

NEWS UPDATE

EQUINE SCIENCE CENTER

"Better Horse Care Through Research and Education"

FALL 2008

Mark Your Calendars for 'Horses 2009' - March 28 and 29

Horses 2009 is coming to Rutgers on Saturday, March 28 and Sunday, March 29, 2009, and its theme – "Knowledge is Horse Power" – is a clue to the impact delegates will feel from this information-packed weekend.

The program, organized by the Equine Science Center at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, will offer attendees an intense learning experience, with a liberal sprinkling of exhibitor information, fun, prizes, gifts and valuable networking.

The weekend is designed to help all of us – whether we ride or own horses, own or manage a horse farm, work with horses as a professional, dream about horses or just want to know more about them – become better "horse people." The event is expected to draw 1,000 people, and it will be held at the expanded facilities of the Busch Campus Center near Route 18 in New Brunswick/Piscataway.

Presentations will focus on horse health and especially keeping horses (and their people and facilities!) safe and healthy.

"Those folks who attended Horses 2007 a year and a half ago applauded the range of presentations and the expertise of the speakers. Horses 2009 will look at some of the same topics from a new and updated perspective, and will introduce new subjects that have emerged as important issues in the horse world," says Karyn Malinowski, director of the Equine Science Center.

In addition, a new feature of Horses 2009 will be one-on-one classroom sessions throughout each day, where attendees and presenters can engage in in-depth discussions.

(continued on page 3)

Economic Impact Study Honored

The 2007 New Jersey Equine Economic Impact Study has been honored as one of three recipients of the 2007 Award of Excellence from the Northeast Cooperative Extension Directors.

This is the highest award presented by the Directors of Extension in the Northeast. It recognizes Extension outreach

programming that has achieved outstanding accomplishments, results, and impacts in addressing contemporary issues.

The study, conducted under the leadership of the Equine Science Center, the Rutgers New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station and Rutgers Cooperative Extension, defines

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RUTGERS

New Jersey Agricultural
Experiment Station

From the Clubhouse

Karyn Malinowski, Director

Photo by Nick Romanenko



Dearest friends and colleagues, welcome back to the fall after what seemed to be a very abbreviated summer! It was especially brief for me because I spent a lot of time reconnecting with so many of you after returning to the Equine Science Center full time on July 1. I can honestly say that this has been a truly enjoyable summer. Good weather, great friends and super horses are good for one's soul.

As usual, the Center faculty and staff have been busy since our last report. On April 16, Kenneth H. McKeever presented at an inaugural dinner lecture (sponsored in part by Johnson & Johnson) on "The Horse as a Model for Human Medicine" as a fundraiser for the Center. Ken put together a wonderful overview of how important the role of the horse has been—and continues to be—in keeping us healthy. What a night! I think Robert Goodman, Executive Dean, School of Environmental and Biological Sciences, summed it up best: "I had a great time, and I learned something as well."

An important discovery of the evening was that many of our new friends in the audience had no idea of the scope and breadth of the work done by the Equine Science Center and the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station's Equine Exercise Physiology Laboratory. To rectify this, we considered how we could manage regular demonstrations of the lab and high speed treadmill. Bingo! Why not schedule quarterly open houses and invite individuals or groups who have expressed interest in visiting the lab?

To that end, on July 30 the Equine Science Center hosted its



Ellyn Bissey and her mount Pennies From Heaven proudly carry the American flag at the State 4-H Championship Horse Show.

first open house of the Equine Exercise Physiology Lab. Held in conjunction with Hambletonian Week, we had an eclectic group of attendees ranging from high school juniors in the Douglass Science Institute to potential students, donors and our friends from the Standardbred Breeders and Owners Association of New Jersey. My mom and dad even attended to "refresh" their knowledge of what we do on a daily basis.

Future open house demonstrations will be conducted in conjunction with our Stakeholder Meeting in October; the Equine Science Update, December 9; at Rutgers Day on April 25, 2009; and once over the summer to accommodate school-aged youth.

Our faculty and staff continue to be excellent mentors of undergraduate and graduate students. In 2008 our faculty sponsored nine G.H. Cook Scholars. Carey Williams mentored John Lucy who graduated number one in his class and is on his way to veterinary school! We were also pleased to award five Doris C. Murphy Scholarships to young women in equine science for 2008-09.

