

Perspectives in Veterinary Medicine

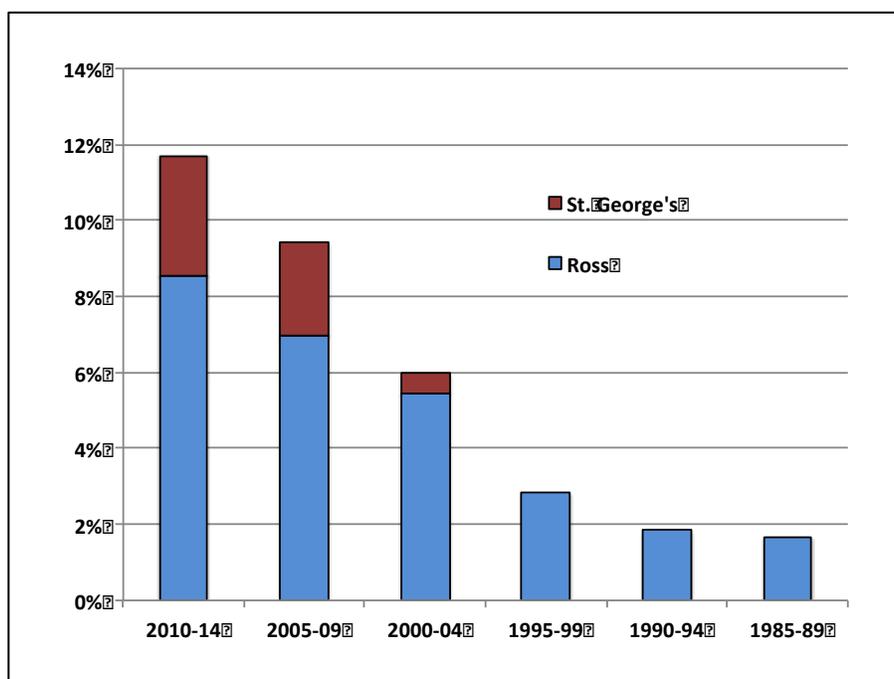
Proportion of Ross and St. George's Universities DVM Graduates in the United States during the Last 30 Years

By Dr. Donald F. Smith

March 18, 2015

In a story posted here on March 10th, I reported that Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine alumni have contributed to the United States veterinary workforce since their first class graduated in 1985.¹ Likewise, St. George's University graduates have worked in the US since 2003. Over half of those graduates reside in the seven most populous states, and in the three eastern states of New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Virginia.

This posting highlights the proportion of AVMA-member Caribbean graduates to the total AVMA-member veterinary workforce. In the following graph, the percentage of Ross and St. George's graduates is compared to all DVMs in five-year intervals over the past 30 years. Even considering that many graduates of the two schools are not AVMA members (and are, therefore, not enumerated here), the number is slightly over 5.5% of the total AVMA-member graduates since 1985, most of whom reside in the US.



Percentage of AVMA-member graduates from Caribbean veterinary schools, since their first graduating classes (Ross and St. George's, in 1985 and 2003, respectively), as a proportion of all AVMA-member graduates during the same five-year periods.²

Throughout our history, US citizens have traveled to foreign countries to receive a veterinary education. During the late 19th and early 20th century, large numbers of US citizens bypassed veterinary colleges in New York and other northern states and received veterinary degrees in Toronto and Montreal. For example, during the first 40 years of operation over 1,750 graduates of the Ontario Veterinary College (located at the time in Toronto) were from the US. Most returned to their home states, where they entered practice. Some became teaching faculty and, at least in one case, the dean of a US veterinary college.

During the 1960s and 1970s, substantial numbers of US citizens were educated abroad, travelling to Italy or the Philippines and returning to the US to practice. Many are still active in the profession.

With the opening of Ross University's veterinary school in the 1980s, and St. George's two decades later, many US citizens migrated to the Caribbean for their veterinary education.

More recently, Americans have also traveled to Canada and overseas to receive their veterinary degrees. There are currently almost 2,000 AVMA members in the US who graduated from Canada, Great Britain, Australia and New Zealand, alone. Substantial proportions of faculty in US colleges are foreign graduates, and many have served as deans of our veterinary colleges, especially during the last 30 years.³

¹ Smith, Donald F. Distribution of Ross and St. George's DVM Graduates in the United States. *Perspectives in Veterinary Medicine*. March 10, 2015.

² Data from annual AVMA Membership Directories and Resource Manuals through 2007. For more recent data, the AVMA website ([Member Community and Networking](#)) was used.

³ Smith, Donald F. Foreign-Born Deans of Veterinary Medicine. *Perspectives in Veterinary Medicine*. December 5, 2014.

KEYWORDS:

Ross University
St. George's University
Caribbean Veterinary Colleges
West Indies

TOPIC:

Caribbean veterinary colleges

LEADING QUESTION:

Where do the graduates of Ross and St. George's reside in the US?

META-SUMMARY:

Most Ross and St. George's DVMs reside in the most populated states in the United States.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Dr. Donald F. Smith, Dean Emeritus of the Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine, had a passion for the value of the history of veterinary medicine as a gateway for understanding the present and the future of the profession.

Throughout his many professional roles from professor of surgery, to Department Chair of Clinical Sciences, Associate Dean of Education and of Academic Programs and Dean, he spearheaded changes in curriculum, clinical services, diagnostic services and more. He was a diplomat of the American College of Veterinary Surgeons and a member of the National Academy of Practices. Most recently he played a major role in increasing the role of women in veterinary leadership.

Perspectives in Veterinary Medicine is one of his projects where he was able to share his vast knowledge of the profession.