

# NEWS FROM THE NCVP

**SPRING 2013**

## Welcome from the Directors



*Susan Little, DVM,  
PhD, DACVM-Parasit.*

It's spring at the NCVP and the parasites are blooming!

As you'll see in this newsletter, we've had a busy few months at the National Center. Our residents are achieving success in their training programs and new residents are soon to join them; we've established a collaboration with the Companion Animal Parasite Council to provide quality parasitology continuing education content to veterinarians; and we've built an enhanced parasite image database for use by those teaching and learning veterinary parasitology around the world.

The NCVP is capitalizing on the opportunity to assist those interested in the future of veterinary parasitology in reaching their goals. [Contact us](#) to find out how you can be part of the NCVP.

Warm regards, Susan and Mason



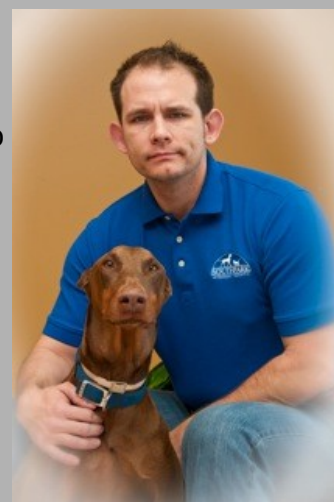
*Mason Reichard, MS, PhD*

## Watch out for Dr. Chris Adolph, NCVP Resident!

In December of 2012, Veterinary Practice News came out with their list of "[25 Vets to Watch in 2013](#)" — those vets identified as up-and-coming, poised to do great things for veterinary medicine — and who was at the top? Dr. Chris Adolph, NCVP resident, currently finishing his MS degree at the National Center for Veterinary Parasitology.

As he states in the article, "[Through the NCVP], I became acquainted with the leading parasitologists in the country. They have inspired me to take my professional development to the next level." Dr. Adolph will defend his MS degree this summer and then plans to spend some time preparing for the board exam in parasitology through the American College of Veterinary Microbiology.

In recognition of his academic achievements, Chris was also recently invited to join Phi Kappa Phi, a national collegiate academic honor society. Congratulations, Chris!



*Chris Adolph, DVM, MS (2013)*

## Parasite Image Database



***Amblyomma americanum***

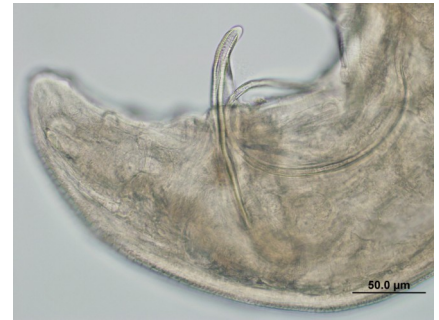
Many years ago, Dr. J. Carl Fox, a Professor at Oklahoma State University's Center for Veterinary Health Sciences, compiled an online image database to aid those engaged in teaching and learning veterinary parasitology. Images were also contributed by Drs. Helen Jordan, Sidney Ewing, and Alan Kocan.

This [parasite image database](#) is highly accessed and has been used by parasitologists and students all over the world. Dr. Fox's database is linked as a resource on VIN and cited on Parasite World. NCVP staff are currently updating the site to enhance the interface and improve image quality so that the resource can continue to support veterinary parasitology instruction in the future.



***Mesocestoides* sp. embryo**

The posted images are available to anyone for educational use in lectures, presentations, or discussions of parasites and parasitic diseases. However, they should not be published or used for commercial purposes. If you need an image for publication, please contact us with a specific request via email to [ncvp@okstate.edu](mailto:ncvp@okstate.edu).



***Thelazia californiensis* spicule**



**Dr. Eileen Johnson, DVM, MS, PhD**

## New Diagnostic Laboratory for NCVP

Oklahoma State University's diagnostic veterinary parasitology laboratory has been housed in the Boren Veterinary Teaching Hospital at the Center for Veterinary Health Sciences for over 20 years. Due to expanded service and research obligations, the diagnostic lab is moving to a larger space across the street in the Oklahoma Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory.

