A Look Back
Through the Years

A Photo Journal History
of the Veterinary Cancer Society

By Barbara McGehee
This book is dedicated to
My parents who taught me to love life,
My teachers who taught me to love learning,
Members of the Veterinary Cancer Society who taught me to love work.

Barb McGehee
Dear VCS Members and Friends,

I was delighted when the Executive Committee asked me to write a history of the Veterinary Cancer Society (VCS) using many of the photos that have been taken over the past 25 years. Eventually, this Association became like a family to me and your work became my work.

It started for me with the love of a dog and a friendship with the veterinarian who treated him for lymphosarcoma in 1985. Dr. Andy Loar was the veterinarian who treated my dog and introduced me to VCS. Somewhere along the way I fell in love with VCS and its members and the important work they were doing to improve the treatment of cancer in companion animals.

VCS began to develop in the early 1960’s when several veterinarians began to discuss the treatment of cancer in animals. This led to informal gatherings in the early 70’s, the founding of VCS in 1976, and the formal incorporation of the group in 1977. Since then, VCS has grown from a small formative group of veterinarians to an international organization with world-wide influence. I am deeply honored to have been a part of this development. I remember fondly the times that I discussed conference plans with veterinarians in Paris, Amsterdam, London, Brazil, Japan and the US via Skype, and I reflected on the days when I worked with a typesetter, reviewed galleys with Dr. Loar, and copied and stapled copies of the newsletter to mail at the post office. Some of you will remember the days when members faxed their conference abstracts to me to prepare for the proceedings. And who will forget having to use quarters to unjam those old carousel projectors on site?

We have achieved our founders’ dream of becoming a specialty of veterinary oncology. Our knowledge has grown in concert with human medicine as we cooperate in fighting this deadly disease. It is deeply gratifying to see this group begin to work with other countries toward the goal of improving the treatment of cancer in companion animals all over the world.

It is my hope that this photo journal history will be informative and useful both to current and future members of VCS who have an interest in the story of the founding, development and tremendous growth of this organization. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve you. What a amazing journey we have shared!

With love and best wishes for a bright future.

Barb
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Part I: Our Vision and Mission

Our Vision

The Veterinary Cancer Society is a diverse community of professionals unified by a shared passion for understanding, treating and eradicating cancer.
**Mission**

**Education:**
Disseminating information through presentations as well as formal and informal discussions at our conferences. These experiences are the heart of our Society and make VCS unique.

VCS conference attendance has grown over the years and today, we require large ballrooms to accommodate our ever growing number of attendees.

**Collaboration:**
Creating a dynamic environment that inspires scientific inquiry by connecting individuals with diverse interests in oncology.

In 2009, at our annual conference in Austin, VCS hosted a gathering of international attendees who were interested in becoming more involved in VCS. Pictured are representatives from Brazil, Australia and Japan.
Outreach:
Fostering awareness by sharing peer-reviewed scientific information about cancer with the public and cancer care providers and investigators.

Exhibits
Barb McGehee with Dr. Myron Bernstein, former Executive Director of ACVR, at the first VCS Exhibit in 2002 at ACVIM.

Conferences
In addition to an annual conference, VCS holds a bi-annual mid-year conference. Every fourth year, VCS participates in the organization of the World Veterinary Cancer Congress held in countries around the world.

Newsletters
Our quarterly e-newletter provides updates about our Society as well as current journal reviews written by our Members-At-Large.
Part II: Our History

Gordon Theilen, DVM, First President of VCS
History and Early Beginning of the Veterinary Cancer Society and the Study of Veterinary Oncology Across the World

A group of interested research and clinical veterinarians began to gather soon after a meeting on animal cancer biology from February 12-15, 1962, in New York City. The meeting was sponsored by the New York Academy of Science and entitled, “Tumors in Animals.” Bob Brodey (Penn), Larry Owen, Cambridge University and Gordon Theilen, University of California, Davis (UCD) presented papers that resulted in lifelong friendships. This led to informal gathering of others interested in cancer in animals. Eight to ten persons attended our early make-shift programs that were held in conjunction with American Veterinary Medical Association meetings. A few other such gatherings also were held at American Association of Cancer Research (AACR) meetings.

The original concept was to eventually hold meetings on an annual basis with AACR. Our envisioned “Veterinary Cancer Society” was thought to fit better with AACR than with the broader aspects of AVMA meetings since oncologic research studies in animals fit the concept of “One Medicine.” However, in the late 1970’s, interest turned largely away from a tie with basic cancer research in the VCS and became more clinically oriented. This orientation also occurred in human medicine with the development of the American Association of Clinical Oncology (ASCO).

In the early 1960’s, another group was organized that became known as the International Association for Comparative Research on Leukemia and Related Diseases (CRLRD). Persons in this group were at first interested in causation and basic mechanisms of viruses involved with induction of cancer in avian, murine, and mammalian species, indeed even in fish and reptiles. In the 1970’s, VCS members began to focus more on diagnosis and treatment of cancer with less emphasis on causation and basic mechanisms of cancer.

The first meeting of the CRLRD was in 1960 and coordinated by Martin Kaplan, DVM, at the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia campus. It was sponsored by the World Health Organization (WHO) and focused on bovine leukemia (referred to in Europe as bovine leucosis) which was being reported as multiple occurrences in certain herds and specific locations. Hans Bendixen at the University of Copenhagen did a PhD thesis on epidemiological studies of bovine leucosis in Denmark after WWII. The first report of a multiple incidence of leukemia in a herd of cattle in the USA was reported by Gordon Theilen in 1958. Over 30 percent of the cattle in this herd had persistent lymphocytosis. This was later scientifically recognized as a chronic form of lymphocytic leukemia in cattle infected with the Bovine Leukemia Virus (BLV). Graduate student, Janis Miller, who was studying under Carl Olson at the University of Wisconsin, was the first researcher to identify BLV.

It was obvious by WHO officials that the multiple occurrence of leukemia in cattle herds could pose a threat to world public health for populations that drink milk and work with infected cattle. BLV proved not to be an enzootic disease; however, BLV research generated in-depth studies of leukemogenesis in a multitude of domesticated species by a variety of investigators. The Oncology Laboratory at UCD became internationally known for investigations of cancer causing RNA Tumor Viruses. The 1958 report of a multiple occurrence of leukemia in a herd of cattle catapulted young Gordon Theilen into a legendary career in cancer research starting in 1957, only two years after graduation from UCD School of Veterinary Medicine.
The 2nd CRLRD organizational meeting was a three day meeting held in June of 1962 at UCD and chaired by Gordon Theilen. The focus was bovine leukemia with papers presented on murine leukemia known to be virally caused. CRLRD meetings have been held every two years worldwide since 1960. Theilen, et al, described a new virus causing stem cell leukemia in turkeys during his National Institute of Health fellowship at the National Cancer Institute in Bethesda, Md. from 1964-65. His discovery of the Reticuloendotheliosis (RE) Virus of Turkeys was published in 1967. Following this fellowship year, Theilen’s Bovine Leukemia Project evolved into the UCD Oncology Laboratory.

The first reports about discovery of feline and simian sarcoma viruses came from Theilen’s UCD Oncology Laboratory. The oncogenes, v-Fes associated with the Synder-Theilen Feline Sarcoma Virus, v-Sis with the Simian Sarcoma Virus and v-Rel associated with the RE Virus of Turkeys are used to study gene pathways for clues in understanding human and animal oncogenesis. V-Fes has been associated with human immunodeficiency diseases.

Members of CRLRD became more interested in clinical cancer mechanisms and less interested in viral causation of cancer. CRLRD membership was eventually dominated in the 1990’s with physicians and PhDs working on human leukemia/lymphoma and related diseases, such as the lymphomas associated with Human AIDS. This same interest in clinical mechanisms occurred with the VCS membership. This led to a stronger interest in VCS by veterinarians engaged in clinical veterinary cancer medicine. The same transition occurred with membership involvement in CRLRD which became more human medicine oriented.

