

# ADVANCE NEUROLOGY

## VSMT



## PROGRAM

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2555 Wisconsin St; Sturtevant, WI 53177  
Revised Sept 2008

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS:

Table of contents	2
Letter to the prospective students:	3
Mission Statement & Philosophy of School	4
Information about the founders & staff:	4
Information about the center:	7
Nondiscrimination law information:	7
Licensing information:	7
Accreditation and Approval:	8
Confidentiality of records:	8
Admission requirements:	8
Academic curriculum:	9
Financial information:	10
About the program:	11
Clinical research project:	11
Performance Evaluation:	12
Classroom conduct:	12
Grading & complaint Procedure	13
Attendance requirements:	13
Withdrawal from program:	13
Career opportunities:	14
Library:	15
Directions:	15

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**Dear Professional Student:**

The Healing Oasis Wellness Center welcomes your interest in expanding your basic knowledge in veterinary spinal manipulative therapy (VSMT). It is a well-accepted fact that the public's demand for competent practitioners of offering veterinary spinal manipulation have been increasing in recent years. The Healing Oasis Wellness Center is the only institutions offering state approved programs (by a higher educational board) in several modalities, one of them being VSMT. Our co-founders have over 35 years combined experience in teaching and delivering these services.

As of today, the chiropractic and veterinary medical schools have not met the need or demand for these advance programs.

As schools, it is our belief that the public would be better served (as well as protected) if knowledgeable licensed health care professionals are the ones providing these services.

We know that our course curriculum will meet and exceed the demands for knowledge in this modality. The small class size will give both students and teachers the very best educational experience in a caring and nurturing environment. As in any post-graduate professional school, you would not only learn from the instructors, but the instructors and classmates will benefit from your experience and knowledge as well.

Our long term goal is to design a program, which would lead toward a Masters Degree in VSMT. Although it will be a long and arduous journey, once conquered, you will feel that it was a very worth-while endeavor.

Sincerely;

Pedro Luis Rivera, D.V.M.

Michelle J. Rivera, M.T.,V.D.T.

Program Directors

## **MISSION STATEMENT AND PHILOSOPHY FOR THE HEALING OASIS WELLNESS CENTER**

The Healing Oasis Wellness Center (HOWC) is an educational institution dedicated to the advancement and teaching of the knowledge base (both theoretical and practical) in Veterinary Spinal Manipulative Therapy; Advanced Neurology in Veterinary Spinal Manipulation and Veterinary Massage and Rehabilitation Therapy. The Healing Oasis Wellness Center is also committed to providing up to date continuing education on different aspects of the above said programs. The HOWC will strive and search for approval by higher Educational Boards at the state and national level.



### **ABOUT THE CO-FOUNDERS & STAFF:**

**Dr. Pedro Luis Rivera** graduated from Purdue University, School of Veterinary Medicine in 1986. He has been practicing holistic veterinary medicine and in particular Veterinary Spinal Manipulative Therapy for the last 11 years. He has successfully completed the certification program from the Options for Animals Veterinary Spinal Manipulative Center, and has also completed all requirements for the Diplomat program sponsored by Options. He was a full time instructor at the Options for Animals from early 1993 through November 1999. He was an active participant in the Alternative / Complementary Therapy Modality Committee from the AVMA which was activated in 1996 and 1999. He successfully completed Level I and II from the New England School of Homeopathy. Dr. Rivera offers veterinary spinal manipulation, massage, rehabilitation therapy, Chinese and western herbology and glandular therapy modalities to all of the patients that seek his help. He is an international speaker & a faculty member at the Backbone Academy of Veterinary Chiropractic & Healing Arts; and the Healing Oasis Wellness Center – Canadian School. He is currently attending the Carrick Institute that offers Neurology Classes to those seeking certification by the Chiropractic Neurology Board.

**Michelle J. Rivera, M.T, V.D.T.,** received her massage therapy training from The Chi Energy Center, in Madison, WI. She successfully finished the Chinese herbology course work from the Wisconsin Institute of Chinese Herbology and has added these modalities to the array of services that she and Dr. Rivera have been offering to their patients and clients at their

veterinary hospital since 1993. She was an instructor at the Wisconsin Institute of Chinese Herbology Veterinary Herbal Course and she is currently the main instructor at the Veterinary Chinese Herbology classes from the Healing Oasis Wellness Center. Michelle has also been practicing Feng Shui for the last 8 years. She follows the Black Hat Tantric Sect philosophy as taught by Professor Lin Yun. In 1998 she traveled to Beijing, China and completed a clinic and lecture certificate program in Chinese herbology at the China-Beijing International Acupuncture Training Center. She is the main instructor of the state approved Veterinary Chinese Herbology program that is offered at The Healing Oasis Wellness Center and a national speaker regarding these subjects.

