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Dean Robert R. Marshak

John E. Martin
University of Pennsylvania

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Dean Robert R. Marshak

Dr. Robert R. Marshak became the ninth dean of the School of Veterinary Medicine in September 1973, succeeding Dr.

Mark W. Allam.

Immediately after graduation from the New York State College of Veterinary Medicine at Cornell University in 1945, Dr. Marshak began what was to become a large dairy cattle practice in Springfield, Vermont. One of his clients was Dr. Alan M. Butler, who was professor of pediatrics at Harvard Medical School and a renowned clinical investigator of that era. Dr. Butler encouraged Dr. Marshak to engage in clinical investigation at the Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston. With this arrangement Dr. Marshak conducted studies on metabolic diseases in cattle, making frequent trips to Boston, often at night, with samples for laboratory analysis. At the same time he engaged in an intensive self-learning program in biochemistry. Dr. Marshak developed friendships with leading authorities in the field of metabolic diseases, and in 1956 he was organizing chairman for a prestigious conference on *Calcium and Phosphorus Metabolism in Man and Animals with Special Reference to Pregnancy and Lactation* at the New York Academy of Sciences.

These activities heightened a basic desire on the part of Dr. Marshak to pursue scholarly interests. At one time he considered moving to Boston so that he would be near Harvard University. At the time when he was engaged in these thoughts, Penn's Veterinary School was searching for someone to replace Dr. John D. Beck, professor of medicine, who was leaving after many years in residence at the School.

Dean Mark W. Allam had interviewed many candidates for the position but was unable to find the right individual. Through a series of circumstances, Dean Allam learned about this rather remarkable veterinarian from Vermont. At this time Dr. Alan Butler entered the picture and strongly recommended Dr. Marshak, who was invited to come to Penn for an interview. After the initial interview Dean Allam knew that the search for a professor of medicine had ended, and in 1956 Dr. Marshak was appointed to this position.

Penn's Veterinary School now had a professor with some extraordinary concepts about how clinical veterinary medicine should develop. Dr. Marshak was keenly concerned about the great disparity between the programs for clinical sciences in medical schools and those in veterinary schools, and he lost no time in attacking this situation in a variety of ways. Fundamental to Dr. Marshak's concepts is the premise that students should be taught basic principles of medicine

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versus the "cookbook" style of learning. For this reason he urged that the basic science departments be strengthened and this was done, leading to a much closer relationship between clinical and basic sciences. Next, he recruited individuals for the clinical science area who had established scientific reputations, or young people with a sincere desire to pursue graduate studies. Many of these became leaders in various clinical specialties. Dr. Marshak also engaged in a major revamping of work schedules for clinicians in the hospitals so that they would have time available for research, a situation which never before existed in the Veterinary School. This required major additions to the clinical staff and this took place.

All of these, and other changes, eventually forged a clinical department that is one of the best in the world. The pay-off from Dr. Marshak's foresight, determination, and hard work was a remarkable upgrading in clinical teaching, research, and service in the Veterinary School. Further, the renaissance of clinical science at Penn had an impact on the entire veterinary profession. Under Dr. Marshak's guidance clinical specialties, now a major part of veterinary medicine, were developed at Penn, and he is rightfully recognized as the "Father of Veterinary Clinical Specialties." Also, under Dr. Marshak the Veterinary School developed an international reputation as the leader in comparative medical research. Lastly, he was a prime mover in the creation of the core-elective curriculum, a revolutionary move in veterinary medical education.

The development of the specialties required the postgraduate training of numerous young men and women, and Dr. Marshak provided the opportunities for those individuals to engage in this experience. Today, many of those who underwent this training are leaders in their particular field.

Many other major changes and improvements occurred during Dr. Marshak's deanship. Some of these are: a major addition to the Large Animal Hos-

pital at New Bolton Center, and the creation of VHUP on the Philadelphia campus; completion of the C. Mahlon Kline Center for Orthopedics and Rehabilitation; creation of new, innovative programs such as a Program of Aquatic Animal Medicine (AQUAVET), and the Center for Interactions of Animals and Society; and major renovations in the old quadrangle building to provide much needed research space. During the years 1976 to 1982, Dr. Marshak directed fund-raising efforts which realized 27.5 million dollars from the private sector, and from 1974 until present the appropriation from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania increased from \$1.7 million to over \$10.7 million. Since 1983, Dr. Marshak has directed a major fund-raising effort known as the Second Century Fund. To date, over 30 million dollars has been raised in this effort.

