Sit, Stay, Heal

NC State pioneers bone marrow transplants in dogs
There was an air of calm, almost tedium, in the exam room at NC State’s College of Veterinary Medicine last Thursday as Dr. Steven Suter tended to his patient, a six-year-old weimaraner named Maverick. The dog, awake but comfortably sedated and wrapped securely in a warm blanket, seemed almost bored as the doctor, nurses and technicians moved quietly about the small room, adjusting dials, making notations on charts and checking vital signs.

To the casual observer, it hardly looked like medical history in the making. But Maverick is a pioneer, the first dog with acute lymphoblastic leukemia to undergo a bone marrow transplant. If all goes well, the gentle, intelligent dog will beat an aggressive form of cancer that is almost always fatal.
Down the hall and through a pair of large double doors, the nervous energy was a little more apparent in the waiting room, where Maverick’s family, Howard and Marna Altman, sat and waited. In between interviews with television reporters, the couple used a laptop computer to check e-mail and post blog entries to a Web site (http://www.mavericktheweim.com) they set up to chronicle Maverick’s life-saving medical treatment.

“We’re optimistic,” said Howard Altman. “Cautiously optimistic. We understand the risks.”

The risks are varied and may take days or weeks to manifest themselves, but so far Maverick is cancer free and healthy.

The procedure itself lasted two days and involved many more days of preparation. A week before the procedure, Maverick was placed on a drug called Neupogen to drive healthy stem cells from his bone marrow into his bloodstream. Then, on Thursday, Maverick was hooked up to a machine specially designed to harvest the stem cells from his blood.

On Friday he was given total body radiation to kill all the cancer cells in his bone marrow, followed immediately by the transplant—the infusion of the stem cells harvested the day before.

Now it’s a waiting game. Maverick will stay in the Veterinary Teaching Hospital in a semi-isolation ward for about two weeks while his immune system recovers from the radiation and the stem cells begin to regenerate.

Suter, an assistant professor of oncology at NC State, was one of the first veterinarians in the nation to perform a bone marrow transplant on a dog in a clinical setting. The procedure was originally developed decades ago using dogs as test subjects, he noted.

“It’s fantastic to have the opportunity to give back to dogs by utilizing a procedure that they had a paw in developing,” he said.

Despite the risks and the stress of waiting, the Altmans are proud that Maverick is making medical history.

“Dr. Suter is someone at the forefront of linking canine oncology to human oncology and working to discover how it can benefit humans,” Howard Altman said. “It’s exhilarating that we can be participating and helping to catalyze that.”

The machine used to harvest stem cells from Maverick’s blood – and two others – were donated to NC State by the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn. NC State plans to perform one bone marrow transplant every three weeks through June to meet the demand for the procedure.

The first dog to undergo a bone marrow transplant at NC State, a 10-year-old chow chow named Tina, suffered from lymphoma, one of the most common forms of cancer in dogs. She underwent the procedure last November and is doing well.
One of the most beloved figures in NC State history and one of the most respected coaches in the nation, Women’s Basketball Coach Kay Yow, died peacefully Saturday after a long, heroic battle with breast cancer.

Yow, 66, had been supported by her family and her staff in the last several days and was even able to visit with her entire team at WakeMed Cary Hospital earlier this week.

Yow, who was in her 38th year of coaching, will be remembered for the hundreds and thousands of lives she touched through basketball and through her tireless efforts to fight cancer.

“It has been an honor and a privilege to work with Coach Yow for the last 15 seasons. I suddenly find myself grasping to retain everything she has ever said and ever taught me,” said interim head coach Stephanie Glance.

Each of us who has had the special opportunity to learn from her and share wonderful friendships with her now has a special part of Coach Yow in us that will live on as long as we pay it forward and mirror her legacy of always giving to others,” Glance continued. “She has instilled in each of us what it means to be winners as people, and if we are winners as people then we will have our best shot at winning on the court. I know I speak for all former and current players and staff when I say with a swell of heartfelt emotion that she will truly be missed each moment of every day.”

