



# GALLOPING GAZETTE

**NEW HOSPITAL DIRECTOR:** **Dr. Jacques Messier** took over the reins of director at WCVM's Veterinary Teaching Hospital on April 21. Messier, who earned a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine at the Université de Montréal's Faculté de médecine vétérinaire and an MBA from the University of Western Ontario, brings a range of management training and experiences to his new role.

Early in his career, Messier practised veterinary medicine in Saskatchewan for six years before joining Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada where he held several management positions including the Bureau of Veterinary Drugs and the Bureau of Human Prescription Drugs. In the private sector, Messier has been part of the senior management team for several large pharmaceutical and biotechnical companies — including president, COO and CEO of an international pharmaceutical manufacturer and distributor.

**Dr. Klaas Post**, head of WCVM's Department of Small Animal Clinical Sciences, has been WCVM's acting hospital director since the former director, **Dr. Stan Rubin**, rejoined the veterinary college's faculty during the summer of 2007.

**CLINIC UNDERGOES REVAMP:** In April 2008, crews began renovation work in the WCVM Large Animal Clinic. The construction project includes renovations to the clinic's surgery suites and equine ward as well as to other services in the clinical area.

The construction work, which is scheduled for completion in early 2009, will not affect the clinic's regular services. Watch for a construction update in the Autumn 2008 issue of *Horse Health Lines*.

**EQUINE PATIENT ADVOCATE:** Dr. Kirby Penttila of Chase, B.C., a member of WCVM's Class of 2008 and a newly-minted Doctor of Veterinary Medicine, was the 2008 recipient of the Dino and Dr. Ashburner Award in Equine Care at WCVM's 2008 Graduation Banquet on May 28.

Penttila received the \$7,000 award in recognition of her care for equine patients during the veterinary student's fourth-year equine rotations. The annual scholarship was created in 2007 by the Heather Ryan and L. David Dubé Foundation.

**EQUINE CONTENT IN LAVR:** *Large Animal Veterinary Rounds* is a WCVM-led publication that provides valuable veterinary resources to Canada's large animal practitioners. Some of its latest editions focused on equine-related health issues:

- "Minimally invasive surgery in the horse," by Dr. David Wilson, head of WCVM's Department of Large Animal Clinical Sciences. 8(2). February 2008.
- "Equine field anesthesia and sedation," by Dr. Nigel Caulkett, Department of Clinical and Diagnostic Science, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Calgary. 7(9). November 2007.
- "Diseases affecting the geriatric horse," by Dr. Katharina Lohmann, Department of Large Animal Clinical Sciences, WCVM. 7(7). September 2007.

For more information or to download your own copies of these issues (in PDF format), visit [www.canadianveterinarians.net/larounds](http://www.canadianveterinarians.net/larounds).

Above: Rocky Ridge Clydesdales of Odessa, Mo., win the eight-horse hitch class at the 2008 Royal Manitoba Winter Fair in Brandon, Man.

**WCVM PRESENTS:** Several WCVM representatives gave scientific presentations at recent international equine health meetings:

- Equine reproduction specialist **Dr. Claire Card** gave a presentation on "GnRF immunization in mares: ovarian function, return to cycling and fertility" at the American Association of Equine Practitioners' annual convention. The 53rd convention took place in Orlando, Fla., from Dec. 1-5, 2007.

- Large animal surgery resident **Dr. Ryan Wolker** presented his abstract, "A biomechanical comparison of two parallel AT screws and two parallel 5.5 mm bone screws for equine proximal interphalangeal joint arthrodesis," at the Veterinary Orthopedic Conference. The meeting took place in Big Sky, Mont., from March 8-15, 2008.

- In late April, equine surgeon **Dr. David Wilson** and clinical associate **Dr. Joe Bracamonte** presented a short course on laparoscopy during the "Cirso Internacional de Laparoscopia Equina" (International Conference on Laparoscopy in the Horse) in Caceres, Spain. The course included two days of instruction and a one-day wet lab for participants.

**FUND GOES TO MANE EVENT:** Are you heading out to the 2008 Mane Event Equine Education and Trade Fair this fall? So are we! Make sure to stop in at Booth #905 on Hoofbeat Way where representatives from WCVM and the Equine Health Research Fund will be happy to tell you more about the College's equine health initiatives and to answer your questions about the Fund and WCVM.

The Mane Event takes place from October 17-19, 2008, at the Chilliwack Heritage Park in Chilliwack, B.C. For more details, visit [www.maneventexpo.com](http://www.maneventexpo.com).

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