The expanded space provided by the new lab more than doubles the square footage of the laboratory and increases available bench space, allowing room for more equipment. The larger laboratory is also centrally located in a busy diagnostic lab and so provides more ready access tools to support our diagnostic services, such as microtiter plate readers and fluorescent microscopes.

The extra room is also sure to be appreciated by the forth-year veterinary students and visiting scientists who rotate through our clinical service, gaining experience in veterinary parasitology. If you are interested in spending a week or three in our diagnostic service as a fourth-year externship or a board preparation experience, please contact us at [ncvp@okstate.edu](mailto:ncvp@okstate.edu).

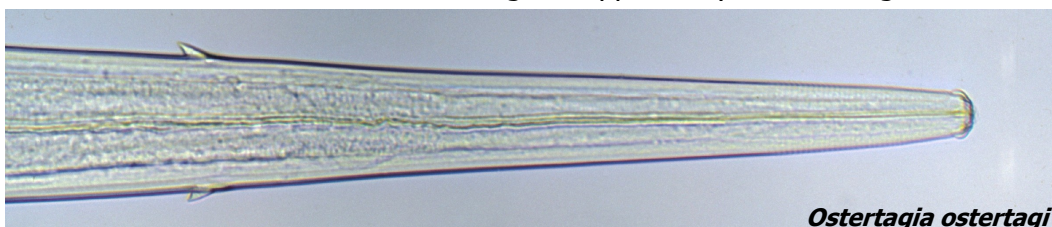
*Dr. Eileen Johnson, Director, Parasitology Diagnostic Section, and Becky Duncan-Decocq, Laboratory Technician (not pictured) will be moving into their new laboratory in May of 2013.*

## Great (Parasite) Minds...

Dr. Chris Carpenter, Executive Director of the [Companion Animal Parasite Council](#), has visited the NCVP twice in the past few months to foster collaborative projects between the two groups. Accompanied on the first trip by Dr. Jason Drake, Novartis Animal Health, Drs. Carpenter and Drake met with NCVP faculty, staff, and graduate students, toured our facilities, and developed initial plans for working on common goals.

Some of those collaborations have already come to fruition. NCVP Residents have reviewed and updated recommendations on the CAPC website, insuring that the information provided is accurate and current, and trainees have also authored new recommendations, which are subsequently reviewed and approved by the CAPC board, to meet emerging parasite informational needs.

On his second trip, Dr. Carpenter captured extensive video of clinical parasitology in action that will be used in future CAPC educational efforts. "Working with the NCVP allows us to create high-quality content to meet the needs of veterinarians. And in turn, the residents receive experience working on continuing education at the national level. It is a great opportunity for both organizations."



*Ostertagia ostertagi*

## NCVP Residency Positions Available

Do you know a veterinarian who is interested in pursuing a career in clinical parasitology? The NCVP is currently accepting applications for NCVP Residents. Available positions include the Merial Resident in Veterinary Parasitology and the NCVP Resident in Veterinary Parasitology. Applications are due May 1st and funding begins by August 1st.

NCVP Residents can complete their training at any veterinary college in the United States or Canada, so long as they are accepted by the graduate program of their choice and meet the requirements for the program. The selection process is competitive, and only individuals committed to a career in veterinary parasitology should apply.

To receive funding, programs must support research training leading to the PhD degree by the sponsoring institution, and include clinical parasitology experience and training appropriate for board certification in parasitology through the American College of Veterinary Microbiology.

For an application form or more information, please see [www.ncvetp.org](http://www.ncvetp.org), or email us at [ncvp@okstate.edu](mailto:ncvp@okstate.edu).



