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Penn Vet World Award Winner Dr. Bernard Vallat: Director General of the World Organization for Animal Health

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Penn Vet
World Award Winner
Dr. Bernard Vallat

*Director General of the World
Organization for Animal Health*

\$100,000 Student Inspiration Awards
results inside

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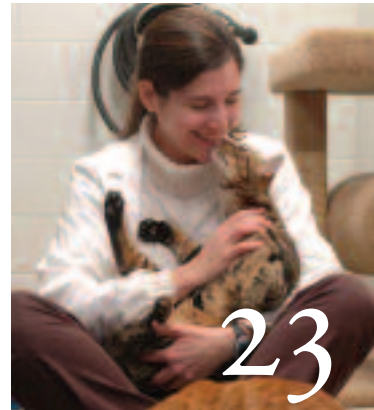
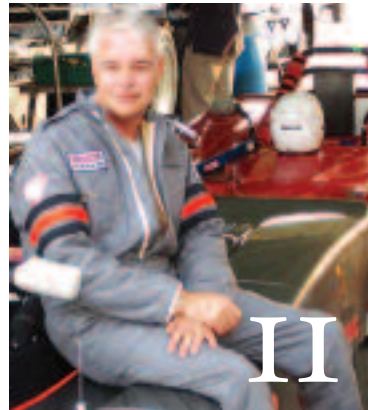
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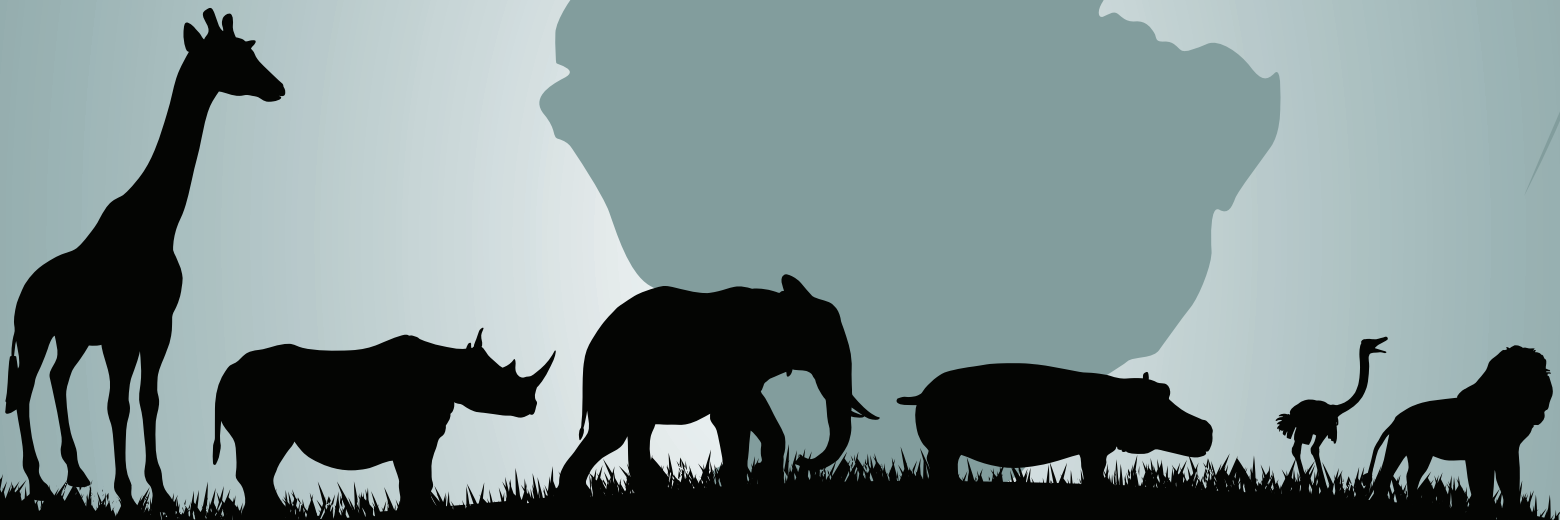
The first winner of the Penn Vet World Awards, Dr. Bernard Vallat, is director general of the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), in Paris. *Photo courtesy of the OIE.*



Dr. Bernard Vallat
selected as First Penn Vet
World Award Winner

*Global Public Good Takes
Center Stage with Announcement*

BY GAIL LUCIANI





Dr. Bernard Vallat. Photo courtesy of the World Organization for Animal Health.

Dr. Bernard Vallat, Director General of the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), has been selected as the first recipient of the Penn Vet World Award. “I can think of no one more appropriate to receive this award,” said **Dr. Joan C. Hendricks**, the Gilbert S. Kahn Dean of Veterinary Medicine. “Dr. Vallat’s vision and leadership have changed the practice and image of the veterinary profession throughout the world.”

