

ACVS FOUNDERS' AWARD FOR CAREER ACHIEVEMENT

Presented at the Mark W. Allam Lecture & Awards Ceremony

In selecting **Alan J. Nixon, BVSc, Diplomate ACVS**, for the 2015 *ACVS Founders' Award for Career Achievement*, the ACVS membership recognizes an outstanding career in equine orthopaedics. Dr. Nixon is one of the foremost equine orthopaedic clinician-scientists of his generation. He has dedicated his entire career to clinical research in equine orthopaedics, as well as basic research in equine joint disease and orthopaedics, to the great benefit of horses, as well as considerable translational relevance to humans.

Dr. Nixon, professor of orthopedic surgery at Cornell University, single handedly started and developed the Comparative Orthopaedic Laboratory and JD&ML Wheat Orthopaedic Sports Medicine Laboratory, where he is currently the Director. Dr. Nixon's laboratory was the first involved with isolating equine bone marrow-derived mesenchymal stem cells and their chondrocytic differentiation, as well as manipulation with growth factors. He was one of the first to work with gene therapy in the horse doing original research with IGF-1, and he did pioneering work in cartilage healing.

Dr. Nixon has 148 publications in referred journals and 192 published research and scientific abstracts. He has given 76 invited presentations, including lectures to human orthopaedic and gene therapy audiences; 170 scientific papers at prestigious scientific meetings world-wide; and 98 continuing education presentations. He is the editor and contributing author to the original first edition and the (in press) second edition of *Equine Fracture Repair* and co-author of the third and fourth editions of *Diagnostic and Surgical Arthroscopy in the Horse*.

Dr. Nixon became a Diplomate of ACVS in 1985 and his contributions to the College include serving on the Board of Regents, the Examination and Research Committees and the Editorial Review Board for *Veterinary Surgery*. He has been a major mentor to 41 surgical residents, 20 graduate students, 14 post-doctoral trainees, and 14 interns. He has also been an advisor to multiple undergraduate students and honor students and 5 NIH sponsored Cornell Leadership Program students.

Colleagues noted: "Dr. Nixon deserves to be on that long list of distinguished ACVS Founders' Award recipients that have helped shape the American College of Veterinary Surgeons" and "his numerous academic and professional honors and awards coupled with his impressive record of publications, presentations, and grants bear witness to the level of distinction that Dr. Nixon has achieved in his profession and the orthopaedic research community in general."

The ACVS Founders' Award for Career Achievement was established to recognize the service of ACVS Diplomates who have distinguished themselves in the pursuit of surgery by making significant contributions to the development of surgical techniques and methodology, and disseminating knowledge to colleagues, residents, and students.



**Alan J. Nixon,
BVSc, DACVS**

Past recipients of the *ACVS Founders' Award for Career Achievement*:

2005: Wade O. Brinker, DVM, MS
2006: C. Wayne McIlwraith, BVSc, PhD
2007: Fred P. Sattler, DVM
2008: William Lumb, DVM, PhD, DSc
2009: Donald L. Piermattei, DVM, PhD
2011: Steven P. Arnoczky, DVM
2012: Stephen J. Withrow, DVM
2013: A. Simon Turner, BVSc, MS
2014: Susan M. Stover, DVM, PhD