



**Oregon State**  
University

**Oregon Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory**  
College of Veterinary Medicine  
134B Magruder Hall, Corvallis, OR 97331  
P 541-737-6964 F 541-737-6817  
Mark.Ackermann@oregonstate.edu

April 9, 2021

Dear Oregon Legislative Representative and others of interest:

I am delighted to offer my support for increased funding of the Oregon Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (OVDL) at Oregon State University's (OSU) Carlson College of Veterinary Medicine (CCVM). This is because Oregon legislative support of the OVDL has remained stagnant for many years while the OVDL case loads and engagement with essential activities of the state of Oregon have increased dramatically. Highlights of OVDL's vital role to the state of Oregon and United States:

- **Animal health routine diagnostics for:** Beef, dairy, sheep, poultry, swine, pet owners, marine and aquatic animals, wildlife, zoo animals as well as mosquito and tick-borne pathogens
- **Identification and monitoring of diseases of public health importance (transmitted to humans):** Tularemia, the Plague, *E. coli*, Salmonellosis, rabies, *Campylobacter sp.*, Anthrax, as well as various other viruses and parasites, toxin exposures, and investigation of food/feed contamination.
- **Businesses and Oregon citizens supported:** Ranchers, livestock producers, veterinarians and veterinary practices, rabbit and mink producers, horse owners, pet owners.
- **Humane Society and animal abuse diagnostics:** Diagnosis of animal abuse and mistreatment with reporting/testifying to the legal system.
- **COVID-19 testing:** OVDL has tested over 100,000 nasal samples for COVID-19 and partnered with WVT to test over 300,000 samples. OVDL was approached by Community physicians, physician groups and OSU TRACE program to test human nasal samples for COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Organizations supported:** Oregon Cattleman's Association, Oregon Sheep Producers Association, Oregon Dairy Farmers Association, Oregon Veterinary Medical Association, Portland Veterinary Medical Association, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Hatfield Marine Science Center, Oregon Coast Aquarium, Oregon Zoo, Oregon Wildlife Safari, Oregon Humane Society, Oregon Farm Bureau, numerous veterinary clinics including the OSU CCVM Veterinary Teaching Hospital (Oregon's only tertiary teaching hospital).
- **Testing and preparedness for Foreign Animal Disease Outbreaks:** OVDL is a member of the USDA's National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN) and tests regularly and has high capacity for outbreaks of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza, Foot and Mouth Disease, African Swine Fever, Classical Swine Fever, and others.
- **Research support:** Research support to investigators at OSU, OU, OHSU, stranded marine mammal project
- **Teaching/education efforts:** Teaching veterinary students, residents, undergraduate students, faculty, staff and the general public.
- **Accreditation and networks:** In addition to OVDL's participation in NALHN, the OVDL is accredited by the American Association of Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratories (AAVLD), certified by Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA), and a member of the FDA's Veterinary Laboratory Investigation and Response Network (Vet-LIRN) for investigation of feed/food contamination.

Oregon's return on investment (ROI) of the OVDL is immense. One state veterinary diagnostic laboratory calculated an 8-fold ROI in a normal year and 31-to-1 ROI in emergency years. That is, for every dollar contributed to that veterinary diagnostic laboratory, the state economy gained \$8 and with emergencies reaps 31. See:

<https://www.news.iasstate.edu/news/2018/01/30/vdleconstud> and

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0167587717306190?via%3Dihub> (Preventive Veterinary Medicine 151:5-12, 2018).

For these reasons, we (next page) ask for increased funding and financial support of the OVDL. See also attached messages of confirmation.



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Members of OVDL Advisory Board:

Mark R. Ackermann DVM, PhD, DACVP, Director, OVDL and Professor, OSU and CCVM

Brian Dietrich DVM, Veterinary Practice and President, Oregon Sheep Growers Association

Kathy Hadley, Oregon Farm Bureau

Steve Kochis, DVM, Portland Veterinary Medical Association/Oregon Humane Society

Sylvia Bruce, Oregon Cattleman's Association

Jenifer Cruickshank, PhD, Oregon State University Extension Service, Dairy Management

Glenn Kolb, Executive Director, Oregon Veterinary Medical Association

Ryan Scholz DVM, State Veterinarian, State of Oregon

Constance N. White DVM MPH PhD, Private Practitioner

Dr. Helio de Moraes, DVM, PhD, DACVIM (Cardiology and SAIM), Director, Veterinary Teaching Hospital, CCVM, OSU

Emilio Debess, DVM, MPVM, Oregon Health Authority (OHA)

And

Susan Tornquist DVM, PhD, DACVP, Dean and Professor, CCVM, OSU



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**OVDL Support confirmation/validation:**

Dr. Constance White

**From:** constance white <doctornev2000@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 7, 2021 10:36 AM  
**To:** Ackermann, Mark R <mark.ackermann@oregonstate.edu>  
**Subject:** Re: Response by April 9th please

**“Yes, I support the letter by Dr. Ackermann requesting increased OVDL funding by the Oregon Legislature.”**

Dr. Stephen C. Kochis

**From:** Steve Kochis <stevek@oregonhumane.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 7, 2021 8:02 PM  
**To:** Ackermann, Mark R <mark.ackermann@oregonstate.edu>  
**Subject:** Signed Letter

Dear Oregon Legislative Representatives,

Yes, I support the letter by Dr. Ackermann requesting increased OVDL funding by the Oregon Legislature.

Sincerely,

Stephen C Kochis DVM  
Chief Medical Officer  
Oregon Humane Society  
[stevek@oregonhumane.org](mailto:stevek@oregonhumane.org)

Dr. Helio de Morais

**From:** de Morais, Helio Silva Autran <Helio.deMorais@oregonstate.edu>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 8, 2021 4:55 PM  
**To:** Ackermann, Mark R <mark.ackermann@oregonstate.edu>  
**Subject:** Re: Response by April 9th please

Hi Mark,

I agree (and am also boarded in SAIM ...)

**Yes, I support the letter by Dr. Ackermann requesting increased OVDL funding by the Oregon Legislature**

Cheers,  
Helio



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**Helio Autran de Morais, DVM, PhD, Dip ACVIM**  
(Small Animal Internal Medicine & Cardiology)

Dr. Jenifer Cruickshank

**From:** Cruickshank, Jenifer <Jenifer.Cruickshank@oregonstate.edu>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 8, 2021 8:44 PM  
**To:** Ackermann, Mark R <mark.ackermann@oregonstate.edu>  
**Subject:** RE: Response by April 9th please

Hi Mark.

Yes, I support the letter by Dr. Ackermann requesting increased OVDL funding by the Oregon Legislature.

Thanks,

...Jenifer

**Jenifer Cruickshank**, PhD, Assistant Professor of Practice  
Dairy Management -- Willamette Valley  
**Oregon State University** Extension Service | Department of Animal & Rangeland Sciences  
office: 971-600-1222 | cell: 503-949-1647 | 1320 Capitol Street NE, Suite 110, Salem, OR 97301  
[jenifer.cruickshank@oregonstate.edu](mailto:jenifer.cruickshank@oregonstate.edu) | blog: [Dairy Bearing](#)

Dr. Brian Dietrich

**From:** Brian Dietrich <bjd508@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 9, 2021 10:14 AM  
**To:** Ackermann, Mark R <mark.ackermann@oregonstate.edu>  
**Subject:** Funding support

Hi Mark,

Yes, I support the letter by Dr. Ackermann requesting increased OVDL funding by the Oregon Legislature.

Brian J. Dietrich, DVM