Yow announced Jan. 6 that she would not return to the team this season as she continued her fight against a disease she was first diagnosed with in 1987. She said at the time it was one of the hardest decisions she has ever had to make.

The Hall of Fame coach had been in the hospital on the recommendation of her oncologist, Dr. Mark Graham, who cited it was in her best interest to get the proper care she needed at the time.

The disease first recurred during the 2004-05 season, forcing her to miss two games that year and 16 more in the 2006-07 season.

Yow had missed four straight games this season before taking leave with what was described as an extremely low energy level.

“Everyone who had the privilege of knowing Kay Yow has a heavy heart today,” said Lee Fowler, Director of Athletics at NC State. “Her record and the honors she has received over the years are evidence of her abilities as a coach, but the former student-athletes who come back year after year and bring their children to visit her are a testament to the type of person she was. She was a blessing to many people because of her strong faith. She faced every opponent, whether on the basketball court or in a hospital room, with dignity and grace. She will be greatly missed.”

A native of Gibsonville, N.C., Yow led the U.S. women’s basketball team to a gold medal in 1988, directed her Wolfpack...
club to the 1998 Final Four and in 2002, became just the fifth female coach inducted into the James Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame.

“We have lost a great person, coach, leader and friend,” said Chancellor James Oblinger. “Coach Yow’s courage, passion for her work, strength and humility despite her personal challenges inspired all of us. She epitomized what a coach and role model should be. Her influence will be felt for years to come. The Wolfpack Nation and everyone who followed her successes on the court and her struggles off the court were blessed by Kay Yow’s life. She will be profoundly missed.”

She entered her 34th season as head mentor of the Wolfpack women’s program in 2008-09. Her NC State record of 680-325 left her as one of only three women’s coaches at the Division I level to coach 1,000 games at one institution. On Dec. 14 in a victory over Ole Miss, Coach Yow took her place alongside legendary Tennessee coach Pat Summitt and former Texas coach Jody Conradt.

Yow’s all-time collegiate record of 737-344 spanned 38 seasons, four with Elon College. She was one of just six coaches to ever compile over 700 victories and began this season as the most tenured coach in the active ranks.

There is really no right place to begin talking about Coach Yow. Her accomplishments extend beyond the basketball world, but it is within that world that she has become so accomplished.


In December 2007, the Kay Yow/WBCA Cancer Fund in partnership with The V Foundation was established as a charitable organization committed to finding an answer in the fight against women’s cancers. She was also involved in the creation of “Hoops 4 Hope,” a basketball game centered around a cure for breast cancer. The fourth annual game will take place Feb. 15 at Reynolds Coliseum.

Yow was forced to take a leave of absence because of progression in her breast cancer and missed roughly two months (16 games) of the 2006-07 season, but fought back to make a triumphant return to the bench in a win over long-time rival Virginia on January 26, 2007. Later on that season in a win over No. 2-ranked North Carolina, the Reynolds Coliseum court was christened “Kay Yow Court.”

In 1975, Yow was hired by Willis Casey to be the head coach of the women’s basketball program at NC State. She was installed as the head coach of both the softball and volleyball teams and was the coordinator of women’s sports - all while developing women’s basketball in its infancy.

Yow will always be recognized as one of the most admired and respected coaches that ever competed on the national and international scene. She was a leader, role model, mentor, coach, supporter, community friend and entrepreneur. As for women’s basketball history, Yow’s name will most certainly be delivered in the same breath as those words forever more. She was there for the implementation of Title IX and the first NCAA Tournament in 1982. Yow never relented her pursuit to improve the sport of women’s basketball despite all of her achievements. The game was good to her, but more importantly, Yow was instrumental for the game.
Bulletin Board

Spirit, Structure, and Flesh
Deidre Crambley, associate professor of Africana studies, will present a book talk and signing at 4:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 29, in the 1911 Building atrium, 10 Stinson Drive. Crambley’s book, Spirit, Structure, and Flesh: Gender and Power in Yoruba African Instituted Churches, explores how gender-specific practices of African Instituted Churches variously constrain or liberate women through worship and doctrine. For more information, contact Craig Brookins at 515-6964.

