



2020

ANNUAL
REPORT



ACVIM

American College of **Veterinary** Internal Medicine

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Dear ACVIM Diplomates,

It goes without saying that 2020 presented us with unforeseeable challenges and nearly unimaginable circumstances. I believe the ACVIM and staff as a whole rose to meet the occasion in admirable fashion, making difficult decisions when needed. I am pleased to review with you what we collectively accomplished last year as we pivoted to navigate a pandemic, social crisis and so much more. We have a lot to look forward to in 2021 as we are optimistic the pandemic is winding down!

One of the biggest upheavals within our community last year was the cancellation of the June examinations. Since then, the ACVIM Certification team has worked tirelessly to transition all exam administration to a virtual format. While the evolution to remote proctoring had been long planned, the circumstances dictated by the pandemic forced us to expedite this move. We look forward to the successful launch of this platform, starting with the LAIM Specialty Exam in January of 2021.

Likewise, an accomplishment worthy of note is the work the central office staff did to quickly move the 2020 ACVIM Forum and the Advanced Continuing Education (ACE) courses to a virtual format with impressive speed and efficiency. We are glad that so many of you engaged with the ACVIM content in the 2020 ACVIM Forum On Demand and we look forward to expanding those online offerings in the coming year. We know that the loss of in-person educational opportunities was compounded by the missed opportunity to connect with each other and we are taking steps to make future offerings more interactive and social. You will find more detail about both ACVIM Forum and those courses later in the report.

The Board of Regents (BOR) did not take the decisions to cancel the examinations and our in-person ACVIM Forum event lightly. Both are the cornerstone of our association and our community. Ultimately, our commitment to safety and social responsibility was paramount. We are grateful and fortunate that our financial reserves enabled us to make these painful decisions without compromising our organization's financial stability.

As with all of the ACVIM work, our volunteers played a key role in our ability to keep key initiatives moving forward. The Transformation Task Force spent the year exploring and researching the best path forward for reorganizing the ACVIM into two related entities that align industry standards and best practices for membership and certification. More information about next steps in implementing the Task Force's recommendations will be coming soon.



Harold McKenzie, DVM,
MS, MSc (VetEd),
DACVIM (LAIM)
President, ACVIM

MESSAGE FROM THE ACVIM BOARD OF REGENTS PRESIDENT

A new and much needed initiative undertaken in 2020 is the development of the Diversity and Inclusion Task Force, charged with identifying how these issues pertain to the ACVIM and how we can effectively address them as we move forward. This issue is both critical and timely and the ACVIM is working directly with the AAVMC and other specialty Colleges in this broad-based effort. The task force's work began in the final quarter of the year and they have outlined goals to propose for BOR consideration and action going forward.

At the close of 2020, the BOR spent time in a visioning workshop revising and updating the ACVIM Vision, Mission and Values statements. A lot of intentional thought and discussion were put into crafting the final version. I believe these statements will act as the foundation for all of our initiatives, goals and objectives, helping the board make strategic decisions for our growing organization.

In closing, I want to thank each of you for continuing to be a member of the ACVIM. We would never be able to accomplish the many achievements listed above without the commitment and investment of our members, the staff and the time they so generously give. If hindsight is an indication of anything, 2020 has proved that we are a resilient community that not only faces challenges head on, but has the ability to join forces to find a way through difficult times. As illustrated above, new opportunities can arise from crises, allowing advancements that will carry us into the years to come. Let us all approach the New Year with refreshed strength and hope.

Sincerely,



Harold McKenzie, DVM, MS, MSc (VetEd), DACVIM (LAIM)
President, ACVIM

OUR VISION:

Improving lives of animals and people globally

OUR MISSION:

Being the trusted leader in veterinary education, discovery and medical excellence

WE VALUE:

Connection

being part of a supportive network with shared experiences and priorities

Empathy

relating to others with kindness and humanity

Excellence

committing to continuous improvement, for ourselves and our profession

Inclusion

respecting the diverse backgrounds and values of our members, candidates, staff and partners

Integrity

fostering honesty and trust, and adhering to the highest standards of professionalism

2020 ACVIM EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND VOTING BOARD OF REGENTS



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DVM, DACVIM,
(Oncology)

CHAIR

University of Illinois



Harold Mackenzie*
DVM, MS, DACVIM
(LAIM)

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(Retired)*



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DVM, MS, DACVIM
(LAIM), DECBHM

TREASURER

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(Neurology)

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CARDIOLOGY PRESIDENT

*CVCA – Cardiac Care
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(LAIM)

LAIM PRESIDENT

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(SAIM), DECVIM-CA

SAIM PRESIDENT

Texas A&M University



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DVM, PhD, DACVIM
(LAIM)

LAIM AT-LARGE MEMBER

Texas A&M University



Karyn Harrell
DVM, DACVIM
(SAIM)

SAIM AT-LARGE MEMBER

*North Carolina State
University*



Phoebe Smith
DVM, DACVIM
(LAIM)

**PRIVATE PRACTICE
AT-LARGE MEMBER**

*Riviera Equine
Internal Medicine*



Linda Fineman*
DVM, DACVIM
(Oncology)

