



NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release: April 18, 2011

Media Contact: Rusty Cawley, communications manager, 469-338-9478, rcawley@tamu.edu

TVMDL section head Dr. Amy K. Swinford earns Vice Chancellor's Award in Excellence

COLLEGE STATION, Texas – A section head at the Texas Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory (TVMDL) has received the annual Vice Chancellor's Award in Excellence from Texas A&M Agrilife.

Dr. Amy K. Swinford, head of TVMDL's College Station Bacteriology Section, becomes the ninth TVMDL employee to earn the honor since the awards program began in 1980.

The Vice Chancellor's Awards in Excellence Program recognizes outstanding achievements by faculty and staff in Texas A&M AgriLife. Dr. Mark A. Hussey, vice chancellor and dean for agriculture and life sciences, presented the award to Dr. Swinford.

As a section head, Dr. Swinford manages more than 1,000 cases assigned to her lab each month. But Dr. Swinford's contributions to TVMDL and its clients extend well beyond her duties as a section head, said the director of TVMDL, Dr. Tammy Beckham.

"Dr. Swinford's skills as a diagnostician and leader have allowed her to excel at TVMDL," Dr. Beckham said. "She is well respected by her peers, both in Texas and on a national level. Clients praise her commitment to customer service and her service to the animal industries of our state. Dr. Swinford has a breadth of knowledge in her field and constantly uses her knowledge to improve diagnostic medicine, protect animal health, and educate future generations of diagnosticians."

A University of Illinois graduate, Dr. Swinford earned two bachelor's degrees, a master's degree in veterinary pathobiology, and a doctorate in veterinary medicine – all from Illinois. She became a diplomate with the American College of Veterinary Microbiologists in 1997.

Dr. Swinford joined TVMDL in 2005 following posts with MVP Laboratories Inc., Schering – Plough Animal Health, and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's Veterinary Diagnostic Center. She currently serves as co-chair of the bacteriology committee for the American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians, the national organization that establishes uniform diagnostic techniques and accepted practices for public veterinary diagnostic laboratories.

About TVMDL: The Texas Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory protects animal and human health through diagnostics. An agency of the Texas A&M University System, TVMDL comprises two full-service laboratories, in College Station and Amarillo, and two poultry laboratories, in Center and Gonzales. TVMDL is among 12 core laboratories in the National Animal Health Laboratory Network, a group of state and regional laboratories designed to provide a nationwide surge testing, response, and recovery capacity in the event of an animal disease outbreak. TVMDL is accredited by the American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians. Visit our website: tvmdl.tamu.edu.