Ross on Human Rights and Forensics
Ann Ross, associate professor of forensic anthropology, will speak on “Forensics, Human Rights, and Genocide” at 4 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 4 in the D/H. Hill Library. Ross will base her talk on her experiences in Bosnia and the Republic of Panama. Presented as part of NCSU Libraries’ Fabulous Faculty series. Refreshments will be served. For more information, contact Friends of the Library at 515-2841.

Poetry Reading
Alan Shapiro, the William R. Kenan Jr. Distinguished Professor of English and Creative Writing at UNC-Chapel Hill, presents a poetry reading at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 4, in 123 Tompkins Hall. He is the author of nine acclaimed books of poetry, a recipient of the Kingsley Tufts Award and the Los Angeles Book Prize, and was a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award. He was recently elected as a fellow in the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Global Warming National Teach In Day
The Grant Activities Board's Issues and Ideas Committee is organizing NC State’s Teach In: Solutions for the First 100 Days, on Thursday, Feb. 5. The National Teach In on Global Warming will engage over a million Americans in solutions-driven dialogue. To participate, contact Margo Sauter at 273-8560.

Free and Open Source Software Fair
NC State's first Free and Open Source Software Fair will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 2, in the Centennial Campus Engineering Building II. Sponsored by OIT Linux Services and the Computer Science Department, the fair will be an unconference style event driven by keynotes, demos, presentations, and hackfests from NC State students, staff, faculty, Red Hat Engineers, and guests. Sign up now to hear the Red Hat keynotes on running successful Open Source projects, to show off a project of your own, to hold a session on an open source topic, or just to listen, learn, and foster collaboration among the NC State FOSS community. More information and to signup visit: https://opensource.ncsu.edu/FossFair2009.

Oblinger Lecture
Dr. Diana Oblinger, president & CEO of EDUCAUSE, presents a lecture titled, “Uncommon Thinking for the Common Good” at 6 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 29, in Engineering Building II, Room 1231. The event is free and open to the public.

Workshop on Personal Finance
Jonathan Kraftchick, manager of training, development and recruiting at Cherry, Bekaert and Holland, LLC, speaks on personal finance noon to 1:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 30, in the Talley Student Center, Walnut Room. By learning how to manage your money early in your career, you can begin to create financial stability for your working life and into retirement.

First Friday Jazz
Join Music@NCState and the Jazz Combo from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 6, as they venture to the Long View Center in downtown Raleigh for the First Friday celebration. Held in conjunction with the Collector’s Gallery, this event is free and open to the public. Enjoy an evening of lively jazz and incredible artwork. The center is located at 118 South Person St.

Fitness Screenings
Get body fat and blood pressure screenings in the Campus Recreation Center from noon to 2 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 9.

Construction at Motor Pool Lot
Six “C” spaces in the northeast corner of the motor pool parking lot (corner of Sullivan Road and Gorman Street) are unavailable through Feb. 9 due to a construction project. One lane may be temporarily blocked during construction. All traffic should enter the fuel station as normal but drivers should pay particular attention to the current surrounds. Traffic patterns may be modified to accommodate the installation. Try to avoid getting fuel between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. If fuel is needed during those hours, anticipate a small delay.

Shelton to Speak
Retired U.S. Army Gen. H. Hugh Shelton, 14th chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, will discuss the political and military challenges that exist during transitions between presidential administrations in a speech on Monday, Feb. 2, at 3 p.m. in Stewart Theatre. The event is sponsored by the University Scholars Program and the General H. Hugh Shelton Leadership Center, and is free and open to the public.