CEO / EX-OFFICIO

ACVIM

The financial position of the organization continues to remain strong in spite of the pandemic and the substantial changes in operations that resulted. While we faced several months of uncertainty and trepidation, we anticipate that we will end the fiscal year without a financial loss. This is the result of the incredible efforts of our staff, which included among other things, a careful eye on expenditures, outstanding negotiation of the 2020 ACVIM Forum contracts, a nimble and rapid response that produced an online ACVIM Forum which yielded a positive financial return and a surprising recovery of our investment portfolio. While this is great news, it is important to mention that over the past several years, the rising costs associated with our increased services, in the absence of a corresponding increase in operating revenues, have made it more and more challenging to maintain a balanced budget. In the coming years our expenditures must be mission-driven and carefully prioritized, while we also search for additional sources of revenue.

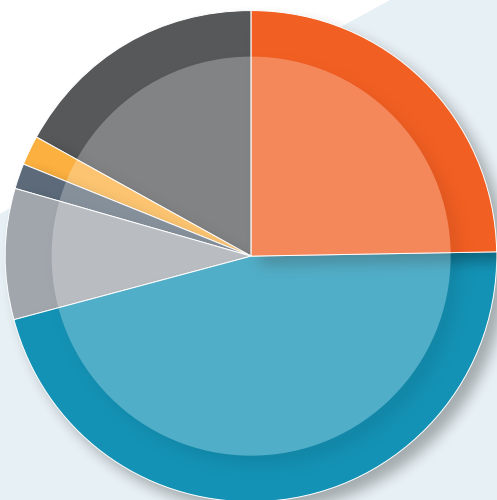
Our investments have performed well over the last several years. As of Sept. 30, 2020, our total investment portfolio had yielded an annualized net return of 6.2% over the last five years. We have expanded our scope of Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) investing to include a larger proportion of our investment portfolio, now substantially greater than 50% of our total investments. In recent years, ESG investing has become quite popular, as investors have realized that not only is it good for society, but it is beneficial for business. We have made several changes in our investment accounts since the last report. We eliminated our short-term portfolio and moved those assets into our main portfolio as we are managing our short-term cash needs outside of the investment account. In addition, we now have the Pacemaker portfolio. As many of you know, the Cardiology Specialty has for years been acquiring funds from the refurbishing of used donated human pacemakers and subsequent sales of the repurposed units for use in pets. The funds are now held in a separate investment Pacemaker portfolio for this account. The portfolio is overseen by the Finance, Investment and Audit Committee (FIAC), with the objectives and investment philosophy guided by the Cardiology Specialty. Uses of the fund are restricted to those designated by the specialty. As of Nov. 1, 2020, the main portfolio had a value of approximately \$7.2 M, while the Pacemaker portfolio had a value of approximately \$1.2 M.

In an effort to best utilize our resources to support the mission of the ACVIM, the FIAC has designed and the Board of Regents (BOR) has approved, two mechanisms of allocating resources from the investment accounts into our budget. In consultation with our investment advisor, we have decided to allocate an unrestricted \$200,000 to the operating budget annually. This allocation should be permanently sustainable without reducing the investment core. In addition, when we have funds in the investment account above our Reserve, we have created a system whereby the BOR may make specific allocations from the BOR Discretionary Fund (DF) to support specific one-time expenditures that promote the mission of the ACVIM. The amount available for the DF will vary over time based on our investment returns and our net operating profit/loss. An example of a use of the DF has been the support of the multi-year research grant program administered through the Education and Research Committee. Over \$900,000 was allocated to be distributed over a 5-year time frame.



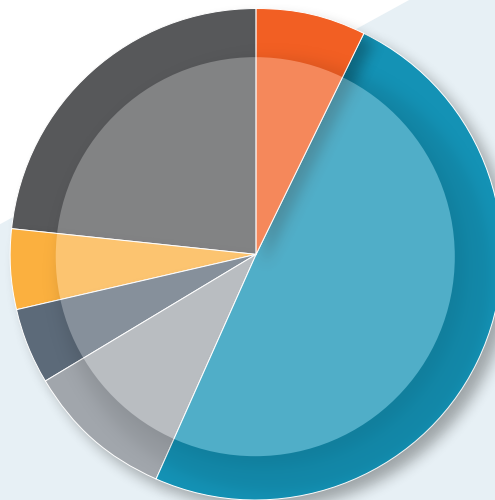
FINANCIALS

Final 2019 data is shared below. 2020 financial information will be finalized and shared later in the year.