Bill Hardy, working at AMC and Sloan Kettering, as well as several other animal research workers, were involved in both associations during the 1960’s and 1970’s. For a number of years, Gordon Theilen from UCD and Max Essex, who studied with Gordon, were active in both associations. After receiving his doctorate involving a thesis on certain aspects of Feline Leukemia Virus at UCD, Max Essex became a faculty member at the School of Public Health at Harvard. Essex was initially an internationally known Feline Leukemia Virus research worker. When Human AIDS Virus was discovered and found to be caused by a retrovirus similar in many ways to bovine and feline leukemia virus infections, Max Essex became internationally known as an expert in Human AIDS viropathology and went on to be Head of AIDS Africa. According to the late Dr. Arthur Hurvitz, Max Essex was probably the most famous veterinarian in the scientific world during that decade.

VCS continued to develop in importance with expansion of interest each succeeding year, especially with the recognition of Veterinary Cancer Medicine as a subspecialty within the College of Veterinary Internal Medicine. The first Veterinary Cancer Medicine Specialty program was developed at the University of California at Davis in 1972 under the direction of Gordon Theilen. The late Anita Henness was the first to complete an official residency in veterinary oncology. She was awarded the certificate in Veterinary Oncology in 1974. The two year specialty training program was designed to equip the resident to diagnose and treat cancer within the sphere of internal medicine and coordinate treatments with surgeons and radiotherapists. Anita along with Bill Brewer, the 2nd resident at UCD, were influential in publishing our original chemotherapeutic protocols for treating animal cancer.

It is noteworthy that Alice Villalobos did special studies with Gordon Theilen in cancer medicine during her veterinary educational years from 1969 to 1972. Her special studies in cancer medicine preceded inauguration of the official UCD oncology residency program by 3 years. Alice was recognized as Dr. Theilen’s first unofficial clinical oncology resident. Most importantly she was the first person in the world to have the vision and foresight to establish practices strictly devoted to neoplastic diseases, Animal Oncology Consultation Service and Animal Cancer Center at Coast Pet Clinic of Hermosa Beach Inc., in So. California. Her pioneering endeavor, which offered surgical oncology, internal medicine, radiation therapy, a matching internship program, and three outpatient satellite cancer clinics, was a beacon that led to an explosion of veterinary oncology residencies and practices throughout the world. Villalobos is now pioneering “Pawspice” and end of life care as a new specialty.

Before the efforts of early veterinary oncologists, treatment existed by surgery alone and if that was not curative the next step was euthanasia. The dark days in veterinary cancer therapy continued until cancer medicine programs began to develop in the mid 1950’s. Dick Weller and early house officers at UCD were influential in the organization of veterinary oncology as a subspecialty in the College of Internal Veterinary Medicine. There were several other residents from University of California, Davis that were involved in the
formation and early support of VCS. Steve Crow was the first veterinary oncology resident to give a paper at an AACR meeting in the early days of attempting to tie VCS as an associated group within AACR meetings.

Bob Brodey at Penn was an influential educator from the early 1960’s who inspired many students to follow a career in Cancer Medicine. During the early formation of the VCS, Greg MacEwen was the first editor of the VCS newsletter before A. J. McClelland took it over. Art Hurvitz was a prominent staff member at the Animal Medical Center (AMC) in New York City. Art was also associated with the Sloan Kettering Institute in Manhattan conducting cancer immunology research with Lloyd Old, MD, an internationally known cancer immunologist. Art spent six months at UCD with Gordon Theilen involved in a special program in Clinical Oncology. Hurvitz specialized as a pathologist at AMC and did collaborative work with Greg MacEwen.

Ann Jeglum was an oncology resident in training at Penn when Bob Brodey was killed in a car accident in Canada. Ann Jeglum stepped up to run the Oncology Department at Penn for many years thereafter. Jeglum became well known in the veterinary oncology community with her research using a monoclonal antibody vaccine following chemotherapy to treat lymphoma. Ann brought her expertise to the early days of VCS’s organizational development.

Another important leader in those formative days of VCS was Ed Gillette at Colorado State (CSU). Ed was internationally known for his expertise in Veterinary Radiology and radiation therapy. Gillette encouraged Steve Withrow, newly appointed to CSU, to assist in organizing the oncology group. Together these visionary men developed an outstanding critical mass of cancer research, medicine, surgery, radiotherapy, internal medicine and educated many well known veterinary oncologists including Rodney Page who recently assumed Dr. Withrow’s position as head of the Animal Cancer Center at CSU.

Sue Cotter from the Angel Memorial Veterinary Hospital in Boston, and Tufts, was a renowned expert on Feline Leukemia Virus infected cats and hematology/oncology. Sue Cotter and Richard Olson from The Ohio State University were active with the VCS organizational meetings. Olson developed the Feline Leukemia Vaccine used worldwide by employing virus from a cell culture developed in the Oncology Laboratory at UCD referred to as FL74 lymphocyte cell suspension culture. FL74 was named the Theilen FeLV virus. It contained all sub-strains, A, B and C of the FeLV virus and was initially obtained from lymphocytes collected from an experimentally induced leukemic laboratory cat at Theilen’s lab at UCD.

From those early days of VCS development, Bob Brodey and Gordon Theilen were appointed as participants of the WHO project that developed the method for Staging of Tumors in Animals. The need for staging tumors began in the early days of VCS when it was obvious that tumors must be staged to properly evaluate therapeutic responses. The WHO Tumor Staging Committee also included Larry Owen from Cambridge, Wim Misdorp from the National Cancer Institute in the Netherlands, Ken Head from Edinburgh, Eugene Weiss from Giessen, Germany, a Russian veterinarian from Moscow and Dr. Martin Kaplan of Penn who was chair of the group. All meetings were held in Geneva, Switzerland from the late 1960’s to the mid 1970’s.

Larry Owen and Wim Misdorp were influential in the development of cancer medicine in England and the Netherlands respectively. This early beginning led to the establishment of numerous other European veterinary centers and organizations and eventually to numerous centers worldwide.

Since those formative meetings, VCS became a society of excellence and greatly improved veterinary clinical and research oncology over its 50 years of history. Bruce Madewell joined the Clinical Oncology group at UCD in the late 1970’s and shared clinical duties with Theilen until he retired in 1993. The first text book of its kind in the world literature entitled “Veterinary Cancer Medicine” was coedited and largely coauthored by Theilen & Madewell and published in 1979. Contributors included many interested in the organization of VCS such as: William Priester (epidemiology), Thomas Pulley ( pathology), Chris Grant (immunology), Harold Snow (nuclear medicine), Bob Brodey (surgery), Charles Robertson (cryosurgery), Ed Gillette (radiotherapy), and George Kollias, Jr. (zoo and wildlife animals). Henry Kaplan MD of Stanford University wrote the forward. He was famous for developing a program that cured a high percentage of certain stages of Hodgkin’s Lymphoma with radiation therapy. In his last sentence of the forward, Henry Kaplan stated, “Veterinary Clinical Oncology is a subject of great importance, and this timely book, which has assembled so conveniently within its covers a hitherto fragmented and scattered body of information will prove to be a most useful contribution.”

The first edition was translated into to Japanese which helped influence Veterinary Cancer Medicine in Japan. A copy of the Japanese translation was given to the Prince by a Japanese veterinarian who worked for him. The
Prince is now Emperor of Japan. Obviously, the influence by VCS members is known worldwide even in top places in world governments.

