



## Biennial Virtual Summer Conference

The theme of the 5<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference was “Competency-Based Education: Assessment Matters!” - a rapidly evolving concept within health care education and consistent with recent AAVMC initiatives. There was a total of 118 attendees, from all seven member colleges and a representative from AAVMC. Keynote speakers included: Dr. Karen Hau-er, the Associate Dean for Competency Assessment at UCSF Medical School and members of the AAVMC Council on Outcomes-based Veterinary Education. Additional guest speaker, Kathy Gruver, focused on wellness. In addition to virtual presentations, the VETS Fundamentals interactive workshop was presented over 1.5 days with 15 participants.

Conference details & recorded sessions can be accessed here: <https://2021rta-biennial.ipostersessions.com>

## Ongoing Efforts & New Initiatives:

### Steering Committee:

The committee is working with an external website developer to improve the flow and function of the current RTA website. The AAVMC Connect platform for membership communication was adopted by the committee. The committee is drafting a proposal to formalize the process of converting an interest group into a working group.

### Membership Committee:

Representatives from the membership committee have been asked to organize informational recruitment seminars at the two most recent institutions to join the RTA. Current members at the end of their four-year cycles were reviewed and all active members were reinstated. The next new membership application period will occur in 2022.

### External Peer Review of Teaching Initiative:

The committee reviewed teaching portfolios from six instructionally focused faculty and generated review letters for promotion and tenure actions. A workshop on tools for External Peer Review was submitted to the 2022 Veterinary Educator Collaborative Symposium.

### Faculty Development Subcommittees Initiative:

**Clinical Teaching:** A pilot session on developing and enhancing clinical teaching was presented at the Biennial Conference. A list of modules is being developed for future daylong workshop offerings.

**Educator Wellbeing:** Results from the professional quality of life survey were presented at the Biennial Conference. This has evolved to a larger internally funded

proposal to offer the Maslach Burnout Inventory to 700 faculty and staff at all seven RTA institutions in 2022.

**VETS Fundamentals and VETS Selectives:** VETS Fundamentals was offered prior to the Biennial conference and an abstract to offer it during the pre-meeting of the Veterinary Educator Collaborative Symposium 2022 was submitted. VETS Selectives is being developed as future workshops for faculty to improve constructive alignment and teaching in a specific course area.

### Quantification of Teaching Effort and Effectiveness Initiative:

This working group is currently focused on teaching effort quantification and is working with two teaching effort calculators developed by RTA members at CSU and WSU. These calculators will be modified and tested at several RTA institutions in the coming year.

### Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Interest Group:

This recently formed interest group is developing a survey to investigate the differences between student and faculty views on DEI Issues.

# Education Innovation Research:

Seven proposals for education-related research were submitted and reviewed. Four proposals were selected for funding totaling \$27,400.

- **Exploring the Development of Relationships Between Students and Faculty in Veterinary Medicine During a Pandemic Response: a Mixed Method Study:** *PI: Thomas Marino, (WUHS); Co-investigators: Christianne Magee (CSU), Gillian Angliss (WUHS), & Brian Murphy (UCD) - Awarded: \$3,000*
- **Blended and Hybrid Learning: Adoption of Cognitive, Social, and Teaching Presence Elements on Clinical Rotations Beyond the Pandemic:** *PI Munashe Chigerwe (UCD); Co-investigators: Thandeka Ngwenyama (OSU), Kristy Dowers (CSU), Rachel Halsey (WSU), Karen Boudreaux (UCD), and Joie Watson (UCD) - Awarded: \$5,500*
- **Assessment Construction and Validation for Educating Veterinary Students and Clinicians in Evidence-Based Medicine and Research Literature Comprehension Using Mixed Delivery Modalities:** *PI: Patrick Chappell (OSU); Co-Investigators: Constance White (OSU) and Mary Markland (OSU) - Awarded: \$8,700*
- **Tending to Those Who Teach: Promoting Veterinary Educator Wellbeing:** *PI: Laurie Fonken (CSU); Co-investigators: Paul Avery (CSU), Karen Boudreaux (UCD), Beth Boynton (WU), Annette Bouwe (MW), Samantha Gizarian (WSU), Christiane Löhr (OSU), Elizabeth Montgomery (UCD), Suzana Tkalcic (WU), Susan Matthew (WSU), Julie Cary (WSU), Christine Olver (CSU), and Munashe Chigerwe (UCD) - Awarded: \$10,200*

## Challenges we Embrace:

### *Making Teaching Matter Going Forward*

The RTA and fellows have continued to make and share significant advances in veterinary education despite the obstacles inherent to the COVID-19 pandemic. Three years without a face-to-face meeting has made maintaining momentum on projects more difficult but a virtual version of our biennial meeting, including interactive workshops, was quite successful.

We are entering a particularly challenging time in academic veterinary medicine with declining faculty job satisfaction and retention rates. To address these challenges, we see a critical need to partner with college administrators to help re-envision and remodel our faculty development and rewards systems. The national trends toward hiring faculty for teaching intensive, career-track positions have attracted faculty with a passion for teaching. However, many colleges struggle to align teaching intensive faculty responsibilities with long-established university tenure track promotion systems. Consistent with a central theme of the RTA, we are actively building tools to support faculty development, with a view toward iterative improvement using evidence-based teaching methods. We aim to help college administrators with metrics and methods to implement a promotion system for teaching intensive faculty that supports iterative improvements in teaching quality while recognizing and rewarding excellence in veterinary education.

## Finances and Activities

For information on the support and expenditures in the past year, see the attached table. We look forward to meeting in person again in 2023 and have scheduled both a winter meeting for the Steering committee and select working groups and our Biennial Summer meeting. These meetings are possible due to stewardship of funds supported by the RTA Dean's for which we are grateful. Growth and future efforts will continue to require funding. We are now supporting research grants and continue to improve our online presence for the 7 partner schools. Note: For more detailed information on the support and expenditures during 2021-2022, see the attached appendices.

## 2021 Highlights

- Virtual Biennial Conference, July 12-15, 2021
- A new interest group concerning Diversity, Equity and Inclusion was formed
- External review letters provided six teaching dossiers
- Funding of four education research proposals totaling \$27,400
- Virtual VETS Workshop prior to the summer conference

