



Veterinary Viewpoints

The New York State College of Veterinary Medicine at Cornell University

Number One

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MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

You are holding the first edition of *Veterinary Viewpoints*, an effort to improve understanding and communication between the College and its alumni and many friends. For some 45 years the annual Christmas letter has served this purpose well but we now need to develop means whereby the activities and concerns of the College can be brought to you with greater frequency and in more detail. As I indicated in my last letter, there are many topics I would like to discuss with you but I do not want this to be a one way exchange. Several of you have already taken the time to let us know what you think about our plans, our problems and our decisions. This response provides a further indication that you are interested in and concerned about the affairs of the College. I again ask that you let me know what you want to hear about, what you like as well as when you disagree. The purpose of this column is to provide interchange of thoughts and opinions in both directions.

For this first issue of *Veterinary Viewpoints* we have chosen three topics. Our admissions policies and procedures are of tremendous concern to us as well as to those who have children, relatives or friends seeking admission to the College. When faced with the reality of denying admission to 90% of the New York applicants and to an even higher percentage of out-of-state applicants this past year we must respond to these concerns.

You will also find a message from Ned Trethaway, Director of the newly established Office of Public Affairs, which deals with public relations, development, and alumni affairs. Such a program has been long overdue. We must rely increasingly upon assistance from alumni, friends, corporations and foundations if we are to remain in the forefront of veterinary medicine. The public sector simply has too many demands and can no longer meet all our needs in education, research and service. The University has embarked on a major fund-raising effort of which the Veterinary College is a part. We are greatly excited about this new program and will keep you informed of its progress.

Lastly, we will explain some of our current thinking about future directions of the College and the idea of pooling resources with similar institutions to improve veterinary medical education, research and service for the entire Northeast.

We live in exciting times, times requiring us all to be ready to adapt and change. Traditional approaches may not be adequate to meet future needs. Yet, we must be careful not to "throw out the baby with the wash water"; change for change's sake has often proven to be a disastrous course to follow. We intend to proceed with caution yet flexibility. As planning proceeds we will keep you informed.



Edward C. Melby, Jr.

Shared Resources: Response to the Needs of the Times

In his annual letter, Dean Melby described the cooperative programs being established between the school of Veterinary Medicine of the University of Pennsylvania and the College of Veterinary Medicine at Cornell. These programs are important steps taken to enable the educational, research, and service programs of the College to take advantage of many of the resources available throughout the Northeast. Veterinary Medicine is a profession that is becoming increasingly complex and multifaceted. The general public equates it with practitioners involved with food animal production, equine medicine, and companion animal practice. It is true that these were the primary concerns in the past. Although these endeavors still constitute a large part of the total veterinary effort, more and more men and women trained in veterinary medicine are being called upon to meet other societal needs. They work in comparative medicine, public health, biomedical research and teaching, environmental quality control, to name just a few. The public must be made aware of these wider areas of activity and professional responsibility if it is to understand and support veterinary medical education, research and service. At the two institutions in the Northeast providing instruction in veterinary medicine, there has been greatly increased pressure to provide more opportunity for young men and women to enter the profession through the expansion of teaching facilities. This pressure brings with it a second, related

challenge: to make sure that the resources in the region are used to their greatest and best capacity. At the present time, the College of Veterinary Medicine at Cornell is approved and funded by the State University of New York (SUNY) and Cornell University to accept 65 students in each class. Under federal capitation funds, a total of 72 students were admitted into the entering class of 1974. The number of applications received from highly qualified young men and women has been increasing dramatically every year, and the College now accepts about 10 percent of its in-state applicants and an even lower proportion of those from out-of-state. The *Chronicle of Higher Education* recently reported that only 12.7 percent of all veterinary medicine applicants on a nationwide basis are admitted.

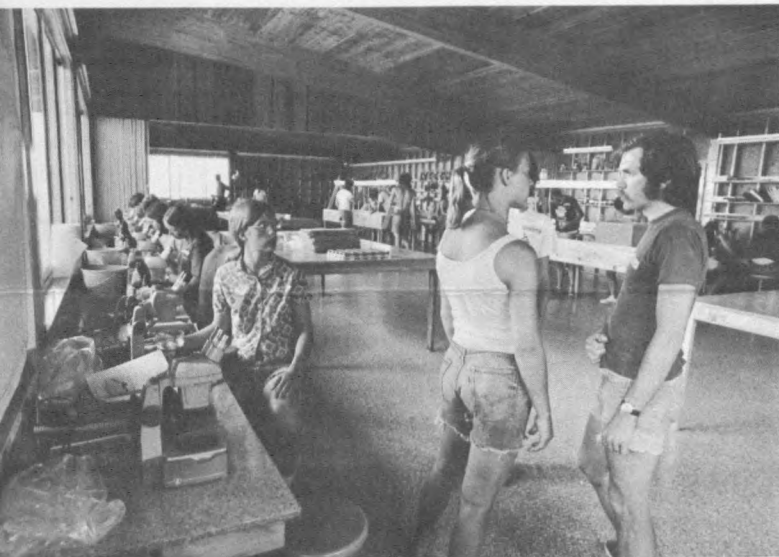
It is true that there is no direct correlation between desire and actual need, but resolutions passed by the New York State Veterinary Medical Society and the Advisory Council to the College state that a larger number of veterinarians should be provided to meet societal needs.