REVENUE FY 2019

MEMBERSHIP DUES & OTHER INCOME	\$1,973,476.84
MEETINGS AND EDUCATION	\$3,657,415.78
CERTIFICATION & CREDENTIALS	\$688,605.00
PUBLICATIONS	\$133,771.20
RESEARCH SPONSORSHIPS	\$149,645.39
UNREALIZED INVESTMENT GAINS*	\$1,342,361.71



EXPENSE FY 2019

MEMBERSHIP SERVICES	\$526,573.00
MEETINGS & EDUCATION	\$3,477,205.00
CERTIFICATION & CREDENTIALS	\$704,064.00
PUBLICATIONS	\$342,652.00
RESEARCH	\$372,983.00
GENERAL & ADMINISTRATIVE	\$1,640,411.20

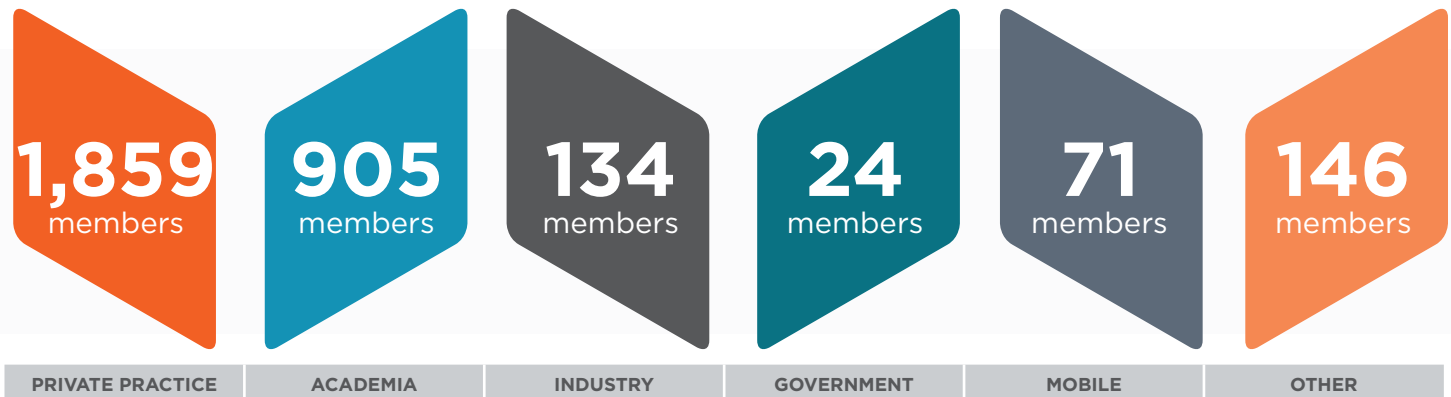
MEMBER OVERVIEW

3,139
total members

BY SPECIALTY



BY PRACTICE



NEW MEMBERS

Due to the impact of COVID-19 on the examination administration, the ACVIM was not able to welcome as many new Diplomates as in previous years. A heartfelt congratulations goes to the new Diplomates that were able complete their requirements.



The ACVIM is dedicated to being the trusted leader in cutting-edge specialty veterinary medicine. We promote medical excellence by training and certifying the next generation of specialists. Through development and dissemination of consensus statements and relevant research in our highly regarded *Journal of Veterinary Internal Medicine (JVIM)* and by recognizing the success of our members and volunteers.

CERTIFICATION AND ACCREDITATION

The coronavirus pandemic has accelerated the timeline for a planned transition to virtual examinations. As has been communicated to all exam candidates, Program Directors and committee members, the ACVIM will administer all 2021 exams using Advanced Automated Proctoring software in a Computer-Based Testing (CBT) format, allowing candidates to take exams without traveling. For additional information see the most recent [FAQ's](#) on the ACVIM website.

The ACVIM has begun the transition from the Angoff method of cut-score determination to the Statistical Equating method. The use of Statistical Equating will begin in 2021 for the LAIM Specialty Exam, with the other exams to follow in subsequent years. This change will better align the ACVIM with industry best practices for exam development and cut-score determination. The current (modified Angoff) method repeats the standard setting process each year, which does not provide the data that is needed for the examinations to be consistent in content and focus from year to year. Operating within the ABVS mandate, the ACVIM will conduct a Job Analysis (JA) for each exam every five to six years. An updated exam content outline (blueprint) will be created and the standard setting method (currently modified Angoff) will be used to re-establish the standard after completion of each JA. Statistical equating will be used to maintain the standard in between JA years. Committee structures and division of duties will shift as work between the psychometrician and committees realign. As a result, committee names will be updated to better represent the actual work being completed by the volunteer committees post realignment.

Development is underway to create a custom electronic tracking platform to support the residency training programs, candidates and membership with maintenance of credential (MOC) requirements. Since all three stakeholder groups have a requirement to track data, the project encompasses all three use cases. We are on target to launch to all users (PDs, Candidates, MOC Diplomates and applicable committee members) in the first quarter of 2021.



Registrations for 2021 Cardiology, Neurology, Oncology and SAIM Specialty Exams are being accepted through Feb. 1, 2021.

