



## American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians E-Newsletter

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Issue: # 10-13

Annual Meeting Wrapup

### Dr. Catherine Barr Installed As AAVLD President



AAVLD President for 2013, Dr. Thomas McKenna, presented incoming President, Dr. Catherine Barr, with the official AAVLD gavel as she in turn presented him with a plaque commemorating his presidency. The transfer of

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## Executive Board

**Catherine Barr,**  
President

**Thomas McKenna,**  
Immediate Past  
President

**Francois Elvinger,**  
President-Elect

**Tom Baldwin,**  
Vice President

**John Adaska,**  
Secretary / Treasurer

**Sandra Bushmich,**  
Northeast Rep.

**Lanny Pace,**  
Southeast Rep.

**Pat Halbur,**  
Northcentral Rep.

**Hemant Naikare,**  
Southcentral Rep.

**Jerry Heidel,**  
Northwest Rep.

**Hana Van Campen**  
Southwest Rep.

**Estela Cornaglia,**  
Canada Provincial Rep.

**Maria Perrone,**  
Canada Federal Ex-  
Officio

**Beth Lautner,**  
NVSL Ex-Officio

**Christine Hoang,**  
AVMA Ex-Officio

the gavel occurred during the House of Delegates meeting on Monday, October 21, 2013.

AAVLD President Catherine Barr, Quality Assurance and Safety Manager at the Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory, holds a doctorate in toxicology from Texas A&M University and is a diplomate with the American Board of Toxicology.

Dr. Barr's distinguished efforts on behalf of the veterinary diagnostic profession include service on numerous AAVLD and United States Animal Health Association committees, including the Veterinary Analytical Toxicology Committee, the Laboratory Safety and Waste Disposal Committee, the AAVLD Executive Committee, the AAVLD Executive Board, the AAVLD Membership Committee, the AAVLD Government Relations Committee and the AAVLD Program Committee.

Dr. Barr previously served in the AAVLD leadership as Vice President in 2012 and President-Elect in 2013.

"It's an honor to have been entrusted by my peers to lead the veterinary diagnosticians' national organization," says Barr. "Cooperation among the scientific disciplines in the efforts of any single state lab to protect and support animal health is multiplied and extended by the interactions we build among our labs and our people through AAVLD."

Over the last several years, the Executive Board has laid the foundation for growth of this organization. We've acquired an excellent Executive Director in Jim Kistler. We've grown the annual meeting with new symposia and exhibitors to showcase our scientific papers. We've gone to Washington D.C. to educate our elected representatives on the importance of funding for the National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN).

This year, we'll again go back to DC and press for appropriation of sufficient funding to insure the vitality of the NAHLN and its readiness and expertise to confront animal disease threats. AAVLD will continue to work to strengthen interlab communications across the nation. We also plan to develop some video content for a continuing education library which will be available for use by the membership.

***President Catherine Barr***

**Jim Kistler, IOM, CAE**  
Executive Director

**Dr. Gary Anderson Receives the E.P. Pope Award From AAVLD During It's Annual Meeting**



Dr. Gary Anderson is presented the E.P. Pope Award by Dr. Tim Baszler, Chair of the AAVLD Awards Committee, during the 2013 Annual Meeting. The E.P. Pope Award is presented to an individual who has made noteworthy contributions to the AAVLD and the field of Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory Medicine.

Dr. Anderson is a professor in the Department of Diagnostic Medicine and Pathobiology in the College of Veterinary Medicine at Kansas State University. He holds a BS in Microbiology from South Dakota State University, a DVM and MS (veterinary pathology) from Kansas State University, and a PhD in Comparative Pathology from the University of California-Davis.

Dr. Anderson joined the Kansas State Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (KSVDL) as director in 2005, after numerous years in private industry where he was involved in diagnostics and vaccine research and development. The first five years of his career were at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln where he had diagnostic and research responsibilities and was promoted to Associate Professor. He also participated in an NIH-sponsored training program in anatomic pathology during his graduate studies in Davis.

Dr. Anderson has been a member of the American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians (AAVLD) and the AVMA throughout his career and served on the Executive Board as Vice-President, President-Elect and President (2010) of the AAVLD. Dr. Anderson has served numerous AAVLD and USAHA committees over the years and currently is co-chairing the joint Diagnostic Laboratory and Veterinarian Workforce Development Committee and the Strategic Planning Committee. He has served on the National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN) Methods Technical Working Group since its inception and currently serves as co-director of the NAHLN Coordinating Council.

Priorities for Dr. Anderson have included strengthening the NAHLN, working toward the development of an adequate supply of well-trained veterinary diagnosticians for the future, and pressing the application and practice of One Health relevant to animal health. Diagnostic medicine provides a pivot point for so many of the critical issues in animal health: antimicrobial resistance, food safety and security, foreign animal disease (FAD) surveillance, and detection of high-consequence diseases (FAD, zoonotic and endemic). Diagnostics play a vital role in animal welfare where surveillance and quick turnaround yield information that enhances effective management of animal populations. Anderson is proud to be a member of the diagnostic medicine community and AAVLD.

