EMPOWER EXTRAORDINARY
THE CAMPAIGN for MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

Supporting the
COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE
Delivering Compassionate Care
and Transformative Science

“We are a resource for the state of Michigan and the world.”

DR. JOHN BAKER
DEAN, COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

The College of Veterinary Medicine serves as an essential resource for the state of Michigan and the world. It provides unparalleled training for future veterinarians, outstanding care for companion and other animals, and groundbreaking research aimed at attaining better health for animals—and their human companions. We are building a world where the health and well-being of animals, humans, and the environment are safe and secure. We prepare veterinary medical professionals to face the challenges of emerging diseases, ensure the safe production of animals and reduction of antibiotic use, and solve the mysteries of diseases that plague animals and humans.

If your beloved dog, prize-winning horse, or farm animal is treated by a veterinarian in the state of Michigan, odds are that he or she graduated from the College of Veterinary Medicine. We are one of the top 10 veterinary schools in the United States, and our alumni have been improving the lives of animals and humans for more than 100 years.
We have 120 tenured faculty, and dedicated veterinarians and clinicians on staff. Each year, we teach nearly 450 students seeking to become Doctors of Veterinary Medicine (DVM), and 275 pursuing master’s and PhD degrees. Using state-of-the-art technologies, our staff and students address a wide range of global health issues that impact animals as well as humans: asthma, food safety, air pollution, cancer, sports medicine, antibiotic resistance, cardiology, ophthalmology, orthopedics, and much more. At our Veterinary Medical Center, we provide expert care to animals in need, treating 24,000 small animal patients per year, and more than 2,000 large animals.

The college’s Diagnostic Center for Population and Animal Health is one of the leading veterinary diagnostic labs in the world, and one of the largest veterinary diagnostic laboratories in the country. The Diagnostic Center is a vital resource for identifying, tracking, and addressing emerging animal and public health issues, such as avian influenza, bovine tuberculosis, West Nile virus, and chronic wasting disease. The center is also a front line of defense in detecting biological and chemical agents used in bioterrorism against U.S. animal agriculture. We offer more than 800 different diagnostic tests, handle more than 220,000 cases, and run approximately 1.5 million tests per year.
As a vital part of the Empower Extraordinary campaign, the College of Veterinary Medicine strives to secure our leadership position in transformative science and compassionate care. We seek to raise $100 million in the campaign. Dovetailing with MSU’s overall mission, we will:

- Intensify our scholarship efforts, becoming an engine of opportunity that attracts and trains the best students in veterinary science.

- Expand our advanced technologies and facilities, becoming a force for creativity, discovery, and learning, thus increasing our educational impact and understanding of the world’s many biomedical problems.

- Expand our research and service programs in Michigan and around the world to solve global challenges such as increasing the productivity of farm animals and ensuring food safety and security.

- Build vibrant communities, educating tomorrow’s leaders in veterinary medical care and scientific discovery to ensure healthy animals, healthy communities, and a healthy planet.
For most of our students, working in the field of veterinary medicine is a lifelong dream. With their unique training in comparative biology, veterinarians and veterinary technicians are the only members of the clinical profession who see patients of many different species, a practice that requires an understanding of medicine in great breadth and depth. Veterinarians are also uniquely qualified to face emerging threats to our food supply and public health.

The growing student debt crisis is particularly challenging for current and prospective veterinary students, some of whom come to our college still owing undergraduate loans. Students of veterinary medicine pay the same tuition as medical students, yet graduate into a profession where the average starting salary is significantly less than half that of the human medical profession.

Increased financial aid will help ensure that top students, among them historically under-represented groups, can enter this important field. We need to remove the economic barriers to the study of veterinary medicine through endowed scholarships. Further, graduate fellowships will secure our pipeline of up-and-coming scientists who constitute the next generation of veterinary researchers.
OUR FUNDING GOAL TO PROVIDE SPARTANS THE OPPORTUNITIES THEY’VE DREAMED OF IS $35 MILLION.

ENDOWED DVM SCHOLARSHIPS
$15 MILLION

ENDOWED VETERINARY TECHNICIAN SCHOLARSHIPS
$11 MILLION

ENDOWED GRADUATE FELLOWSHIPS
$5.5 MILLION

EXPENDABLE STUDENT SUPPORT
$3.5 MILLION
As long-standing leaders and innovators in the field of veterinary medicine, the college constantly seeks to improve the way we teach and the way our students learn. For example, we train our students to be compassionate and clear communicators as well as competent clinicians.

The Learning Assessment Center (LAC) provides opportunities for students to practice techniques on models as well as client communication through simulated experiences that are recorded and reviewed. In addition, Licensed Veterinary Technician, Bea Biddinger, hand-crafts silicon teaching models of animals that allow students to hone their skills in such things as blood draws, incisions, sutures, and catheterization. We need resources to move forward in this and other teaching areas.

Our commitment to patient care drives innovation and learning; some of our advancements are impacting animal and human health in exciting and unprecedented ways. MSU veterinary ophthalmologist András Komáromy, for example, has discovered a means of restoring vision in dogs that could lead to new treatments for people with disorders that cause blindness.

