

Convention Highlights Research, Learning

The 53rd American Association of Equine Practitioners Convention offered the latest in research findings and honored leaders in the veterinary field

BY KIMBERLY S. BROWN

Veterinarians, veterinary technicians, and horse owners gathered in Orlando, Fla., Dec. 1-5 for the 2007 convention of the American Association of Equine Practitioners (AAEP), which is the largest educational event for horse veterinarians in the world. This convention was the second consecutive meeting that broke attendance records, with 7,238 veterinary professionals, guests, and exhibitors at the gathering. The previous attendance record of 6,842 was set at the 2006 convention in San Antonio, Texas.

Another first was the swearing in of the association's first woman president, Eleanor Green, DVM, Dipl. ACVIM, ACVP. Green was the program chair for the 2007 convention. Green is professor and chair of the Department of Large Animal Clinical Sciences at the University of Florida's College of Veterinary Medicine. She also is the college's chief of staff at the Large Animal Veterinary Medical Center.

"Dr. Eleanor Green and the Educational Programs Committee put together another great meeting program for our members," said David L. Foley, AAEP executive director. "I continue to be overwhelmed each and every year with the increasing attendance and the quality of the material."

New Officers and Board Members

The 2008 Executive Committee and new members of the Board of Directors took office on Dec. 4. Executive Committee members are: Green, president; Harry W. Werner, VMD, a private practitioner in North Granby, Conn., president-elect; Nat White



The 2008 Executive Committee includes (left to right): Immediate Past President Doug Corey, DVM; Vice President Nat White II, DVM, MS, Dipl. ACVS; President Eleanor Green, DVM, Dipl. ACVIM, ACVP; Treasurer R. Reynolds Cowles Jr., DVM; and President-elect Harry W. Werner, VMD.

II, DVM, MS, Dipl. ACVS, Jean Ellen Shehan Professor and director of the Marion duPont Scott Equine Medical Center in Leesburg, Va., vice president; Doug Corey, DVM, a private practitioner in Adams, Ore., immediate past president; and R. Reynolds Cowles Jr., DVM, a private practitioner from Free Union, Va., treasurer.

New members of the board of directors are: Dickson D. Varner, DVM, MS, Dipl. ACT, Texas A&M University; W. David Wilson, BVMS, MS, University of California, Davis; Roxy J. Bell, DVM, MSc, Dipl. ACT, a private practitioner from Alberta, Canada; and Brian S. Carroll, DVM, a private practitioner from Edmond, Okla.

Distinguished Educators

Several awards were presented during

the Dec. 4 President's Luncheon. The Distinguished Educator Award is given to those who "have significantly impacted the development and training of equine practitioners." The 2008 recipients were Howard "Gene" Gill, DVM, a retired practitioner and former faculty member at Michigan State University, and James Moore, DVM, PhD, Dipl. ACVS, of the University of Georgia.

Gill served on the faculty of Michigan State University beginning in 1966, and he led a four-veterinarian practice in Pine Bush, N.Y. Gill is now retired, although he occasionally assists with surgery at his old practice. He has been an AAEP member since 1957, has served on the Resident Veterinarian and Constitution/Bylaws Committees, and he now holds the distinction

of Honor Roll member within the association.

Moore is known for his research in endotoxemia, and he has worked within a group of investigators to develop innovative computer-aided teaching modules depicting some of the more complex aspects of endotoxemia, gastrointestinal abnormalities in horses, and intracellular signal transduction pathways (known as The Glass Horse; watch for clips from this animated educational video coming to TheHorse.com soon). Moore received the University of Georgia's Creative Research Medal in 1988 for his research on intestinal diseases and endotoxemia; the David Tyler Award for Innovation in Teaching at the University of Georgia in 1998; the World Equine Veterinary Association Research Award in 1999; and the Alumni Achievement Award from the School of Veterinary Medicine at the University of California, Davis in 2006. Moore was the 2001 Frank J. Milne Memorial Lecturer at AAEP, and he has been a Distinguished Research Professor at the University of Georgia since 2002.

Distinguished Service Award

The AAEP Distinguished Service Award

is given to an individual "who has provided exemplary service to the AAEP or a similar organization to the benefit of the horse, horse industry, or the profession of equine veterinary medicine." The 2007 recipient was Gary Norwood, DVM, a private practitioner formerly from Louisiana and now residing in Texas. Norwood, a former AAEP president, assumed the leadership role in the World Equine Veterinary Association for 2008. Norwood served in the U.S. Army Veterinary Corps during the Vietnam War, and he has lead and served on numerous AAEP and other industry committees. He also is a spokesperson in the AAEP On Call Program, offering veterinary insight during various televised elite equine competitions.