One possible solution, of course, is to create additional institutions. A recent study carried out under the auspices of the New England Board of Higher Education estimated that a new school for New England would cost upwards of \$60 million to build and start. Under present economic conditions, this fact indicates that a preferable solution is to make fuller use of the resources already existing.

Outstanding Opportunities in the Northeast

Viewed in this light, the Northeast section of this country represents a unique educational, intellectual, and agricultural resource within the United States. Cornell shares many similar strengths with the University of Pennsylvania. Our animal populations, husbandry practices, and career opportunities are almost identical. Over the past several months discussions have been held between the two institutions to assess the possibility of combining resources to meet the regional needs of veterinary medicine while at the same time strengthening the educational programs at both institutions. Administration and faculty from both are seriously exploring arrangements that would facilitate closer cooperation in areas of continuing education, clinical services, diagnostic and consultative services, internship and residency programs, technician training, research and public health training and services. Meanwhile, the New England States and New Jersey have shown keen interest in developing individual or collective contracts to expand opportunities for their students in veterinary medicine. Five of the six New England States have now signed contracts with the University of Pennsylvania to provide spaces for students. These contracts are based upon a total recovery of cost plus prorated amortization of capital facilities. The selection of students remains the prerogative of the school, assuring complete freedom to accept only the best applicants.

Similar contracts with Cornell are a matter of great interest. The primary need in New York State, however, is to expand opportunities for admission to Cornell for state residents and to improve the quality of their education.



Marine biology students from several colleges and universities share the new Palmer-Kinney Laboratory on Appledore Island, Isles of Shoals.

There are extraordinary opportunities for resource-sharing throughout the Northeast. Students could spend elective time at the Angell Memorial Animal Hospital in Boston, the University of Massachusetts, the University of Connecticut or other institutions where specialized programs are available.

Additional resources could be developed as we proceed with our core/elective programs, providing diversity that could never be available at any one location. These might include the Jackson Memorial Laboratories at Bar Harbor, Maine; the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute; the New England Regional Primate Research Center, Harvard; the Worcester Institute for Experimental Biology; and the Shoals Marine Laboratory at Portsmouth, N.H., as well as others offering specialized opportunities. In addition, well-established general or specialized practices offer the possibility of providing meaningful outlets for student training.

Contemporary veterinary medical education demands this type of flexibility. Regional cooperative programs would provide benefits for the residents of New York State. Such an approach would offer significant advantages to this College by cutting operating costs, enhancing educational opportunities and improving service to the public.

In this course of trial and exploration, much remains to be done. Cooperative agreements must be reached and additional changes made in our core/elective programs. Among these changes is consideration of year-round training in the fourth and possibly in the third year of professional education. It is imperative to remember, however, that the faculty of this College is responsible for recommending the degree of Doctor of Veterinary Medicine upon the completion of the professional curriculum. Adequate controls must be developed to assure that experiences gained outside of Cornell add significantly to the education of our students.

Why should a statutory college seek your support?

To understand the need for private support in Cornell University's College of Veterinary Medicine it is necessary to reflect on its history as well as its present financial circumstances. First, let us look back. For the first 25 years of its existence, veterinary medicine at Cornell derived no support of any kind from the State.

Dr. James Law, a Scottish veterinarian, described in Morris Bishop's *History of Cornell* as "the efficient first cause of Cornell's Veterinary College," occupied its chair of Veterinary Medicine, the first to exist in the United States. One of his first students was Daniel E. Salmon, who was granted the degree of Bachelor of Veterinary Science in 1872.



Daniel E. Salmon, D.V.M.

Courtesy, Parke, Davis & Company

Salmon began his practice and satisfied his academic requirements through active research on the problems of animal diseases. In 1876, Cornell awarded him the first Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree to be granted in the United States. He went on to establish an international reputation in animal diseases as the first Chief of the U.S. Bureau of Animal Industry (Department of Agriculture). Among his accomplishments was the identification of the infectious pathogen *Salmonella*.

