



Accreditation Review Calls for Improved School Facilities and Finances

The AVMA Council on Education periodically conducts accreditation site visits to veterinary institutions to assure that accredited schools meet established standards for a quality veterinary education.

After reviewing UC Davis in February 1998, the council found that the School of Veterinary Medicine meets or exceeds nine of eleven essential requirements for accreditation—faculty, research, curriculum, clinical resources, library resources, students, admissions, continuing education, and organization—and shows outstanding performance in

curriculum, research, and continuing education. The school was judged deficient in two areas—finances and physical facilities. The council recommended that, while concerns are addressed, UC Davis be given limited accreditation with a review in two years.

Finances for instruction were severely compromised during the state budget crisis. In the early 1990s, the school lost 20–25 percent of its publicly funded budget. The council's financial concerns relate to 15 faculty positions that were lost and remain unfilled due to continued budgetary constraints.

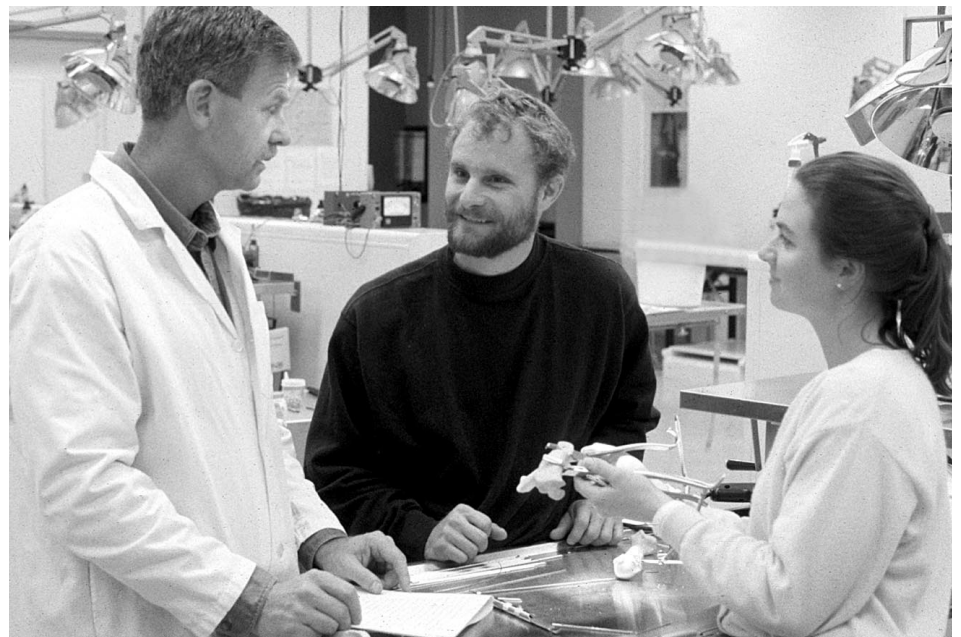
Facilities concerns largely relate to the aging and inadequate space of 50-year-old Haring Hall and the scattering of

veterinary programs to more than 40 locations across the UC Davis campus. Proposed remedies for these problems have been under discussion for more than two decades, but providing bricks and mortar for veterinary medicine receded into the background during the past several years while the university focused on other needs.

An appeal to the threat of limited accreditation has been filed on the grounds that despite deficiencies, the school successfully meets program objectives, educational quality is not compromised and research continues to advance. The final outcome of the appeal process will be decided at the council's November meeting.

Despite financial cutbacks and aging facilities, UC Davis is still a nationally accredited veterinary school—all programs remain fully functional.

DVM students initially work with plastic bone models as they develop expertise in orthopedic surgery. Their laboratory is taught in Haring Hall, the original school structure built in 1948, intended for a class size of 50 students. Classrooms and laboratories must now accommodate 122 students per class. Improvements have been made over the years, but the building has reached its limit for remodeling to serve modern teaching and research needs.



