

Louisiana  
State  
University

School of  
Veterinary  
Medicine

Equine  
Health  
Studies  
Program

*Dedicated to the  
Health, Well-Being and  
Performance of Horses  
through Veterinary Research,  
Education and Service*

Spring 2005

## EHSP Hosts Sixth Annual Kentucky Derby Party

The LSU School of Veterinary Medicine and the Equine Health Studies Program invite all horse enthusiasts and those who enjoy a good party to its sixth annual Kentucky Derby Party presented by Louisiana law firm Taylor, Porter, Brooks & Phillips. The event will take place on Saturday, May 7, 2005, from 2:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. at the Country Club of Louisiana.

Proceeds from the event will benefit the construction of the Equine Isolation Unit at the School of Veterinary Medicine. While celebrating the 131<sup>st</sup> "Run for the Roses," guests will enjoy an afternoon of Kentucky Derby activities and cuisine. Ladies are asked to wear hats and gentlemen are asked to wear sports jackets or a coat and tie, as there will be a ladies' derby hat and a gentlemen's tie competition. Tickets will be offered for individuals wanting to "bet" on their favorite horse or horses. Silent and live auctions will also be held during the afternoon.

"Next to being at Churchill Downs, this is the best way to experience the Kentucky Derby, and we invite everyone to come enjoy the fun,

food and fellowship, Louisiana style," said Dr. Rustin M. Moore, professor and equine surgeon at the School of Veterinary Medicine and director of the School's Equine Health Studies Program. Guests will view the Derby and Derby prep races on a jumbo-sized television, as well as enjoy Derby trivia games, an equine art exhibition, and silent and live auctions. Reservations for the party include traditional Derby cuisine, mint juleps in commemorative glasses, wine and other beverages.

Proceeds from the party will benefit the construction fund for the new Equine Isolation Unit, which will facilitate treatment of horses with infectious and potentially contagious disease.

The Kentucky Derby Party will be held in the Nicklaus room at the clubhouse of the Country Club of Louisiana in Baton Rouge, La. Reservations are \$60 per person and can be made by calling Dr. Rebecca Adcock at (225) 578-9900, via e-mail at [equine@vetmed.lsu.edu](mailto:equine@vetmed.lsu.edu), or by visiting the School's Web site at [www.vetmed.lsu.edu](http://www.vetmed.lsu.edu).

## Fourth Annual Stallion Service Auction Benefits Equine Isolation Unit

The LSU School of Veterinary Medicine raised \$12,700 during its fourth annual Stallion Service Auction. The event is a multiple-breed internet-based benefit auction for the LSU School of Veterinary Medicine's Equine Health Studies Program (EHSP) to expand and renovate the Equine Clinic, including the Equine Isolation Unit.

More than 73 stallion owners from across the United States, representing more than 20 different breeds, donated stallion breedings to the auction. All stallion services offered in the auction were intended for the 2005 breeding season, and mare owners could bid on any number of stallion services.

The Equine Clinic provides advanced veterinary care and state-of-the-art services for equine patients. "Due to the expanding Louisiana horse industry, the Equine Clinic caseload increases each year. To continue to provide efficient, advanced, comprehensive care, it is necessary to expand the School's facilities," said Dr. Rustin M. Moore, director of the EHSP.

Through an internet web site, [www.equine.vetmed.lsu.edu](http://www.equine.vetmed.lsu.edu), stallion owners donated a breeding session with their stud, either by live cover or by artificial insemination, to be bid on by mare owners locally, nationally and internationally for the 2005 breeding season. Auction bidding began on the

*(Continued on page 16)*



Dr. Jeremy D. Hubert (right), assistant professor of equine surgery at LSU, and Dr. Miguel A. Valdes (left), a previous intern and surgery resident at LSU and now a board-certified surgeon and owner of an equine referral hospital in Malaga, Spain; visited Anky van Grunsven (center) and her Hanoverian "Keltec Salinero" at her farm during Jumping Amsterdam. Ms. Van Grunsven won the 2004 Olympic Gold Medal in Athens and the 2004 World Cup Dressage Final aboard Keltec Salinero, her sixth such title.

**A horse gallops with his lungs,  
Perseveres with his heart,  
And wins with his character.**

--Federico Tesio, an Italian horse breeder acknowledged by most to have been the most preeminent breeder of Thoroughbreds the sport has ever known. The blood of the horses he bred at his Dormello Stud on the shores of Lake Maggiore in northern Italy flow through the veins of nearly all modern-day Thoroughbreds (d. 1954).

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## Mark Your Calendars



### Animals in Art Exhibit March 19-April 17, 2005

Visit the School of Veterinary Medicine Library and view this annual art exhibit featuring artists from around the world. For more information call 225-578-9900.

### Hill's Great Rover Road Run Saturday, April 16, 2005

The School of Veterinary Medicine is hosting a 5K run and a 1 mile Fun Run/Walk with Rover. Leashed pets are welcome for this annual race benefitting the Student Chapter of the American Veterinary Medical Association. For more information, call 225-578-9900.

### 6th Annual Kentucky Derby Party Saturday, May 7, 2005

This annual event will take place at the Country Club of Louisiana. For details, see page 1. For tickets, call 225-578-9900.

## Equine Health Studies Program



**Dr. Rustin M. Moore** *Director, Equine Health Studies Program*

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## Director's Message

Greetings from the Equine Health Studies Program! We have great energy and enthusiasm because of the great strides we are making toward advancing the goals of our strategic plan in our quest to remain an elite equine biomedical program. These goals are geared toward providing the equine industry in Louisiana and the surrounding region with superior veterinary care; advancing equine health, well-being and performance through leading-edge scientific investigation; and providing contemporary education for our future veterinarians, veterinarians in advanced studies programs, private veterinary practitioners and the horse-owning public.

The newly opened, 10-stall climate-controlled Equine Intensive Care Unit provides us with a centralized state-of-the-art facility that allows us to more effectively and efficiently deliver comprehensive advanced veterinary medical, surgical and reproductive care to the adult horses and foals admitted to the LSU Equine Clinic for serious, life-threatening illnesses and injuries.

Our fourth annual multiple-breed, internet-based Stallion Service Auction was once again highly successful. The auction raised nearly \$13,000 from mare owners bidding on breeding services. Seventy-three stallion owners representing over 20 different breeds donated breeding services for the 2005 breeding season. Previous auctions helped to raise funds for construction of the Equine ICU, whereas funds from this year's auction will help with construction of a much needed 10-stall Equine Isolation Unit for hospitalizing horses with infectious, contagious disease.

We invite everyone to join us for our Sixth Annual Kentucky Derby Party on May 7 from 2:00 – 6:00 pm at the Country Club of Louisiana in Baton Rouge. This year's event is expected to be bigger and better than ever. Party-goers will savor traditional Derby

cuisine, sip mint juleps from commemorative Derby glasses, view Derby prep races and the Derby on a jumbo-sized television, "bet" on their favorite horses, participate in the ladies hat competition and gentlemen's tie contest, enjoy Derby trivia games and an equestrian art exhibit by Anita LeJeune (a local artist from Lakeland, La.), and bid on their favorite items in a silent and live auction.

We recently hosted members from the United States Pony Club, which held its Annual Meeting in New Orleans in January. Many of our EHSP team participated in the events by organizing the meeting and related activities; giving lectures, laboratories and seminars for participants; presenting research findings during the scientific poster session; and serving as hosts and tour guides during the tour of the LSU Equine Clinic. We also hosted groups from the East Baton Rouge Horse Club, the Lake Charles 4H Horse Club, and the Louisiana Therapeutic Riding Association. If you or your organization would like to tour the LSU Equine Clinic or use our facility to convene a business meeting, we invite you to contact us.

We welcome Mr. Ky Mortensen to the EHSP team. Mr. Mortensen began as Director of Advancement for the ESHP on March 1 and will serve as a liaison to interface between the EHSP and equine industry leaders and constituents to help advance the mission and goals of our program and the State's equine industry. We are excited about the many opportunities and challenges that lie before us, and look forward to working with you to move the EHSP and the equine industry full stride ahead.

I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to our program, including those who have generously donated their time, resources and hard work. I would like to extend a special thanks to Ms. Francie Stirling and the Downman Family Foundation of New Orleans, Val and Jan Murrell and Clear Creek Stud, LLC, and Ms. Sydney Bidenharn and the Bidenharn Foundation for their continued



*Dr. Rustin M. Moore*

generosity and support (see page 21).

Now that we have successfully completed two of the four facility enhancements of our strategic plan, we turn our attention to raising funds for the Equine Isolation Unit and a new Equine Reproduction Unit, both of which are vitally needed to enable us to continue to deliver the state-of-the-art clinical service to the horse-owning public in Louisiana and the surrounding areas. Additionally, our capital campaign will be geared toward establishing an endowed equine research fund as well as endowed professorships and chairs in equine biomedical sciences. These endowments are crucial for us to continue to remain a premier program well into the future. We will be relying heavily on equine industry constituents to assist us with these fund raising endeavors and helping us in our quest to remain one of the elite equine biomedical programs in the United States. We thank our friends and supporters in advance for their generosity and support.

