

**STRENGTHENING
THE INTEGRITY
OF RACING**



QUARTERLY

Summer 2009

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RMTC Board Implements Initiatives on Lab Standards, Quality Assurance and Research Fellowship Program

Beginning a process that will result in the most significant changes to drug testing in the United States in more than three decades, the Racing Medication and Testing Consortium (RMTC) board of directors approved new national laboratory standards for testing, the implementation of a laboratory accreditation program and a new independent Equine Quality Assurance Program. In addition, the board approved the three-year funding of a graduate/post-doctoral research fellowship and a frozen sample and retrospective testing program.

These unprecedented initiatives were approved at the RMTC's board meeting in Baltimore on June 18, 2009.

The new drug testing initiatives, part of sweeping reforms in U.S. racing's drug testing infrastructure recommended by Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association CEO and RMTC Vice Chairman Alan M. Foreman at The Jockey Club's 2008 Round Table Conference, are the result of unprecedented collaboration during the past 10 months.

The Drug Testing Initiative (DTI) Task Force, which includes prominent industry scientists, veterinarians and industry leaders, has provided and continues to provide support and advice to the RMTC on drug testing issues. DTI Task Force members are Drs. Richard Sams, Scott Stanley, George Maylin, Don Catlin, Rick Arthur, Larry Soma and Walter Hyde. The other members are Duncan Patterson from the Association of Racing Commissioners International, Rogers Beasley from Keeneland, Alan Marzelli from The Jockey Club, and Foreman.

"The RMTC has adopted standards that all testing laboratories will have to meet to gain accreditation and we have begun the actual accreditation process," said Foreman. "The new Equine Quality Assurance Program will provide an independent, third-party examination of equine drug testing laboratories, which is a totally new concept for the horse racing industry. This work is unprecedented and ultimately will change the face of drug testing in this country."

DTI Task Force members will be finalizing a budget

and implementation strategy for the drug testing initiative in the weeks ahead.

Realizing one of the main goals when the DTI Task Force was established last year, RMTC board members committed \$75,000 per year for three years for a matching grant graduate/post-doctoral research fellowship program. This commitment by the RMTC recognizes the need to develop the next generation of laboratory directors and researchers for the racing industry.

Board Discusses Therapeutics

The board also asked the RMTC Scientific Advisory Committee to finalize recommendations for the RCI Model Rules Committee on plasma thresholds and the corresponding withdrawal times for anabolic steroids. In addition, an explanation for how withdrawal times for permitted therapeutic medications are calculated will be made available in the withdrawal times database on rmtcnet.com.

The Scientific Advisory Committee will also review existing research on non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) and policies in place for those therapeutic medications. Currently, the use of the NSAIDs phenylbutazone, flunixin and ketoprofen are allowed at 24 hours prior to racing. Regulatory veterinarians have expressed concern to the RMTC that current policies may compromise pre-race examinations.

RMTC Executive Director Dr. Scot Waterman also provided board members with an update on the status of administration studies funded by the RMTC on a number of essential non-race-day therapeutic medications. The RMTC Scientific Advisory Committee will continue to review available data from these studies for withdrawal time recommendations.

"We are very close to completing the first phase of our withdrawal times recommendations, which we believe will reduce the number of violations for therapeutic medications across the country once adopted," said Dr. Waterman. "This will benefit the entire industry."



“This program is a major step forward in dissuading the minority of individuals who choose to experiment with our equine athletes and threaten the perception and even existence of our sport.”
-Dr. Scot Waterman

RMTC Report: On Ice (*Hoof Beats*, July 2009)

Frozen sample testing has been a hot topic in the sports world lately, especially in the aftermath of last summer’s Olympic Games in Beijing. In late April, the International Olympic Committee announced that all 948 samples taken in Beijing were re-tested for Mircera[®], a new form of the banned blood-doping hormone EPO. The additional analysis revealed seven positive tests involving six athletes. Rashid Ramzi, the men’s 1500m gold medal winner, tested positive for Mircera[®], even though the eight tests that he underwent prior to and during the Olympics all came back negative. Two cyclists were also among those who tested positive for Mircera[®], utilizing stored frozen samples from the Beijing games.