The 2nd edition of Veterinary Cancer Medicine was published in 1987 being an expanded and updated version of the 1st edition with 25 contributors. The foreword was written by Stephen Carter MD senior vice president, Anti Cancer Research, Bristol Meyers Company, pharmaceutical Research and Developmental Division, New York, New York. Dr. Carter’s last two sentences in the foreword was an erudite prediction “The veterinarian, in a situation analogous to the clinical human oncologist, has moved in the parallel directions of research and care. This second edition of Veterinary Cancer Medicine is an example of how far this field has come and how important it will be in the future.”

Veterinary Cancer Medicine was written with three goals in mind by dividing the subject matter into three parts. The first part was Principles of Cancer Medicine; the second part was Systemic Cancer Medicine and the third section; Tumors in Nondomesticated Animals. These text books led the way in tying principals such as causation of cancer and tumor biology to application of systemic cancer medicine which involved treatment and chemotherapeutic protocols. The third section included animals seen in zoo and wild life environments. The overall vision of these editions was to bring veterinary cancer medicine together as a “One Medicine” concept within the broad field of cancer biology.

Some of the material given in both editions was provided by specialists and several of the early house officers at UCD. Of whom special note is given to Drs. Anita Henness, Bill Brewer, Steve Crow, Guillermo Couto, Barbara Kitchell, Stuart Helfand, Elizabeth Hodgkins, Richard Weller, Susan Stann, Cheryl Stevens, and Wayne Shapiro. All were the first generation of oncology residents at UCD who supported the study of veterinary cancer medicine as well as development of the VCS.
Presidents of the Veterinary Cancer Society

Gordon Theilen, DVM ................................................................. 1974-1976
William Hardy, VMD ............................................................... 1976-1978
RS Brodey, DVM, MS ............................................................... 1978-1980
E. Gregory MacEwen, VMD ..................................................... 1980-1982
Edward L. Gillette, DVM, PhD ................................................ 1982-1984
Steve Withrow, DVM ............................................................... 1984-1986
Ralph Richardson, DVM ......................................................... 1986-1988
Steve Crow, DVM ................................................................. 1988-1990
Guillermo Couto, DVM ........................................................... 1990-1992
Wallace Morrison, DVM ......................................................... 1994-1996
Barbara E. Kitchell, DVM, PhD ............................................... 1996-1998
Neal Mauldin, DVM .............................................................. 1998-2000
Mary K Klein, DVM, MS ........................................................ 2000-2002
Philip Bergman, DVM, PhD .................................................... 2002-2004
Carolyn Henry, DVM, MS ....................................................... 2004-2006
David Ruslander, DVM .......................................................... 2006-2008
Barbara E. Kitchell, DVM, PhD ............................................... 2008-2010
Ruthanne Chun, DVM ............................................................ 2011-2012
Laura Garrett, DVM .............................................................. 2013-Present
“One Medicine Vision”

After earning his DVM from University of California, Davis (UCD) in 1955, Gordon H. Theilen joined their faculty. Two years later, he identified a high rate of leukemia in a cattle herd. Documenting and reporting this finding spurred Theilen’s dedicated interest in cancer causing viruses.

From 1964-65, Theilen was an NIH Research Fellow and described the Avian Reticuloendotheliosis Virus of turkeys in the Journal of National Cancer Institute. He conducted retroviral research in avian, bovine, equine, feline and primate species at UCD. He was Director of The Bovine Leukemia Project which morphed into the UCD Oncology Laboratory where he directed the Feline Leukemia Virus Research Program opened doors for many future discoveries.

Theilen then started the first veterinary clinical oncology service. He also designed a proposed clinical oncology residency program and during his 1973 sabbatical, he studied immune mechanisms of metastasis at the Royal Marsden Hospital in London as an NIH Research Fellow. Theilen then established the first specialty practice of Veterinary Cancer Medicine at UCD and mentored many students, interns and residents who became leaders of the VCS. He served as the first VCS President from 1974-76. During this early period (1968 – 1975), Theilen met annually with an international panel of veterinarians in Geneva to work on the World Health Committee to develop the first WHO cancer staging protocols in veterinary medicine.

Dr. Theilen was the first President of VCS and has been acknowledged with many awards over the years. His great vision inspired the origins of modern veterinary clinical oncology and research.

Special thanks to Dr. Alice Villalobos for this contribution.
### Officers of the Veterinary Cancer Society

The following VCS members generously donated their time by serving on the VCS Executive Committee. It is noteworthy to extend a well-deserved thank you to **Dr. Richard E. Weller** who was the volunteer manager/treasurer of VCS for many years and served until 1998 when the VCS office was moved to Spring Valley, CA. Each Member-at-Large serves a two year term and is responsible for the scientific content of two VCS newsletters. The Secretary and Treasurer also serve two year terms.

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<tr>
<th>Year(s)</th>
<th>Guest Editors/Members-at-Large</th>
<th>Treasurer/Treasurer</th>
<th>Secretary/Treasurer</th>
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<td>1989-1990</td>
<td>Barb Kitchell, DVM, Rodney Page, DVM, Gregory Ogilive, DVM</td>
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<td>1990-1992</td>
<td>Rodney Straw, BVSc, Mary Kay Klein, DVM, Stuart Helfand, DVM, Barbara E. Kitchell, DVM, PhD</td>
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<td>1992-1994</td>
<td>Deborah Knapp, DVM, David Vail, DVM, MS, Kenita Rogers, DVM, MS, William Brewer, DVM</td>
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<td>1994-1996</td>
<td>Kevin Hahn, DVM, Tony Moore, DVM, Leslie Fox, DVM, S. Dru Forrester, DVM</td>
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<td>1996-1998</td>
<td>Margaret McEntee, DVM, Glenna Mauldin, DVM, MS, John Berg, DVM, Robyn Elsmie, DVM</td>
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<td>1998-2000</td>
<td>Ruthanne Chun, DVM, Bill Dernell, DVM, MS, Carolyn Henry, DVM, MS, Chand Khanna, DVM, PhD</td>
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<td>Laura Garrett, DVM</td>
<td>Cheryl London, DVM</td>
<td>Doug Thamm, DVM</td>
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<td>2000-2002</td>
<td>Ken Rassnick, DVM</td>
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<td>Ruthanne Chun, DVM</td>
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<td>Karen Cornell, DMV, PhD</td>
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<td>Ravinder Dhaliwal, DVM, MS</td>
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<td>2002-2004</td>
<td>Tim Fan, DVM</td>
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<td>Annette Smith, DVM, MS</td>
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<td>2004-2006</td>
<td>Ken Rassnick, DVM, Diplomate ACVIM, Oncology</td>
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<td>2004-2006</td>
<td>Barb Biller, DVM, Sue Lana, DVM, MS</td>
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<td>Tracy Giegler, DVM</td>
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<td>Craig Clifford, DVM</td>
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<td>2007-2008</td>
<td>Laura Garrett, DVM</td>
<td>Lisa Barber, DVM</td>
<td>Elizabeth McNiel, DVM, PhD</td>
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<td>Louis-Philippe de Lorimier, DVM, Kim Selting, DVM, MS</td>
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<td>2009</td>
<td>Nicole Northrup, DVM</td>
<td>Jeffrey Bryan, DVM, PhD</td>
<td>Laurel Williams, DVM</td>
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<td>2009</td>
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<td>David Proulx, DVM, MSpVM</td>
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<td>Carlos Rodriguez, DVM, PhD</td>
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2010
President Elect
Ruthanne Chun, DVM
Secretary/Treasurer
Nicole Northrup, DVM
Guest Editors/Members-at-Large
Jeffrey Bryan, DVM, MS, PhD
Kristine Burgess, DVM
Andrew Vaughan, DVM
Carlos Rodriguez, DVM, PhD

2011
President Elect
Laura Garrett, DVM
Secretary/ Treasurer
Barbara Biller, DVM
Guest Editors/Members-at-Large
Jeffrey Bryan, DVM, MS, PhD
Carlos Rodriguez, DVM, PhD
Kristine Burgess, DVM
Andrew Vaughan, DVM

2012
President Elect
Laura Garrett, DVM
Secretary/ Treasurer
Barbara Biller, DVM
Guest Editors/Members-at-Large
Kristine Burgess, DVM
Andrew Vaughan, DVM
Kathryn Skorupski, DVM
Iain Grant, BVSc

2013:
President-Elect
David Vail, DVM
Secretary
Carlos Rodriguez, DVM
Treasurer
David Ruslander, DVM
Members At Large
Jenna Burton, DVM
Iain Grant, BVSc
Elaine Caplan, DVM
Katherine Skorupski, DVM
The meeting was called to order by the President, Dr. W. D. Hardy, Jr., who asked Dr. McClelland to read the Minutes of the previous VCS business meeting which was held during the AVMA convention in Cincinnati on July 21st, 1976.

