



# ACVIM

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## HEROES IN *Medicine*

As the first Fellow of the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine (ACVIM) Foundation, Jennifer Ginn, DVM, DACVIM (Small Animal Internal Medicine) is working to determine why dogs – and potentially humans – develop cancer.

Dr. Ginn, along with other veterinarians at the University of Wisconsin-Madison (UW-Madison), is investigating “Glutathione-S-transferase polymorphisms in dogs: association with risk for lymphoma and response to chemotherapy” as a result of being named an ACVIM Foundation Fellow. Over the next two years, Dr. Ginn will work to determine if dogs with lymphoma lack proteins necessary to detoxify environmental carcinogens, or cancer causing substances, from their bodies.

“Lymphoma is one of the most common cancers in dogs, and one of our goals is to determine if there is an association between exposure to environmental carcinogens and lymphoma risk,” said Dr. Ginn. “Another goal of our study is to follow dogs that are diagnosed with lymphoma and treated with chemotherapy to determine whether a deficiency in detoxifying proteins in their bodies actually leads to better response to treatment, and whether they suffer from more side effects of the chemotherapy.”

Lymphoma is a type of cancer that begins in immune system cells called lymphocytes. It occurs naturally in dogs, including all those that are participating in the study at UW-Madison. Because of this natural occurrence, the dogs may serve as a model for humans with lymphoma.

“If we determine that there is a significant association between exposure to environmental carcinogens and lymphoma, than we can look for this same association in other diseases as well, including other cancers,” said Dr. Ginn. “This information may be applicable to humans as well.”

The ACVIM Foundation created the Fellowship in order to support and develop future clinician scientists such as Dr. Ginn, who became Board-certified by the ACVIM in Small Animal Internal Medicine this past August. After the two year Fellowship comes to an end at UW-Madison, Dr. Ginn hopes to continue with clinical research, and to teach in the classroom and in the clinics at an academic institution.

“In the future, I would like to continue to apply research skills I have developed during this fellowship, with a focus on clinical studies that are combined with benchtop research,” said Dr. Ginn. “Discoveries based on research have improved our understanding of how diseases work, how drugs work, why certain treatments are better than others, and how to give our patients the best possible options to improve and maintain their health. I feel that it is vital for health professionals to get involved with research, and to collaborate with each other and with basic science researchers to continue to improve our standards of care for our patients.”



*This campaign is part of our commitment to recognize the exemplary work you do that advances us all. Find out more by visiting our brand new website at [www.ACIVIM.org](http://www.ACIVIM.org). For more information on research initiatives, visit [www.ACIVIMFoundation.org](http://www.ACIVIMFoundation.org).*

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