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Burroughs Wellcome Fund

“To advance the medical sciences by supporting research and other scientific and educational activities.”

Grantmaking Strategies

- Career development of outstanding young scientists
- Development of investigators in targeted areas of science that are undervalued or underfunded

Outline

- 1.) A critical need
- 2.) Underperformance
- 3.) What can one do about it?

An agenda for action: veterinary medicine's crucial role in public health and biodefence (2002 symposium, 2003 special issue of JVME)

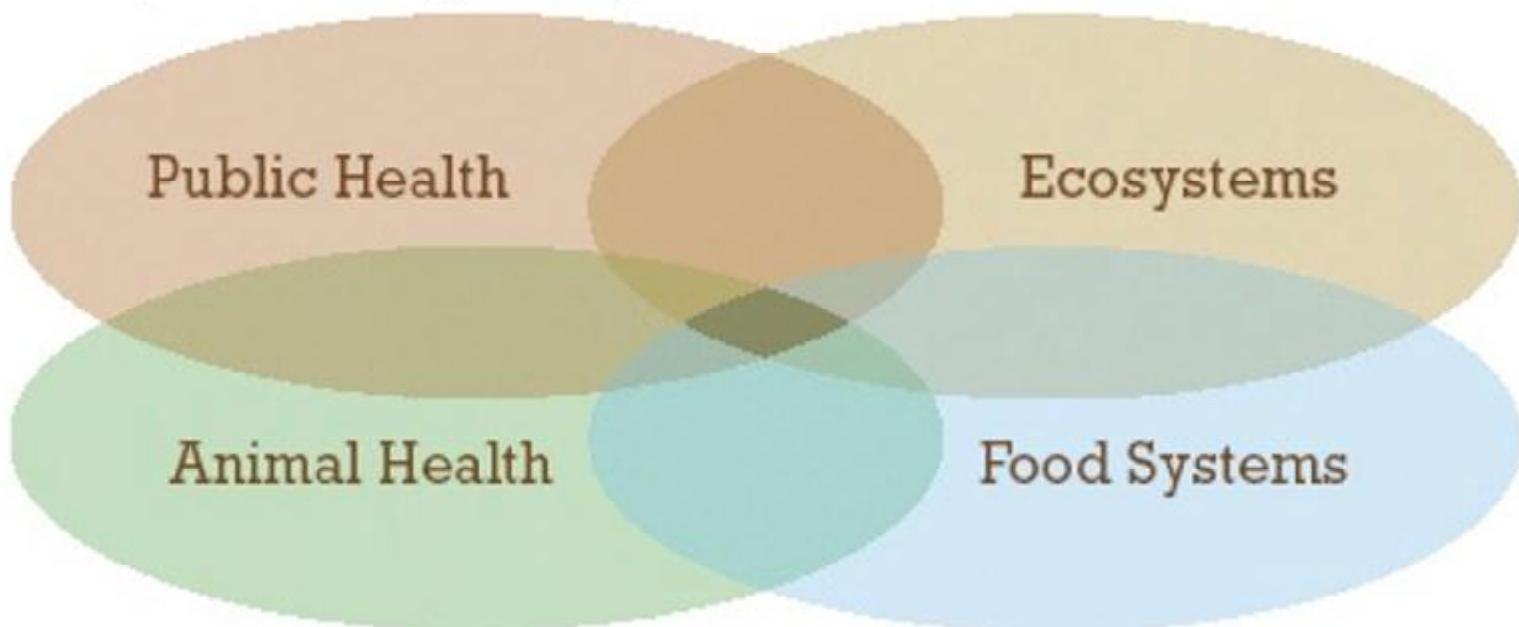
National need and priorities for veterinarians in biomedical research (2004, NRC Committee on Increasing Veterinary Involvement in Biomedical Research)

Critical needs for research in veterinary science (2005, NRC Committee on Needs for Research in Veterinary Science)