Dr. McClelland asked for, and obtained, approval of the minutes of the Cincinnati meeting. Dr. Hardy then gave the report of the Executive Committee. He said that the committee had discussed various ways of stimulating interest in the Society. Among them were: having 2 scientific meetings/year (at the AVMA and the AAHA conventions), placing an ad in the JAVMA, JAAHA and JNCI giving information about the VCS, holding regional meetings and meetings at veterinary schools and giving senior students automatic membership in the Society for 1 year. Dr. Hardy also said that the Executive Committee had agreed on a statement of the Society’s position on Laetrile but that this would be discussed later in the meeting. As regards a VCS Journal, Dr. Hardy said that the Executive Committee had agreed that there was not enough interest, or revenue, for such a venture at the present time. Finally, Dr. Hardy reported that the Society was now properly incorporated in the State of Illinois as an affiliate of the AVMA.

Dr. Priester, the Treasurer, reported that the Society was solvent with a total of $1,942.16 in the bank. The total income for the year was $1,130.14 a large part of it ($1,090.00) coming from membership dues, and the expenses for the year came to $84.58. The balance from 1976 was $896.60. Dr. Priester added that there had been some confusion over the dues notice sent out in Jan/Feb. 1977. In fact it was for the 1976 dues and another dues notice would be sent out this year (probably in September with the next Newsletter).

Dr. McClelland gave the report of the Committee on Publications. He said that the main achievement of the Committee in the past year was the establishment of the quarterly VCS Newsletter.

Dr. Hardy said that the Education Committee had not been functional in the last year because only 1 member had agreed to serve. He said that the Executive Committee had agreed to his proposal and that he appointed 3 members to the committee. One member would be located in the east, one in the west and the other would be from the Midwest. Dr. Hardy also reported that the Finance, Meetings and Nominating Committees were, in the view of the Executive Committee, were unnecessary at the present time.

Dr. Legendre read out the names of all applicants to the Society and asked that they be approved as members en bloc. Approval was obtained.

Dr. Hardy announced that a regional meeting on veterinary cancer which will include papers on veterinary oncology will be held in Las Vegas on January 15-16, 1978. Members who wish to obtain more information on the meeting should write to Mrs. Ann L. Ayre, National Cancer Cytology Center, 150 Broad Hollow Road, Melville, New York 11746.
Dr. McClelland opened the discussion on a possible VCS Journal by stating his view, which was supported by the Executive Committee, that it was premature for the VCS to start a Journal. Instead, he suggested that the annual printing cost of the Newsletter was $217/year (the cost of the first year was not borne by the Society), so that it was within the financial resources of the VCS to expand the Newsletter. The Newsletter was the main organ of communication between members of the Society and he asked that articles and announcements suitable for inclusion in the Newsletter, as well as any criticisms, be sent to him.

As a method of stimulating interest in the Society it was suggested that the Newsletter be sent to the Head of Medicine of every veterinary school in the U.S. and, via the deans, to every final year student in veterinary schools.

These suggestions were approved by the meeting.

Dr. Macy outlined the current position of Laetrile in the country. He said that in the last year 9 states had legalized Laetrile and 6 others were nearing legalization. A veterinarian named Dr. Craig had written a letter to JAVMA stating that a Laetrile deficiency in the diet was responsible for feline leukemia. Dr. Macy said that it was the responsibility of the VCS to discourage the use of Laetrile in veterinary oncology.

Dr. Hardy read out a statement on Laetrile that the Executive Committee had drafted and asked that it be approved by the membership.

Dr. Caldwell asked whether the American Association of Clinical Oncologists had a made a statement about laetrile.

Dr. Hardy replied that he wasn’t sure but he did know that the American Cancer Society and the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center had made public statements about Laetrile.

Dr. McCoy thought that the VCS statement should not include any references to the legal position of the substance.

Dr. Macy agreed saying that the main object of the statement should be to discourage the use of Laetrile by veterinarians by making it clear that there was no scientific evidence that Laetrile was an effective anticancer agent. The following statement on Laetrile was then approved by the meeting.

“The Veterinary Cancer Society after evaluating the existing scientific literature, has concluded that there is no evidence that Laetrile (amygdalin, vitamin B 17) either prevents or is a beneficial treatment for cancer in animals. Until there is proof for the efficacy of Laetrile in the treatment of cancer, the Veterinary Cancer Society does not recommend its use in the practice of veterinary medicine”.

It was agreed that the statement be sent to JAVMA for publication in the yellow pages.

Dr. Hardy then closed the meeting urging that all members encourage their veterinarian colleagues to become members of the Society.
Dr. Hardy was very instrumental in the development of VCS. He contacted numerous universities to determine how many veterinarians were interested in forming an organization of colleagues aimed at furthering all areas of knowledge in veterinary oncology. He was active in the development of bylaws for the organization and overseeing the incorporation of VCS in 1977.
Veterinary Cancer Society

Members of the Ad Hoc Committee for Bylaws

Chairman: William D. Hardy, Jr., V.M.D.
Head, Laboratory of Veterinary Oncology
Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center
New York, New York 10021

Professor of Surgery
University of Pennsylvania
School of Veterinary Medicine
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19104

C. Richard Dorn, D.V.M., M.P.H.
Associate Professor
University of Missouri
School of Veterinary Medicine
Columbia, Missouri 65201

R. H. Featherston, D.V.M.
Highland Park Veterinary Hospital
3129 So. Winston
Tulsa, Oklahoma 74135

Arthur I. Hurvitz, D.V.M., Ph.D.
Head of Pathology
Animal Medical Center
New York, New York 10021
Ed Gillette was the first Editor of the VCS Newsletter before the job was taken over by Dr. A. J. McClelland. In 1984, Dr. Andy Loar became the third Editor of the Newsletter.
In 1985, my beloved Cairn Terrier, Duke of Skye, was diagnosed with lymphosarcoma. The veterinarian who diagnosed him with this illness suggested that I take Duke to an oncologist at the Emergency Animal Hospital in San Diego. That oncologist was VCS member, Dr. Andy Loar, who at the time was working for Alice Villalobos at the Animal Cancer Center’s day clinic in San Diego. Over the course of my dog’s treatment, Andy and I became good friends. He had a busy practice and was also serving as Editor of the VCS Newsletter. As we got to know each other better, Andy learned that I had a degree in English from Baylor University, had published some nature articles for children. He was also attending Grossmont College where I subsequently completed another degree in Instructional Media. My long career with VCS started when he asked if I would like to help him with the VCS newsletter!

In 1987, Andy invited me to meet with the Executive Committee in San Diego to discuss the possibility of working on the VCS Newsletter as an independent contractor. This meeting set the stage for many years of working on the newsletter and over time, I gradually began taking on many other duties.

