Gambian President Named First Poppensiek Professor

In an appointment rare in international diplomacy, the president of the Republic of The Gambia, His Excellency Alhaji Sir Dawda Kairaba Jawara, has been named the first George C. Poppensiek Visiting Professor in International Veterinary Medicine at Cornell. This is believed to be the first time an African head of state has lectured in the United States in a technical field.

President Jawara visited Cornell’s College of Veterinary Medicine and the Center for African Studies May 10, 11 and 12 and met with many student and faculty groups. As the George C. Poppensiek Visiting Professor in International Veterinary Medicine, he spoke on May 10 on the topic “Animal Disease as a Factor Limiting Economic Development in West Africa.

A member of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, President Jawara earned his veterinary degree from Glasgow University in 1953 and in 1957 he received a diploma in tropical veterinary medicine from Edinburgh. He was principal veterinary officer in the service of the Gambian government until he resigned in 1960 to become leader of the Protectorate People’s Party. In 1962 he was appointed premier and he led his country to independence in 1965. He was appointed prime minister in 1966 and became the first president of The Gambia in 1970.

President Jawara was responsible for the establishment of an international research institute, the International Trypanotolerance Center in The Gambia, and the subsequent development of a research initiative on the control of trypanosomiasis, a major animal disease in Africa. In The Gambia and West Africa some breeds of cattle appear to be naturally immune to trypanosomiasis; this research institute is dedicated to understanding the nature of the natural immunity.

Until the present, control of the disease has focused on the eradication of the disease vector, the tsetse fly. Most of the attempts have been unsuccessful, and the replication and dissemination of animals with a natural immunity, whether partial or total, represents a more promising method for control of the disease.

The George C. Poppensiek Visiting Professorship was named in honor of the distinguished dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine from 1959 to 1974. Its objective is to expand our understanding of veterinary medicine in other countries and thereby broaden the horizon of the North American veterinary community.

The professorship is awarded each year to a veterinarian from a country other than the United States or Canada who may spend up to a week on the Cornell campus and give a general lecture on an aspect of veterinary medicine in his or her country of origin. Interaction with faculty members and graduate and veterinary students is encouraged.
The 1989 Honor Day Awards*

The Horace K. White Prize
for the best academic record
Alison R. Gaynor

The Grant Sherman Hopkins Prize
for work in anatomy
Alison R. Gaynor
Patricia A. Adams

The New York State Veterinary Medical Society Prize
for senior seminars
John C. Reynolds
Gwendolyn M. Wollney

The Prize of the Auxiliary of the American Veterinary Medical Association
for special contributions to the college
Eric J. Parente

The James Gordon Bennett Prize
for work in anesthesia
David C. Van Metre
Andrea L. Looney

The Anna Olafson Sussex Pathology Award
Miriam A. Fitchett '90

The Mary Louise Moore Prize
for work in bacteriology
Kathleen A. Jones

The Charles Gross Bondy Prize
for work in small animal medicine and surgery
Maria A. Castiglione

The American Animal Hospital Association Student Award
for work in small animal medicine and surgery
Francesca J. Kondek

The Phi Zeta Award
for the best academic record of a 2nd year student
Kimberly M. Stanz '91

The Malcolm E. Miller Award
Anne Babbott

The Jacob Traum Award
for work in microbiology
Barbara Ulrich

The P. Philip Levine Prize
in avian medicine
Yvonne C. Oppenheim '90

The Frank Bloom Pathology Award
Mary C. Battista

The Jane Miller Prize
for work in veterinary physiology
Robert R. Lee '91

The Anne Besse Prize
for work in large animal medicine
Deborah A. Fisher
Keith W. Clement

The Donald D. Delahanty Memorial Prize
for a student entering equine practice.
Janet A. Durso

The Merck Manual Award
for contributions to the college
Roberta A. Duhaime
Patricia A. Daly

The Philotherian Photographic Prize
Karen M. O'Brien '91

The Gentle Doctor Award
Linda A. Isaman

The American Association of Feline Practitioners Award
for work in feline medicine and surgery
Megan C. Claps