If you or your business is interested in making a tax-deductible gift to one of the aforementioned areas or establishing an endowment within the Equine Health Studies Program, I invite you to contact me. Every contribution has a positive and durable impact on our program. I also invite anyone with comments or suggestions for improving our program to contact us.

## Theriogenology Program Assists in Reproduction for Large and Small Animals

The theriogenology program at the School of Veterinary Medicine manages reproduction in its clinical practice and reproductive research regarding horses, dogs, and other animals. According to Dr. Dale Paccamonti, professor and service chief of theriogenology, and Dr. Sara Lyle, an instructor in theriogenology, approximately 65% of the program's patients are equine, 25 to 30% are canine, and the remaining 5 to 10% are other species such as cattle, goats, and sheep. Dr. Bruce Eilts, professor of theriogenology, and Drs. Soledad Ferrer and Etta Bradecamp, residents, also work with the program.

Mares are brought to the School's equine clinic for a variety of reasons, such as embryo transfer, breeding management, infertility, and artificial insemination. Stallions are also evaluated for fertility problems, semen-freezing, and for shipment of fresh-chilled semen. According to Dr. Lyle, mares are seasonal breeders and typically ovulate between April and October. However, most breed registries and horse owners aim for a birth date of January 1. "The goal is to have foals born as early as possible in the year," said Dr. Lyle. This ensures that foals born in a particular year that compete in racing or other competitions will be approximately the same age and size. The theriogenology unit conducts research to determine how the pattern of cyclicity (ovulation) can be changed to meet the desired birth date. "One area of research studies how we can modify the transition period in the mare to get her to ovulate and foal early in the year," said Dr. Lyle.

Another area of research involves placentitis. "We're trying to identify the mediators that are produced in response to infection that lead to pre-term delivery," said Dr. Lyle. There is great expense involved in producing a foal, which for many horse owners is an investment, and if there is a

problem, the economic loss is substantial. "If a mare loses a foal and complications develop, the mare might not be bred again until the following year," said Dr. Paccamonti. "If the foal survives but there is a problem with delivery, neonatal care is expensive and labor-intensive." The theriogenology unit at the School handles all aspects of gestation, including pre- and post-delivery care.

The theriogenology unit also conducts collaborative research with the Embryo Biotechnology Laboratory, which is part of the Reproductive Biology Center in St. Gabriel, La. Research is focused on assisted reproduction, with studies investigating timing of ovulation, in vitro fertilization, and equine embryo and oocyte collection.

In addition to the horses that are admitted to the equine clinic, the theriogenology veterinarians also have an ambulatory practice where they visit their patients on the farm to provide breeding services and pregnancy examinations.

The theriogenology unit handles breeding management and semen-freezing for dogs as well. The clinic is certified by the American Kennel Club as a semen freezing center.

The School is currently raising funds to build a theriogenology facility, which will provide a state-of-the-art facility for the veterinarians and researchers along with more space and equipment. "Very few of our patients are ill," said Dr. Paccamonti, "and we'd like to be able to separate them



*The theriogenology faculty are (from left to right) Dr. Dale L. Paccamonti, professor and service chief of theriogenology; Dr. Sara K. Lyle, instructor of theriogenology; and Dr. Bruce E. Eilts, professor of theriogenology.*

from any horses in the clinic with potentially infectious diseases." The theriogenology facility will be used for all reproduction patients, not just horses. The facility will have an appropriate room for embryo work, a room for semen processing, and stalls for delivery and monitoring of pregnant mares and for breeding management of mares and stallions.

"We have made great strides over the last few years in fulfilling our mission of becoming one of the elite equine biomedical centers in the country. One of our major thrusts in the last few years has been to renovate and enhance our clinical facilities. The new reproduction facility will enhance both the clinical and research components of the Equine Health Studies Program (EHSP), an interdisciplinary program within the School that is dedicated to the health, well-being and performance of horses through veterinary research, education and service," said Dr. Rustin Moore, director of the EHSP. "The proposed facility will augment the LSU Equine Clinic, including the recently constructed Equine Lameness and Performance Evaluation Unit and the new Equine Intensive Care Unit. The new reproduction unit will further enable us to provide comprehensive, advanced veterinary medical, surgical and reproductive care for ill and injured horses by our team of board-certified specialists."

# Brazilian Educational Exchange Program Enhances Research at School of Veterinary Medicine

Out of the more than 400 people that work in the LSU School of Veterinary Medicine, there are five from Brazil. Two are full-time faculty members, and the others are a first-year resident, a research associate, and a research scholar. Dr. Carlos Valadão is an adjunct professor in veterinary anesthesiology at São Paulo State University in Brazil. On February 11, 2004, he came to the School of Veterinary Medicine on sabbatical to continue his research. He returned to Brazil on February 9, 2005.

According to Dr. Valadão, veterinary medicine is not a graduate program in Brazil, but rather is an undergraduate program; students studying veterinary medicine begin their studies immediately after high school. Dr. Valadão received his veterinary degree from the Universidade Federal Fluminense in Niteroi, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. He then received his MVSc in veterinary surgery from the Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais in Belo Horizonte in Minas Gerais, Brazil, and he received his Ph.D. in experimental pathology at the University of São Paulo. He was also a post-doctoral fellow at the University of Georgia in Athens, Ga.

In 1998, Dr. Valadão met Dr. Aloisio C. D. Bueno, currently an instructor of equine surgery at the LSU School of Veterinary Medicine. Drs. Valadão and Bueno met at an Equine Colic Symposium at the University of Georgia. Dr. Rustin M. Moore, director of the School's Equine Health Studies Program, was a presenter at that symposium, and Dr. Valadão attended his lecture. A conversation began at that symposium that evolved into an exchange program between the School and Brazilian universities.

In 1999, Dr. Moore went to Brazil to lecture as a guest speaker at the Brazilian Equine Colic Symposium and as a lecturer to graduate students about laminitis and equine surgery.

He returned to Brazil in 2001 and 2003 in the same capacity. In 2001, students from Brazil began coming to the School to complement their veterinary studies and to do research.

In 2003, Dr. Valadão spoke with Dr. Moore about completing his sabbatical year at the School to study laminitis. In his year at the School, he has participated in the numerous research projects, including: (1) evaluating the vasomotor response of equine palmar digital vascular rings to polyamine and NMDA receptor agonists and antagonists; (2) the effect of inhibition of nonepinephrine and serotonin-induced contractile responses of equine digital vessel rings by ifenprodil; (3) evaluation of intracecal buffer administration to horses with experimental laminitis induced by carbohydrate overload; (4) determining the effects of aluminum hydroxide/magnesium hydroxide antacid on clinical signs and blood and peritoneal fluid hematological and biochemical alterations in horses with experimental laminitis induced by carbohydrate overload; and (5) determining the cardiopulmonary, behavioral, and analgesic effects of epidural administration of hydromorphone in standing and anesthetized horses. Dr. Valadão has already submitted an abstract to the 8<sup>th</sup> Equine Colic Research Symposium, which will be held in Quebec City, Canada, in



*From left to right, Dr. Carlos Valadão, Dr. Rustin Moore, and Dr. Adriana de Souza stand outside the Equine Health Studies Program's Lameness and Performance Evaluation Unit.*

August 2005, from some of his work, and several other scientific manuscripts and abstracts will be published from these studies.

Though Dr. Valadão misses his home, his family was able to join him in Baton Rouge. His wife, Inez, and his two daughters, Tatiana and Luciana, have also spent this past year in Louisiana. He and his family have enjoyed their time in Baton Rouge. "The people here are friendly. Louisiana is a lot of fun, much like Brazil," said Dr. Valadão.

Dr. Adriana de Souza, Dr. Valadão's graduate student, received a scholarship from the the Brazilian Ministry of Education's Fundação Coordenação de Aperfeiçoamento de Pessoal de Nível Superior (CAPES) to develop part of her Ph.D. research at LSU, which involves determining the effects of cecal administration of aluminum hydroxide/magnesium hydroxide antacid on laminitis induced by carbohydrate overload, in horses. She arrived at the School in September 2004 to conduct her research and will return to Brazil in March 2005. This is her second visit to the School. She also completed her clinical studies in

*(Continued on page 17)*

# Joint Supplements in Horses



*Jeremy D. Hubert, BVSc, MRCVS,  
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Assistant Professor, Equine Surgery  
Equine Health Studies Program  
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Your veterinarian has just taken a look at your 14-year-old gelding that has been getting a little stiffer than usual recently; he's been a little reluctant to break into a canter and sometimes hesitates going to the right. The usual has occurred; there is nothing serious wrong, the hock x-rays show some mild arthritis, his one ankle has always looked thicker than the other and seems a little stiff when you pick his foot up. The veterinarian mumbled something before he left saying that you should make sure he's on a joint supplement, and if he continues then he'll think about injecting his joints. You wander off and look in the back of your national horse magazine, then online, then you

call your feed store; and finally you are left confused and totally unenlightened. What is a good joint supplement? What is proven? What is even absorbed? And how do these products work? This article will try to separate the wheat from the chaff to provide an insight as to what is needed, what helps and how it helps.