In those days, I worked with a typesetter and reviewed galleys with Andy to make corrections. At first, there were probably less than 100 newsletters to send out. As our membership grew, I began to sort and sack the newsletters before taking them to the post office. Soon I acquired a Mac Plus to begin laying out the newsletter on the computer. What an exciting time!

In 1991, Andy invited me to attend my first VCS conference held in Minneapolis. After this meeting with the Executive Committee, I gradually began to do more and more of the things that needed to be done. I set up Agendas and worked with VCS Presidents and Guest Editors as we handled VCS business. I corrected our non-profit status which had been improperly set up. I wrote advertising guidelines and soon we were selling advertising in the VCS Newsletter. I set up sponsor plans to encourage sponsorship at our conferences. I developed a publication schedule and Guidelines for Guest Editors which made each editor responsible for the content of two issues during their two year terms. Then I persistently reminded them until I received their articles. One Guest Editor, affectionately referred to me as the “official VCS polynagger!” It worked though because we have consistently published quarterly newsletters, all of which now reside in the VCS archives.

In 1999, I developed and submitted a business plan for VCS to MK Klein who was then President of the Society. I proposed centralizing the VCS office in San Diego and computerizing our records. I continued to work with VCS as an independent contractor until my business plan was approved. MK Klein hired me as the first Executive Director of the Veterinary Cancer Society in 2000. Dr Richard Weller, who had been generously donating his time as a volunteer manager for many years, sent all of his records to the new office. Once this was done, we began the arduous task of transferring all the VCS records from Dr. Weller’s office in Selah, Washington to my home office in San Diego. MK came to my home in Spring Valley, California where we discussed my new position with VCS. Working together and snacking on beef jerky at my dining room table, MK and I sketched out the first VCS budget on a few sheets of paper with my two dogs looking on with great interest. This very productive meeting set me up to begin my new job.

Soon I was incredibly busy setting up business in San Diego. I created a new membership database from Dick Weller’s written records which I was eventually able to make available online to VCS members. I purchased accounting software and soon I was producing financial reports for the Executive Committee and VCS membership.
When the internet came on the scene in the early 90’s, I knew that VCS had to have a web site! I registered to attend classes on web site development and, working with the Executive Committee and Dr. Kevin Hahn, I put VCS online in 1994. This was very instrumental in the dramatic growth in the membership of VCS. We have continued to improve the web site over the years and today it is a bustling hub of VCS activity. Our membership has grown from about 100 members when I started working with VCS in 1985 to nearly 1,000 members today!

After I was hired as Executive Director in 2000, I purchased association software and hired a web designer to improve the website. We set it up to handle online payment of membership dues and the sale of proceedings. A Pet Memorials section was added to the web site and newsletter so that pet owner’s could contribute to VCS in honor of their pets.

I was still working out of my home office in 2003, but my office was beginning to overflow with VCS files, publications and equipment. It was a genuine stroke of luck when my friend, Kathleen Pierce, offered to donate office space in her building to VCS. She continued to do so until I retired at the end of 2010.

What a amazing adventure I have had with this group! My heartfelt thanks to the many wonderful friends in VCS who have made this journey such a true pleasure. It is, and will always be, my honor and great joy to have served members of the Veterinary Cancer Society for 25 years. Thank you for your trust and friendship.
I first met Dr. Myron Bernstein in Chicago when VCS had the 1997 annual meeting with ACVR in Chicago. We became friends while sitting outside the meeting rooms and talking about our associations. He was the first person to suggest that I would be perfect in the role of Executive Director for VCS, and that happened just a few years later.

Dr. Bernstein was my mentor and dear friend.

Dr. Cheryl London (in the photo above with Barb) and Dr. Peter Bennett (with Barb in the photo on the right) stopped by the new exhibit to say hello.
The VCS office was moved from my home in Spring Valley, CA to an office space in National City, CA which was donated by my friend Kathleen Pierce in 2003. Kathleen continued to donate the space and often attended conferences with me until I retired at the end of 2010.

Thank you Kathleen!
Part III: Our Conferences
VCS Conferences

The first VCS Proceedings to be printed as a separate document was published in 1986.

VETERINARY CANCER SOCIETY
Sixth Annual Conference
April 28-30, 1986
Purdue University School of Veterinary Medicine
West Lafayette, Indiana

Program & Abstracts

Mary Ann Liebert, Inc. publisher
1986 • West Lafayette, IN
Photos by Christina Hutson

Jane Turrel, Glen King and Alice Villalobos

Andy Loar

Steve Crow attended every VCS meeting until 2011

Christina Hutson and Alice Villalobos
1987 • Madison, WI

(no conference photos available)
1988 • Estes Park, CO
165 attendees

Estes Park, CO

Dennis Macy

Tony Moore, Dennis Macy and Catharine Scott-Moncrieff

Gordon Theilen, Steve Crow and Alice Villalobos
1989 • Raleigh, NC
205 attendees

MK Klein and Maura O’Brien

Steve Withrow, Allan Norris and Ted Valli

Mona Rosenberg, Rod Page and Joyce Obradovich

Al Legendre and Dennis Macy

Ralph Richardson
1990 • Auburn, AL

Auburn, Alabama

Chris Hutson enjoys a conversation with a colleague

Steve Crow and Guillermo Couto

Resident abstract presenters
1991 • Minneapolis, MN
175 attendees

Jeff Klausner, Darren Hawks and Guillermo Couto

Heidi Ward and Guillermo Couto

Abstract presenters playing with the photographer
1992 • Asilomar, CA
170 attendees

Bruce Madewell and Guillermo Couto

Gathering for lunch

Coffee break

Phil Bergman and Cathy Lustgarten
1993 • Columbus, OH
190 attendees

Dick Weller, Stu Helfand, Al Hammer and Ted Valli

Dru Forrester, Kenita Rogers, Steve Susaneck and Rod Page

Andy Loar engaged in conversation with a colleague

Ann Jeglum and Dick Weller

Dick Weller, Steve Crow and Bob Rosenthal

Ted Valli speaking to attendees
1994 • Townsend, TN
240 attendees

Arrivals at the conference site

Program Chair, Kevin Hahn

Greg Ogilvie and Rod Page

VCS group getting ready to saddle up

Ready to ride

Rod Straw mounted up!
1995 • Tucson, AZ
200 attendees

Ron Kipnis, Cheryl Harris and Sandra Jongeward

Dennis Macy and Margy McEntee

Chand Khanna

Poolside festivities

Foreground: Rodney Ayl and Barb Kitchell

Program Chair, MK Klein

Janet Peterson and others enjoy the reception

Mona Rosenberg, Steve Susaneck and Jane Turrel
1996 • Asilomar, CA
225 attendees

Break time

Rick LeCouteur and Jane Turrel

Conference attendees enjoy the beautiful setting at Asilomar

Lisa Forrest and Margie McEntee head to scientific sessions
1997 • Chicago, IL
325 attendees

Combined conference with ACVR

Ed Gillette, Sharon McChesney and Jane Turrel

Dave Ruslander and Margy McEntee

Barb Biller and Barb Kitchell

Greg Boring and Daniel Biery of ACVR
1998 • Estes Park, CO
250 attendees

Barb Kitchell and Neal Mauldin

MK Klein and Dennis Macy

The tent collapsed before the planned event

Barb McGehee
1999 • Bodega Bay, CA
40 attendees

1st Mid-Year Conference
Focus: Feline Vaccine-Associated Fibrosarcomas

Bodega Bay attendees

Patrick Devauchelle and Bruce Madewell

Margy McEntee, Linda Fineman and Cheryl Harris
1999 • Woods Hole, MA
300 attendees

