



December 1, 2009

Dear Friends of AAVMC:

Thank you for your support of the Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges (AAVMC) mission—AAVMC provides leadership for and promotes excellence in academic veterinary medicine to prepare the veterinary workforce with the scientific knowledge and skills required to meet societal needs through the protection of animal health, the relief of animal suffering, the conservation of animal resources, the promotion of public health, and the advancement of medical knowledge.

The AAVMC Annual Report highlights many of our activities and accomplishments in the past fiscal year. Particularly notable accomplishments include the completion and beginning implementation of our first Strategic Plan, the establishment and launching of the North American Veterinary Medical Education Consortium and the Veterinary Educators Collaborative, providing testimony on the needs of the veterinary workforce before Congress, joining forces with the AVMA to hold the International Educational Symposium on Animal Welfare Education and Research, and holding an exciting and educational AAVMC Annual Meeting and Iverson Bell Symposium! We hope that you recognize that the collective membership and actions by AAVMC can make a real difference in coming together to address current challenges to veterinary medical education. Please see all of AAVMC's activities this past year in the Annual Report online at www.aavmc.org.

In these most difficult of financial times, we know there will be many requests of your resources. I hope, nonetheless, that you will consider supporting AAVMC in the form of an end of year, tax-exempt contribution that will be used to advance and enhance AAVMC's programs and initiatives. As you consider making a tax-deductible gift this year, please see several exciting opportunities described just below:

- **AAVMC Unrestricted Gift Fund**

You may consider making an *unrestricted gift* which will allow direct funding of strategic areas of critical need within AAVMC that are not associated with lobbying activities. Whether contributions are used to recruit applicants to the profession, complete research projects and studies, or fund professional symposia, unrestricted gifts will have an immediate impact. If you choose this option, please indicate **41000A** in the memo portion of your check.

AAVMC also has several special opportunities to support excellence in academic veterinary medicine to which you may wish to direct your contribution. They are as follows:

- **AAVMC Policy and Leadership Externship**
AAVMC plans to sponsor and oversee, annually, three veterinary student externs per year in the public policy and leadership areas, in the Washington, DC region. The students will work closely with veterinarians at the AAVMC and will be exposed to public policy making in both the executive and legislative branches of the federal government, as well as being provided with insights into how the private sector and industry influence public policy making. Should you wish to make a contribution that is restricted to these externships, please mark **344000** in the memo portion of your check.
- **Underrepresented Student Scholarship Fund**
Increasing diversity among our veterinary medical students and faculty is one of AAVMC's strategic goals. To this end, AAVMC has established a special fund that awards annual competitive scholarships to racially and ethnically underrepresented students matriculating at U.S. colleges of veterinary medicine. Initially, we will award \$5,000 to at least one student. In the longer term, should contributions permit, AAVMC intends to establish an endowed scholarship fund that will allow greater support to larger numbers of students with need. Should you wish to make a contribution that is restricted to this fund, please mark **342000** in the memo portion of your check.
- **Web-Based Virtual Career Fair**
There is no single location where students interested in veterinary medicine as a career can go to learn about the breadth of career opportunities in veterinary medicine and about the paths in pursuit of that career choice. Since the Internet serves as the first choice for obtaining this type of information, AAVMC intends to create and maintain a Web-based virtual career fair, accessible to anyone on the AAVMC's Web site. Should you wish to make a contribution that is restricted to the virtual career fair, please mark **343000** in the memo portion of your check.

The AAVMC is grateful for the generosity of its donors and their contributions in support of AAVMC programs and veterinary medical education. Thank you again for your thoughtful consideration and support. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Marguerite Pappaioanou, DVM, MPVM, PhD, DACVPM
Executive Director