Greetings

To all of our Western University friends and colleagues as we approach the holiday season. I write this message to you in the middle of a week filled with marvelous events at the College of Veterinary Medicine. On Friday, November 8, we hosted the semiannual meeting of the CVM Advisory Council, chaired by Dr. Billy Hooper. This is always an invigorating event, which brings together diverse people from academia, corporate America, government, and individuals interested in animals or veterinary education. Despite the (unusual for Southern California) rain, we had a great day of networking and information gathering about the new college, which included introduction of new faculty and an update on curriculum development. One of our guests recounted a story told to her by Peter Drucker, that it is always the first olive that is hard to get out of the bottle; the rest come out easily. Makes me think of some of the challenges our college has faced, and that the olives are coming out easier and easier now.

Saturday evening was the annual Tribute To Caring gala fundraiser that supports the scholarship endowment at Western University. This year it was held at the Beverly Hills Hotel, and the program opened with a videotape of actor Noah Wyle from NBC’s ER, joined by a COMP graduate, Dr. Fong, who is a technical advisor to the program. The first honoree of the evening was veterinarian Dr. Marty Becker, who received the Western University Media Award for the Advancement of Health and Humanism. What a great event. Marty regaled us with stories of his interesting career in promoting the human animal bond, and we watched a videotape of his Good Morning America colleagues, Diane Sawyer and Charles Gibson, congratulating him on this honor. The Elie Weisel Award was presented to Mr. Al Mann, a phenomenal pioneer in the advancement of pharmacy and technology (including the insulin pump), the (charter, COMP) Class of 1982 was recognized with the Alumni Achievement Award, and President and Mrs. Pumerantz were honored at the university’s 25th anniversary by the naming of the Library and Learning Center in their honor.

This week we are poised to conduct our first annual training course in Problem-Based learning for faculty. The course will be conducted by Dr. Ann Kelson, School of Medicine at Southern Illinois University, which has been a leader in PBL medical education for decades. Even though we have been in an intensive PBL curriculum development mode since September, under the capable leadership of our PBL Coordinator, Dr. Steve Waldhalm, it is our goal to bring in outside talent on a regular basis for faculty development and advancement of our discipline. Persons joining us for the workshop include Dr. Steve Wickler, California State Polytechnic University, Pomona; Dr. Jaymie Noland, California Polytechnic University, San Luis Obispo, and Dr. Debbie Davenport, Hill’s Pet Nutrition, Topeka, KS.

Best wishes to all of our friends and colleagues for a joyous and peaceful holiday season.
More Than One Night in Tunisia

Dr. Ashley Robinson, Associate Dean (Pre-Clinical Programs), attended the World Veterinary Congress in Tunis on September 24-28, 2002 to present two papers. The first paper, ‘Global Public Health Systems: Meeting Veterinary Needs in Developing Countries,’ summarized the results and recommendations of an electronic conference on Veterinary Public Health (VPH) and Control of Zoonoses in Developing Countries held in 2001. Discussions were also held with veterinarians from the Food & Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in Rome who intend to develop a permanent website as a focal point for individuals and organizations working in VPH in developing countries. This will include a directory, network listing, support, and solutions as well as links to other relevant websites. The VPH website address is www.fao.org/livestock/agah/vpheconf/welcome.htm. A summary of the conference is currently posted on the website.

The second paper was entitled ‘Regional Collaboration in Epidemiological Investigation of Specific Diseases in the Middle East.’ It summarized several years of results of a USAID-funded animal health project involving Egypt, Jordan, Israel and the Palestinian Authority. The diseases included foot-and-mouth disease, brucellosis, rabies and neo-natal mortality in ruminants. Details of this project are available at www.move-in.org. While in Tunis, Dr. Robinson met with the Chief Veterinary Officer of the Palestinian Authority to discuss some of the current difficulties of providing veterinary services on the West Bank and Gaza. An animal welfare problem exists for large numbers of free-ranging dogs and cats as well as injured donkeys. Efforts are underway to provide short-term training for newly-hired Palestinian veterinarians in Morocco and Jordan.

The next meeting of the World Veterinary Association will be held in conjunction with the 2005 AVMA convention in Minneapolis. Dr. Leon Russell, Texas A & M University, is the current Vice-President of the WVA. If you would like to learn more about this organization go to www.worldvet.org.

