



The Iowa State University College of Veterinary Medicine (ISU CVM) must complete the modernization and renovation of its medical center to meet minimum accreditation standards and provide a quality teaching, learning and service environment.

## The 2004 Iowa Legislature understood the need and funded \$1.8 million for planning Phase II in FY09.

The Board of Regents, Iowa State University and the College are requesting \$38 million in FY10 for Phase II construction to meet these critical needs:

- **Retain full accreditation and avoid further damage to the stability of the college.**
  - The College was reinstated to full accreditation status by the AVMA Council on Education (CoE) in March 2007 *based on a facility plan that included completing Phase II in a timely manner* that would appropriately support our professional program.
  - The part of the veterinary medical center included in Phase II has been cited in previous accreditation reviews for inadequate space for service and teaching and these areas must be addressed.
  - The AVMA CoE returns in late 2010 and if Phase II is not moving toward completion on an acceptable schedule, the *CVM most assuredly will be placed on limited accreditation again with damaging effects.*
- **Recruit and retain quality faculty and students.**
  - Limited accreditation negatively impacted the College's national reputation and consequently the ability to hire and retain quality faculty, especially veterinary medical center faculty. It has created great concern for our students and negatively impacted student recruitment.
- **Stabilize the business of the Veterinary Medical Center.**
  - The funds generated by the veterinary medical center are critical for College stability. Prolonged construction will disrupt patient care and associated revenue; reduce the quality of teaching, service and research efforts, and negatively impact the College budget and services provided.
- **Meet stakeholder expectations.**
  - *The 2007 Iowa legislature recognized the importance of Phase II and exempted it from the moratorium on new construction agreed upon with the Board of Regents (House File 920).*
  - **Approved Phase II planning funds have been used to develop a plan that will enable construction to start on July 1, 2009 pending funding availability.**

**Phase II is planned and we will be ready to begin construction on July 1.**



# Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory at Iowa State University

January 6, 2009

## HISTORY

- Since 1947, the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory at ISU (ISU VDL) has worked closely with the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, Iowa veterinarians and livestock producers to provide **the first line of defense against livestock diseases** through delivery of high quality veterinary diagnostic services, comprehensive surveillance testing programs, and applied research on diseases of high relevance to Iowa animal agriculture.
- The VDL receives **45,000-50,000 case submissions per year** from producers submitted through their local veterinarians.
- **Submissions reflect the make up of Iowa's animal agriculture** with swine and beef being the highest, followed by dairy, poultry, small ruminants, equine and companion animal cases.
- **The feed, grain and biofuels industries are also served by testing done on grain, forage, and livestock diets.**

## FACULTY AND STAFF

- **Twenty-six faculty and 95 staff work in the VDL.** Most faculty have 70-100% commitment to service with remaining time committed to research and teaching. Most staff are essentially committed 100% to providing diagnostic service.
- **In addition to their service roles, most VDL faculty** are engaged in applied research and outreach. VDL faculty had approximately \$11.7 million in ongoing research projects in FY08. Focus areas include development of better tests for diagnosis of livestock diseases, development and licensing of new vaccines (i.e. circovirus, PRRS virus, influenza), discovery of new diseases and disease manifestations, modeling of aerosol transmission of diseases, testing intervention strategies to address pre-harvest food safety, minimizing the risk of zoonotic diseases (influenza, salmonella, E-Coli, Q-Fever, Hepatitis E virus) and other areas of high relevance to Iowa animal agriculture.

## STATE APPROPRIATIONS

- State dollars appropriated to veterinary diagnostic services in Iowa are substantially lower than what peer states (Illinois, Kansas, South Dakota, Michigan, North Carolina) have invested based on a 2005 study mandated by the Iowa Legislature. As such, the ISU VDL has become heavily reliant (64% of budget) on fee income. This reliance on fee income drives VDLs to predominately offer tests that are profitable for the lab rather than those that best meet the needs of the animal agriculture industry.
- The Iowa Legislature is in the process of addressing this issue. \$1 million in recurring dollars was appropriated for the Veterinary Diagnostic Lab in FY2007, \$2 million in FY2008, and \$3 million in FY2009 with

intent language to appropriate \$4 million in FY2010. This legislation is supported by the IVMA, ISDA, ICA, IPPA, IPA, and Iowa Farm Bureau.

- The VDL at ISU has invested the state appropriations to sustain, improve the quality, and expand the scope of veterinary diagnostic services available to Iowa livestock producers:
  - In years #1- 3 (FY07-09): Funding was used to **build a sustainable infrastructure** of essential people (i.e. technicians, diagnosticians), programs (i.e. quality assurance), modernize lab space and update equipment to ensure continuation of high quality and affordable diagnostic services. The VDL **strategically expanded several diagnostic programs** (i.e. avian influenza testing for poultry, John's and BVD testing for cattle, circovirus testing for pigs), **created an effective quality management program essential for re-accreditation of the VDL in 2009, and developed several new programs** such as corn co-product testing, molecular testing for PRRS virus and swine influenza, and real-time health monitoring of swine herds through saliva testing.
  - **In year #4 (FY10):** The VDL will invest in **continuously improving efficiency and accuracy** of tests by implementing new technology that improves case throughput (i.e. robotics) and test sensitivity and specificity (i.e. multiplex molecular assays), **continue to build the research infrastructure to develop the next generation diagnostic assays (i.e. genetic testing), develop diagnostic assays to support areas of livestock growth (i.e. dairy, sheep and goats), expand the laboratory information management system to deliver value-added customer reports and capture diagnostic and treatment outcome data that will be used to establish best practices to keep Iowa agriculture globally competitive and our food supply safe.**

## IMPACT OF THE ISU VDL

- Provides Iowans **affordable, high quality, timely veterinary diagnostic testing essential** for livestock producers to minimize the impact of disease on individual producers and to stop **disease transmission or "spillover"** to neighboring producers.
- Livestock diseases compromise efficient utilization of valuable Iowa resources (soil, water, grain, energy) for protein production.
- Based on an 8 oz. serving of pork, over 463,500 meals are impacted when a correct diagnosis is made and appropriate treatment regimens are implemented in a typical 1,250 head swine finishing barn.
- **A 1% increase in Iowa's \$8 billion animal agriculture production (or a 1% decrease in mortality due to disease) has an \$80 million impact on the state economy.** High quality, broad-scope veterinary diagnostic services provide a sound return on investment of Iowa resources.