This past year we had 13 students apply to veterinary schools all of whom have been accepted into one or more schools, some were accepted in as many as 5 different schools. In recent years we’ve averaged ~65% acceptance which is significant given that most veterinary schools report acceptance rates ranging from 6% to 40%.

As director of the Pre-Vet Program, NHVDL pathologist Dr. Michelle Fleetwood has done an outstanding job coordinating all student opportunities. She enjoys meeting with the many prospective students that come to visit the lab and campus and has been hard at work this summer preparing for September.

With over 200 students, the Pre-Vet Program within the UNH College of Life Sciences and Agriculture, is one of the largest programs. In addition to their science courses, Pre-Vet students from a variety of majors are able to take advantage of the many opportunities available to them at UNH.

The NHVDL pathologists provide academic advising and teach a variety of courses for these students. The lab also provides numerous learning and employment opportunities. The UNH dairy farms and equine center, as well as internship experiences in large and small animal practices in the area, provide students with hands-on experience.

From our perspective here in NH it seems as though some of the improved economic indicators are starting to be reflected in the demand for lab services. We’ve been seeing a rise in accessions, especially in pathology and microbiology. Thus far in 2013, some months have been our strongest in several years. I hope this is a sign that the economy really is turning around.

We look forward to filling our open pathologist position as soon as possible. The search committee has reviewed the applications and is moving forward with the interview process. The arrival of a new pathologist will be a welcome relief to our hard working staff.

Following much debate between the branches, the State has passed its biennium budget. After the severe cuts in the last budget cycle, it appears as though funding for both the Department of Agriculture and University are in better shape with much of the funding restored. This bodes well for the NHVDL which receives about two thirds of its funds through them.

Robert Gibson
**Soliciting Pathology Teaching Specimens**

In an effort to expand our pathology collection used for teaching, we are looking to our clients for any unusual or interesting pathology materials that can be donated to the NHVDL. Perhaps you have items taking up space or collecting dust in your practice or skeletons stored in the closet?

If you have any preserved specimens you think would be of interest for our anatomic collection, please give us a call. We’d be happy to put it to good use in our academic programs.

**Legislative Tour**

On April 16 we were pleased to welcome the NH House Environment and Agriculture Committee for a tour of our facility. NH Commissioner of Agriculture Lorraine Merrill, State Veterinarian Steve Crawford, and COLSA Dean Jon Wraith also accompanied the 14 representatives. This was the first time the NHVDL has been visited by the committee and with many new members to the committee this session, it was a great opportunity for them to learn about what the lab does for the State. We spent an hour and a half touring and the representatives had excellent questions and were very appreciative of what they learned.

Earlier this year, members of this committee submitted NH House Bill 547 which would create a commission to study permanent options for funding the NHVDL. This bill has since passed the House and Senate and was signed by the Governor. They are now in the process of forming the committee which will report its findings by November first. An improved funding structure will help ensure another forty years of service to the State.

**Newly Reduced Rates on Courier Labels**

This past fall we instituted new packaging and shipping options which included preaddressed courier labels. While many are happy with and continue to use our US Postal Service envelopes, some have chosen to use FedEx or UPS courier service for traceable next day delivery to the lab.

Thanks to your usage and the discounted contract pricing, we are able to reduce these rates and pass the savings on to you. You can order your labels when ordering specimen supplies. Remember, you can include multiple specimens per package, up to 5 pounds.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Our New Reduced Pricing</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UPS Next Day</td>
<td>$12.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FedEx Priority Overnight</td>
<td>$14.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal Express Ground*</td>
<td>$ 7.00</td>
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*This arrives next day from most places in New England

**Wider Mouthed Biopsy Specimen Jars**

If you currently use our biopsy specimen supplies you may have noticed that we recently changed the inner vial to one with a wider mouth. These new vials are screw top and will make it easier to transfer larger biopsies. The ideal ratio of tissue to formalin should be 1:10 and the volume of formalin has also been increased to aid in proper fixation of larger biopsies. Please make sure your screw caps are threaded securely when packaging to avoid leakage during transport.

**New Microbiology Report Format**

For those of you who utilize our microbiology services, our reports have a new look. We revamped how our results are entered and reported in our laboratory information management system (LIMS) and the changes allow us to provide you with timely results that are fully integrated with our electronic reporting.

If you are not aware, the NHVDL reports can be sent to your practice electronically at no charge. If you would like your reports emailed, call today and sign up. Electronic reporting provides:

- Faster results
- Easy remote access
- Greater security
- Better quality and reliability than fax
- Less paper

If you have any recommendations or requests for changes in antibiotic panels, please don’t hesitate to give us a call.

**NHVMA Annual Meeting**

We were happy to again participate in this year’s NH Veterinary Medical Association Continuing Education Meeting on April 6th and 7th. Twice a year the NHVMA hosts CE meetings and the Spring one is combined with their annual meeting.

Our vendor display is a great way to illustrate to veterinarians what we do and the weekend long meeting provides an opportunity for us to meet with our clients and introduce the NHVDL to those who aren’t familiar with our services.

www.facebook.com/NHVDL