The 2021 exam schedule is as follows:

LAIM Specialty Exam was administered Jan. 14-15, 2021

General exam is scheduled for May 6, 2021

Cardiology, Neurology, Oncology and SAIM Specialty Exams are scheduled for June 6-7, 2021

2019 EXAM RESULTS

	CARDIOLOGY	LARGE ANIMAL INTERNAL MEDICINE	ONCOLOGY	NEUROLOGY	SMALL ANIMAL INTERNAL MEDICINE	GENERAL EXAM
New	24	28	25	26	58	171
Retake	8	20	17	16	28	49
Pass	27	30	27	25	60	183
Fail	5	18	15	17	26	37

In 2020, exam registrants who were unable to take their exams due to COVID were offered the choice to carry their registration over to the 2021 exam, or to receive a refund.

	CARDIOLOGY	LARGE ANIMAL INTERNAL MEDICINE	ONCOLOGY	NEUROLOGY	SMALL ANIMAL INTERNAL MEDICINE	GENERAL EXAM
New	26	28	27	30	65	172
Retake	6	16	13	17	24	39
Pass	x	21	x	x	x	x
Fail	x	23	x	x	x	x

AWARD RECIPIENTS

The ACVIM is proud to honor our 2020 annual award recipients. This year was unlike any other and now more than ever, we value the opportunity to recognize those who have served and been so dedicated to the community of veterinary specialty medicine. We are proud to extend our heartfelt congratulations to our 2020 ACVIM award recipients, Dr. Becky Gompf and Dr. David Twedt.



“Dave is a gifted scientist, a dedicated educator, a caring clinician and a selfless volunteer. Above all he is a kind, generous and caring human being.”

– JOERG STEINER, DMV, PHD,
DACVIM (SAIM), DECVIM-CA



ACVIM Lee and Inge Pyle Service Award

Rebecca Gompf, DVM, MS, DACVIM (Cardiology)

Dr. Gompf is the Associate Professor of Small Animal Clinical Sciences at the University of Tennessee (UT) College of Veterinary Medicine. She has taught cardiology to students at UT since 1978 and has trained interns and residents in cardiology, medicine and radiology. Dr. Gompf's record of service includes assuming the role of secretary of Cardiology for the ACVIM for 33 consecutive years, in addition to serving on seven ACVIM committees, leading four of those as chair. There is still time to view her [award video](#) and join us in [extending gratitude](#) for her service.

“Dr. Gompf's work within the ACVIM embodies the exact reason that we have the Lee and Inge Pyle Service Award. It can be summarized in one word: dedication.”

– ETIENNE CÔTÉ, DVM, DACVIM (CARDIOLOGY, SAIM)

ACVIM Robert W. Kirk Award for Professional Excellence

David Twedt, DVM, DACVIM (Small Animal Internal Medicine)

Dr. Twedt is the Professor of Small Animal Internal Medicine at Colorado State University, Department of Clinical Sciences. He joined the CSU facility in 1978 and has a distinguished career as a professor, mentor, scientist, speaker and professional volunteer. He is known worldwide for discoveries in liver and gastrointestinal disease in dogs and cats and has developed techniques using endoscopy and laparoscopy to visualize a patient's internal structures. Dr. Twedt is a decorated specialist who has received numerous awards and is a prolific author in his field. Take a look at the [video](#) honoring him and [join us in expressing appreciation](#) for Dr. Twedt.

The ACVIM is proud to honor Dr. Gompf and Dr. Twedt. We recognize your incredible contributions to veterinary medicine and to your specialties respectively! Congratulations, and thank you for your years of service and dedication to our organization and our profession.

VOLUNTEER HIGHLIGHTS

The ACVIM is powered by our member volunteers. Without the ongoing contributions of time, talent and expertise of our members, we would be unable to execute and deliver on the projects and programs you see on these pages. Thank you to all of the volunteers that served during the 2019-2020 timeframe.

This year, we have changed the timing of some of our volunteer application periods. Starting in 2021, we will have two cycles: one for our certification committees and one for membership volunteer groups.

- Our certification committees, which focus on test development and other certification-specific activities, do their work from July – June of each year. The call for volunteers for these committees goes out in January, with appointments confirmed in March.
- New for 2021, our membership committees and task forces, such as Diversity & Inclusion, Membership, ACVIM Forum, Education and Research (ERC), Maintenance of Credentials (MOCC) and Advanced Continuing Education (ACE), will do their work from January – December. The call for volunteers for these committees will go out every June.

Length of service, time commitment and duties vary by committee or task force, although all involve at least one-year terms. General information on the volunteer opportunities will be provided at the time of each respective call for volunteers.

Volunteering with the ACVIM allows you to have a voice in the future of your association. We are grateful for all of the contributions of our members and encourage you to submit your application to get involved in the coming year. The highlights listed below outline key projects and initiatives that made significant progress in 2020.

COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS

Membership Committee

The Membership Committee is appointed by the Board of Regents (BOR) to ensure the development of a relevant and inspiring member engagement and outreach strategy that focuses on creating value for our members. The committee is currently working on a comprehensive survey, which will help us better understand the interests of our community. That survey will be sent to all members early in 2021, with results analyzed and shared in the second quarter. We will use the information gleaned from those results to develop a portfolio of offerings and benefits that engage current and future members.