R. Ashley Robinson, Associate Dean of Pre-Clinical Programs

Student groups in the School of Veterinary Medicine at University of California, Davis invited WesternU-CVM faculty member Lara Rasmussen, DVM, MS, DACVS to her alma mater to deliver a presentation on learning theory, specifically in the area of veterinary surgery. She also was asked to lead cadaver-based exercises in surgical technique learning for approximately 80 sophomore and junior veterinary students. Cadavers from dogs that died or were euthanized secondary to serious medical conditions were secured thru the student-coordinated Willed Body Program. WesternU-CVM faculty member Ben Kitchen, MA, DVM and staff member Eva Jaeger, RVT assisted in this team-teaching effort, as did UCDavis faculty members Drs. Lisle George, John Angelos, Aurora Villarroel, and Gary Marty. The Association of Veterinarians for Animal Rights provided the financial support to feed the students and facilitate instructor travel and board.

Dr. Lara Rasmussen, DVM, MS, DACVS was invited to participate in a presentation and discussion at the World Small Animal Veterinary Association 2002 Congress in Granada, Spain on the subject of student learning and the acquisition of clinical skills. Her presentation was titled, “Non-harmful animal use and beneficial animal participation in veterinary medical clinical skills learning and mastery.” Participants from areas as diverse as sociology to clinical veterinary surgery engaged in active discussion on the methods of learning available to or ideal for students of the veterinary medical profession.

Lara Rasmussen, Director, Surgery and Clinical Skills
From the Spectrum:

**2002 “A Tribute to Caring” Earns More than $600,000 for University**

The university honored biopharmaceutical executive, inventor and philanthropist Alfred E. Mann with the Elie Wiesel Humanism in Healing Award. Named for the internationally renowned Nobel Laureate and Holocaust survivor, the Wiesel award is the university’s highest honor and is given to an individual who best represents the philosophy and values of the university, and who has actively incorporated them toward the betterment of the human condition.

Marty Becker, DVM, author, educator and media personality, was the first recipient of the university’s Media Award for the Advancement in Health and Humanism, given to him for his journalistic integrity and his work to increase public awareness and aiding advancements in health and humanistic principles.

The evening also honored founding President Philip Pumerantz and his wife, Harriet, for their dedication and leadership over the past quarter century. Warren Lawless, chairman of the university’s board of trustees, announced the board would rename the university’s library the Harriet K. and Philip Pumerantz Library and Learning Resources Center.

**Meetings of the Minds**

**College of Veterinary Medicine Advisory Council Winter Meeting** was held on Friday, November 8, 2002 in the Companions Hall at the Health Sciences Center.

The meeting, chaired by Dr. Billy Hooper, included the Dean’s Report from Dean Johnston, an accreditation update, new faculty introductions, progress on the Veterinary Medicine Center, a tour of faculty offices, and presentations from Drs. Ashley Robinson (Phase I curriculum), Lara Rasmussen (admissions), Stephen Waldhalm (PBL), and Robert Mason (Phase II and III curriculum). The mission statement of the CVM Advisory Council is to provide information to the dean on issues related to veterinary medicine, and to encourage political and financial support of the College of Veterinary Medicine.

**PBL Problem Design-Curriculum Development Workshop** was held on November 13-15th. CVM faculty participated in a Problem-Based Learning tutorial process with strategic “time-outs” (to discuss key elements) as a demonstration of how Problem-Based Learning works. Problems were drafted, field-tested and critiqued. Curricular design and structure were explored as they pertain to a Problem-Based Learning methodology. The workshop was facilitated by Dr. Ann Kelson from Southern Illinois University School of Medicine.

PHOTO LEFT: Dr. Billy Hooper chairs the November 8 meeting of the College of Veterinary Medicine Advisory Council.
The CARES Symposium

Western University hosted the “CARES” (California Regional Education) Symposium on October 24-26, co-sponsored by Banfield, The Pet Hospital®. This continuing educational program that satisfies the requirements for licensure-by-reciprocity continuing education requirement of the state of California. For licensure by endorsement, attendees must complete the program (26 hours over three days).

CVM Open House

From the Spectrum: On October 16, 2002 the CVM hosted its first college “Open House”. This event was designed with two objectives: introduce the current and new CVM faculty to university wide faculty, students, and staff, and gather sign-ups for the veterinary wellness clinic from faculty, students, and staff. This clinic will afford the university community the ability to have their animals examined four times each year by CVM students, staff and faculty. These wellness checks will allow students to learn the art of history taking and to perform complete and thorough physical exams as well as to perform other minor procedures such as vaccinations, fecal and urine examinations. The event was hosted in “The Corral”, the new name for the old biomedical library in the Health Professions Center. The Corral currently houses some of the CVM faculty offices. Veterinary Pet Insurance showcased the new Western University VPI group discount offer available to all students, staff, and faculty. Many thanks to VPI for their continuing support and wonderful pizza. The event was well attended and much appreciated!

THE PET WELLNESS CLINIC

More information will be forthcoming on this clinic scheduled to begin on July 1, 2003.