Dr. Marshak is a charter diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine and served as president of this group from 1975-1976. He has served on the editorial board of several journals, including the *American Journal of Veterinary Research*, the *Journal of the American Veterinary Radiology Society*, and the *Cornell Veterinarian*. From 1964 until 1967, Dr. Marshak was chairman, Committee on Postdoctoral Education of the American Association of Veterinary Clinicians, and from 1975 until 1978 he was a member of the Committee on Veterinary Medical Sciences of the National Academy of Sciences. During the period 1976 to 1981, he was a member of the Council on Research of the American Veterinary Medical Association. Dr. Marshak served on the Advisory Council of the New York State College of Veterinary Medicine at Cornell University from 1977 until 1980. He currently serves on the Board of Directors of the Bide-a-wee Home Association and the Pennsylvania Livestock Association, and is a member of the Advisory Council of the James A. Baker Institute for Animal Health, Cornell University, and of the Secretary's Animal Health Advisory Board of the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture.

Dr. Marshak is a member of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the American Association for Cancer Research, the American Veterinary Medical Association, the Pennsylvania Veterinary Medical Association, the American Association of Veterinary Clinicians, the Conference of Research Workers in Animal Diseases, and the College of Physicians of Philadelphia (fellow). He is also a member of The New York Farmers, the Philadelphia Society for Promoting Agriculture, and the Westminster Kennel Club.

Dr. Marshak has published over seventy scientific papers, many of them on the subject of bovine leukemia, but also on metabolic diseases and leptospirosis. He has published four major review articles.

Dr. Marshak's contributions to the profession were recognized in 1968 when the University of Bern awarded him an honorary degree of Dr. med. vet.

Despite the multifarious activities involved in administering the Deans Office, Dr. Marshak has kept uppermost the fundamental matters that nourish the Veterinary School: high academic standards, research, teaching, patient care, and community service. His resolute character and his zest have inspired the School. In spite of the great amount of time which he is required to spend in political and fund-raising activities, Dr. Marshak has become a major spokesman for the profession. He has been superbly articulate. He has embraced an extraordinarily broad constituency, including the legislature, the alumni, the Pennsylvania Veterinary Medical Association, agricultural groups, humane societies, the dog and cat world, zoo and wildlife groups, and aquatic medicine.

As Dr. Marshak retires from the Deanship on July 1, 1987, he leaves a legacy that not only encompasses his momentous professional and academic contributions, but brilliantly reflects his role as a compassionate and understanding human being. He cared!

—John E. Martin, V.M.D.

Vincent B. Murphy, Jr., Honored



During the May Board of Overseers meeting, Dean Marshak presented the School's Centennial Medal to Vincent B. Murphy, Jr., member of the School's Board of Overseers and chairman of the Veterinary School's Second Century Fund Campaign. Following is the laudation:

Linked to Pennsylvania by a shared devotion to animal welfare, Vincent B. Murphy, Jr., has worked selflessly to make the School of Veterinary Medicine a stronger, better, more responsive institution. A highly successful investment banker with extensive overseas responsibilities, he manages miraculously to find ample time for his large family as well as for a host of philanthropic interests. Central among these interests, born out of an enduring love for horses and for horsemanship, is the equine athlete. This is expressed in countless ways—as President of the United States

Equestrian Team, as the owner of top competition jumpers, as the father of daughters who are world-class competitors, as an Overseer and Chairman of the Veterinary School's Second Century Fund Campaign, and as one of the School's most generous benefactors. A close friend and advisor to two deans, he has helped the School to chart a successful course through hazardous financial shoals. Though a loyal Yale man, his strong ties to the Red and the Blue have never been in doubt.

In applauding Vincent Murphy's magnificent record of service to the School of Veterinary Medicine, his fellow Overseers join the Dean and the Faculty in inviting him to accept the Centennial Medal, the School's highest tribute.



New Laboratory

The laboratory in the Section of Medical Genetics was renovated to accommodate a new laboratory in medical genetics. The funds for the renovation were provided by the Mrs. Cheever Porter Foundation. Trustees of the Foundation visited the new laboratory in June. During the visit Dr. John Wolfe, who will be directing the laboratory, discussed his work.



Left to right, Mr. Clifford Starkins; Dr. Wolfe; Mr. Edgar Scott, Jr., chairman of the board of trustees, Mrs. Cheever Porter Foundation; and Dr. Patterson.

Left to right, Dr. Wolfe discussing his work with Mr. Alton E. Peters and Mr. Clifford E. Starkins of the Mrs. Cheever Porter Foundation.