

## 2003 Highlights

### Student Program Enhancements

- **Increased Class Size** – Added 14 students with an interest in food animal production and public health to the 2003 entering class.
- **Behavioral Interview** - Implemented a structured behavioral interview to better select applicants to the D.V.M. program. The interview guide was created using the success competencies determined by a national study of successful veterinarians.
- **DVM/MPH Program** – Expanded combined program from 3 students in its introductory year to over 23 students in the second year.
- **VetFAST** – Established an early-decision program to encourage students to consider a career in food animal medicine and attract pre-veterinary students to the College of Agricultural, Food, and Environmental Sciences. Two students have been admitted to VetFAST and more applications are expected in 2004.

### Disease Testing, Prevention, and Diagnosis

- **CDC Response Network** – The Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (VDL) became a full member of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Laboratory response network.
- **Monkeypox** - VDL was designated as the national monkeypox testing site by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
- **Johne's** - VDL developed and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) licensed a new, high throughput, lower-cost, DNA-based test for direct detection of *Mycobacterium paratuberculosis* in cattle.
- **Recombinant-DNA Vaccine** - The Raptor Center (TRC), in collaboration with the University of Georgia and Louisiana State University, began an effort to test and license a recombinant-DNA vaccine product developed for raptors by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
- **Chronic Wasting Disease** - VDL provided chronic wasting disease testing on approximately 10,000 white-tailed deer in collaboration with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. More than 70 students assisted as part of a rapid response team to collect samples of brain tissue from hunter-harvested deer.
- **New Software** - VDL developed and licensed a software laboratory information system, which serves as an early warning system for foreign and emerging disease. Currently it connects the VDL with the Minnesota Department of Health and Minnesota Board of Animal Health.
- **Avian Pneumovirus** – Faculty-developed vaccine was licensed for use by the USDA.

### Research Accolades

- **NIH Grant** - The college was awarded a \$1 million, five-year training grant in Comparative Medicine and Pathology from the National Institutes of Health (NIH). The grant will allow faculty to provide research opportunities for veterinarians enrolled in its Molecular Biosciences Graduate Program.
- **Turkey Genome** - Researcher Kent Reed, Ph.D., created a first-generation map of the domestic turkey genome.

### Service to Community

- **Name Change** - The Veterinary Teaching Hospital changed its name to the University of Minnesota Veterinary Medical Center (VMC). The new name better represents the VMC's sophisticated diagnostic capabilities and innovative patient services.
- **Off-Site Service** – The Veterinary Medical Center started offering off-site surgical services at a southern metropolitan clinic to meet the needs of the community and expand its surgical services.
- **Social Services** - VMC is partnering with the School of Social Work to provide a part-time social services intern who assists clinicians, staff, and students with delivering difficult news to clients and helps clients cope with loss of companion animals.
- **Departmental Merger** – The Veterinary Diagnostic Medicine and Clinical and Population Sciences Departments were merged to enhance collaborations between population medicine faculty and diagnostic medicine faculty. The new name of the department is the Veterinary Population Medicine Department. The two remaining departments were renamed to better reflect their roles. The Veterinary PathoBiology Department was renamed Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences and the Small Animal Clinical Sciences Department was renamed Veterinary Clinical Sciences.
- **Laboratory Space** – The state legislature awarded the VDL \$1.5 in funds to renovate laboratory space to enhance high-tech molecular diagnostic testing.
- **Remains Disposal** - Installation and implementation of this new chemical cremation system will occur in 2004.

### Other

- **Vet School for VIPs** - CVM held its first Vet School for VIPs program, a half-day, interactive event that highlighted the college's teaching, research, and outreach activities. The program attracted 14 Minnesota legislators and aides.
- **Equine Center** – The CVM raised nearly \$3 million in support of a new state-of-the-art facility and program to meet the needs of horse owners and developed an equine undergraduate program in conjunction with Animal Sciences.
- **Health Foods/Health People** – The College was chosen to participate in one of eight presidential initiatives at the University.

- **Reorganized CVM Communications** – The CVM restructured its communications efforts, developing an integrated model.
- **National Geographic** – The Raptor Center’s work with West Nile virus was the focus of a segment of a National Geographic “Ultimate Explorer” program.