**Other instructors and guest speakers include:**

Rodney Bagley, DVM, Dip.ACVM; Professor of Neurology and Neurosurgery at Washington State University, College of Veterinary Medicine

Joel Brandon Brock, DC, DACNB, board certified chiropractic neurologist and professor at the Carrick Institute Neurology Program

Jerrilyn Cambron, DC, PhD, assistant dean and professor of anatomy at the National University of Health Sciences, Lombard, IL

Shauna Cantwell, DVV, MVSc, DACVA, CVSMT; clinical assistant professor of Anesthesiology and Pain Management, Dept of Large Animal Clinical Sciences; College of Veterinary Medicine, Univ. of Florida

Keith Collins, DVM, DACVO, board certified veterinary ophthalmologist and owner of Wisconsin Veterinary Eye Referral

Gregory Cramer, DC, PhD; dean of research and professor of anatomy and neurology at National University of Health Sciences, Lombard, IL

Susan Darby, DC, PhD; assistant dean of research and professor of anatomy and neurology at National University of Health Sciences

Jackie Davidson, DVM, DACVS; board certified veterinary surgeon and professor at Louisiana State University, School of Veterinary Medicine

Carl DeStefano, DC, DACNB; private practitioner with special interest in Applied Kinesiology and functional neurology.

Douglas Gould, PhD; Director of Comparative Neurology, Ohio State University

Sig Paul Hansen, DC, private practitioner with special interest in dural changes and soft tissue adjustments and how they affect the neurological components

Joyce Harman, DVM, MRSCVM, private practitioner with special interest in biomechanics and saddle fitting

Charles Henderson, DC, PhD, professor of anatomy and dean of research at Palmer Chiropractic College, Davenport, IA

Kim Henneman, DVM, private practitioner with special interest in biomechanics and gait analysis

Ronald Hullinger, DVM, PhD, professor of anatomy and Dean of the Anatomy Department, Purdue University, School of Veterinary Medicine, West Lafayette, IN

Rebecca Kirby, DVM, DACVIM, DACECC, diplomat in veterinary internal medicine and emergency and critical care. Owner of the Animal Emergency Clinic in Milwaukee

Annette Langlois, DC, DACP, board certified in chiropractic pediatrics and private practitioner with special interest in Network Chiropractic.

Brian McMaster, PhD, assistant dean of graduate studies at Palmer Chiropractic College

Lawrence Misialek, DC, PhD, anatomist specializing in comparative anatomy

John Nolte, PhD; Dean of Cell Biology and Neurology; University of Arizona Medical School, Phoenix, AZ

Joel Pickar, DC, PhD, professor of anatomy and assistant dean of research at Palmer Chiropractic College

Pedro Luis Rivera, DVM, program director and main instructor at the Healing Oasis Wellness Center, Sturtevant, WI

Neal J. Sivula, DVM, PhD, adjunct professor at the University of Minnesota, School of Veterinary Medicine and Parker Chiropractic College in Texas

Rand Swenson, DC, MD, PhD, DACNB, board certified neurologist and professor of anatomy and neurology at the Dartmouth Medical College and Center, Manchester, NH

Other guest speakers to be announced before the module

## **ABOUT THE STAFF:**

The staff and co-founders combined experience in their field of special interest, will allow the students to take advantage from an array of knowledge and clinical experiences that is second to none.

## **ABOUT THE CENTER:**

The Healing Oasis Wellness Center in Sturtevant, Wisconsin, is an organization offering a **Post-Graduate Professional Program** in Integrative / Complementary Therapy Modalities and to the best of our knowledge, the first of its kind in the North American Continent. The advance program consists of 700 hours divided into a 360 hours didactic section and 340 hours on a “clinical research” section. This program is designed to meet and exceed not only local but national standards as well.

The Center is located in a small town in the Southeast part of Wisconsin. It has easy access to the “interstate” system and there are plenty of hotels and stores within a 2 mile radius. The physical location of the Center is 2555 Wisconsin St., Sturtevant, WI, 53177. It consists of a 7000 sq. ft. building, with 3500 sq. ft. being used as a holistic veterinary hospital, 2000 sq. ft. of lecture facility and the rest is divided between the snack room, kitchen room and restrooms services.

The class size will be kept small so that a more personal and relaxed learning environment is maintained.