In February, the RMTC announced that it will administer a program to coordinate freezing racehorse urine and blood samples for future analysis. This is one aspect of a five-part initiative to develop a comprehensive drug testing plan for U.S. horse racing laboratories. The frozen sample program will deter the use of prohibited medications and encourage continued advancement of equine drug testing. Funded by a \$150,000 grant from The Jockey Club Thoroughbred Safety Committee, the program will be available to all state racing commissions and their respective equine drug testing laboratories.

The Drug Testing Initiative Task Force has selected five equine drug testing laboratories to store the frozen samples. The RMTC will provide state racing commissions with frozen

sample containers for urine and blood, shipping supplies, numbered sample tags, and pre-paid express delivery forms for shipping directly to the participating RMTC laboratory that the commission has selected.

This program will be free of cost to racing commissions, and all information gleaned from the results will be strictly confidential. Participating laboratories will work to maintain chain-of-custody on all frozen samples, in case a commission wishes to pursue penalties based on a frozen sample positive. The limitations of operating as a state agency may prevent a commission from sanctioning based on a positive finding on a frozen sample. Even so, the resulting information can be used by the commission to target resources more effectively and, potentially, as an aggravating factor in any current violations.

There will always be drugs such as Mircera[®] that are difficult to detect when they are new to the marketplace. Research to develop new testing methods is ongoing on those drugs likely to be abused, but there is usually an unfortunate lag time between the first whispers of abuse and the capability for detection. This program is a major step forward in dissuading the minority of individuals who choose to experiment with our equine athletes and threaten the perception and even existence of our sport.



Sign on to Facebook.com and become a fan of the Racing Medication and Testing Consortium page today!

Check Out Our New Facebook Page!

RMTC is proud to announce the creation of its Racing Medication and Testing Consortium Facebook page! The online fan page features press releases, articles written by RMTC staff, related news stories, interesting and educational videos, and a discussion board where you can post questions for Dr. Waterman or exchange your thoughts with other fans.

Like the RMTC website, rmtcnet.com, this site is a valuable resource to anyone seeking information or discussion about racing medication and testing.

The screenshot shows the Facebook page for the Racing Medication and Testing Consortium. The page header includes the name of the page and its affiliation with the Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders Association. The main content area features a video player, a post from Dan Fick (Executive Vice President and Executive Director of the Jockey Club), and a post from Dr. Scot Waterman (Executive Director of the Racing Medication and Testing Consortium). The page also includes a 'Links' section with links to the RMTC website and the Jockey Club.

2009 Donors to Date

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“At the Races with Steve Byk” RMTC Interview Series

For the last year and a half, RMTC Director of Communications Hallie Lewis has scheduled RMTC representatives on the Thoroughbred Racing Radio Network’s “At the Races with Steve Byk” every three weeks. The program, which airs live Monday - Friday from 4 p.m. EST to 7 p.m. EST, can be heard on SiriusXM Satellite Radio (Sirius Ch. 126; XM Ch. 104) or on ThoroughbredRacingRadioNetwork.com. It is the most listened to horse racing program in the world.

Byk’s interviews with RMTC officers, staff and board members have covered a wide range of topics such as drug positives, backstretch security, withdrawal time research on therapeutic medications, anabolic steroids, and corticosteroids.

Recent guests include TRA Executive Vice President Chris Scherf, UC-Davis associate professor Dr. Scott Stanley, AAEP past president Dr. Robert Lewis, and Ed Martin, president and CEO of RCI. Recordings of these and other interviews with RMTC representatives can be

accessed by clicking on the broadcast archives on TRRN’s website. They are also posted on the Media section of rmtcnet.com, along with several other interesting TV and radio interviews from various media outlets. If you would like a DVD of the RMTC interview series with Steve Byk or wish to be notified in advance of upcoming interviews, please contact Hallie Lewis.

