animal health. See onehealth.uoguelph.ca/dvm-mph/ for more information

New U of G Bachelor of One Health Program

A first-of-its-kind Bachelor of One Health (BOH) degree program will debut at the U of G in fall 2022.

The four-year undergraduate degree program will focus on One Health – a growing field that is based on the three pillars of human, animal and ecosystem health.

The program will be delivered by the College of Biological Science and the Department of Integrative Biology, in collaboration with the College of Social and Applied Human Sciences, the Ontario Agricultural College and the Ontario Veterinary College. It will draw on the University's strengths in agriculture, environment and biodiversity science, animal biology and veterinary medicine, health and life science, social science, environmental governance, culture and community engagement.

2021
2022

HONOURS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE REPORT

Each year, the OVC Alumni Association highlights the accomplishments and contributions of a few of our outstanding alumni. The **OVCAA Distinguished Alumni** award recognizes OVC graduates who have brought honour to their alma mater and fellow alumni through their contributions to alumni affairs, education, community, their profession, country and the sciences. The **OVCAA Young Alumni** award recognizes alumni who have made a significant contribution in their field within 15 years of graduation. The **OVCAA Alumni Volunteer** award celebrates OVC graduates who bring honour and recognition to the College by giving generously of their time within the college, in their community or veterinary organizations.

OVC Alumni Association Awards

Ontario Veterinary College Alumni Association **ALUMNI AWARDS**



2022 OVCAA Distinguished Alumni Award **Dr. Ira Zaslow, OVC 1970**

Dr. Ira Zaslow graduated with a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) degree from the Ontario Veterinary College in 1970, and is a Charter Diplomate, Emergency and Critical Care Medicine from the American College of Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care.

Since his graduation, Dr. Zaslow has dedicated his career to advancing the discipline of veterinary emergency and critical care medicine. One of the four founding fathers of the Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care Society (VECCS) and the American College of Veterinary Emergency Critical Care, Dr. Zaslow was also the first veterinary member of the Human Society of Critical Care Medicine, a unique honor he held exclusively for more than 20 years. In the late 1980s, Dr. Zaslow organized the first International Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care Symposium (IVECCS),

which currently draws more than 4000 attendees.

In 1994, the Zaslow Distinguished Service Award at VECCS was created in Dr. Zaslow's honour, recognizing individuals demonstrating exceptional commitment and dedication while making significant contributions to the practice of veterinary emergency critical care.

Dr. Zaslow published numerous journal articles throughout his career, and in 1984 he edited the Veterinary Trauma and Critical Care textbook. This was the first textbook to appear in this field and remained a standby for decades as it heralded the importance and recognition of this vital specialty.

As a busy practitioner both in New England and in Florida, Dr. Zaslow deeply believed in the need and value of emergency and critical care to offer the highest possible standard of care. Dr. Zaslow regularly invited highly recognized specialists to his practice to provide Continuing Education programs not only for his own clinicians and staff, but also for the local veterinary community. In addition, Dr. Zaslow was responsible for residency training of several individuals in the emergency and critical care specialty.

Dr. Zaslow also saw a need for greater inclusivity and diversity in the veterinary profession, and lobbied for greater inclusivity in veterinary school admissions for students from underrepresented communities who wished to pursue veterinary medicine.

In honour of Dr. Zaslow's legacy as a visionary in the field of veterinary emergency and critical care, as a mentor and educator, and as a leader in the veterinary profession, the OVC Alumni Association is honoured to name Dr. Ira Zaslow as this year's OVC Alumni Association Distinguished Alumni.



2022 OVCAA Young Alumni Award **Dr. Scott Stevenson, OVC 2013**

Dr. Scott Stevenson graduated from the Ontario Veterinary College with a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) degree in 2013, and is part owner of Thousand Islands Veterinary Services in eastern Ontario, where he is known for providing an exceptional quality of care for pets and clients.

Throughout his career, Scott has played an important role in advancing Lyme disease awareness in Canada. In addition to his commitments in general practice, he has given many talks to veterinarians, technicians and members of the public on the changing risk of exposure to ticks and tick-borne diseases in dogs, cats and people across Canada.

