

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY  
Lloyd Veterinary Medical Center

Spring 2023

# Vet Pulse

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR OUR REFERRING VETERINARIANS

## Patient Safety: PART 1

Over the past few years, the veterinary profession has begun to talk openly about medical errors in clinical practice and their role in patient safety. This follows similar trends in human medicine in recent decades.

At the Lloyd Veterinary Medical Center, we're bringing discussions about medical errors in the open. As a result, the LVMC is focusing on a robust patient safety culture to discover and address the underlying causes of errors so healthcare providers can prevent, reduce and learn from them.

"Our culture at the LVMC acknowledges that errors will occur, and our hospital can be made safer by reporting, analyzing, sharing and discussing errors and potential errors," said Dr. Jessica Ward, LVMC cardiologist and chair of the hospital's Patient Safety Committee.

The first step in creating a culture of openness was to establish a patient safety committee. "The idea for forming a safety committee was the progression of conversations with several faculty members

who had experience with similar initiatives at other hospitals," Ward said. "It was a great idea and just needed a team to spearhead the formation and logistics."

An important tool in developing transparency and accountability is the hospital's Patient Incident Reporting System, which empowers all members of the healthcare team to report concerns about patient safety. Some of the types of reportable incidents include medication/treatment errors, anesthetic errors, and patient injuries. Importantly, stakeholders are encouraged to report potential issues even if the problem is noticed and corrected before it reaches the patient ("near-misses") and even if the error did not actually cause harm to the patient ("no-harm errors").

"The person reporting an incident can remain anonymous," Ward said. "But the majority of responders do sign their name, which helps reinforce that this is a healthy process without shame or blame."

The hospital's patient safety committee analyzes the data regarding incidences and

factors contributing to actual or potential medical errors or patient injuries. They also provide recommendations regarding systemic or policy changes to improve safety.

The reporting system was put into place in fall of 2021, and the committee has met once every 3 months to review incident reports. Patient incident reports have come from all different team members at the LVMC, including students, house officers, technicians, faculty, and pharmacists. All different types of incidents have been reported, with most being either "near-misses" or "no-harm errors".

Ward says the focus on patient safety has had many positive results. "There's an increased awareness of the potential for mistakes and the situations where they are apt to occur," Ward said. "This helps to improve communications within the healthcare teams."

**This is part 1 of a series of Patient Safety reports that will appear in *VetPulse*.**



## Practice Partners Program

The Iowa State University College of Veterinary Medicine has launched a new, exciting program for veterinary colleagues to recruit ISU-CVM students called the Practice Partners Program.

“Our previous process for employer recruitment at the college was relatively ad hoc,” said Dr. Jessica Ward, assistant dean of extramural student programs and Phyllis M. Clark Endowed Professor. “It consisted largely with employers submitting advertisements which were circulated to our students as individual emails, and some corporate practices began hiring student ambassadors to organize individual recruiting events. The only large-scale recruiting event held at the college was the IVMA Networking and Job Fair held each year in the fall.”

As the job market has tightened and interest in hiring ISU-CVM students increased, Ward turned to other colleges to find new recruitment ideas. Several had implemented the Practice Partners Program, which seemed to fit with some of the college’s offerings.

Rather than an ad hoc approach, the new Practice Partners Program outlines a structured path for potential employers to engage with CVM students. “The program also offers an equal playing field for private and corporate practices, and everyone has

the same access opportunities,” Ward said. Important to Ward was the problem’s flexibility and new offerings (see box) that provide enriched networking between students and potential employers.

During the first three weeks of the program’s enrollment, thirty organizations signed up to be Practice Partners. “That’s the same number of practices that submitted advertisements over a 6-month period using the previous system,” Ward said. “We’re seeing a lot of interest.”

As the program grows, Ward plans to consider more in-person recruiting events, more events tailored to specific interest groups, more sophisticated digital recruiting materials such as video messages/tours from employers, and more real-time interactions between students/employers. “I’m open to all ideas,” Ward said.

“Recruiting has become more competitive over the past few years,” Ward said. “When we survey our students regarding the most important factors when selecting their first veterinary job, the number one response is mentorship, followed by a tie between geographic location and salary.”

