



## UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY JOINS AAVMC

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FEBRUARY 29, 2008

**CONTACT:**

Dr. Marguerite Pappaioanou  
Executive Director, AAVMC  
Phone: 202/371-9195, x15  
Email: mpappa@aavmc.org

**CONTACT:**

Dr. Alastair Cribb, Dean  
Faculty of Veterinary Science  
University of Calgary  
Phone: (403) 220-4570  
Email: acribb@ucalgary.ca

(Washington, D.C.) – The Faculty of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Calgary has joined the Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges (AAVMC) as a full member. The University of Calgary becomes the fifth accredited college of veterinary medicine in Canada to join the AAVMC and the fifth veterinary medical education institution since October 2007 to join the AAVMC.

"I am very pleased to welcome Canada's newest veterinary medical college as a member," said Dr. Tim Boosinger, Dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine at Auburn University and President of the AAVMC. "As a young institution creating responsive new educational structures and research programs to meet the needs of Albertans and Canadians, the Faculty brings a different perspective to our Association which will help us meet the challenges facing veterinary medical education."

Dr. Alastair Cribb, Dean of the Faculty of Veterinary Science at the University of Calgary, noted that AAVMC membership will help the Faculty meet its goals as a new college of veterinary medicine.

"The Faculty of Veterinary Medicine will not only be educating new veterinarians but creating knowledge to serve Alberta and people around the world," Dr. Cribb said. "By joining the AAVMC, faculty at the University of Calgary will benefit from peer-to-peer international cooperation and interaction, and in turn will play significant role in improving veterinary medical education and determining the strategic direction of the profession in the coming decades."

The Faculty of Veterinary Medicine was founded in 2004, when the Government of Alberta approved funding to create Alberta's first veterinary medical college. Administration, research and classroom teaching take place at the Foothills Health Sciences Centre, while basic clinical skills training and clinical research occur at the new Spy Hill facility. The Faculty's Distributed Veterinary Teaching Hospital partners with veterinary clinics and hospitals in Calgary and across the province, providing students with clinical experience.

The University of Calgary was given approval by the Minister of Advanced Education and Technology, and is accredited by the Council on Education (COE) of the Canadian and American Veterinary Medical Associations. The first class of DVM students will enter the four-year program in September 2008. More than 30 of 65 total faculty members have been recruited, and the Faculty has received more than C\$6.5 million in research funds in the last fiscal year.

As a member of the AAVMC, students and faculty at the University of Calgary will collaborate with other AAVMC member institutions as they interact with government bodies, veterinary medical organizations, the animal and human health industry, educational and scientific organizations, and the public. AAVMC member institutions also promote the priorities of academic veterinary medicine, which include improving the human resources component of veterinary medicine; enhancing infrastructure support and research funding; providing adequate financial support for students and the overall diversification of the veterinary medical profession.

With the assistance of its member institutions, AAVMC also collects and publishes statistical data detailing all aspects of academic veterinary medicine, and publishes the *Journal of Veterinary Medical Education (JVME)* and the *Veterinary Medical School Admissions Requirements (VMSAR)* handbook. In addition, the Association owns and operates the Veterinary Medical College Application Service (VMCAS), the central distribution, collection and processing service for applications to veterinary medical colleges.

# # #

The Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges (AAVMC) co-ordinates the national and international affairs of the 32 veterinary medical colleges in the United States and Canada, nine departments of veterinary science, seven departments of comparative medicine, three veterinary medical education institutions, and seven international colleges of veterinary medicine. 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.

On the Web: <http://www.aavmc.org>

The Faculty of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Calgary is Canada's fifth and newest college of veterinary medical education. Founded in 2004, the Faculty will admit its first class in September 2008. The Faculty of Veterinary Medicine is approved by the Minister of Advanced Education and Technology, and is accredited by the Council on Education (COE) of the Canadian and American Veterinary Medical Associations. The Faculty has two primary campuses: One at the Foothills Health Sciences Centre on the South Campus of the University of Calgary, and another under construction the University's Spy Hill Farms facility.

On the Web: <http://www.vet.ucalgary.ca/>