



April 2019

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## New Interim Veterinary Teaching Hospital Director



*Dr. Craig B. Webb*

I have recently accepted the position of interim hospital director so that Dr. Tim Hackett may be freed up to concentrate on his role as the interim associate dean for the Colorado State University Veterinary Health System (a college initiative to create a unified health service system). We have both been at the CSU James L. Voss Veterinary Teaching Hospital in one capacity or another for just about forever.

Although my position is a 50 percent appointment (I could not bear to give up all of my time on the clinic floor!), I want you to know that you, as the rDVM lifeblood of this hospital, will have 100 percent of my attention and effort for anything I can help with. And if I can't help, I'll find someone who can. (There are a ton a very smart people running around this facility.)

I am extraordinarily fortunate to have as my "dyad" partner, Gail Gumming, head hospital administrator, along with a fantastic team in the Director's Office supporting us.

Just as in the practice of veterinary medicine, there are issues that are tough to diagnose, problems that we struggle to solve, limitations to our ability to help, and mistakes that may be made along the way. But our intent, our effort, and our purpose is to strive for the absolute best outcome that we can possibly provide.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any concerns, comments, or suggestions. I very much welcome and value your input.

Thank you for your continued support of the CSU Voss Veterinary Teaching Hospital!

*Craig B. Webb, D.V.M., Ph.D., DACVIM*  
*Interim Hospital Director*  
*(970) 297-1269*  
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## New faces in Emergency and Critical Care



*Dr. Kristin Zersen*

After more than three years as an intern and a resident, Dr. Kristin Zersen has joined the Emergency and Critical Care faculty as a clinical instructor. She came to the hospital as an ECC specialty intern after completing her rotating internship at VCA West LA.

Her collegiality, clinical aptitude, and leadership abilities led to converting her internship to a residency in January 2016. During the past three years, she has tirelessly dedicated herself to her patients, clients, and colleagues, has excelled in her research, and has been a strong advocate for clinical teaching.

She works alongside section leader, Dr. Amanda Cavanagh, in providing emergency and critical care as a trusted leader for our staff and an invaluable teacher for our students, interns, and residents.

Drs. Kevin Castle and Nicole Chamney have worked in Urgent Care for the past year as emergency veterinarian locums and have recently

transitioned into part-time positions. They both are doing fantastic work taking care of patients, teaching our students, and training house officers.

Castle has several years of small-animal emergency experience that complement his keen interest and advanced training in caring for our avian and exotic patients. Chamney recently returned to CSU, after several years in emergency practice, to complete specialty critical care training last year; her advanced training has honed her skills as a caring clinician in a fast-paced ER setting. They will see emergency cases alongside our rotation interns during the weekday evening hours and Sundays and Mondays during the day.

*Dr. Cavanagh wants to hear feedback regarding your Urgent Care experience so that we can continue to improve and provide your clients with exemplary care: [amanda.cavanagh@colostate.edu](mailto:amanda.cavanagh@colostate.edu).*

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## CBD clinical trial seeks dogs with epilepsy



*Dr. Stephanie McGrath and clinical trials coordinator, Breonna Thomas, examine Atticus, a 3-year-old St. Bernard.*

Dr. Stephanie McGrath and her neurology team are seeking to enroll 60 dogs in a double-blind crossover [clinical trial](#) investigating the safety and efficacy of CBD (cannabidiol, a component of the *Cannabis sativa* plant) in uncontrolled epileptic patients.

In order to qualify, dogs must be having two or more seizures per month for four consecutive months while on therapeutic levels of routine anti-epileptic medications.

After an initial screening over email to determine that dogs meet the basic

qualification criteria, they will come to CSU for an MRI and CSF tap in order to rule out any other underlying causes of the epilepsy.

[Read more about the trial on CVMB Source](#). Referring veterinarians and dog owners may contact Breonna Thomas, neurology clinical trials coordinator, at (970) 305-0455 or [CSUNeuroTrials@colostate.edu](mailto:CSUNeuroTrials@colostate.edu).

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## Diagnostic Laboratories Update

The CSU Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratories now accepts credit card payments online. To pay your invoice, visit the [Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratories website](#) and select "Make a Payment."

