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# Infectious Diseases Laboratory

*College of Veterinary Medicine*

**UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA**

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Fall/Winter 2020, Issue 2

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## Season's Greetings!

Welcome to IDL's eNewsletter, where we provide updates on changes to our Laboratory's policies and/or procedures, and also news about recent scientific presentations and publications.

We also include news from the [UGA New Materials Institute](#), for which Dr. Branson W. Ritchie serves as director of Technology Development and Implementation. In addition to its work in sustainable materials and systems design, faculty from the Institute and IDL work together to identify health issues associated with conventional plastics.

We hope you'll enjoy learning more about our work! Thank you for your business and we look forward to continuing our partnership in 2021!

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### Reminder: Holiday Service and shipping announcements

IDL is closed on Christmas Day and New Year's Day. We are otherwise open during these weeks, but with fewer staff and reduced phone coverage. Thanks for your patience.

During this time, our pathologists from the UGA Zoo and Exotic Animal Pathology Service (ZEAPS) are available for emergencies only. If you have an emergency:

*(Note: this information has been updated since our Holiday Hours letter was emailed.)*

Normal operations resume Monday, January 4, 2021.

### **Shipping**

All shipping services are slower during the holidays and statistically more delivery problems occur. Please allow extra time for your samples to arrive.

**We recommend you ship elective screening samples to arrive at IDL after Jan. 3.**

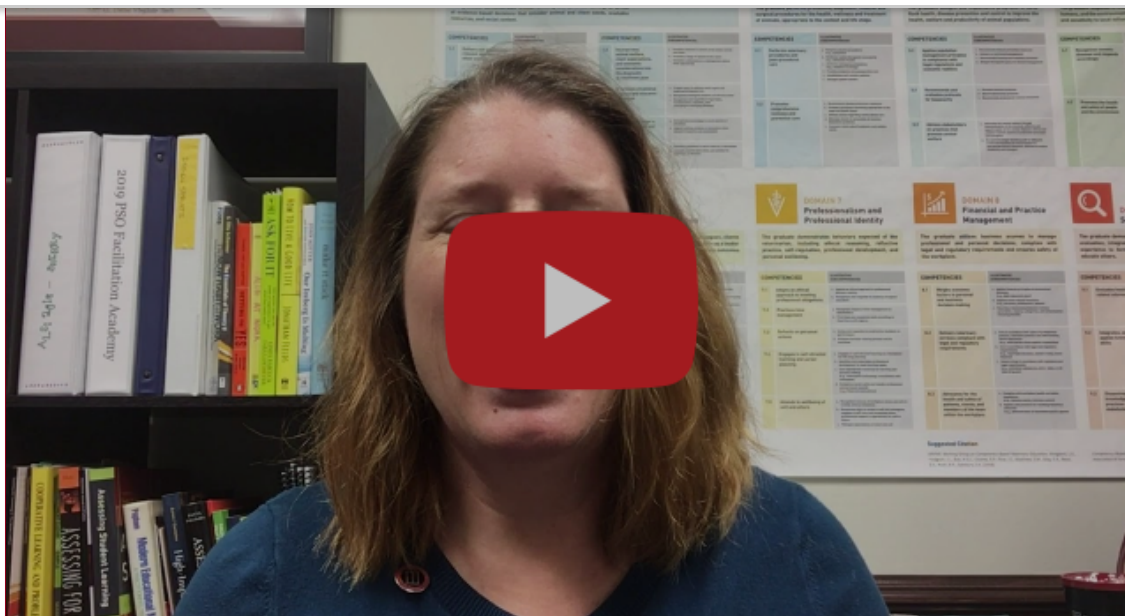
## **IDL Policy Updates**

*We are in the process of getting these updates made to our website.*

- We no longer use a fax service. If you currently receive faxed reports, account statements or invoices, please call or email to let us know what email address to use instead.
- We no longer offer Bartonella culture. We do offer Bartonella PCR for \$20.
- The Feline Heartworm Antigen test is no longer available. We do offer the Feline Heartworm Antibody test for \$15.
- We now offer a nidovirus PCR for \$35.
- Pacheco's and Avian Polyomavirus serology tests are now only conducted once a month (the second Tuesday of the month).
- Price increases are coming to compensate for inflation. We are expecting a 3 to 5% increase in cost of various tests.

## **Best Practices**

In turtles, and some other species, serum often continues to clot after being separated from the cellular fraction of blood. This can lead to false positives from ELISA testing, because the tiny clots plug up dispensing/aspirating nozzles. To avoid this, we recommend that when collecting serum samples from these species, you use rapid (or quick-clotting) serum tubes containing thrombin to activate clotting.



## Awards for Service

**Congratulations to Dr. Rita McManamon for winning the UGA College of Veterinary Medicine's Outstanding Laboratory Service Award!**

This award is presented to the faculty demonstrating excellence in laboratory support for the field or hospital investigations. Dr. McManamon is Director of the Zoo & Exotic Animal Pathology Service, offered by IDL. The announcement of her award appears at time code 4:32 in this video.