Diversity and Inclusion Task Force

The Diversity and Inclusion Task Force was appointed in the third quarter of 2020 to identify and investigate how issues of diversity and inclusion pertain to the ACVIM and to propose measures for BOR consideration and action. The task force is currently in data collection mode, with the intent of making data-driven recommendations for measurable and sustainable change.



COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS



Transformation Task Force

In 2019, it was agreed that the ACVIM needed to establish a structure that provided clear autonomy for certification-related decisions. As explained at the ACVIM Forum that year, such a move constitutes best practice for the ACVIM and will more closely align with standards for credentialing organizations. Further, it will allow the ACVIM, as a membership body, to continue to provide educational opportunities and other benefits for candidates without creating a real or implied conflict of interest. The task force has developed a preliminary model centered on an independent governing body within the ACVIM that will oversee over all certification-related processes. The focus of 2021 will be to engage Diplomates in conversation about this draft model to gain perspectives about the potential impacts of the proposal and to explore recommendations for any needed modifications. The final organizational structure will align with best practices, while focusing on the needs of Diplomates, candidates and the animal-owning public.

Fellowship Task Force

Established in the summer of 2020, the Fellowship Task Force is investigating mechanisms to recognize advanced training within a given discipline. The task force has reviewed existing programs in both veterinary and human medicine and has gathered information from the American Board of Veterinary Specialties (ABVS), to ensure that we consider relevant models and regulatory guidelines. The task force is now in the process of developing program attributes and requirements, which will allow specialists to pursue programs that will result in an ACVIM designation commensurate with the achievement.

**With over
60
committees
and
task forces,**

the work of the ACVIM is heavily powered through our volunteers. The areas listed below represent the various areas of ongoing work for volunteer committee members. Additional information will be included with each call for volunteers.

Award Committees

Board of Regents

Certification Committees and Task Forces

Continuing Education Committees

Exam Committees and Task Forces

Governance Committees

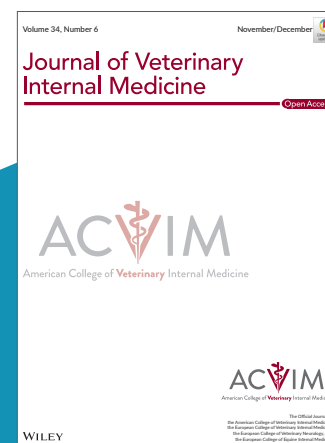
Maintenance of Credentials Committees

Membership Committees and Task Forces

Research Committees

JOURNAL OF VETERINARY INTERNAL MEDICINE (JVIM)

The Journal of Veterinary Internal Medicine (JVIM) is the official publication of the ACVIM, the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine-Companion Animal, the European College of Veterinary Neurology and the European College of Equine Internal Medicine. JVIM provides an international forum for communication and discussion of the latest developments in large and small animal internal medicine, cardiology, neurology and oncology.



In 2020, there were more than 4 million downloads of articles by nearly 1.3 million unique visitors to the Journal's website. As of August 2020, research output in JVIM has a compound annual growth rate of 7.3% per year while research output across the ISI* subject category of VETERINARY SCIENCES has a compound annual growth rate of 5.2%. Articles submitted to JVIM go through a rapid review process (average time to first decision was 38 days in 2020) by highly qualified, internationally recognized editors.

20th

ranking
among

142 veterinary
journals

2.194 2-year
impact factor

2.533 5-year
impact factor
in 2019*

39

Number of
countries
submitting
manuscripts
in 2020

more than
4
million

Downloaded
articles
in 2020

more than
40%

Increase in
submissions
in 2020
vs 2019

CONSENSUS STATEMENTS



Consensus Statements of the ACVIM provide the veterinary community with up-to-date information on the pathophysiology, diagnosis, and treatment of clinically important animal diseases.

The ACVIM Board Members-At-Large lead the effort to engage the membership in selecting relevant topics. Panels comprised of ACVIM Diplomates with the requisite expertise develop statements based on published evidence, providing additional interpretive comments when such evidence is inadequate or contradictory. Member feedback is solicited through an open process, after which statements are published in the *Journal of Veterinary Internal Medicine (JVIM)*.

In a normal year, member input into the Consensus Statements is gathered during presentations held in conjunction with the ACVIM Forum. However, the move to a virtual ACVIM Forum in 2020 allowed us to think differently about how to solicit member feedback on a pending Consensus Statement on Feline Pancreatitis. We gathered feedback via an online, open comment period, followed by a live webinar led by three of the expert panelists. As a result, over 300 members were able to participate virtually and earn continuing education credit.

This experience has led us to consider continuing online, virtual learning opportunities related to Consensus Statements and to offer those opportunities throughout the year. Watch for information on providing input into Consensus Statements on the following topics tentatively scheduled in 2021:

- “Enteropathogenic Bacteria in Dogs and Cats: Diagnosis, Epidemiology, Treatment, and Control,” an update to a 2011 consensus statement, co-chairs Drs. Stan Marks and Shelley Rankin
- “Canine Intervertebral Disc Disease,” a new consensus statement topic, co-chairs Drs. Natasha Olby and Sarah Moore
- “Controlling Zoonotic Infections in Veterinary Personnel,” a new consensus statement topic, chair Dr. Gillian Perkins
- “Equine Herpesvirus-1,” an update to a 2009 consensus statement, chair Dr. Paul Lunn

The ACVIM Board Members-At-Large are always interested in hearing from ACVIM members about possible topics or needs for Consensus Statements. If you have an idea for a topic, submit [here](#).