The A. Gordon Danks Large Animal Surgery Award
Eric J. Parente

The Myron G. Fincher Prize
for work in obstetrics
Robert J. Toole

The Gary Bolton Memorial Cardiology Award
Nancy J. Laste

The Pharmacology Faculty Award
for outstanding performance in pharmacology
Curtis W. Dewey

The Wild Bird Research and Rehabilitation Award
Karen L. Van Der Eems

The Colonel Floyd C. Sager Equine Obstetrics and Pediatrics Award
Janet A. Durso

The Purina Mills Inc. Award for Proficiency in Swine Medicine
David C. Van Metre

The Upjohn Clinical Award for Proficiency in Large Animal Medicine
David C. Van Metre

The Upjohn Clinical Award for Proficiency in Small Animal Medicine
Patricia F. Ashley

The Hugh Dukes Prize in Experimental Physiology
Mary G. Battista

The E. L. Stubbs Award
for work in avian medicine
Maria A. Castiglione

The Neuroanatomy–Clinical Neurology Prize
(in Memory of Dr. William B. Forsythe)
Alison R. Gaynor
Robert B. Justin
Steven A. Ososky

The Iams Prize
essay competition
Joyce M. Carnevale '90

The Animed Prize
for work in small animal diagnosis
Matthew J. Chavkin '90

Faculty Awards

The Beecham Award for Research Excellence
Dr. Patrick W. Concannon

The Norden Distinguished Teacher Award
Dr. Wayne S. Schwark

*Unless otherwise noted, all student award recipients are members of the graduating Class of 1989.

Veterinary Viewpoints is published quarterly for friends and alumni of the College of Veterinary Medicine, a Statutory College of the State University of New York. Correspondence may be addressed to: Karen Redmond, Editor, Veterinary Viewpoints, College of Veterinary Medicine, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York 14853.

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Work on Fertility in Dogs Earns Beecham Award

The study of canine reproduction has earned Dr. Patrick Concannon the 1989 Beecham Award for Research Excellence at the College of Veterinary Medicine. The award is presented annually by Beecham Laboratories to an investigator whose research achievements are likely to have a significant impact on our understanding of the biology or medical management of animals.

Concannon's study of the reproductive endocrinology of the dog is particularly significant in terms of understanding the changes that occur during pregnancy and the response of the pregnant animal to insulin, as some cases of diabetes are precipitated by pregnancy. In addition, his work in manipulating the control of ovarian function in the dog has demonstrated several nonsurgical methods for regulating reproductive activity in dogs, both as a means of controlling the pet population problem and for enhancing fertility in dogs with inherited traits or qualities of medical interest. Because of that work, researchers are now able to control within a few days when a bitch will ovulate and to predict the whelping date to within one day. Several methods of contraception in dogs developed and tested by Concannon will provide veterinarians and pet owners with safer methods and a large number of alternatives in preventing dogs from having unwanted pups.

A senior research associate in the department of physiology, Concannon received his undergraduate degree in biology from Boston College and his master's in biology from Northeastern University. He earned a Ph.D. in physiology from Cornell in 1972. Concannon is a member of the Society for the Study of Reproduction, the Endocrine Society, the Society for the Study of Fertility (U.K.), the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and Sigma Xi. He is the author of over seventy publications on the reproductive biology of dogs, cats, and other species. He was the organizer of the First International Symposium on Canine and Feline Reproduction, held in Dublin in July 1988 and attended by researchers from twenty-eight countries.

Students Honor Pharmacologist

Students in the DVM program at Cornell's College of Veterinary Medicine have selected Dr. Wayne S. Schwark for the 1989 Norden Distinguished Teacher Award. The award goes to a full-time member of the veterinary faculty who has demonstrated continued excellence in teaching.