As indicated in his nomination, under Dr. Vallat’s leadership, the OIE “has become absolutely central to the development and maintenance of a global perspective on animal health.” Underwritten by the Vernon and Shirley Hill Foundation, the award provides \$100,000 in unrestricted funding to the recipient. The first veterinary medicine award of its kind, this singular award was designed to recognize a veterinarian who has dramatically changed the practice and image of the profession and substantially influenced the lives and careers of others.

“I am particularly honored to be the first person to receive the prestigious Penn Vet World Award, and I am thankful to the Vernon and Shirley Hill Foundation for its tremendous contribution to helping us face the

“Dr. Vallat symbolizes the brilliant leadership we wish to recognize with this award.”

—*Vernon Hill*

about Dr. Vallat

Dr. Bernard Vallat was elected Director General of the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) in May 2000 by the International Committee, which brings together delegates from 172 member countries. His five-year mandate started January 1, 2001, and was renewed for an additional five years in May 2005.

Bernard Vallat graduated from the French National Veterinary School in Toulouse (France) in 1971, qualifying as a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine, and then going on to a postgraduate course in tropical veterinary medicine (1972), and another in animal nutrition at the Institut National Agronomique in Paris (1973). In 1983, he furthered his scientific training with specialist studies in economics and management, obtaining a DESS (diploma in advanced specialist studies) from the University of Paris X.

He has worked on programs devoted to livestock health and production and the training of livestock producers, in addition to supervisory roles at regional and national levels. This experience allowed him to acquire technical skills in the control of epizootics, expertise in the administration and management of public agencies, and experience in the negotiation of technical and financial assistance with international donors.

Bernard Vallat was born in 1947, is married and is the father of three children. He holds several French honorary titles: Chevalier of the French Légion d’Honneur and the Ordre National du Mérite. He is also an Officier du Mérite Agricole.

the jury

Penn Vet World Award Selection Jury

To make the Penn Vet Leadership Award the gold standard for awards in veterinary medicine, the selection process must be wide ranging and beyond reproach, with a jury composed of outstanding scholars and leaders from across the broad field of animal health. Jurors of this caliber will establish the integrity of the award. Members of the 2008 jury included:

Alan M. Kelly, BVSc, MRCVS, PhD, Dean Emeritus of the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine (Committee Chair)

Ed Sayers, President, American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA)

Hilary Koprowski, MD, President, Biotechnology Foundation Laboratories, Inc., Head of the Center for Neurovirology at Thomas Jefferson University; former head of the Wistar Institute

Lonnie King, MScE, DVM, Director of the National Center for Zoonotic, Vector-Borne, and Enteric Diseases, Center for Disease Control, Atlanta, Georgia

Elaine Ostrander, PhD, Chief & Senior Investigator, Cancer Genetics Branch, National Human Genome Research Institute, National Institutes of Health

Greg Hammer, DVM, President, American Veterinary Medical Association

Richard Newpher, Executive Vice President, American Farm Bureau Federation, Washington, DC

Leon Russell, DVM, President, World Veterinary Association

George Gunn, DVSM, MRCVS, Global Head of Novartis Animal Health

exciting challenges of the veterinary profession,” said Dr. Vallat. “The work of the veterinary profession and veterinary services is now recognized as a global public good. Support for them in developing and transitional countries is a priority, not only to promote development around the world, but also to protect the world against the spread and the re-emergence of animal diseases and zoonoses.”

Under Dr. Vallat’s leadership, the OIE has stressed the importance of sharing scientific information, as well as promoting veterinary services and a continued commitment to food safety and animal welfare. By clearly linking human and animal health, Dr. Vallat has emphasized the

positive impact of animal health policies on poverty reduction and public health.

“This is the foremost award in veterinary medicine, designed to encourage and reward ambitious thinking and life-changing accomplishments by veterinarians, while emphasizing the significance of our profession to the health and welfare of society,” said **Dr. Alan M. Kelly**, Dean Emeritus of Penn Vet. “While the selection jury received nominations for many illustrious veterinarians, we as a group are deeply impressed by Dr. Vallat’s leadership and vision of the importance of veterinary medicine to global public health in the 21st century.”

Dr. Vallat’s influence can be seen today in the public health policies of developing countries. For example, Tanzania has a large livestock industry that produces a million metric tons of meat, almost four million tons of milk and more than seven billion eggs per year. The prevalence of animal disease impacts this production; therefore, efforts by the OIE to promote programs aimed at improving veterinary services resulted in improved sanitary conditions and increased competitiveness in the trade of animal products.

“We are pleased to join with the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine to create the premier world award recognizing the outstanding individuals whose achievements have significantly advanced both the veterinary profession and humanity,” said Vernon Hill. “Our first winner, Dr. Vallat, has demonstrated remarkable leadership in advancing the veterinary profession’s role in global public health. Dr. Vallat symbolizes the brilliant leadership we wish to recognize with this award. It is our pleasure to underwrite this prestigious award and recognize the efforts of veterinarians everywhere.”



Shirley and Vernon Hill, with Duffy, at the Penn Vet World and Student Inspiration Awards announcement in April 2007. Photo by John Donges.