

Regional Teaching Academy
6th Biennial Conference

 Oregon State University
Carlson College of
Veterinary Medicine

July 17-20, 2023

Cultivating
Connections &
Community

Biennial Summer Conference

The theme of the 6th Biennial Conference was “Cultivating Connections & Community.” There was a total of 65 attendees, from all seven member colleges and a representative from AAVMC. Keynote speakers included: Dr. Benjamin Wiggins, Professor of Biology at Shoreline Community College, who spoke about student engagement; and Dr. Marie Holowaychuk, who spoke about wellness. Dr. Andrew McCabe, Chief Executive Officer of the Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges (AAVMC) was a guest speaker. The conference also included additional workshops, educational scholarship, and teaching innovations presentations. Additionally, in conjunction with the conference, the RTA delivered VETS Clinical Teaching and VETS Selective: TBL training, each a day-long workshop series.

Ongoing Efforts & New Initiatives:

Steering Committee:

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

Membership Committee:

Beginning in 2023, the Membership Committee will accept new fellowship applications each year. Applications are now available on the RTA website and through membership committee members year-round. While applications will be accepted year-round, they will only be reviewed in the fall.

External Peer Review of Teaching Initiative:

Five promotion/review packets were reviewed and review letters were generated for promotion actions, all of which were ultimately successful. A summary of the group's work was presented at the Biennial Conference and a workshop was conducted to provide participants with the opportunity to review redacted submissions (with permission). At the VEC at Texas Tech in October, select group members presented another documentation awareness workshop. Susan Matthew presented a workshop at the VetEd conference at the University of Edinburgh entitled "Showcasing and Evaluating Educator Activities."

Faculty Development Subcommittees Initiative:

Clinical Teaching: An accomplishment was the development and successful execution of a full-day clinical teaching workshop before the RTA biannual conference.

It focused on personal and professional well-being, active learning, and feedback to enhance educators' clinical teaching effectiveness.

Educator Wellbeing: The “Tending to Those Who Teach” Wellbeing Initiative came to an end in the Spring of 2023 with the awarding of 10 Amazon gift cards to participants. The Areas of Worklife Survey and MBI Educators Survey remain open and ideas of how to increase participation are being considered.

VETS Fundamentals and VETS Selectives: It is planned to conduct VETS Fundamentals as a 1.5-day workshop at MidWestern University in February 2024, in conjunction with the Winter meeting. This year, VETS Selectives showcased Team-Based Learning (TBL) at the Summer Biennial Pre-Conference Workshop.

Quantification of Teaching Effort and Effectiveness Initiative:

The working group developed a teaching effort calculator that was adapted and refined from similar calculators in use at CSU and WSU. The revised teaching effort calculator was presented at the 2023 Biennial Meeting, and attendees tested the calculator, provided feedback and additional modifications were made in response to the feedback. Currently, this calculator is being made available for testing in more detail at member RTA institutions with the plan to provide training, collect feedback from faculty and begin work on a publication in the Journal of Veterinary Medical Education. Parallel to this activity will be learning how institutions assess and credit teaching effort across different formats (lecture, labs, problem-based learning, team-based learning, clinics, etc.), so that this calculator can be adapted to different institutions.

RTA Awards to Recognize Excellence in Education

The Steering Committee is excited to announce the formation of three annual Regional Teaching Academy Awards to recognize excellence in education. The awards are in the areas of Educational Innovation, Educational Service, and Educational Scholarship.

1. Educational Innovation - *Recognizes individuals who have created and employed innovative strategies that have engaged and supported student learning.*

2023 Recipient: Allison Zwingenberger, DVM DACVR DECVDI MAS - University of California, Davis

2. Educational Service - *Recognizes individuals who have had a significant impact in veterinary and biomedical education by facilitating, supporting or instituting best educational practices and/or policies at the local, regional or national level.*

2023 Recipient: Sharon Dial, PhD, DVM – University of Arizona

3. Educational Scholarship - *Recognizes individuals who have advanced educational practice by publishing pedagogical research or sharing novel teaching resources.*

2023 Recipient: Erika Offerdahl, PhD – Washington State University

Looking to the Future:

In the next year, the RTA is looking forward to a number of positive developments. After the COVID-19 pandemic and a period of recovery, RTA members are feeling new energy about the work of the association and plan activities that will sustain and grow the RTA in 2024 and beyond. In particular, the RTA will be developing a new working group devoted to pedagogical resource development and sharing and supporting the growth of our Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion initiatives. The Steering Committee will undertake a review of the RTA bylaws, with an eye to streamline and clarify the existing document, codify policies, and make RTA governance more sustainable and accessible to all members. The membership committee will begin facilitating mentoring relationships between seasoned and new members. The successful pilot of a workshop designed to help members develop scholarly work in education at WSU will be followed up by another workshop on educational research at CSU. In a first for the RTA, a small group of RTA members will present 2 ePosters and 2 workshops representing the work of the RTA at the VetEd conference in Dublin, Ireland in July 2024, highlighting both the RTA model and our collaborations for an international audience. The RTA will also remain aware of the changing nature of veterinary education, staying abreast of changing curricula and pedagogies as well as the creation of multiple new DVM education programs in and around our region. Look for updates in the 2024 Executive Summary and at our 2025 Biennial Meeting, to be hosted by WSU in Pullman, WA.

Finances and Activities

For information on the support and expenditures in the past year, see the attached table. We very much enjoyed the opportunity to meet in person again in 2023. We had a winter meeting in Tucson and the summer biennial meeting in Corvallis. Both were well attended by educators from each of the 7 member schools. These meetings are possible due to stewardship of funds provided by the RTA Dean's for which we are grateful. Growth and future efforts will continue to require funding. We are now supporting educational research grants, providing teaching recognition and awards, and continuing to improve our online presence. Note: For more detailed information on the support and expenditures during 2021-2023, see the attached appendix.

2023 Highlights

- Biennial Conference, July 17-20, 2023
- Sharing High-Quality Educational Materials Interest Group was formed
- External review letters provided for 5 teaching dossiers
- In recognition of excellence in education, the RTA created and awarded three annual awards
- VETS Workshops before the summer conference
- RTA Travel Grant funded educators to attend inaugural Veterinary Education Research Workshop

