presents the FIRST EVER ONLINE VETERINARY SCHOOL

I: APPROACHING PHYSIOLOGY
on https://vetmedacademy.org

- Designed for students entering veterinary school, but open to all interested and qualified participants
- 2 week online course (July 28-August 10, 2019)
- Videos/questions/reading/ transcripts and recordings available throughout vet school year
- Supported by veterinary student teaching assistants
- Learn how to master a clinically meaningful integrative “approach” to understand traditionally difficult topics in physiology
- Led by 2 instructors with over 70 years of collective experience teaching physiology, pharmacology, and medicine in veterinary and medical schools
INSTRUCTIONAL PHILOSOPHY AND APPROACH

We have observed that entering veterinary students often have difficulty adjusting away from a rote learning style that may have led to short-term learning success in pre-veterinary courses. Considering the sheer volume, changing nature, and interdependence of medical content, we would encourage a more integrated long-term strategy to your learning. You have sought to be a veterinarian to solve clinical problems! Veterinarians use critical thinking to work through clinical problems when the diagnosis is not immediately apparent … they do not rely as much on the memorization of facts, particularly in the digital information age.

In this course, using primarily cardiovascular and renal physiology concepts, widely considered by first-year students as the most difficult to master, we will introduce you to strategies for connecting these concepts to your pre-veterinary education, to each other, and ultimately to critical thinking about real-life clinical problems, i.e. cases.

INSTRUCTORS

Willem Els, PhD

Dr. Els, Emeritus Professor of Physiology, has received his education in South Africa, England and the United States. He has been educating medical students for 40 years, having taught physiology at the Medical School at the University of Cape Town and for the last 18 years in the School of Medicine at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, where he served as Director of Medical Physiology. His main field of interest is in Renal Physiology. He is an electrophysiologist who has been doing research into the regulation of Na channels in the distal renal tubule. He played rugby in South Africa and England and outside the laboratory he likes to play tennis.

Duncan C. Ferguson, VMD, PhD, DACVIM, DACVCP

Dr. Ferguson, Emeritus Professor of Clinical Pharmacology at the University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine, has been a veterinary educator for 36 years, having taught veterinary pharmacology, physiology and medicine at the veterinary schools at Cornell and the University of Georgia before serving as the department head of Comparative Biosciences at Illinois between 2006-2015 overseeing first and second year veterinary instructors. He is a board certified small animal internist and veterinary clinical pharmacologist. He enjoys hiking, swimming, travelling, and playing the classical guitar.

OUTLINE

The Vet School Bootcamp: Physiology will involve independent student review of “concept approach” video presentations connecting physiological principles to scientific concepts of pre-veterinary courses. All learning materials and course interactions will occur in a dedicated (Moodle) learning management system on VetMedAcademy. The second stage of each concept will include introduction of related case scenarios and
then collective message board interchanges between fellow participants and faculty, and culminate with a live teleconference. All interactions will be recorded for your further benefit during your first year of veterinary school. A final case analysis will help you practice tying all elements together.

**Expected time commitment:** For each of the first 2 weeks, the review of the video lessons, review questions, and expected message board interchange will entail about 6 hours per week for a total of 12 hours. Although no expected effort is stated, of course, you may benefit from greater investment of time on the clinical case analysis. You will receive feedback from your peers as review and advice from the instructors. All materials will remain available to you for the 3rd and 4th weeks with instructor commitment to reviewing and commenting on materials.

**Student teaching assistants:** One or more students who have completed at least the first year of veterinary school will serve as your teaching assistants and will be available for general advice about preparing to start vet school.

**Free e-texts:** VetMedAcademy, through its partnership with Vet-Library, provides a variety of electronic textbooks through its online database to all members. Suggested Veterinary physiology and veterinary terminology e-texts will be available at no additional charge.

**DATES: July 28 - August 10:** Video content and case presentations and interactions. Post-course phase of 2 weeks will involve an optional clinical case analysis with no new content presented. Course materials will be available until **June 30, 2020.**

**HOW TO REGISTER**

If you are not already registered, create a free VetMedAcademy account at [https://vetmedacademy.org/user/register](https://vetmedacademy.org/user/register). Once your account is approved, you can set a password, and go to the following link for the course, [https://learn.vetmedacademy.org/course/view.php?id=31](https://learn.vetmedacademy.org/course/view.php?id=31) and enroll by paying the registration fee with credit or debit card or Paypal credit.

**Early Bird Registration (by July 14): $39**  **AFTER JULY 14: $49**