Striking a Balance: Building New Partnerships to Advance Programs in Veterinary Education

The school has already begun several initiatives to achieve long-term financial health that will not depend entirely on public funding.

Efforts are underway to continue building partnerships between the school and public agencies, agribusiness, legislators, veterinarians, animal lovers and consumers in order to meet California's needs.

Capital Campaign Aims for Private Support

In August the dean publicly launched a 50th Anniversary Campaign for new sources of private funding that are critical to provide adequate physical facilities and meet California's growing need for veterinarians.

"We are seeking \$50 million in private support that is necessary to augment public funding to educate future veterinarians," says Dean Osburn. "Financial objectives include funding for endowments to provide perpetual support for veterinary student scholarships, graduate student fellowships, faculty positions and research programs."



The Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital (VMTH), now 28 years old, launched the concept of specialization in veterinary medicine. The VMTH now serves in one month the number of patients originally seen in a year.

The campaign is the first of several phases in development of "Vet Med III," a new building project that will house much-needed classrooms and laboratory teaching facilities. Currently, such a building project requires

Achievement of long-term school objectives in teaching, research and public service requires a partnership between public and private supporters.

private contributions to leverage a percentage of construction costs from public sources.

One component of the capital campaign will provide funding for construction of clinical, research laboratory and office space at the Center for Companion Animal Health. These improvements will enhance faculty support, veterinary care services and research programs.

The school has already received several large contributions, primarily from individual donors. The dean says, "We are fortunate to have many friends, including many individual animal lovers. With the help of agricultural organizations, charitable foundations, animal-related businesses, and our own graduates and faculty, we hope to reach our goal in time for the 50th reunion of the first graduating class in 2002."

In addition to being the most ambitious fund-raising venture in the history of UC Davis, the 50th Anniversary Campaign will raise awareness about animal health care, wildlife science, human health issues, biotechnology advances and other responsibilities within the broad scope of veterinary medicine.

"We need to ensure affordable education for future veterinarians and scientific breakthroughs to serve a global society," says Dean Osburn. "We hope that people, by responding to our



The VMTH responds to increasing needs through creation of residency programs and services such as the Behavior Service, Equine Neonatal Intensive Care Unit and Dentistry Service.

appeal, will acknowledge that animals touch all our lives."

"We need to reinvest to ensure that facilities and faculty numbers keep pace with the quality and diversity of school programs."

—Dean Bennie Osburn

Public Support

The state government has recently approved a \$2.5 million annual budget augmentation.

These funds will expand specialty residencies, create programs in Southern California to better serve the entire state, and increase class size to begin to address the shortage of veterinarians in the state.

Efforts continue on these and other initiatives in private-sector funding and public budgeting to ensure that facilities and faculty numbers keep pace with the quality and diversity of school programs.

A Wise Investment in a Vital Profession

Veterinary medicine serves the health and well-being not only of animals, but also of people and the environment.

Below are many examples of how the veterinary profession and the school's teaching, research and public service programs have become increasingly important, both locally and globally:

The veterinary profession and UC Davis deliver many direct services to Californians:

- Thirty-three million Californians have access to outstanding animal care services at local animal clinics all across the state.
- The school's Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital provides referral services to veterinarians and serves more than 30,000 large and small animals each year.
- Livestock, horses, wildlife, zoo animals and companion animals in California and elsewhere benefit from the latest discoveries in animal health.
- Technology transfer and practical information on animal vaccines, treatments and disease prevention strategies reach the agricultural community through a network of faculty and staff throughout the state.
- Veterinary professionals hire UC Davis students—the school's DVM placement rate is 100 percent—who consistently score above the national average on certification exams.
- Graduates bring to their jobs the latest diagnostic, treatment and prevention techniques.

The 50th Anniversary Campaign offers opportunities to inform Californians about the broad scope of veterinary medicine and health issues.

- Students receive one of the most affordable research-based veterinary educations available today. While the DVM is the primary degree offered by the school, graduates may undertake advanced degrees (Master of Preventive Veterinary Medicine, MS and PhD) or focus on training in more than twenty disciplines in the largest and most diverse residency program in the world.