Deadline Extended for Investments
The dates for the transition of investment options for the NC 401(k) and NC Deferred Compensation (457) plans have been extended to give plan members more time to examine their choices and make a decision. The deadline to opt out of the fund mapping has been moved to 4 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 27. The transfer of plan assets, called fund mapping, has been moved to March 6. All new contributions to both plans will be invested in the new funds by March 9. Members can review fund fact sheets at www.NCplans.prudential.com.

Join Study Circles on Race
Register online (http://www.ncsu.edu/ equal_op/education/study_circles.html) for Study Circles on Race and Race Relations to work together with faculty, staff and students democratically to actively address issues related to race relations on our campus. These Study Circles are sponsored by the University Office for Equal Opportunity. Upcoming sessions start on Jan. 29 and Feb. 25.

Recyclemania Grips Campus
NC State will compete in Recyclemania for the second year. The competition runs from Jan. 18 through March 28. Last year NC State ranked 17th among 400 U.S. colleges in the 10-week national recycling competition. Waste Reduction and Recycling (WRR), University Housing, University Dining, and the Office of Sustainability are working to increase awareness of the event. The goal is to rank in the top 10 for this year's competition. Materials that count towards the competition include:

- Paper
- Boxboard and chipboard
- Catalogues
- Hard and softbound books
- Junk mail
- Magazines
- Newspaper
- Office Paper (all colors)
- Phone books

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Bottles and cans
Plastic marked No. 1 through No. 7 (e.g., soda, water, juice, and laundry detergent bottles)
Aluminum cans
Glass bottles and jars
Steel cans
Cardboard
For more information, visit http://recyclemania.org.

Dodd to Headline EIF
Sen. Christopher Dodd of Connecticut will headline the 2009 Emerging Issues Forum at the Raleigh Convention Center, Feb. 9-10. This year’s event, sponsored by the Institute for Emerging Issues, is titled, “Changing Landscapes: Building the Good Growth State?”
To register, visit http://www.ncsu.edu/iei/ or call 919-515-7741.

Great Decisions Program
NC State will once again participate in the Great Decisions Program during the 2009 spring semester. Developed by the Foreign Policy Association in 1954, Great Decisions brings millions of Americans together in communities across the country to discover, discuss and decide their opinions on foreign policy issues. The program at NC State will be coordinated by the School of Public and International Affairs and will focus on four different topics regarding current U.S. foreign policy. The lectures start at 7 p.m. and are held in the Withers Hall auditorium. The schedule is:
- Tuesday, Feb. 3 – “Rising Powers” with Chip Poncy, director of the Office of Strategic Policy for Terrorist Financing and Financial Crimes, U.S. Treasury Department
- Tuesday, Feb. 10 – “Human Rights” with Robin Kirk, director of the Human Rights Center, Duke University
- Tuesday, Feb. 24 – “Cuba” with Dr. Dario Moreno, director of the Metropolitan Center, Florida International University

Nasar to Speak
Dr. Sylvia Nasar, author of A Beautiful Mind, will be speaking at NC State at 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 11, in Stewart Theatre. Nasar will speak on the topic: “Globalization and Economic Shifts in the 20th Century.” Following her speech, she will answer questions and a sign books. The event is sponsored by the Union Activities Board Issues and Ideas Committee and is open to the public at no charge.

Faculty and Staff Notes

Harmon Vacation House Honored
The Taylor House, an award-winning sustainable vacation home in the Bahamas designed by architect Frank Harmon, FAIA, has been included on a list of “the most influential and inspiring houses built during the past decade.”
The Wall Street Journal recently asked celebrated green architect Michelle Kaufman of Oakland, Calif., to compile a list of what she felt were the best houses built during the housing boom, which WSJ considered officially over by the end of 2008.

Grant Funds Second Life Presence
The Ernst & Young Foundation has awarded $400,000 to the College of Management to support development of a Second Life presence for the college's Department of Accounting.
The award is part of the foundation's competitive University Fund Grant program. An additional $100,000 has been committed to the college's accounting department by Ernst & Young employees who are NC State alumni and will also be used for the Second Life project. This combined gift of $500,000 represents the largest single gift to date to the accounting department.

