After nearly a year and a half of construction, the Veterinary Medical Learning Center is well underway.

The site will include a new teaching hospital for small and large animals, a covered equine performance arena, a building dedicated to Field Services and Theriogenology, and an academic building for teaching and continuing education courses.

We are currently on schedule to complete construction in early 2015, with the goal of occupying the new facilities by that spring.

The UGA Veterinary Teaching Hospital will move to the new site, along with all clinical faculty, hospital staff, clinical pathology and third- and fourth-year students. The new facilities are located approximately three miles from the main College of Veterinary Medicine campus.

Highlights of the new hospital include:

- 3x larger than the current facility
- A flexible design to meet current needs and to allow for future expansion
- Expanded imaging capabilities and radiation therapy for all species
- Open lobbies and corridors with picturesque windows to let in plenty of natural light
- An outdoor courtyard and green space around the buildings
- Dining area for clients, faculty, staff and students

- Numerous teaching spaces including a dedicated rounds room for each service
- A physical address that can be found using GPS

continued on page 5
Oncology Adds Treatment Option

The UGA Veterinary Teaching Hospital’s Oncology Service is now offering intensity-modulated radiation therapy (IMRT) for the treatment of tumors in small animals.

Using this technology, clinicians can conform the area receiving the prescribed dose of radiation to closely match the outline of the tumor being treated. For example, if the tumor is in the shape of a kidney bean, we can adjust the radiation beams to match that shape rather than having to expose an entire square of tissue to treat it.

This allows for a more targeted, higher dose of radiation to be delivered to the tumor, which may lead to a longer tumor-control time. Additionally, because of the precision of the delivery, the good tissue surrounding the tumor receives a lower dose of radiation, which results in fewer side effects for the animal.

IMRT is especially useful when the tumor has a complicated shape and/or surrounds sensitive organs. Multiple tumors that are close to each other can also be treated with a better radiation dose distribution, compared to radiation therapy without using IMRT.

It is administered using the Hospital’s linear accelerator in conjunction with specialized radiation-planning computer software. This software is able to perform highly complicated calculations that are required to generate an IMRT plan.

Heading up this initiative for the Hospital is Assistant Professor Koichi Nagata, DVM, DACVR (Radiation Oncology), who joined the UGA College of Veterinary Medicine in November 2013. A member of the College’s oncology faculty, Nagata specializes in radiation therapy and has more than six years of experience in this area.

The IMRT procedure was first used in a select few human cancer centers in the late 1990s. While it is now available in veterinary medicine as well, there are still only a handful of veterinary teaching hospitals across the United States that offer it.
Emory Donates Neuronavigator

Thanks to a generous equipment donation from Emory University Hospital Midtown, in Atlanta, the Hospital’s Neurology & Neurosurgery service now has a refurbished Medtronic StealthStation® TREON® Surgical Navigation System, or “neuronavigator.”

The system, which is about the size of a modern ultrasound unit, can be used to locate diseases of the brain assisting with biopsy procedures and also to deliver therapeutic treatments to the brain.

Once the neurology service has customized its use in animals, it will allow our clinicians to treat many types of brain lesions, but particularly tumors, with the machine helping them accurately locate the disease with minimal risk to the patients.

“It maps the skull’s size and shape, then navigates within the cranial cavity much like a Global Positioning System, or GPS, would work,” explained Dr. Simon Platt, BVM&S, MRCVS, DACVIM (Neurology), DECVN, and a professor of neurology at the College of Veterinary Medicine.

A patient must first undergo an MRI sequence while wearing markers that collect data about that patient’s skull and brain. Later, when that patient is in front of the neuronavigator, the veterinarian points a wand toward the patient’s head, and the wand utilizes the information from the MRI and the data transmitted by the markers to create a 3-D map of the patient’s skull and brain. The neuronavigator can then guide doctors to deliver therapeutics to a precise location, or to take a biopsy of an area of the brain that cannot otherwise be accessed without surgery (or, in some cases, not accessed at all due to location).

