Rachel Reams has been named the director of the Michigan State University Diagnostic Center for Population and Animal Health, or DCPAH. She will assume the role on Aug. 1.

Reams comes to MSU from Covance Research Laboratories, where she was most recently director of translational biomarker solutions. Prior to that, she was the director of discovery pathology and imaging at the laboratory. Her background includes being head of pathology at Lilly Research Laboratories, as well as being the director of the Puerto Rico Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory. She also led the Large Animal Pathology and Toxicology laboratory at the University of Pennsylvania’s New Bolton Center.

Reams earned both her doctor of veterinary medicine and Ph.D. in veterinary pathology from Purdue University.

Strengthening DCPAH’s leadership in its business, academic, and government roles will be a key focus.

“DCPAH is unique in its complex mission and its interconnected relationships with industry, academia, and the government,” Reams said. “I am looking forward to building on the excellent service we provide to veterinary practitioners and the animals they serve, and to advancing our educational and research missions. The pathological services and the academic work strengthen each other, and then you bring them together with our mission to safeguard animal and human health by closely collaborating with state and national agencies—the possibilities are amazing.”

**Canine Influenza Testing**

The spring issue of Diagnostic News included a short article about the canine influenza outbreak in the Midwest. Since that publication, the virus has been confirmed in several other states. As a reminder, DCPAH recommends testing for the most common causes of respiratory diseases in dogs with our canine respiratory disease panel (test # 80934) or the core panel plus (test # 80985) if distemper is also suspected. We will include influenza by request for a nominal additional charge. Please indicate on the submittal form if influenza is suspected. PCR testing for canine influenza virus alone is also available. Please call us at 517.353.1683 for more information regarding collection protocol, pricing, or other questions.

Dogs can shed viral and bacterial pathogens that cause infectious respiratory diseases during the incubation period before showing any clinical signs. Testing within the first few days of illness is very important because this shedding is limited in duration.

A guide to help clinicians educate pet owners about canine influenza virus is available on our website.
Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Preparedness at DCPAH

By now, veterinary professionals across the United States are certainly aware of the dramatic outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza virus (HPAI) that began along the Pacific coast (Washington and Oregon) in wild and domestic birds in December 2014 and exploded in the Midwest this spring—nearly 50 million birds in 15 states have been affected. In Minnesota and Iowa, the states hardest hit by the outbreak, veterinary diagnostic laboratories have been inundated with samples and have worked diligently to meet the testing needs required.

The Michigan State University Diagnostic Center for Population and Animal Health (DCPAH) has been actively preparing to ensure laboratory preparedness. DCPAH is a member of the National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN) and has been performing HPAI surveillance testing for USDA wildlife services as a NAHLN lab since early January 2015. By mid-March 2015, DCPAH had tested approximately 1,200-1,300 samples from wild birds from as many as 11 states, mostly east of the Mississippi River.

On Thursday, June 4, 2015 DCPAH received samples from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Tests completed that day indicated that the goslings were infected with AI H5. Following protocol, the samples were then sent to the National Veterinary Service Laboratory (NVSL) in Ames, Iowa the next day for confirmation. DCPAH received positive confirmation of highly pathogenic avian influenza, subtype H5N2 on Saturday, June 6 and notified state agencies (Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development or MDARD, and MDNR) that same day. On Monday, June 8 Michigan announced the state’s first HPAI detection. Michigan became the 21st state to report a case of HPAI since December 2014 and the 6th state to detect it in wild or free-ranging birds only. To date, 12 free-ranging Canada geese submitted by Michigan DNR have tested positive for HPAI.

Prior to this finding, DCPAH had been working with MDARD, Michigan Allied Poultry Industries, producers, and other stakeholders to prepare for the possibility of HPAI in Michigan in response to the dramatic current outbreak.

DCPAH’s preparation includes:

- Securing a supply of test collection kits from NVSL and distributing these to commercial egg producers in the state. Each producer was provided a three day supply of kits so that they could immediately begin testing in the event of an outbreak. This would help to expedite the testing and permitting needed to move product to market. The need is greatest for egg producers because of the daily movement of eggs.

- Creating a form specific to the submission of samples to be tested as part of the secure supply system (eggs, broilers). This mimics the form currently used for USDA wild bird surveillance.