I'd like to welcome a new affiliated faculty member of the Equine Science Center: Janet Onishi is a microbiologist investigating possible microbial causes of laminitis in horses. She is a retired scientist from Merck with lots of research and development experience. I was glad to sway her to the equine side.

Diana Orban Brown and I have been busy visiting many of you at a variety of venues. The Equine Science Center had a presence at the Hambletonian Society's "Future of Racing" roundtable and its veterinary conference on the following day, and at the Festival of Horses and State 4-H Championship Horse Show; both were held at the Horse Park of New Jersey.

The state 4-H horse show is truly a labor of love and my thanks as a member of the Rutgers Cooperative Extension family goes out to all of the many volunteers who make this event possible. Special thanks to Wendy Gale Hale, who hasn't missed a show since 1976. In her role as chair of the 4-H Horse Project Advisory Committee, she demonstrates continued commitment to the Center and 4-H youth development.

Speaking of commitment, my deepest thanks to two new members of the "Community of 50 for Equine Excellence." They are Christopher Puzio, class of 1992, and Pamela Arena Weidel, Weidel's Boxwood Farm, along with husband Richard Weidel. Your support is deeply needed and appreciated. Please visit our website, www.esc.rutgers.edu, to view a new way of recognizing our donors.

Best wishes for better horse care through research and education.

Horses 2009 (continued)

The keynote speaker on Saturday will be veterinarian Scott Palmer, founder of the New Jersey Equine Clinic and past-president of the American Association of Equine Practitioners (AAEP), who will tackle the topic of Responsible Horse Ownership: When the Dream Becomes a Reality. Palmer is very active in the responsible ownership movement of the AAEP and the American Horse Council and is recognized as one of the most dedicated and thought-provoking experts on this delicate subject.

On Sunday, the keynote speaker will be Eric Scott, news director of Millennium Radio and New Jersey 101.5, who can be heard almost every weekday morning reporting on developments in New Jersey, especially news generated by public officials. He will give an overview of The State of the State We're In, with an insider's look at what New Jersey residents and neighbors in nearby states can expect in the months ahead.

In addition to the keynoters, experts from across the country will share their knowledge in areas of nutrition, behavior, hoof and foot care, keeping competition horses healthy, first aid for horses, serious injuries, lameness and pre-purchase protocols, farm and barn management and protecting horses against disease.

Speakers on Saturday will include three popular veterinarians – Michael Fugaro of Centenary College, David Marshall of the University of Delaware and Dan Keenan of Keenan-McAlister Equine – who together will provide insight on When to Call Your Veterinarian.

A panel on Why Does My Horse Do That? will look at equine behavior from the point of view of the horse's nature as well as the rider's influence. The two presenters for this session will be veterinarian and equine behaviorist Jeannine Berger from the University of California at Davis and master instructor Heidi Potter from Vermont.

Then Good Horse-Keeping Essentials will cover the basics of nutrition by Carey Williams, associate director-outreach with the Equine Science Center; feeding for special needs by Sarah Ralston, associate director-teaching with the Center; and foot and hoof care by Laura Florence, hoof care specialist.

On Sunday, the focus will be on farm and horse health management. Bix DiMeo, longtime manager of Showplace Farms, will discuss the economics of keeping horses; Nick Attwood, owner of a leading equestrian surfaces operation and lecturer for the U.S. Dressage Federation, will talk about arenas, footing and fencing; and attorney Chris Wittstruck, a faculty member at Hofstra University, will discuss legal matters, including contracts, liability and insurance.

Two horse health panels will take place in the afternoon. In the first, veterinarians Brendan Furlong of B.W. Furlong and Associates and Celeste Kunz of Kunz Equine will discuss lameness and chronic conditions in performance horses. Then Kenneth McKeever, associate director-research with the Equine

Annual Equine Science Update Set for Dec. 9

The Equine Science Center will host its annual Equine Science Update on Tuesday, December 9, 2008 from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Cook Campus Center on the G.H. Cook Campus of Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey.

