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2009 Calvin W. Schwabe Award Winner Announced



Dr. Hollis N. Erb, professor of epidemiology in the Department of Population Medicine and Diagnostic Sciences, has been selected as the 2009 recipient of the Calvin W. Schwabe Award for Lifetime Achievement in Veterinary Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine. The award recognizes Dr. Erb's significant contributions to veterinary epidemiology and preventive medicine. Dr. Erb will be giving a keynote address at Schwabe Symposium, held in conjunction with the Conference of Research Workers in Animal Diseases (CRWAD) on December 6, 2009, where she will be presented with the award.

The award is especially important to Dr. Erb, who was a former student of the late Dr. Schwabe. She credits him for sparking her interest in epidemiology as a DVM student at the University of California-Davis.

"Dr. Schwabe academically founded veterinary epidemiology and was very prolific in training students who became faculty (including my own graduate supervisor)," said Dr. Erb, the first DVM-PhD to graduate from Ontario Veterinary College in the field of epidemiology. "Through teaching, he was able to open students' eyes, showing them that there was more to veterinary medicine than just looking at one organism, one animal. Dr. Schwabe helped define the relationship between veterinary medicine and human health. I'm honored to be receiving an award named after a man who had such an impact on my career."

An analytical epidemiologist, Dr. Erb provides clinicians and those working in diagnostic laboratories conducting clinical research with guidance on topics ranging from establishing effective control groups and appropriate eligibility criteria to sample-size justifications and plans for formal data analysis. She is also dedicated to mentoring residents and graduate students and is committed to helping them understand the logic behind data analysis and making decisions for grant proposals, abstracts, journal submissions, and proceedings papers. This work has led to Dr. Erb having exceeded 300 co-authorships in refereed papers to date.

In addition, Dr. Erb held the role of editor-in-chief for Preventive Veterinary Medicine (now releasing 16 issues annually) for more than 20 years before she turned the reins over in January. Today, she is a senior associate editor for the international journal.

"As the editor-in-chief of Preventive Veterinary Medicine, Dr. Hollis Erb has helped scores of young veterinary epidemiologists and herd health specialists learn how to publish quality manuscripts," explained Dr. Jan Scarlett, director of Maddie's Shelter Program at Cornell and a colleague of Dr. Erb's in the Epidemiology unit. "Her leadership and dedication to this journal has been instrumental in establishing veterinary epidemiology and preventive medicine as respected and vital disciplines in veterinary medicine."