

2003 Penn Annual Conference

Not even a snowstorm could prevent the country's oldest continuing education conference for veterinarians and veterinary technicians, the 103rd Penn Annual Conference, held on January 29-30, 2003, at the Adam's Mark Hotel in Philadelphia, from attracting 650 veterinarians and 160 veterinary technicians. In addition, more than 375 of the School's faculty, staff, and fourth-year students attended.

Internationally recognized speakers addressed a wide range of topics to veterinarians in the Companion Animal, Equine, and Food Animal sessions. Some of the areas covered this year in the companion animal medicine seminars included immunology, diabetes mellitus, reproduction, dermatology, and avian and reptile critical care. Large animal practitioners chose from several topics that included equine conditions of the small intestine causing colic, agroterrorism, and field application of CPM-Dairy. Companion animal technicians had a specialized two-day seminar that covered systemic inflammatory response syndrome, drug-nutrient interactions in enterally fed patients, and preanesthesia nursing management. Many sessions were standing room only.

The first day concluded with a well-attended Dean's Reception hosted by Dean Alan Kelly.



Dr. David K. Detweiler, V'42, Dr. Ralph L. Brinster, V'60, Dr. Robert R. Marshak.



Fourth-Year Students



Educational Session

The Office of Development and Alumni Relations hosted two filled-to-capacity alumni and donor appreciation events: the Rush Shippen



Exhibit Hall

Huidekoper Society Breakfast and a Pacesetter and Class Agent Luncheon.

The Conference gratefully acknowledged the financial support of educational program sponsors, DVM Pharmaceuticals, Hill's, Iams, Nestlé Purina, and Schering-Plough. The School also sincerely thanked the patron exhibitors and standard exhibitors who financially supported the Conference by selling out the main exhibit hall and a newly-added second exhibit hall that accommodated a waiting list of exhibitors.

New Bolton's Radiology Goes Digital

New Bolton Center's radiology suite has a new look. Instead of prominent view boxes there are large computer monitors. In the big room where the radiographs are taken, a small cabinet with a computer on top sits to the side. It contains a rectangular piece, 9 by 11 inches, that is tethered to the computer. This flat-panel digital detector replaces the traditional film. The new equipment was made possible by a \$500,000 bequest from the Estate of Elizabeth Ernst Fosbinder, wife of the late Dr. Russell J. Fosbinder.

When an animal is x-rayed, the detector is placed where the film cassette would have been, the head of the x-ray equipment is positioned and then turned on. The detector generates the image from the radiation received. The image is transmitted to the computer where it is stored. It can be viewed almost instantaneously (within about 3.5 seconds). There is no more waiting for the film to be developed, no more clustering around view boxes, as the image can be called up on any computer in the radiology suite and by any clinician in an office.

Images are stored on a special secure server

and are backed up automatically. Students are trained in the interpretation of digital radiographs as well as traditional films. This new equipment expands diagnostic and teaching modalities at New Bolton.

"The DR system is particularly useful for assuring that the positioning of a radiograph is appropriate. It has greatly reduced the number of times horses need to be re-sedated if a view might need to be repeated. Digital radiographs are also rarely overexposed or underexposed which also largely eliminates the need to repeat views. The ability to review radiographs immediately by double clicking on a name rather than pulling numerous films out of a folder has been wonderful," says **Dr. Alexia McKnight**, lecturer in radiology at New Bolton Center.

At this time, the detector is only large enough for imaging of limbs. Radiologists are hoping to acquire a larger detector so that digital radiographs can be taken of skulls and other large body parts, but this equipment is extremely expensive and such a plate, at this time, is not yet available.

SAVE THE DATE

The **104th Penn Annual Conference** is scheduled for March 11-12, 2004 at the Adam's Mark Hotel in Philadelphia. Please bookmark the web site, <<http://alumni.vet.upenn.edu/pennannualconference.htm>>, and check your mail in the winter for the 2004 Penn Annual Conference brochure.