The Equine Science Update, geared to professionals, horse owners, farm owners and managers, students, science teachers, 4-H horse program participants and educators, will include presentations highlighting the Equine Science Center's work in advancing equine health, horse management practices, and solutions to equine industry issues. This year's presentations include summaries of projects coming to closure with implications for use in the horse industry:

- Transforming Waste to Wealth: Horse Manure to Bioenergy
- Joint Supplements—Are They Worth It?
- Genetic Markers for OCD
- Horses 2009 Preview: Knowledge is Horse Power

The event starts with a supper at 6 p.m. Optional tours prior to the update include a visit to the current crop of weanlings in the Young Horse Teaching and Research Program at 4 p.m. and a demonstration of the Center's high-speed equine treadmill at 5 p.m.

The seminars and tours require reservations, which can be made by calling 732-932-9419 or emailing ESC@njaes.rutgers.edu. The suggested donation for the day's activities, including the supper, is \$25 for adults and \$10 for students. For additional information, directions, and a registration form, call 732-932-9419 or visit www.esc.rutgers.edu.

Science Center, will talk about performance-altering substances. The second health panel will address Protecting Your Horse Against Disease led by David Horohov of the Gluck Center at the University of Kentucky discussing vaccines and Tim Cordes of the U.S. Department of Agriculture on infectious diseases.

In between panels and at breaks, attendees will have ample opportunity to visit with partners and sponsors and register for gifts and giveaways. One attendee will win a hand-crafted solid wood tack trunk, courtesy of Rick's Saddle Shop in Cream Ridge.

"At Horses 2007, the feedback we received from attendees and exhibitors was outstanding," says Malinowski. "We also received suggestions for format and topics, and those attending Horses 2009 will see their suggestions put into practice. It will be an outstanding, worthwhile conference for horse people of all disciplines, ages and degrees of experience and expertise."



HORSES 2009

Busch Campus Center

Preliminary Program



Saturday, March 28, 2009

- 7:30 AM Registration, Coffee and Sponsor Visits
8:30 AM Welcome and Introduction of Partners
8:45 AM Keynote Speaker – Scott Palmer, New Jersey Equine Clinic, Past-President of the American Association of Equine Practitioners – *Responsible Horse Ownership: When the Dream Becomes a Reality*
9:30 AM Break and Sponsor visits; Q&A with speaker
9:45 AM Panel: When to Call Your Veterinarian
Michael Fugaro, Centenary College: *Issues and Injuries that Require Veterinary Attention*
David Marshall, University of Delaware: *First Aid, Vital Signs, Minor Injuries*
Dan Keenan, Keenan McAlister Equine: *Pre-purchase Examinations and Spotting Lameness*
11:00 AM Break and Sponsor Visits; Q&A with panelists
11:15 AM Panel: Why Does My Horse Do That?
Jeannine Berger, University of California, Davis: *What We Know from Behavior Science*
Heidi Potter – CHA Clinic Instructor/Master Level: *How Am I Affecting My Horse's Behavior?*
12:30 PM Lunch and Sponsor Visits; Q&A with panelists
1:45 PM Panel: Good Horse-Keeping Essentials
Carey Williams, Rutgers University: *Basics of Nutrition*
Sarah Ralston, Rutgers University: *Feeding for Special Needs*
Laura Florence, Holistic Hoofcare: *Hoof and Foot Care*
3:00 PM Special Prize Drawings
3:15 PM Sponsor visits, networking and Q&A with panelists
4:00 PM Close of Saturday program

Sunday, March 29, 2009

- 9:00 AM Registration, Coffee and Sponsor Visits
9:30 AM Welcome and Introduction of Partners
9:40 AM Keynote Speaker: Eric Scott, News Director, New Jersey 101.5 - *The State of the State We're In*
10:15 AM Break and Sponsor visits; Q&A with speaker
10:30 AM Panel: Farm and Barn Management
Bix DiMeo, Showplace Farms: *Economics of Keeping Horses*
Nick Attwood, Attwood Equestrian Services/U.S. Dressage Federation: *Arenas, Footing and Fencing*
Chris Wittstruck, Hofstra University: *Contracts, Liability and Insurance Overview*
11:45 AM Lunch and Sponsor Visits; Q&A with panelists
1:15 PM Panel: Working with High Level Performance Horses
Brendan Furlong, B.W. Furlong and Associates: *Lameness*
Celeste Kunz, Kunz Equine LLC: *Ailments and Chronic Conditions*
Kenneth McKeever, Rutgers University: *Performance-Altering Substances*
2:30 PM Break and Sponsor Visits; Q&A with panelists
2:45 PM Panel: Protecting Your Horse Against Disease
David Horohov, Gluck Center, University of Kentucky: *Vaccines and Immunology*
Tim Cordes, U.S. Department of Agriculture APHIS Veterinary Services: *What Diseases to Worry About*
3:45 PM Special Prize Drawings
NEW FOR 2009! Hands-on Classroom Sessions – Today's presenters will lead in-depth classroom discussions on key topics.
4:00 PM Final sponsor visits, networking and Q & A with panelists
5:00 PM Close of Horses 2009