Need for Higher Standards

In 1893, Dr. Law cited the absolute lack of formal educational standards and credentials for veterinary surgeons in New York State. As he put it, individuals were being licensed by the County Clerks "to poison, maim, and slay the flocks and herds of the Empire State and heartily did they avail of their opportunity." Even though he had been the leader in a private institution, he felt that in place of the department of which he was an important part the State should establish a college that would provide additional faculty and proper program and facilities.

President Schurman, in his inaugural address in November 1892, spoke directly and forcefully to the State of New York about the need for its support in veterinary medicine. Until then, this field at Cornell had not received one cent of State money, and had been paid less than the legal minimum in interest on the Land Grant money. After much negotiation, in 1894, Governor Flower signed the bill establishing the New York College of Veterinary Medicine. From that point forward, the State has provided substantial and at times complete support for the college.

Recently the College has derived almost half its funds from federal research appropriations, grants and contracts and income from its clinics and laboratories. When it has seemed appropriate, as in the case of the Baker Institute for Animal Health, private money has been sought from alumni and other friends.

Challenges Out-Distance Available Public Funds

Today, it seems that at best, public funds will be maintained at present levels and may be increased in a year or so to offset the effects of inflation on every aspect of the College's program. Meanwhile we are faced with new opportunities and challenges which must be met if we are to remain a vital educational entity.

The College of Veterinary Medicine, begun as a department in a private institution — has been assisted and developed with the help of public funds. It now needs a re-affirmation of the private sector's concern for its continued well-being and development.

It is studying its entire operation to determine which portions should continue to be funded by the State, how it can maximize its income from grant sources and then, where private monies should be invested to maintain the leadership position Cornell has held for one hundred years.

At this stage, we know that major needs which can only be met by private funding exist in the areas of financial assistance for students, operating and construction costs in existing or planned species-oriented programs, special equipment for our clinics, various items in the Flower Library, special programs in continuing education and finally, a fund permitting flexibility to try new ideas and meet unforeseen needs. These will be clearly defined in 1976 and presented to our alumni and friends for their consideration.

From our limited experience in securing private support, we know that when the case is carefully documented, the friends of the College respond generously and in large numbers. We are confident they will continue to do so.

ADMISSION INFORMATION

Friends and alumni of the College frequently ask for the latest information of admissions standards and requirements. Following is a summary of those in effect for the class entering September, 1977.

An applicant is expected to have successfully completed at least 3 years at an accredited college or university, although exceptional students who have completed all the requirements in less time may be considered. No specific college or major subjects are favored, but the majority of the prerequisite courses should have been taken at a quality institution offering a baccalaureate degree. Applicants should be proficient in college-level mathematics and in written and spoken English.

Prerequisites: 6 semester hours in English; 6 semester hours with laboratory in each of biology or zoology, physics, inorganic chemistry, and organic chemistry; 4 semester hours in biochemistry; and 3 semester hours in general microbiology with laboratory.

Transcripts must document passing grades in all prerequisite courses. Outstanding applicants may be approved for admission before completing courses in microbiology and biochemistry, subject to satisfactory completion of these courses before matriculation.

Animal Practice Requirements: before application, each applicant must spend at least one summer of 10 weeks working with one of the large domesticated animal species, preferably dairy cattle; or with dogs, cats, zoo animals, laboratory animals, aquatic animals, or poultry. A written report on the work must accompany the application.

Graduate Record Examination: GRE scores must also accompany each application. Applicants for the class entering in September, 1977, should take the GRE in May or June of this year.

General guidelines: the application procedure must be begun over a year before the desired matriculation date. Students anticipating admission with 3 years of college apply after their sophomore year. In summary, each application must include:

1. An essay on the candidate's outlook on life, motivation, and career aspirations.
2. Evidence of fulfillment of the animal practice requirement, including a report on the experience and an employer's evaluation.
3. A faculty advisor's evaluation.
4. Two letters of recommendation.
5. Transcripts from all colleges attended.
6. Results of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE).

Application blanks: obtainable from the Cornell University Office of Admissions, 410 Thurston Ave., Ithaca, N. Y. 14853.

Further information: admissions policies, selection criteria and application procedures are detailed in an Admissions Information Brochure available from the Office of Student Administration, New York State College of Veterinary Medicine. The Announcement of the College of Veterinary Medicine, which can be obtained from University Announcements, Day Hall, Cornell University, contains detailed descriptions of the College programs.

Tours: interested people are cordially invited to attend the Admission Information Sessions and College Tours, on the first Saturday of each month (except July and August, when they are on the first Wednesday), starting at 9:00 a.m.