



**CONTACT:**

Dr. Marguerite Pappaioanou  
Pfizer National Teaching Award  
Selection Committee/AAVMC  
Phone: 202/371-9195, x15  
Email: mpappa@aavmc.org

January 22, 2009  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**DR. BONNIE SMITH OF VIRGINIA-MARYLAND REGIONAL COLLEGE OF  
VETERINARY MEDICINE TO RECEIVE NATIONAL PFIZER  
NATIONAL TEACHING AWARD**

Washington, D.C. – Dr. Bonnie Smith of the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine (VMRCVM) has been chosen by the Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges (AAVMC) to receive the 2008 Pfizer National Teaching Award, the most prestigious teaching award in veterinary medicine in the United States. The award will be presented at the AAVMC annual meeting in Washington, D.C., on Saturday, March 14, 2008.

Dr. Smith joined the faculty of VMRCVM in 1991, and has been repeatedly recognized by her current and former students, peers and supervisors as an outstanding instructor. She was named VMRCVM Teacher of the Year five times, twice won the MSD Agvet Award for Creativity in Teaching from the Merck Foundation, was awarded the Bayer Faculty Recognition Award, and has been given the University Award for Teaching Excellence, the VMRCVM College Award for Teaching Excellence, and the Virginia Tech Alumni Teaching Award. She was elected to the Virginia Tech Academy of Teaching Excellence in 1999, was named VMRCVM Teacher of the Year in 1994 by the VMRCVM Student AVMA, and was an AVMA Teacher of the Year honorable mention in 1994.

Dr. Smith was awarded the Norden-Pfizer Distinguished Teaching Award by the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine three times – in 1997, 2005, and 2008.

Dr. Smith epitomizes the qualities associated with teaching excellence. She is an instructor who has the gift of being able to take very complex details and concepts, and simplify, organize and present them in a very, clear, understandable fashion. She is also very adept at relating the clinical relevance of the material to the class. She has an engaging style which draws students into the learning environment and turns them into active learners. Her lectures are infused with energy which does not sacrifice content or complexity. She also constantly strives to bridge the gap between professor and student, taking an active role in student's professional and personal lives.

Dr. Smith is a true national leader in distinguished teaching and optimizing the learning experience, and AAVMC, in collaboration with Pfizer, is most pleased to honor Dr. Smith with this award.

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The Pfizer National Teaching Award (formerly the Carl J. Norden-Pfizer Distinguished Teacher Award) is presented annually to a faculty member at each college or school of veterinary medicine in the United States. It is the most prestigious teaching award in Veterinary Medicine. Since 1963, the award has been sponsored by Pfizer Animal Health. The company donates more than \$1.5 million each year to veterinary colleges in the form of scholarships, research grants and products as part of its commitment to the future of veterinary profession and educational mission of veterinary colleges. Award nominees are selected by their individual colleges, while a selection committee at the AAVMC chooses the national honoree.

The Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges (AAVMC) coordinates the national and international affairs of all veterinary medical colleges in the United States and Canada, nine departments of veterinary science, seven departments of comparative medicine, three veterinary medical education institutions, and seven international colleges of veterinary medicine. AAVMC fosters the teaching, research and service activities of our members, both nationally and internationally. The Associations' mission is to improve the quality of life for people and animals by advancing veterinary medical education, improving animal health and welfare, strengthening biomedical research, promoting food safety and food security, and enhancing environmental quality.

On the Web: <http://www.aavmc.org>