The sale of 24 yearlings by Paynter---for prices as high as $520,000---at the recent Keeneland September Sale was a pleasant reminder of a health crisis which four years ago went from foreboding to veterinary triumph.

During the spring and summer of 2012, Zayat Stable’s Paynter finished a close second in the Belmont Stakes and then became a grade 1 winner in the Haskell. His apparent new status as a championship contender suddenly was replaced by a life-threatening health situation. Paynter spiked a temperature and, despite instant response by his veterinary team, he developed laminitis. He underwent surgery at the University of Pennsylvania’s New Bolton Center and his therapy afterward included cryotherapy, based on a presentation given by prominent laminitis researcher Dr. Jim Belknap of The Ohio State University.

Zayat owner Ahmed Zayat and trainer Bob Baffert praised the gallantry of the colt, which not only survived but returned to racing. His case became so well publicized that after his recovery it was voted the NTRA story of the year. Paynter now stands at WinStar Farm in Kentucky.

For commentary by the young veterinarian Dr. Laura Javsicas, an Internal Medicine specialist, who administered the cryotherapy, click here.
Stomach ulcers are among the most common disease conditions affecting the horse, with racehorses at particularly high risk. Gastric acidity is considered a primary factor in initiating and perpetuating gastric ulcer disease and omeprazole, a proton-pump inhibitor that blocks acid production in the stomach, is widely used for treatment and prevention of stomach ulcers in the horse. To date little has been known about the factors that may affect the efficacy of omeprazole in the horse, but a series of recent studies funded by the Grayson-Jockey Club Research Foundation have helped shed some light on this important area.

The studies, performed by Dr Ben Sykes BSc BVMS MS MBA Dip ACVIM Dip ECEIM PhD and the research group at The University of Queensland in Australia, focused on the effects of formulation, diet and dose on concentrations of omeprazole in the blood and on the drug’s ability to suppress gastric acid production. While some subtle effects of formulation appeared to be present it was the effect of diet and dose, and their interaction, that provided the most clinically relevant findings.

The studies showed that overnight fasting increased both the absorption of the drug and the ability of the drug to suppress acid production, even at lower than commonly used doses. Specifically, horses were fed a diet that approximated a racehorse diet with morning and evening feeding of grain meals followed by an overnight fast prior to exercise the following morning. Under such conditions the commonly used preventative dose of 1 mg/kg achieved levels of acid suppression consistent with healing in the majority of horses examined. In contrast, when animals consumed a high roughage diet consisting of unrestricted access to hay the absorption of omeprazole and its ability to suppress acid production both decreased dramatically, even at the registered therapeutic dose. This is a significant finding as it suggests that the commonly recommended management strategy of unrestricted access to forage, which is beneficial in reducing the risk of ulcer development and reoccurrence, may actually impair the efficacy of omeprazole during the treatment phase in some animals.

Another key finding was that there was a wide range of responses among individuals. Some animals consistently responded at lower doses, regardless of the dietary conditions, while other animals absorbed much lower levels of the drug and did not demonstrate significant levels of acid suppression when fed a free choice forage diet. This finding suggests that the individual’s response should be considered in monitoring therapy. Together the findings suggest that blanket dosing recommendations that encompass all horse usage types, with their associated diets, as currently recommended, may not be appropriate. Instead, dosing strategies that take into account the diet of the horse and its individual response may allow more tailored therapy with lower doses being appropriate in some circumstances.

The results of the studies have been widely published in international peer reviewed journals. Six papers that encompass the studies funded by Grayson are now in print, plus a number of related review articles. In addition the results of the studies have been published at several major international meetings in the USA, UK and Australia. The lower than expected efficacy of omeprazole has triggered a wave of research looking at the next generation treatments for gastric ulcers with preliminary results from such studies delivering some exciting prospects.

**OMEPRAZOLE STUDY ON ULCERS**

Donations of any size are welcome.
Past contributions range from a $2.5 million bequest to $5 here and there from a devoted horse fan.

