Student Activities at the ACVP/ASVCP/STP Combined Annual Meeting
October 17–21, 2015 at the Minneapolis Convention Center in Minneapolis

Saturday, October 17
8:00 AM–5:00 PM
Pre-Meeting Workshops http://www.toxpath.org/am2015/workshops.asp (Additional fee; Registration required)

9:00 AM–4:30 PM
NTP Satellite Symposium: Pathology Potpourri (Free event; Registration required)

5:30 PM–7:30 PM
STP Trainee Mixer (Free event; Registration required)

7:00 PM–7:30 PM
Opening Reception, Silent Auction and Exhibits

Sunday, October 18
7:00 AM–8:00 AM
Veterinary Student Breakfast (Free event; Required for Travel Awardee ACVP Student Chapters)

7:30 PM–9:30 PM
ACVP-STP Mystery Slide Review Session: Skin

Monday, October 19
1:45 PM–3:00 PM
Meet the Pathologists: A Discussion of Careers in Pathology (Free event)

1:30 PM–4:30 PM
Community Outreach Activity (CO-Act)

3:00 PM–5:00 PM
Veterinary Student and Resident Forum

Tuesday, October 20
1:30 PM–5:00 PM
ASVCP and STP Mystery Slide Case Session

6:15 PM–7:30 PM
ACVP and STP Combined Awards and Recognition Event

7:35 PM–9:30 PM
President’s Reception

Wednesday, October 21
1:00 PM–5:00 PM
Post-Meeting Workshops http://www.toxpath.org/am2015/workshops.asp (Additional fee; Registration required)

What Your Diagnosis?

Signalment:
1-day-old female Quarterhorse presented to The Ohio State University Equine Emergency services with a history of an unattended birth, progressive lethargy and anorexia. Upon physical examination, the filly had a temperature of 104.1°F, had cold extremities and injected mucus membranes. She had marked hyperlactatemia, marked leukopenia, marked hypoglycemia and her immunoglobulins measured at 0mg/dL; therefore, complete failure of passive transfer was clinically diagnosed.
Veterinary Pathology Residencies 101: On Your Mark, Get Set...Apply!

Many of you are eagerly awaiting the completion of final exams and the start of summer break. Perhaps you have lined up a summer externship doing research or working at a diagnostic lab. Or maybe you have finally moved into the clinics and you are on the homestretch to officially becoming a veterinarian! Regardless, the summer will be over before you know it! So, there is no time like the present to start thinking about the application process for residencies in veterinary and comparative pathology!

An extensive directory of veterinary and comparative pathology training programs can be found on the American College of Veterinary Pathologists’ (ACVP) website (http://www.acvp.org/index.php/en/2014-11-07-22-03-49/training-programs). Residency and graduate study opportunities in veterinary and comparative pathology are posted online by the ACVP (http://www.acvp.org/index.php/en/component/content/article?id=41) as well as the American Society for Veterinary Clinical Pathology (http://www.asvcp.org/stures/residents.cfm). Postings usually begin around June 1st. If you don’t see a posted position for an institution to which you are particularly interested in applying, don’t hesitate to call or email the contact person listed in the directory noted above. Application due dates vary between institutions but typically range from October 1st to December 1st.

In general, most applications will require a letter of intent, your updated curriculum vitae (CV), a statement of career goals, your transcripts with cumulative grade point average and class rank, GRE scores, and letters of reference. However, be sure to read postings carefully so as not to miss special application procedures. Start updating your CV now. Identify people as references who know you well, and can speak to your pathology and research experiences. Make sure that they are aware of your intent to apply for pathology residencies and the due dates for your various applications. If you haven’t had a prior externship at your top institution(s), you might consider coordinating a visit at some point this summer or early fall. Visits benefit both the institution and potential applicant. Faculty will be able to match personalities with names and achievements on paper. In addition, potential applicants will be able to see the area, speak with current faculty and residents, and if the timing is right, maybe even attend gross rounds or a histopath seminar. Once you have sent off your applications, don’t hesitate to contact the application coordinators to ensure that ALL of your materials have been received in advance of the due date.

It is true that submitting your applications early will result in a longer period of anxiety and nail biting until institutions make their decisions! But just remember, the early bird gets the worm while the procrastinator just gets stressed out!

