

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For more information:

Contact: Reid Philips, 816/236-2737
rphilips@bi-vetmedica.com
Jim Stephens, 816/460-3034
jstephens@nkhw.com

PRRS RESEARCH REVIEW BOARD HOLDS FIRST MEETING

AUSTIN, Minn. (September 10, 2002) – Five well-known swine disease experts met here recently to set guidelines for research proposals that could find practical new management strategies for Porcine Respiratory and Reproductive Syndrome (PRRS).

At its first meeting, the independent PRRS Research Review Board (PRRB), agreed on entry, judging and other protocols for the three U.S. \$25,000 *Advancement in PRRS Research Award* awards.

Boehringer Ingelheim Vetmedica, Inc. (BIVI), headquartered in St. Joseph, Mo., announced the new awards in June. The five-member board will review proposals and evaluate PRRS research projects selected to receive the three \$25,000 awards.

“The award program is designed to support research that results in practical applications of PRRS control strategies,” says PRRB member Bill Mengeling, DVM, PhD, Diplo. ACVM, Collaborative Professor, College of Veterinary Medicine, Iowa State University. “Researchers from universities, private institutions, veterinarians and others throughout the NAFTA region are eligible to submit proposals.”

PRRB member Tim Loula, DVM, with Swine Vet Center, P.A. in St. Peter, Minn., says BIVI will officially introduce the program during the Allen D. Lemans Swine Conference September 14–17 in St. Paul, Minn.

“The *Advancement in PRRS Research Award* is designed to initiate research about PRRS that can result in PRRS management strategies that haven’t occurred to us up to now,” says Loula. “Swine practitioners and producers worldwide want to establish practical, profitable protocols that can help control this costly

PRRS RESEARCH REVIEW BOARD

Page 2

disease. These \$25,000 annual awardss should help the industry move toward better solutions.”

Other PRRB members include Scott Dee, DVM, MS, PhD, Diplo. ACVM, University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine; Luc Dufresne, DVM, with PIC, Franklin, Ky.; and Pat Halbur, DVM, PhD, Iowa State University.

“Upon acceptance for publication of research results, PRRB will judge the potential impact on PRRS control of each funded study,” says Mengeling. “On this basis PRRB will award an additional U.S. \$5,000, \$3,000 and \$1,000 to the three research teams.”

Boehringer Ingelheim Vetmedica, Inc. is a subsidiary of Boehringer Ingelheim Corporation, based in Ridgefield, Conn., and a member of the Boehringer Ingelheim group of companies.

The Boehringer Ingelheim group of companies, with headquarters in Ingelheim, Germany, is one of the 20 leading pharmaceutical firms in the world and reported revenues of almost U.S. \$5.8 billion in 2000.

Boehringer Ingelheim, which has some 140 affiliated companies worldwide, focuses on human pharmaceuticals and animal health. The human pharmaceuticals business, which accounts for 95% of sales, is comprised of prescription medicines, consumer health care products and chemicals and biopharmaceuticals for industrial customers. Research and development, production, and distribution facilities are located around the globe. In 2000, Boehringer Ingelheim spent almost U.S. \$914 million on R&D, equivalent to 15.6% of net sales.

For more information on Boehringer Ingelheim, see the international Internet website <http://www.boehringer-ingelheim.com>. For detailed information on *Advancement in PRRS Research Award* awards and proposal forms please see <http://www.PRRSresearch.com> or contact Trudy Ritter at 800-821-7467, ext. 2780, or by e-mail at tritter@bi-vetmedica.com.