New Advisory Board Members
The College of Management welcomed nine new members to its Board of Advisors at the board’s quarterly meeting on Jan. 23. The meeting also marked the start of Jeff Stocks' term as chairman of the board. Stocks is president and chief executive officer of Manpower in North Carolina, based in Raleigh. Dean Ira R. Weiss thanked David Morgan, chief banking officer of Capital Bank and outgoing chairman of the board, for his leadership over the past year. Morgan will continue to serve as a member of the board.
New members of the board are:
- Jeffrey G. Brock, GE Capital Americas
- Rob Cones, Lenovo
- John Cox, Biogen Idec
- James M. Field, John Deere
- Rodney Gaddy, Progress Energy
- Jack Glasure, French/West/Vaughan
- Pete Sodini, The Pantry, Inc.
- William F. Troxler Jr., Troxler Electronic Laboratories Inc.
- Dennis Wicker, SJD Wicker

Weiss also thanked the seven outgoing members of the board for their years of service to the college.

In order to give the campus community opportunity to comment on the campus culture task force’s preliminary report, Chancellor James Oblinger has extended the timeline by two weeks, to Feb. 16. The preliminary report is posted on http://ncsu.edu/student_affairs/cctf/ for review and comment. Following the comment period, the task force will reconvene and make formal recommendations to the chancellor. A final report will be issued Feb. 27.

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It’s no secret that women and ethnic minorities are traditionally underrepresented in the science, technology, engineering and mathematics professorial ranks.

But an innovative new NC State program, funded for three years and almost $500,000 by the National Science Foundation (NSF), aims to work with a variety of faculty and administrators – the actual people involved in making hiring and tenure decisions – to help increase representation and retention of both women and minority faculty.

Dr. Marcia Gumpertz, associate vice provost for faculty and staff diversity, professor of statistics and one of the administrators of the project, says that the Developing Diverse Departments (3-D) program will engage, educate and train groups of both more experienced and younger faculty members to serve as “change agents” and leaders who help grow a more diverse faculty at NC State.

The 3-D program will ask six to eight “senior leaders” – associate deans, department heads and unit directors, for example – and six to eight “emerging leaders” – tenured women faculty and faculty of color, mainly at the associate professor rank – to gain a better understanding of issues in hiring, promotion and tenure decisions. Project activities for both groups will include seminars, workshops, and conferences developed to cultivate innovative approaches to recruiting and retaining women and faculty from underrepresented groups.

But participants in the 3-D program will also learn more about themselves in the process. Gumpertz said 3-D program leaders will examine issues like “unconscious bias,” or bias that rears its head unintentionally. As an example of unconscious gender bias, Gumpertz cited 1991 research that asked study participants to evaluate the heights of male and female subjects. When shown photos of subjects of the exact same height, evaluators overestimated the heights of male subjects and underestimated the heights of female subjects, even though a reference point to prove it, like a doorway, was provided in the photo.

“We’re looking at these groups of leaders as concentric circles of influence who will influence others and serve as leaders of change within their units,” Gumpertz says.

She also stressed the importance of increasing the numbers of women and minorities to scientific fields.

“You ask better questions and get better answers to problems if a broader array of people are thinking about the problems” Gumpertz said.

“The demands for scientists and engineers today are too great to overlook talent and let people fall short of their full potential.”

Dr. Larry Nielsen, provost and executive vice chancellor at NC State and the primary investigator on the 3-D project, says that the grant is another step forward in the process of creating a climate that promotes the success of all faculty members and helps eliminate risk factors that might decrease retention of women and minority faculty.

“We’re making steady progress in instituting programs and policies that create a more supportive environment for a diverse faculty workforce,” Nielsen says. As examples, he cited events and programs sponsored by both the Office of Diversity and Inclusion and the Council on the Status of Women, as well as efforts by individual colleges and departments to increase faculty percentages of women and minorities.

Gumpertz says the remainder of the spring semester will be spent planning program details and selecting the core groups of leaders.