Bruce Madewell and Tony Moore

Bob Rosenthal, Carolyn Henry and Mary Lynn Higginbotham

Session in progress

Amy Le Blanc, nee Hipple, and Neal Mauldin

Steve Crow and Phil Bergman

Malcolm Brearley
2000 • Tucson, AZ
70 attendees

2nd Mid-Year Conference
Focus: Mast Cell Tumors

Conference Attendees

MK Klein and Jane Turrel

Break time

Ron Burk, Bob Rosenthal and Kevin Hahn

MK Klein and Barb Kitchell
2000 • Asilomar, CA
300 Attendees

Barb McGehee and Andy Loar

Coffee break at Asilomar

Steve Crow and Bruce Madewell

MK Klein and Rod Straw
2001 • Baton Rouge, LA
250 attendees

Steve Susaneck, Rod Straw, Steve Withrow, MK Klein and Kim Selting

Ruthanne Chun and Patty Bonney

Debbie Knapp, Patty Bonney and Amalia de Gortari

Betsy Hershey

Phil Bergman and Gerry Post

Glenna and Neal Mauldin, MK Klein and Rod Straw
2002 • Galena, IL
100 attendees

3rd Mid-Year Meeting
Focus: Lymphoma

James Armitage, Barb Kitchell, Ron Carter and Ted Valli

Judy Mewes, Ted Valli and Barb McGehee

Wally Morrison

MK Klein with keynote speaker, James Armitage

Program Chair, Ted Valli and his wife Carroll

MK Klein and Barb McGehee
2002 • New York, NY
362 attendees

Rodney Ayl, Pam Wolf and Rowan Milner on the unforgettable cruise of New York Harbor

Ruthanne Chun, Phil Bergman and Jean-Christophe Audonnet

Orna Kristal and Ken Rassnick

Gerry Post and Mona Rosenberg

Matt Lauer and Carolyn Henry

Dave Denman and Ilene Kurzman
2003 • Madison, WI
350 attendees

Jean Tullis, Ilene Kurzman, Barb McGehee and Judy Mewes

Program Chair, Ilene Kurzman, with keynote speaker Joan Schiller

Ilene sets up for the bowling tournament

Johan de Vos gets his bowling shoes

Rod Straw and MK Klein

Lisa di Bernardi enjoys a snack at the bowling tournament with Dave Ruslander in the background

Janean Fidel and Janet Peterson
2004 • Napa Valley, CA
90 attendees

4th Mid-Year Conference
Focus: Novel Therapeutics and Diagnostics

Program Chair, Ravi Dhaliwal, with Annette Smith, Sarah Sheafor and Rance Gamblin

Bruce Madewell, Karri Meleo and Phil Bergman

Barb McGehee with good friend and conference assistant, Judy Mewes

Jane Turrell and Jeff Bryan, Brenda Phillips in the foreground

David Heller, LP de Lorimier, Sue Ettinger and Steve Atwater

Jurgen Tan, Jean Tullis, Barb McGehee and Johan de Vos
2004 • Kansas City, MO
339 attendees

Program Chair, Carolyn Henry
Eric Simonson, Karri Meleo, and Paul Pion
Steven Susaneck, Ilene Kurzman, and Phil Bergman
Dave Ruslander

Clinical Trials Symposium Attendees - organized by Phil Bergman
Kenita Rogers
Jeff Bryan
Keynote speaker, Wayne Carter with Ruthanne Chun
Robyn Elmslie and Ken Rassnick
2005 • Huntington Beach, CA
431 attendees

Karri Meleo and Ron Burk

Lynda Reed and Barb McGehee

Kathleen Pierce and Alice Villalobos

Janet Petty, Steve Withrow and Melanie Mahan

Jeff Bryan, Steve Crow and Joe Impellizeri

Mary Lynn Higginbotham, Annette Smith and Kathryn Taylor
2006 • Sedona, AZ
80 attendees

5th Mid-Year Conference
Focus: Canine Osteosarcoma

Gorgeous Sedona is the conference site

Chili Cook-off Winning Team

Ron Kipnis sampling the chili

Betsy Hershey and Steve Schafer

Monica Jankowski and Pam Jones
2006 • Pine Mountain, GA
360 attendees

Program Chair, Annette Smith

Sarah Gillings, Karri Meleo, Tracy Geiger, Mona Rosenberg visit between sessions

Outgoing President, Carolyn Henry celebrates the end of her reign

Eric Simonson and VTCS President, Sharon West

Mary Lynn Higginbotham, Annette Smith, Kurt Zinn and David Ruslander

Heather Wilson and Al Legendre celebrating her Resident Award

Technicians enjoy some time out!

Bob Rosenthal and Steve Crow

Tomoko Takahashi, Alice Villalobos and Kathleen Pierce
2007 • Fort Lauderdale, FL
448 attendees

Skyline of Fort Lauderdale

VCS President, Dave Ruslander
with Program Chair, Ron Burk

Zac March, Barb McGehee, Erica Lovercamp,
Kathleen Pierce and Sandi Strother

Barb McGehee meets Gino

Malcolm Brearley and Johan de Vos

Barb Kitchell, Sharon West and Kara Burns
2008 • Copenhagen, Denmark
200 attendees

6th Mid Year Meeting and
1st World Veterinary Cancer Congress

Eva Hellmen, Annemarie Kristensen
and Dave Ruslander

Bo Wiinberg and Annemarie Kristinsen

Patrick Devauchelle, Johan de Vos and Boris Kavlokof

A festive group at the Gala Banquet

Ann Hohenhaus and Tetsuya Kobayashi

Barb McGehee and Jurgen Tim
2008 • Seattle, WA
517 attendees

Conference Co-chairs Stephanie Bradley and Karri Meleo

Dave Ruslander and Carolyn Henry

Kate Cadorette, Jana McAllister and Brenda Phillips

Sarah Gillings, Kathy Arrington and Marlene Hauck

Karri Meleo and Glenna Mauldin

Zac March and Sandi Strother
2009 • Austin, TX
519 attendees

Rod Page, Barb Kitchell, and Gordon Theilen

Awards Banquet at Stubbs BBQ

Henrick von Euler and Malcolm Brearley

Carolyn Henry and Jeff Bryan

Ruthanne Chun

Cindy MacEwen and Gordon Theilen with Theilen Award plaques
2010 • Las Vegas, NV
100 attendees

7th Mid-Year Conference
Focus: Targeted Therapies

Keynote speaker Karen Milligan with Program Chair, Betsy Hershey

Pam Jones and Betsy Hershey

Greg Ogilvie, Gerry Post and Robyn Elmslie

Conference attendees enjoy an outing in Red Rock Canyon

Terry Hamilton, Dennis Macy and Jana MacAllister

Dave Ruslander, Barb Kitchell and Andrew Vaughan
Program Chair, Greg Ogilvie, with Albert Ahn and Zac March

Steve Withrow accepts the Theilen Award presented by Alice Villalobos and Albert Ahn

Resident award winners with outgoing President, Barb Kitchell From left to right: Cecilia Robat, Christine Anderson, Barb Kitchell, Emma Warry and Joelle Fenger

Jana MacAllister at the VCS history table where some of the VCS archives were on display.

Sandi Strother, incoming Executive Director and retiring Executive Director, Barb McGehee

Barb says an emotional goodbye to VCS!
2011 • Albuquerque, NM
503 attendees

Barb Kitchell visiting with a participant

Dave Ruslander enjoying conversation with other attendees

Dr. Ruthanne Chun with several of the 2010 and 2011 Student Award Winners who were in attendance.

Attendees viewing the scientific posters

Jacqueline de Zeeuw and Johan de Vos of ESVONC
2012 • Paris, France
354 attendees

2nd World Veterinary Cancer Congress

Joyce Ellington (Barb’s sister) and Barb McGehee

Attendees at the evening Welcome Reception

Sandi Strother and Malcolm Brearley
2012 • Las Vegas, NV
580 attendees

VTCS Technicians received a variety of awards at the 2012 conference. Award recipients are pictured above with VTCS President Jana McAllister.

