

Veterinary Medicine and public health in the PBL Curriculum: Interdisciplinary Approach and the role of a Pathologist

Presenter: Suzana Tkalcic, Western University of Health Sciences

Session: Oral

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Western University of Health Sciences, college of Veterinary medicine is on the forefront of a new paradigm in veterinary medical education, emphasizing the medical thinking process rather than exhaustive coverage. The curriculum provides a guided approach to a modern day veterinary student eager and ready to grasp the veterinary medical knowledge in an active learning capacity. Through 64 clinical case scenarios, the variety of animal species and clinical problems are presented to the students in 2 years of their preclinical education, well encompassing the issues of client communication, diagnostics, traditional basic sciences, public health and food safety. As the medical expert with the training, awareness and interdisciplinary approach to the evidence based medicine, a pathologist plays a big role in formatting the path for a successful veterinary education in the preclinical and clinical programs that may have impact on public health and/or the role of future veterinarians in public health. The threads of comparative medicine, zoonotic diseases, foreign animal disease, bio- and agro-terrorism, food safety and epidemiology are well intertwined within cases and discussions in various aspects of this curriculum. Emphasizing awareness, role, and recognition of the lesions and diseases of significance in various human-animal relationships, a future veterinary graduate of the WU CVM is expected to contribute well to the community and take a significant role in public health domains on a local and global level.

Biography:

Dr Suzana Tkalcic, veterinary pathologist, graduated from the Veterinary Faculty, University of Zagreb, Croatia, I completed my PhD and residency training in pathology at the University of Georgia (Department of Veterinary Pathology and Athens Diagnostic Laboratory). During my PhD program I worked on enterohemorrhagic *E. coli* in cattle, and got interested in food safety, public health, bio- and agroterrorism issues. At present I am Assistant Professor of Veterinary Pathology and Director of Zoo Animal and Wildlife clinical rotations at Western University of Health Sciences, College of Veterinary Medicine. My interest includes foreign animal diseases, emerging infections, international veterinary medicine, and roles of veterinarians in wars and disasters. My research interest is in Alzheimer's disease in guinea pigs and marine mammal pathology.