### **Our payment portal offers the following convenient features:**

Enhanced security. Our online credit card processing is stable, secure, and in compliance with PCI standards. Transactions can take place 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Our portal is available worldwide, offering international customers an easier payment option. Clients receive an invoice with every accession and receive a monthly statement summarizing all accessions submitted for a one-month time frame. For questions, please contact our office at (970) 297-1281.

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## **New service: Orthopedic Medicine and Mobility**



*Dr. Felix Duerr*



*Dr. Nic Lambrechts*

To accommodate the growing need for nonsurgical orthopedic treatment options, the hospital is introducing the Orthopedic Medicine and Mobility service, led by Drs. Felix Duerr and Nic Lambrechts. Surgical cases will continue to be seen through the Orthopedic Surgery service, led by Drs. Ross Palmer and Clara Goh.

"We'll be able to focus on diagnosis and providing nonsurgical treatments," said Duerr.

"Some owners know they don't want to pursue surgery for their pet, so we can offer a more specific referral option that's tailored to the client."

Referring veterinarians will still be able to send patients to the hospital for orthopedic surgery, as well as for nonsurgical treatment options and preventive exams.

Contacts: [Felix.Duerr@colostate.edu](mailto:Felix.Duerr@colostate.edu), (970) 297-4140; [Nic.Lambrechts@colostate.edu](mailto:Nic.Lambrechts@colostate.edu), (970) 297-4304

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## **Feline Cancer Core: Is it cancer or is it IBD?**



The Feline Cancer Core, a multidisciplinary CSU team, has joined forces to find answers to a question that has vexed animal owners and clinicians alike: Is it cancer or is it IBD?

It's an issue that has puzzled veterinarians for years. A cat comes in with chronic diarrhea and vomiting, symptoms that occur in gastrointestinal lymphoma and in inflammatory bowel disease.

While IBD is the most common reason for these symptoms, veterinarians do not have an effective method to confirm IBD or rule out gastrointestinal lymphoma. A lack of research into the root cause of these conditions (diet, environmental toxins, viruses or bacteria, genetics) leaves open questions about the best way to treat patients.

[Read more about the Feline Cancer Core at CVMBBS Source.](#) For information about enrolling in the study, email [Dr. Craig Webb](mailto:Dr. Craig Webb).

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## **StringSoft goes live Aug. 1**

StringSoft is an integrated veterinary medical management program that will allow the hospital to consolidate nine systems into one, encompassing registration, scheduling, billing, electronic medical records, diagnostic imaging requests and image archiving, laboratory submissions, and medical record-searching functions. We plan for the system to go live at the beginning of August.

"The primary benefit that we foresee is greater ability to efficiently communicate with veterinarians about their patients while at the hospital," said Dr. Rob Callan.

The program will allow us to provide more frequent updates regarding a patient visit. We'll still be able to send visit summaries and client dismissal instructions, with the added ability to attach preliminary case information, patient assessments, lab test results, medical images, and procedure reports to our communications with you.

While there are sure to be some adjustments when we initially deploy StringSoft, we believe this program will provide many benefits for our referring veterinarians, clients, and patients.

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## Are you a CSU D.V.M. alum?

Help us maintain an educational program of excellence by completing a [10-minute survey](#) reflecting your experience and satisfaction with our program, your preparedness for Day 1, and your perceptions regarding your professional viability. Participation is entirely voluntary, and any information you provide is strictly confidential. Your perspectives are highly valuable to us; your feedback plays an important role in optimizing the quality of our program and, ultimately, the success of our graduates. Thank you for your time and consideration.

[Please help by taking the D.V.M. Alumni survey.](#)

### Have you hired a CSU D.V.M. within the last three years?

If so, we want to hear from you! [This survey](#) is a vital component of our continuous program improvement. Your feedback is important in helping us to learn of your satisfaction with our preparation of graduates. Completion of this survey is voluntary, and the information you provide is confidential.

[Please help by taking the Employer Survey.](#)

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## Upcoming Events

- [Commencement - May 17-19](#)

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