Building connections both with members and industry partners, the ACVIM continues to bring the best and brightest leaders, research, outreach and information to the forefront. In committed efforts to the future generations of veterinary specialists, the ACVIM continually works to support education and research programs for ACVIM residents and candidates through programs that encourage forward thinking initiatives, recognizing that a focus on research is needed for specialty medicine to remain on the cutting-edge.

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

ACVIM Resident Research Grants (RRG)

The ACVIM Resident Research Grant program continues to grow. In its third year, the 2020 call for grant proposals resulted in 39 submissions, more than has ever been received in previous years. The program is designed to provide research experience for ACVIM residents working alongside experienced research-scientist mentors. We encourage ACVIM residents to consider this rewarding opportunity to become engaged in promoting our understanding of animal health and disease.

The 2020 ACVIM Resident Research Grant call resulted in awarding 17 high caliber grants, valued up to \$10,000 each. The ACVIM staff are working to complete contracting for these awards and a formal announcement detailing award recipient information will be distributed in early 2021. Congratulations to the ACVIM Resident Research Grant recipients!

The ACVIM is proud to partner with the Purina Institute to work towards our mutual goal of facilitating knowledge exchange, promoting collaboration and supporting the thought leaders of the future and their work to advance scientific research in veterinary care. We are grateful to the Purina Institute for their valuable support of this program.



Advancing Science for Pet Health

Institutions representing the 2020 ACVIM Resident Research Grant recipients by Specialty.

SAIM

- Colorado State University*
- Kansas State University*
- Purdue University College of Veterinary Medicine*
- Tufts University*
- University of California, Davis
- University of Florida*

CARDIOLOGY

- Atlantic University College*
- North Carolina State University Veterinary Hospital
- University of Florida*
- Washington State University

LAIM

- Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine
- Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine at Tufts University
- Michigan State University
- The University of Queensland

NEUROLOGY

- University of Georgia*

ONCOLOGY

- Auburn University*



GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

ACVIM Advanced Fellowships, Clinical and Research

The ACVIM recognizes the need to foster post-residency professional development of veterinary specialists and offers the opportunity for ACVIM Diplomates or candidates that have completed residency-training programs within the last two years to receive a \$25,000 fellowship in advanced clinical training or advanced research training. The award covers a minimum of one year and requires matching institutional funds.

The 2020 ACVIM Advanced Fellowships call resulted in awarding two advanced clinical training fellowships. The ACVIM staff are working to complete contracting for these awards and formal announcements detailing award recipients will be distributed in early 2021. A big congratulations to our ACVIM Advanced Clinical Training Fellowship recipients.

Institutions representing the 2020 ACVIM Advanced Clinical Training Fellowship recipients.

- The Ohio State University
- University of California, Davis

Cardiology Research Committee (CRC)

The CRC oversees the Pacemaker Fund Grants and reviews Diplomate and resident cardiology research submissions. Please join us in congratulating all of the successful 2020 recipients with over \$125,000 of funding support provided.

Resident Grant Recipients

- Laetitia Duler (University of California, Davis)
- Arianne Fabella (University of Georgia)
- Katherine Lopez (Tufts College)
- Kerry Loughran (University of Pennsylvania)
- Chris McLaughlin (North Carolina State University)
- Alice (*Georgina Nekesa*) Morey (University of Missouri)
- Eric Owens (Oregon State University)

Diplomate Grant Recipients

- Marisa Ames (University of California, Davis)
- Anna Gelzer (University of Pennsylvania)
- Randolph Winter (The Ohio State University)



Education & Research Committee (ERC)

The ERC is dedicated to advancing the mission of the ACVIM through the support of education and research programs for ACVIM residents and candidates. Committee members review ACVIM Forum research abstracts, research grant and fellowship applications, travel grant applications and lead discussions on programs designed to promote, support and facilitate research. The ERC is actively engaged in developing a sustainable model to enable the grant and fellowship program to continue for the long-term to support advancing scientific research both now and into the future.

MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS

Over the past year the marketing and communications team has continued to educate the animal-owning public and primary care veterinarians on the value of veterinary specialists. A redevelopment of the member-focused ACVIM.org and public facing VetSpecialists.com websites along with updating our email communications platform were key priorities for the year.

ACVIM.org website

The ACVIM.org website is currently being redeveloped to provide ACVIM members with a better user experience, with easier navigation, more accessible content and better functionality. The new website is projected to launch in the first quarter of 2021 and will include materials to highlight the new features for members.

