23 former TVMDL employees granted Emeritus titles

At a luncheon held at the Phillips Event Center, Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory (TVMDL) recognized 23 former employees who were recently granted emeritus titles by the Texas A&M University System Board of Regents. Director Bruce L. Akey, DVM, MS; Associate Director Amy K. Swinford, DVM, MS; Chief of Staff Stacy Morris; and Executive Director Emeritus Konrad Eugster, DVM, PhD, celebrated the event with 100 former and current employees with their family and friends.

“As TVMDL approaches our 50th anniversary, we are reminiscing over our agency’s many successes,” said Dr. Akey. “Looking back, we cannot help but recognize the people who led the agency to accomplish so much in our field. TVMDL is unique in that a majority of our retirees spent their entire career with the agency, dedicating a lifetime of service and learning to our industry and its clients.”

The emeritus title is the highest honor to be conferred upon a retiree at TVMDL, and only a select few are recognized as Emeritus.

New TVMDL Emeritus include:
Dr. William Sippel*, executive director emeritus
Dr. Robert Crandall, microbiology section head emeritus
Dr. Larry Jones*, pathology section head emeritus
Dr. James Grimes*, chlamydiologist emeritus
Dr. Howard Whitford, microbiology section head emeritus
Dr. William Schwartz*, veterinary pathologist emeritus
Dr. Joe West, clinical pathologist emeritus
Dr. Sterling “Ken” Johnson, aquatic animal disease specialist emeritus
Dr. Allen Ray*, drug testing laboratory section head emeritus
Dr. Craig Carter, IT director emeritus
Dr. Thomas Blount, resident director emeritus
Dr. Sandra Lovering, pathology branch chief emerita
Dr. Floyd Golan, poultry programs administrator emeritus
Dr. Patricia Varner, aquatic disease diagnostic specialist emerita
Dr. Richard Mock, veterinary virologist emeritus
Dr. Thomas Lester, virology section head emeritus
Mr. Ralph Cobb, assistant agency director emeritus
Dr. Gayne Fearneyhough, associate director emeritus
Dr. Arturo Angulo, serology section head emeritus
Dr. Bruce Abbitt, veterinary pathologist emeritus
Dr. Loyd Sneed, molecular diagnostician emeritus
Mr. Michael Beauvais, diagnostic services assistant section head emeritus
Dr. Robert Sprowls, resident director emeritus
*posthumously recognized

These honorees join six other former TVMDL employees who hold the emeritus title:
Dr. Richard “Mick” Robinson, veterinary pathologist emeritus
Dr. Robert Fiske, diagnostic pathology section head emeritus
Dr. Samuel Glass, poultry pathologist emeritus
Dr. Konrad Eugster, executive director emeritus
Dr. Lelve Gayle, executive director emeritus
Dr. John Reagor, veterinary toxicologist emeritus

Without the contributions of the professional staff and technicians from the early years of TVMDL, the state would not be able to boast such a strong agriculture and livestock industry. TVMDL was first to identify many diseases in Texas, including canine parvovirus, chronic wasting disease in captive deer, and equine piroplasmosis.

TVMDL is a full service veterinary diagnostic laboratory focused on providing timely, accurate results to animal owners and practitioners in Texas, the United States and across the globe. For more information on the agency, visit tvmdl.tamu.edu.