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# Potomac Fever Update

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## Centennial Medal for Dr. Stubbs

The School's Centennial Medal was presented to Dr. Evan Lee Stubbs (V'11) by Dean Robert Marshak on Alumni Day. Prior to the presentation, Dr. John T. McGrath (V'43), professor of pathology, read the following citation:

Dr. Evan Lee Stubbs was born during the first week of the last decade of the nineteenth century, 1890, in Oxford, Pennsylvania, at a time when veterinary science was struggling for recognition as it emerged from the tyranny of the farrier horse doctor. Virchow was still at the height of his powers in Germany, directing the attention of pathologists for generations to come to "cellular pathology," the microscopic alteration in disease. Cohnheim's "Lecture in General Pathology" had just been published in English by the New Sydenham Society of London, and the School of Veterinary Medicine at Pennsylvania, with Dr. Rush Huidekoper as Dean, was celebrating its sixth birthday. These events provided a fitting stage for the appearance of a man who would contribute so much to veterinary pathology and to the University of Pennsylvania.

Dr. Stubbs graduated from the East Nottingham Township High School in 1907. After writing an essay on veterinary medicine, a requirement then for admission to the School of Veterinary Medicine, he was accepted and received his V.M.D. from the University of Pennsylvania four years later. He practiced in his hometown between 1911 and 1913, and then accepted a position with the Pennsylvania Bureau of Agriculture. Here he remained for 14 years, rising to Director of Laboratories in 1925. Two years later, he was appointed Assistant Professor of Pathology at the University of Pennsylvania and was promoted to full professor in 1930.

During his remarkable professional career he published 161 papers. His last paper, on avian virus-induced tumor by Stubbs and Walbank, appeared in the *Journal of Poultry Science* in 1968. He attended



Dr. Stubbs (V'11) (left), Dean Robert Marshak, and Dr. David Meirs, II (V'54).

four World Veterinary Congresses and eight World Poultry Congresses. At these congresses, he came to know many world leaders in veterinary medicine and was regarded as The Veterinary School representative. He was also the leading figure in establishing programs of graduate education at the Veterinary School. Dr. Israel Live was the first veterinarian and Dr. Josephine Deubler the first woman veterinarian to receive Ph.D.s in pathology from this University.

During the 1930s and 1940s, when research in the School languished generally, Dr. Stubbs made major contributions through studies on avian influenza, avian tumors, and venereal cell sarcomas of the dog. He was editor for many years of the School's *Extension Quarterly* and in the forties and fifties stimulated many young faculty to publish their observations and research.

Through his lectures, his research, and his professional activities at local, state, national, and interna-

tional levels, and by his quiet, unassuming personality, he earned the respect and affection of his students, his colleagues, and generations of veterinary alumni.

An Award of Merit citation from the University of Pennsylvania in 1960, the year Dr. Stubbs retired, read in part as follows:

"Lifelong scholar, distinguished teacher and researcher, you have contributed much of lasting worth to your University and your profession. The competence, the enthusiasm, and the thoroughness which have always characterized your work have helped Pennsylvania to maintain its strong position in the forefront of veterinary medicine.

"Today, in further recognition of so many years of devoted service, the School of Veterinary Medicine, with admiration, gratitude and affection, asks you to accept the school's Centennial Medal, its most significant and prestigious award."

## GME Seminar

On Sunday, May 25, 1986, forty to fifty veterinarians met in Washington, DC, at the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine Fourth Annual Forum, to discuss the status of present knowledge and future research of granulomatous meningo-encephalitis in the dog. The meeting was made possible in part by the financial support from the Charing Cross Research Fund. Mr. Gilbert S. Kahn, who had established the Fund, was present at the GME seminar, and his contribution was acknowledged by the seminar participants.

The four speakers and the topics of the papers were:

"GME: A Clinical Review," Dr. Kyle G. Braund, Auburn University;

"An Overview of the Morphology of Canine Encephalitis Presumed to be Viral," Dr. John T. McGrath, University of Pennsylvania;

"Morphologic and Histochemical Characteristics of GME and Reticulosis: One Disease or Two? The California Perspective," Dr. Robert J. Higgins, University of California, Davis; and

"Morphologic and Histochemical Characteristics of GME and Reticulosis: One Disease or Two? The Bern Perspective," Dr. Marc Vandeveld, University of Berne.

Dr. Sheldon Steinberg, who organized the GME seminar, indicated that the discussion following the presentation of the papers was lively and informative. "The consensus now is that GME is an entity which is distinct from reticulosis and more common. This is an important step; clearly there is much to do in order to understand this uncommon disease. We hope to produce bulletins on GME research periodically."



Mrs. Muriel L. Freeman was awarded an honorary degree by Wilson College, Chambersburg, PA. Shown here are Dean Robert Marshak, Mrs. Freeman, and Mrs. Marshak.

## Potomac Fever Update

The Microbiology Research Laboratory at New Bolton Center is accepting serum specimens for assessment of Potomac Horse Fever antibodies. As the clinical signs of this disease often mimic those of salmonellosis (fever, depression, diarrhea) differentiation between these two diseases is critical to developing the appropriate therapeutic approach.

Dr. Jonathan Palmer in the Section of Large Animal Medicine has been evaluating several treatment programs which shorten the disease process of Potomac Horse Fever and improve the survival rate. These treatments, however, exacerbate salmonellosis and therefore diagnostic distinction must be made prior to initiation of treatment.

Dr. Charles E. Benson of the Microbiology Research Laboratory is developing a rapid diagnostic procedure which will detect the presence of the Potomac Horse Fever agents sooner than traditional tests. Trials of the new diagnostic procedure in the laboratory have been very encouraging, and the early diagnosis of the disease has permitted researchers to commence treatment sooner.

The collaborative Microbiology/Medicine research studies of Potomac Horse Fever have made the antibody detection procedure available to individuals outside the research laboratories. The research funds supporting the development of the rapid diagnostic procedure partially subsidize the performance of the acute and convalescent antibody titrations. Information concerning sample submission should be directed to Dr. Charles E. Benson, associate professor of microbiology (215-444-5800, ext. 159/161). All results will be reported by telephone within five days after receipt of the specimen. Written reports will be sent within ten days. Inquiries concerning disease outbreaks should be directed to Dr. Jonathan E. Palmer, assistant professor of medicine (215-444-5800, ext. 412).