Most joint supplements involve combinations of several substances, all of which are purported to assist in slowing down joint degradation. Joint degradation refers to the inflammatory changes that occur and resultant breakdown of the articular cartilage in a joint and the subsequent changes that lead to development and progression of arthritis. By definition arthritis simply means inflammation of a joint. If cartilage is injured because of a traumatic event or if there is long standing wear and tear that causes cartilage damage, then an inflammatory cascade occurs within the joint leading to further damage to the cartilage matrix. Ultimately, it changes the cartilage with respect to its ability to perform its normal functions. The changes noticed early may be as simple as just a warm joint with mild effusion or increased amount of joint fluid. If the joint is not rested and the cycle of inflammation is not broken or stopped, then continued damage can occur. This could result in a thinning of the cartilage, thus its ability to resist concussive forces becomes diminished. At this point, there is the potential that the bone directly beneath the cartilage (subchondral bone) can become damaged. Bony changes may start as the bone becomes remodeled in response to trauma or concussion that is not absorbed by normal healthy cartilage. The term arthritis is generally used for long standing or chronic changes as opposed to acute changes which can be often referred to as synovitis or simply a stress/strain. However, when there are signs of inflammation in the joint, the terms degenerative joint disease (DJD) or osteoarthritis (OA) are often used by veterinarians.

It would then make sense to observe your horse and treat when the earliest signs are first noticed, but it should be realized that joint supplements can still be useful for horses that are convalescing or undergoing strenuous activities. So there are really three scenarios in which joint supplementation might be helpful: (1) the older arthritic horse, (2) the horse convalescing from an orthopedic injury, and (3) the hard working, competing horse with no obvious signs of joint disease. But what do you give? There are literally a myriad of different commercially available products all purporting to have amazing abilities to resolve your horse's lameness problems. So it is worth looking at each of the components individually to assess their usefulness. Of all the oral anti-arthritic products marketed there are really only two (glucosamine and chondroitin sulfate) that are justified to use in treating joint disease in horses; these products are referred to as chondroprotectants.

## **Glucosamine**

Glucosamine is essentially a type of sugar – a 6 carbon amino sugar – that is found concentrated in joint cartilage. Glucosamine is a substrate for components of the cartilage matrix, as well as hyaluronic acid, which is an important component of cartilage. It acts as a precursor for the building block units found within articular cartilage. These building blocks have special biomolecular properties that enable the cartilage to absorb large quantities of water providing it with a sponge-like characteristic, resulting in its normal function. Glucosamine is a small water-soluble molecule that is absorbed easily if taken orally and has been shown to be non-toxic. Cartilage cells themselves can synthesize glucosamine from glucose. However, when available, glucosamine is preferred over glucose as a food source by articular cartilage cells. When administered orally, glucosamine hydrochloride yields

## **Equine Health Tips**

For more information on several diseases or injuries of horses, please visit our website ([www.equine.vetmed.lsu.edu](http://www.equine.vetmed.lsu.edu)) and click on the Equine Health Tips tab and expand your knowledge.

greater quantities of the active form of glucosamine than glucosamine sulfate. It is the active form of glucosamine that directly determines the availability of the glucosamine supplement made available to the body. Studies in rats, dogs, and humans have shown that 95% of glucosamine hydrochloride is absorbed and available to the body for use by the articular cartilage after oral administration.

Laboratory studies have shown that glucosamine appears to have stimulating effects upon cartilage cells, causing them to increase their production of substances which comprise cartilage matrix. In similar laboratory studies, glucosamine has been shown to provide some anti-inflammatory effects and thus protect the cartilage. Cartilage cells treated in vitro with glucosamine resulted in decreased markers of inflammation such as free radicals and showed less cell death than those with no glucosamine treatment. Studies in live animals have demonstrated uniform incorporation of glucosamine into newly synthesized building blocks of articular cartilage, which demonstrates its use and role in cartilage repair and synthesis. There are multiple studies in people comparing glucosamine with non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, specifically ibuprofen; these show that glucosamine results in better clinical responses in people suffering from knee arthritis. Electron microscopic studies examining cartilage biopsies in human subjects affected by degenerative joint disease, demonstrated treatment with oral glucosamine sulfate led to articular cartilage repair and a mild decrease in inflammation, giving the affected cartilage an appearance more similar to that of healthy cartilage.

To date, there have been no studies documenting the bioavailability and tropism for cartilage in horses; most studies in equine cartilage are still assessing the effects of glucosamine on cartilage cells in vitro. However, the results are similar and encouraging to those reported in other species in that it appears that there is solid evidence for chondroprotection.

All this scientific data leads to a growing body of evidence that if your average 1,000 pound horse has an oral intake of 10,000 mg (10 grams) of glucosamine hydrochloride on a daily basis, it will slow down the degeneration of cartilage and even help with cartilage repair when used in conjunction with other traditional therapies. Glucosamine has been shown to have anti-inflammatory effects as well as being a precursor molecule for the cartilage matrix.

### **Chondroitin sulfate**

Chondroitin sulfate (CS) is the predominant glycosaminoglycan found in adult articular cartilage. Laboratory studies have illustrated the effectiveness of CS to inhibit the enzymes associated with inflammation and tissue destruction. However, absorption of CS has been reported for man, dogs, and rats and less than 15% of the molecules are absorbed as intact CS molecules. The majority of the CS absorbed was only after degradation to smaller CS molecules without the active sulfate group. It has been demonstrated that the chondroprotective activities of CS require the intact CS molecules, and the effect of smaller CS molecules and other degradation products associated with digestion and absorption remain unknown and untested. Thus, the availability of oral CS to the body after ingestion remains the main stumbling block – is it absorbed by the horses gastrointestinal tract? It is unlikely since the large intestinal bacteria utilize CS directly as an energy source and remove the active sulfate group.

Most CS products are marketed in combination with glucosamine with or without added vitamins and minerals; therefore, any positive clinical response to oral administration of CS may be secondary to the biological activity of the CS degradation products or more likely from the activity of other substances present in the supplement. As such, although CS has shown some potentially positive chondroprotective properties it is unlikely that it is a useful supplement because of its poor bioavailability (absorption from GI

tract and subsequent passage into circulation) as an oral supplement.

Many of these commercial products have additional compounds such as vitamin C, manganese and methylsulfonylmethane (MSM) added to them. Some of these additional components may seem logical; vitamin C has important properties in collagen and thus may be beneficial for cartilage, tendon and ligament health and function; manganese is believed to be important for enzyme reactions synthesizing cartilage matrix from glucosamine; and MSM has direct anti-inflammatory activities. However, if your horse has a nutritionally balanced diet, it is usually unnecessary to supplement with these extra components. The quantities of glucosamine in a normal balanced diet are unknown, but probably minimal if any is present in the diet, thus making it a logical addition to an already balanced diet. There is little work examining the activities or effect of these compounds when administered in combination. Thus, the bottom line is often based upon economic factors.

When reviewing the scientific literature it would appear that the sensible decision is to buy the most cost effective product that you can easily give at least 10,000 mg or 10 grams of glucosamine hydrochloride on a daily basis to your horse. In most cases, the effect of glucosamine is noticed after about two weeks of administration. You will not be stunned by dramatic changes such as those observed after administration of nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs such as phenylbutazone, but you will notice your old arthritic friend becoming a little easier and happier to do what he has always done, the hard working youngster will be less likely to damage or degrade his weight-bearing cartilage, and the horse that has had arthroscopic surgery will likely heal better if supplemented in such a manner.

# 10 Tips for Preventing Laminitis in Horses

Ashley M. Stokes, DVM, PhD  
Research Assistant Professor  
Equine Health Studies Program  
School of Veterinary Medicine,  
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Laminitis (founder) is a severely debilitating, excruciatingly painful, and potentially career-ending and life-threatening disease of the soft tissues (sensitive and insensitive laminae) of the equine foot. These laminar tissues secure the coffin bone to the hoof wall, and when disrupted due to some of the causes listed below, the tissues may separate allowing rotation and/or sinking of the coffin bone.

Gastrointestinal tract disease is the most common primary disease associated with the development of laminitis; however, many of the other causes listed below are associated with management practices. Laminitis is important to all horse owners, trainers and enthusiasts because it can occur in adult horses and ponies of any breed or use (athletes or companions/pets). Knowing some of the causes and risk factors leading to the development of this devastating disease are of tremendous benefit.

Early identification of these factors can aid in the prevention of laminitis or may decrease the severity of disease if appropriate steps are taken (such as calling your veterinarian before signs of laminitis are evident).

