

VMAS Executive Board/Nestlé Purina Happy Hour

A Happy Hour, sponsored by the Veterinary Medical Alumni Society Executive Board and Nestlé Purina, was held in the Rosenthal Student Lounge on September 12, 2003. The Happy Hour gave members of the Executive Board the opportunity to welcome first-year students to Penn, as well as to socialize with their future colleagues from all the classes. Nestlé Purina continued its generous support of students by providing third-year students with free scrub shirts, which were distributed at the Happy Hour.

“Purina is proud to donate these scrub shirts, and to support the Happy Hour the past two years,” said Laura Eirmann, D.V.M., manager of regional veterinary communications, North America, for Nestlé Purina. “Penn Veterinary Medicine students and alumni clearly possess exceptional skills and expertise,” she continued. “While it is apparent they are an outstanding resource to the School, companion and large animal hospitals, and the larger veterinary community, their positive impact also is felt by others outside the university—by both animals and humans alike.”

Emily Jones, V'05, one of Nestlé Purina's student representatives, commented, “Nestlé Purina has been so generous in giving us the scrub shirts and in sponsoring the Happy Hour. On behalf of all the students, we are grateful for their continued support of our activities.”



Jack Bregman, V'66, and Daniel Bleicher, V'53, with students.



Nestlé Purina student representatives Meagan Connolly, V'06, and Emily Jones, V'05.

PennHIP[®] Seminars

PennHIP training seminars will be offered in conjunction with multiple upcoming veterinary annual meetings. The seminar consists of 7 hours of lecture (morning and afternoon) covering the current understanding of canine hip dysplasia with specific emphasis on the science to support the PennHIP radiographic procedure. Ample opportunity will be provided for hands-on practice of the technique through the use of bone and simulated mechanical models. Satisfactory completion of certification exercises will qualify the registrant for membership in the PennHIP network of trained veterinarians. The registration fee includes the cost of the distractor (necessary to perform the procedure), a training video, cost of certification exercises, and the PennHIP Training Manual. Technicians are welcome to accompany you, the veterinarian, for a small fee. A continental

breakfast, coffee breaks and lunch will also be included. Attendees will receive 6 hours of continuing education credit (from the University of Pennsylvania). For more information about the PennHIP program, or for updates on future training seminar dates, please visit the PennHIP website at <www.vet.upenn.edu/pennhip>.

Future seminars:

- Western Veterinary Conference
February 14, 2004, Las Vegas, Nev.
- Penn Annual Conference
March 10, 2004, Philadelphia, Pa.
- American Veterinary Medical Association Annual Convention
July 23, 2004 (tentative date)
Philadelphia, Pa.

Golden Thread

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donor families,” Weiner says. The Weiner family is comforted by knowing that Matt lives on in his many tissue and organ recipients.

Weiner is also working to promote placing automatic external defibrillators (AEDs)—small, user-friendly devices that can be placed over the chest to assess heart rhythm and administer shocks if necessary—in public places. Such a device, which might have saved his son's life were one available, costs \$1,800 each, according to Weiner, and is “inexpensive when you consider what it can do.” Weiner is raising awareness of the importance of budgeting for AEDs by speaking to scouting groups, local sports teams, PTAs, townships, and school boards.

Last June, the Weiner family was instrumental in directing funds raised at the Matt Weiner Swim-a-thon, held at their local swim club, toward the purchase of AEDs for the community. And Tom Weiner has successfully turned heads with the fact that ventricular arrhythmia is a fatal rhythm disturbance that requires swift defibrillation only available through the use of AEDs. The Weiners' school district has purchased 10 AEDs, and Princeton University has bought several.

The “golden thread,” he says, is that two student deaths have been averted by the new AEDs at Princeton. A side benefit of the family's public-interest projects has been to deliver a degree of healing.

“We feel like we weren't done being Matt's parents,” Weiner explains, “but we feel we are continuing our role as his parents through our commitment to obtaining on-site AEDs and our organ-and-tissue donation awareness efforts.”

Moreover, if Weiner's cardiac troponin I study leads to the birth of simple testing for the stealth heart defect that claimed his son's life, individual risk can be assessed and untimely deaths perhaps forestalled.

For more information on organ-and-tissue donation, visit the Coalition on Donation website at <www.shareyourlife.org>.

For more information on automatic external defibrillators and placing them in your community, visit the American Heart Association website at <www.americanheart.org/presenter.jhtml?identifier=3007876>.