



## Bellwether Magazine

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# The Campaign for Penn Vet Surpasses \$100 Million Mark

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# The Campaign for Penn Vet Surpasses \$100 Million Mark

BY HELEN RADENKOVIC

With less than two years remaining in *Making History: The Campaign for Penn Vet*, our loyal friends and supporters have helped us to raise more than \$100 million toward our ambitious goal of \$125 million.

Our goal of \$125 million is not just a nice, round number – it is a number that represents a thoughtful strategy to provide top-flight facilities for our patients, students and faculty, and to advance cutting-edge research in veterinary medicine.

Specific priorities include:

- › Investing in care and research
- › Supporting students
- › Leading the profession of veterinary medicine
- › Expanding the frontiers of research
- › Meeting our most pressing, current and future needs

Although we have so far benefited greatly from the generosity and dedication of our loyal alumni and friends, we have a large task of raising \$25 million to realize our vision for the future.

Whether we are working to provide the finest in emergency and routine veterinary patient care for all species of large or small animals, we strive to better understand animal disease through research, and to be leaders in the area of animal health and productivity for the betterment of society. Achieving both objectives requires state-of-the-art facilities, and we are paving the way with capital projects on both our New Bolton Center and Philadelphia campuses.

Here, we have highlighted just a few exciting developments and accomplishments in recent months.

## Equine Performance Evaluation Facility

The Equine Performance Evaluation Facility is currently in development stages at the New Bolton Center, and we are pleased to report that two recent additional gifts have moved us closer to a construction date. Having achieved 80 percent of the funding necessary, we are hopeful that we will soon be able to get this project underway. This remarkable facility will allow faculty, staff and students to expedite a care plan for admitted equine patients and is a top priority for the School.

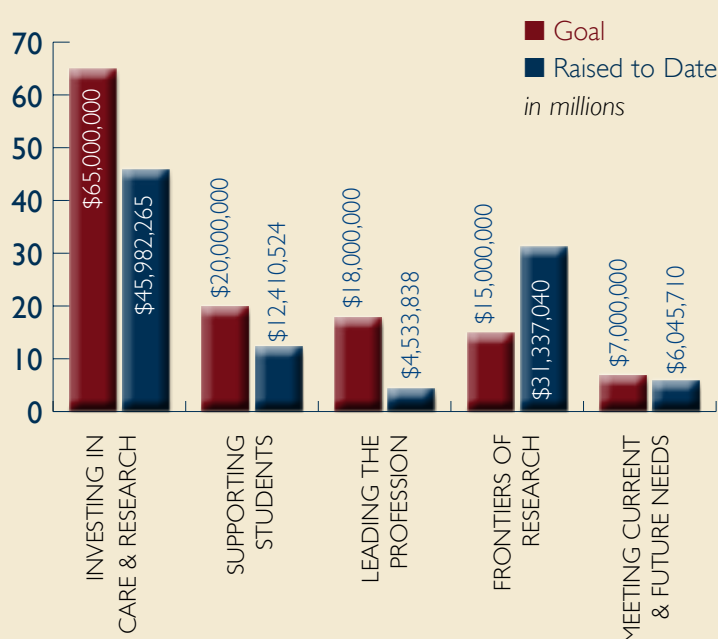
## Updated Ryan-VHUP Lobby & Emergency Services

We have also made significant progress in developing plans for a comprehensive reconstruction of the first floor lobby and waiting area at the Matthew J. Ryan Veterinary Hospital (Ryan-VHUP) in Philadelphia to ensure clients have the best experience possible. Hospital and School administration have hired Cecil Baker + Partners, a Philadelphia-based architectural firm, to lead the renovations. Plans include a brighter, easily identifiable entrance with automatic doors, a greeting station and a client-friendly admissions area. These are only the first steps in enhancing our clients' experiences.

This new, state-of-the-art lobby area will give Ryan-VHUP an appearance to match the superb level of care that Ryan-VHUP and its clinicians are known for, while also reflecting our commitment to excellence in customer satisfaction and experience.

### CAMPAIGN REPORT

\$125 Million Goal, \$100 Million Raised to Date



This attractive, comfortable and updated waiting room will include more private, separated areas, which will minimize stress for our patients and our clients.