Ruthanne Chun posing with a show girl at the Awards Reception

Barb Kitchell with Carlos Souza, Maciej Parys, Akiko Koshino, Luana Torres, Paulo Vilar Saavedra, Magdalena Parys, and Noopur Desai and her husband Shardu

Conference attendees enjoying a meal together

Naoko Sogame discusses her poster during the reception
Part IV: VCS Awards and Tributes
The Thelein Tribute Symposium  
To honor Dr. Gordon Theilen

In 2008, Gordon Theilen was honored for “50 years of Cancer Research.” The Theilen Tribute Symposium (TTS) was held at University of California, Davis School of Veterinary Medicine from May 30th to June 1st. Papers were presented by oncologists and researchers from several universities and cancer research organizations in the country. Attendees included professionals from human and veterinary medicine, research institutions and industry.
In 2009, the Veterinary Cancer Society established the *Theilen Tribute Award* to recognize exceptional life achievement in veterinary oncology. The first award was posthumously awarded, most appropriately, to honor Dr. Greg MacEwen’s outstanding contributions to veterinary oncology at the VCS meeting in Austin, Texas.

The 2nd Theilen Tribute Award was presented at the VCS meeting in 2010 in San Diego in recognition of Steve Withrow’s outstanding work in cancer medicine and his guidance of many residents now prominently involved in oncology practice and research.

*Steve Withrow accepting the Theilen Tribute Award from Dr. Alice Villalobos and Dr. Albert Ahn*
VCS typically presents the following awards to a Resident at the Annual Conference each year.

**Resident Awards:**

Robert S. Brodey Memorial Award for Outstanding Clinical Research Project in Oncology  
E. Gregory MacEwen Memorial Award for Outstanding Research in Basic Science  
Amiya K. Patnaik Memorial Award for Outstanding Poster in Clinical Science  
Edward L. Gillette Memorial Award for Outstanding Poster in Basic Science

**Resident Award Recipients:**

1986:  Brodey Memorial Award - Dr. Debbie Knapp  
1988:  Resident Award Winners - Dr. Tony Moore and Dr. Catharine Scott-Moncrieff  
1989:  Resident Award Winners - Dr. Joyce Obradovich and Dr. Mona Rosenberg  
1990:  none recorded  
1991:  Resident Award Winners - Dr. Heidi Ward and Dr. Darren Hawks  
1992:  none recorded  
1993:  Robert S. Brodey Award - Dr. Mary Ann Vonderhaar and Dr. Cheryl London  
        Basic Science Award - Dr. Martin Kessler and Dr. Andrea Gröne  
1994:  Robert S. Brodey Award - Dr. Elizabeth McNiel  
        Basic Science Award - Dr. Cheryl London  
1995:  Robert S. Brodey Award - Dr. Donald Keith  
        Basic Science Award - Dr. Chand Khanna  
1996:  Robert S. Brodey Award - Dr. Laura Kravis  
        Basic Science Award - Dr. Sue Lana  
1997:  Annual Conference with ACVR - no awards presented  
1998:  Robert S. Brodey Award - Dr. Betsy Hershey  
        Basic Science Award - Dr. Barb Biller  
1999:  Resident Award winners: Dr. Betsy Hershey and Dr. Caroline Garzatto  
2000:  Robert S. Brodey Award - Dr. Dawn Cooley  
        Basic Science Award - Dr. Anthony Mutsaers  
2001:  Robert S. Brodey Award - Dr. Dennis Bailey  
        Basic Science Award - Dr. Amy Hipple
2002: Robert S. Brodey Award - Dr. Craig Clifford  
    E. Gregory MacEwen Award - Dr. Michelle Cohen

2003: Robert S. Brodey Award - Dr. Dennis Bailey  
    E. Gregory MacEwen Award - Dr. Jeffrey Bryan

2004: Robert S. Brodey Award - Dr. M. Raquel Brown  
    E. Gregory MacEwen Award - Dr. Valerie MacDonald

2005: Robert S. Brodey Award - Dr. Andrea Flory  
    E. Gregory MacEwen Award - Dr. Wendi Velando Rankin

2006: Robert S. Brodey Award - Dr. Armando Villmil  
    E. Gregory MacEwen Award - Dr. Heather Wilson  
    Amiya K. Patnaik Award - Dr. Iain Grant

2007: Robert S. Brodey Award - Dr. Joanne Intile  
    E. Gregory MacEwen Award - Dr. Kenji Hosoya  
    Edward L. Gillette Award - Dr. Deanna Worley

2008: Robert S. Brodey Award - Dr. Carrie Tucker-Hume  
    E. Gregory MacEwen Award - Dr. Pamela Lucas  
    Amiya K. Patnaik Award - Dr. Timothy Stein

2009: Robert S. Brodey Award - Dr. Kerri Rissetto  
    E. Gregory MacEwen Award - Dr. Erin K. Malone  
    Edward Gillette Award - Dr. Jason Kidd

2010: Robert S. Brodey Award - Dr. Cecilia Robat  
    E. Gregory MacEwen Award - Dr. Joelle Fenger  
    Amiya K. Patnaik Award - Dr. Christine Anderson  
    Edward L. Gillette Award - Dr. Emma Wary

2011: Robert S. Brodey Award - Dr. Lindsay Thalheim  
    E. Gregory MacEwen Award - Dr. Ester Chon  
    Edward Gillette Award - Dr. Joanna Schmit

2012: Robert S. Brodey Award - Dr. Brooke Fowler  
    E. Gregory MacEwen Award - Dr. Sharon Shor  
    Edward Gillette Award - Dr. Sarah McMillan

The Veterinary Cancer Society Senior Student Award

In 2008, Dr. Barbara Kitchell suggested that VCS initiate an award that will be presented to one Senior Student at each Veterinary School in the US and Canada each year. The award, the Veterinary Cancer Society Senior Student Award, recognizes one senior student who has shown proficiency in Clinical Oncology. The recipient receives one year complimentary membership in VCS and complimentary registration to one VCS Annual Conference. The award has been presented since 2010.
Part V:
Our Affiliate Groups and Collaborators

Attendees at the World Veterinary Cancer Congress coffee in Austin, Texas 2009
Technicians have not always been a part of the VCS membership or its conferences and for a long time, were not represented at the Executive Committee meetings. Over the years, however, an active group of technicians worked to become more involved with VCS, the Executive Committee and the annual conferences.

Records show that as early as 1989 the technicians met as a group at the West Lafayette (Purdue) Annual conference. Prior to that time, their meetings were generally held separately from the general meetings. In 2000, approval was given to the technicians to have representation at the Executive Committee and Business meetings to report on their progress with various initiatives.

Patty Bonney, Nancy George, Judy Walton and Ken Crump were just a few technicians who took the lead in the development of the concurrent technician workshop now held during the VCS Annual Conference. They also contributed to the quarterly newsletter by submitting a “Tech Talk” column to discuss issues that directly affected the technician membership. Ultimately, it was agreed that the development of a separate but affiliated group of VCS, appropriately named the Veterinary Technician Cancer Society (VTCS), was an idea that would positively affect all technician members of VCS.

Bylaws were written and elections for officers were soon held and today, VTCS is a vibrant organization of dedicated professionals who work to further the careers of veterinary oncology technicians across the country. Their mission is to be an advocate for the cancer patient and maintain the highest standards of care and treatment of animals with cancer. They achieve these goals through the promotion of technician communication, education, and specialization in the field of veterinary oncology. Their two day concurrent workshop is filled with high level speakers selected specifically to assist the technician in their day work routine as well as to enhance the careers of those technicians who work in the oncology field.

