

▪ **Diagnostics and Technology** ▪

LeBlanc Receives WEVA Lifetime Achievement Award

By Warwick Bayly, BVSc, MS, PhD, Dipl. ACVIM • Nov 25, 2011 • Article #28306

At the 2011 World Equine Veterinary Association (WEVA) Congress, held in Hyderabad, India, Nov. 2-6, 2011, Michelle LeBlanc, DVM, Dipl. ACT, a theriogenologist at Rood & Riddle Equine Hospital, located in Lexington, Ky., was presented with the WEVA Lifetime Achievement Award

The WEVA Lifetime Achievement Award is reserved for those whose contributions that far exceed the norm, whether they are in the arena of clinical practice, basic and applied research, teaching, or some combination of the aforementioned activities. Because of the special nature of this award, it is not given at every WEVA Congress.

Peter Rosedale, OBE, MA, PhD, Dr.(h.c.)Berne, Dr.(h.c.)Edinburgh, DESM, FACVSc, FRCVS, the first and only recipient to date, was unquestionably the perfect recipient for the inaugural award. His immense contribution has been recognized by his peers, nationally and internationally.

This year the WEVA Executive Committee has elected to similarly recognize and honor another veterinarian who has also made an immense contribution that far exceeds the norm; a person whose name is likewise synonymous with their specialty.

LeBlanc received her DVM in 1977 from Michigan State University. Not long after, she received the status of Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Theriogenology in 1982. The same College subsequently presented her with their own award, Theriogenologist of the Year. This was given in recognition for:

Major and significant contributions to the field of theriogenology in research, teaching, and service activities;

Being the "leading edge of new technology in equine reproduction"; and

Spearheading several important innovations that demonstrate both the creativity and dedication of this person including the equine colostrometer, the treatment of endometritis, and the management of high-risk pregnancy, placentitis, and neonatal septicemia. These pivotal developments plus the concept of failure of uterine clearance in subfertile mares, are all milestones in the development of equine theriogenology;

LeBlanc has also received numerous other awards including the Carl J. Norden Distinguished Teacher Award in the USA and the McDaniels Clinical Research Award for work on oxytocin in infertile mares. At the recent Florida Association of Equine Practitioner Convention, this person was awarded their "Lifetime Achievement Award".

LeBlanc is a member of the Committee for International Symposium on Equine Reproduction, and has served as Director of the American Association of Equine Practitioners. Further has been a regular contributor to WEVA Congresses and has fully subscribed to its mission of providing relevant continued education to equine practitioners all over the world.

Seek the advice of a qualified veterinarian before proceeding with any diagnosis, treatment, or therapy.

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