The first-floor renovation project at Ryan-VHUP will also investigate the possibility of an after-hours entrance for Emergency Services, improve the Emergency Services waiting and intake areas and add a new Emergency Services procedure room. This organized layout for clinic workflow will also increase the amount of patient care space, thus enabling improved operational processes, such as patient flow, staff, materials and information. Improving the environment and processes will be an important step in decreasing wait time for our clients.

The first floor will also gain the outpatient pharmacy, a satellite facility to the main pharmacy on the third floor, and a retail sales area. As clients check out, they will also be able to pick up medications for their pet and have an opportunity to purchase necessary supplies and a keepsake. Our architects have begun schematic design of the interior spaces and the exterior approach from Spruce Street.

These crucial renovations will require approximately \$1.5 million in funding for the interior renovations alone. Because of the generosity of our Friends of Ryan, we have \$220,000 in-hand and ready to deploy for the earliest stages of this project. Another \$365,000 has been pledged for future capital construction, leaving approximately \$915,000 to be raised toward the transformational benefits of first-floor renovations at Ryan-VHUP.

This transformation directly impacts Penn Vet's key initiatives of enhancing customer satisfaction and matching our eminent reputation with modern, advanced facilities while also responding to the need to compete with our growing local competition.

## Advanced Minimally Invasive Surgery Suite

In addition to first-floor renovations at Ryan-VHUP that will directly impact customer service and Emergency Services at the hospital, Penn Vet is also making strides in the construction of our minimally invasive surgery operating room (OR 1) within the Philadelphia hospital, which will provide the most technologically advanced surgical techniques in the profession. Endoscopic and arthroscopic procedures will enable our surgeons to minimize risk of infection to our patients, as well as lessen their pain and recovery times.

The total cost of the OR 1 project is just over \$616,000. With generous gifts from Penn Vet supporters, we are ready to purchase the equipment boom, arms and lights, the endoscopy camera system upgrade to HD and the integration system. This equipment will provide clinical data and images for viewing and sharing from within the sterile field to local and remote locations. A July 2011 completion date for this impressive suite is expected.

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## Expanding the Frontiers of Research

Some of the brightest minds, most state-of-the-art equipment and cutting-edge knowledge reside in veterinary teaching hospitals, making them the ideal environment in which to perform clinical trials that determine which breakthroughs can actually change the way veterinary medicine is practiced. At Ryan-VHUP we have not only a wealth of opportunities for faculty to engage in groundbreaking research, but also the ability to translate our research into practice. Currently, some of the standout research being conducted by Penn Vet includes work in canine mammary tumors, cancer, pain management and gene therapy advances.

### *The VCIC*

In 2005, Penn Vet launched the Veterinary Clinical Investigations Center (VCIC) in an effort to maximize the quantity, quality and efficiency of clinical trials. It was originally staffed with one clinical trials nurse whose sole responsibility was the collection of high-quality data from a single clinical trial. Today, the VCIC is directed by Dr. Dottie Brown, chair, Clinical Studies – Philadelphia, and staffed with full-time Associate Director Michael DiGregorio and five full-time clinical trials nurses certified in Good Clinical Practice, whose effort is entirely devoted to all aspects of clinical trial implementation, including study set-up, recruitment, data collection, data management and study close-out. By building a solid infrastructure for clinical trials management, we are able to efficiently and effectively run high quality studies in an academic teaching hospital. Currently, there are more than 12 clinical studies underway at the VCIC.

### *Incorporating Traditional Chinese Medicine with Western Medicine*

Dogs that have been diagnosed with hemangiosarcoma (HSA) of the spleen traditionally have a grave prognosis of two to four months of survival. Researchers at Penn Vet are combining some principles of Traditional Chinese Medicine with the modern diagnostic tools of Western Medicine to investigate the health and welfare benefits of an herbal supplement derived from the Yunzhi mushroom, which may support the immune system while maintaining general fitness and overall quality of life. Surprisingly significant improvements in survival, with several dogs living over a year after diagnosis, have been documented to date.

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As you can see, Penn Vet is a busy, changing place and we thank you – our friends and supporters – for being a part of this exciting time as we set the pace for the future of veterinary medicine. If you would like to learn more about our priorities, please contact Melissa von Stade, assistant dean for Advancement, Alumni Relations and Communication, at 215-898-1482 or via email at [mstade@vet.upenn.edu](mailto:mstade@vet.upenn.edu). 