## **NON-DISCRIMINATION**

The Healing Oasis Wellness Center is in compliance with all requirements imposed by or pursuant to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the regulations issued thereunder, to the end that no person in the United States shall, on the ground of race, color, creed, national origin, gender, sexual preference or age, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any program or activity sponsored at this institution

## **LICENSING OF INTEGRATIVE / COMPLEMENTARY THERAPIES:**

To this day, there is no governmental body that oversees any of the alternative / complementary therapies offered to non-human animals.

It is up to the ethical values of the individual to pursue the best post-graduate program (s) available.

## **SCHOOL ACCREDITATION and APPROVAL:**

The Healing Oasis Wellness Center is nationally accredited by the Accrediting Council for Continuing Education and Training an agency recognized by the United States Department of Education. All programs that are presented at the school have been approved by the Educational Approval Board of the State of Wisconsin (<http://eab.state.wi.us>). The VSMT program has also been approved by the American Veterinary Chiropractic Association (full approval). The school is also a recognized registrant under the American Association of Veterinary State Boards – RACE program ([www.aavsb.org](http://www.aavsb.org) for continuing education) and currently an active member of the National Organization for Competency Assurance.

## **CONFIDENTIALITY OF RECORDS:**

The Healing Oasis Wellness Center is aware of the confidential nature of student records, both personal and academic; therefore, the school exercises extreme care and concern in recording and maintaining information. Such information will not be released to unauthorized persons or agencies without written consent from the student. The Center recognizes the student's right to access her or his own records. The school maintains attendance, examination and teacher progress reports on all students. These records and transcripts will be kept as long as the school exist as an entity.

## **ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS:**

The following requirements are necessary to apply and pursue a successful path in this field.

1. Must have a current valid license as a Doctor of Chiropractic or Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM, VMD or equivalent depending on the country like MVSc). Include a copy of your license and diploma
2. Successfully completed an AVCA / IVCA / VCA of Canada approved program or a program that has been approved or accredited by a higher educational board or national organization (minimum of 210hrs long post-graduate training).
3. Professionals registering from outside the North American continent please provide copy of the pertinent Visa, Diploma of the school and proper governmental licensure of the country that you are currently practicing and that have successfully completed an AVCA / IVCA / VCA of Canada approved program or a program that has been approved or accredited by a higher educational board or national organization (minimum of 210hrs long post-graduate training).
4. Two passport-size photos

5. Licensed veterinarians and chiropractors, please include a signed letter stating that you understand your state's rules and regulations as they apply to animal or veterinary spinal manipulative therapy as set forth by their individual licensing boards
6. Include a \$200.00 deposit with the application form & the remaining tuition will be due the first day of school. The remaining tuition will depend on the payment method that is chosen (please refer to our catalog information in our website). PLEASE NOTE that a 2.1% surcharge will be added to all credit card transactions (Visa, MasterCard, Discover)

The application deadline is 3 weeks prior to the beginning of the scheduled module.

A deposit of \$200.00 must be included with the application. A **non-refundable** application fee of \$100.00 is **included** in the total tuition and deposit of the program.

The student will receive a letter (via USPS or email) confirming their reservation for this advance post-graduate training. PLEASE REMEMBER THAT ALL STUDENTS MUST COMPLETE ALL APPLICABLE ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS. A functional email address is required for all participants.

A brief interview is required for all participants before the beginning of the program. The interview will be held 1- 1 1/2 hrs on the first day of the module before classes are scheduled to start on a first come, first serve basis.

The Healing Oasis Wellness Center will offer no advanced standing for participants in weekend seminars, video-taped seminars, correspondence seminars, tutored, "shadowed", "gained" experience(s) or any other type of seminars

#### **CORE CURRICULUM:**

Neurology: Understanding and maintaining the nervous system is a major part of Spinal Manipulation. Embryology of the nervous system (NS) Cellular immediate early gene response (CIEGR), influence of the NS on the overall health of the patient, anatomy of the spine, spinal cord, central, peripheral, and autonomic nervous system; blood supply of the NS; cranial nerves, ascending & descending tracts, supra-segmental control, pain (its history and pathways), receptors (kinds and functions), motor cortex (volitional control and reflexogenic), upper motor neuron control and disease, lower motor neuron control and disease, cerebellar function, brain stem function and intermedio-lateral cell column are among some of the topics to be discussed on this section

Hours: 209

Scientific validity: This class will present up to date available research that not only validates the spinal manipulation health care modality but will further expand knowledge of functional neurology.

