New Faculty Member Joins DCPAH Endocrinology Laboratory: Dr. Brian Petroff Brings Expertise in the Area of Endocrine Disruption and Cancer Prevention

DCPAH is pleased to welcome Dr. Brian Petroff, DVM, PhD to our Endocrinology Section. Petroff joined the DCPAH and College of Veterinary Medicine faculty in October. His tenure home will be in the Department of Pathobiology and Diagnostic Investigation.

Petroff comes to MSU after sixteen years at the Kansas University Medical Center (KUMC) where he was most recently the co-leader of the cancer prevention program and was involved in the arduous, five-year application process which earned KUMC its designation as a National Cancer Institute (NCI) cancer center. His research focused on improving reproductive health across species through enhanced understanding of endocrine disruption and an emphasis on prevention.

After being the only veterinarian on faculty at a human medical center, Petroff welcomes the opportunity to turn his attention back to animal health. “The work in the Endocrinology Section, and in all the sections at the Diagnostic Center, is much more clinically oriented rather than a straight ahead research program. I was in practice, and I miss that a lot. I loved it in practice; I just had this research bug... In my view, the responsibility of a faculty member in a position like mine is to make sure that the clinical tests we’re running diagnostically are informed by the latest science from the research community.”

In his new role in the Endocrinology Section, Petroff plans to bring new technology as well as his own research background into the section’s diagnostic capabilities. “As I was coming here, I left some blank spots in my research program thinking I would start two or three new research projects here once I got to know what the interests are, and the strengths. The great thing about the Endocrinology Section for those projects is the caseload, which as a resource is just incredible.”

Petroff’s prior research has been supported by grants and contracts awarded by the Mellon Foundation, National Institutes of Health, NCI, National Research Council, National Science Foundation, Breast Cancer Research Foundation, and Komen Promise Program. Petroff also received Kansas University’s highest institutional teaching award, the Chancellor’s Distinguished Teaching Award.

But his career in animal health began in the field—as a herdsman at a dairy farm in Ohio. He earned his BS, DVM, and PhD at Ohio State. His time in practice was spent at mixed practices.

“I have a long-standing interest in many areas of the animal and human medical fields, but I knew I was interested in Endocrinology from the very beginning. This position is like coming full circle for me.”

Endocrinology faculty Brian Petroff, MaryDee Sist, and Kent Refsal in the laboratory.

How Well Do You Know Endo?

1. How many thyroid assays does the DCPAH Endocrinology Section run per year?
   a. 50,000
   b. 100,000
   c. 200,000
   d. more than 400,000

2. Interpretations by a veterinary endocrinologist can be ordered separately for thyroid profiles and other tests that don’t include an interpretation of results. How many interpretations are ordered per month on average?
   a. 1,000
   b. 2,000
   c. 4,000
   d. more than 5,000

3. Which of the following would you see in the results of a Malignancy Profile?
   a. PTH
   b. Ionized calcium
   c. PTHrP
   d. All of the above
More Shipping News

DCPAH is excited to announce that our mailers which include U.S. Mail return postage will now conform to new U.S. Postal Service regulations. The new mailer design will include a unique bar code on each box. This format should help to speed up mail processing and result in U.S. Mail packages reaching us more quickly. For our clients who have experienced frustration with U.S. Mail delivery of specimens, we know this will be especially welcome news and we hope you are as happy about it as we are.

Our supplier is currently depleting the inventory of existing mailers and expects to begin fulfilling orders with the new mailers right around the first of the year.

If you have a supply of the current mailers, there is no reason to discard them. They will continue to be delivered.

Also, as we told you this summer, UPS is now DCPAH’s preferred commercial delivery service. Pre-paid, overnight shipping solutions now include UPS overnight return delivery (Monday-Friday). This change was made after significant administrative analysis, including a survey of DCPAH clients who had ordered mailers in the past year. Although the initial rollout had a few bumps as UPS worked out logistics for scheduled pick-ups, the transition has had the positive effects we anticipated—earlier arrival of samples has resulted in samples getting to the labs sooner and improved workflow in our Receiving/Order Entry area.

