

CVMDL Collaborates with Allied Health Sciences Department to Provide a Unique Look into a Diagnostic Laboratory

The Connecticut Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory (CVMDL) recently continued its collaboration with Dr. Bruce Blanchard of the Allied Health Sciences Department, to assist with his course MLSC 4500: Laboratory Operations and Professional Practice.

Maureen Sims and Holly McGinnis, CVMDL staff members, have teamed up with Dr. Blanchard to provide an experiential learning opportunity for the students enrolled in MLSC 4500. The students in this class are enrolled into a professional program major: either Medical Laboratory Sciences (MLS) or Diagnostic Genetic Sciences (DGS), whose careers will focus heavily on working in a human diagnostic laboratory setting. This partnership, which began in 2022, was designed by Sims, McGinnis, and Blanchard to provide students with a glimpse into a working diagnostic laboratory on campus, often the first exposure that students have to a diagnostic laboratory.

The experiential learning content included a presentation and tour of the laboratory, comprised of the Admissions area, Histology and Pathology sections, and the Diagnostic Testing Services (DTS) section. In DTS, the students toured the serology, microbiology, molecular, and next generation sequencing labs (similar sections of the lab that students will rotate through next spring during their semester long internship at one of many of the clinical affiliates that work with the MLS and DGS programs). In each section, the students had the opportunity to ask questions, discuss the use of various equipment, and learn about laboratory techniques used. Additionally, the students received an overview of the Quality system at CVMDL- an essential component to maintain the laboratory's accreditation with the American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians.

Feedback from previous visits:

- *"...I honestly really enjoyed the whole of the CVMDL rotation. The length of the visit was appropriate, the tour and description of activities performed at the site felt comprehensive, and the individual lab visits were very interesting."*
- *"My favorite part of the visit was to be able to see the lab tests; I think my least favorite part was just seeing the ticks under the microscope but that's my own bug phobia."*
- *"Honestly, there was no least favorite part I loved the rotation in the lab. I thought it was so cool to learn about what was done there and wish I knew about it sooner so I could work there too."*
- *"My favorite part was looking at the agar plates they had in the microbiology room since it was my first time seeing it being used outside of my microbiology class. My least favorite part was seeing the dead animals downstairs."*

The CVMDL is proud of our continuing collaboration with Allied Health and looks forward to contributing to the success of these future laboratory professionals.

The CVMDL is part of the Department of Pathobiology and Veterinary Science in the College for Agriculture, Health, and Natural Resources. It is one of the most active service centers in the UConn Extension program.

For students interested in gaining experience at the CVMDL, consider submitting an inquiry for an experiential learning opportunity here: <https://cvmdl.uconn.edu/undergraduate-opportunities/>

For students interested in learning more about Pathobiology Curriculum and Courses, please visit <https://pathobiology.cahnr.uconn.edu/courses/>

For students interested in learning more about laboratory sciences, please contact <https://alliedhealth.uconn.edu/mls/> (for MLS) and <https://alliedhealth.uconn.edu/dgs/> (for DGS).