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A Message From the Dean

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A Message from the Dean

When I went back to my alma mater, Bristol University in England, for my 40th reunion last summer, I couldn't help but reflect on how much clinical veterinary medicine has changed



in the intervening years; the veterinary medicine of today was unimaginable when I graduated in 1962. Every inch of this progress has come from

research, both basic and clinical research; from scientists working at the lab bench on fundamental questions of biology to astute clinicians recognizing patterns of disease among their many cases.

Penn has contributed substantially to these advances and the School continues to lead the profession in research. This was brought home forcefully last month as we had an accreditation site visit from Council on Education of the AVMA and were required to provide outcomes, benchmarks, to measure our progress and achievements. To assess our research productivity, we tallied the numbers of papers published by our faculty in 73 of the most frequently quoted and prestigious scientific journals in the world and compared this with the tally from nine of the other leading veterinary schools in the U.S. As a rule of thumb, the more frequently a journal is quoted, the greater the number of submissions, the better the sci-

ence, and the more difficult it is to have a paper accepted. The results, displayed on this page, reveal that between September, 1992 and September, 2002, our faculty published twice as frequently in the highest impact scientific journals than any of our rivals.

These results are consistent with a previous analysis in which we tallied all of the publications in *Nature* and *Science*, the most respected of scientific journals, from faculty of veterinary schools throughout the world, and compared this with the numbers from faculty at Penn. Between the years 1981 to 1994 there was a total of 117 papers, of which 46, (40%) came from our faculty. The nearest rival was Glasgow University Veterinary School with 5% of the papers.

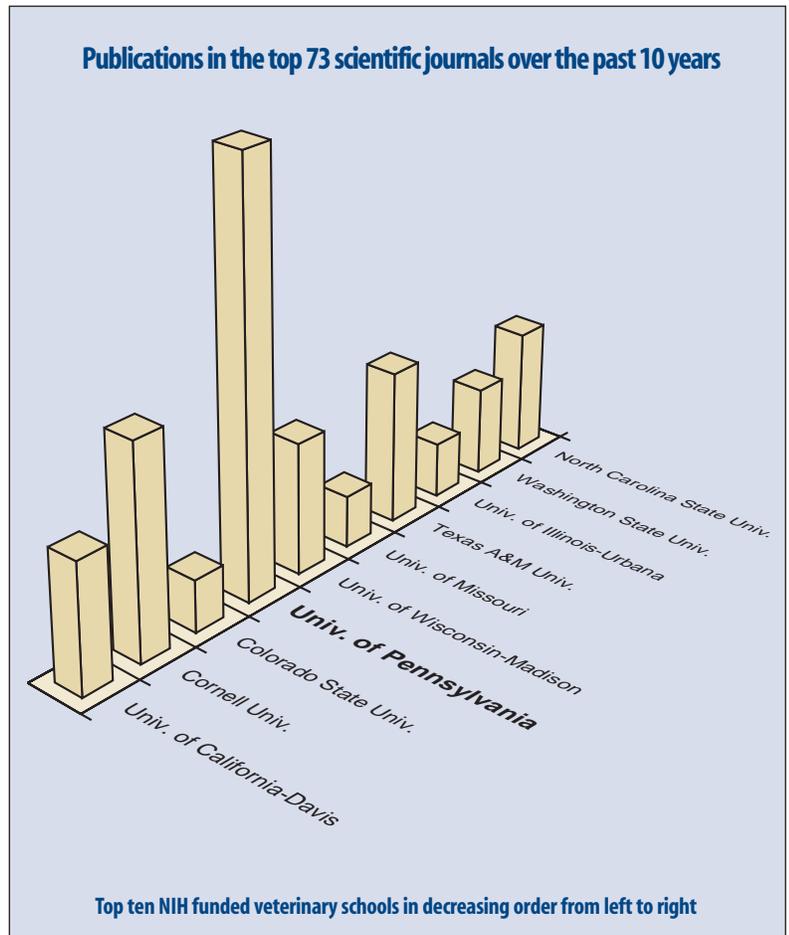
The findings set the School apart from every other veterinary school but they are largely unknown to the

profession for there are few clinicians who have the time or inclination to read journals like *Nature*, *Genetics*, *Cell*, or *Annual Reviews of Immunology*. So this edition of *Bellwether* highlights the School's research program and celebrates its preeminence.

Alan M. Kelly

The Gilbert S. Kahn Dean of Veterinary Medicine

Publications in the top 73 scientific journals over the past 10 years



Top ten NIH funded veterinary schools in decreasing order from left to right

Class of 2006 Alumni Legacy Students

Penn Veterinary Medicine takes pride in the admission of alumni legacy students. They provide a vital link through the generations of the School's alumni. Photographed in Classroom A, clockwise from bottom: Sarah R. Zimmerman, daughter of George F. Zimmerman, V'76, and sister-in-law of Hubert-Jan Karreman, V'95; Anne R. Heskel, daughter of Linda E. Aiken, V'78 and Neil Stuart Heskel, M'78; Holly J. Schroll, daughter of H. James Schroll, V'74, and Jane Sparacino Schroll, V'74; James L. Widmann, son of Raymond J. Widmann, V'52; and Wesley A. Baff, son of Frederic K. Baff, V'63.

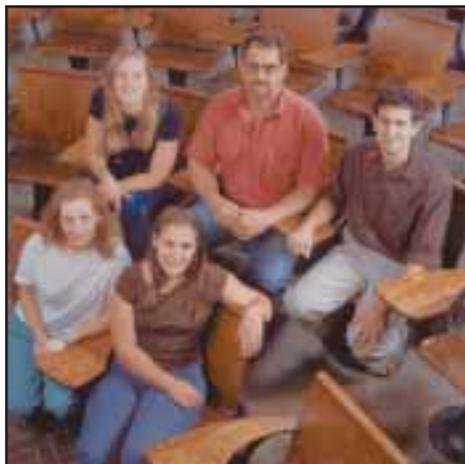


Photo by Addison Geary

In this issue of *Bellwether* we highlight some of the research projects at the School. During the last fiscal year, faculty pursued 134 sponsored research projects and garnered \$22 million in sponsored support from the NIH, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, USDA, and a number of foundations.

As we cannot discuss every research project, we selected a few to illustrate the diversity of the research work by our faculty. This is just a small sample and we hope, in future issues, to bring you more on basic and clinical research projects.