VetSpecialists.com

This year, the Vet Specialists Subcommittee has made significant strides in the redevelopment of the VetSpecialists.com website, focusing on updating member information and enhancing the website with fresh, informative public-facing content. We are excited by the development of new series highlighting veterinary specialists' success stories, as well as new educational articles set to be published in January 2021. The new website is nearly complete, with an expected launch date in the first quarter of 2021. Social media has also been an area of focus this year, leveraging a partnership with an outside vendor for digital advertising, social media, public relations and search engine optimization support.

VetSpecialists.com was initially developed for two primary purposes: to enhance the public's knowledge of veterinary specialists and to promote the triad of veterinary care as the relationship existing between the animal owner, the primary care veterinarian and the Board-certified veterinary specialist. The VetSpecialists.com Subcommittee's work has focused on enhancing the content available on the VetSpecialists.com website to consistently have fresh information available. After site launch, the subcommittee will continue to meet and work through subsequent goals outlined in the business plan, which focuses on how to promote awareness of the site to animal owners.

New Marketing Automation Email Platform

In the fall of 2020, the ACVIM transitioned to a new email marketing platform, Informz. The Informz platform is powered by Higher Logic which operates the ACVIM360 listserve used for ACVIM community engagement. Informz allows members to select the communications most relevant to their interests and opt out of others. This transition also allows for the ACVIM to provide greater customization of communications to meet individual member needs.

VetSpecialists

Board-Certified Veterinary Experts

TRAFFIC METRICS

571,912 pageviews

from January - December 2020

SEARCH METRICS

27,981 users

performed searches June - December 2020

Search performance metrics (tracking when a user performs a search for a specialist on the website) were set up in June 2020 with the start of the partnership with a third-party vendor.

A powerful way to articulate what a specialty veterinarian does for animal owners is through our **Animal Survivor** stories. Moving forward, we'd like to revive this program and add more stories sharing the work of ACVIM Diplomates to our library. We are asking members to submit their stories, whether it is a survivor story describing an animal who beat the odds or an example of successful collaboration between a specialist and primary care veterinarian.

**Share your
stories
with us!**

INDUSTRY PARTNERS

The ACVIM would like to recognize the following industry partners for their support of multiple programs which help improve the lives of animals and people globally. We are grateful for their support!



The ACVIM continues to be a thought leader in continuing education, providing a variety of stimulating professional growth opportunities for our members and others within the profession.

ACVIM FORUM

2020 ACVIM Forum On Demand Highlights

This year, the ACVIM Forum made the unprecedented transition to an online, interactive platform in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. The 2020 ACVIM Forum On Demand program brought veterinary specialists, general practitioners, students and technicians from around the world together in one virtual space. We strived to offer each and every attendee the same cutting-edge research and educational sessions, featuring world-class speakers and access to the latest products and services that they have come to expect from the ACVIM Forum.

A special thank you to our 2020 speakers that rapidly transitioned their presentations and posters to our virtual program and the planning groups that help facilitate this rapid change. We are particularly appreciative of our Industry Partners for their support in making the 2020 ACVIM Forum On Demand possible.

3,400+ Attendees

150+ Exhibiting Companies

20+ Industry Partner Sponsors

12 Hours of Technician Programming

80+ Recorded Sessions

100+ RACE-Approved CE Credits

13,000+ CE Credits Earned

330+ ePosters



Onward to 2021

Looking forward to 2021, we considered your feedback about the uncertainty surrounding the safety and ease of travel and large gatherings. Hearing this, and reinforcing our commitment to social responsibility and safety, we have made the difficult decision not to meet in person next year and are excited to announce the 2021 ACVIM Forum will be virtual. Offering live-streamed presentations, opportunities for virtual networking, access to on demand sessions and the latest in research, all taking place on the dates you have already marked on your calendar, June 9-12, 2021. Following the live virtual meeting, all sessions will be available for three months on demand. Registration for the virtual [2021 ACVIM Forum](#) will open in the spring!

ACVIM FORUM SUBCOMMITTEES AND AFFILIATED SPECIALTY VETERINARY GROUPS (ASVGs)

The ACVIM Forum is led by the Forum Program Chair and Forum Program Assistant Chair who oversee program development and provide guidance for all program Subcommittees and ASVGs with the goal of providing cutting-edge, specialist-focused content disseminated yearly during the ACVIM Forum. We appreciate all of the extra work and flexibility shown by all of our planning partners as we rapidly adjust to programming changes, both during the 2020 changes and continuing into the 2021 planning efforts

ADVANCED CONTINUING EDUCATION (ACE)

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, 2020 was a year of robust adaptation for the ACE program. The original course lineup consisted of 10 in-person educational offerings. Ultimately, one in-person course, Advances in Small Animal Respiratory Imaging, took place in early February. With member safety a key priority, seven courses were cancelled or delayed. The ACE Committee and ACVIM staff successfully transitioned two courses to online delivery, Brain Camp and Advanced Endocrinology.

Online course development was strategically focused on delivery of comprehensive, in-depth course offerings with a strong emphasis on participant engagement and interactive opportunities. Courses were delivered virtually through live-streaming and pre-recorded sessions paired with live Q&A's (simulive sessions), and also made available on demand, providing access anytime. Attendee feedback has been resoundingly positive, indicating there is a continued demand for similar offerings in the future, not only during these uncertain times.