--CE Credit will be offered--

'Honor Roll' Webpage Memorializes Special Friends

Many members of the horse community have chosen to give to the Equine Science Center in memory of or in honor of a loved one or beloved animal. Milestones, such as birthdays, anniversaries, celebrations, events and other occasions are remembered this way, as well as the passing of a horse or pet. The names of those honored or memorialized appear on the Equine Science Center Honor Roll, located under "Giving" on the left-hand menu of www.esc.rutgers.edu.

Featured first on the Honor Roll are stories from members of the Center's "Community of 50 for Equine Excellence." These donors, who have pledged gifts at the President's Council level (\$10,000 or more) for six years, describe in their own words the passionate interest in equine well-being that they share with the Center, as well as a commitment to support the Center's visionary efforts in strengthening New Jersey's horse industry.

Following this is a tribute immortalizing the names of special equine enthusiasts who touched the lives of friends and loved ones. Then a special section lists the names of the many horses and pets that have left an impression on someone's heart.

If you are looking for a truly unique way to give a special gift or make a lasting tribute, consider the meaningful gesture of honoring the memory of a beloved pet or special animal by having their name appear on our Honor Roll. More information is available at <http://www.esc.rutgers.edu/giving.htm>.

Impact Study (continued)

the scope of the state's equine industry and its impact on the economy of the state, traditional agriculture and the preservation of working agricultural open space. Critical to the success of the study was the widespread dissemination of the results via reports, press coverage, presentations and a special 10-minute video presented to stakeholders, legislators, officials and the various sectors of the horse industry.

Paul Gottlieb, associate professor, Department of Agricultural, Food and Resource Economics at Rutgers' School of Environmental and Biological Sciences, and Diana Orban Brown, director of communications with the Equine Science Center, accepted the award at the Northeast Summer Joint Session of Cooperative Extension Directors, Experiment Station Directors and Council for Agricultural Research, Extension and Teaching (CARET) members on July 14. Twelve programs were nominated in the northeast region which includes states from Maine to West Virginia, including the District of Columbia.

In addition to Gottlieb and Orban Brown, team members on the 2007 New Jersey Equine Economic Impact Study Program were Karyn Malinowski, director of the Equine Science Center, team leader; Brian Schilling, associate director - Food Policy Institute; Kevin Sullivan, institutional research specialist - New

Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station (NJAES); Lori Casciano, designer - Office of Communications, NJAES; and Troy Joshua, National Agricultural Statistics Service - USDA.

The 2007 New Jersey Equine Economic Impact Study exemplifies the power of teamwork in leading and accomplishing a mission critical to an important New Jersey industry and answering the needs of stakeholders, while at the same time leveraging funds, demonstrating ingenuity and entrepreneurial initiative, and engaging a significant segment of the populace in a common goal. The accomplishments of this program brought enormous positive attention to Rutgers, the School of Environmental and Biological Sciences and the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station. The final report and accompanying DVD continue to be circulated among policy makers and opinion leaders throughout the state.

Study results documented that the total economic impact of the equine industry is \$1.1 billion annually. The industry employs nearly 13,000 and generates an estimated \$160 million annually in federal, state and local taxes. There are 42,500 equine animals housed in New Jersey. The equine-related acres represent about one-fifth of the state's 790,000 acres in agriculture.

Equine Science Center Helps Museum Explore Bond Between Horses and Humans



More than 18 months ago, the Equine Science Center received a call from the American Museum of Natural History in New York City. The museum creative staff, it seemed, was contemplating a major exhibition on horses and asked the Center to help them focus on some of the essential elements of the project.