## Recent Manuscripts

McHale B, Callahan RT, Paras KL, Weber M, Kimbrell L, Velasquez-Jimenez Y, McManamon R, Howerth EW, Verocai GG. [Sparganosis due to \*Spirometra\* sp. \(cestoda; Diphylobothriidae\) in captive meerkats \(\*Suricata suricatta\*\)](#). Int J Parasitol Parasites Wildl 13:186-190, Dec 2020.

McCain S, Sim RR, Howerth EW, Aschenbroich S, Kirejczyk SGM, McHale B, Jerry C, Kottwitz JJ, Wilson AE, McManamon R. [Myonecrosis and death due to presumed microcystin toxicosis in American white pelicans \(\*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos\*\)](#). Journal of Zoo and Wildlife Medicine 51 (2):407-415. 01 Jun 2020.

Stilwell JM, McManamon R, Sturgeon GL, Camus MS, Camus AC. [Microscopic, immunohistochemical, and ultrastructural characterization of spontaneous](#)

pages), 01 Jul 2019.

Stilwell JM, Camus AC, Zachariah TT, McManamon R. [Disseminated lymphoid neoplasia and hepatoblastoma in an Atlantic stingray, \*Hypanus sabinus\* \(Lesueur 1824\)](#). Journal of Fish Diseases 42 (2): 319–323; 01 Feb 2019.



## Recent Presentations

María Eugenia Orbay–Cerrato gave a [Lightning Presentation on “Skunk Adenovirus in Three Domestic Ferrets \(\*Mustela putorius\*\)”](#) at the [2020 Giguère Science Symposium](#), held virtually at the UGA College of Veterinary Medicine in October. Orbay–Cerrato is working with IDL this year through the SAMS 5900 course, in which she earns course credit for working in a research setting and writing research manuscripts. She is a member of the UGA CVM DVM Class of 2022. We will share Maru's manuscript, currently in progress and based on work conducted by Dr. Brittany McHale, and others from IDL and Pathology, after it is published.

### Other Recent Presentations:

Dr. Rita McManamon presented "Great Ape Heart Project: It takes a troop to solve a problem!" at the recent [UGA Conservation Medicine, One Health and Wildlife Diseases Virtual Student Workshop](#), held November 6–7, 2020.

Dr. Jessica Elbert gave the poster presentation “Retrospective Analysis of

Zachariah at the Brevard Zoo. Dr. Elbert is a resident in anatomical pathology at the UGA College of Veterinary Medicine.

Dr. Branson W. Ritchie presented “Avoiding Plastics Through the Use of Bio-Sourced Alternative Plastics” to the National Association of College & University Food Services annual conference in 2020. Dr. Ritchie also presented his "Plasticosis" talk at the 2020 NAVC annual conference, and at the recent [UGA Conservation Medicine, One Health and Wildlife Diseases Virtual Student Workshop](#), held November 6–7, 2020.

## Great Ape Heart Project News

The Great Ape Heart Project (GAHP) [received the prestigious 2020 Research Award with Top Honors from the Association of Zoos and Aquariums in September](#). The award recognizes achievements in advancing scientific research among accredited zoos and aquariums throughout the U.S.

Launched in 2010, the GAHP is the world’s first coordinated clinical approach targeting cardiovascular disease in all four non-human great ape taxa—gorillas, orangutans, chimpanzees, and bonobos—living in zoological environments. The disease is a primary cause of mortality among great apes in zoos but, until recently, had been a poorly understood area of zoological veterinary care. Its examination requires advanced understanding of diagnosis, treatment, and monitoring of affected individuals, as well as adaptation of techniques already in use in humans and domestic animals.

A four-time recipient of the distinguished National Leadership Grant, [including a 2019 award from the Institute of Museum and Library Services \(IMLS\)](#), the GAHP represents the future of veterinary research in zoos. Over the past 10 years, the project has produced and continues to populate a central ape-health database that includes more than 90% of the individual great apes in AZA institutions, as well as 10 peer-reviewed articles and book chapters. The GAHP research and database are managed by Zoo Atlanta’s Marietta Danforth, PhD, and primary grant collaborators include Karen Terio, DVM, PhD, DACVP of the College of Veterinary Medicine at University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and Rita McManamon, DVM of the College of Veterinary Medicine at University of Georgia.

IDL’s Dr. McManamon, who directs our Zoo & Exotic Animal Pathology Service (ZEAPS), has been involved with the GAHP since its inception. This latest grant, "Harnessing the power of pathology to improve the clinical care and welfare of

GAHP pathologists who diagnose and analyze great ape postmortem heart evaluations. She also supervises a team of UGA veterinary students who are entering pathology data into the GAHP database.



New Materials Institute pioneering replacements for plastic

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Support the UGA Infectious Diseases Laboratory and Emerging Diseases Research Group