Schwark has taught pharmacology at Cornell since 1972. He currently teaches pharmacology and toxicology electives in the fall and spring semesters and is responsible for the spring pharmacology course for second-year students. When he was working toward his own DVM degree, however, teaching was not in his plans. In fact, he planned to enter practice after graduation. Pharmacology courses at the University of Guelph changed his mind. "I guess that's when I started to change, when I was exposed to pharmacology as a veterinary student," Schwark says. "I was just fascinated that you could administer simple chemicals to an animal and produce such a diversity of effects." Today, in his own teaching, he tries to pass along that enthusiasm. "I've found over the years that students are really interested in clinical veterinary medicine as opposed to basic sciences. If you can make something clinically relevant, their ears really perk up." Schwark is working with clinicians in the teaching hospital on several research projects, and he is continuing his own research in which he is studying the way certain drugs control epileptic seizures. But research wouldn't be satisfying for him if he weren't teaching too. "That's why we're here. That's the primary goal of this school, to produce veterinarians. Just being in contact with the students, seeing them get turned on to veterinary medicine—that's the biggest thrill that all of us get from teaching."

A professor in the department of pharmacology, Schwark received his DVM in 1965, and his M.Sc. in 1967, both from the Ontario Veterinary College at the University of Guelph. He earned his Ph.D. in pharmacology in 1970 at the University of Ottawa. He serves as a consultant for the Bureau of Veterinary Medicine of the Food and Drug Administration, and the Poison Control Center in Syracuse, New York, and is a member of the editorial board of the scientific journal, Epilepsy Research.
Veterinary Players Debut with "Little Shop of Horrors"

They packed the house for three consecutive nights—students, faculty, family, and friends—to see the Veterinary Players in Little Shop of Horrors. A musical comedy that takes a few grizzly turns, the play was written by Howard Ashman, with music by Alan Menken and was originally produced at the Orpheum Theatre in New York City. Our version, directed and produced by Richard Goldstein '90, was held in the James Law Auditorium on February 25, 26, and 27.

The story revolves around Seymour (Tom Graves '91), a timid shopkeeper's assistant who would do anything (including losing a little blood) for his lovely Audrey, a fellow employee and the object of his undeclared affections. Staged in a down-and-out flower shop on skid row owned by Mr. Mushnick (Ellis Loew, associate professor of physiology), the story takes a hopeful turn when Seymour discovers a "strange and interesting" plant that brings notoriety and wealth to the shop. All the plant asks in return is to be fed. Audrey's boyfriend, a sadistic nitrous oxide guzzling dentist (Gary Block '91) becomes the first human sacrifice. The plant grows at an alarming rate as Seymour is increasingly torn between the benefits that the plant provides and his guilt over what the plant requires. All is set to a 1950s beat. Crystal (Brooke Hines '91), Chiffon (Laurence M. Volvel '91), and Ronette (Ann C. Crossley, staff) provided musical continuity throughout the play.

The pit band, composed of Anne Lowenthal '90 playing piano, Curt Dewey '89 on bass guitar, Larry Cangro '90 and Keith Gordon '90 playing guitar, and George Pinkham '90 on drums, had a great time doing a professional job.

With over eighty people involved in the production, Little Shop of Horrors was one of the largest extracurricular events that ever took place at the college. Five months of preparation which included building a temporary extension onto the stage, erecting sets, gathering props, making costumes, casting and rehearsing, was coordinated entirely by students. Several members of the staff and some faculty members also took part in the activities.

Whether one took part or attended the finished production, the play created a sense of community and enthusiasm at the college. As one faculty member put it, "I went two nights and would've gone a third if I could've gotten a ticket." The level of acting and musical talent evidenced in the play was a delightful surprise to many in the audience. Those in the cast enjoyed themselves and it showed.