Hours: 12

Spinal Manipulative Techniques Laboratory: This class will provide the student with advanced techniques and “approaches” and how they correlate to the vertebral subluxation complex and how they can improve spinal manipulative adjusting techniques. Cranial suture and the correlation to C1-0, Sacro-occipital techniques, Logan Basic and Network are among the techniques to be discussed  
Hours: 90

Advanced information: This section will provide the students with information regarding DENTISTRY (equine and small animal respectively and provided as a tracking method), TEMPOROMANDIBULAR JOINT (its function and its basic & advanced neurology of the joint and how it can affect the patient)  
Hours: 7

Advanced radiology and imaging: This section will provide the student with in depth information on how to improve interpretation of radiographic film and specialized radiographic techniques, get an understanding what, how, what and when of MRI and CT-Scan  
Hours: 6

Lameness and gait analysis as viewed by from the spinal manipulative point of view and how it can be affected by the tack and saddle (Small animals and LA) Hours: 10

Comparative anatomy: This section will help the students understand and review the anatomical (osseous and muscular) differences between species (equine, canine, feline and exotics)  
Hours: 6

Neurology & nutrition: Nutrition and its effects on the Nervous System Hours: 10

Research: This section is to help the students to visualize how to choose a topic, how to design a study, how to research and review the literature and how to present the project  
Hours: 20

Clinical Research Project: This time is the minimum time that the faculty at the HOWC feels that it will be necessary for the participants to design, research and write up the two (2) papers that will be required before completion of the program  
Hours:333

Research Presentations: Each student will present (during the final module) their clinical research thesis  
Hours: 7

### **FINANCIAL INFORMATION:**

TOTAL COST FOR ENTIRE PROGRAM: **\$8,960.00** if paid in advanced, or depending on the individual payment choices)

Payment methods (US dollars, CC, MO or Checks drawn on an US Bank; No direct deposits; No foreign checks):

Twelve modules prepaid tuition: **\$8,960.00**

**Six modules prepaid tuition: \$4,700.00** (hence total cost of the 12 module program of \$9,400.00)

**Payment per individual modules** paid 30 days in advanced: \$ 850.00 (hence total cost of the 12 module program of \$10,200)

Auditing a previously attended module: \$ 750.00

**\*\*\*NOTE: A 2.1% surcharge will be added to ALL credit card transactions (Visa, MasterCard, Discover)\*\*\***

Students will have a list of required textbooks (from which material will be utilized throughout the program) that can be purchased at the following Amazon link <http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/redirect-home/thehealingoas-20> (special link that gives the school credits toward new books).

#### **ABOUT THE PROGRAM:**

The curriculum consists of a total of 700 hours divided into two (2) phases. The first phase or the didactic phase (twelve modules) consists of three hundred thirty six hours (336) of supervised instruction and lectures and the second phase includes a clinical research of three hundred sixty four hours (364). Each module will have a required reading assignment and at the end of each module, the students will receive a take home test. This homework will be reviewed and returned to each student by the end of the following module. Each student must present a total of 2 (two) clinical research papers. The first one is due by the 10<sup>th</sup> module of the program and the second one by the 12<sup>th</sup> module of the program.

**A total of 12 (twelve) modules** will encompass an entire program. Each module consists of 2 ½ days beginning on Fridays (8:00am - 12pm, 1pm - 8pm), Saturdays (same hours) and Sundays (8:00am-2:00pm). Depending on the module, longer hours might be required, for a total of 28 hrs per module.

#### **ABOUT THE CLINICAL RESEARCH PAPERS:**

During the first module, it will be discussed how to design clinical research paper, how to search for literature, how to evaluate literature and how to put the information together so that it flows. During every module, the instructors / speakers will also give you their

“suggestions” on how to find more information on the specific topic that the student have chosen and bring you back on track if need to. Clinical research topics should relate to veterinary spinal manipulation and must be approved by the review panel (made of 3 instructors).

There will be a follow up every two modules to assess the progress and to share the experience and ideas gained by the students toward the clinical research paper. The first paper & presentation will be due during the 10<sup>th</sup> module and the second paper & presentation will be due during the 12<sup>th</sup> module. After the presentation, each paper will be forwarded to the review panel (made of 4 instructors) for their final evaluation and recommendations.

The scheduled dates for modules are as follows:

SEE ATTACHED INFORMATION or contact our website at <http://www.thehealingoasis.com/> .

### **PERFORMANCE EVALUATION:**

Students are evaluated by a variety of methods that include written test, oral presentations, take home tests, and individual reports.

