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Dean's Message

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Spring is in full cry in Philadelphia and Kennett Square. The grass is growing so fast you can hear it, and the spring sounds—birds, frogs, rain—are a pleasant soundtrack for our days. Penn Vet goes through our own annual cycle of renewal—we look forward to the new senior class entering clinics; we are starting our season of celebratory events, beginning with the second World and Student Inspiration Awards; followed by the teaching awards, alumni day, and graduation, among others.

Spring is also of course the annual time of the Triple Crown, an event that has brought enormous joy and excitement, but has been marred

in recent years by tragedy and speculation about performance-enhancing substances and their impact on equine health. Fortunately, one of Penn Vet's scientists, Dr. Larry Soma, and his collaborators at Pennsylvania's Equine Toxicology Laboratory have developed the premier program for effective testing for artificial substances such as steroids. Quality science, applied wisely, can ensure the integrity of racing and protect its powerful, graceful athletes.



Photo by Lisa Godfrey.

“Putting quality science to work is fundamental to Penn Vet.”

Putting quality science to work is fundamental to Penn Vet. We innovate in our laboratories, our clinicians apply new approaches in our hospitals every day. It sets apart our teaching and curriculum, and it helps us to keep the Commonwealth safe and its farms and food healthy.

Now, more than ever, veterinarians are needed to promote public health and help control zoonotic diseases. We are a unique resource within the health

profession field, because we are the only health professionals trained in comparative medicine. And yet, the shortage of veterinarians has reached a critical stage; at a time when we need even more veterinarians, schools have been negatively impacted by the economy. I encourage you to become involved and to support Penn Vet and all schools of veterinary medicine. Together, we can build a stronger, safer world for animals and people, for every season.

—JOAN C. HENDRICKS, V'79, GR'80
THE GILBERT S. KAHN DEAN OF VETERINARY MEDICINE