Happy applying!

Krista M. D. La Perle, DVM, PhD, Diplomate ACVP
This summer I had an opportunity to complete 2 externships owing to the generous financial support provided through the ACVP Externship Scholarship.

My first externship took place at the Western College of Veterinary Medicine (WCVM) at the University of Saskatchewan, and I was very privileged to have received a matching scholarship from WCVM to support my externship. During my time in Saskatoon, I had the privilege of working with Dr. Elemir Simko on elucidating putative biomarkers in plasma and serum of cattle for ante-mortem diagnosis of sulphur-induced polioencephalomalacia. During my 10-week externship, I was able to not only acquire new skills in proteomics, but also identify 4 distinct proteins, which were differentially expressed in plasma and serum of cattle affected with spontaneously occurring sulphur-induced polio, when compared to subclinically affected animals and controls. We are currently working with our collaborators at the College of Medicine, University of Saskatchewan on elucidating the identity of these proteins through mass spectrometry and will be presenting our findings at the upcoming ACVP meeting this Fall. Through this experience I have gained a substantial insight into the pathophysiology of this devastating and poorly understood disease, but also had the opportunity to attend the C.L. Davis Foundation Descriptive Pathology course, and the XVII International Symposium of the World Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians (WVALD) in Saskatoon.

Additionally, I have been able to participate in several forensic necropsies that were submitted through provincial SPCA authorities. This allowed me to put into practice the knowledge I gained from attending the WVALD meeting in Saskatoon and gain further insight into the complexity and challenges of such investigations.

In summary, I feel very grateful for the opportunity to experience so many different aspects of veterinary pathology, none of which would have been possible without the funds available through the ACVP Externship Scholarship. All these experiences have not only equipped me with a broad range of skills that will be valuable throughout the reminder of my DVM programme, but also gave me invaluable networking opportunities and solidified my desire to pursue anatomic pathology residency following graduation.
Since starting my veterinary education at Washington State University, I have constantly been exploring the different career options in the profession. Faculty, staff, and veterinary practitioners have told me that the only thing limiting a career as a veterinarian is one’s imagination. My first spark of interest in pathology was during the spring semester of first year when I took general pathology with Dr. Charles Leathers. Although the information and requisite skills made this an intimidating class, I enjoyed every minute of both lecture and laboratory, and was always seeking additional necropsy experience.

(continuing on next page)
This summer, as I was starting my third year, I decided to take the opportunity to explore the potential for a pathology residency and to witness first hand what a typical day is for a pathologist. I applied for, and received, two externships using the helpful American College of Veterinary Pathologists website to guide my selection. The first was at Texas A&M University and the second one at the Wyoming State Veterinary Laboratory (WSVL). Fortunately, I received funding by the 2015 Externship Scholarship from the American College for Veterinary Pathologists, which helped offset travel and housing expenses. The first stop was Texas A&M where I was thrown into the necropsy rotation with fourth year veterinary students on my first day. I was nervous about being underprepared, since I had just finished my second year. Despite a steep learning curve, I was determined and willing to work hard. This externship taught me many things but I found that I had greater capacity for study and I was more capable than I imagined.

Mornings were spent attending and observing the pathology residents in their daily meetings. This provided a great opportunity to speak to the various residents about how they decided to pursue a pathology residency. Dr. Brian Porter and the residents were willing to take time from their hectic schedules to go through histology slides and discuss cases and quiz my knowledge. The afternoons at Texas A&M were devoted to necropsies. Their cases are from the teaching hospital on campus. There were a variety of cases, from the everyday domestic species to the occasional parrot, kangaroo, and rhinoceros. I worked in teams with the fourth year students and together we completed necropsies and shared the responsibility for writing up necropsy reports. It was arduous trying to determine how to start applying everything I’ve learned in school and then writing reports professionally. Thankfully, the residents’ proofread the submitted reports and helped me grow. Later in the summer, I started my second externship at WSVL. WSVL is a diagnostic laboratory providing educational opportunity from different units including bacteriology, virology, epidemiology and the Wyoming Game and Fish Department (WGFD). I was honored to have each department notify me of any intriguing case during my visit.

