Global Continuing Education Initiatives at the College of Veterinary Medicine

Introduction
Starting in 2012, the College of Veterinary Medicine (CVM) initiated a number of continuing educational programs in China as part of an effort to build the college into a leading institute to provide quality veterinary education and research at international level. The success of these programs are partially due to the fast-paced economic development in China and high demand for expertise and knowledge in animal production and veterinary medicine. These programs have proved to be effective tools for knowledge dissemination and brand-building for both the CVM and the University of Minnesota. To further strengthen the CVM’s efforts to develop and implement global educational and research activities in China, the college established the CVM China Program Office.

Our mission
The mission of the CVM China Program Office is to promote the CVM as the leading veterinary college at the global level with a focus in China, through developing educational and training programs, exploring and fostering international collaboration and partnerships, and gaining access to additional teaching and research resources.

Objectives
- Develop China-focused global continuing educational programs to promote the educational missions of the College of Veterinary Medicine and University of Minnesota.
- Explore opportunities with Chinese universities and institutes to support graduate programs and collaborative research.
- Develop and foster partnerships with private sectors of the Chinese food-animal production industry in the areas of animal disease control and surveillance programs through information and resource sharing.
- Assist CVM faculty and students with teaching, collaborative research, and exchange programs in China.
- Serve as a liaison between the CVM and the University for China-related activities, enhancing the CVM’s reputation for international efforts at the University.

Ongoing Programs

Leman China Swine Conference
The Allen D. Leman Swine Conference has more than 30 years of history, with a mission to provide science-driven solutions to the swine industry. In 2012, the University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine introduced the Leman Swine Conference to China, the world’s largest pork-producing country.

The first Leman China Conference was very well-received and considered the “best-organized swine conference for the past decade in China.” To quote a sponsor, the meeting was “beyond everyone’s expectations.” The second, third, and fourth Leman China Conferences also proved to be extremely successful, as the demand for education and training in pig production and technology increased. The number of participants at the fourth Leman China Conference, held in Nanjing in 2015, reached nearly 2,000, with more than 100 exhibitors. The exhibition was also opened to the public in 2015.

Other Conferences
- University of Minnesota China Dairy Conference
- University of Minnesota Small Animal Veterinary Conference

Benefits to the University and College
- Past conferences have generated enough funds to award the first Leman China Scholarship. The scholarship was awarded to Shaoyuan Tan, a student who works with Professor Hanchun Yang at the China Agricultural University. Shaoyuan is now enrolled in the veterinary medicine graduate program at the University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine.
- Working with the Chinese Veterinary Medicine Association (CVMA), Leman China also began offering CVMA continuing education credits to licensed Chinese veterinarians who attended the conference.
- University of Minnesota China Dairy Conference
  In 2014, the CVM organized the first University of Minnesota China Dairy Conference in Beijing, which attracted more than 400 participants and 47 exhibitors. A post-conference survey showed that 99 percent of those surveyed considered the conference very valuable and 98 percent would like to attend again. The goal of the China Dairy Conference is to provide practical knowledge and experience to the fast-developing dairy industry in China and around the world.

Figure 1. Number of participants at Leman China from 2012-2015, and estimate for 2016.

Figure 2. Leman China Swine Conference

University of Minnesota Small Animal Veterinary Conference
To continue its global continuing education effort and the development of small animal veterinary medicine in China, the CVM China Program Office will host the University of Minnesota International Small Animal Veterinary Conference and Expo at the Nanjing International Exhibition Center in Nanjing, China, June 27-29, 2016.

Other Activities
The CVM China Program Office has been involved in the following activities:
- Assisting in recruiting and evaluating graduate students and swine certificate program students
- Providing advice and logistical support for students and visiting scholars from China
- Facilitating faculty members’ China-related projects and activities
- Participating in developing and implementing telepathology programs in China
- Hosting visitors from the CVM’s Chinese partners

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