1. Grain overload or abrupt changes in diet (i.e., when a horse breaks into the feed room). Do not wait until symptoms develop to call your veterinarian, call immediately so corrective measures can be implemented before tissue damage occurs.
2. "Grass founder" is associated with sudden access to excessive amounts of lush forage, such as in the spring, and often leads to successive episodes of founder each year. Use caution when introducing.
3. Conditions that cause high fever, release of bacterial toxins within the horse's system, or serious metabolic disturbances (i.e., severe colic or pleuropneumonia) are risk factors for the development of laminitis.
4. Retained placenta and metritis predisposes a mare to laminitis. Post-foaling, monitor your mare for retained placenta, and have the mare examined by your veterinarian if she does not pass the placenta within 1-3 hours.
5. "Road founder" is due to excessive concussion to the feet. Use caution in exercising your horse vigorously on a hard surface for prolonged periods, especially if not appropriately shod.
6. "Contralateral overload limb laminitis" is associated with excessive weight bearing on one leg due to injury of the opposite leg. Therefore, if your horse develops a severe lameness you should have it examined immediately by your veterinarian in order to initiate appropriate treatment.
7. Examine your bedding (wood shavings) to ensure that it doesn't contain black walnut shavings (most companies selling bedding for horses guarantee black walnut-free products).
8. Prolonged use or high doses of corticosteroids has been associated with, but not proven to lead to, the development of laminitis. Use caution in using these drugs.
9. Heavy breeds, such as draft horses are at risk.
10. Monitor your horse's diet since overweight horses or those on a high nutritional plane are at a higher risk for laminitis. Putting your horse on a weight-reduction diet and exercise regimen may help reduce the likelihood of an episode of laminitis.



Characteristic stance of a horse with laminitis demonstrating shifting of the horse's weight onto the rear limbs because of foot pain in the front limbs.

# SVM Awards Three Professorships

On November 16, 2004, the LSU School of Veterinary Medicine hosted a reception honoring the recipients of three veterinary medicine professorships: the Paula and Milton W. Shepard Professorship in Veterinary Medicine, established in 1996; the Mary Louise Martin Professorship in Veterinary Medicine, established in 1998; and the Everett D. Besch Professorship in Veterinary Medicine, established in 2002.

Each professorship is awarded for five years. Recipients are selected on the basis of a distinguished and sustained record in the areas of teaching, research, and/or other creative activities; School and University citizenship (e.g., committee service, collegiality); public and professional service; or any combination thereof. The award is used to support academic activities of the professorship position, including instruction and research, equipment and materials, faculty improvement and travel.

The **Paula and Milton W. Shepard Professorship in Veterinary Medicine** was awarded to Rustin M. Moore, D.V.M., Ph.D. Dr. Moore is a professor in the Department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences. He is also the director of the School's Equine Health Studies Program, and he is the chief of equine services in the Veterinary Teaching Hospital. Dr. Moore has shown leadership in teaching, research, and service and has worked diligently to promote the



Dean Michael G. Groves (right) congratulates (from left to right) Dr. Steven A. Barker, Dr. Rustin M. Moore, and Dr. Konstantin G. Kousoulas on their awards.

School's equine program nationally and internationally.

The **Mary Louise Martin Professorship in Veterinary Medicine** was awarded to Konstantin G. Kousoulas, M.S., Ph.D. Dr. Kousoulas is a professor in the Department of Pathobiological Sciences and the director of the School's Division of Biotechnology and Molecular Medicine. He is also the administrator of the Center for Experimental Infectious Disease Research, which is funded by a Center for Biomedical Research Excellence grant. Dr. Kousoulas has been instrumental in strengthening the School's research potential and will administer the \$9.9 million grant that established the Center for Experimental Infectious Disease Research.

The **Everett D. Besch Professorship in Veterinary**

**Medicine** was awarded to Steven A. Barker, M.S., Ph.D. Dr. Barker is a professor in the Department of Comparative Biomedical Sciences. He is also the director of the Analytical Systems Laboratory, the director of the Equine Medications Surveillance Laboratory, and the state chemist for the Louisiana State Racing Commission. Dr. Barker has proven his abilities in the operation of the Analytical Systems Laboratory and his collaborative efforts with Louisiana State University and other institutions.

"The School of Veterinary Medicine is proud to honor these faculty members for their continued service to the School and the University through their research, teaching, and professionalism," said Dr. Michael G. Groves, dean of the School of Veterinary Medicine.

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## People in the News

Congratulations to **Dr. Gary A. Sod** for receiving first place for the American College of Veterinary Surgeons Resident Research Publication Award at the 39th Annual Scientific Meeting on October 9, 2004, in Denver, Colo., for Sod GA, Martin GS. An *in vitro* biomechanical comparison of an intramedullary pin-plate with

dynamic compression plating for equine metacarpophalangeal arthrodesis. *Veterinary Surgery*. 33(1), 83-91, 2004. Dr. Sod is currently a faculty member in the School of Veterinary Medicine's Department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences. Dr. Sod has successfully completed his residency in Food Animal Practice and

is now an instructor of Food Animal Health Management.

Congratulations to **Dr. Rebecca McConnico** on her promotion to associate professor with tenure. Her promotion will go into effect in July 2005.

# 10 Tips for Preventing Colic in Horses

Rustin M. Moore, DVM, PhD,  
Diplomate ACVS

Professor, Equine Surgery  
Director, Equine Health Studies  
Program  
School of Veterinary Medicine,  
Louisiana State University

1. Establish a regular routine including feeding and exercise schedules, and adhere to it! Horses seem to be creatures of habit and any change in feed, water, exercise or environment should be done gradually to prevent an "upset" to their gastrointestinal tract.
2. Feed a high quality diet comprised primarily of roughage. Horses should eat 1-2% of their bodyweight in roughage (pasture or good quality hay) each day, which equates to 10-20 pounds of hay in an adult 1,000 pound horse. Hay is best fed free-choice. Horses' digestive tracts are better designed for continuous grazing or eating rather than feeding at intervals such as twice daily.
3. Minimize concentrates (grain) in the diet. An adult horse that is not in strenuous exercise or lactating does not actually need concentrates in their diet if they have adequate amounts of good quality roughage and they should not be fed more than  $\frac{1}{4}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$  of a pound of grain per each 100 pounds of body weight (thus, a 1,000 pound horse should not be fed more than 5 pounds of grain per day). At least one-half (and preferably  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the horse's energy needs should be supplied through hay or forage. The grain should be divided into at least two feedings if possible.
4. A regular parasite control program should be established with the help of your veterinarian. Several of the intestinal parasites (ascarids, large and small strongyles, and tapeworms) afflicting horses have been associated with different types of colic.
5. Provide exercise and/or turnout on a daily basis. Change the intensity and duration of an exercise regimen gradually. Horses used to exercise (free roaming in pasture or regular riding) seem predisposed to certain types of colic (especially impaction of the cecum and large colon) when their exercise is abruptly halted for extended periods.
6. Provide fresh, clean water at all times. A typical 1,000 pound adult horse should drink about 6-8 gallons of water per day; requirements increase if the horse is in strenuous exercise, sweating excessively or lactating. When a horse is excessively hot, you should limit drinking to small amounts until it has fully recovered.
7. Avoid putting feed on the ground, especially in areas where there is sand in the soil, or in a paddock or stall. Although it is of questionable efficacy, horses in areas where sand is present can be fed psyllium hydrophilic muciloid (Metamucil) on a regular basis to facilitate evacuation of the sand.
8. Check pasture, environment, the hay and bedding for potentially toxic substances, such as undigestible materials such as fibrous foreign bodies (nylon rope, string from baled hay, plastic, etc.), metal objects which could serve as a nidus for enterolith (stone) formation within the large intestine, noxious weeds or blister beetles.
9. Decrease stress! Horses undergoing a change in environment or exercise are at greater risk of intestinal dysfunction. Special attention should be given to horses when transporting them or changing their surroundings, such as at horse shows or other activities.
10. Be aware that some medications, especially nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs such as phenylbutazone (Butazolidin) and flunixin meglumine (Banamine) can have adverse effects on the gastrointestinal tract (ulcers). Use these drugs cautiously and only under the supervision of your veterinarian.



Some signs of colic, a general term referable to abdominal pain in horses, include pawing, looking at their side and rolling.



The LSU School of Veterinary Medicine  
Equine Health Studies Program  
cordially invites you to the

## Kentucky Derby Party 2005

presented by

**TAYLOR, PORTER,  
BROOKS & PHILLIPS**  
LLP  
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

Join us for the 131st "Run for the Roses"

Saturday May 7, 2005  
2:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m.  
Country Club of Louisiana Clubhouse

\$60 per person  
Includes dinner, mint juleps in  
commemorative glasses, wine and beer  
(\$30 of the cost is a tax-deductible contribution)

Watch the Derby Prep Races and the Derby on a Big Screen TV  
Enjoy Derby Trivia Games, an Equine Art Exhibition, Silent Auction & More  
Join in the Fun of the Ladies' Hat Competition and Men's Tie Contest

Proceeds benefit the Equine Isolation Unit Construction Fund



For more information or to purchase tickets,  
please contact Dr. Becky Adcock via telephone  
at (225)-578-9900 or e-mail at [equine@vetmed.LSU.edu](mailto:equine@vetmed.LSU.edu).  
For photos & more information: [www.equine.vetmed.LSU.edu](http://www.equine.vetmed.LSU.edu)

## New Faces at the EHSP

**Janis Ware** began as a hospital admissions technician on June 7, 2004, in the Large Animal Office of the Veterinary Teaching Hospital and Clinics.