Scott has brought significant awareness to multiple areas of companion animal parasitology across Canada through his activities as a Board Member of the Companion Animal Parasite Council (CAPC) in the USA. Scott has been a very active member of the Canadian Parasitology Expert Panel, where he has made substantive contributions to the development of evidence-based guidelines for controlling parasites in dogs and cats across Canada, and has taken an active role in promoting these guidelines to Canadian veterinarians. Dr. Stevenson was also one of a number of veterinarians that were asked to provide feedback on the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine's most recent consensus statement on Lyme disease.

Dr. Stevenson has also been influential in shaping the conversation around mental health in veterinary medicine. Through presentations to members of the veterinary profession and through social media, Scott works actively to increase awareness around mental health. Scott values the importance of mental health, support and connection and makes this a top priority within his team at the clinic.

One of Dr. Stevenson's colleagues shared this summary of Scott's impact on the veterinary profession: "It is not just Scott's technical knowledge that sets him apart; he has a genuine desire to get involved, educate, create awareness around ticks and tick-borne diseases, and tackle some of the major challenges that the veterinary sector faces. His dedication both in his everyday work at his practice and in the broader field of veterinary medicine has led to strong trusting relationships with his clients, his peers, and his colleagues." In recognition of his many contributions to the veterinary profession, the OVC Alumni Association is honoured to recognize Dr. Scott Stevenson as this year's OVCAA Young Alumni.



2022 OVCAA Alumni Volunteer Award **Dr. Richard Barnett, OVC '73**

Dr. Richard Barnett graduated with a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) degree from the Ontario Veterinary College in 1973. Following his graduation, he worked in Alberta and later Nova Scotia before returning to his hometown of Essex, Ontario. Dr. Barnett worked at the Essex Animal Clinic before opening his own large animal practice four years later. This practice evolved first into a mixed practice and later into a focus on companion animals.

During his time in large animal practice, Dr. Barnett had the pleasure of hosting students as part of OVC's externship program. He also served as President of the Essex-Kent Veterinary Association and as Treasurer for the Ontario Association of Swine Practitioners.

Dr. Barnett's volunteerism was inspired by his parents. His father volunteered for the Canadian Armed Forces, and both Dr. Barnett's father and mother were active volunteers in their community. Dr. Barnett was also inspired by his employers and veterinary colleagues Dr. Brown and Dr. McKelvie, both of whom epitomized the Rotary motto, "Service Above Self."

Inspired by these examples, Dr. Barnett joined his local Rotary Club, where he has served as President, Treasurer, Secretary, and on various committees for over 20 years. Rick's efforts with the Rotary Club included fundraising to support both local and international initiatives, including student exchange programs and scholarships, the Essex Food Bank, Citizen of the Year, support for Hospice of Windsor and Essex County, the Rotary centenary mural, Little Libraries, and international programs supporting polio eradication, eye care clinics, and infrastructure for clean water and irrigation. Rick was twice named Rotarian of the Year by his Rotary Club for service to his club and community.

Rick also serves on the Board of Directors for Heritage Essex, which oversees the restoration and management of the Historic Essex Railway Station and maintains a large collection of railroad artifacts, a railway library, and sponsors the largest model train show and exhibit in Southwestern Ontario each year. Two of Rick's favorite projects were the restoration of the WWI Cannon on display in front of the Essex Town Hall, and the restoration of the 135 year old railroad baggage cart which can be seen in front of the station.

When asked about his volunteerism, Rick states, "A small group of volunteers, each doing a little bit, can produce amazing results. I hope I have done my bit." In recognition of Dr. Barnett's contributions to his community and his willingness to selflessly volunteer his time in support of others, the OVC Alumni Association is pleased to name Dr. Richard Barnett as this year's OVCAA Alumni Volunteer.

Ontario Veterinary College Alumni Association
2021-22 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



OVC Alumni Association Spirit Prize (Phase 2)
Melissa Muzzatti

Phase 2 student veterinarian Melissa Muzzatti serves as a co-president of the Class of 2024, the Topaz Turtles, and leads her class with energy and enthusiasm.