With only one other student at the laboratory, I was provided with extraordinary first-hand experiences and copious time with two pathologists, Dr. Donal O’Toole and Dr. Todd Cornish. They constantly quizzed me with difficult questions, a process I enjoyed. If I didn’t know the answer I would do the research, provide an answer, just to be asked another similar thought-provoking question. The real fun was going through histology slides with the pathologists and trying to answer, “What’s that cell?” Each day, I was treated as a colleague and a student, and pushed to recall vital knowledge.

Being the state diagnostic laboratory, there were plenty of cases from across Wyoming. Since the WGFD has a presence in the laboratory, I got to work with Terry Creekmore, a wildlife disease specialist. I was called on to necropsy numerous elk, a pronghorn antelope, a black bear and a moose. One day, I was privileged to go out in the field and work with bighorn sheep and take a variety of samples for an ongoing research project.

This summer and these externships provided valuable insight to the world of pathology. I believe it was also valuable to observe how a diagnostic laboratory operates and how I can build a professional relationship with a diagnostic laboratory, should I go into clinical practice after school.

Without question, my interest in pursuing a potential career in pathology has grown. I would like to thank the faculty and staff at Texas A&M University and Wyoming State Veterinary Laboratory for their time and for allowing me complete my externships at their facilities. Each facility was welcoming and inviting and I enjoyed meeting and working with so many wonderful and talented individuals. I also want to thank each and every one of the pathologists, residents, and Wyoming Fish and Game officers who were willing to answer my plethora of questions. These valuable externships have provided otherwise unobtainable networking opportunities, a chance to make lasting friendships, and the further development of my interest in pathology.
Recipient of the 2015 ACVP Award for Excellence in Pathology:
Timothy Helms Iowa, State University

My interest in pathology stems from my background in biomedical research. Prior to entering veterinary school I had worked as a laboratory/research assistant in a variety of research labs ranging from microbiology to genetics to neurobiology. I enjoyed all of my research experiences, especially collaborating with my lab mates to work through problems, interpret results, and learn about and contribute to a variety of research projects. I wanted a career that, along with my interest in veterinary medicine, would allow me to continue to meaningfully contribute to research. It took only a few days in my second semester General Veterinary Pathology course at Iowa State to see how nicely pathology aligned with my career goal.

From early spring 2012 onward, my focus was to get into a pathology residency.

The cart may have jumped in front of the horse, however, because I struggled in that first semester of gen path. The whole process didn’t make sense to me, describing lesions in detail only to more succinctly describe them with fancy words in a morphological diagnosis seemed redundant! Like many first year vet students, I would stare blankly at lesions and shrug my shoulders instead of methodically working through them. Fortunately, I had an excellent mentor in Dr. Ron Myers who dedicated more than his fair share of time to me and my classmates. Pathology remained difficult but, with his help, it became fun and worth pursuing.

From then on, I took every opportunity I could to learn more about the field and how to best prepare for a career in it. I joined the ISU Veterinary Pathology Club, traveled to the 2012 ACVP meeting in Seattle, participated in the Merial/NIH summer research program with another pathologist, Dr. Elizabeth Whitley. I sought guidance from my advisor, Dr. Amanda Fales-Williams who aided me in identifying and choosing programs that fit my interests in both pathology and research.

Finally, during my fourth year, I participated in several externships to gain experience, to get my foot in the door at the programs I was most interested in, and to see how compatible I was with the faculty and residents at each of the programs I visited. All of these experiences contributed to a successful placement here at (the) Ohio State University where I am thrilled to continue learning the trade I love.

Pathology remains challenging in my residency, but in that daily struggle are moments of enlightenment and learning that are profoundly satisfying. In just two months, I can sense a dramatic improvement in my knowledge and ability. The challenge, by the way, is also made easier since discovering the beauty of an “open” diagnosis (one of the many benefits of the DVM is a license to admit when you’re stumped). I had and continue to have great experiences with mentors who have inspired and fostered a sincere enthusiasm for this field. I encourage veterinary students interested in pathology to reach out to your nearest DACVP faculty member. Their guidance and encouragement will set you on the course to success.