Financing for the play came from the Graduate Activities Finance Commission, the Alumni Association, and ticket sales. After covering the costs of this fairly elaborate production, the students were able to contribute $500 in proceeds to the Tompkins County Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

By Marcia James Sawyer
Doppler Finds Heart Problems with Color

Moving an ultrasound probe over a dog's chest, cardiologist Dr. Sydney Moise sees the picture the ultrasound waves send of the heart and its chambers on the ultrasound machine's viewing screen. There in black and white is the pulmonary artery, packed with the parasite Dirofilaria immitis, or heartworm. At the touch of a button, the ultrasound machine adds Doppler flow, or the measurement of blood flow and velocity. But because this is cardiology's latest acquisition, a Doppler color flow imaging system, the otherwise black and white image on the screen indicates blood flow in a pattern of blues, reds, and, in the vicinity of the heartworm blockage, a mosaic of colors.

However, if there is turbulence the blood cells mingle, producing a red and blue mosaic. In a dog with heartworms the area around the bolus of worms is speckled with various intensities of red and blue because the blood is forced by the blockage to go in many directions. Other problems can also be identified with color. “Anytime you have an abnormality in the heart,” says Moise, “such as a shunt or a pressure drop or a stenosis, it causes the normally laminar blood flow to become turbulent or nonlaminar. The blood flow is multiple directional and the machine presents it in multiple colors.” With the turbulence identified by color, according to Moise, “we can find abnormalities much more quickly than with a conventional black and white Doppler.”

Radiologists Dr. Amy Yeager and Dr. Kathy Beck also use the Doppler color flow imaging system to help them evaluate noncardiac structures. For example, it can document the blood flow through a portosystemic shunt.

Doppler color flow imaging works through the interaction of a computer and an instrument called an autocorrelator. “With the conventional Doppler,” says Moise, “a single ultrasound beam or line hits the blood cells. With color flow you have many ultrasound lines hitting different points of blood flow, as well as multiple gates along each line. The Doppler echocardiograph within the computer measures the direction and velocity of the flow at these many points and the information goes back to the computer’s autocorrelator.” It is the autocorrelator that codes for every possible direction and velocity of blood flow and assigns that code a shade of color. The color is displayed almost instantaneously.

Experience is required to interpret the Doppler’s color flow message; at first glance the screen of a beating heart is only a shifting collage of reds and blues. Fortunately for the veterinary students on the cardiology rotation, it is possible to view frame by frame and also to tape the images for later study.

The addition of the Doppler color flow system to the ultrasound unit was funded by the college’s alumni and by the Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital.

Improved Vaccine Saves Labor, Saves Ducks

One of the most serious diseases of domestic ducks has a new nemesis. Cornell researcher Dr. Tirath Sandhu at the college’s Eastport Duck Research Laboratory has developed a Pasteurella anatipestifer vaccine that provides better immunity and can be sprayed for mass vaccinations in hatcheries, thus eliminating the stress of inoculation.

Pasteurella anatipestifer infection is a contagious bacterial disease affecting domesticated ducks and various other birds. Primarily a disease of young ducklings, the infection progressively produces ocular and nasal discharge, mild coughing and sneezing, diarrhea, ataxia, head and neck tremor, and coma. The mortality rate is 30 to 50%; affected ducks under two weeks of age may die a day or two after the first signs appear.

Several serotypes of Pasteurella anatipestifer are seen in ducks, and the new vaccine uses the three most common, serotypes 1, 2, and 5. In the past, vaccines used killed bacteria, but this one uses live organisms that are avirulent, that is, they produce immunity in the bird without producing disease.

According to Sandhu, making the vaccine was a matter of looking for birds that carried the disease but had no signs of disease. “We were finally able to isolate naturally avirulent bacteria representing serotypes 1, 2, and 5,” he says, “from three different ducks.” It wasn’t accomplished overnight; Sandhu and his co researchers have worked on the vaccine for nearly six years.

