

ACVS MERIT AWARD

Presented at the Mark W. Allam Lecture & Awards Ceremony

In selecting **Padraic M. Dixon, MVB, PhD, MRCVS, Dip EVDC (EQ)**, for the 2015 *ACVS Merit Award*, the ACVS membership recognizes an internationally renowned leader in the area of equine dental/sinus and upper respiratory surgery.

Dr. Dixon, Personal Chair in Equine Surgery at the University of Edinburgh, has over 160 peer-reviewed publications, of which many of his manuscripts are landmark manuscripts that change what surgeons think and do. His work has elucidated many of the pathological mechanisms underlying dental disease, paranasal sinus disease, and upper airway obstruction. He has translated the knowledge gained from this basic science research and numerous evidence based medicine studies to evaluate the outcome of commonly performed surgical interventions to improve clinical practice.

Dr. Dixon is one of the most respected surgeons in the world when considering upper respiratory/sinus and dental disease. His work has been cited over 1500 times, and he has maintained exceptional consistent production over many years. Dr. Dixon has been the only European respiratory specialist and instructor for the U.S. Equine Upper Respiratory Symposium (2008-2014) and has delivered numerous lectures world-wide.

Dr. Dixon's dedication to the pursuit of improving surgery is demonstrated by the amount of energy he continually delivers for research and education, including organizing and participating in over 100 laboratories on upper respiratory or sinus surgery, dental surgery, or endoscopy, and mentoring residents and post-doctoral students. He also recognizes the importance of setting standards of the profession and has acted as an examiner for multiple organizations, chaired the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS) examinations, and organized and participated in the first European Veterinary Dental College examinations.

His awards include: Best Clinical Article (three times) in *Equine Veterinary Journal* (Richard Hartley Prize); Animal Health Trust Outstanding Veterinary Achievement Award in 1998; BEVA Honorary Life Member for contributions to equine surgery in 2001; Foundation Diplomate of the International College of Equine Veterinary Odontologists 2011; and, Royal (Dick) Veterinary School Clinical Researcher Award in 2013.

Colleagues noted: "Dr. Dixon has unquestionable outstanding international recognition and reputation in the diagnosis and treatment of horses with airway obstructions as well as treatment of dental and sinus diseases of horses" and "it would be difficult to find someone more knowledgeable of equine upper airway and dental conditions...it would also be difficult to find someone more willing to share this information with others."

The ACVS Merit Award was established to acknowledge contributions to the progress of veterinary surgery made by an individual from outside the American College of Veterinary Surgeons. The award is given to an individual who has a career dominated by major and ongoing contributions to the art and science of veterinary surgery.



**Padraic M. Dixon,
MVB, PhD, MRCVS,
Dip EVDC (EQ)**

Past recipients of the *ACVS Merit Award*:

- 2003: Steven F. Swaim, DVM, MS
- 2005: Geoffrey Sumner-Smith, MSc, DVSc, FRCVS
- 2006: Barclay Slocum, DVM, MS (posthumously)
- 2010: Gretchen L. Flo, DVM, MS
- 2012: Thomas M. Turner, DVM
- 2013: Aldo Vezzoni, Med. Vet