George Stubbs Award

The AAEP's George Stubbs Award recognizes contributions made to equine veterinary medicine by individuals other than veterinarians. The 2007 recipients were George Bagby, MD, and Barbaro's owners Roy and Gretchen Jackson, along with the horse's trainer, Michael Matz.

Bagby is an orthopedic surgeon still practicing medicine even now at 84 years of age. Bagby received a master's degree

in orthopedics for the development of the self-compressing bone plate. In 1975, Bagby created a visitation program between the Washington State University College of Veterinary Medicine and Sacred Heart Hospital in Spokane, Wash. This unique program introduced veterinary surgery residents at Washington State to surgical procedures in human medicine. The collaboration resulted in the development of the Cloward technique, which treats cervical (neck vertebrae) malformations in horses. This procedure has been utilized in more than 1,000 horses to date.

The spotlight was shone on the Jacksons and those associated with the Thoroughbred racehorse Barbaro during his fight against catastrophic injury and laminitis. "The Barbaro team has made significant contributions to equine veterinary medicine through the creation of multiple research funds, an endowed chair in equine disease research at the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine, and positive public outreach efforts that helped showcase the advances in equine medicine and surgery," noted the AAEP. "This all stemmed from their unwavering support and love for Barbaro."

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Convention Highlights

The Lavin Cup for Welfare

Named for AAEP Past President Gary Lavin, VMD, the Lavin Award is presented to a nonveterinary individual or organization that has demonstrated exceptional compassion or developed and enforced rules and guidelines for the welfare of the horse. The 2007 recipient was Finger Lakes Thoroughbred Adoption Program.

The Finger Lakes Thoroughbred Adoption Program is dedicated to finding homes for former racehorses. Racetrack veterinarian Margaret Ohlinger, DVM, trainer Phyllis Shetron, and horse owner Valerie Morrison, together with management from Finger Lakes Gaming and Racetrack, founded the program in 2005. It is the first Thoroughbred adoption facility in the country to be run as a collaborative effort between racetrack management and horsemen. They have found new homes for more than 100 former racehorses and are currently fundraising for the construction of a new barn to house retirees before adoption.

Previous recipients of the Lavin Cup include the Thoroughbred Retirement Foundation, American Quarter Horse Association, California Horse Racing Board, Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association, Thoroughbred Charities of America, and Days End Farm Horse Rescue.



George Bagby, MD, (left) received the George Stubbs Award for his contributions to equine veterinary medicine.

Distinguished Life Member

AAEP Past President Robert D. Lewis, DVM, of Elgin, Texas, was recognized for his contributions to veterinary medicine with a Distinguished Life Member Award.

Lewis received his veterinary degree from the Louisiana State University School of Veterinary Medicine in 1977. He entered private practice upon graduation and began working at Cardwell and Graham Veterinary Hospital. He became a full partner in 1979, at which time the business entity was renamed Elgin Veterinary Hospital. He was also a partner in Elgin Breeding Service until 1985, and a partner in Southwest Stallion Station until 1993. Currently Lewis is president of Elgin

Veterinary Hospital, which is a private hospital and referral practice owned and operated by five veterinarians, with an additional seven associate veterinarians.

An AAEP member since 1976, Lewis has been very active within the association. In addition to serving as president in 1999, he served on the board of directors from 1987 to 1993. He is an On Call team member and he also has served on the AAEP Long-Range and Strategic Planning, Constitution and Bylaws, Problems Analysis, Research, Convention Planning, President's Advisory, Nominating, Public Policy, and Foundation Advisory Committees. Lewis also is the AAEP representative for the Racing Medication and Testing Consortium and the AAEP representative for the Legislative Advisory Council of the American Veterinary Medical Association.

About AAEP

The AAEP, headquartered in Lexington, Ky., was founded in 1954 as a nonprofit organization dedicated to the health and welfare of the horse. Currently, the AAEP reaches more than 5 million horse owners through its nearly 9,000 members worldwide, and it is actively involved in ethics issues, practice management, research, and continuing education in the equine veterinary profession and horse industry.

The AAEP's 54th Annual Convention will be held in San Diego, Calif., Dec. 6-10. 🐾

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