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## University-Wide Honor for Blood Bank Team

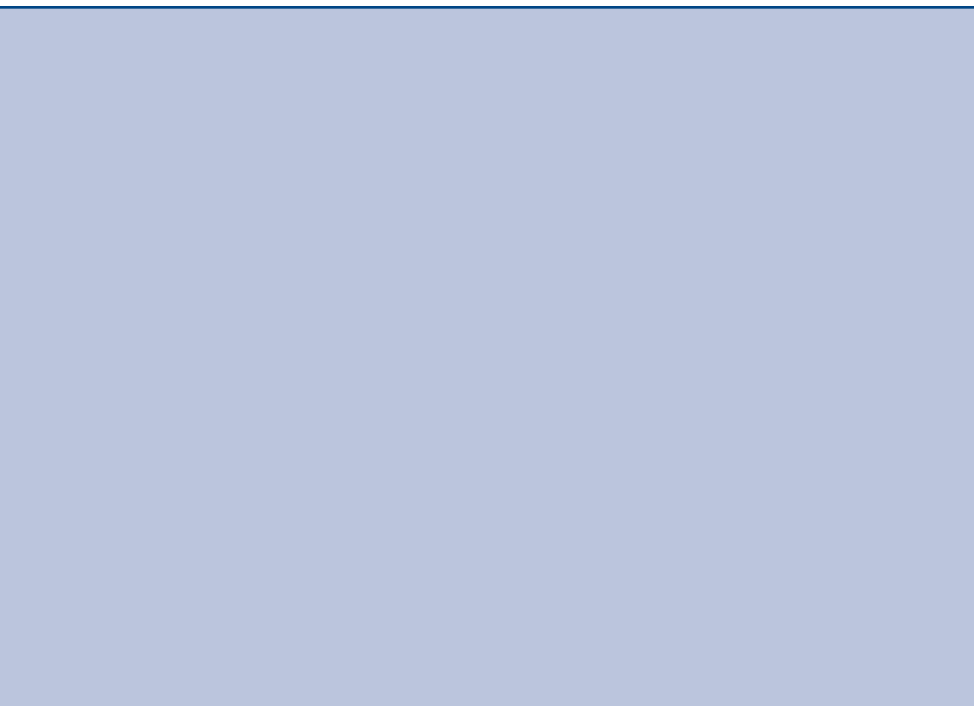
symposium at the Veterinary Orthopaedic Society meeting in March. This meeting was also attended by **Drs. Amy Kapatkin** and **Michelle Powers** who both gave scientific presentations.

**Dr. Robert Eckroade**, associate professor of poultry pathology, has been appointed a member of the organizing committee of XIII Congress of the World Veterinary Poultry Association's Conference scheduled for Denver, Colo. in 2003. He was a member of the organizing committee for 5th International Symposium on Avian Influenza held in Athens, Ga. in April. Dr. Eckroade was appointed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture in December 2001 to a two-year term on its Foreign Animal and Poultry Diseases Advisory Committee. The Committee will advise the USDA on the most effective and efficient disease control plans and policies to effectively prevent the introduction of foreign diseases and eliminate any that should develop in the United States.

**Dr. Jean-Pierre Saint-Jeannet**, assistant professor of developmental biology, received a three-year research grant from the Deafness Research Foundation for a project entitled: "Control of inner ear development by Sox proteins" and a five-year research grant from NIH/NIDCR for a project entitled: "Control of neural crest development in Xenopus"

**Dr. Helen Aceto, V'97**, lecturer in animal health economics, received a grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture to evaluate carcass disposal techniques and their application in emergency management disease control; this is a follow-up on the UK foot and mouth disease crisis. Dr. Aceto was an invited speaker this spring at the annual conference of the Pennsylvania Association for Sustainable Agriculture – "How to Maintain Herd Health and Water Quality, and at both the Western and Eastern Pennsylvania Grazing and Forage Conferences – "Biosecurity on Your Farm."

**Dr. Donald A. Abt, V'61**, Professor Emeritus of Aquatic Animal Medicine, received the first Cape Cod Patricia Lambert Wildlife Veterinarian Award. The award, sponsored jointly by the Humane Society of the United States, the International Fund for Animal Welfare, the Cape Cod Museum of Natural History and the Massachusetts SPCA, was established to honor the memory of Patricia Lambert a Cape Cod resident and wildlife advocate. Dr. Abt was honored and recognized for his 25 years of directing and organizing Aquavet® and for his service to the Cape Cod Stranding Network, of which he is president.



## University-wide Honor for Blood Bank Team

The University of Pennsylvania honored **Donna Oakley**, director of the Penn Animal Blood Bank, **Wendy L. Hatchett** and **Kym Marriott**, technicians in the blood bank, on April 15, 2002 with a Models of Excellence Award for designing and implementing the volunteer canine blood donor program.

More than a decade ago, Donna Oakley, then head nurse, VHUP, developed the concept of volunteer canine blood donors to meet the transfusion needs of the critically ill patients at the hospital. The motto "Pets Helping Pets" was chosen and the program gained the support of many dog clubs, breeders and individuals in the region. They came to VHUP with their dogs for regular donations of blood. Driving to the city was inconvenient for many and Donna developed the concept of a bloodmobile that would go out to groups of donors. Funds were raised from individuals, clubs and the Bernice Barbour Foundation and the bloodmobile became a reality in 1982. Since then it has gone out many times a week to collect blood from dogs

throughout the Delaware Valley and there have been more than 3,000 canine blood donors in the program; currently there are about 1,000 active donors. Donna, with the assistance of Kym and Wendy, has fine-tuned and expanded the program and VHUP can now supply blood and blood products to area veterinarians.

The Penn Animal Blood Bank is unique – it is based on volunteer participation and it comes to the donors with the bloodmobile. This would not be possible without the creativity, hard work and organizational talent of Donna Oakley, Wendy Hatchett and Kym Marriott.

Penn's Models of Excellence Program was established two years ago by the president, provost, and executive vice president. It is designed to support the values of the University, to present models of outstanding staff member practices and achievements for emulation, and to recognize and celebrate outstanding staff member contribution to the University's mission – above and beyond job expectations.