A core goal of the college is to support our researchers in exploring the frontiers of biomedical science and health care delivery for the betterment of animals and people, here in Michigan and around the world. We seek resources to support research initiatives, launch pilot projects that can attract further funding, enable graduate students to pursue new ideas, and funding for travel to national and international veterinary science gatherings.
The heart of the College of Veterinary Medicine is our faculty, extraordinary leaders of their fields as well as top educators in our classrooms and clinics. Right now, two out of every five of our outstanding faculty are over 60 years old—and we will soon be competing with other top ten veterinary schools that are experiencing the same “baby boomer bulge” for new faculty.

Endowed chairs are essential to attracting and retaining the best faculty. An endowed chair is highly prized in the field of veterinary medicine for two reasons. The first is the honor of occupying a named chair. The second is that an endowed chair comes with research funds, which make it possible for a chair holder to launch pilot studies, pay for a graduate student, or undertake travel to conduct research around the world.

OUR FUNDING GOAL FOR FACULTY AND EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT IS $25 MILLION.

ENDOWED PROFESSORSHIPS
$15 MILLION

PROGRAM AND EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT
$10 MILLION
A Global PROBLEM SOLVER

LEADING INNOVATION at the INTERSECTION OF ANIMAL AND HUMAN HEALTH

The college embraces the One Health Initiative, whose vision is improving the lives of all species—human and animal—through the integration of human medicine, veterinary medicine, and environmental science.
In nearly 40 countries around the globe, we work at the juncture between animal and human health. Healthy animals are productive animals, and in many parts of the world animals are not only part of the food supply, but they continue to play an essential role as beasts of burden. We are on the ground, from Michigan to Malawi and India, working with local veterinary services to ensure that the animals we all depend upon are as healthy as possible.

In the 21st century, institutions that lead the field in global research have endowed and expendable research support to seed promising projects and programs. In the area of animal health and food safety, greater support will allow the college to continue to lead in public health, biomedical and comparative medical research, ecosystem and environmental management, and the multiple facets that compose our complex global food system.

**OUR FUNDING GOAL SUPPORTING RESEARCH IN THIS AREA IS $15 MILLION.**

**ENDOWED RESEARCH**  
$6.5 MILLION

**INTERNATIONAL STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES**  
$1 MILLION

**EXPENDABLE RESEARCH SUPPORT**  
$7.5 MILLION
This college takes seriously its obligation to our land-grant heritage—to meet the needs of society and improve the communities in which we live and work. The abundance and variety of animal agriculture, companion animals, and animal athletes in Michigan gives us one of the larger clinical and diagnostic caseloads in the country. As a leader in the compassionate and innovative care of animals, we pride ourselves on serving as a resource for challenging cases.

To expand our expertise and capacity, we are building a comprehensive Equine Sports Medicine Program. We are bringing together veterinary specialists, outstanding professional expertise, and the most advanced facilities and equipment
to focus on all horses engaged in athletic activities. The research and best practices established in this center will benefit individual horses, the knowledge we gain will ultimately enhance the care for all horses.

Shelter medicine is a growing field within our profession. Compassionate men and women enter our field to care for animals and save lives, but increasingly find themselves involved with animal shelters, in which millions of animals meet needless deaths every year. The college has only to look at our surrounding cities, where homeless and feral cats and dogs roam abandoned neighborhoods. The lack of public funds across the state and elsewhere has meant fewer Animal Control officers and overcrowded shelters, forcing cities to have to euthanize these animals at alarming rates. The college is building a shelter medicine program to help manage the unprecedented stray and feral animal population and to provide our students with this vital experience.

Emergency Care has become one of the signal strengths of the college, and due to tremendous growth in our Small Animal service, we need state-of-the-art emergency facilities.

OUR FUNDING GOAL TO SUPPORT COMPASSIONATE, INNOVATIVE CARE IS $25 MILLION.

RENOVATING OUR VETERINARY MEDICAL CENTER AND RESEARCH FACILITIES $20 MILLION

EXPENDABLE DISCRETIONARY FUNDS $5 MILLION
At the End of the Day

It is an honor to work in an environment where so many people are driven to create, adapt, and find new ways to address the world’s challenges. On any given day, I can walk through our hospital, labs, and classrooms and encounter our clinicians, researchers, and teachers bringing new life to old challenges.

The students who come to the College of Veterinary Medicine are some of the most dedicated men and women you will find on the MSU campus. Their devotion to their patients and willingness to commit to a profession whose greatest rewards are not financial, serves as an inspiration to the MSU community.

Our faculty members are passionate about what they do, and their impact is seen throughout the college. We see diagnostic work available immediately to researchers and clinicians. We see techniques and technologies developed by our own people rapidly transferred into treatment and research. We see research moving quickly from the lab to the treatment room, and conditions in treatment rooms making their way quickly to research undertakings. We see individual lives and public health being transformed.

We are a resource for the state and the world, but we can only maintain that trusted position through a series of partnerships. Our graduates are our supporters in a variety ways, through referrals, research collaborations, and generous giving. All of our clients support our clinical service, and through our Veterinary Medical Center, they benefit our students and occasionally, our researchers. Additionally, our clients support us through giving. Many, many animal lovers in the state of Michigan and beyond support so much of our work. All are grand partnerships we feel privileged to be a part of. Thank you for what you have already done, and in advance for what I know you will do to ensure the MSU College of Veterinary Medicine remains one of the top veterinary colleges in the world.

DR. JOHN BAKER
DEAN, COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE
Pegasus, a statue on the grounds of the college, is dedicated to Matilda R. Wilson, whose fund has been the college’s largest philanthropic supporter.