**Melissa Jennings** began as associate clinical specialist on

September 27, 2004, working as an equine technician (nurse) in the Equine Clinic.

**Dawn Goyer** began as an associate clinical specialist on October 7, 2004, working as an equine technician (nurse) in the Equine Clinic.

**Maria Jeansonne** began as an associate clinical specialist on December 13, 2004, working as an equine technician (nurse) in the Equine Clinic.

# EHSP Participates in Open House

Approximately 5,500 visitors toured the LSU School of Veterinary Medicine at its 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Open House on February 19. This year's theme was *Around the World in 80 Days*.

A self-guided tour took visitors through the Veterinary Medicine Building where students, faculty and staff provided information and exhibits on various facets of the veterinary medicine curriculum. Each area of the School featured a different continent so that visitors go to go "around the world" while learning about veterinary medicine.

Special features included tours of the Cancer Treatment Unit, the equine treadmill, the underwater treadmill, and the petting zoo. Many children brought their teddy bears and stuffed animals to Teddy Bear Repair, where veterinary students performed "surgery" on the toys and repaired them for their owners. There were also animal demonstrations, including a parade of breeds of both dogs and horses.

Awards were given to the various student groups and clubs that participated in Open House. Best Club Project went to the Student Chapter of the American Association of Equine Practitioners for the Equine Treadmill.

Open House is an annual event held each January or February. Other upcoming events open to the public are the Hill's Great River Road Run on April 16, the Kentucky Derby Party on May 7, and Pets & Vets, a summer program for children ages 6 and up. Pets & Vets is usually held in June and July. It features presentations on small animals, reptiles, horses, cows, raptors (birds of prey), goats, and more! For more information on these upcoming events, please contact the School of Veterinary Medicine at (225) 578-9900 or visit the School's website at [www.vetmed.lsu.edu](http://www.vetmed.lsu.edu). To be added to the Pets & Vets mailing list and receive a copy of this summer's



Visitors to the School of Veterinary Medicine watch as a horse is used to demonstrate the equine treadmill. Students participating in this portion of Open House received the Best Club Project award.

schedule once it is finalized, please contact Ginger Guttner at (225) 578-9922 or via e-mail at [gguttner@vetmed.lsu.edu](mailto:gguttner@vetmed.lsu.edu).



Members of the Student Chapter of the American Association of Equine Practitioners volunteered their time at Open House to educate the public about the School's equine treadmill.



The petting zoo, always a crowd favorite, enabled everyone to observe and interact with various kinds of livestock.

# 10 Tips for Vaccinating Your Horse



*Rebecca S. McConnico, DVM, PhD,  
Diplomate ACVIM  
Associate Professor, Equine Medicine  
Equine Health Studies Program  
School of Veterinary Medicine,  
Louisiana State University*

1. All horses should be vaccinated for diseases to which they are most likely to be exposed, including: tetanus and the encephalitis viruses (Eastern Equine, Western Equine, West Nile, and rabies [in rabies endemic areas]).
2. In addition, horses that travel or are exposed to any new horses should be vaccinated for respiratory tract diseases, especially Equine Influenza I & II (Flu) and Equine Herpes Virus (Rhino) at least 3-4 weeks prior to exposure.
3. An equine veterinarian should supervise vaccination administration since he/she has the expertise and knowledge of the most appropriate vaccination techniques and schedule for your horse(s).
4. In Louisiana and other parts of the South, horses should be vaccinated at least twice a year for the encephalitis viruses (Eastern Equine, Western Equine, and West Nile) and 3-4 weeks prior to peak periods of exposure (early Spring and mid-late Summer).
5. Vaccination against infection with *Streptococcus equi* (the infectious agent that causes Strangles), although effective in stimulating a protective immune response, carries a high rate of complications including fever, anorexia, muscle pain, and abscess formation.
6. Foals should have their first set of vaccinations beginning at about 3 months of age and then booster vaccinations every 4-8 weeks until 1 year of age.
7. Pregnant mares should be vaccinated during the 5<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 9<sup>th</sup> months of pregnancy with inactivated Equine Herpes Virus I vaccine to protect against abortion. Brood mares should have booster vaccinations for tetanus, the encephalitis viruses, and Equine Influenza I & II about 1 month prior to foaling to ensure adequate antibody levels in the mare's colostrums.
8. Horses need to be in good physical condition and healthy when vaccinated in order to mount an effective immune response needed for protection.
9. Horses traveling to other states, regions, or internationally may need to be vaccinated for additional diseases. Owners should contact their local or state veterinarian for specific requirements or recommendations. For example, horses traveling to Texas should be vaccinated for Venezuelan Equine Encephalitis virus.
10. Horses that sustain a penetrating wound, full-thickness skin laceration, or that have any type of surgery, should have a tetanus toxoid booster as soon as possible.



*A sling is sometimes used to support neurologic horses during rehabilitation and recovery from West Nile Virus and other viral infections that can be prevented by proper vaccination.*



## Tau Chapter of Phi Zeta Confers Research Awards

On September 29, 2004, the LSU School of Veterinary Medicine held its annual Phi Zeta Research Emphasis Day; a day established to promote research in veterinary medicine; to recognize research conducted by veterinary students, residents, graduate students and faculty; and to encourage veterinary students to pursue careers in veterinary medicine. Phi Zeta is the national veterinary honor society, which recognizes and furthers scholarship and research in matters pertaining to the welfare and diseases of animals.

Phi Zeta Day provides an opportunity for national experts to speak to students on current research in various fields and to present a picture of global veterinary research. This year's speakers were Dr. R. Mark Simpson, head of the Molecular Pathology Laboratory Unit at the National Cancer Institute's Center for Cancer Research, and Dr. Roberto Alva, director of Pharmaceutical and Biological Research and Development at Meril Limited's Clinical Operations in the Americas.

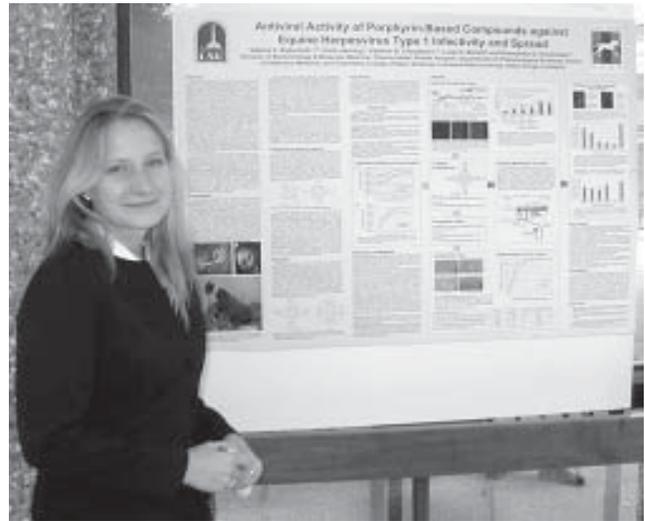
Veterinary and graduate students, including interns and residents, and faculty and staff presented their current research relevant to disease and welfare of animals. This year, there were 47 entries in three categories: doctoral student competition, student competition, and faculty and postdoctoral fellows competition. First-, second- and third-place monetary awards were given in the first two categories.

Winners in the student competition, including Master's, undergraduate and veterinary students, and interns and residents were as follows: Tying for first place were

Galena Rybachuk, a DVM/Ph.D. student at the School, for "Antiviral activity of porphyrin-based compounds against EHV-1 infectivity and spread," and Diane Wilson, a resident at the School's Veterinary Teaching Hospital and Clinics, for "The influence of transdermally administered Fentanyl on isoflurane requirements in normothermic and hypothermic dogs." Second place went to Jeff Schumacher, a second-year veterinary student at the School, for "Functional morphology of the Bowhead Whale (*Balaena mysticetus*) larynx-cartilages and intrinsic musculature."

Winners in the Ph.D. Category were as follows: First place went to Natha Booth for "Disruption of ureG and ureF affects survival of *E. ictaluri* in head kidney-derived macrophages." Second place went to Chad Petit for "Delineation of SARS-associated coronavirus spike glycoprotein domains involved in membrane fusion and intracellular transport," and third place went to Sumanth Polikepahad for "Immunohistochemical studies on expression of endothelin A and B receptors in the bronchi of clinically healthy and summer pasture associated obstructive pulmonary disease (SPAOPD) affected horses."

Phi Zeta would like to take this opportunity to thank the poster judges: Dr. Kenneth Bondioli, associate professor, LSU AgCenter; Dr. Doris Carver, associate vice chancellor of the LSU Office of Research and Graduate Studies; Dr. Thomas Gillis,



*Galena Rybachuk, a DVM/Ph.D. student at the School, tied for first place in the student competition for "Antiviral activity of porphyrin-based compounds against EHV-1 infectivity and spread."*

molecular biology research department chief, Laboratory Research Branch of the National Hansen's Disease Programs; Dr. William Hansel, professor, Pennington Biomedical Research Center; Dr. Todd Monroe, assistant professor, LSU College of Engineering; Dr. Fred Rainey, association dean, LSU College of Basic Sciences; and Dr. L. Lee Southern, professor, LSU AgCenter.