Michael Martinez: Recipient of the 2015 ACVP Award for Excellence in Pathology,
The Ohio State University

It was mid autumn in the third year of my veterinary curriculum at The Ohio State University when I decided to pursue anatomic pathology as a career (it’s never too late). The decision was simple once I had constructed a clear picture in my mind of what my interests were and what I wanted to achieve as a veterinarian. I was a visual learner interested in the pathogenesis of disease; I wanted to contribute to the betterment of public health; and, to some capacity, I wanted to be involved in scientific research throughout my career. After deciding on anatomic pathology as a career, I strove to become more familiar with the field and to become a competitive residency applicant.

The three critical steps that I took towards familiarizing myself and becoming a more competitive applicant were meeting with veterinary pathologists to discuss their views on the field of pathology (anatomic and clinical), volunteering on the necropsy floor whenever possible, and getting involved in some sort of pathology oriented project with one of the pathologists at your college (i.e. a case report). To be a competitive applicant you should have a strong academic standing to “get your foot in the door”, pathology and research experience to set yourself apart, and — you should be likeable. Just like any other job interview, you need to show that you are someone that the pathologists and other residents in the program can work with. This is an important point that I believe is often lost somewhere in the stress of the application process. Once you’ve built up your resume, it’s time to apply.

Applying to residency is like applying to any other job. You should narrow down where you would like to work based on your interests, program type (traditional versus combined with PhD), and finally, the ethereal “best fit”. If you have the feeling that you won’t be happy working somewhere after visiting, then do not apply just because it was your favorite program on paper before the visit. If you’re not happy at work then you could be in for a turbulent 3-5 years that are critical to your career future. Regardless of where you end up, there is bound to be a steep learning curve during your first year of residency. If you have been accepted to a program and have spare time and energy to burn during the fourth year of your veterinary curriculum, I recommend brushing up on normal histology and anatomy before the start of your exciting new career!
Spotlight on the ACVP Excellence in Pathology Award

The Excellence in Pathology Award is given to one fourth year (graduating) veterinary student at each AVMA-accredited school in North America with an active ACVP Student Chapter.

The recipient is selected by the pathology faculty, including the Student Chapter Advisor, at each institution.

Recommended criteria for selection should include:
- Excellence in pathology coursework
- Excellence in senior pathology rotations and/or externships
- Dedicated involvement in pathology departmental activities (i.e. rounds, slide seminars, research seminars, etc.)
- Demonstration of strong leadership abilities
- Active membership in the active ACVP Student Chapter

2015 ACVP Excellence in Pathology Awardees

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<td>Caitlyn Romero Martinez</td>
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<td>Elizabeth Gongko</td>
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<td>Laura Chen</td>
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<td>Jonathan Sago</td>
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<td>Alexandra Roland, University of Minnesota, CVM</td>
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<td>Jessica Fortin, University of Montreal, The Faculté de Médecine Vétérinaire</td>
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<td>Sarah Dixon, University of Prince Edward Island, Atlantic CVM</td>
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<td>Colleen Monahan, University of Tennessee, CVM</td>
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<td>Devon Wilson, University of Saskatchewan, Western CVM</td>
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<td>Catherine Taddy Fick, University of Wisconsin, SVM</td>
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<td>Charles Alex, Virginia-Maryland Regional CVM</td>
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<td>Jackie Illiano, Washington State University, CVM</td>
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<td>Diane Ordanes, Western University of Health Sciences, Western Veterinary College</td>
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2015 ACVP Award for Excellence in Pathology: Sarah Dixon, University of Prince Edward Island

Greatest learning experience: This is a very difficult question to answer because I do not feel that I have had just one experience that has shaped my education. It has been a culmination of events that have led me to where I am today. From working with beef cattle in undergrad to handling monkeys before veterinary school to managing multiple classes in veterinary school. And at this point, it might be possible that my greatest learning experience is yet to come. I am about to embark on my dream career and who knows what it’s going to throw at me.

Career goals: I will be doing an internship in the next year at Ocean State Veterinary Specialists in East Greenwich, RI, USA. One reason I chose this position was my ability to work side by side with the clinical pathologist at their hospital. I hope to either pursue a board certification in forensic medicine or clinical pathology in the future.
This summer, the three of us were fortunate enough to participate in summer research projects through the Veterinary Scholar Summer Research Program at The Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine. Our projects were generously supported by NIH and Merial, which allowed us to attend the Merial-NIH National Veterinary Scholars Symposium, hosted this year at the UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine. Although we were only there for three days, our schedule was packed with lots of fun and interesting activities!