Roughly three veterinary teaching hospitals in North America currently have neuronavigators; to the best of our knowledge, only the UGA VTH has a model that is typically used on human patients.

2014 Picture Your Pet Photo Contest

Call for Entries

The photo contest is open to any UGA Veterinary Teaching Hospital or Community Practice Clinic client.

Seasons will be accepted until 5:00 p.m. August 29, 2014.

For submission, please visit: vet.uga.edu/photo-contest

Winning entries will be displayed in the new Veterinary Teaching Hospital when it opens in 2015!

Photos must be high-resolution using a camera 6 megapixels or higher. A brief description of the picture and/or the pet must accompany each entry.

Photos can also be loaded on a non-returnable disk and dropped off at the VTH or CPC, or mailed to: The UGA Veterinary Teaching Hospital, Attn: Picture Your Pet Photo Contest, 501 DW Brooks Dr., Athens, GA 30602
New Faculty

The UGA Veterinary Teaching Hospital currently houses more than 55 board-certified veterinarians offering more than 25 different specialties. Below is a listing of some of our newest faculty members from the past year.

Mike Barletta, DVM, MS, PhD, DACVAA*, Assistant Professor, Anesthesia
Education: DVM, Turin Italy
Experience: Internship and Residency, Purdue University
Veterinary Interests: Pain Physiology • Large Animal and Zoo Animal Anesthesia

Amanda Coleman, DVM, DACVIM* (Cardiology), Assistant Professor, Cardiology
Education: DVM, University of Florida
Experience: Small Animal Rotating Internship and Residency in Cardiology, North Carolina State University • Clinical Instructor, University of Georgia
Veterinary Interests: Interventional Cardiology • Pharmacologic Modification of the Renin-angiotensin-aldosterone System

Sam Franklin, MS, DVM, PhD, DACVS*, DACVSMR*, Assistant Professor, Orthopedics and Sports Medicine
Education: MS, University of Maryland • DVM, Colorado State University • PhD, University of Missouri
Experience: Medicine and Surgery Internship, University of Pennsylvania • Small Animal Surgery Residency, University of Missouri • Staff Surgeon, Upstate Veterinary Specialties, N.Y. • Locum Surgeon, Veterinary Orthopedics and Sports Medicine Group, Md.
Veterinary Interests: Arthroscopy and Minimally Invasive Surgery • Sports Medicine • Platelet Rich Plasma Therapy • Stem Cell Therapy

Koichi Nagata, DVM, DACVR*, Assistant Professor, Radiation Oncology
Education: DVM, University of Tokyo • ECFVG Program, Tufts University
Experience: Radiation Oncologist, Pittsburgh Veterinary Speciality and Emergency Center • Radiation Oncology Residency, University of Missouri—Columbia • Radiation Oncology Internship, University of Pennsylvania • Oncology Internship, Regional Veterinary Referral Center • Small Animal Internal Medicine Internship, University of Tokyo
Veterinary Interests: Intensity-modulated Radiation Therapy • Strontium 90 Plesiotherapy

Katie Seabaugh, DVM, MS, DACVS*, Clinical Assistant Professor, Equine Ambulatory and Sports Medicine
Education: DVM, Washington State University • MS, Colorado State University
Experience: Surgical Residency, Colorado State University
Veterinary Interests: Sports Medicine • Equine Lameness • Rehabilitation • Therapies for Musculoskeletal Injuries

Molly Shepard, DVM, DACVAA*, Clinical Assistant Professor of Anesthesia and Analgesia
Education: DVM, University of Minnesota
Experience: Rotating Internship in Small Animal Medicine and Surgery, Angell Animal Medical Center, Mass. • Residency in Veterinary Anesthesiology, University of Georgia • Certification in Veterinary Medical Acupuncture (large and small animals), Medical Acupuncture for Veterinarians Program, Fort Collins, Colo.
Veterinary Interests: Pain Management • Physical Rehabilitation and Acupuncture • Integrative Analgesia • Anesthesia in Patients with Cardiovascular Disease