Ward suggests that practices highlight their mentorship programs when recruiting students, and how that mentorship looks day to day. “About half of our students plan to practice in Iowa or surrounding states,” Ward said. “Others are interested in locations closer to family, particularly to the job of a partner/spouse. Employers might consider highlighting family-oriented benefits - such as employment opportunities for partners, paid parental leave, and childcare - to attract candidates,” she added.

“Evaluating the effective of a program like this is always challenging,” Ward said. “I plan to survey students annually, explore ways to track how many student clubs utilize the Practice Partners list and how many take advantage of the individual counseling offers, for example. Overall, I’m excited about the program and welcome feedback from our partners.”



AD  
Digital Communications and Advertising

In-Person Networking and Job Fairs

Facilitated Events with Student Clubs and Organizations

Individual Student Career Development Consulting

### OFFERINGS INCLUDE:

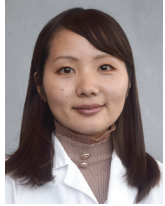
- Practice Partners can submit digital advertisements that will be collated into a monthly Practice Partners Digest circulated to students and posted internally at the CVM
- Practice Partners can pitch their job openings in a large-group format and interact with students at an in-person career development event each spring hosted by the ISU-CVM Student American Veterinary Medical Association and the Veterinary Business Management Association
- Practice Partners can submit a list of educational topics/speakers for consideration by student clubs
- Individual veterinarians from Practice Partners can volunteer to serve as student career development consultants



For more information about the Practice Partner Program and how to enroll, go to our [Practice Partners website](#).

## New Clinicians

### ANESTHESIOLOGY



**Masako Fujiyama, BVSc,**  
MSc, Diplomate ACVAA



**Brandon Wahler, DVM,**  
MS, Diplomate ACVAA



**Craig Willette,**  
DVM, MS

### DIAGNOSTIC IMAGING



**Robin White, DVM, MSc,**  
Diplomate ACVR

### EQUINE MEDICINE



**Melissa Esser, DVM, MS,**  
Diplomate ACVIM-LAIM

### EQUINE SURGERY



**Marc Kinsley, DVM, MS,**  
Diplomate ACVS (LA)

### INTERNAL MEDICINE



**Erin McQuinn, DVM,**  
Diplomate ACVIM-SAIM

### ONCOLOGY



**Keiko Murakami, BVM,**  
MS, Diplomate ACVIM  
(Oncology), Diplomate  
ACVR (Radiation Oncology)



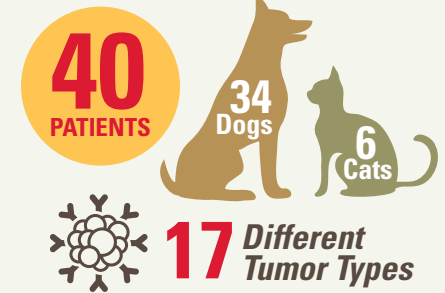
**Nicholas Rancilio, DVM,**  
MS, Diplomate ACVR  
(Radiation Oncology)



### Clinical Trials at the LVMC

We welcome referring veterinarians to talk to us about ongoing trials, and whether your patients might be eligible. Currently, we have trials in the following areas of study: Anesthesiology, Cardiology, Internal Medicine, and Oncology.

Please go to our [clinical trials website](#) to learn more. Or contact Dr. Mei-Jyun Ciou at [mciou@iastate.edu](mailto:mciou@iastate.edu). Or call (515) 294-4900.



## Oncology Service Update

The Lloyd Veterinary Medical Center oncology service welcomed two new faculty members. Dr. Nicholas Rancilio (boarded in radiation oncology) and Dr. Keiko Murakami (double boarded in medical and radiation oncology) joined the oncology team in June 2022. Having a full complement of oncology faculty allows the service to offer clients and patients comprehensive treatment plans that include radiation therapy, chemotherapy, or both. Our new faculty can provide emergent radiation therapy treatments for patients that would benefit from immediate treatment (such as those with mediastinal lymphoma) and expands the types of tumors we can treat.

Since June 2022, we have treated 40 radiation patients (34 dogs, 6 cats) with 17 different tumor types. The most treated gross tumors include nasal, oral, brain, and urothelial cell carcinoma. For those treated in the adjuvant setting, soft tissue sarcomas and apocrine gland anal sac adenocarcinoma are most common. Four patients had more than one site treated due to finding a secondary, incidental tumor on staging.

For more information, please contact:

#### Medical Oncology

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#### Radiation Oncology

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