Based on other client surveys and conversations with clients, we know there are many clients who aren’t using our shipping options simply because they aren’t aware of them. With the recent change to UPS completed and the roll-out of our new U.S. Mail box, we thought it would be a good time to provide a refresher on how we can help make it easier and more economical for you to submit specimens.

If you haven’t begun using our mailers yet, it’s easy to do. Order mailing supplies by phone at 517.353.1683, by fax at 517.353.4426 using the Product Order Form available on our website at animalhealth.msu.edu, or by completing the SUPPLIES section on a DCPAH submittal form. Multiple mailer options are available.

Biopsy Mailer
- Contains everything you need, including biopsy jars but not formalin, to safely and quickly ship your biopsy specimens to DCPAH
- Available in two sizes: small includes two (2) jars, large includes four (4) jars
- Small biopsy mailers are available with PREPAID UPS guaranteed overnight traceable delivery Monday-Friday or U.S. Mail delivery Monday-Saturday (delivery times vary depending on your location); large available with UPS delivery only

Note: Biopsy Samples & Fixation during the Winter Months
The dilute concentration of formalin suggested for fixation of specimens (10% neutral buffered formalin) is subject to freezing at very low temperatures. When submitting fixed tissue through the mail during the winter months, add a small amount of isopropyl alcohol to the formalin specimen container [1 part alcohol to 10 parts formalin] as this will help prevent freezing and thawing damage to the tissue specimen.

Insulated Mailer
- Most popular, versatile, and complete shipping solution
- Includes PREPAID UPS guaranteed overnight traceable delivery Monday-Friday
- Contains everything you need to safely and quickly ship your specimens to DCPAH, protecting them from breaking or leaking
- Can be used with or without icepacks
Suitable for a wide range of specimen types (swabs, tubes, tissues, etc.) and quantities

Reasonably priced at 1/2 to 1/3 the cost of shipping overnight on your own

**Small Mailer**
- Available with either PREPAID UPS guaranteed overnight traceable delivery Monday-Friday or U.S. Mail delivery Monday-Saturday (delivery times vary depending on your location)
- Contains everything you need, including specimen tubes/caps, to safely and quickly ship your non-temperature sensitive specimens to DCPAH
- Comes in convenient quantities of 6, 12, or 24—the price of one set of 6 UPS mailers is normally less expensive than sending us one package UPS using your own shipping materials
- Not intended for use with ice packs

**What if I have something that needs to be sent overnight and delivered on Saturday?**
For those submitting samples that need Saturday delivery, we have added a Saturday Delivery Billable Stamp to our Product Order Form. These may be ordered on an as-needed basis by calling 517.353.1683. The stamp will be delivered by email on the Friday prior to the Saturday delivery.

**How will I get my UPS packages picked up?**
It's easy to get your samples to the lab via UPS. Once your package is ready, you can give it to any UPS driver making a delivery or already scheduled pick-up. You can actually give it to any driver—next door, across the street, anywhere! You can also drop off your package at any UPS location. We recommend using a staffed facility rather than a drop-box. Search for the site closest to you at [https://www.ups.com/dropoff](https://www.ups.com/dropoff).

You may also schedule a pick up by calling UPS at 800.377.4877. There is no charge to DCPAH clients for scheduled pick-up. To schedule your pick-up:
- Provide shipper number V33195.

**Stay on the line for the Preferred Customer Team. When your call is answered, state that:**
- You are returning a shipment to DCPAH and would like to schedule a pick-up from an alternate location.
- You have a UPS shipping label and the tracking number.
- DCPAH will be paying for the pick-up fees.

Provide additional information requested, such as package weight and pick-up information (address, contact) for your package as well as the time it will be ready. Same day pick-up times vary by location—it’s best to plan ahead and call early.