Click here to find out more
Sponsorships were sold out for all of the seven races Kentucky Downs made available for the Third Annual Grayson-Jockey Club Research Foundation Day on Saturday, Sept. 3. Under the unique arrangement offered by Kentucky Downs President Corey Johnsen, Grayson-Jockey Club Research Foundation was invited to solicit sponsorships for seven of the individual races on the 10-race card, with sponsorship fees retained by the foundation.

“We appreciate the innovative program Kentucky Downs has offered,” said Edward L. Bowen, president, Grayson-Jockey Club Research Foundation.

“We are always pleased to support charities within the horse industry,” said Johnsen of Kentucky Downs, which provides trophies for the sponsored races, “and we admire the work of the Grayson-Jockey Club Research Foundation, which is contributing $1 million this year for important research projects. We also look forward to welcoming representatives of the distinguished line-up of guest sponsors they have attracted.”

Kentucky Downs is located in Franklin, Kentucky.

The $350,000 Kentucky Downs Juvenile, presented by Rood & Riddle Equine Hospital, and the $350,000 Kentucky Downs Ladies Turf, presented by Zimmer Biomet, were among four stakes races on the Saturday card of European-style turf racing at the Franklin, Ky., course.

In addition, five overnight races were sponsored by Breeders’ Cup, Equibase, Great American Insurance, Hagyard Equine Medical Institute, and Kitten’s Joy (Ramsey Farm). Stakes sponsorships were $1,000 each and overnight sponsorships $700 each, with those funds going to Grayson to support equine research.

“Again we thank Kentucky Downs for creating this opportunity to further our work,” said Bowen. “The quality of the racing was exceptional. And we certainly appreciate all seven of our race sponsors for stepping up on behalf of the horse.”

Below is the complete list of the winning horses and their connections for the sponsored races.
SARATOGA GOLF OUTING 2016

Our 16th Annual Charity Golf Tournament was held Tuesday, August 16, 2016 at the Saratoga National Golf Club in Saratoga Springs, NY.

Lunch was served in Saratoga National’s course-side tent and our 72 golfers headed out for a rainy shotgun start. After a quick drenching, the skies cleared for an enjoyable round of golf.

At a wonderful reception in the ballroom, golf awards were given. Newly appointed NYTHA Board Member Joe Appelbaum and team took first place honors again this year. Second place went to team WinStar and third place went to Adam Madkour of Saratoga Springwater Co. All golfers went home with a prize, a gift bag of swag provided by Embrace the Race.

The Foundation would like to give special thanks to our golfers, who play year after year, rain or shine.

We extend our deepest appreciation to our sponsors, who make this event possible with their continued generosity:

Donald Adam, Tom Albertrani, America's Best Racing, Centennial Farms LLC, Adele Dilschneider, Michael Dubb, Steve Duncker, Equibase, Fasig-Tipton, Godolphin, Dr. Patty Hogan, Michael Hushion, Keeneland, Pat Kelly, Kiaran McLaughlin, Graham Motion, NYRA, Phipps/Janney Stables Roberts Communications, Saratoga Spring Water Co., the Saratoga jockey colony, Martin Schwartz, the Sonoma County Fair jockey colony, The Jockey Club Information Systems, Charlotte Weber, West Point Thoroughbreds.

ELIZABETH LOCKE JEWELS

Once again the elegance of Elizabeth Locke Jewels supported Grayson-Jockey Club Research Foundation. The artist designated a percentage of sales to the Foundation during the recent show at Keeneland. Ms. Locke is generous enough to extend that percentage program through Christmas for all sales in which the customer mentions the Foundation. We thank all who patronized the show.

Elizabeth Locke Jewels’ neo-classical, hand-made, 19k gold designs reflect the beauty of antique jewelry of the Etruscans, Greeks, and Romans. Elizabeth Locke Jewels has two flagship stores: One in Manhattan and another in Boyce, Virginia.

For more information on the collection visit http://www.elizabethlocke.com