The Steve Byk interviews have been an excellent way for RMTC to communicate with racing fans and participants about its current projects and developments, research study results, model rule adoption progress, and a wealth of information on the topics of drug testing, medication, and the preservation and promotion of racing integrity.

“We know how vitally important this issue is to racing fans, and we appreciate the opportunity Steve has given us to bring our message directly to them,” said Dr. Waterman. “We look forward to continuing to educate and hopefully entertain in the coming year.”

*Visit the Media
section of
rmtcnet.com to
watch and listen to
RMTC interviews
and presentations!*

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821 Corporate Drive
Lexington, KY 40503

Phone: 859-224-2844
Fax: 859-296-3033

E-mail: rallison@rmtcnet.com

**ATTENTION BOARD MEMBERS:
Our next board meeting will
be Sept. 29 in Louisville, KY.**

Our Mission

The RMTC strives to develop, promote and coordinate, at the national level, policies, research and educational programs that seek to ensure the fairness and integrity of racing and the health and welfare of racehorses and participants, and to protect the interests of the racing public.

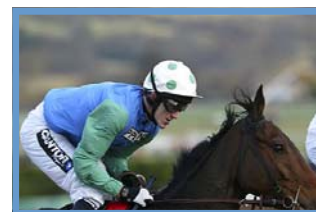


Industry News

Breeders' Cup Stiffens Drug Penalty

Officials at Breeders' Cup Ltd. have announced that medication and testing policies will change for the 2009 World Championships races. If a horse tests positive for anabolic steroids or a Class 1 or 2 drug, the trainer responsible for that horse will be banned from participating in the following year's Breeders' Cup World Championships. Trainers will be penalized with a lifetime ban from the event after three violations, and any violation of the medication policy in place will result in a disqualification and loss of purse. Since the races will be held at Santa Anita Park, California Horse Racing Board rules and respective penalties will also apply.

"The establishment of these new regulations strengthens our No. 1 priority of preserving the integrity of our competition and protecting the welfare of our athletes at the World Championships," stated Breeders' Cup President and CEO Greg Avioli.



The more severe regulations were recommended by the Breeders' Cup Racing and Nominations Committee and were adopted unanimously by the Breeders' Cup board of directors.

Stewart Granted Stay of Kentucky Suspension

Although he was suspended for five years by the Kentucky Horse Racing Commission, Dr. Robert Stewart was recently granted a stay of that suspension by Franklin Circuit Judge Philip J. Shepherd, until his appeal can be heard. Judge Shepherd cited the fact that Stewart has already relinquished his license to practice in the state as an explanation of his ruling. If the suspension were to take effect before Stewart's appeal, he would be barred from veterinary practice in other states and his native Australia.

Dr. Stewart was originally suspended when he was found to have violated several Kentucky Horse Racing Association medication regulations, including possession of the Class A drug cobra venom.

Iowa Trainer Clark Suspended 90 Days

Dick Clark, Prairie Meadows' all-time leading trainer, was handed a 90-day suspension when four of the horses in his care, racing between June 29 and July 13, exceeded the level of banamine permitted under Iowa Racing and Gaming Commission regulations. According to Clark, a groom misunderstood his instructions and administered a full tube of banamine to each horse, rather than a third of a tube.

"I screwed up," Clark said. "It's nobody's fault but mine. ... It was just a communication problem. It was just a misunderstanding between me and [the groom]. I'm still responsible whether he did [understand] or not."

Clark's assistant trainer, Albert Moss, is managing his stable during the suspension. The four horses that tested positive, C.J. Ramrod, Secret Square, Red Chill and Mingo Mohawk, were disqualified from two wins and two second-place finishes, and the related purses were redistributed. Clark was penalized with a \$500 fine for each violation and a \$1,000 administrative fine.