



## UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE JOINS AAVMC

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(Washington, D.C., December 7, 2007) – The Faculty of Veterinary Science at the University of Melbourne has joined the Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges (AAVMC) as an affiliate member. The University of Melbourne becomes the third accredited college of veterinary medicine in Australia to join the AAVMC.

The Faculty of Veterinary Science traces its history to 1888, and was one of the first programs in the English speaking world to require four years of education. The University of Melbourne assumed control over the program in 1909, operating until 1928, and then re-opening in 1963. The Faculty is concentrated on two sites – the Parkville city-centre campus and the Veterinary Clinical Centre at Werribee. Small animal and equine medical care are provided at the recently renovated, state-of-the-art Veterinary Clinic and Hospital in Werribee, while the Rural Veterinary Centre at Maffra specializes in dairy cattle medicine and production. The Faculty also operates the Centre for Animal Biotechnology, the Centre for Equine Virology, and is a core partner in the Australian Poultry Cooperative Research Centre. In cooperation with the Mackinnon Trust, the Faculty also hosts and operates the Mackinnon Project, a “whole-farm” approach to modern beef, lamb and wool production. Research and research training is strongly emphasized by the Faculty, and international students comprise about 30 per cent of the total student body.

“The Faculty has an international reputation for the consistently high quality of both its undergraduate and graduate veterinary medical education,” said Dr. Tim Boosinger, Dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine at Auburn University and President of the AAVMC, “and its staff is noted for its expertise in a broad range of veterinary and biomedical science and applied veterinary medicine.”

“The AAVMC is very pleased to welcome as a member a Faculty with such a strong commitment to advancing the well-being of animals and human beings,” said Dr. Boosinger.

Prof. Ken Hinchcliff, Dean of the Faculty of Veterinary Science at the University of Melbourne, noted that AAVMC membership will help the Faculty advance its goal of providing high quality veterinary medical education and research training.

“The Faculty’s goal is to educate world class veterinary science graduates,” Dr. Hinchcliff said. “In joining the AAVMC, our faculty and graduates will greatly benefit from international cooperation and interaction, and in turn will make significant contributions to the improvement of veterinary medical education and local, regional and global animal and human health.”

As a member of the AAVMC, students and faculty at the University of Melbourne 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.

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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 Science is a constituent faculty of the University of Melbourne. Founded in 1853, the University of Melbourne is the second-oldest university in Australia. It is a member of the “Group of Eight” Australian universities that are highly ranked for their research. The Faculty of Veterinary Science was founded in 1888 as Melbourne Veterinary College. The course was transferred to the University of Melbourne in 1909. The School closed in 1928 and re-opened in 1963, but the Veterinary Research Institute operated continuously until 1991. The Faculty operates the Veterinary Clinic and Hospital in Werribee, the Rural Veterinary Centre at Maffra, the Centre for Animal Biotechnology, the Centre for Equine Virology, and is a core partner in the Australian Poultry Cooperative Research Centre. In cooperation with the Mackinnon Trust, the Faculty also hosts and operates the Mackinnon Project, a “whole-farm” approach to modern beef, lamb and wool production.

On the Web: <http://www.vet.unimelb.edu.au/>