Improving the Health & Safety of Our Poultry

Americans buy more chicken and poultry products than any other food at the center of the plate. Chicken consumption has increased nearly every year since the mid-1960s, and per capita egg consumption is projected to reach 260 eggs next year. In a state known for its huge agricultural economy, the California poultry industry has an enormous impact with sales in excess of $1.5 billion annually, making it one of the state’s agricultural leaders. As a result, our personal health and welfare is critically tied to the health of our poultry industry.

For nearly 30 years, the California Animal Health and Food Safety Laboratory System (CAHFS), UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine, has been a leading institution in identifying and diagnosing disease problems in poultry. Dr. Arthur (Art) Bickford has been at the forefront of this effort through a storied career, officially retiring in 2001 as the Associate Director of CAHFS and former Chief of the Turlock Laboratory. Through his leadership and passion, Dr. Bickford was instrumental in establishing the Avian Residency Program within CAHFS. He demonstrated that diagnostic laboratory medicine is an excellent venue for residency training in that it provides:

- Access and interchange with poultry producers, company veterinarians, private practitioners and allied industry
- Experience in necropsy technique, including applicable follow-up testing technologies to confirm the diagnosis
- As case findings require, experience in maintaining contact with state and federal regulatory veterinarians
- Emphasis on the importance of timely and complete reports to clients/producers
- Exposure to a wide variety of avian species in addition to traditional poultry species
- Opportunities through local, regional and national meetings, to share case reports and project results with fellow residents, the poultry industry and the veterinary profession.
This two-year residency program, one of the finest and most unique in the country, trains veterinarians to be able to:

- Assume leadership in solving the problems of tomorrow related to avian health and food safety
- Provide diagnostic services to support government, industry, and academia with avian health issues
- Understand diagnostics, epidemiology, clinical management and prevention of economically important diseases in domestic avian species
- Provide experience in designing, implementing and reporting field trials related to avian diseases and their management
- Provide experience in teaching clinical avian diagnostics and medicine to others.

ENSURING THE FUTURE OF AVIAN HEALTH

To ensure the future of this critical residency program at the California Animal Health and Food Safety Laboratory System, the Arthur A. Bickford Avian Residency Program Endowment Fund was established to provide permanent and ongoing support to the next generation of veterinary diagnosticians who will be the leaders of tomorrow in avian health.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Help us ensure the continuation of this important program by contributing to the Arthur A. Bickford Endowed Avian Residency Program today. Your tax-deductible gift will help train the veterinarians who will work to ensure the health of our flocks and safety of our poultry products for today and in the years ahead.

To make a gift online, please visit [www.vetmed.ucdavis.edu/go/students](http://www.vetmed.ucdavis.edu/go/students). For more information, please contact our Office of Development at (530) 752-7024.