



## UNIVERSITY COLLEGE DUBLIN JOINS AAVMC

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**10 July 2008** - University College Dublin (UCD) has today joined the Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges (AAVMC) and is now accepting applications for entry in September 2009 to its veterinary medicine degree programme, which is accredited by the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA).

University College Dublin is the only provider of veterinary education on the island of Ireland and enjoys a long and proud tradition in this field. It offers outstanding facilities for veterinary medicine students including a purpose built Veterinary Sciences Centre and Veterinary Hospital (commissioned in 2002). Both facilities are located on the main university campus at Belfield, Co Dublin – a 132 Ha (326 acres) site approximately 5km (3 miles) south of Dublin’s City Centre.

More than 23,000 students study and conduct research at University College Dublin, and with veterinary medicine as part of the UCD College of Life Sciences, students and staff work collaboratively to expand the frontiers of knowledge in veterinary research advancing animal health, animal welfare, and human health.

UCD is one of only five European veterinary schools with AAVMC membership and is committed to recruiting international students to help drive high standards, diversity and enrich the experience for all learners. Students on the veterinary medicine programme benefit from proximity on campus to complementary disciplines including medicine and health sciences, agricultural sciences, veterinary nursing and a concentration of research excellence across a range of biomedical sciences.

AAVMC Executive Director Dr. Marguerite Pappaioanou is delighted with UCD membership, stating, “International partnerships and collaborations are critically important in an era of

globalization, and AAVMC is honoured and thrilled to have University College Dublin as a new member.”

Professor Grace Mulcahy, Dean of Veterinary Medicine at UCD, noted the significance of AAVMC membership for the international profile and reputation of veterinary medicine at UCD. “Membership in AAVMC provides us with the opportunity to forge relationships with other leading veterinary schools and to ensure our staff and students recognise their potential to advance veterinary medicine and public health, transcending national boundaries. As global citizens and graduates of an AVMA-accredited and AAVMC member institution, UCD-trained veterinarians will make a significant contribution to the international reputation of the University. We believe that AAVMC membership will enhance the educational experience we offer to all our students and provide our staff with valuable networking opportunities.”

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Founded in 1966 by the Deans of the 18 U.S. and three Canadian veterinary colleges, today the Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges coordinates the affairs of all 33 veterinary medical colleges in the United States and Canada, nine departments of veterinary science, eight departments of comparative medicine, three veterinary medical education institutions, and nine international veterinary schools. The Association fosters the teaching, research and service activities of its members, both nationally and internationally. The Association’s mission is to improve the quality of life for people and animals by advancing veterinary medical education, improving animal health and welfare, strengthening biomedical research, promoting food safety and food security, and enhancing environmental quality.

Website: <http://www.aavmc.org>

University College Dublin traces its origins to the Catholic University of Ireland founded in 1854 by Cardinal John Henry Newman, author of the celebrated “The Idea of a University.” Since then, the University has played a central role in Ireland’s advancement as a dynamic and highly successful European state and has established a long and distinguished tradition of service to scholarship and the community.

For over 150 years, UCD has produced graduates of remarkable distinction including famous surgeons, architects, entrepreneurs and five of Ireland’s Taoisigh (Prime Ministers). Perhaps the best known of all its graduates is the writer James Joyce.

Today, UCD is a vibrant, modern university situated on a spacious and leafy campus some 3 miles to the south of Dublin city centre. For students, both Irish and international, it is a supportive and stimulating environment in which to spend a period of intellectual and personal development.

Website: <http://www.ucd.ie/vetmed>