Robert Stawicki, DVM, MS, Clinical Assistant Professor, Theriogenology
Education: MS and DVM, University of Florida
Experience: Equine Internship, Ferguson and Associates, Fla. • Small Animal Practice • Equine Ambulatory Practice • Residency Program, University of Pennsylvania
Veterinary Interests: All Aspects of Clinical Theriogenology in both Large and Small Animals • Equine Theriogenology • Placentitis in the Late Gestation Mare • Evaluation of Fertility of Cryopreserved Stallion Epididymal Sperm

Jarred Williams, MS, DVM, PhD, DACVS*, Clinical Assistant Professor, Emergency Medicine
Education: MS and DVM, University of Georgia • PhD, Ohio State University
Experience: Rotating Internship in Equine Medicine and Surgery, Alamo Pintado Equine Medical Center • Residency in Equine Surgery and Fellowship in Equine Emergency and Critical Care, Ohio State University
Veterinary Interests: Gastrointestinal Disease and Surgery • Trauma • Biomechanics • Emergency & Critical Care

*Degree Guide: DACVAA = Diplomate, American College of Veterinary Anesthesia and Analgesia • DACVIM = Diplomate, American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine • DACVR = Diplomate, American College of Veterinary Radiology • DACVS = Diplomate, American College of Veterinary Surgeons • DACVSMR = Diplomate, American College of Veterinary Sports Medicine and Rehabilitation
Hospital Construction Update  (continued from page 1)

Below are more details on our new facilities, scheduled to open in Spring 2015. You can also monitor our progress via our webcam at: www.vet.uga.edu/vmlc/webcam

Small Animal Hospital Features
- Separate covered entrance and parking for emergencies
- Intermediate care ward
- Designated physical therapy and rehabilitation area
- Interventional radiology suite
- Long corridors with multiple seating alcoves for clients
- Expanded isolation facility
- Dedicated zoological wards for different species

Academic Building
The academic building will be used by third-year veterinary students as their main classroom facility and will include:
- Flexible reception, seminar and dining space
- UGA Food Services Eatery that will be open to hospital clients
- 160-seat auditorium for student instruction, continuing education courses, guest speakers, etc.
- 80-seat classroom
- Two 40-seat classrooms

Large Animal Hospital Features
- Large, flat parking lot specifically designed for trailers
- Separate equine receiving and discharge area
- Large animal ICU wing
- Dedicated food animal treatment area
- Colic wing
- Separate isolation facility

Equine Performance / Lameness Arena
This covered arena will be used to evaluate equine performance and lameness issues and will feature:
- Different surfaces on which to examine horses, including arena footing
- Floor sensors that electronically capture the gait of a horse for computerized evaluation
- Two exam rooms, one with farrier access

Field Service Building
This facility will house Theriogenology, Production Medicine and Field Services. Its features include:
- Dedicated equine dental suite
- Palpation stocks
- Covered canopy for truck parking
- Collection room for reproductive services
- Laboratory for processing field samples
Pricing for Equine Surgeries
The Large Animal Hospital has established a number of packaged prices for elective surgeries to help simplify communication between the Hospital, referring veterinarians and clients. These packages are for elective and uncomplicated arthroscopy, palmar digital neurectomy, ovariectomy and cryptorchidectomy cases. The packages are designed to provide hospitalization, pre and post-operative care, and surgical procedures to meet the highest standard of care. Please note that the package prices do not allow for unforeseen complications that might arise during surgery. Any expenses accrued related to potential complications will be the client’s responsibility to pay. For more information, or for a price list, please contact the large animal front desk at 706.542.3223.

