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109th Penn Annual Conference

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University of Pennsylvania

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**Surgical Strategies:
Find It and Fix It**

BY COREEN HAGGERTY

Penn Veterinary Medicine hosted its 109th Penn Annual Conference on March 11 through 13, 2009, at the Sheraton City Center Hotel in Philadelphia, offering 16 continuing-education credit hours. The conference celebrated the School's 125th anniversary this year with more than 1,100 colleagues, alumni, friends and clients and more than 85 exhibitors and sponsors at the largest veterinary professional education experience in the region.

The three-day conference began March 11, with more than 40 registrants certified through the pre-conference seminar, PennHIP®. On March 12 and 13, full-conference registrants participated in "Surgical Strategies: Find It and Fix It," which offered 96 general sessions, 10 lunch-with-expert exchanges and one keynote presentation related to companion animal, food animal, equine and veterinary technician education. Session topics included soft tissue and orthopaedic surgery, chronic and acute pain, rehabilitation medicine, special species care, emerging infectious diseases, imaging, and professional issues such as abuse reporting and pet insurance.

Also offered was the inaugural Veterinary Business Management Association event, "Inviting the Elephant in the Room: Creating a Financially Healthy Veterinary Profession"—a roundtable exchange for profession leaders, lawmakers, practitioners and students on the financial crisis facing the veterinary profession.

Alumni and faculty stars were highlighted at the Alumni Awards Celebration and Annual Meeting on Thursday evening, hosted by the Veterinary Medical Alumni Society (VMAS), preceding the annual dean's reception.



Several alumni in reunion classes ending in '3 and '8 received the prestigious Alumni Awards of Merit. These awards are given annually by VMAS for contributions that advance knowledge in biomedicine, promote animal welfare through public education of animal owners and benefit society through civic activities that advance the profession's and the school's good name. This year's Alumni Award of Merit Recipients are **Daniel Flynn, V'58; Daniel Rice III, V'63; George Hartenstein IV, V'68; David Nunamaker, V'68, James Stewart, V'68** and **Susan Emeigh Hart, V'83**.

Outgoing VMAS president **Michael R. Moyer, V'90**, presented two inaugural VMAS President's Awards, which honor individuals providing outstanding service to the school. Awards were presented to **Malcolm Keiter**, associate dean of admissions, and posthumously to **St. George Hunt, V'86**. Suzi Robinovitz, St. George's widow, received the award on his behalf.

The VMAS Excellence in Teaching Award was given to **Dr. Michael Ross**, professor of surgery at New Bolton Center. The recipient, selected by Penn Vet alumni who have graduated within the past ten years, is a faculty member who helps encourage and maintain the high standard of teaching at the school.

Also, by a majority vote of alumni present at the VMAS Awards Celebration and Annual Meeting, the following new VMAS Executive Board members were elected: **Susan Emeigh Hart, V'83; Susan Jacobson, V'77; Eileen Mera, V'86; Dominick Pulice, V'86; William Solomon, V'68; Sheldon Steinberg, V'59; Raymond Stock, V'75, GGS'02; and Jacob Werner, V'00**, to join current members

Heather Berst, V'00; Hank Croft, V'78; Kristin Dance, V'98; Linda Rhodes, V'78; Brenda Stewart, V'70; Robert Stewart, Jr., V'99; and Alexandra Wetherill, V'80. Carla Chieffo, V'86, GR'98, was installed as incoming president, and **Peter Herman, V'69**, was named president-elect. Active past presidents also were recognized for their continuing service: **Eric Bregman, V'95; Jack Bregman, V'66; Michael R. Moyer, V'90; Suzanne Smith, V'82; James V. Stewart, V'68; Robert Stewart, Sr., V'68; and Marilyn Weber, V'75**, and outgoing board members were acknowledged: **Jeleen Briscoe, V'02; Paul Dougherty, V'64; Rob Mankowski, V'04; and Jules Silver, V'47**.

Alumni celebrations continued into Friday, with a young alumni luncheon that boasted more than 150 participants, including the Class of 2009, our newest alumni members. Also on Friday, the annual meeting of the American Museum of Veterinary Medicine attracted more than 20 participants, and other focus-group sessions were held for referring vets and participants in the school's Opportunity Scholarship Program.

If you wish to receive your CE certificate for Penn Annual Conference 2009 or for previous conferences, please send your request with a self-addressed, stamped envelope to: ATTN: Penn Annual Conference, 3800 Spruce Street, Suite 172E, Philadelphia, PA 19014. Contact Coreen Haggerty, director of alumni relations, with inquiries at 215.898.1481 or haggertc@vet.upenn.edu.

Plans are under way for Penn Annual Conference 2010—save the date for March 3–5, 2010! 🍷