Animal Health at the crossroads: preventing, detecting, and diagnosing animal diseases (2005 NRC Committee on Assessing the Nation's Framework for Addressing Animal Diseases)

dv FIGURE 1

Veterinary medicine's opportunity horizon



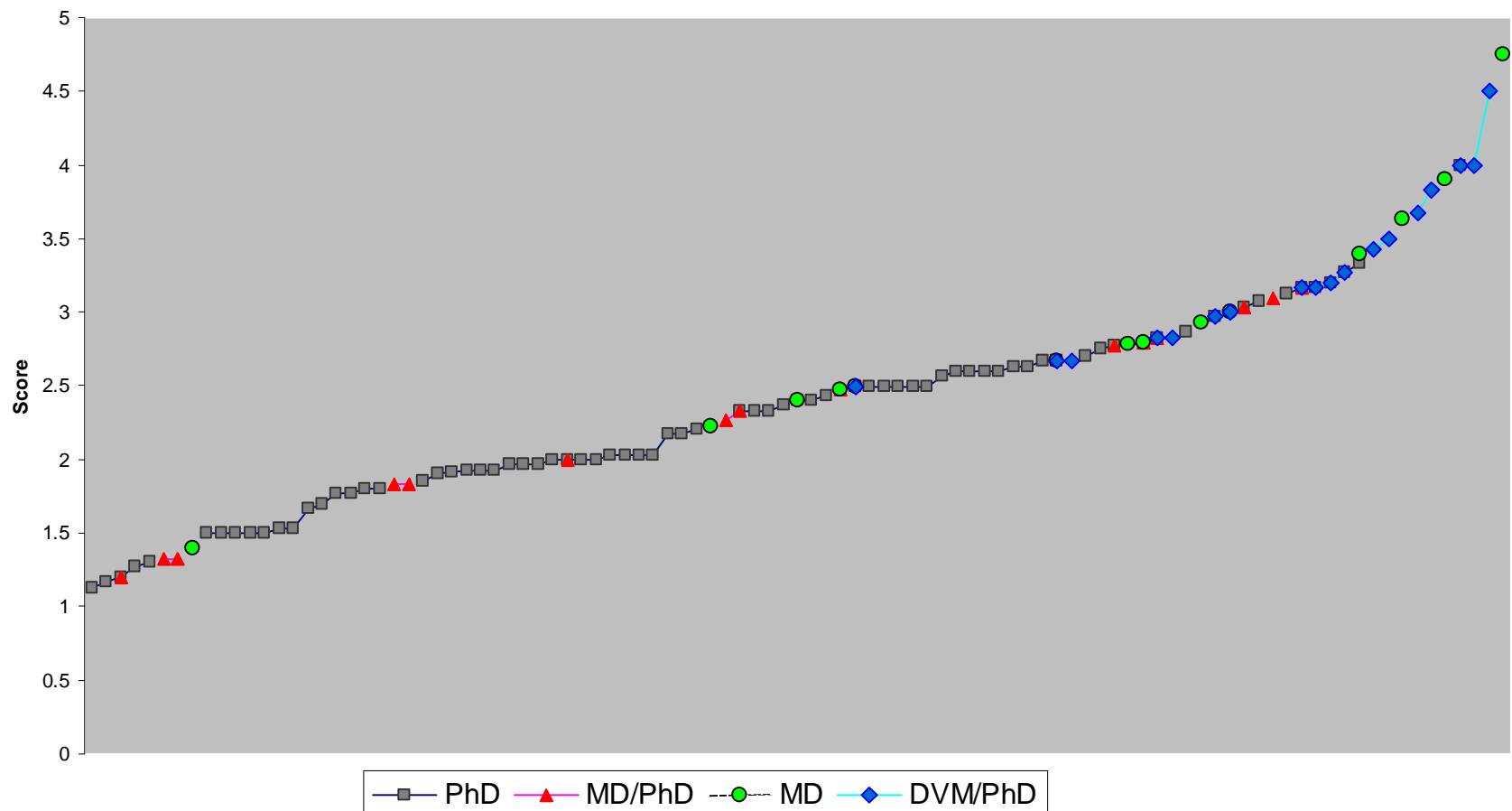
In 2001, of all the R01s going to investigators working with animals, fewer than 5% went to people with veterinary degrees.

What is it you're doing with your life?

- Median age at first job– 38 years
- Median age at first R01– 42 years for PhDs!
(number even scarier for clinicians)
- % NIH awards to new people– 4%

- **Investigators in Pathogenesis of Infectious Disease**
 - ~ 145 applications
 - 1/3 women, 2/3 men
 - Low minority turnout
 - Good range of topics, including strong apps in virology, parasitology, mycology, bacteriology, and immunology

Average Score by Degree



Professionalization of PhD-phase

grad students whose mothers all named them
“doctor”

versus

a special class of postdoctoral fellows

Career development for researchers

- Importance of these individuals as uniquely valuable “bridges”
- Publish early and often at these interfaces
- Need for a broader...

Individuals' Needs

- Better success and earlier success at funding
- Better connections outside School
- Better exposure in early career

Roles

- AAVMC and specialty groups
- Institutions
- States
- Funders

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