



Spring 1994

Veterinary School Announces Mari Lowe Center for Comparative Oncology

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Recommended Citation

(1994) "Veterinary School Announces Mari Lowe Center for Comparative Oncology," *Bellwether Magazine*: Vol. 1 : No. 36 , Article 6.
Available at: <https://repository.upenn.edu/bellwether/vol1/iss36/6>

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Veterinary School's Deanship Endowed



Gilbert S. Kahn of Miami, Florida made a gift to the University of Pennsylvania to endow and name the deanship of its School of

Veterinary Medicine. Kahn, a member of the Annenberg publishing family, is a well known breeder and exhibitor of pure-bred dogs.

The Gilbert S. Kahn Dean of Veterinary Medicine at Penn is the first endowed veterinary deanship in North America. An international search for a Veterinary School dean is under way as Dean Dr. Edwin J. Andrews stepped down at the end of December.

"Gilbert Kahn's gift is important for the future of the Veterinary School and couldn't have come at a more opportune

time," said Claire Fagin, Penn's Interim President. "An endowed chair lends prestige to the deanship at a time when we are searching for a new dean of the Vet School, and will help us to attract the very best leader to hold this important position."

Kahn said that he is very happy to follow the family tradition of supporting the University of Pennsylvania and that helping the School of Veterinary Medicine reflects his interest in animal welfare and canine health issues.

Kahn, an internationally known judge of toy dogs and a number of terrier and non-sporting breeds, exhibits and breeds Japanese Chins, long-coated Chihuahuas, and Shih Tzu. He is the delegate of the Japanese Chin Club of America to the American Kennel Club and a member of the board of directors and executive committee of The Dog Museum. He is one of the few American members of The Kennel Club (England).

Through his Charing Cross Research Fund, Kahn has supported research at Penn's Veterinary School on granulomatous meningo-encephalitis, an inflammatory disease of the central nervous system; epilepsy; and kidney disease. He is a major contributor to the Dr. M. Josephine Deubler Dean's Scholars fund in the Veterinary School.

Kahn serves as president of the Animal Welfare Society of South Florida, Inc., an organization that established and supports a low cost spay/neuter clinic and a hospital that provides full service veterinary care. He is a member of the executive committee of the Concert Association of Florida, Inc., a group that brings the best in the world of dance and music to South Florida.

Kahn's gift created the 15th endowed chair at the School of Veterinary Medicine and the 132nd chair endowed during The Campaign for Penn. ■

Veterinary School announces Mari Lowe Center for Comparative Oncology

The largest gift ever to the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine has provided the endowment for the School's new Mari Lowe Center for Comparative Oncology. A gift of more than \$4 million was made by the Estate of Elizabeth Lowe, an animal lover from Silver Spring, MD. Ms. Lowe, over the years, had brought several of her dogs to the Veterinary Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania for treatment. She stipulated that the program endowed at the School be named for Mari, her beloved Afghan Hound.

"The Mari Lowe Center for Comparative Oncology will be the first fully endowed center at the School," said former Dean Edwin J. Andrews. "The center will be multidisciplinary and will bridge a number of specialities within the School, such as oncology, radiation oncology, surgery, medicine, and immunology, as well as basic research and will strengthen the School's leadership in small animal oncology."

An important component will be the Mari Lowe Radiation Oncology Facility with a low energy orthovoltage

radiation therapy unit and a megavoltage, high energy linear accelerator which will greatly enhance the ability to treat a variety of tumors in animals.

The Mari Lowe Center for Comparative Oncology will support cancer research in dogs and cats. "The endowment will provide the critical resources to create a national center of excellence to support the research of top veterinary oncologists and their colleagues with overlapping interests in medical genetics, immunology, pathology, molecular biology, toxicology, environmental medicine and other fields," said Andrews.

Dr. Narayan G. Avadhani, Harriet Ellison Woodward Professor of Biochemistry, has been appointed director of the Center and an advisory board has been formed. The members are: Dr. Michael Atehison, assistant professor of biochemistry, Department of Animal Biology; Dr. Ralph L. Brinster, Richard King Mellon Professor of Reproductive Physiology, Department of Animal Biology; Dr. Urs Giger, associate professor of medicine and medical genetics, Department of Clinical Studies,

Philadelphia; Dr. Dean Richardson, Charles W. Raker Assistant Professor of Equine Surgery, Department of Clinical Studies, New Bolton Center; Dr. Michael Goldschmidt, professor of pathology, Department of Pathobiology; Dr. John Glick, professor of medicine, director, Cancer Center, School of Medicine; and Dr. Peter Nowell, Gaylord P. Harnwell Professor of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, School of Medicine.

The first objectives of the Center are:

1. To consolidate the comparative oncology effort in the Department of Clinical Studies, Philadelphia and to supplement it by recruiting an international level oncologist.
2. To stimulate clinical and basic research interest and bring together basic research and clinical scientists.
3. To establish a molecular diagnostic facility for cancer.

The Mari Lowe Center for Comparative Oncology is the first of several endowed centers the School hopes to create in the future in areas such as medical genetics, infectious diseases, equine sports medicine, environmental medicine, and critical care, among others. ■