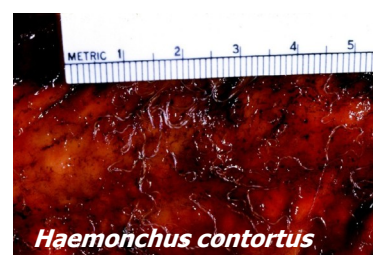
*Dr. Chris Carpenter, DVM, MBA  
Executive Director, Companion  
Animal Parasite Council*



*Heterobilharzia americana*



*Rhipicephalus sanguineus*



*Haemonchus contortus*

**[NCVETP.ORG](http://NCVETP.ORG)**



## Dr. Zajac Provides NCVP/SAAVP Keynote Talk

On March 13, 2013, Oklahoma State University's student chapter of the American Association of Veterinary Parasitology and the National Center for Veterinary Parasitology co-hosted a dinner parasitology meeting for veterinary students, graduate students, and faculty interested in parasitology.

Over 30 students and faculty, including emeritus faculty, turned out to hear Dr. Anne Zajac, parasitologist at the Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine, present on the specter of anthelmintic resistance in small ruminants in the United States. With a presentation entitled "It seemed like a good idea at the time: controlling *Haemonchus*," Dr. Zajac parsed for the group how we got to this point with anthelmintic resistance nematodes in sheep and goats and then shared ideas for a way forward.

Dr. Zajac, NCVP Advisory Board Member and Charter Diplomate of the Parasitology subspecialty of ACVM, is a leader in ruminant parasitology with a special interest in alternatives to anthelmintics for parasite control. The students and faculty expressed their gratitude to Dr. Zajac by presenting her with an OSU scarf, coffee mug, and a very special *Haemonchus* plate crafted by our own Dr. Eileen Johnson. A special thanks to Dr. Zajac for a great talk and a wonderful evening of parasitology.



*Dr. Zajac visits with Dr. Mason Reichard (left) and Dr. Chris Adolph (right) at NCVP/SAAVP meeting.*



*Dr. Zajac was presented with an OSU scarf and a very special *Haemonchus* plate, crafted by Dr. Eileen Johnson, OSU.*



*A number of veterinary students, faculty, and graduate students were in attendance to enjoy Dr. Zajac's presentation.*

## Parasitology-focused CE — save the date

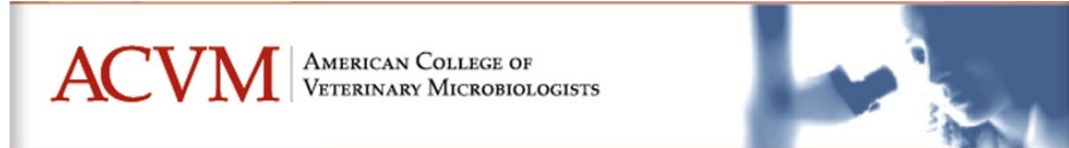
On November 8, 2013, the NCVP will host a short course on clinical parasitology in Stillwater, Oklahoma in conjunction with Oklahoma State University's annual Fall Conference. With morning lectures and two afternoon laboratory sessions, participation in the one-day meeting will qualify for 8 hours of CE credit, all in parasitology.

The planned track is mixed species and will include updates on heartworm disease and strategies for parasite control in small ruminants. As always, spots will be reserved for veterinarians from our sponsoring organizations. Hope to see you there!



## Parasitology Board Exam Scheduled for December 2013

The Parasitology subspecialty of the American College of Veterinary Microbiology will again offer an examination for board certification on December 6-7, 2013. [Application](#) information and an explanation of the [process](#) is available on the ACVM website. Initial application, including letters of support from two ACVM diplomates and appropriate fees, must be submitted to the ACVM by [April 30, 2013](#). Please note—the ACVM does not accept electronically submitted letters or forms. Be sure to contact them early and allow time for mailing hard copies.



