University of Sydney Faculty of Veterinary Science Alumni Awards 2012
Outstanding International Achievement

Speech by John Morris Fairbrother

Specific thanks
- To those responsible for the nomination and support of my candidature
  o Especially Prof. Wanda Haschek-Hock, my classmate, collaborator and friend
- To the Alumni Association for their support
- To those who influenced my career path, particularly in the international field
  o Prof. Bain early in vet courses, during his lectures on diseases in exotic countries
  o Profs. Daria Love and Margaret Sabine, for advice on doing grad work overseas to get international experience
  o My wife, Prof. Diane Blais, Veterinary Anesthetist, responsible for my moving to the veterinary faculty at the Université de Montréal, exposing me to new contacts, another language, and opening up a whole new part of world, the francophone regions of the Americas, Europe and Africa; and for her support throughout my career

General thanks
  Broad educational experience in all aspects of veterinary science from the Faculty of Veterinary Science, at the University of Sydney has stayed with me over the years
  - I can trace back to this, my approach and my way of looking at things
  - It has given me a solid grounding and allowed me to remain a well-grounded individual
    o Has allowed me to go into a wide range of sub careers over the years and explore diverse branches of veterinary science, all less traditional for the veterinary profession
      In my case, these include:
      - Fundamental and applied research
      - Diagnostics, from routine through to surveillance, becoming an OIE reference laboratory, and setting up database
      - All aspects of production of a vaccine, including making it, testing it, marketing it and setting up a spin-off company to commercialize it

OK, let's face it, 40 years ago we did not get a lot of business or economic sense in our courses, nor was the computer, web or electronic communication on the horizon. But we had the grounding to adapt to new tools and new challenges when they came along.

Finally, thank you to the Alumni Association for recognising what we can do in all fields of veterinary science and medicine especially a less traditional branch as in my case.

John Morris Fairbrother