She writes, “I am one of the co-presidents of the amazing 2024 class, the Topaz Turtles. We have been through a lot this year, and I am happy to be a part of such an encouraging and persevering group. I could have not made it this far without my amazing classmates. I am very grateful and honoured to have received this award. This award encourages me to enter our next semester with positivity and inspiration.”



I would like to thank my amazing class, the 2024 Topaz Turtles, for their nomination and continuous support and teamwork throughout our time here at OVC. They have been the reason my experience here at OVC has been a good one. I would like to also thank the donors for making this award possible. The opportunity to be nominated has been such an honour and the award itself will help me with my continued studies.

“

I am so grateful to the Alumni Association for the funds. I intend to use them to offset costs associated with an upcoming externship in the U.S.



OVC Alumni Association Spirit Prize (Phase 3)

Tyler O'Brien

Phase 3 student veterinarian Tyler O'Brien expects to graduate in 2023. He has earned this award in part because of his leadership in organizing extracurricular events through association with the OTS Veterinary Fraternity.

He writes, "I've been working with the Fraternity, planning events for our members so that they can build connections with each other and take time away from school. Our peers are the best support system we have, and I feel that learning to incorporate some time away from our responsibilities will be important for longevity in the veterinary profession."



Wildlife populations are critically important for food security, livelihood and the physical and mental health of geographically dispersed communities in addition to the many ecological services that they provide. Therefore, I am committed to dedicating my career to the protection and promotion of healthy wildlife populations; your support goes a long way toward helping me achieve this goal! Thank you for your generous support of my research and the wider field of wildlife health! This award will contribute to my ability to continue my research as well as communicate my results to a wider audience.



**Dr. Margaret A.B. Maxwell
Memorial Scholarship**
Jolene Giacinti

The Margaret A.B. Maxwell Memorial Scholarship was established to honour Dr. Margaret A.B. Maxwell's commitment to the protection of wildlife, and the 2021-22 scholarship has been awarded to Jolene Giacinti. Jolene is currently completing a PhD in Pathobiology, and expects to graduate in August 2022.

Jolene's doctoral training is focused on current wildlife health issues, the application and limitations of different surveillance methodologies, and epidemiological risk assessment.

Following her graduation, Jolene's goal is to work at the provincial, national, and international level and across sectors to promote wildlife health in policy and practice.

Dr. Robert Clarke MPH Public Health Poster Prize Monica Kopec

The Dr. Robert Clarke MPH Public Health Poster Prize was created by the OVC Alumni Association to recognize the best student poster presented at the annual MPH Public Health Forum at OVC. The 2021-22 recipient of the Dr. Robert Clarke MPH Public Health Prize is Monica Kopec, who was recognized for her poster on Improving Access to Patient Education.

Improving Access to Patient Education: Auditing Extant Educational Materials

Monica Kopec, Naa Kwariye Quartey ^{MD}, Michelle Snow ^{MS}, Andrew Stechkevich, Janet Papadacos ^{PHD}, MEd

Background

- Health information exchange between provider and patient, along with patient participation in their care can lead to improved health outcomes.
- A step towards achieving better outcomes is the systematic provision of education materials to patients and caregivers throughout the cancer trajectory.
- Patient education (PE) collections were audited within cancer centre clinics to identify gaps by:
 - Cancer type
 - Topic
- Results will be presented to clinics for material development planning.

Objective

To conduct a site-specific PE material audit to establish priorities for material development toward improving equal access for patients and caregivers, regardless of cancer type.

Methods

1. Clinic specific PE materials were identified and categorized by **cancer type and site**.
2. Material content was audited under each category:
 - About Cancer/Disease
 - Medical Tests & Imaging
 - Treatments
 - Symptom Management
 - Rehabilitation/Survivorship
 - General Wellbeing
 - Medical Device Care
 - Practical
 - Other
3. Totals for each topic were summed and analyzed for **education development planning**.



13
Outpatient
Clinics

443
Education
Materials

9
Audit
Categories



Depending on cancer diagnosis, patients may not get the **educational materials** they need.



