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Merial Applied Research Award

Early in its history, WEVA formed a relationship with the pharmaceutical company Schering-Plough. This interaction resulted in Schering-Plough sponsoring an Applied Research Award, which was presented to an equine researcher at each WEVA Congress in recognition of outstanding research conducted in a specific field of applied equine science over the preceding five years. The award was renamed the Intervet-Schering-Plough Applied Research Award after Schering-Plough merged with another pharmaceutical company, Intervet, in 2007.

A plethora of highly renowned equine researchers have received this award since its inception. Some of the most recent winners include Steve Reed, DVM, Dipl. ACVIM, for neurology/internal medicine in 2003; Jean-Marie Denoix, DVM, PhD, for musculoskeletal/imaging in 2006; and Noah Cohen, VMD, MPH, PhD, Dipl. ACVIM, for neonatology and perinatology/infectious diseases in 2008.

In 2010 Merial became the major sponsor of the award, and at the 2011 WEVA Congress, in Hyderabad, India, Anthony Blikslager, DVM, PhD, Dipl. ACVS, received the initial Merial Applied Research Award for his contributions to pain management in horses.

Merial and WEVA will continue this relationship for the 2013 WEVA Congress, to be held in Budapest, Hungary, Oct. 3-5, 2013, and they will seek nominations for the award in the near future. Following receipt of nominations, an international panel representing WEVA, Merial, and members of WEVA's partner associations will choose the recipient and present the award at the opening ceremony of the Congress.

—David Hodgson, BVSc, PhD, Dipl. ACVIM, FACS, WEVA Junior Vice President