### **Dr. Jerry Saliki Awarded The AAVLD Distinguished Service Award**



Dr. Jerry Saliki was recognized with the AAVLD Distinguished Service Award during the 2013 Annual Meeting. The Distinguished Service Award honors those members who have generously volunteered their time, energy, and professionalism to substantially enrich and advance AAVLD and the field of diagnostic veterinary medicine.

Dr. Saliki is a board-certified veterinary virologist, professor of infectious diseases, diagnostician and Director of the Athens Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory at the University of Georgia. He obtained his DVM from the University of Liège, Belgium in 1984. After pursuing a one-year diploma program in tropical veterinary medicine at the Institute for Tropical Medicine in Antwerp, Belgium, he returned to his native Cameroon and served as a research scientist at the Cameroon Institute of Animal Research from 1985-1989. From 1989-1993, he underwent PhD training at Cornell University, during which he undertook his doctoral research on peste-des-petits ruminants and rinderpest viruses at the Plum Island Animal Disease Center.

Dr. Saliki served as Head of the Virology/Serology at Oklahoma State University Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory from 1993-2005 in a tenure track position during which he rose through the academic ranks to full professor in 2005. That same year, he moved to the University of Georgia and served as Head of the Virology/Serology section of the Athens Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, where he has also served as Laboratory Director since 2007. Dr. Saliki's research centers on the development of improved diagnostic assays for a variety of diseases and he has published over 100 papers.

In addition to his role in providing diagnostic services for domestic animals for the past 25 years, Dr. Saliki has also built a highly reputed marine mammal diagnostic program during the last 15 years. For the past 10 years he has served the AAVLD membership and the scientific community at large as editor-in-chief of our flagship publication, the *Journal of Veterinary Diagnostic Investigation*. In that role, he took the journal into the digital age and also built its reputation as top-tier international journal. Notably, he implemented online submission/peer review process and online publishing of the journal. He also strengthened the peer review process by identifying and appointing scientists from across the world to serve on the journal's editorial board.

### **Dr. Thomas Baldwin Elected Vice President of AAVLD**



Dr. Thomas Baldwin, DVM, PhD, was installed as Vice President of AAVLD at the conclusion of the 56th Annual Meeting in San Diego, CA. Dr. Baldwin is Director of the Utah Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (UVDL) at Utah State University (USU).

Dr. Baldwin is an active member of AAVLD and serves currently on the Coordinating Council for the National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN). In the past, Dr. Baldwin served as co-chair for the Aquaculture Committee of AAVLD.

Dr. Baldwin earned a BS degree in Veterinary Science from Washington State University in 1985, his DVM from Washington State University in 1988, and his PhD in Veterinary Science (Pathology) from Louisiana State University in 1992. He is a board certified veterinary pathologist (ACVP-1994) and has 22 peer-reviewed publications.



Dr. Baldwin spent 9 years in the Washington Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory as a veterinary pathologist, during which he initiated and served as section head for aquatic animal health. After coming to Utah, he led the UVDL to accreditation by AAVLD in 2009. In addition, he was key to USU's recent partnership in veterinary medicine with Washington State University, bringing additional veterinary medical educational opportunities to students in the intermountain west. Dr. Baldwin has been actively training anatomic pathology residents for the past 21 years and teaches General Pathology in the veterinary medical curriculum.

The Utah Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory is fully accredited by the AAVLD and is a full service diagnostic laboratory with two branches: the main laboratory in Logan, UT and a smaller laboratory in Nephi, UT. The laboratory serves as the animal health regulatory laboratory for the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food.

### **Dr. Pat Halbur and Dr. Hemant Naikare Elected To The AAVLD Executive Board**

Dr. Pat Halbur was reelected by the AAVLD Northcentral district and Dr. Hemant Naikare was elected by the AAVLD Southcentral district to serve on the AAVLD Executive Board. Each will serve a three year term representing their respective districts.

The AAVLD Executive Board is the governing body of the associations with representation from seven district regions plus the elected officers of the association. In addition, representatives of the US Department of Agriculture National Veterinary Service Laboratories, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, and the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) serve as ex-officio members of the Executive Board.

**Dr. Pat Halbur** currently serves as Chair of the Department of Veterinary Diagnostic and Production Animal Medicine and as Executive Director of the Iowa State University Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory in the College of Veterinary Medicine at Iowa State University. Dr. Halbur co-owned a food animal focused private practice in Iowa for 5 years before returning to ISU to earn MS and PhD degrees in veterinary pathology. He served as a diagnostic and research pathologist in the Iowa State University Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (ISU VDL) for 15 years before entering administration.