Lectures covered topics ranging from oncology, regenerative medicine, and ophthalmology to One Health, wildlife conservation, and environmental health science. Nobel laureate Dr. Peter C. Doherty gave a phenomenal keynote address which highlighted his path to a career in research. Guest speakers came from UC Davis, the CDC, National Geographic, and other institutions to share their expertise and encourage students to pursue their passion for a career in scientific research. These speakers not only included veterinarians but also human medical professionals, molecular biologists, physiologists, toxicologists, conservationists, and many more. Together, their messages emphasized the theme of the symposium: “Solving Complex Challenges at the Interface of Humans, Animals, and their Environment.”

With over 400 students in attendance from schools across the U.S. and abroad, the symposium was also an excellent opportunity to meet fellow veterinary students! Poster sessions were a great time to talk with other students working in similar fields (and completely different fields!) about their projects and experiences in a relaxed, conversational manner. There were also plenty of opportunities to mingle at the opening reception, meal times, and after dinner entertainment – including the legendary veterinary band, Bog Spavin!

Overall, the symposium was a wonderful chance for us to practice presenting research findings, meet new people, and learn about the importance of scientific research in veterinary medicine and the need for veterinarians interested in research careers. We were sad to leave sunny California and return to an unusually rainy Ohio summer, but we had a great time at the symposium and are grateful for the opportunity to attend!
After gaining my veterinary degree, I applied for graduate programs in the USA. I was fortunate to have gained admission with full scholarship at the University of Arkansas (UARK), Fayetteville in the Center of Excellence for Poultry science. Under the mentorship of Drs. Kirk Skeeles, Lisa Newberry, and Dustan Clark, I completed my Master's thesis research on subgroup J avian leukosis virus (ALV J) transmission and pathology. ALV J emerged out of the blue due to natural recombination events between exogenous retroviruses and ancient endogenous retroviral elements. This new virus was exclusively targeting meat-type chicken and threatened the existence of the broiler industry due to the high mortality of broiler breeders from myeloid tumors. I wanted to pursue a PhD to study this virus further. The USDA ARS Avian Disease and Oncology Laboratory (ADOL) is a premier research institute and has recently described this virus in the USA. I was lucky to be accepted into the doctoral program in the Veterinary Pathology department at Michigan State University (MSU) under the guidance of Dr. Willie Reed. Due to a long-standing agreement between ADOL and MSU, I was able to pursue doctoral research on ALV J under the supervision of Dr. Aly Fadly, the director of ADOL and an expert on avian retroviruses. My research experiences in UARK, ADOL and MSU shaped me as a scientist and taught me various aspects of scientific inquiry including hypothesis testing, experimental design, and data analysis. Above all, ADOL has been very good to me especially since it accepted a beautiful postdoc from Spain, Dr. Isabel Gimenos. We were married as soon as I finished my PhD.

My professional PATHway so far..... by Arun Pandiri

I got my Veterinary degree from the College of Veterinary Science, Acharya N.G. Ranga Agricultural University, Hyderabad, India. My veterinary curriculum was focused heavily on food animal medicine and production to serve the needs of a predominantly agricultural and food animal economy. I am very inquisitive by nature and wanted to pursue a research-oriented career.

After the fun road trip to Ames, IA and passing the ACVP boards, I applied for a postdoctoral fellowship position in the Cellular and Molecular Pathology Branch (CMPB), National Toxicology Program (NTP), National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS). I was lucky to have been offered the postdoctoral position at CMPB, NTP, since this opportunity set the course for the rest of my career to date. When I arrived at CMPB, surprise!! surprise!!, who do I find?? my fellow graduate student at MSU, Dr. Mark Hoenerhoff!! He was the group leader of Investigative Pathology in CMPB and I was to work with him. We made a good team and under the guidance of Dr. Robert Sills, we did several molecular pathology projects including toxicogenomics and mutation analysis. We used various molecular biology tools to study chemical carcinogenesis in rodents from NTP bioassays. Coming from a different research background helped me to think out of the box for the NTP research projects. My foray into toxicologic pathology included a steep learning curve but the abundant expertise and mentorship of the NTP pathologists made it a pleasurable experience.

