

INTERNATIONAL CAMELID INSTITUTE HAS NEW DIRECTOR

By Barb Baker

As most of you know, Dr. David Anderson conceived the idea for the ICI in 2000 and founded it with the first Advisory Council meeting in February of 2001. The mission was simple – create something solid, something permanent, something free to everyone, something that will persevere and is immune to the comings and goings of individuals, politics, and whimsy. The best case example is happening now with the move of Dr. Anderson to Kansas State University. With the resignation of Dr. David Anderson from The Ohio State University and the Veterinary Teaching Hospital, a new Director of the ICI has been named to replace him in that position. Dr. Jeff Lakritz, DVM, PhD, Diplomate American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine, has been at OSU for the last three years in the Food Animal Section, working along with Dr. Anderson. Dr. Lakritz also is Head of Food Animal Medicine and Surgery at OSU. Dr. Lakritz has a good deal of clinical experience with camelids and has completed and published numerous articles on the health and well being of camelids. He is currently on the Scientific Advisory Committee for Morris Animal Foundation.

Helping him with the administration of the ICI will be Dr. Tracy Meisner, who serves as the Assistant Director. While Dr. Anderson will be missed, his leaving will not affect the ongoing work of the ICI. The biggest reason for establishing the ICI was so that our industry and community would not be dependent any one or two individuals, but would collect and make available all the research done by so many. It is vital to our industry and our animals to keep this entity strong and viable!

The ICI is unique among livestock industries and serves as a centralized library for collection and dissemination of all facets of camelid information and education. Since few of us are able to locate research findings from projects done in many places, the ICI is here to do just that – and more. It is here with its Consult Corner to direct your questions to any number of experts in different camelid fields, it is here with thousands of archived research findings for anyone to search and access, it is here to serve the camelid community as a rapid response entity for issues involving emerging disease (e.g. FMD, BSE, West Nile, BVD), emergency response plans and urgent health care and information needs through its Emergency Alert System and it is here to promote education of persons in contact with camelids whether breeders, owners, students, or veterinarians. The best part is that it is available, FREE, online at www.icinfo.org

The ICI's future is secure because it is funded through an endowment - the most secure method and will allow the Institute to receive five percent of investments as operating funds. Since **the principal can never be touched**, it ensures the perpetuation of ICI for generations of camelid owners. While the endowment grows, the ICI is being funded by a generous grant from the ARI and AOBA through 2008. The initial goal set out in February of 2001, for the endowment, was one million dollars and at this writing, the fund is \$545,453 – more than half the goal! We can't stop now; please continue your support, and use of, the ICI. It continues in great hands.