"The SVM annual fall research emphasis day sponsored and organized by Phi Zeta has become an important aspect of our research culture. It gives us an opportunity to showcase the research activities of our scientists and to recognize our students for their efforts with significant awards," said Dr. Thomas R. Klei, associate dean for Research and Advanced Studies at the LSU School of Veterinary Medicine.

The following are equine-related posters presented at Phi Zeta Research Emphasis Day (\*denotes presenting author):

Bueno ACD\*, Moore RM, Eades SC, Johnson J, Stokes AM: Use of a digital extracorporeal system to study laminitis in horses.

Halbert K\*, Walesby A, Truax R, Johnson J, Henk W, Brokhsenious ON:

Equine myometrial smooth muscle cells in 3-dimensional tissue assemblies: A model for the study of the pathogenesis of endotoxemia-induced preterm fetal expulsion in the mare.

Lanaux TM\*, Malone JB, Gruszynski K: Using geographical information systems to identify environmental determinants of equine infectious anemia virus in Louisiana.

Leise BS\*, Fugler LA, Stokes AM, Eades SC, Moore RM: Effects of intramuscularly administered acepromazine on digital blood flow, systemic blood pressure, and packed cell volume in clinically healthy, conscious horses – a preliminary report.

Liford J\*, Foster T, Johnson J, Waguespack W: Detection of MMP-2 and -9 in three dimensional tissue assemblies of equine adult lamellar cells.

Miska T\*, Lopez M: Evaluation of the effects of monopolar radiofrequency energy and diode laser energy on equine distal intertarsal and tarsometatarsal articular cartilage.

Polikepahad S\*, Paulsen D, Moore RM, Costa L, Venugopal CS: Immunohistochemical studies on expression of

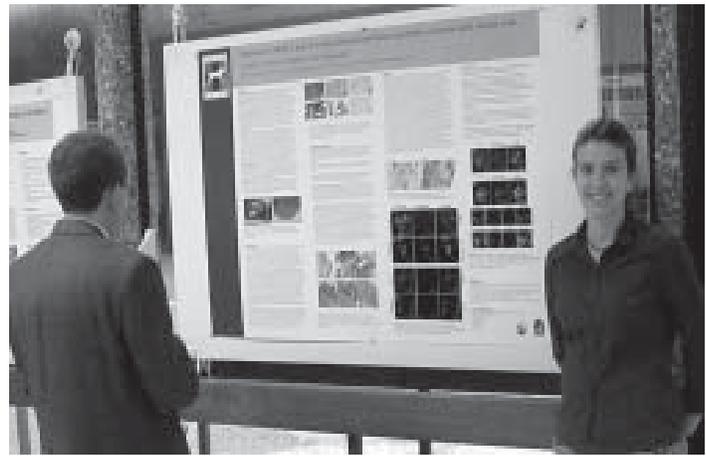
endothelin A and B receptors in bronchi of clinically healthy and summer pasture-associated obstructive pulmonary disease (SPAOPD) affected horses.

Reboul J\*, Walesby A, Truax R, Henk M: Transfection of equine myometrial smooth muscle cells in culture.

Rybachuk G\*, Janning C, Chouljenko V, Marzilli LG, Moore RM, Kousoulas KG: Antiviral activity of porphyrin-based compounds against EHV-1 infectivity and spread.

Saile K\*, Paulsen DB, Kearney MT, McConnico RS: Mechanisms of specific and non-specific cyclooxygenase inhibitor drug induced injury in equine right dorsal colonic mucosa.

Stokes AM, Savoie D\*, Eades SC, Keowen ML, Garza F Jr., Moore RM: Quantification of lamellar microcirculatory perfusion in normal horses using isotopic labeled microspheres. Walesby HA\*, Venugopal CS, Hosgood G, Eades S, Moore RM: In vitro response of non-gravid equine myometrial



Jenny Liford, a member of the class of 2008, displays her poster on Phi Zeta Research Emphasis Day.

smooth muscle from the uterine horn to endothelin-1.

Walesby A, Barker S, Watson D\*: The pharmacokinetics of injectable phenylbutazone solution (20%) administered orally to fasted horses.

Wallace EL\*, Stokes AM, Paulsen DB, Hosgood GL, Eades SC, Moore RM: Presence and distribution of matrix metalloproteinase-2 and -9 immunohistochemical staining in lamellar tissue of clinically healthy and laminitic horses.



Katrin Saile, a member of the graduating class of 2006, presents her poster on Phi Zeta Research Emphasis Day.

**The Equine Health Studies Program 2004 Research Report is available as a PDF document on the EHSP website at [www.equine.vetmed.lsu.edu](http://www.equine.vetmed.lsu.edu). Persons interested in learning how EHSP scientists are promoting the health, well-being and performance of horses can view and download the inaugural issue of the report.**

## Stallion Service Auction

(Continued from page 1)

service at 50% of the standard stud fee so interested bidders had an opportunity for reduced-rate breeding to top quality stallions. The fair market value of the breeding fee was considered a tax-deductible gift for the donor, regardless of the amount of the winning bid. Donors of breeding services also benefited from extensive marketing and advertising of their stallions and farms via the internet and equestrian publications.

Bidding began on October 15, and ended on December 17, 2004. Bids were placed on more than 29 stallions with winning bids ranging from \$225 to \$1,000. The winning bids represented approximately 10 different breeds of horses for a total sum of close to \$12,700.

The event, now in its fourth year, has raised funds for expanding the EHSP. This year's proceeds will go toward the construction of a new Equine Isolation Unit. The School needs approximately \$1.7 million in order to build the unit, which will be used to hospitalize critically ill horses with infectious and potentially contagious disease, such as salmonellosis and strangles among others. This new state-of-the-art facility will replace the current two-stall isolation unit, and will enable the School to more effectively and safely treat horses with these conditions.

We invite stallion owners to contact us for participation in next

year's auction. Donors to the 2004 Stallion Service Auction are as follows:

### American Paint Horse

A Little Gold Dust donated by Haygood Paints  
Docs Jose Muneco donated by Kay Ranch  
Gallant Reward donated by Red Brick Farm  
Iced Gold donated by Sun Kissed Farm  
Snowbound Paisley donated by Ahshling Stables  
Sterling Cowboy donated by Neil Adams

### American Quarter Horse

Al De Partner donated by Lynn S. Leonard / Maple Shade Farms  
Battle Roll donated by Millie's Farm  
C.C. Dash of Lightning donated by Cajun Colored Horse Farm  
Call Me Together donated by Jumonville Farms  
Canby donated by LS Natural Equine Options  
Cause Im Packin donated by K Bar J Quarter Horses  
Chantory donated by H & M Farms  
Dodadash donated by DSK, Ltd.  
Dunnys Doin It Right donated by K Bar J Quarter Horses  
Four Star Light donated by Rockin 3 P Farms  
Hez A Royal Dr Peppa donated by Deshotel Farms  
Mr Chocolate Steel donated by Lucky T Ranch  
Rebel Dasher donated by Delta Equine Center

Smart Mark donated by Rodney Vaughn, DVM  
Sport Pistol donated by Beverly D. Bell, DVM  
Wall Streak donated by DSK, Ltd.

### American Saddlebred

Winsdown Celebration donated by Winsdown Farms  
Winsdown Hi Octane donated by Winsdown Farms

### American Trakehner

Arnold donated by Arcatian Farms

### Andalusian

Novelista D donated by Cortijo Chand

### Arabian

Charab Ferzt donated by LuAnne B. Breeden  
Copper Charmer donated by Heidi Post (Adams)  
CS Khasanova donated by Melinda B. Musick  
Genesis HSM donated by LuAnne B. Breeden  
Khemander Kody donated by Dempsey Arabians  
Knevermore donated by Debra Eadie & Justin Slade  
Knevermore donated by Debra Eadie & Justin Slade  
Treasures Mr. Bojangles donated by Huriah Arabians

### Danish Warmblood

Rambo donated by Oak Hill Ranch

### Dutch Warmblood

Juventus donated by Iron Spring Farm, Inc.

### Exmoor Pony

Barton of Nonesuch donated by Exmoor Ponies of North America at Varenne Burh  
Braeford of Nonesuch donated by Exmoor Ponies of North America at Varenne Burh

### Holstein

Lacado donated by Lavall Dressage, Petra Lawall



Floor plan for the new Isolation Unit.

