

RTIP NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Director of Maddy Lab at UC Davis Explains How Understanding Drug Behavior is Key to Regulation

Dr. Scott Stanley, Director of the Kenneth L. Maddy Equine Analytical Chemistry Laboratory at UC Davis in Davis, California, visited the *Advanced Racing Laws and Form & Function of the Equine Athlete* classes to discuss how therapeutic drugs are regulated and the physical effect they have on racehorses.

"We've been testing our athletes longer than the Olympics have been testing theirs," said Dr. Stanley. "We want to make sure it's a fair race."

The Maddy Lab at UC Davis uses two methods to evaluate a drug's behavior: pharmacokinetic (PK) and pharmacodynamics (PD). PK modeling shows what the body does to a drug while PD modeling shows what the drug does to the body.

Understanding a drug's behavior as well as how the animal's body responds to that drug is key in deciding whether or not a therapeutic drug should be allowed and at what level it is appropriate. These threshold levels are then used as a standard against which all horses in a particular jurisdiction will be measured.

"The key thing we're trying to determine is when the level's significant; whether this horse had an advantage or not when 2-3 inches decide a race."

The University of Arizona's Race Track Industry Program offers both a Bachelors and Masters degree program with an emphasis on the pari-mutuel racing industry and hosts the annual Symposium on Racing & Gaming held every December in Tucson, Arizona.

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