Now showing at the museum is *"The Horse,"* a comprehensive exhibition on the enduring bond between horses and humanity. The breathtaking work filling an exposition room at the museum takes visitors on a tour of equine existence from the dawn of time to the present day in exciting displays, artwork, artifacts, implements and computerized simulations.

The museum's press release quotes its president, Ellen V. Futter, describing the impact of the horse: "Other than humans themselves, the horse is perhaps the single most important species in human history. The story of how we have shaped horses and how horses have shaped us is profound and complex, and we are delighted to present this exhibition showcasing that dynamic and enduring relationship."

Equine Science Center faculty and staff – including Director Karyn Malinowski, Associate Directors Ken McKeever, Sarah Ralston, and Carey Williams, and Director of Communications Diana Orban Brown – met with the museum's preparatory team in the summer of 2007 and collaborated with them for months thereafter.

"It is amazing to see the work that went into creating this exhibition," says Malinowski, "and how many resources the museum tapped to get the full picture of the impact of the horse on humanity. I think the Equine Science Center was one of the first resources approached in the massive project, and we are pleased that we were able to help the staff get pointed in the right direction."

Among the highlights of the exhibition are a combined large-scale video and computer interactive that allows visitors to peek inside a life-size, moving horse to learn about its anatomy and physiology. A touch screen lets the visitor explore individual parts of the anatomy – from the way a horse sees the world through its eyes to the way it takes up and processes food.

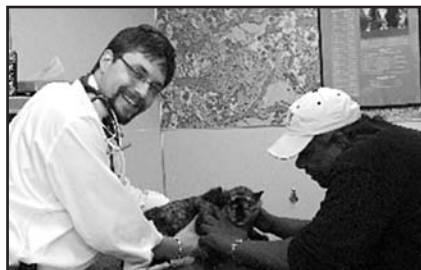
Another display is a diorama, a hallmark of the Natural History Museum, depicting some of the horse species that existed 10 million years ago in what is now Nebraska (see picture). It is believed that equus originated in what we know as America and crossed into Asia over a land bridge eons ago, then disappeared in America and evolved in Asia and, eventually, the European continent. The diorama takes visitors through the physical transitions and habitats.

In another area of the exhibit, people can measure themselves against a bas relief of a horse, and they can measure their strength in horsepower. Throughout the exhibit are quiz kiosks that ask visitors to identify certain objects used in ancient times in connection with horses. Another computerized station lets visitors compare breeds of horses, and shows off each breed from the front, rear and side.

Following its run at the American Museum of Natural History, the exhibition will go on the road with stops in such diverse places as the United Arab Emirates, the Canadian Museum of Civilization in Gatineau-Ottawa, the Field Museum in Chicago and the San Diego Natural History Museum.

The exhibition is due to run through January 4, 2009, at the American Museum of Natural History, located at 79th Street and Central Park West, New York. Further information is available via the museum's website: www.amnh.org.

Alumni Voices: ‘Every Family Member Deserves a Great Hospital’



Every client at Rockland Veterinary receives special loving care from Christopher Puzio and staff.

is carving out time to create its content; he has developed a staff dedicated to both good medicine and excellent customer service; and he finds time to be an actively involved dad with his young son Noah.

He is Christopher Puzio, DVM, a 1992 graduate in animal science at Rutgers and the newest member of the “Community of 50 for Equine Excellence.”

Christopher grew up in Rutherford, NJ – not exactly the bucolic location one would expect an animal sciences major to come from. But even as a boy, he knew he wanted to be a veterinarian. So he set his sights on the Department of Animal Sciences at Rutgers’ School of Environmental and Biological Sciences (which was known as Cook College during Christopher’s undergraduate days).

Even as an undergraduate he was an over-achiever: president of Student Advisors, an officer in the Veterinary Science Club, and a member of Cook Student Council and Alpha Zeta service and honor society. All of this and getting up to report to the dairy barn by 6 a.m. to mix silage and feed cows for professor James Wohlt and feeding the sheep, goats and horses on College Farm Road on Sunday mornings.