Calendar of Events

December 4-6, 2002
“VELP” (Veterinary Emergencies of Large Populations) Conference – 18 Hrs. CE Credit—
Call 909-469-5661 for details

December 20-January 6, 2003
Holiday Break!

February 17-20, 2003
Western States Veterinary Conference
Las Vegas, Nevada

February 17-21, 2003
Prospective Student Interviews, College of Veterinary Medicine

March 15, 2003
Admissions Acceptances sent to members of the CVM’s Charter Class

March 22-26, 2003
Annual Meeting for the American Animal Hospital Association
Phoenix, Arizona
Call (800) 883-6301 for more information

June 11-13, 2003
CARES Symposium
Western University of Health Sciences

July 19-23, 2003
Annual Meeting, American Veterinary Medical Association
Denver, Colorado

August 4, 2003
Orientation Week starts, CVM Class of 2007

August 9, 2003
Convocation and White Coat Ceremony, CVM Class of 2007

August 11, 2003
First Day of Class, CVM Class of 2007
MARGO MACHEN, DVM, PhD - Associate Professor, Large Animal Medicine

Dr. Margo Machen earned her DVM and PhD (molecular genetics) degrees at Michigan State University, where she also completed her internship and residency in food animal medicine and surgery. She comes to Western University from Tuskegee University, School of Veterinary Medicine where she practiced and taught for the past four years. Her primary research goals are to apply the principles of molecular genetics in designing projects that practically impact the science of veterinary medicine.

She has been actively involved in initiating and promoting health professions to potential students in minority and underprivileged communities, as well as community outreach and educational programs both at Michigan State and Tuskegee University.

Dr. Machen is an avid outdoor enthusiast, an adventure racer. She also spends her leisure time as an amateur landscape photographer and woodworker.

BEN KITCHEN, MFA, DVM - Assistant Professor, Small Animal Medicine

Dr. Ben Kitchen comes to Western University CVM with a broad background in the humanities as well as in veterinary medicine. Prior to receiving his DVM degree from the Ohio State University, Dr. Kitchen was a faculty and staff member in Fine Arts at the University of Notre Dame and the Ohio State University. As a sculptor, he has worked in many media and has exhibited work throughout the United States and Europe. As a practicing veterinarian Dr. Kitchen has worked in small and large animal hospitals in Oregon and Ohio. With a special interest in issues surrounding animal shelters and humane organizations, Dr. Kitchen will serve as co-project director for the Maddie's Fund grant to integrate the shelter medicine discipline into the CVM curriculum. In addition to Dr. Kitchen's work in the fine arts and clinical veterinary practice, he has served as a consultant to design teams developing medical products for use in veterinary and human medicine.

Dr. Kitchen has pursued independent research in the development and manufacture of medical and surgical technique models searching for alternatives to detrimental animal use in education. This activity has led to the establishment of Altemavitae, a company serving academia and other organizations seeking innovative learning tools. Dr. Kitchen's special interest in these innovative learning tools will be integrated in the unique clinical skills curriculum at Western University CVM where students will acquire extensive clinical training without harming animals. In his free time Dr. Kitchen enjoys tennis, and has recently become enamored with touring and sea kayaks. He is planning on building his own boat with the hopes of taking advantage of all the paddling opportunities the West Coast has to offer.
College of Veterinary Medicine Kudos

The College of Veterinary Medicine at Western University of Health Sciences has received the first portion of a three-year grant from PETsMART Charities, Inc. The grant will support a mobile veterinary clinic to bring veterinary care to companion animals in shelters and animal rescue facilities and to pets of homeless and housebound people. The college has received the first-year’s award of $30,000, with the total grant, $92,000, to be paid over three years. The grant will partially support the PETsMART Veterinary Ambulatory Community Service-Learning (PETsMART-VACS) Program. The PETsMART-VACS will be an integral service-learning component of the college’s curriculum.

“This program will give many animals a second chance at life or health,” said Lara Rasmussen, DVM, MS, DACVS, director of surgery and clinical skills at the College of Veterinary Medicine. “It also will serve as a learning arena for clinical skills and community service. We want our students to be masters of their profession and to know when, where and how to help the animal and human communities they have chosen to serve.” Services provided by the mobile small animal clinic will include preventive medicine services such as spay/neuter, physical examinations, vaccinations, microchipping, heartworm and virus screening and presurgical evaluation. The clinic also will offer treatments such as deworming, behavioral assessment and recommendations, diagnosis and treatment of illness, as well as client education.

It is PETsMART Charities’ mission to end the euthanasia of adoptable companion animals as a means of controlling pet overpopulation. PETsMART Charities primarily provides financial grants for new programs that assist in ending unnecessary euthanasia through proactive adoption, spay/neuter, behavior and pet identification programs. For more information on PETsMART Charities, call toll-free 1-800-423-PETS (7387).

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