

Sonya L. Keller, Waterloo, Ontario, Canada; Kelley A. Penraat, Lafayette, N.J.; Theresa E. Rizzi, Stillwater, Okla.; Elizabeth Spangler, Auburn, Ala.; Jennifer D. Steinberg, Worcester, Mass.; Heather L. Tarpley, Athens, Ga.; Craig A. Thompson, West Lafayette, Ind.; Leanne Twomey, Gainesville, Fla.; and Tamara B. Wills, Vancouver, Wash. Dr. Adrienne F. French, Philadelphia, already a diplomate of veterinary anatomic pathology, received certification in veterinary clinical pathology.

Marine Mammal Center begins rebuilding project

The Marine Mammal Center, a nonprofit rehabilitation and research hospital in Sausalito, Calif, has begun rebuilding its 30-year-old facility.

The center will continue to treat marine mammals during the \$18 million donor-funded project, which should be complete by the summer of 2007. The goal of the project is to create a facility with new pools and pens, as well as a new water filtration system to improve rehabilitation of specific species such as seals and sea lions.

The new complex will feature three buildings—the Marine Science Community Education Center, the Veterinary Science and Research Center, and the Marine Mammal Medical Center—around a central courtyard and amphitheater. A future phase will add a 40-foot permanent tank for cetaceans such as harbor porpoises and dolphins.

More information is available at www.marinemammalcenter.org.

Research in Progress

Tindamax being studied as treatment for tritrichomoniasis in cats

Presutti Laboratories is funding a study examining Tindamax (tinidazole) as a potential treatment for tritrichomoniasis in cats. *Tritrichomonas foetus*, which is closely related to *Trichomonas vaginalis* in humans, has been identified as an emerging intestinal pathogen of domestic animals.

The study was funded with a small, unrestricted grant. The lead

investigator is Dr. Jody Gookin, assistant professor of molecular biomedical sciences at North Carolina State University School of Veterinary Medicine.

"At present there are no approved drugs for treatment of these protozoal pathogens in companion animals," Dr. Gookin said. "Based on human clinical data and our own in vitro data, we believe tinidazole has outstanding potential for the routine treatment of *T foetus*."

Though metronidazole or metronidazole benzoate are often compounded for veterinary use, Dr. Gookin said they are ineffective against *T foetus* and are not approved for that use.

The infection is reportedly becoming more widespread, particularly in shelters and catteries. In a recent study of 117 show cats, Dr. Gookin and colleagues found 31 percent prevalence.

Similar to *Giardia*, Dr. Gookin said, *T foetus* is usually transmitted by the fecal-oral route. Signs in cats include semiformal or cow pie-shaped feces with a strong, foul odor; blood or mucus in the feces; an inflamed anus; fecal incontinence; and in some cases, rectal prolapse.

Tindamax, a second-generation 5-nitroimidazole, was approved in 2004 for use in the United States for treatment of giardiasis and amebiasis in humans. John Presutti, president of Presutti Laboratories, added that in the future, the company plans to investigate whether Tindamax may also be effective against amebiasis and giardiasis "in pets and other domestic animals."

Informational Resources

Monograph on macrocyclic lactones released

The U.S. Pharmacopeia has released a free monograph on macrocyclic lactones. The monograph includes information on the avermectins doramectin, eprinomectin, ivermectin, and selamectin, along with milbemycin and moxidectin. The monograph lists information on each drug's indications, adverse effects, regulatory considerations, and

environmental impact. To view the monograph, visit the USP Web site at www.usp.org/audiences/veterinary.

Summer course offers training in foreign animal diseases

A training course in foreign animal diseases will be available again this summer at the University of Wisconsin's School of Veterinary Medicine.

The school, in collaboration with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, will offer the Fourth Biennial Foreign Animal Disease Training Course from July 30-Aug. 4.

"The course is designed for governmental regulatory and public health veterinarians responsible for rapid detection of foreign animal diseases, animal disease regulatory specialists from industry, academicians responsible for teaching foreign animal diseases at veterinary medical schools, practicing veterinarians, and anyone interested in animal industry biosecurity and foreign animal diseases," said Dr. Christopher Olsen, professor of public health at the school and chairperson of FAD2006.

This year's meeting again features speakers from the Department of Veterinary Tropical Diseases at the University of Pretoria in South Africa, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in Italy, and the Veterinary Laboratories Agency-Weybridge in the United Kingdom. Other speakers are from the USDA, academic institutions, state veterinary agencies, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the U.S. and Canadian military.

This year's course will include a daylong tabletop exercise in controlling the incursion of foreign animal disease. The meeting will also provide time for one-on-one interaction among attendees—as during the 1999, 2001, and 2003 courses.

Information and registration materials are available at www.vetmed.wisc.edu/pbs/courses/FAD2006 or by e-mailing organizers at FAD2006@svm.vetmed.wisc.edu.