

BIG IDEAS forum

Colorado Veterinary
Medical Association

TO: CVMA Members
FROM: Ralph Johnson, Executive Director
DATE: March 1, 2010
RE: BIG Ideas Forum Spring 2010

GET INVOLVED IN THE BIG PICTURE OF CVMA AND VETERINARY MEDICINE

BIG Ideas Forum Spring 2010 is being held in Vail, Colorado April 30 – May 1, 2010. All CVMA members are invited and encouraged to attend the conference. Join your colleagues as we:

- Explore issues of importance to the profession and the association
- Identify desired outcomes, and
- Develop recommendations for board consideration.

The BIG Ideas Forum promises to be engaging, energizing, and informative. Plus, as a BIG attendee, you will earn three CE credits – BONUS, no charge! – as you help shape the course of CVMA and organized veterinary medicine.

An RSVP form for the BIG Ideas Forum is enclosed. Please fax your response to the CVMA office at your earliest convenience – but not later than Friday, April 16, 2010

AT ISSUE

VETERINARY CAPACITY SHORTAGE: WOULD CHANGING NAVLE MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

The Spring 2010 BIG Ideas Forum will explore the issue of veterinary capacity shortage and discuss some concepts for reform in veterinary education and professional licensure. These topics emanate from the 2007 Foresight Report commissioned by the Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges (AAVMC), and have been refined through small group meetings led by industry and professional leaders.

In May of 2008, a half-day discussion was held in Kansas City with senior representatives of the following institutions: AAHA, AVMA, AAVMC, AAVSB, Animal Health Institute, five veterinary colleges (CSU, Auburn, Kansas State, Washington State, UC-Davis), Bayer, Eli Lilly, Fort Dodge, Merial, Pfizer, Hill's, Abbott, MWI Veterinary Supply, VCA/Antech, Banfield, Advanstar, IDEXX and MediMedia. An ad hoc working group was created at that meeting, and members attending this BIG Ideas Forum will be:

- Lance Perryman, DVM, dean of the CSU College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences
- Janet Donlin, DVM, chief of the Veterinary Business Channel at Hill's Pet Nutrition
- Kent McClure, DVM, JD, of the Animal Health Institute, and
- Mark Cushing, JD, outside government relations counsel to Banfield and Mars, Inc.

The issues of greatest interest involve size of veterinary student debt, perceived shortage of veterinarians across sectors, and the enormous financial/political barriers to expanding veterinary schools in the United States. The Kansas City discussion was remarkable in the sense of the quality and breadth of participation, and the consensus that a specific practical reform could have a meaningful impact and may have a chance to be implemented. Kansas City participants were only interested in reforms that were practical and achievable.

The discussion with CVMA members at the BIG Ideas Forum will present an analysis of the issues from the perspective of companion animal, food animal and public sector practitioners, and the rationale for the particular reform being proposed. A brief presentation will set the stage for dialog with the issue experts and Forum participants, with consideration given to developing a pilot reform project that could be implemented on a national scale.

Discussion will concentrate on:

- whether there is a shortage of veterinary capacity;
- the options American veterinary schools have at their disposal to address the shortage of capacity;
- a specific reform proposal for the NAVLE (which has been discussed with the National Board of Veterinary medical Examiners);
- the connection between this NAVLE reform and veterinary school curriculums; and
- the merits of this and other potential reforms.

Don't miss this engaging and provocative session!

BIG IDEAS “FAST FACTS”

Location – BIG Ideas Forum Spring 2010 will be held at the Vail Cascade, 1300 Westhaven Dr., Vail, CO 81657

Directions

From the East: Take I-70 West. Exit 176 (main Vail). At end of ramp, enter roundabout and go to the left under the Interstate. Enter the 2nd roundabout and turn right onto South Frontage Road (toward Lionshead). Follow the frontage road signs that direct you to the 'Cascade Village.' The resort is approximately 1.5 miles on the left.

From the West: Take I-70 East for approximately 40 minutes. Exit 173 (West Vail). Enter roundabout and follow signs to South Frontage Road/Vail Village/Lionshead. Follow the frontage road signs that direct you to the 'Cascade Village.' The resort is located one mile on the right.

Minutes – Please visit www.colovma.org in April to download all the commission and board minutes from the 2010 Fall Leadership Conference in Denver.

Agendas – If you would like to place an item on an agenda, please contact your committee/commission chair or district representative by April 5, 2010. Committee/commission chairs and district representatives should submit agenda items to the CVMA office by April 12, 2010.

Work Group Meetings – If your committee or task force would like a room to hold a meeting on Friday afternoon, please let me know and we'll find a meeting space for you.

Schedule – Please see the enclosed schedule of meetings.

Lodging – CVMA has arranged a discounted room rate at the Vail Cascade of \$109 per night single/double occupancy. Please contact reservations at 800.420.2424 or by email at Vcr-Groupres@destinationhotels.com prior to April 9, 2010 in order to receive the discounted rate. Please state that you are with the Colorado Veterinary Medical Association.

Reception – On Friday evening at 6 PM, you're invited to a reception for all attendees. CVMA will provide the snacks, a cash bar will be available, and relaxed interaction continues! This reception is especially provided to facilitate networking of interest groups and species groups.

Board Meeting – The Board of Directors will convene on Saturday at 3:30 PM. Please note that CVMA officers, district representatives, commission chairs, Student Chapter representative, Public Sector Veterinarians Interest Group representative, and appointed liaisons are invited to attend the board meeting. A commission chair may invite a committee or task force representative to be present at the board meeting if clarification or explanation of a work group issue will be helpful to board deliberations. In this case, please advise the CVMA office.