

Message from Dean Herbert Whiteley

University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine

### **Leadership at Illinois: Building Our Vision for the Future**

Whether or not Illinois is your alma mater, the College of Veterinary Medicine is here to serve you. We are working hard to do that every day by educating your future colleagues, contributing to your continuing knowledge base, offering outstanding clinical and diagnostic service and consultation, and generating discoveries in the biomedical field.

Actively planning for our future is another way to serve you. Planning ensures that we will adapt to the changing environment in ways that will have the greatest impact on the profession and the world.

Our vision statement captures our desire to be continually at the forefront:

*The College of Veterinary Medicine aspires to be a leader in veterinary and comparative biomedical education, scholarship, and public engagement in the University of Illinois system, in the state, in the nation, and around the world.*

A comprehensive facility plan completed earlier this year for the College provides the foundation for expanding our leadership over the next 20 years. It maps out more than 200,000 gross square feet of potential new buildings and infrastructure, facilities needed to recruit outstanding faculty and students and ensure excellence in academic and scholarly programs.

I hope all our alumni and friends in the Illinois veterinary profession will review our facility plan. It is available from our Web site, [www.cvm.uiuc.edu](http://www.cvm.uiuc.edu). We will make every effort to showcase the plans at reunions, meetings, and other events in the coming year. For those of you attending our annual Fall Conference in Urbana on October 20 and 21, please plan to arrive early on Thursday to see my presentation on the plan at 9:30 am.

Highlights of the plan are described here. The facilities of our future will give faculty the tools they need to implement their visions, such as state-of-the-art small animal surgery suites and an equine sports medicine facility. We will expand our veterinary class size to 150, providing an optimal learning environment for students and contributing to a national demand for veterinarians. Indeed, we are hopeful that federal legislation now in Congress, the Veterinary Work Force Expansion Act, will eventually help fund the proposed academic commons building. (See our Web site for more about this legislation.)

Funding also needs to come from our alumni and their clients. We rely on our partnership with you for directing our vision and helping us achieve it.

We have a vision to lead in the veterinary profession throughout the state and beyond. With your interest and support, the building plan will assist us in doing that.

Please contact me at [dean@cvm.uiuc.edu](mailto:dean@cvm.uiuc.edu) if you would like to learn more about opportunities to move us toward our vision.

### **Our Vision for the Facilities of Our Future**

- Expansion and renovation of the Small Animal Clinic will likely be among the first elements in the plan to be implemented because funding is currently committed for some of these projects. New wings will be dedicated to surgery suites, imaging, and an expanded reception area, with additional classroom and office space included.
- An equine sports medicine facility to provide the Midwest with state-of-the-art diagnostic, treatment, and therapeutic services for client-owned horses with sports-related injuries. Included in the plans are equine-accessible MRI and CT imaging suites, a swimming pool for equine recovery and rehabilitation, a half-mile racetrack, and an indoor riding arena.
- An “academic commons” to accommodate a veterinary class size of 150 students, increasing capacity by nearly 50 percent. Facing Lincoln Avenue, this building will

establish a strong visual identity for the College. It will house classrooms, teaching and computer laboratories, administrative offices, the library, and “people spaces” to promote interaction.

- Renovations to existing facilities will take place as areas are vacated by programs moving to new buildings. In the Basic Sciences Building, the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory will expand, and new research laboratories, including a biosecurity level III research area on the third floor, will be added. There will be more examination rooms in the Small Animal Clinic, and more space for medical records and the pharmacy. In the Large Animal Clinic, the quarantine section and imaging facilities will expand.