

Foreword

In October 2003, a small meeting on the topic of nosocomial infection and biosecurity in equine hospitals was held in Lexington, Kentucky. Representing one of the first organized meetings on the subject, a wide range of topics of relevance to equine hospital infection control was discussed. Most of the articles in this issue of the *Veterinary Clinics of North America: Equine Practice* are derived from topics discussed at this meeting, which was conducted by the Dorothy Russell Havemeyer Foundation, Inc. This workshop represented the beginning of an organized effort to push infection control to the forefront of veterinary medicine and led to the creation of the Veterinary Infection Control Society.

The Dorothy Russell Havemeyer Foundation, Inc., was founded in December 1979 by Dorothy Russell Havemeyer McConville. It was created as an operating foundation, having as its sole purpose the improvement of equine health through research and education. In its early years, the Foundation established a reputation for “cutting edge” scientific workshops. The workshops were attended by a small number of invited participants who shared their knowledge, thoughts, and ideas in an informal atmosphere. A bequest under Mrs. McConville’s will insured the Foundation’s future and allowed an expansion of its activities.

At this time the Foundation is playing an important role in the equine genome project and the development of the genetic map. It is a participant in the annual US Department of Agriculture International Plant and Animal Genome Conference and is involved in studies of equine neonatology including septicemia, placentitis, and behavioral problems.

Each year the Foundation conducts a number of workshops. During 2003, seven workshops were held: Embryonic and Fetal Nutrition; Genomic Applications to the Equine Immunity System; Idiopathic Laryngeal Hemiplegia; European Gametes III; Nosocomial Infections and Biosecurity in Equine Hospitals; Transporting Gametes and Embryos; and the 5th International Equine Gene Mapping Workshop. Results of its programs have been widely published.

The Monograph Series is a recent addition to the Foundation’s activities. If workshop organizers elect to do so, expanded abstracts of proceedings are published in a single volume. The Foundation’s Web site (www.havemeyerfoundation.org) is its most recent effort toward the advancement of equine health. The 10 monographs that have been published to date are

available on the Web site, as are a history of the Foundation, the many workshops that have been conducted over the years, and a calendar of events.

Two equine facilities have been dedicated to Mrs. McConville. The Dorothy Russell Havemeyer McConville Barn at Cornell University is home to The Equine Genetics Center, which is presently the focus of the Foundation's research activities at Cornell University. The second facility, known as The Dorothy Russell Havemeyer Barn, is located at the New Bolton Center of the University of Pennsylvania, School of Veterinary Medicine, and houses the Foundation's study on behavior.

At the present time, there is a group of principal investigators under retainer to the Foundation. They are Doug Antczak, DVM, PhD, Director of the James A. Baker Institute for Animal Health at Cornell; Sue McDonnell, PhD, Director of the Behavior Laboratory at the University of Pennsylvania, School of Veterinary Medicine; Mary Rose Paradis, DVM, MS, Tufts University, School of Veterinary Medicine; Professor W.R. (Twink) Allen, Cambridge University, School of Veterinary Medicine and Thoroughbred Breeders Association, Equine Fertility Unit, Newmarket, England; and Michelle LeBlanc, DVM, Rood and Riddle, Lexington, Kentucky.

To encourage young scientists to remain active in research, the Foundation has maintained a variety of fellowship programs over the years. The first and most enduring is the Summer Fellow Program. This program allows for a principal investigator to select two first- or second-year veterinary students and have them work on the principal investigator's project during summer break. This program allows for intense exposure to research and the satisfaction of assisting in the study of equine health. The Foundation takes pride in its research activities and various programs.

We hope that this issue of the *Veterinary Clinics of North America: Equine Practice* highlights the important issues of infection control and provides the reader with advice, recommendations, and practical information to combat this increasing problem.

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