Clinical Trial Opportunities
Clinical Trials provide vital answers for the future of animal health as data collected can lead to safer, more effective treatments for many illnesses we see in our patients. We are currently looking for animals to participate in the following studies:

**Horses with Colic**
- Study to investigate timing of antimicrobial therapy in horses undergoing surgery for colic
- Study to identify risk factors for development of organ failure in horses with colic

**Dogs with Cancer**
- Study to evaluate a novel, alternative treatment for soft tissue sarcomas in dogs
- Study to assess the safety and ability of a new immunotherapeutic to prolong remission time in dogs with B-cell lymphoma

Dogs with epileptic seizures
- Study evaluating a handheld nerve stimulator for the treatment of refractory seizure activity associated with a diagnosis of canine epilepsy

For more information, or to view a complete list of current studies, please visit: [http://t.uga.edu/L5](http://t.uga.edu/L5)

Dr. Lowder Earns Advanced Equine Dental Certification
Congratulations to Dr. Michael Q. Lowder, associate professor of large animal medicine, for becoming one of the first to earn a diplomate from the American Veterinary Dental College in the new specialty of Equine Dentistry. Dr. Lowder was among 12 veterinarians worldwide who passed the new specialty examination in October 2013.

VTH Welcomes New Hospital Communications Director
Cindy Rice joined the UGA Veterinary Teaching Hospital earlier this year as its director of communications. Prior to joining our staff, Cindy served as the associate director of communications for the UGA School of Law. Please feel free to contact her at 706.542.3079 or cindyh@uga.edu if she can assist you in any way.

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Fully accredited by the American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians.
Pro Continuous Glucose Monitoring (CGM) devices are now available to cats and dogs with diabetes mellitus through the UGA Veterinary Teaching Hospital. The devices, commonly used for human patients with diabetes, are used to gather data on the patient’s response to insulin from the comfort of their homes.

“We wanted the best possible care for our diabetic patients, and since continuous glucose monitors are the standard of care in human medicine, we knew we had to introduce it here at the University of Georgia,” said Dr. Cynthia Ward, VMD, PhD and professor of small animal internal medicine. “Very few places in the United States offer the monitors for animal healthcare.”

The iPro device features a small disposable sensor, about the size of a paperclip. One end of the sensor is inserted under the animal’s skin to read the blood glucose levels. Once the sensor is in place, a small recorder about the size of a quarter is plugged into the other end of the sensor to collect the data. To ensure the device stays in place and the pet does not bother it, a snug garment, like a ThunderShirt™, is put on the animal. After the system is equilibrated, the device takes the blood glucose reading every five minutes and stores the data on the recorder for future download.

Three to five days after the sensor is put in place, the sensor and recorder are easily removed and mailed back to the Hospital, where the data is downloaded and analyzed. The UGA veterinarians use this information to evaluate insulin levels and recommend changes, if necessary, in medication levels.

Clients interested in continuous glucose monitoring can contact the UGA VTH through a referral from their family veterinarian. You can also learn more about this technology by visiting: http://t.uga.edu/Lc
Patient Profile: Thunder
Story by Taylor Pritchard, Louisville, Ga.

“Thunder became a part of our family in 1996 as a present to me on my sixth birthday — little did I know that he would soon become my mom’s favorite child. Thunder is still a thrill to ride because he’s like a dirt bike on hooves, an awesome jumper, quick on his feet and tenacious.

One winter morning, our trainer found Thunder down with a pasture mate standing over him. She immediately called my dad, a veterinarian, to come and examine him. Thunder was found to have an issue in the small intestine that required referral to the UGA Veterinary Teaching Hospital. Thunder was diagnosed with a strangulating lesion of the small intestine and was immediately sent into surgery, where the surgeons found a strangulating lipoma that had resulted in four feet of dead small intestine. Several days after surgery, Thunder was gradually introduced to grain, but began to again show signs of colic. His colic episode did not respond to pain management, and a second surgery was performed. This time, the surgeons did not find a definitive cause for Thunder’s pain — but he remained pain-free after the second surgery.

When Thunder was discharged, we were told he could begin light work under saddle at 90 days. In 2013, Thunder competed in his first jumper show since the surgery, and like always, he dominated the class, soaring over fences! We are so grateful he was seen and treated so quickly at the UGA VTH! Many, many thanks to all his doctors, students and staff who were so critically important in Thunder’s recovery due to their expertise, compassion and tireless efforts!”

Submit your own success story for a chance to appear in one of our publications by going to: www.vet.uga.edu/pr/successstories