As we embark on the new year, the ACVIM remains committed to developing high quality continuing education to meet the needs of our constituents, both online and in-person offerings. The ACE Committee and ACVIM staff have cultivated a dynamic and ambitious course lineup for 2021.

ACVIM ONLINE

ACE courses developed for online, on demand delivery are hosted through our online learning platform, ACVIM Online, powered by VetBloom. As ACVIM Online library of content continues to grow, we believe it will become a valuable resource for ACVIM members.

UPCOMING COURSES*

Winter

Bridging the Divide: Enhancing Communication for Specialists - On Demand

Spring

Advanced Nephrology and Urology - Live Virtual and On Demand

Infectious Disease - Live Virtual and On Demand

Summer

Advanced Techniques in Neurosurgery - In-Person, Viticus Center, Las Vegas

Fall

An Integrated View of Hepatobiliary Diseases in Cats and Dogs - In-Person, Location TBD

Endoscopy Resident Boot Camp - In-Person, Colorado State University

Large Animal Candidate Boot Camp - In-Person, Texas A&M University

Equine Cardiology - In-Person, Peterson & Smith, Florida

Bridging the Divide: Enhancing Communication for Specialists - In-Person, University of Colorado Anschutz

**Schedule is subject to change and additional courses may be added*

ADVANCED CONTINUING EDUCATION (ACE) COMMITTEE

The mission of the ACE Committee is to provide continuing education opportunities outside the ACVIM Forum by providing high quality and up-to-date educational opportunities on topics of interest that are relevant to each specialty. ACE committee members dedicate their time to prepare these intensive, focused and collaborative interactions through advanced, in depth education offerings. The ACE Committee adjusted rapidly to 2020 challenges and is currently developing an adapted ACE course lineup, to be delivered in an online format, with a strong emphasis on engagement and content rigor, with the intent to transition to in person courses in the summer. The ACE committee is diligently working to adapt to ever changing needs and continues to expand ACE course offerings annually.

CEO MESSAGE

As I reflect on my first year as CEO of the ACVIM, I am struck by all the changes and challenges our organization experienced in 2020. The global pandemic we are still facing has completely disrupted how the board and the staff work. Our offices have been closed since early March, requiring staff to rapidly adjust to working in a completely virtual environment. Board and committee meetings have been held via Zoom, rather than in the in-person setting that allows us to get to know each other as people. Most importantly, our highest priority work has been substantially impacted, forcing the board and I to make incredibly painful decisions. Cancelling the ACVIM Forum and moving content to a virtual format in less than 60 days was a huge undertaking, and one I'm happy to say has been very successful, with over 3,400 virtual attendees.

Cancelling exams, on the other hand, was one of the hardest things our board members have ever faced. The dedication and commitment I observed during these difficult discussions cannot be overstated: in the face of these unimaginable circumstances, we never wavered from our focus on our highest priority, to support our candidates in their journey to becoming ACVIM Diplomates. I also want to acknowledge how seriously the board investigated options, delving into the details of exam construction and delivery, exploring every possible avenue to administer exams on schedule, or at least in the 2020 calendar year. The amount of time and energy invested simply cannot be adequately described. That effort was driven by an understanding of how heavily the impact of delaying exams would be felt by candidates, program directors, mentors and advisors and by the organization on whole. Our certification staff spent countless hours working through the logistics with high-stakes testing experts, with the goal of assuring that the quality, security and rigor of the exam would meet ACVIM's standards while allowing us to move to a virtually proctored testing environment. While we would never choose to go through an experience like we did in 2020, we know that coming out of this year we'll be set up to administer examinations anywhere in the world moving forward!

Another huge disrupter layered on top of COVID has been widespread political and social unrest. Our country seems divided, with rancor and judgment tinging our personal, professional and public dialogue. With the turmoil and uncertainty we are all experiencing in the aftermath of the elections, I'm especially appreciative of the sense of community and connection we have as members of the ACVIM. It is my belief that our organization models the values and behaviors we would hope to see across our country, as we listen to each other with respect.



Linda Fineman, DVM,
DACVIM (Oncology)

Chief Executive
Officer, ACVIM

CLOSING

I feel incredibly fortunate to be a part of this organization and look forward to working with the board to lead the continued evolution of the ACVIM. As an organization, we are at a pivotal growth stage, and now is the time to focus on how we can better meet the needs of our membership, serving all Diplomates across our complex organization. To that end, we've contracted with a group called Association Laboratories to lead a comprehensive member survey. One of the key findings in the first phase, a small qualitative sampling of our members, is the incredible sense of connection we feel as a group. We are a tight-knit community, and we value that sense of connection we feel in being part of the elite group that is the ACVIM. The board and staff intend to build on that foundation, growing the ways that we support our membership as our profession and the world around us continue to change rapidly.

With appreciation,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Linda Fineman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Linda" and last name "Fineman" clearly distinguishable.

Linda Fineman, DVM, DACVIM (Oncology)
Chief Executive Officer, ACVIM