To successfully finish the program, a 76% minimal grade must be attained on each examination in conjunction with the research paper requirements. Grading scale is as follows:

A = 93 - 100% B = 85 - 92% C= 76 - 84%

Fail = less than 76%

### **CLASSROOM CONDUCT:**

As in any other professional school, professional standards are upheld:

1. No smoking on premises
  2. No talking during lecture time
  3. Respect each other’s right to have an education.
  4. Respect each other’s beliefs and knowledge
  5. Under no circumstances will any abuse or rough-handling of animals be tolerated
  6. Dishonesty is not tolerated (includes vandalism of school property)
  7. Possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs in any part of the classroom or grounds at any time will not be tolerated or allowed
  8. Disrespectful use of language or inappropriate physical contact with individuals while involved in school related activities will not be tolerated
- Any student who doesn’t comply with the above simple rules, will be dismissed. If dismissal is

due to any of the above “rules of conduct” readmission will not be allowed.

**PASSING / FAILING NOTIFICATION:**

Students will be notified within a maximum of 4 weeks if they have successfully completed the program or not.

**COMPLAINT PROCEDURE:**

All complaints regarding conduct, grading or any concerns; should be given in writing to either Dr. Pedro L. Rivera or Michelle J. Rivera, M.T., V.D.T., or Dr. Jonathan Soltys (Dean of the Lincoln College for Postgraduate and Continuing Education). If the attendee doesn’t feel that the complaint was dealt with correctly, then the next step would be to contact the Wisconsin

Educational Approval Board at:  
c/o Mr. Pat Sweeney  
Wisconsin Education Approval Board  
30 W. Mifflin St.; 9th Floor  
PO Box 8696  
Madison, WI 53708-8696

**ATTENDANCE:**

A 100% attendance is required for the lecture and technique classes. A student will be considered tardy for class if more than 20 minutes late. If a student is tardy 3 consecutive times, it will count as an absence. If a student knows they will be absent or tardy prior to class, they must call or inform the center for an excused absence.

Although leave of absence is not encouraged, there are certain extraordinary cases, such as death in the family or a severe illness that will cause the student to miss classes. Extra tutorial time (at \$200.00 per hour) and make-up reading assignments and quizzes will be assigned to complete the missing work. If leave of absence is for more than 6 months, then the student must re-apply to enter (continue) the program.

**There are NO probational periods, students must complete all the required work.**

**WITHDRAWAL FROM THE PROGRAM:**

If, for any reason, the student withdraws or is dismissed by the school prior to attending classes, there will be no charge to the student. All moneys except the non-refundable

application fee of \$100 will be reimbursed to the student.

The student will receive a full refund of all money paid (minus the non-refundable deposit of \$100.00) if the student cancels within the first three days of the first module of the program (upon returning immediately all notes and handouts provided during the module that was attended).

A student who withdraws or is dismissed after attending at least one class, but before completing 60% of the program in the current enrollment period, is entitled to a pro rata refund as follows (based on individual payment method)

AT LEAST BUT LESS THAN		REFUND OF TUITION
1 UNIT	10%	90%
10%	20%	80%
20%	30%	70%
30%	40%	60%
40%	50%	50%
50%	60%	40%
60%	NO REFUND	

As part of this policy, the school may retain a one-time application fee of no more than \$100. The School will make every effort to refund prepaid amounts for books, supplies and other charges, as long as they have been returned in good condition. A student will receive the refund within 40 working days of termination date. If a student withdraws after completing 60% of the instruction, the school may refund a pro rata amount; if withdrawal is due to mitigating circumstances beyond the student's control, a written notice of withdrawal is not required.

**CAREER OPPORTUNITIES:**

Upon graduation from the school students will be exceptionally qualified to offer a variety of professional services that can be used to enhance the healing and well-being of our patients.

The Healing Oasis Wellness Center does not guarantee employment to any of the participants during or after the program. However, employment assistance will be offered through a job placement bulletin board and utilizing a referral list of students that have successfully completed the program.

**LIBRARY:**

The school will supply each student with a list of books that will be required for class. It will be the responsibility of each student to buy each of the books and to comply with each reading assignment.

**DIRECTIONS TO THE CENTER:**

From Chicago, take I94 North (West) to Wisconsin. Take exit #335 (Hwy 11) and at the stop sign, take a right (going East). Go about 2.1 mile and you will see a sign 96th Street or "Wisconsin St.". Take a left on Wisconsin St (going North) and 1/4 mile down the road (on East side or right side) you will see the Center.

From Milwaukee, take I94 South (East) to Hwy 20 (exit #333) and at the stop sign make a left (going East). Go about 2.5 - 3 miles to 96th Street or "Wisconsin St" and take a right (going South). The building will be on the East side (left side) of the road about 1/4 - 1/2 mile down the road.