

NEWS FROM THE NCVP

FALL 2012

Welcome from the Director



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

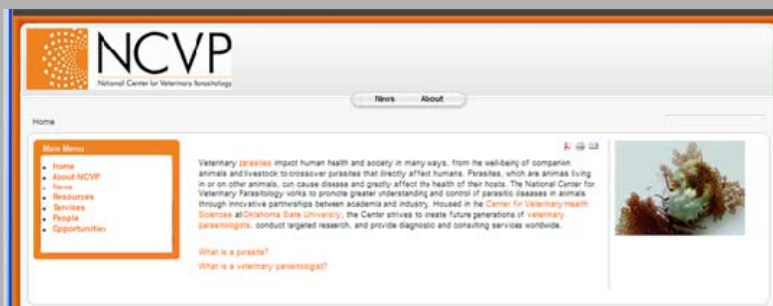
Welcome to the inaugural newsletter for the National Center for Veterinary Parasitology. This update will be e-published each fall and spring to let friends and colleagues of the NCVP know what has been happening at the Center, and to inform everyone about upcoming opportunities in veterinary parasitology through Oklahoma State University's program.

Whether you are interested in improved training for veterinarians and graduate students in clinical parasitology, enhanced research opportunities to understand and combat parasites, or helping to foster the next generation of veterinary parasitologists, the Center has something to offer.

It's been a busy summer, so let's get started in letting you in on all the activity!

NCVP Website Launch

As part of the next phase in the development of the National Center for Veterinary Parasitology, a website has been created that shares information about the NCVP. Be sure to check out the video interviews with leading veterinary parasitologists!



The site also provides veterinary parasitologists and others actively engaged in parasitology education with access to key resources. Now those teaching veterinary parasitology have a formalized system to request specimens, specific images (*see below*), or other materials needed for parasitology educational efforts. The website and the services it offers were promoted at the annual meeting of the American Association of Veterinary Parasitologists in San Diego in August 2012 (*did you get your NCVP parasite temporary tattoo?*) and will be a key component of the NCVP's efforts to meet education needs in the veterinary profession.

Specific, original parasite images can now be provided by the NCVP upon request.

Image Request Service Available



Cuterebra larva from cat

One of the services offered by the National Center for Veterinary Parasitology is provision of specific, original images needed for parasitology educational efforts. To request images, complete the request form at www.ncvetp.org, and email to ncvp@okstate.edu.

This service is available to faculty teaching parasitology at veterinary institutions in North America and to our colleagues in industry on a fee-for-service basis. Priority is given to requests from NCVP sponsors and to materials needed for teaching.



Haemonchus contortus from goat abomasum



Aedes aegypti adult

Summer with the Parasites

In June of 2012, the NCVP hosted a two-day continuing education event for veterinarians completely focused on companion animal parasite control.

Attendees participated in discussions updating them on challenges in heartworm disease, achieving effective flea and tick control, and difficulties in interpretation of fecal flotation. Afternoon wet labs allowed veterinarians to work with fresh samples containing common and unusual parasites of importance to companion animals, and to interact with live specimens of many commonly seen arthropods, including ticks, fleas, bedbugs, and mosquitoes.

Lecturers included Drs. Eileen Johnson, Mason Reichard, and Susan Little, with the Bayer Resident in Veterinary Parasitology, Dr. Lindsay Starkey, assisting in the hands-on laboratory sessions. The two-day seminar provided 15 hours of continuing education credit and was very well reviewed by attendees.

It is sure to be an annual event, so mark your calendars for **June 14-15, 2013**, when NCVP will again host a 2-day parasitology CE event for veterinarians, this time focused on parasites of cattle, small ruminants, and horses.



Drs. Eileen Johnson and Mason Reichard (pictured) together with Drs. Susan Little and Lindsay Starkey, presented parasitology continuing education at the NCVP's Summer Seminar held June 13-14, 2012.

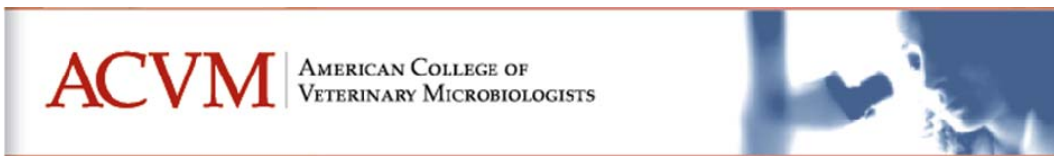
Parasitology Diplomate Examination Preparations Underway

Dr. Susan Little, Director, NCVP, serves on the ACVM-Parasitology team busily preparing the first board examination for diplomate certification in veterinary parasitology. As a member of the ACVM-Parasitology organizing committee and a Charter Diplomate of ACVM-Parasit., she knows how important it is to get this first exam exactly right.

