

For Immediate Release

**NYC’s Animal Medical Center Welcomes 56th Intern Class at Annual White Coat Ceremony
25 Veterinary Interns Selected from 250 Applications, Will Train Across 17 Specialties through the
Anna-Maria and Stephen Kellen Postgraduate Education Program**

(June 17, 2019 – New York, N.Y.) The Animal Medical Center (AMC), the largest non-profit animal hospital in the world and a premier teaching institution, hosted its 11th Annual White Coat Ceremony today, welcoming its 56th class of interns. The recently renamed Anna-Maria and Stephen Kellen Institute for Postgraduate Education marks the commitment of the Anna-Maria and Stephen Kellen Foundation in training the next generation of veterinarians.

Dr. Alexandra van der Woerdt, Director of the Anna-Maria and Stephen Kellen Institute for Postgraduate Education, and Dr. Chad West, Chairman of Surgical Services, presented each of the 25 veterinarians with an AMC White Coat, symbolizing the intern’s new role as a veterinarian at the Animal Medical Center.

AMC Alumni Dr. Rodney Page, Director of the Flint Animal Cancer Center, Professor and Director of the Flint Animal Cancer Center, Stephen Withrow Presidential Chair in Oncology, College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences at Colorado State University, was the featured speaker.

“Animal Medical Center’s White Coat Ceremony is a wonderful and meaningful tradition in which we welcome veterinarians as colleagues dedicated to providing compassionate patient care and signifies the beginning of a veterinarian’s journey to advanced specialty training and education,” said Dr. Dennis Slade, Chairman of Medical Services, who offered opening remarks. “The white coat symbolizes professionalism, clinical service, patient care, and trust.”

“The Anna-Maria and Stephen Kellen Foundation is deeply rooted in medicine and medical research as well as supporting education and animal welfare,” said Michael Kellen, speaking on behalf of the foundation. “Recognizing that training the next generation of veterinarians is critical to advancing veterinary medicine, we are proud and honored to support the Animal Medical Center with a \$5 million gift to establish the Anna-Maria and Stephen Kellen Institute for Postgraduate Education.”

AMC’s internship is a one-year postgraduate clinical training program designed to reinforce, extend, and refine clinical skills and to enhance diagnostic and therapeutic capabilities. Animal Medical Center draws top veterinary school graduates to its very competitive internship program and this year, 250 applicants vied for AMC’s 25 spots. The match rate is high; that is, there is a strong correlation between applicants who rank AMC as their first choice and applicants who are the first choice of AMC. Since 1963, more than 2,000 veterinarians have completed internships at AMC.

AMC is proud to welcome its 2019-2020 Intern Class:

- Dr. Shanes Abeywardena, Western University of Health Sciences
- Dr. Erin Achilles, University of Pennsylvania
- Dr. Jessica Buchy, University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine

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- Dr. Charlotte Burns, University of Pennsylvania
- Dr. Katie Carignan, University of Georgia
- Dr. Kelly Chappell, Midwestern University
- Dr. Gilad Fefer, Cornell University
- Dr. Findlay Flasiniski, University of Pennsylvania
- Dr. Christina Fruehwald, University of Florida
- Dr. Joe Garcia, University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine
- Dr. Jennifer Goldreich, Cornell University
- Dr. Elizabeth Gregory, Mississippi State University College of Veterinary Medicine.
- Dr. Kerry Gunsalus, Tufts University
- Dr. Melissa Hanson, Cornell University
- Dr. Isabel Jimenez, Cornell University
- Dr. Theresa Langlois, Auburn University
- Dr. Alejandro Mendez, St. George's University
- Dr. Brandon Poskevich, Western University of Health Sciences
- Dr. Nina Samuel, University of Pennsylvania
- Dr. Amit Sindhu, Ross University
- Dr. Lydia Sixta, St. George's University
- Dr. Kacey Solotoff, Kansas State University
- Dr. Kelly Sullivan, Cornell University
- Dr. Nicholas Walsh, Cornell University
- Dr. Kailee Zarnow, Cornell University

Specialty Interns 2019-2020

- Dr. Coleen Bourque, Interventional Radiology & Interventional Endoscopy
- Dr. Nashua Compton, Rehabilitative & Integrative Medicine
- Dr. Danielle Hudak, Oncology
- Dr. Melissa Witherell, Avian & Exotics Pet Medicine
- Dr. Samantha Yeh, Radiation Oncology

About the Animal Medical Center

The Animal Medical Center is the world's largest non-profit animal hospital with 100+ veterinarians providing the highest quality medical care across 17 specialties. AMC's pioneering clinical research advances veterinary knowledge, and our education programs train the next generation of veterinary leaders and provide pet owners with quality pet health information. AMC is proud to offer our services 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. To learn more, visit: www.amcny.org.

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