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### **CAPC, Nestle Purina Host Community Practice Symposium for Educators**

*More than 20 vet colleges represented at conference to promote leadership skills*

BEL AIR, Md. (June 8, 2010) – The second Community Practice Communications and Leadership Symposium for primary care educators was held April 28 – May 1 in St. Louis, Mo. The three-day program, sponsored by the Companion Animal Parasite Council (CAPC) and Nestle Purina, drew more than 30 veterinary educators interested in enhancing their leadership and communications skills, as well as those of their students.

According to Mike Paul, DVM, executive director of the CAPC, the main purpose of the symposium was to provide an opportunity for veterinarians in academia to network and share ideas about team building and how to develop leadership and communications skills between students and faculty, students and clients, and between students themselves.

“Ultimately, we designed the program to support primary-care clinicians in their efforts to provide better patient care and to develop them as teachers and communicators,” Paul said. “At the same time, we wanted an environment that would encourage attendees to form a professional group focused on community primary-care medicine.”

The symposium, which included a tour of the Nestle Purina Research Campus and Learning Center, featured presentations from representatives of the Companion Animal Parasite Council, AVMA, Tufts University, Washington State University, University of Calgary (Canada) and the UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine. Covered topics included wellness nutrition and the healthy pet, leadership and team building in the clinic, teaching and role modeling in organized medicine, and learning, developing and teaching communication skills.

Paul added that the responses from the educators attending the meeting were uniformly positive about the meeting program and the information presented. “Everyone attending the meeting found it to be personally beneficial and highly educational. Most noted that the professional networking and group presentation activities were particularly rewarding,” he said.

*The Companion Animal Parasite Council ([www.capcvet.org](http://www.capcvet.org)) is an independent not-for-profit foundation comprised of parasitologists, veterinarians, medical, public health and other professionals that provide information for the optimal control of internal and external parasites that threaten the health of pets and people. Formed in 2002, the CAPC works to help veterinary professionals and pet owners develop the best practices in parasite management that protect pets from parasitic infections and reduce the risk of zoonotic parasite transmission.*

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