Dr. Halbur has authored over 180 peer-reviewed manuscripts focused primarily in the area of swine infectious disease diagnosis and control. His areas of expertise include food animal production medicine, pathology and microbiology. He holds several patents on development of diagnostic assays and vaccines for swine viruses.

Dr. Halbur has served as President of the Iowa Veterinary Medical Association and on the Board of Directors of the American Association of Swine Veterinarians. Dr. Halbur was recently recognized by Iowa State University for Outstanding Departmental Leadership, he is an Honorary Iowa Master Pork Producer, was awarded the Howard Dunne Memorial

Award by the AASV, and has received the Zoetis Research Excellence Award.

The ISU VDL handles nearly 55,000 cases per year from livestock producers across the U.S. As Chair of the Department of Veterinary Diagnostic and Production Animal Medicine, Dr. Halbur administers a department with 55 faculty and 105 staff. The departmental focus is on administering a comprehensive teaching program in food supply veterinary medicine, overseeing the delivery of high quality food animal diagnostic services, and facilitating research programs to answer important questions of livestock producers and food consumers.

**Dr. Hemant Naikare** is section head of bacteriology and molecular diagnostics at the Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory's Amarillo location. Dr. Naikare earned a doctorate in veterinary biomedical sciences from Oklahoma State University and holds a bachelor's degree in veterinary sciences and animal husbandry and a master's degree in veterinary sciences-microbiology from the Bombay Veterinary College in India.

Dr. Naikare joined the Amarillo laboratory in 2007 following a post-doctoral fellowship at Oklahoma State's Biosensor and Molecular Diagnostics Laboratory. Dr. Naikare became a diplomate in 2009.

The American College of Veterinary Microbiologists (ACVM) elected Dr. Naikare from the Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory to its board of governors in 2012. Dr. Naikare was among three new board members chosen from 10 candidates.

The ACVM is the specialty organization recognized by the American Veterinary Medical Association for certification of veterinarians in microbiology. To become certified as a college diplomate, an individual must be a veterinarian in good standing with graduate degrees and/or additional years of experience working in veterinary microbiology. In addition, candidates must pass a general examination and at least one sub-specialty examination in bacteriology/mycology, virology, immunology or parasitology.

## **AAVLD Honors The Best Of 2013 At The Annual Meeting**

### **AAVLD Award for Excellence in Diagnostic Veterinary Microbiology**

Karen W. Post, D.V.M., M.S.  
Director, NC Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory System  
Veterinary Bacteriologist, Rollins Laboratory

Supported by Biomic Inc, the prestigious AAVLD award for excellence in diagnostic veterinary microbiology (bacteriology) recognizes distinguished scientist (s) for research accomplishments in the field that result in new scientific findings that have application for the betterment of veterinary medicine.

### **Pioneers in Virology Award**

**Paul Gibbs, BVSc, PhD, FRCVS**

Professor Emeritus and former Associate Dean for Students  
College of Veterinary Medicine  
University of Florida

**AAVLD Best Oral Presentation**

The Best Oral Presentation award is given to the graduate student delivering the best oral presentation at the AAVLD annual meeting. AAVLD awarded the Best Oral Presentation award of the 2013 Annual Meeting to:

**Dr. Douglas Snider.**

Veterinary Diagnostic and Production Animal Medicine  
Iowa State University  
Ames IA

for the presentation "*Investigation into Veterinary Diagnostic Approaches for Cyanobacterial Intoxications*"

**AAVLD Best Poster Presentation**

The Best Poster Presentation award is given to the graduate student delivering the best poster presentation at the AAVLD annual meeting. AAVLD awarded the Best Poster Presentation award of the 2013 Annual Meeting to:

**Dr. Artem Rogovskyy**

Washington Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory  
Washington State University  
Pullman, WA

for the presentation "*Genomic Comparison of the Novel Papillomavirus Isolated from the North American Beaver (CcanPV1) to Other Rodent Papillomaviruses*"

**Richard Walker Bacteriology Award**

The Richard Walker Bacteriology Award is given to the student delivering the best oral presentation or poster on a bacteriology topic at the AAVLD annual meeting. The student receiving this award for 2013 is:

**Lance Noll**

Diagnostic Medicine / Pathology  
Kansas State University

for the presentation "*A Four Plex Real-Time PCR Assay for the Detection and Quantification of Escherichia coli -157 in Cattle Feces*"

**Lindsay Oaks Bacteriology Award**

Awarded to the student delivering the best oral presentation or poster on a molecular biology topic at the AAVLD annual meeting. The student receiving this award for 2013 is:

**Nandita Mirajkar**



Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences  
University of Minnesota  
St. Paul, MN

for the presentation "*Molecular Characterization and Epidemiology of Brachyspira hyodysenteriae in US Swine Herds*"

\* \* \* \* \*

The *Journal of Veterinary Diagnostic Investigation* presents two awards annually. This year's awards were given to:

**Brief Communication Award:**

Mayers J and Sawyer J: Development and evaluation of a multiplex enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay for the detection of antibodies to bovine respiratory diseases on the Meso Scale Discovery platform.