A major difference between the old and the newly developed vaccine is the form of vaccination. “Two injections of the old vaccine were needed before the duckling was immune to the bacteria,” says Sandhu. “That was a stress to the bird. And in the large hatcheries where ten thousand to fifteen thousand ducks needed inoculation, it was also very labor-intensive.” The newly developed vaccine can be given in an aerosol spray just after the ducks hatch, while they are still in the hatching-incubator. This convenient form of vaccination has already been used on farms in California and Canada. The vaccine has undergone extensive testing and the USDA has licensed it for production and distribution.
Eeach August the gala Travers Ball, held at the running of the famous Travers Stakes race in Saratoga Springs, New York, raises money to support equine research at the College of Veterinary Medicine at Cornell and the programs of the Saratoga Performing Arts Center. Following the 1988 Travers Ball, the Travers Committee presented Dr. Robert Phemister, dean of the college, with a check for $41,250. The monies are earmarked for faculty projects that have the potential to improve the health and well being of Thoroughbreds. The following researchers and their projects have been selected to receive funding in 1989:

Dr. Barry Ball — Culture of Equine Oviductal Embryos

Studies conducted by Dr. Barry Ball show that 60 to 70 percent of pregnancies in subfertile mares fail between the time of fertilization and day 14 of pregnancy. Other research by Ball shows that the early embryonic losses are due to abnormalities, as yet undefined, in the early embryo. This study will examine the culture of two- to four-cell equine embryos. Culture of the early embryos will permit evaluation of areas such as morphology, structure, growth, metabolism, and genetic makeup.

Dr. Harold Hintz and Dr. Herbert Schryver — The Value of Various Sources of Fat for Racing Thoroughbreds

It has been suggested that dietary fats enhance racing performance in horses. As a result, many products such as spray-dried coconut oil, spray-dried tallow, and calcium soaps of fats are now marketed to add to grain mixtures. Those products may be easier to use than liquid vegetable oils and animal fats, but there is little information about their effectiveness. In this study, Drs. Harold Hintz and Herbert Schryver will compare the digestibility of four forms of processed fat that are currently being marketed as dietary additives. Their research will help determine if the forms of fat are economically and physiologically effective.

Dr. Hussni Mohammed and Dr. Lennart Krook — Nutritional and Other Risk Factors Associated with Orthopedic Diseases in Thoroughbred Horses

Controversy surrounds the cause of fractures in racehorses. However, in a study of fracture cases at major racetracks, osteochondrosis dissecans (OCD) and osteoarthritis were common, and those lesions have also been found in many juvenile Thoroughbreds. OCD has been induced experimentally in puppies of large breeds by feeding a diet high in protein, energy, and calcium, and it would be reasonable to propose a similar etiology in racehorses. This study's objectives are to provide data on the prevalence of orthopedic diseases and describe the distribution of their determinants, including nutritional programs, in the Thoroughbred populations in New York State and to evaluate and quantify the association between nutritional factors and the risk of developing orthopedic diseases in Thoroughbred horses. The study calls for the enlistment of twenty-five breeding farms.

Dr. Alan Nixon — A Chondrocyte Fibrin Polymer Transplant for Cartilage Resurfacing in Horses

Arthritis in its varying forms is one of the leading causes of performance loss in Thoroughbred horses. Common to all arthritic joints is a focal or diffuse loss of cartilage from the joint surfaces. It is widely accepted that cartilage has virtually no regenerative capacity and past efforts to repair articular cartilage have had indiffrent results. This study will explore the possibility of using cultured chondrocytes and commercially available fibrin based bonding agents to repair damaged cartilage in horses.

Dr. Charles Short and Dr. Francis Kallfelz, The Effects of Alpha2 Adrenoceptor Agonist Analgesia on Central Nervous System Function in Thoroughbreds

Alpha2 adrenoceptor agonist medications, represented by xylazine (Rompun) and detomidine (Domosedan) are typically used to control pain or as a preanesthetic before general anesthesia. The family of... (continued bottom of p.7)

Billy Haughton Memorial Scholarship Fund For Future Cornell Equine Veterinarians

A scholarship fund for veterinary students who want to become equine practitioners has been established at the College of Veterinary Medicine in memory of the noted horseman Billy Haughton. Gifts for the Billy Haughton Memorial Scholarship Fund were contributed by many friends and relatives of Billy Haughton; major support was provided by Mrs. Marjorie Strong Wehle. Appropriately, the scholarship commemorates Haughton's love of horses and his desire to encourage young people to pursue careers in equine medicine.

