Ferro receives 2015 TVMDL Director’s Excellence Award

Annually, the Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory (TVMDL) honors staff that has gone above and beyond their duty to ensure that one of the nation’s busiest laboratories runs smoothly. This year, Molecular Diagnostics and Virology Section Head Pam Ferro, MS, PhD, receives a 2015 TVMDL Director’s Excellence Award for the Professional category.

In the 20 years Dr. Ferro has worked at TVMDL, she rose from a technical assistant to section head through diligence and hard work. While working full time for the agency, she completed a bachelor’s degree, master’s degree and doctorate of philosophy. She juggles supervising two sections in the College Station laboratory as well as providing expertise to the three other lab locations.

Her dedication to educating herself and commitment to a high quality of test services in molecular diagnostics and virology at TVMDL did not go unnoticed by her coworkers, including nominator Amy Swinford, MS, DVM, TVMDL associate director.

“Dr. Ferro’s is now a highly respected diagnostic virologist and specialist in avian influenza virus. Her expertise in molecular diagnostic techniques as well as classical virology methods is widely sought after by colleagues and collaborators across the Texas A&M University campus and around the country,” said Dr. Swinford.

Dr. Ferro’s work ethic led her to take on a new challenge in 2015, leading a TVMDL-wide effort to adopt new, cutting edge diagnostic technology. Her in-depth research and support of this new technology resulted in the agency moving toward adopting it. This action will heavily influence how diagnostic assays are performed at TVMDL in the future, allowing for cost and time saving measures that will reap benefits on both staff and clients.

The dedication Dr. Ferro shows to the laboratory and clients extends to her coworkers. Virology Section Supervisor Vanessa Andrews wrote of Dr. Ferro’s mentorship in her nomination letter for the award.

“She has vastly increased my knowledge base about the scope of the testing we do, allowing me to improve and expand virus isolation options for our clients,” Andrews said. “She is always able to answer difficult questions or educate her employees or peers. Her dedication is such that she routinely comes in early and leaves late. Dr. Ferro has helped cultivate a cohesive work environment and we have a strong team.”
TVMDL employs more than 150 professionals that work diligently to uphold the agency’s mission to protect animal and human health through diagnostics. We congratulate all of the 2015 Director’s Excellence Award winners.

For more information on the Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory, visit tvmdl.tamu.edu.