## Publications from the NCVP

Our residents, faculty, and staff have had a busy year. Below is an abridged list of just a few of the publications over the last year (names of residents are bolded). To request the full list or individual reprints, please send an email to [ncvp@okstate.edu](mailto:ncvp@okstate.edu). *Most importantly, if you have suggestions for future continuing education articles, review papers, or topics you think would be of interest to veterinarians and others interested in parasitology, please send us your suggestions.*

### Service and research publications...

**Lee ACY**, Kraus MS. 2012. Coughing cat: could it be heartworm? *NAVC Clinician's Brief* 10 (6): 91-95.

**Starkey LA**, Little SE. 2012. Defeating ticks – practical tips for preventing tick-borne disease in pets. *Today's Veterinary Practice* 2(5):40-44.

Little SE, **Starkey LA**. 2012. Conquering fleas – preventing infestations and limiting disease transmission. *Today's Veterinary Practice* 2 (6):28-32.

Reiskind MH, Little SE. 2013. Biology, ecology, and vector role of mosquitoes. In *Guide to Vector Borne Diseases of Pets*. F. Beugnet editor. Merial, Lyon, France. pp: 161-170.

Reichard MV, Little SE. 2013. Feline Cytauxzoonosis. In *Guide to Vector Borne Diseases of Pets*. F. Beugnet editor. Merial, Lyon, France. pp: 293-300.

Liotta JL, **Lee ACY**, Aksel S, Alkhalife I, Cruz-Reyes A, Youn H, Bienhoff SE, Bowman DD. 2012. Obtaining an isolate of *Ancylostoma braziliense* from dogs without the need for necropsy. *Journal of Parasitology* 98(5):1034-6.

Liotta JL, **Lee ACY**, Koompaong KN, Yaros JP, Prullage J, Ulrich MA, Bowman DD. 2012. Obtaining an isolate of *Ancylostoma braziliense* from cats without the need for necropsy. *Journal of Parasitology* 98(5):1037-8.

**Starkey LA**, Panciera RJ, Paras K, Allen KE, Reiskind M, Reichard MV, Johnson EM, Little SE. 2013. Diversity of *Hepatozoon* spp. in coyotes from the southcentral United States. *Journal of Parasitology* <http://dx.doi.org/10.1645/GE-3104.1>

Sukhumavasi W, Belloso ML, Lucio-Forster A, Liotta JL, **Lee ACY**, et al. 2012. Serological survey of *Toxoplasma gondii*, *Dirofilaria immitis*, FIV and FeLV infections in pet cats in Bangkok and vicinities, Thailand. *Vet Parasitol*. 188:25-30.

### Plus a few more to watch for...

Allison RW, Little SE. 2013. Diagnosis of rickettsial diseases in dogs and cats. *Vet Clin Pathol*. In press.

**Starkey LA**, West M, Barrett A, Saucier J, O'Conner T, Paras K, Reiskind M, Reichard M, Little SE. 2013. Prevalence of antibodies to spotted fever group *Rickettsia* spp. and *Ehrlichia* spp. in coyotes. *Journal of Wildlife Diseases*: In press.

Little SE. 2013. Vector-borne diseases. In: *Georgis' Parasitology for Veterinarians, 10<sup>th</sup> edition*. D. D. Bowman, Ed. Saunders Elsevier, St Louis, Missouri. In press.

**Lee ACY**, Epe C, Bowman DD. Comparison of *Ancylostoma caninum* worm counts acquired by endoscopy and necropsy. *Veterinary Parasitology*. Accepted.

Little SE. 2013. Future challenges for parasitology: vector control and one health in the Americas. *Veterinary Parasitology*. Accepted.

### About the National Center for Veterinary

Veterinary parasites impact human health and society in many ways. With the generous support of our sponsors, the National Center for Veterinary Parasitology works to promote greater understanding and control of parasitic diseases in animals through innovative partnerships between academia and industry. Housed in the Center for Veterinary Health Sciences at Oklahoma State University, the Center strives to create future generations of veterinary parasitologists, conduct targeted research, and provide diagnostic and consulting services worldwide. To learn more, please visit [www.ncvetp.org](http://www.ncvetp.org)



Center for Veterinary Health Sciences  
Healthy Animals - Healthy People