



American Veterinary Medical History Society

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AMERICAN VETERINARY MEDICAL HISTORY SOCIETY RELEASES NEW STUDENT HANDBOOK

The AVMHS is pleased to announce publication of a handbook entitled *Guideposts for Veterinary Professionals*, scheduled for release in May 2021. It is intended for veterinary medical students and recent graduates, offering valuable life guidance to complement the challenging years of their education and the beginning of their professional careers.

A copy of this pocket-sized (5 × 7", 200+ pages) handbook will be presented gratis to students at colleges of veterinary medicine in the United States and Canada at their annual white coat ceremonies or other special events this year. A partnership between AVMHS and *The Merck Veterinary Manual* has supported printing costs and complimentary distribution to students.

The major sections of *Guideposts for Veterinary Professionals* include The Way of Veterinary Medicine, A Veterinary Education and Career, Veterinary-Client-Patient Relationship, A Balanced Life, and Character. Each of these broad topics includes several chapters, written by approximately thirty prominent veterinarians and educators who have shared their knowledge and experiences in career and life. All contributors are leaders in the veterinary medical profession, including several deans or former deans of veterinary schools.

Additional content includes short biographical sketches of 13 luminaries—past and present—in the profession. A special chapter by AVMHS president Dr. Zbigniew Wojcinski on “Sir William Osler and the Significance of His Life to Veterinary Medicine” details the career and great wisdom of Dr. Osler, a revered physician from the late 19th and early 20th century. No stranger to veterinary medicine, Dr. Osler taught comparative medicine at McGill University in Canada, participated in organized veterinary medical associations, and investigated animal pathology and diseases. In fact, *Guideposts* was inspired by a similar book for human medical students titled *Osler for White Coat Pockets*, by physicians Joseph VanderVeer and Charles Bryan.

Guideposts is intended to be inspirational as well as aspirational and to demonstrate the value of embracing the rich history of the veterinary medical profession and the humanities. Dr. Osler once observed, “*Books are the tools of the mind, and in a community of progressive scholars the literature of the world in the different departments of knowledge must be represented.*”

About the AVMHS: Established in 1978, the AVMHS (<https://avmhs.org/>) is a non-profit organization dedicated to education, research, and service in the field of veterinary medical history.

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