“What I loved about my time on the Cook campus was working with the animals – which really motivated me to pursue my dream of veterinary medicine – and the one-on-one relationships with the faculty. They were very hands-on. People make the experience, and I think it helped that the Cook community is a small setting in a much larger university,” says Christopher.

He took classes with Karyn Malinowski, the Equine Science Center director, and with Wohlt, and was a George H. Cook Honors Student with professor Sarah Ralston. That last association provided an interesting twist when, after graduation from Rutgers, he went to the University of Missouri to pursue his veterinary degree.

One summer at Missouri he did a research project with V.K. Ganjam, a professor in the Department of Biomedical Sciences

You might say he is one of those rare “super-achievers.”

He owns and operates Rockland Veterinary, three thriving veterinary hospitals in New York State’s Rockland County; he has launched a new website and

in the veterinary school. Ganjam chose Christopher for the project, saying “if you’re good enough to work in Dr. Ralston’s lab, you’re good enough for me.” Later, Ganjam persuaded him to go for a master’s degree in addition to his veterinary degree, and so Christopher also holds a master’s degree in veterinary pathology.

And it was at Missouri that he met his future wife Bridget, also a veterinary student, and together they opened a clinic in Stony Point, NY. Now Christopher rotates his time at the North Rockland Animal Hospital in Stony Point; the Pomona Animal Hospital in Pomona, NY; and the Hudson Valley Animal Hospital in Valley Cottage, NY.

All three practices specialize in small animals and exotics and operate under the mantra, “Every family member deserves a great hospital.”

Says Christopher, “The business started out as a three-doctor practice and now it serves the communities with seven doctors and 40 staff. We brought sophisticated models from the human world to veterinary practice, emphasizing very good medicine and – and this is a phrase not usually associated with medicine – great customer service.”

Christopher says he is able to encourage excellent customer service through a highly motivated and empowered staff. If you sit in one of his offices for a few minutes and listen to staff/client conversations, you get the sense that the employees are caring, very knowledgeable and promote client loyalty.

Loyalty is also apparent in Christopher’s philosophy; hence his pledge to become a member of the “Community of 50 for Equine Excellence” – a program designed to engage high-level contributors to support the permanent endowment of the Equine Science Center.

Even though Christopher’s practice does not involve equine animals, he says he is truly grateful for his experience with the faculty at Rutgers and the fact that when he was an undergraduate they always made him feel like a part of the family – encouraging him, forgiving mistakes, and celebrating triumphs. “After every school break, they always made you feel like you were coming home,” he recalls.



Christopher Puzio, on vacation with son Noah, and some feathered friends.

“I always wanted to be a vet to take care of people’s pets and work with people. It’s about promoting the human-animal bond,” he says.

Open House Photo Gallery

The Equine Science Center held its first open house on July 30. Attendees were treated to treadmill and Equicizer demonstrations, learned about research conducted by the faculty, and were given insights about how equine science can benefit their lives.



Equine science students put Snowdrift through her paces during the treadmill demonstration.



Ken McKeever, associate director - research for the Center, translates exercise results data for the open house attendees.



Sarah Ralston, associate director - teaching for the Center, explained the Young Horse Teaching and Research Program to a rapt crowd.

Upcoming Events

Equine Science Update

Tuesday, December 9, 2008
6-9 p.m. (Optional tours – 4 p.m.)
Cook Campus Center
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
New Brunswick, NJ
Call 732-932-9419 for reservations

★ Save the Date! ★

Horses 2009 Educational Conference

March 28 - 29, 2009
Busch Campus Center
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
New Brunswick/Piscataway, NJ

Rutgers Day

Saturday, April 25, 2009
G. H. Cook Campus
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
New Brunswick, NJ

Young Horse Teaching and Research Program Yearling Auction

Sunday, April 26, 2009
11 a.m. – Pre-Auction Viewing in Red Barn
1 p.m. – Auction at Round House
College Farm Road
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
New Brunswick, NJ

The Equine Science Center would like to thank its 2007-2008 Platinum Partner, the New Jersey Farm Bureau. The mission of the New Jersey Farm Bureau is to represent the agricultural producers and enterprises of New Jersey at all levels of government - local, county, state, federal and international. Learn more at www.njfb.org.



“Better Horse Care Through
Research and Education”

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