### **Lusitano**

Nervioso donated by LS Natural Equine Options  
Romulo donated by LS Natural Equine Options

### **Morgan**

WRP Santana White Gold donated by JoAnn Plummer

### **Oldenburg**

Laitin donated by Laitin Life Farm

### **Paso Fino**

Coral's Alejandro de Vez donated by Arena Meadows Farm  
Corito de Vez donated by Barbara Preiss  
Oro de Piloto donated by Paso Fino Elegante  
Romancero de Pastoreale donated by Paso Fino Elegante

### **Percheron**

Chautauqua Tyler donated by Wildwood Farms  
Schrage's Grand Duke donated by Meridian Falls Farm

### **Peruvian Paso**

RyR Conquistador donated by Hickory Hill Peruvian Pasos, LLC

### **Tennessee Walking Horse**

Color Quest TF donated by Camelot Wilderness Ranch

### **Thoroughbred**

Abajo donated by Le Mesa Stallions  
Alybenbo donated by Starry Night Trakehners, LLC  
American Spirit donated by Q6 Ranch, Inc.  
Autocracy donated by Clear Creek Stud, LLC  
B.J.'s Mark donated by Glen C. Warren, M.D.  
Bank donated by Q6 Ranch, Inc.  
Belek donated by Clear Creek Stud, LLC  
Busterwaggley donated by Don Stemmans  
Capitalimprovement donated by Capitalimprovement Partnership  
Choosing Choice donated by Stefan A. Tolin

Colonel Bradley donated by Brandywine Stables  
Connecting Terms donated by Q6 Ranch, Inc.  
Constitution donated by Q6 Ranch, Inc.  
Count The Time donated by Le Mesa Stallions  
Daufuskie Pirate donated by Brandywine Stables  
Deamon's Pouch donated by E.J. Ledet/Michael Ramsey  
Digitech donated by Warren King  
Double Deposit donated by Karie McBrian  
Finder's Gold donated by Harvey Hayes  
Fox Me donated by Legacy Farms  
Golden Slew donated by Delta Equine Center  
High Cascade donated by High Cascade Partnership  
Hollycombe donated by Q6 Ranch, Inc.  
Holzmeister donated by Q6 Ranch, Inc.  
Lampedusa donated by Q6 Ranch, Inc.  
Moonlight Dancer donated by Clear Creek Stud, LLC  
Mr. John donated by Le Mesa Stallions  
Mr. Sparkles donated by John Franks  
Native Regent donated by Elite Thoroughbreds, Inc.  
Not A Role Model donated by Rodney Vaughn, DVM  
Our Shining Hour donated by Harvey Hayes  
Pikepass donated by JiCo, Inc.  
Political Whit donated by Mike Whitler  
Power Storm donated by Q6 Ranch, Inc.  
Ransom Calling donated by Mr. & Mrs. Aubrey J. LaPlace  
Road To Seattle donated by Mr. & Mrs. Aubrey J. LaPlace  
Seattle Pattern donated by Q6 Ranch, Inc.  
Semoran donated by Q6 Ranch, Inc.  
Skip to the Stone donated by Gr3ystone Racing Stable  
Smoken Devine donated by Y Bar Ranch  
Storm Passage donated by Red River Farms  
Sudden Storm donated by Q6 Ranch, Inc.

Tourist donated by Tourist Partnership  
Tricky donated by Beth & Darrel Clavelle  
Trophy Hunter donated by Judice Farms  
Valid Belfast donated by Judice Farms  
Viva Deputy donated by Don Stemmans  
Deputed Duke donated by Spirit Horse Ranch

### **Welsh**

Chaparral's Priceless donated by Chaparral Stud Farm  
Chaparral's Te Quiero donated by Chaparral Stud Farm  
Morton's Celebration donated by Cindy Burd

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## **Brazilian Exchange ...**

*(Continued from page 5)*

veterinary medicine here as part of her veterinary degree (in Brazil, veterinary students must spend a portion of their studies at an outside university or hospital and must spend their final two semesters in the hospital to complete their degrees). Dr. Souza has worked with Dr. Valadão for seven years. He was her advisor in Brazil while she was working on her Master's degree and is currently her advisor for her Ph.D. in Brazil.

Dr. de Souza is investigating the pathophysiology of laminitis, and her work here centers on the following techniques: (1) developing and validating the RT-PCR technique for quantifying gene expression of matrix metalloproteinase (MMP)-2 and MMP-9 in laminar tissue of horses collected during the developmental stages of experimentally induced laminitis in horses; (2) detecting/quantifying apoptosis using the TUNEL assay and caspase-3 immunohistochemistry in laminae of horses with and without experimentally induced laminitis; and (3) quantification of biochemical variables and nitric oxide concentrations in plasma from horses

*(Continued on page 18)*

## Brazilian Exchange ...

(Continued from page 17)

with and without experimentally induced laminitis.

Dr. de Souza is also working on the evaluation of histological alterations in laminae from horses with laminitis and scoring/grading these lesions; organizing and preparing data from her studies on experimentally induced laminitis regarding clinical signs, hematological and biochemical parameters and other variables recorded during the developmental stages of experimental laminitis, which is part of her Ph.D. research in Brazil; graphing this data, performing statistical analyses and discussing the results with faculty scientists in preparation for writing scientific manuscripts; and participating in some of the aforementioned research conducted by Dr. Valadão.

Dr. de Souza is also enjoying her stay in Baton Rouge. "I guess that the best thing that I like about Louisiana is the diversity of the culture. There are a variety of people that come here from a lot of different countries. It seems to have some kind of influence in American culture here. Americans at Louisiana—mainly here at the School—are very friendly, and it makes it easier to be here away from my friends and family. I also like a lot of the Cajun culture and everything about blues and jazz music."

Last year, Dr. Rafael Faleiros, another Brazilian scholar, visited the School and worked with Dr. Moore and others to study laminitis. He developed and validated the techniques for assessing the apoptosis in laminae of horses and quantified the amount of apoptosis at various times during the development of experimental laminitis and during naturally acquired laminitis. This work has been presented at several scientific meetings and a manuscript was also published.

The School has recently entered into an agreement with two other U.S. universities (Southern University and the University of Minnesota) and two Brazilian universities to exchange 22

students from each country from 2006 through 2008. A \$210,000 award funded by the U.S. Department of Education's Fund for the Improvement of Secondary Education (FIPSE) and CAPES will sponsor the exchange program. The long-term aim is to initiate a U.S.-Brazil "summer institute" to provide an opportunity for interdisciplinary study of the interactions of human and animal health and the environment by students enrolled in dual degree MD-MPH and DVM-MPH programs at medical schools, veterinary schools, and schools of public health, and students in graduate and undergraduate programs at western hemisphere universities.

## Scientific Manuscripts

Bolt DM, Burba DJ, Hubert JD, Pettifer GR, Hosgood GL: Evaluation of cutaneous analgesia after non-focused extracorporeal shock wave application over the 3<sup>rd</sup> metacarpal bone in horses. *Can J Vet Res* 68 (4) 288-92, 2004.

Bolt DM, Burba DJ, Hubert JD, Strain GM, Hosgood GL, Henk WG, Cho DY: Determination of functional and morphologic changes in palmar digital nerves after nonfocused shock wave treatment in horses. *Am J Vet Res* 65 (12) 1714-1718, 2004.

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Moore RM: New equine intensive care unit is open for business. *Animal Magazine* 1 (9) 10-11, 2004.

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## Meetings Attended/ Presentations

Bueno ACD: Minas Gerais Federal University (UFMG) - School of Veterinary Medicine – Belo Horizonte, MG, Brazil. July 15, 2004. Equine emergency surgery and critical care & treatment of musculoskeletal infection.

Bueno ACD: Sao Paulo State University (UNESP-Jaboticabal) - School of Veterinary Medicine, Veterinary Hospital – Jaboticabal, SP, Brazil. July 19, 2004. Equine emergency gastrointestinal surgery and critical care & treatment of neonatal septic arthritis.

Burba DJ: 50<sup>th</sup> American Association of Equine Practitioners Convention, Denver, CO, October 4-8, 2004. Effects of intra-articular injection of liquid silicone polymer in the equine middle carpal joint.

Burba DJ: Louisiana Veterinary Medical Association, 2005 Winter Meeting. New Orleans, LA. January 22, 2005. Clinical use of extracorporeal shockwave shockwave therapy; Treatment of coronary band and heel bulb lacerations on horses.

Burba DJ: Louisiana State University School of Veterinary Medicine, 73<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference for Veterinarians, Veterinary Technicians, and Support Personnel. October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2004. Equine bandaging & casting techniques.

French DD: Louisiana Veterinary Medical Association, 2005 Winter Meeting, New Orleans, LA. January 22, 2005. Considerations for change in internal and external parasite control programs.

Hubert JH: Louisiana Veterinary Medical Association, 2005 Winter Meeting, New Orleans, LA. January 21, 2005. Management of orthopedic infection; Laparoscopic indications in the equine patient.

Hubert JD: Veterinary Sporthorse Seminar, Jumping Amsterdam, Amsterdam, Netherlands, January 28, 2005. Diagnostic approach to lameness in horses; Diagnostic approach to upper respiratory tract disease in horses.

Johnson JJ: Louisiana Veterinary Medical Association, 2005 Winter Meeting, New Orleans, LA. January 22, 2005. Fainting, falling, seizing, sleeping or sudden death.

McConnico RM: Louisiana Veterinary Medical Association, 2005 Winter Meeting, New Orleans, LA. January 21, 2005. Weanling and yearling health issues – Early disease recognition and prepping for sale; The veterinarian's role in managing herd outbreaks; Infectious disease updates; Disaster preparedness.