The Impact?
Educational inequalities among cancer patients and caregivers.

Results

Figure 1: Total material counts across outpatient units.

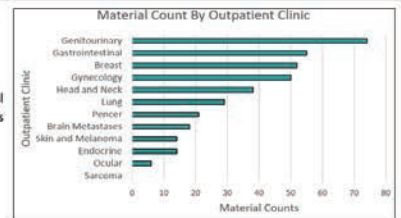


Figure 2: Total audit counts across outpatient units.



Key Points

- Material Counts**

While some clinics have extensive PE collections as a whole, when broken down into individual cancer type, a **material death exists for several cancers.**

Audit Counts

Across the 9 audit categories, **Treatment** related materials were most abundant (277) followed by **About Cancer/Disease** (134) and **Symptom Management** (120).

Conclusions

1. The audit was a useful method to get a high level view of PE **material gaps** at a cancer centre.
2. There is no specific number of materials that is considered appropriate to meet the needs of patients and caregivers. **Needs assessments** should be conducted accordingly.

References

[1] Chen, M., Sheng, G., and Sun, T. (2018). Does Health Information Exchange Improve Patient Outcomes? Empirical Evidence from Florida Hospitals. *Health Affairs* 38.2: 197204-204A. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0200000>

[2] Biondolano, H., & Desautels, J. (2017). The complexity of shaping self-management in daily practice. *Health Expectations: An International Journal of Public Health, Care and Health Policy*, 20(5), 192-200. <https://doi.org/10.1111/hex.12600>

[3] American Cancer Society (2019). *What Is a Soft Tissue Sarcoma?* Retrieved August 8, 2021 from: <https://www.cancer.org/cancer/soft-tissue-sarcoma/about/what-is-soft-tissue-sarcoma.html>

OVC Alumni Give Back

2021-22



\$315,000+

in OVC alumni donations to the Ontario Veterinary College

16+ active alumni class projects

supporting scholarships and bursaries, student well-being, experiential learning, the OVC Barker Veterinary Museum and Archives, and capital improvements at OVC



**55+ alumni
volunteered**

for the DVM admissions interviews and as mentors for student veterinarians

600+ OVC alumni participated

in the OVC Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Insight survey to help inform the development of the College's equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) strategic plan

OVC Alumni also gave back to their alma mater by...



Supporting
OVC Pet Trust



Hosting students
in your clinics



Volunteering as expert speakers
for DVM student clubs

...and in many other ways!



THANK YOU!

OVC Alumni, for your support
of the Ontario Veterinary College!

2021
2022

PROPOSED SLATE OF OFFICERS

OVC Alumni Association Board of Directors

President – Paul Woods, OVC 1985

Vice President – open

Past President – Matt Spiegler, OVC 2008

Secretary – open

Treasurer – Chris Doherty, OVC 2013

Directors

Colleen Best, OVC 2009

Lynn Broadhurst, OVC 1977

Amy Butler, OVC 2009

Peter Conlon, OVC 1980

Tiffany Durzi, OVC 2000

Joanne Hewson, OVC 1996

Tamara Hofstede, OVC 2004

Bob Van Delst, OVC 1995

Student Representatives

Elizabeth Teel, OVC 2023

Catherine Peckham, OVC 2024

Daniella Yusuf, OVC 2025

Class of OVC 2026 Student Representative to be selected in Fall 2022

To learn more about how to get involved with the
Ontario Veterinary College Alumni Association please contact:

AMY TREMAINE

Alumni Advancement Manager
Ontario Veterinary College
519-824-4120 ext. 56679
Email: ovcadv@uoguelph.ca
www.ovc.uoguelph.ca/alumni/



OVC Alumni Association Report 2021-2022

This report has been prepared for members of the OVC Alumni Association
and the Ontario Veterinary College, University of Guelph.



UNIVERSITY
of GUELPH

IMPROVE LIFE.



[Facebook.com/ontvetcollege](https://www.facebook.com/ontvetcollege)

Twitter and Instagram: @ontvetcollege

University of Guelph charitable registration number: 10816 1829 RR 0001