

## IN THE NEWS

The TAMU cardiologists recently co-authored an open access review article on current and future therapies in asymptomatic degenerative valve disease in dogs. The article can be accessed [here](#).

The EPIC study results have been published, and additional results are forthcoming in EPIC 2 which has recently been accepted for publication! Texas A&M Cardiology participated in this study, and Dr. Sonya Gordon was a lead investigator. You can read more about it [here](#).



Dr. Wesselowski examines a patient in the Small Animal Clinic

Dr. Wesselowski is currently recruiting healthy Cavalier King Charles spaniels between 10 and 24 months of age to investigate normal mitral valve anatomy in a breed that is highly affected by chronic, degenerative mitral valve disease.

Check out more details and find contact information on our [website](#).

Our second-year resident, Dr. Matthews, received funding for a project to assess cardiac MRI in dogs with Chagas disease, an infectious disease also affecting humans in Texas.

**Asymptomatic Canine Degenerative Valve Disease: Current and Future Therapies**

Sonya G. Gordon, DVM, DACVIM, Ashley B. Saunders, DVM, Sonya R. Wesselowski, DVM, MS

**KEYWORDS**  
• Chronic • Mitral valve • Myxomatous • Preclinical • Stage D2 • Treatment

**KEY POINTS**

- Asymptomatic mature dogs with systolic heart murmurs characteristic of mitral regurgitation should undergo Doppler to determine the presence or absence of heart enlargement and to document that the dog is normotensive.
- Treatment is not recommended in dogs with stage B1 degenerative valve disease (asymptomatic with normal heart size); this recommendation remains unchanged by new evidence.
- Treatment with pimobendan has been shown to extend symptom-free and overall survival of dogs with stage B2 degenerative valve disease (asymptomatic with heart enlargement).
- Schedule follow-up and client communication regarding monitoring for the development of clinical signs associated with disease progression remains a cornerstone of management in all stages of degenerative valve disease.
- Left mitral diverticulum, compression and pulmonary hypertension represent common sequelae of degenerative valve disease that can lead to the development of clinical signs.

## HOW HAVE DONATIONS IMPACTED OUR PATIENTS AND THE CARDIOLOGY PROGRAM AT TEXAS A&M THIS YEAR?

- The recent upgrades to the catheterization lab have been wonderful for us and our patients!
- The newly developed SARGE Fund has provided support towards cardiovascular procedures in our clinical patients, like Bitsy.
- A \$10,000 donation towards advanced 3D imaging allowed us to continue developing training models for cardiovascular procedures. This fall, Dr. Saunders taught two interventional cardiology training courses in New York to veterinarians from all over the world using the models developed from advanced imaging. This was



in collaboration with TAMU bioengineers. Continued support for our 3D imaging initiative allows us to acquire state of the art images, fund projects and develop additional training models.

- Your donations continue to allow us to support patients that require advanced imaging and procedures for complex heart problems including a visit by Dr. Orton, a veterinary surgeon at Colorado State University specializing in cardiovascular surgery, who travelled to TAMU to perform a complex surgery for a rare congenital heart defect.

### Heart Trust

Development Office, College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences  
Texas A&M University, 4461 TAMU, College Station, TX 77843-4461

## HERE'S HOW YOU CAN SHOW YOUR SUPPORT FOR TEXAS A&M CARDIOLOGY

### Equipment & Imaging Goals

3D imaging and continued development of novel training models and simulators (approximately \$10,000)

Pressure injector for angiography in procedural cases to replace an older model (approximately \$30,000)

A 3D echocardiographic imaging probe for the GE Vivid E95 ultrasound machine. This will help us as we move forward with mitral valve disease and congenital defect research. (approximately \$31,000 for transthoracic 4D volume phased array imaging probe)

A portable laptop echocardiographic machine to enable intracardiac imaging and mobile research projects (approximately \$80,000)

### Endowed and Resident Positions

Three Year Cardiology Residency (approximately \$100,000 for 3 years)

Cardiology Faculty Chair position (minimum of \$500,000)



### Other Donations

Your donations also support the care of individual pets and clinical trials in mitral valve disease, Chagas disease, dilated cardiomyopathy in Dobermans, and congenital heart disease. **Any amount helps!**

## THE TEXAS A&M CARDIOLOGY TEAM

### Cardiology Faculty



Dr. Sonya Gordon



Dr. Ashley Saunders



Dr. Sonya Wesselowski

### Cardiology Residents

Dr. Bruno Boutet  
Dr. Derek Matthews  
Dr. Katrina Cusack

### Cardiology Staff

Kathy Glaze  
Jill VanWhy

We are so grateful to you, the generous donors who support us as we move forward with advancements in veterinary cardiology.

For more information or to donate to Heart Trust please visit <http://vethospital.tamu.edu/small-animal-hospital/cardiology/heart-trust>

Contact us!

[TAMUCardiology@cvm.tamu.edu](mailto:TAMUCardiology@cvm.tamu.edu)

The mission of Heart Trust is to support cardiovascular health, projects, and clinical trials for companion animals and to honor special pets, animal enthusiasts, veterinarians and animal professionals.

Heart Trust was established in 2008.

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