

## Vet Med News AUGUST 2020

### Student solutions help ease back-to-school transition



TransparenSee | TECH Together Project, Proposal 2.8

As Virginia Tech prepared for an influx of students for the new academic year, Laura Hungerford, professor of veterinary public health and epidemiology and head of the Department of Population Health Sciences; and Ron Fricker, professor of statistics and an associate dean in the College of Science, launched the [TECH Together Campaign](#), calling upon students to devise solutions to both prevent the spread of COVID-19 and provide comfort to the campus community.

Sponsored by the [COVID-19 Rapid Response Seed Fund](#), the competition received 76 applications from 20 different colleges and departments campus-wide. In turn, ten finalists and five winners were chosen for their ability to tackle challenges with innovative and creative solutions.

Among the winners was a team of MPH and DVM/MPH students — Ella Rak, Jaclyn Abramson, Teace Markwalter, and Hannah Reed — and their faculty advisor, Sophie Wenzel, assistant professor of practice in the Department of Population Health Sciences and associate director of the Center for Public Health Practice and Research. The team's interdisciplinary work with university partners to develop a reusable, scalable, clear facial covering will facilitate the rapid production, testing, and distribution of at least 3,000 masks to improve communication and accommodate individuals with hearing disabilities.

[TECH Together Campaign announces winners and finalists](#)→

## Around the College



### Ph.D. training program awarded five-year NIH grant

Animal Model Research for Veterinarians, a post-D.V.M. program led by Dr. X.J. Meng, University Distinguished Professor of Molecular Virology; and Ansar Ahmed, professor of immunology and associate dean of Research and Graduate Studies, was awarded a nearly \$1.4 million T32 graduate training grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to prepare veterinarians for careers as biomedical researchers.



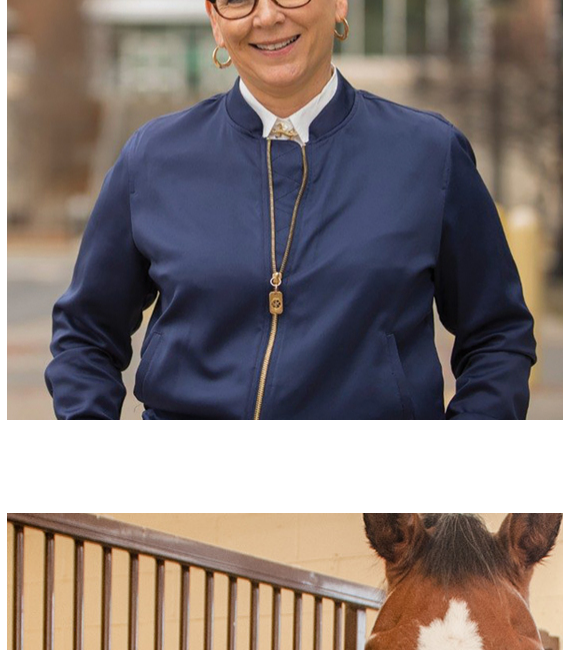
### New faculty join Animal Cancer Care and Research Center

In the wake of its opening on the Virginia Tech Carilion Health Sciences campus in Roanoke, Virginia, the Animal Cancer Center welcomed Brittany Ciepluch, assistant professor of surgical oncology; and Nicholas Rancilio, assistant professor of radiation oncology. Led by interim director Joanne Tuohy, assistant professor of surgical oncology, the center offers comprehensive, integrated oncology services for dogs and cats.



### College awarded theriogenology residency program funding

The American Kennel Club (AKC), AKC Canine Health Foundation (AKCCHF), and Theriogenology Foundation (TF) announced that VA-MD Vet Med is one of two institutions selected through a competitive grant application process to receive residency program funding in 2021 through the AKC/AKCCHF/TF Small Animal Theriogenology Residency Program.



### Grant to establish recovery research infrastructure for persons with opioid use disorder

Principal investigators Kimberly Horn, a professor in the Department of Population Health Sciences and at the Fralin Biomedical Research Institute at VTC; and Robert Pack, associate dean of East Tennessee State University's College of Public Health and executive director of its Addiction Science Center, were awarded a \$2.6 million grant from the National Institute on Drug Abuse.



### In memory: Paul Goodness

Paul Goodness, a humble, kind man with an instinct for treating horses with chronic hoof conditions, died July 21 at the age of 62. In 2016, Goodness, a Certified Journeyman Farrier who earlier had served as the official U.S. Equestrian Team farrier, embraced the opportunity to become part of the Marion duPont Scott Equine Medical Center's vision for a comprehensive podiatry service in collaboration with the sports medicine and rehabilitation teams.

## Vet Med Alumni

[VA-MD Vet Med Alumni online](#)→



### Alumnus named 2020 recipient of AVMA Career Achievement in Canine Research Award

The American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) recognized Timothy M. Fan (DVM '95) with the 2020 AVMA Career Achievement in Canine Research Award, which honors an AVMA member's long-term contribution to the field of canine research. Fan has built an internationally recognized comparative oncology program at the University of Illinois.

## Upcoming virtual events

Scheduled for Oct. 5-8, VA-MD Vet Med Alumni's fall conference, **Connect 2020**, will be entirely virtual! [Learn more about the range of programming and activities.](#)

Three separate continuing education conferences — small animal, large animal, and public health/wellness — have been planned for the next six months. First on the docket, the **Small Animal Virtual CE** will be held Oct. 5-8. [Learn more about all three conferences and register now.](#)

## Vet Med in the News

### Coronavirus Latest: July Was a Brutal Month for the U.S.

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

### Improving the outlook for brain tumor patients

VETERINARY PRACTICE NEWS CANADA

### Students, recent grads from underrepresented backgrounds are building spaces for themselves

JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

### DVMs essential to future of biomedical research

VETERINARY PRACTICE NEWS

### ETSU, Virginia Tech awarded \$2.6 million for project

SCIENMAG SCIENCE MAGAZINE

### Do we know enough about the safety of quat disinfectants?

CHEMICAL & ENGINEERING NEWS

### It's Time to Talk About Race in the Equine Veterinary Profession

THE HORSE

### Step-by-step: COVID-19 vaccine prep with Dr. X.J. Meng

BIG LICK OF SCIENCE PODCAST

### VT Opens New Infectious Disease Center; Job One: Coronavirus

RadiolQ/WVTF

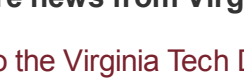
**GIVE to VA-MD VET MED**

*Your support helps us advance knowledge, improve health, and save lives.*

## We're celebrating 40 years!

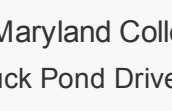
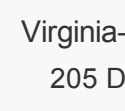
VA-MD Vet Med's first class matriculated in 1980.

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