- Arranging for additional staff to complete the proficiency test required by NAHLN for HPAI testing. This has nearly doubled DCPAH’s number of available staff that can perform the testing in the event of an outbreak. (Five staff members previously passed proficiency tests and were approved to perform the assay; an additional four have been approved.)

- Training administrative and client services staff to ensure sample handling and distribution of test collection kits is efficient and meets the needs of producers in the event of an outbreak. To help with biosecurity measures, producers would not have to leave their vehicles to drop off samples at DCPAH or receive new kits. They would have drive-through service.

- Planning to utilize DCPAH biosecurity level 3 (BL-3) facilities to ensure maximum biosecurity.
In late June 2015, DCPAH was one of seven NAHLN laboratories invited by NAHLN and Wildlife Services to participate in wild bird surveillance from July 2015 through March 2016. This invitation was based on past positive working relationships and the strategic location of DCPAH relative to the wild bird surveillance plan. This will include testing approximately 5,000 samples (out of 40,000 nationwide) over the next several months.

Directors and associate directors of NAHLN labs in states with HPAI detections were invited to an Emergency Conference on One Medicine One Science (eCOMOS) on HPAI H5N2 hosted by the University of Minnesota on June 29-30, 2015. Dr. Roger Maes, Virology Laboratory Section Chief, attended on behalf of DCPAH. Other attendees represented USDA, NAHLN, industry, academia, and diagnostic laboratories.

While surveillance testing and recovery in affected states continues, national preparations are underway for the possibility of another outbreak associated with fall wild bird and waterfowl migration which will begin in a matter of weeks. DCPAH continues to meet with stakeholders and ensure laboratory preparedness to help protect Michigan poultry producers.

**New Margin Study Options**

Effective July 1, 2015 DCPAH changed the options and pricing for margin studies of large tissues by expanding beyond the current maximum of “greater than 8 cm.” The new tier has separate prices for 8 to <10 cm, 10 to <12 cm, 12 to <14 cm, and >14 cm. Because of the low number of tissues larger than 8 cm submitted for margin studies, this will impact a relatively small number of cases. However, we are making this change to more accurately reflect the material and labor costs associated with these cases. Large tissues can require more than 150 slides.

As a reminder, DCPAH’s Surgical Pathology service digitally photographs all tissues submitted for full margin evaluation before trimming. The histology technician then “draws” on the photos to indicate where each section of tissue is located. Knowing how the tissues are sectioned helps the pathologist assess the true surgical margins. In order to assist the submitting veterinarian in interpreting the results of margin evaluation, the photographs are attached to the case online with links available in WebView.
The Diagnostic Center for Population
and Animal Health quarterly newsletter
is here!

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Veterinary Conference, October 1-4

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The American Association of Feline Practitioners is
partnering with the International Society of Feline Medicine
to present the third World Feline Veterinary Conference in
San Diego, California. It will focus on Diagnostic Imaging
and Oncology. Registration is available to AAFP/ISFM
members and non-members. Registration rates increase
after 9/11/15. If you will be attending, please stop by to
visit DCPAH at booth #52 in the exhibit hall. Say hello, ask
questions, get information, and pick up some fun giveaways.

DCPAH's Full-Service Capabilities Commonly Used for
Felines Include:
• Aldosterone
• Blood Donors - Canine or Feline
• Calcium Diagnostics
• Feline Viral Diseases
• Giardia
• Insulin Like Growth Factor-1
• Mycoplasma (blood-borne & respiratory)
• Thyroid Diagnostics
• Toxoplasma gondii (IgG & IgM)
• Trichromonas foetus
• Vaccine Titer Monitoring

Surgical & Clinical Pathology Diagnostics Commonly Used
for Oncology Include:
• Biopsy
• Bone Biopsy & Radiograph Panel

• Cytology
• Detecting c-Kit Mutations
• Diagnosis and Prognosis of Canine Melanocytic Tumors
• Differentiating Feline Intestinal Lymphoma from
Inflammatory Bowel Disease
• Margin Evaluation
• Ocular Pathology
• PCR for Antigen Receptor Rearrangements (PARR)
• Prognosis of Canine Cutaneous Mast Cell Tumors

We'll be at several conferences in 2016 too, so look for more
information as those dates get closer.