**What if FedEx is really a better delivery service for me?**
Because we know there are clients who wish to continue using FedEx for sample submission, we have also added a FedEx Billable Stamp to our list of shipping solutions. This discounted shipping label does not include additional packaging material.

**What if we have a supply of DCPAH mailers with FedEx delivery?**
Clients who have our FedEx mailers currently in stock can continue to use them. FedEx billable stamps do have an expiration date printed on them, but we will continue to replace expired FedEx billable stamps for clients who contact us, just as we do currently. UPS billable stamps do not expire, so when you re-stock with our mailers that include UPS delivery, you’ll no longer need to worry about expired stamps.

**Stay in Touch and Go Green**
Did you know that you can opt to receive this newsletter and other DCPAH news, announcements, and special offers by email? Visit [animalhealth.msu.edu](http://animalhealth.msu.edu) and click Subscribe to Newsletter in the newsletter section on the front page. Sign up to receive emails yourself and/or provide email addresses for others you work with so they can receive their own.

If you’ve had it with the fax machine, don’t forget you can also call us at 517.353.1683 to have your results delivered by email. In addition, all DCPAH clients have free, quick access to view results online through WebView. Reports are posted hourly. Visit [animalhealth.msu.edu](http://animalhealth.msu.edu) and click Log In to request access to your diagnostic results.

**Where can I get more information and instructions for using DCPAH’s mailers?**
Instructions for Biopsy Mailers, Insulated Mailers, and Small Mailers as well as more instructions for shipping specimens to us are available on our website at [animalhealth.msu.edu > Shipping Options](http://animalhealth.msu.edu).

We believe these changes in our mailer options will be a positive change for DCPAH clients. Please tell us how it’s working for you the next time you call the lab.
The Diagnostic Center for Population and Animal Health quarterly newsletter is here!

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December and January Holiday Hours

DCPAH is committed to providing service to our clients year-round but our schedule is impacted by delivery service holidays. Our 2014 holiday hours are:

- Wednesday, December 24 -- DCPAH will close at 3:00 PM
- Thursday, December 25 -- CLOSED
- Friday, December 26 -- 8:00 AM - 1:00 PM
- Saturday, December 27 -- Regular Saturday hours
- Wednesday, December 31 -- DCPAH will close at 3:00 PM
- Thursday, January 1 -- CLOSED
- Friday, January 2 -- 8:00 AM - 1:00 PM
- Saturday, January 3 -- Regular Saturday hours

DCPAH will close early on Wednesday 12/24 and 12/31, but essential staffing levels will be maintained to ensure test set-up and reporting of results are not impacted. Deceased animal drop-off will be available and after hours fees will not be assessed until after 5:30 PM.

During limited hours on Friday 12/26 and 1/2, building access and Client Service telephone lines will be available and our Receiving/Order Entry staff will be working to ensure your incoming specimens are handled promptly and efficiently. Please note that this will impact test schedules throughout the lab.

Please note that any variations in our business hours are posted on our website at animalhealth.msu.edu.

Visit DCPAH at Upcoming Conferences

This winter we'll be in the exhibit hall of the three conferences listed here. If you plan to attend one, please stop by. Meet the people behind the testing you and your clients rely on. Ask us questions. Give us feedback. Pick up informational materials and giveaways. Take a minute to participate in our interactive diagnostic “quiz” and get a special token of our appreciation!

We enjoy meeting our clients and always receive great ideas when we have the opportunity to interact with them face-to-face. We'd love to meet you.

North American Veterinary Conference
Orlando, Florida | January 17-21, 2015 | Booth 528

Michigan Veterinary Conference
Lansing, Michigan | January 30-31, 2015 | Booth 92-93

Midwest Veterinary Conference
Columbus, Ohio | February 19-22, 2015 | Booth 740

Thank you for choosing DCPAH. We wish you a happy, healthy, and relaxing holiday season!