Corresponding author: Jo Mayers, Virology Department, Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency, New Haw, Surrey, United Kingdom, KT15 3NB.

**Full Scientific Report:**

Chander Y, Primus A, Oliveira S, Gebhart CJ: Phenotypic and molecular characterization of a novel strongly hemolytic *Brachyspira* species, provisionally designated "*Brachyspira hampsonii*".

Corresponding author: Connie Gebhart, Department of Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences, 1971 Commonwealth Ave., University of Minnesota, St. Paul, MN 55108

**ACVP/AAVLD Diagnostic Pathology Resident /Graduate Student Award**

**Kristin Eden, D.V.M.**

Nutritional Immunology and Molecular Medicine Laboratory  
Virginia Bioinformatics Institute, Virginia Tech

Dr. Kristin Eden completed her bachelor's degree cum laude in Biochemistry from Virginia Tech in 2006 and D.V.M. from Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine in 2010. She completed a residency in Anatomic Pathology at Texas A&M in 2013 and returned to VMRCVM under a T32 grant to pursue her PhD in conjunction with the Virginia Bioinformatics Institute. Her research within the Nutritional Immunology and Molecular Medicine Laboratory at VBI involves developing computational models of inflammatory gastrointestinal diseases together with M.D. gastroenterologists, research veterinarians, and bioinformatics programmers.

**AAVLD / ACVP Travel Award**

Sponsored by the AAVLD Pathology Committee, the AAVLD/ACVP Travel Award is given to the individual delivering the best oral pathology presentation at the ACVP annual CE meeting. The award winner is expected to make a presentation at the next AAVLD meeting. The 2013 winner is:

**Mai Yee Mok**

Anatomic Pathology  
School of Veterinary Medicine  
University of California-Davis

for the presentation "*Veronaea botryosa: A Potentially Zoonotic Emerging Fungal Pathogen in Farmed White Sturgeon (Acipenser transmontanus)*"

### 2013 President Thomas McKenna Offers Farewell Remarks at AAVLD / USAHA President's Dinner



Dr. Thomas McKenna offers some thoughts about the Annual Meeting, the two associations and his year as President of AAVLD during the Presidents' Dinner. Over 500 people attended this year's dinner as awards were handed out and attendees shared in the highlights of the last year.

The Presidents' Dinner is the marquee event of the Annual Meeting, where both organizations recognize excellence in the world of veterinary medicine. Dr. McKenna served as President of AAVLD in 2013, as President-Elect in 2012 and as Vice President in 2011.

### Growing Number of Students Participate in AAVLD Annual Meetings and Scientific Sessions



A positive sign for the veterinary diagnostic profession is the growing interest of students in veterinary diagnostics. DVM students pictured above share a lunch and career aspirations with AAVLD and USAHA leadership. Each year finds a larger number of both graduate and undergraduate students seeking to participate in the annual meeting and scientific presentations.

In 2013, AAVLD and partners USAHA and the CPCVM (Center for Public and Corporate Veterinary Medicine) provided financial assistance for 36 students to attend the AAVLD 56th Annual Meeting.

**AAVLD Travel Trainee Award** winners include:

Farhad Ahmadi	Mai Yee Mok
Kenneth Kim	Helene Brettschneider
Jingjiao Ma	Bailey Wilberts
Ashley Malmlov	Paulette Suchodolski
Pragathi B. Shridhar	Tuddow Thaiwong
Panayiotis Loukopoulos	Nandita Mirajkar

**CPCVM students** attending this year's annual meeting include:

Jill Wilson Bull	Gabrial Eddings
Alexandria Byas	Kaitlyn Childs
Caitlin Sullivan	Meghan Gibas
Chelsea Anderson	Julie Cho
Erez Gueta	Stephen Cole
Jamie Ng	Rebecca LaFleur
Jessica Wong	Sarah Kronos
Karen Meidenbauer	Sangsoo Kim

Kathryn Purple  
Katherine Schuhmacher

Randy Do  
Rozov Orr

## AAVLD Foundation Auction A Success

The 2013 Annual Meeting Foundation Dinner and Auction was an outstanding success.

Nearly 350 people attended the dinner and fundraiser held in San Diego CA at the Town & Country Hotel. The live, silent and raffle auctions raised approximately \$8,500 for the foundation, which in turn provides financial assistance to students interested in veterinary diagnostics.

Foundation funds assisted 36 students' participation in this year's annual meeting.

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Sincerely,

Jim Kistler  
Executive Director  
American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians

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