Haughton, one of the leading driver trainers in horse racing, died in 1986 from injuries suffered in a racing accident. He was one of the directors of the United States Trotting Association and a member of harness racing's Hall of Fame. He won 4,910 races and $40.2 million in purses, which placed him fourth among harness drivers in both categories. Billy Haughton was a friend of the College of Veterinary Medicine, and his volunteer activities included his tenure on the college's Equine Advisory Council.

Billy Haughton was particularly interested in and offered his guidance on the college's many equine programs. The College of Veterinary Medicine has long been involved in research and clinical programs aimed at improving equine health and in support of the equine industry in New York State. Veterinarians at Cornell developed the Coggins test for equine infectious anemia and are currently engaged in projects to determine the nutritional requirements of performance horses, to diagnose and prevent lameness problems, and to develop vaccines, now in field trials, for equine influenza and strangles. Since the opening of the college's new Equine Performance Testing Clinic veterinarians have also been investigating respiratory, gait, and fitness problems in exercising horses.

However, the cost of educating tomorrow's veterinarians has risen significantly in the last decade, and the majority of DVM graduates face enormous debts and low starting salaries as they enter practice. The Billy Haughton Memorial Scholarship Fund will help make a veterinary degree affordable for many students who want to become equine veterinarians. To be eligible for the scholarship, a student must be enrolled in the DVM degree program at the college, demonstrate financial need, and have a strong interest in a career in equine medicine.

Additional gifts to the Billy Haughton Memorial Scholarship are welcome; for more information on this and other scholarships at the College of Veterinary Medicine contact Elizabeth Fontana at 607/253-3744.
The Microcomputer Learning Resources Center at the Flower Veterinary Library officially opened on April 20. The center has been operational since March, but this official opening was an opportunity for members of the college community and invited guests to see what the center has to offer.

The center is an exceptional place for those holdouts from the computer age to confront their phobias and join the ranks of the computer-literate. The room is sleekly modern, an ambience undoubtedly due to the array of computer terminals. However, color schemes, furnishings, acoustics, and even diffused lighting for easy screen viewing make this a comfortable—almost soothing—room.

The center is divided into two sections: a large classroom and a smaller outer area for individual computer use. In the classroom there are twenty-one workstations and one instructor station, all with IBM Personal System/2 computers. The computers were provided through IBM's support of Cornell University's Project Ezra. In the outer area, which can also be used for group instruction, there are six Apple Macintosh II computers. Alumni funds purchased four of the Macintosh computers and the rest were provided through a State University of New York program to increase student access to computers. Each computer is connected to a printer, and two laser printers are also available.

Users have their choice of a wide variety of software, including some of the less academically oriented programs, such as FreeHand, SuperPaint, and PageMaker. As the academic year ended, many students were using programs such as WordPerfect and WriteNow to compose resumes, cover letters, and senior seminars. Others were making use of the database, spreadsheet, and statistical analysis software programs available.

Students may also hone their skills on several educational software programs, covering topics such as management of horse breeding farms, acid-base simulation, herd-ration calculation, and dog genetics. Many more programs will be added as they become available. "We're anxious to build a substantial collection of veterinary related computer software," says Susanne Whitaker, head librarian of the Flower Veterinary Library. Whitaker planned and equipped the center and she is encouraged by the reception students and faculty members have given it. Since the center opened in early March, more than twenty people a day have used it. Says Whitaker, "The main room can be scheduled just like a classroom but is available for individual use when classes aren't in session. Only a few classes are held there now, but this will change as faculty members see its potential and include computer instruction in their courses." The Computers in Veterinary Medicine course is taught here and laboratories in physiology, herd health, and practice management. Instructors may use either of two types of projection systems: a SONY color projector and a liquid crystal display system, which lets instructors project their computer screen images using an overhead projector.