Moore RM: American College of Veterinary Surgeons Symposium, Denver, CO, October 2004. Effects of an endothelin receptor antagonist on digital Starling forces in horses administered carbohydrate overload; Apoptosis in lamellar cells in clinically healthy horses and those with laminitis.

Natalini CC: 50<sup>th</sup> American Association of Equine Practitioners Convention, Denver, CO, October 4-8, 2004. The cardiopulmonary, behavioral, and analgesic effects of epidural administration of hydromorphone in standing and anesthetized horses.

Katrin Saile, a third year veterinary student at LSU, attended the 55<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the American College of Veterinary Pathologists in Orlando, FL, November 16, 2004. She presented the following poster: Saile K, Juneja P, Paulsen D, Kearney M, McConnico RS: Mechanisms of specific and non-specific cyclo-oxygenase inhibitor drug-induced injury in equine right dorsal colon mucosa.

# EHSP Welcomes New Director of Advancement

The Equine Health Studies Program (EHSP) is pleased to announce its new director of advancement, Mr. Ky Mortensen. The administration recently created this position to help advance the interests and goals of the Equine Health Studies Program. The director of advancement is responsible to Dr. Michael G. Groves, the dean of the School of Veterinary Medicine, and reports to Dr. Rustin M. Moore, the director of the EHSP.

"The director of advancement will be responsible for organizing and conducting an advancement program for the EHSP, including public relations and serving as a liaison to interface between the EHSP and the industry leaders and constituents to advance the mission and goals of the EHSP and the State's vibrant equine industry", said Dr. Moore. "He will also be responsible for development and fundraising activities geared toward enhancing facilities and other vital components of our program."

Mr. Mortensen will help to develop and implement a long-term strategic plan for advancement of the research, education and service missions of the program, and organize and develop an effective outreach program by serving as the liaison between the EHSP and external constituents and leaders in the State's equine industry.

His responsibilities will include establishing and facilitating an EHSP Advisory Committee comprised of private equine veterinary practitioners in the state and region to give input and feedback about programmatic developments and direction for the program. He will also spearhead the development and implementation of an EHSP Advancement Council comprised of equine industry leaders and constituents with the purpose of helping to advance programmatic goals. Additional duties will include organizing educational experiences and materials regarding the role of the equine veterinarian in the equine industry including oversight of the

veterinary student out-rotation program with equine practitioners at racetracks, breeding farms and in general ambulatory practice.

Other responsibilities will include coordinating, planning and managing EHSP fundraising activities for capital purposes, including endowments for chairs, professorships and scholarships; and equipment and facilities for the educational, research and service missions of the program; engaging and cultivating equine industry constituents and others as supporters; and assisting in the implementation of long-range plans for private support of the program, under the guidance of the EHSP Director.

Mr. Mortensen comes to the EHSP from the American Association of Equine Practitioners (AAEP) in Lexington, KY where he served as the Director of Industry Relations. "I'm very fortunate and honored to continue to work on behalf of the veterinary community and its initiatives," said Mortensen. "I have a great passion for the horse and a deep appreciation for the people that comprise this great industry. I'm looking forward to getting to know the people of Louisiana and the surrounding states. It's a great place to be, and it's obvious that the love of the horse runs deep in the South."

While at the AAEP, his role was to build relationships and channel them into meaningful results for the equine veterinary community to improve the health and welfare of horses. He



*EHSP Director of Advancement Ky Mortensen joined the staff at the LSU School of Veterinary Medicine on March 1, 2005.*

worked with several AAEP committees in effectively overseeing the AAEP Foundation, Inc., AAEP Educational Partner and Sponsorship Programs, AAEP Public Policy, and AAEP Disaster & Emergency Preparedness.

His efforts contributed to the development of key alliances to the AAEP from industry partners including the American Quarter Horse Association, the Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders Association, the United States Equestrian Federation, and most recently the Arabian Horse Association.

Mr. Mortensen's also served on numerous committees as the AAEP liaison to industry groups including the American Horse Council, the National Institute for Animal Agriculture, and the United States Animal Health Association.

Prior to his work at the AAEP, Mr. Mortensen worked at The Jockey Club in Lexington, Ky., implementing the individual membership program, "Go Baby Go." In 1999 he completed an internship in the Racing Division of Breeders' Cup Ltd. A native of Colorado, Mr. Mortensen received his Bachelor of Science degree in Equine Science from Colorado State University.

# Charitable Gifts

We would like to extend a special thanks to the **Biedenharn Foundation** and **Ms. Sydney Biedenharn** for their generous \$5,000 gift to the Equine Health Studies Program in support of the new Equine Isolation Unit. This is the fourth such annual gift they have provided to the Equine Health Studies Program (EHSP). "Their continued friendship and support provide an incredible impact on our programs," said Dr. Rustin M. Moore, director of the EHSP.

We would like to extend a special thanks to the **Downman Family Foundation** along with **Ms. Françoise B. Richardson, Ms. Francie R. Stirling, Mr. Robert B. Richardson**, and other board members for their generous \$10,550 gift, which will go toward construction of the new Equine Isolation Unit. This is the third such gift the Downman Family Foundation has given to the Equine Health Studies Program – the first two gifts totaling ~ \$25,000 helped with construction of the recently completed new, state-of-the-art Equine Intensive Care Unit. "The friendship and support of Francie and the

generosity of the Downman Family Foundation has been truly inspiring," said Dr. Moore.

"The Downman's Family Foundation is truly honored to be a part of the Louisiana State University School of Veterinary Medicine Equine Health Studies Program. The vision and dedication to make a possibility become a reality with the level of research, quality and concern for the well being of horses in and around our area, is what attracted us to become a part of this incredible team," said Stirling.

We would like to extend a special thanks to **Clear Creek Stud, LLC** and **Val and Jan Murrell** for their generous gift of \$5,000 in honor and recognition of their patrons. This is the third such gift they have extended to the EHSP – the first two went toward construction of the new Equine Intensive Care Unit. "Their dedication and commitment to helping us have been crucial to advancement of the EHSP," said Dr. Moore. "We are very pleased to be able to support and to have benefited over time from the excellent work at the LSU School of Veterinary Medicine's Equine Clinic. We are very happy to be a small part of even bigger plans for the future.



*Jan and Val Murrell of Clear Creek Stud, LLC.*

On behalf of our clients and friends in the Thoroughbred business, we appreciate the vision that LSU has in meeting our increasing challenges found everyday in raising horses," said Val Murrell

We would like to thank the **Louisiana Veterinary Medical Association Equine Committee** for their second of six \$10,000 installments toward establishing the Endowed Professorship in Equine Medicine and Surgery.

## **Clear Creek Patrons recognized by a \$5,000 gift from Val and Jan Murrell of Clear Creek Stud, LLC:**

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*(Continued on page 22)*



*Francie Stirling aboard "Levita," a Dutch Warmblood mare.*

## Charitable Gifts . . .

(Clear Creek Patrons continued from page 21)

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### The EHSP would like to thank the following individuals and organizations for their recent contributions:

Dr. Jay Addison  
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Dr. Ann E. Kraus-Hansen  
Dr. Britta S. Leise  
Mr. and Mrs. Andre Leveque  
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### Corporate Support

James Pellerin, area representative for Fort Dodge Animal Health, Inc. has provided vaccine for West Nile virus, Fluvac (EHV, tetanus, influenza, WEE, EEE), and intranasal strangles vaccine for the teaching and research horses in the LSU EHSP herd.

### Memorial Gifts

Dr. Patrick R. Sexton in memory of "Dan", a Quarter Horse owned by Ms. Robin Davidson.

Dr. Patrick R. Sexton in memory of "TJ", a Quarter Horse owned by Mr. Charles Ray Rist.

Ms. Mary Janet Guglielmo and Ms. Nancy Neher in memory of Mr. Paul Hayes.

Drs. Frank and Karen Wolfsheimer in memory of Dr. Charlie Barry.

Maureen Donnelly in memory of "Duck", her beloved 24-year-old black Thoroughbred gelding.

Dr. Kenneth A. Arceneaux in memory of his uncle, Mr. Lester J. Breaux.



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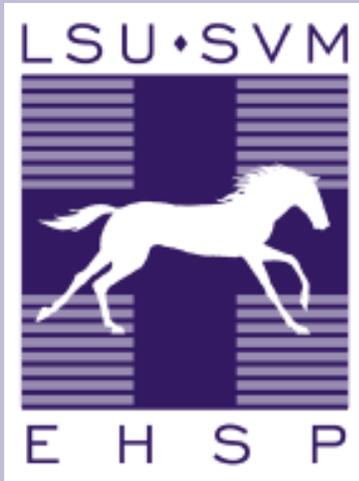
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## Evangeline Downs Makes Donation to EHSP



*Mr. David Yount (right), Director of Racing Operations, and Mr. Sidney "Trey" Thibodeaux (left), Director of Community Relations, from The Old Evangeline Downs, LLC, presented Dr. Rustin M. Moore (center), EHSP Director, with a check for a charitable contribution towards the construction of a new Equine Isolation Unit.*



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