Jana McAllister and Jo Tootell exhibit at ACVIM 2012
In 1983, a group of VCS members who shared an interest in veterinary and comparative oncology and recognized the advantage of bringing together resources from across the world formed the Veterinary Cooperative Oncology Group (VCOG). The first President was Dr. Steve Withrow. Their intent was to retrospectively collect outcomes of rare and underreported tumor types in dogs and cats. The group started off small with only six participating universities or private practices involved. Meetings were held at the annual VCS conferences.

The “rules” of participating in VCOG were simple: participate and submit cases in a timely fashion or drop out. One or two papers were typically published each year for the first ten years. Some of those papers remain the largest report case series in veterinary oncology. It became apparent that pathology review was critical to reaffirming tumor type and developing clinically useful grading systems. Dr. Barb Powers set the bar for pathology review.

Authorship was a short lived contentious issue but was resolved with the help of Janice Audin at the AVMA:
1. First author collected data and created first draft of manuscript.
2. All authors must provide meaningful review within a month.
3. The home institution could include a pathologist and statistician if they contributed to the science.
4. To be an author the case submission needed to include at least 10% of the case series.

These simple “rules” worked. In the early days, VCOG made some meaningful contributions to veterinary oncology. Over the years, as the group got larger, membership meant only that you attended the annual meeting and signed-up. No dues were collected. Peer pressure to participate was not as persuasive.

Today, VCOG has taken on new roles and has its own set of bylaws. A new president is elected at each annual conference. Consensus statements have been a valuable VCOG metric as has the publication of a few select trials and more retrospective case series. Organizations change but the need for evidence based data remains strong and VCOG can and will continue to fulfill this mission.
Veterinary Radiation Therapy Oncology Group (VRTOG)

Objectives:
- Establish reasonable standards for radiation therapy, inclusive of those for personnel, equipment, facilities and operations, to assure quality patient management.
- Establish reasonable standards that allow for comparable management of patients in complying facilities participating in cooperative studies.

Veterinary Society of Surgical Oncology (VSSO)

The aims and objectives of the VSSO are to advance the art, science, and practice of surgery for the treatment of cancer in animals and people, and to disseminate knowledge to help provide the highest possible standard of surgical treatment for cancer. Specific objectives are to:

- Encourage and promote clinical research trials in surgical oncology.
- Encourage and facilitate the publication of research trials at professional
- Facilitate communication between veterinary surgeons whose primary interest lies in oncology.
- Improve methods of surgical treatment for animals with cancer, either alone or with a multidisciplinary approach.
- Promote and encourage mutual collaboration between veterinary surgeons with a special interest in surgical oncology and other branches of oncology.
- Encourage and promote education in surgical oncology for professional veterinary students, graduate students and house officers, and graduated veterinarians and veterinary surgeons.
Formed in 2011, the overall mission of the Oncology/Pathology Working Group (OPWG) is to foster and promote an integrated working relationship between veterinary oncologists (medical, surgical, & radiation) and pathologists (anatomic and clinical) to facilitate and ensure the highest standard of pathology support and reporting for the advancement of veterinary clinical oncology and cancer research.

Through this interdisciplinary effort, the group will, amongst other efforts, work to establish consensus documents designed to standardize aspects of and provide guidelines for oncologic pathology. The group will additionally seek sponsorship and support for said documents from other groups/organizations with similar interests including but not limited to the: American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine (Oncology), American College of Veterinary Pathology, Veterinary Cooperative Oncology Group, Veterinary Radiation Therapy Oncology Group, and Veterinary Society of Surgical Oncology.

OPWG typically meets at the annual Veterinary Cancer Society conference in the fall.
Collaboration with the European Society of Veterinary Oncology (ESVONC)

International Conferences
VCS’s 5th Mid-Year conference was held in Copenhagen, Denmark. This gathering is considered to be the first meeting of the group that would be known as the Executive Committee of the World Veterinary Cancer Congress. However, there was a very small international WVCC meeting held at the Woods Hole annual conference in 1999.

The VCS Executive Committee decided to make the mid-year conferences an international meeting every fourth year. The 2nd World Veterinary Cancer Congress was held in 2012 in Paris on March 1-3 and the 3rd World Veterinary Cancer Congress is scheduled for 2016 in Brazil.

Working with ESVONC

Budapest
In 2009, VCS representatives were invited to attend an ESVONC conference in Budapest to discuss the future of the ongoing collaboration with ESVONC in the World Veterinary Cancer Congress. We attended the ESVONC business meeting and shared some of our knowledge and experience with ESVONC members.

The collaboration between the two groups was formalized in a Memorandum of Understanding which was signed later that year by Barb Kitchell (VCS President) and Malcolm Brearley (ESVONC President). The founding members included Barb Kitchell and Malcolm Brearley as well as Johan de Vos (Treasurer) and Barb McGehee (VCS Executive Director). Barb McGehee served as WVCC Secretary during the preparations for the 2012 Paris meeting.

Henrik von Euler, Johanna Kokkonen to his right and Mirja Hutinen in the center of the picture, enjoying themselves at the ESVONC conference in Budapest.
World Veterinary Cancer Congress
Planning Meetings

World Veterinary Cancer Congress Committee members meet in Austin, in 2009. Maria Dagli, Malcolm Brearley, Barb Kitchell, Johan de Vos and Barb McGehee

The World Veterinary Cancer Congress Committee meets in San Diego 2010: Barb Kitchell, Johan de Vos, Maria Dagli, Malcolm Brearley, Sandi Strother and Ruthanne Chun
Part VI: Highlights and Acknowledgements
VCS Members Having A Good Time

Cecile Siedlecki in Madison 2003

Bubbly Betsy Hershey and Pam Jones in Kansas City

Bruce Madewell on a tabletop at Asilomar

Lisa DiBernardi parties with dance a partner in Copenhagen

Greg Ogilvie dancing with Thora Jonasdottir in Copenhagen

Karaoke rules!

Cathy Lustgarten and Chris Hutson
Let’s Party!!

MK Klein and Tracy LaDue

Gleuna Mauldin and Gerry Post

Tony Moore and friends toasting

Chili cook-off participants in Sedona: MK Klein, Phyllis Ciekot, Maura O’Brien, David Vail, Jolle Kirpensteijn, Rod Straw and Steve Withrow

Ted and Carroll Valli dancing

Ilene Kurzman and Leslie Fox
Barb’s Special Acknowledgements

Bill Dernell for agreeing to write many outstanding conference reviews for the VCS newsletter

Chris Hutson for her photographs of early VCS conferences

David Vail for his dedication to VCOG

Karri Meleo for her excellent work on the Guidelines for Program Chairs

Kevin Hahn for his ideas and support in putting the first VCS website online in 1994

Steve Withrow for his breathtaking success in raising $50,000 for our 2002 NYC conference in less than two hours
The technicians would like to express their thanks for the extra support they have received from Ralph Richardson, Al Legendre, Steve Crow, Dave Ruslander, Steve Withrow and Greg Ogilvie.

Barb Kitchell for her inspiring dedication and service to VCS
Special Thanks To

Alice Villalobos for her invaluable contributions to this book and to the advancement of the field of veterinary oncology

Lynda Reed for her loving friendship and unswerving support of VCS

Andy Loar for introducing me to VCS and to my never-to-be-forgotten Duke of Skye, who died from lymphosarcoma in 1986

Carolyn Henry for sharing her delightful wit at conferences

Sandi Strother (with Brinkley) for her extraordinary talents and assistance in making a smooth transition to Executive Director of VCS in 2011!

Mary Kay Klein (with Barb) for believing that I could do the job when she hired me as Executive Director in 2000
The bright future of VCS rises on the vision and accomplishments of those who have gone before you.

Barb