According to Whitaker, the center is still in an embryonic stage; in the future it may merge with the Autotutorial Center. "The separation between audiovisuals and computers will blur," she says, "when we get into interactive video technology in support of the curriculum." Right now the Microcomputer Learning Resources Center is demonstrating its potential for continuing education, for classroom demonstrations and laboratories, and as a supplement to lectures.

Priscilla Schenck is the full-time staff member in charge of the center, and three students, trained to give assistance, are now working part-time. The center is open to anyone at the College of Veterinary Medicine.

AWV Award Winner

Mary Frances Hoover '90 is one of only two winners of student scholarships awarded by the Association for Women Veterinarians. Second- and third-year veterinary students in the United States and Canada are eligible for the awards. Winners are chosen based on essays they submit; academic achievement and financial need are also considered. Eighty-one students applied for this year's scholarship. As a winner, Hoover will receive a $1,000 award. She is currently pursuing a dual degree at the College — a DVM and a Ph.D. in environmental toxicology.

Travers (continued)

medications works by depressing the central nervous system. It is thought the depression may be due, in part, to a drug related reduction in blood flow to the brain. A change in the blood supply to brain tissue could result in behavioral or other central nervous system changes lasting longer than the duration of the drug action. The investigators seek to determine if the alpha2 adrenoceptor agonist actually has such adverse effects.
Poultry Extension Veterinarian Talks to an Industry

Dr. Ahmed Mutalib is talking turkey these days, and broilers, and egg production with practitioners, poultry extension specialists, and poultry farmers across New York State. As the new poultry extension veterinarian in the Department of Avian and Aquatic Animal Medicine at the College of Veterinary Medicine, he is offering his assistance in solving any production or disease problems producers may have. "I work in cooperation with the regional poultry specialists," says Mutalib, "and I encourage farm producers to call me directly or through the extension offices." Most veterinary practitioners see few poultry patients, and Mutalib's experience in avian medicine can be useful. "I am glad to cooperate with practitioners," he says. "If they're faced with a case and are uncertain about the diagnosis or treatment, I'm available for phone consultation. I'm also willing to offer continuing education courses on subjects of interest to them."

There are about a hundred poultry farms in New York State varying in size from 2,000 to 750,000 birds. Most of them concentrate on egg production. Since joining the faculty in February, Mutalib has seen mainly problems relating to nutrition, sanitary management, and coccidiosis. One problem, salmonellosis in eggs, an infection that has been blamed in cases of food poisoning in human beings, has received a great deal of media attention. However, says Mutalib, "Not a single case of Salmonella enteritidis in eggs has been found in New York State flocks." He adds that New York State imports eggs from other states, and the cases of outbreaks of salmonellosis in human beings have been traced back to those imported eggs. To safeguard public health, according to Mutalib, the Diagnostic Laboratory is working on the serology necessary to detect birds who may not show signs of disease but have antibodies to Salmonella enteritidis.

Mutalib, a Canadian citizen born in Baghdad, earned his DVM and master's degrees in avian pathology from the University of Saskatchewan. He has more than sixteen years of experience in his field and is the author of several scientific publications. His interest in avian medicine began at age eleven when he was given a pair of pigeons. In just a few years the pair became 110 pigeons. "During that time," says Mutalib, "I would take my sick pigeons to the veterinary hospital and watch how the veterinarians approached a case, how they examined the birds, and how they performed a post mortem. Gradually my interest increased and I decided to go into veterinary medicine."

Here at Cornell Mutalib will continue his research and help in the clinical instruction of veterinary students. In addition to being available for phone consultations and farm study, he is developing educational materials related to poultry diseases and their control. He has just finished compiling a drug formulary for use with broilers, layers, turkeys, quail and pheasant. Working from a drug compendium, he listed all the drugs that can be used in those birds, the level of drug that can be used in the feed, the indication for the use, and any warnings. The resulting tables will be distributed to poultry producers and anyone else who is interested. To contact Dr. Ahmed Mutalib, call the Department of Avian and Aquatic Animal Medicine, College of Veterinary Medicine, Cornell University, at 607/253-3365.

VETERINARY VIEWPOINTS
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