After one year of postdoctoral fellowship in CMPB, I was hired by Experimental Pathology Laboratory, Inc. to provide contract support to CMPB. This was the best-case scenario for me since this was my first real job with a real salary and I got to stay in CMPB and continue to do research. EPL provided a lot of professional exposure, opportunities and support for budding toxicologic pathologists like myself. Drs. Jerry Hardisty and Rodney Miller at EPL were very generous with their time and knowledge. The interactions with scientists in CMPB and EPL provided many learning opportunities on toxicologic pathology. After a few years working as a toxicologist pathologist, I took the American Board of Toxicology certification exam in order to familiarize myself with various aspects of toxicology and also to better communicate with the toxicologist colleagues.

I was recently hired as a staff scientist and as the leader of the Molecular Pathology Group within the CMPB, NTP. In this capacity, I continue to serve as an NTP pathologist and also do collaborative research on topics relevant to toxicologic pathology and the NTP. As an NTP pathologist, I ensure that the quality of the pathology data is of the highest standard and also defend this data before an external panel of experts. As the group leader of the molecular pathology group, I coordinate the research on toxicologic pathology and employ a wide range of tools including histopathology, immunohistochemistry, basic molecular biology tools, cell culture, and toxicogenomics such as microarrays, methylation arrays, miRNA arrays, and NextGen sequencing tools. I also provide mentorship and training in molecular pathology to high school students, undergrads, veterinary students and postdoctoral fellows. It is a gratifying experience and I feel it is my duty to the profession.

Pathology was my favorite subject in the vet school since it answered a lot of my questions regarding pathogenesis of diseases. During my MS and PhD, I learnt more about poultry pathology and also provided pathology support to all the scientists working on avian retroviruses as well as poultry genetics at ADOL. After completion of my PhD, I joined the pathology residency program at MSU under the mentorship of Dr. Willie Reed. However, due to spousal relocation, I transferred to the Veterinary pathology residency program at North Carolina State University (NCSU) after one year of pathology residency at MSU. I learnt a lot and really enjoyed the pathology residency and was fortunate to have been taught by outstanding mentors at both MSU and NCSU.

Now looking back, I took a circuitous route to my current position. Some of my career plans did not work out but I kept my options open and seized all the opportunities provided by my mentors. I was not afraid to explore and be out of my comfort zone and I volunteered to participate in some projects and symposia. In the end, I feel I was at the right time, at the right place and surrounded by the right people. I am fortunate to have an exciting job and wonderful colleagues, and I look forward to going to work every single day. What else can one ask for?
Death and Tox’s: Considering a Profession in Toxicologic Pathology by Brianne Taylor, Colorado State University

In March 2015, Dr. Keith Nelson made a visit out to Colorado State University, where he spoke with both the pathology residents and the ACVP Student Chapter. He is a principal pathologist at MPI Research, and is also the residency training coordinator between MPI and nearby Michigan State University. His dinner lecture to the ACVP student chapter was two-fold, explaining the role of pathologists in drug development as well as discussing career potentials for vet students interested in the field.

As a member of the Society of Toxicologic Pathology (STP), Dr. Nelson is part of a new outreach initiative (STIP), which promotes the unique field to vet students and pathology trainees. The initiative also increases educational interactions between STP and North American training programs. I think most of us can agree that, historically speaking, toxicologic pathology’s presence has been minimal in these institutions.

STP’s goal can be summed up by its vision statement: “Be an international leader for improvement of human, animal, and environmental health using an interdisciplinary scientific approach based in pathology and toxicology.” Toxicologic pathologists work in many fields; including pharmaceutical discovery, safety assessment, environmental safety, academic research, governmental regulatory oversight, and industrial research, as well as many others. Dr. Nelson pointed out that veterinary pathologists have evaluated virtually every pharmaceutical in our formularies and many other products, from breakthrough chemotherapeutics down to baby formula.

Dr. Nelson had some great career advice to budding pathologists, encouraging us to gain exposure to aspects of pathology beyond our current scope. Awareness and involvement with STP’s growing presence is one such aspect, so don’t be afraid to ask questions and branch out beyond your comfort zone. As we’ve learned with so many of our professors and mentors, you never know where life (and pathology) may take you.