Said Little, "We know the exam must be challenging but fair, and rigorous, but achievable. It definitely hasn't been easy to write." Fortunately, the exam prep team is stacked with parasitology stars, including Dr. Anne Zajac (Virginia Tech), also on the NCVP advisory board, as well as Drs. Linda Mansfield (Michigan State), Karen Snowden (Texas A&M), and Lora Ballweber (Colorado State).

"This process has been the ultimate team effort," says Little, "and it is really coming together beautifully."

"The exam must be challenging but fair, and rigorous but achievable."



Advanced Entomology Training for NCVP Residents

Drs. Alice Lee and Lindsay Starkey, NCVP Residents, attended the [Medical and Veterinary Acarology](#) course at Ohio State University June 25 – July 6, 2012. Long considered the premier training ground for those wishing to master the nuances of ticks, mites, and the myriad diseases they transmit, this course is demanding, enjoyable, and an outstanding opportunity.

Funding to support each resident is provided by the NCVP. Dr. Lee, the Novartis Resident in Veterinary Parasitology, is working with NCVP Advisory Board member Dr. Dwight Bowman at Cornell University, and Dr. Starkey, the Bayer Resident in Veterinary Parasitology, is training under Dr. Susan Little (NCVP Director) at Oklahoma State University. Well done, Alice and Lindsay!



Amblyomma americanum, the lone star tick (NCVP image).



Dr. Bowman Provides NCVP/SAAVP Keynote Talk

In March of 2012, as part of the spring Advisory Board Meeting, the NCVP and the Oklahoma State University student chapter of the AAVP hosted a dinner parasitology meeting for veterinary students and others interested in parasitology in the greater Stillwater metropolitan area.

With additional support from Novartis Animal Health and Bayer Animal Health to the student AAVP chapter we were able to accommodate over 60 attendees. Veterinary students love parasitology!

The lead attraction was a keynote presentation from Dr. Dwight Bowman, NCVP Advisory Board Member, on the current science of toxoplasmosis and human behavior. Turnout was fantastic, with parasitology legends Dr. Helen Jordan and Dr. Sidney Ewing taking part, as well as scores of veterinary students, veterinarians, parasitologists, and industry colleagues in attendance.

The students and faculty expressed their gratitude to Dr. Bowman by presenting him with a parasite tie and a special Dr. Johnson original pottery piece, an original, hand thrown plate featuring a Giardia trophozoite. There was even a book signing. Thanks to our sponsors, our attendees, and Dr. Bowman for a fantastic evening of parasitology entertainment and friendship.



Dr. Bowman visits with Drs. Helen Jordan, Sidney Ewing, and Eileen Johnson at NCVP/SCAAVP meeting.



The visit also allowed a chance for Oklahoma State veterinary students to have their textbooks signed by the author.



Key guests included faculty, industry colleagues, parasitology graduate students, and veterinary students. Pictured standing left to right are Heather Robinson, Anne Barrett, Mason Reichard, Kawnlin Firth, Richard Hawyworth, Doug Carithers, Dwight Bowman, Helen Jordan, Sidney Ewing, Chris Adolph, Joe Hostetler, and Pete Hann. Seated left to right are Susan Little, Kelly Allen, Eileen Johnson, Anne Zajac, Lindsay Starkey, Luisa Velasquez, and Tori Polito. In front row are Oklahoma State University's AAVP student chapter officers Brian Herrin, Heather Rhoden, and Cassandra Cullin.

“Parasitology Camp” at the NCVP

The National Center for Veterinary Parasitology faculty and residents had a recent opportunity to share their love of parasites and parasite control with attendees at Oklahoma State University’s annual Grandparent’s University.

As part of the session on veterinary medicine, grandparents and their grandchildren attended a parasitology laboratory where they had the opportunity to play with ticks, see giant (7-foot!) tapeworms up close, watch microfilaria wiggle and fleas jump, and enjoy the wonder of the parasite world.

Each grand-pair left with a photo from the tick photo board and a great memory about the importance of parasites and parasite control.



Dr. Little, NCVP Director, visits with attendees at a Parasitology Camp hosted by NCVP in June 2012.

Dr. Lindsay Starkey receives National AAVP/CAPC Award

Dr. Lindsay Starkey, the Bayer Resident in Veterinary Parasitology at the NCVP, received the 2012 AAVP/CAPC award from the [American Association of Veterinary Parasitologists](#).

This award is funded by the [Companion Animal Parasitology Council](#) to recognize a graduate student in North America whose research has contributed significantly to advancing our understanding of zoonotic diseases within veterinary parasitology. Dr. Starkey received it because of the progress she has made in ehrlichiosis research.

Dr. Starkey is a veterinarian, a 2011 graduate of Oklahoma State University’s Center for Veterinary Health Sciences, and has a long-standing interest in veterinary parasitology, dating back to her undergraduate days at the University of Arkansas. Congratulations, Lindsay, on this much deserved recognition!



Dr. Lindsay Starkey, NCVP Resident and 2012 AAVP/CAPC Award Recipient.

About the National Center for Veterinary Parasitology

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



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