- Practitioners have access to comprehensive continuing education in order to help them keep pace with rapidly changing knowledge.

- Federal and regional food, drug, agricultural and environmental agencies utilize the scientific information generated by veterinary research at UC Davis.

- Biotechnology firms call upon specialists in veterinary research to carry out clinical safety trials, make advances in genetic therapies, and provide the basic scientific underpinning for applied research.

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UC Davis is the only public school of veterinary medicine in this huge state—California's \$6.2 billion food animal products economy ranks among the top ten countries in the world.

Be an Ambassador for Support of California Veterinary Education!

After news about our accreditation status broke, we received many calls expressing concern and a desire to help the School of Veterinary Medicine meet current challenges.

Here are some suggestions:

1. Contact your legislators. Tell them you want their support for public veterinary education at the University of California. *Phone numbers for your state senator and assembly member can be found in the state government section of your telephone book.*
2. Tell people about the incredible breadth of veterinary medicine and how the profession serves all Californians: animal lovers, consumers of food animal products, public health officials, wildlife stewards, food safety agencies, and others. *Several examples are included on pages 3 and 4.*
3. Visit the school Web site, <http://www.vetmed.ucdavis.edu>, for more information regarding school programs.
4. Share this edition of *Veterinary Medicine News* with friends and ask them to pass it on. Call (530) 752-1524 and we'll gladly send you additional copies. *Veterinary Medicine News* is also available on the World Wide Web at the URL above.
5. Learn more about the 50th Anniversary Campaign to underwrite excellence in veterinary education. Contact the Office of Development at (530) 752-7024.

Thank you for your ongoing support!

A Wise Investment in a Vital Profession

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- Everyone receives the dividends of research dedicated to managing and curing diseases that afflict animals and humans.

UC Davis serves the health of all California food animals, horses, companion animals, wildlife and our environment:

- The 21-facility *Oiled Wildlife Care Network* provides for rescue and rehabilitation of marine animals and birds affected by oil spill events along the California coastline.

- The *Fish Health Service* conducts studies for the California Department of Fish and Game to protect state fisheries and wild fish species, especially trout and salmon.

In 1997, UC Davis was rated the No. 1 institution of veterinary medicine by US News & World Report.

- In 1997, the five laboratories of the *California Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory System*, in cooperation with the California Department of Food and Agriculture, conducted 1.8 million tests on cattle, poultry and other food animals to ensure food safety, control of zoonotic diseases and preservation of animal well-being.

- UC Davis educates more graduate students in a greater number of biomedical fields than any other veterinary school.

“With a public and private support base, the school can overcome concerns regarding finances and facilities, and meet California’s need for veterinary medicine in the 21st century.”

—Dean Bennie Osburn

- Twenty percent of the nation’s board-certified veterinary pathologists have been educated at UC Davis.

- Use of the J-5 vaccine against *E. coli*, developed by faculty researchers of the *Dairy Food Safety Laboratory*, saves California dairy producers an estimated \$11–24 million each year.

- The *Aquatic Toxicology Laboratory* analyzes water samples for state and regional water agencies and collects data on how chemicals affect the growth and development of various organisms that live in our waterways.

- *Veterinary Medicine Extension* serves all 58 counties by linking veterinary researchers with county farm advisors, practicing veterinarians, animal producers and consumers. Extension specialists provide teaching, research and service programs on disease prevention, production quality control, biotechnology, food safety and animal well-being.

The UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine is focusing on these increasingly important areas:

- Comparative medical research to find causes and cures for animal and human diseases.

- Food animal productivity and the well-being of livestock and poultry.

- Animal well-being—care for companion, show, service, and competitive animals; the human-animal bond.

- Public health—inspection of food products, on-farm food safety, and protection from zoonotic diseases.

- Wildlife and environmental health—animal conservation and preservation of animal biodiversity.

- Global trade—protection of animals from emerging and foreign animal diseases.

- Animal alternatives in teaching and research.



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