



American Association of
Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians
E-Newsletter

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Executive Board

Issue: # 1-2016

News & Events January 2016

Greetings From The Office Of The President!

January 2016

AAVLD Members:

**** PLEASE NOTE THE DATE HAS CHANGED FOR THE AAVLD ANNUAL MEETING IN 2016**

**NEW DATES: October 13th - 19th, 2016
Greensboro,**

NC

Our 2015 Annual Meeting is now in the history books. To view the reports of the committees, please click on "[Committee Reports](#)". Please make sure to use a browser set to open pdf's or download the file from the "Committee Meetings" tab. You can find this tab under "Resources" and then under "Annual Meeting".

Best wishes for a successful year,

Tom Baldwin

Tom Baldwin,
President

Francois Elvinger,
Immediate Past
President

Pat Halbur,
President-Elect

Steve Hooser,
Vice President

Kristy Pabilonia,
Secretary / Treasurer

Sandra Bushmich,
Northeast Rep.

Lanny Pace,
Southeast Rep.

Jane Christopher-
Hennings,
Northcentral Rep.

Hemant Naikare,
Southcentral Rep.

Kevin Snekvik,
Northwest Rep.

Ashley Hill,
Southwest Rep.

Tomy Joseph,
Canada Provincial Rep.

Maria Perrone,
Canada Federal Ex-
Officio

Beverly Schmitt,
NVSL Ex-Officio

Christine Hoang,
AVMA Ex-Officio

President, AAVLD

AAVLD Surveys Members to Gather Input

The AAVLD Executive Board in conjunction with the AAVLD Strategic Planning Committee initiated a survey of AAVLD members to gather input on past and future activities of the association.

The results of the survey will be analyzed by the Strategic Planning Committee, who will in turn provide recommendations to the AAVLD Executive Board regarding future activities and initiatives.

To read the results of the membership survey, please click "[here](#)".

JVDI In Focus

The goal of JVDI in Focus is to bring attention to an interesting article appearing in the most recent issue of the Journal of Veterinary Diagnostic Investigation.

This month's focus is on "Herd outbreak of bovine tuberculosis illustrates that route of infection correlates with anatomic distribution of lesions in cattle and cats" by Scott D. Fitzgerald, Charlotte Hollinger, Thomas P. Mullaney, Colleen S. Bruning-Fann, John Tilden, Rick Smith, James Averill, John B. Kaneene

J Vet Diagn Invest 2016;28(2).

Abstract. An outbreak of bovine tuberculosis (TB) in a Michigan dairy herd resulted in quarantine, depopulation, pathology, and epidemiologic investigations. This herd, compared to other TB-infected herds in Michigan, was unusual in the long-term feeding of waste milk to its replacement calves. The herd had 80 cattle with positive results on caudal fold test or gamma interferon testing, which were reclassified as suspects because the herd had never been known to be tuberculous previously. Autopsy revealed striking variation in the anatomic distribution of gross anatomic lesions, microscopic lesions, and culture-positive lymph nodes between the adult cattle, the calves, and the domestic cats present on the farm. Adult cattle had lesions and culture-positive lymph nodes predominantly within the thoracic lymph nodes, whereas cats had 50% of their lesions and culture-positive lymph nodes in their abdomens, and 50% of positive calves had culture-positive lymph nodes in their abdomens. This difference in anatomic distribution correlated with the likely routes of infection, which are believed to be by direct airborne

transmission in adult cattle and indirect ingestion of contaminated milk in both calves and cats. Although TB literature over the last 100-plus years states that the route of infection may manifest itself in differences in lesion anatomic distribution, our team has been working with TB for over 20 years, and we have never encountered such striking variation between different groups of animals on the same farm.

Sincerely,
Holly M. Farrell
Managing Editor
Journal of Veterinary Diagnostic Investigation
<http://vdi.sagepub.com/>

Friends Of The Labs Needs Your Support

NAHLN Funding Not Sufficient

There is urgent need for funding to keep our advocacy to Congress robust so that we can get the NAHLN funded properly.

Our ultimate goal is \$30 M and ALL labs (and USDA and NIFA) will benefit if we can make this happen...we will have to continue to do this in steps and will start with a \$15 million authorization in the Farm Bill and build on that.

Attached is the [donation form](#). Note it is TAX DEDUCTIBLE

I would only add that from starting at NIFA NAHLN funds being zeroed out and Congress not knowing who we are... to our current level of funding at around \$10 to \$12 M (NIFA AND USDA) and authorization for \$15 M in the Farm bill, our progress has been substantial, thanks to the efforts of Brad Mollet and Capital Counsel and all of you who have been on the Hill and/or written letters.

PLEASE DONATE !

Barb Powers

AAVLD Government Relations Committee

Maintained Biosecurity Focus Urged as PED Immunity Dissipates

Farm-Scape

ThePigSite.com

January 29, 2016

US - The Swine Health Information Center urges continued biosecurity as immunity to PED resulting from exposure dissipates, writes Bruce Cochrane.

Although the level of Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea in the US is low, there is still virus circulating.

Dr Paul Sundberg, the Executive Director of the Swine Health Information Center, says improved biosecurity and a buildup of natural immunity as herds have been exposed have helped reduce the level of PED but that natural immunity may be short lived.

"One of the things that we think is going on with PED is that the immunity that the sows develop is not as long lasting as other corona viruses like TGE."

"So, where we can detect immunity in sows following a PED outbreak, that might only be 6 to 8 to 12 months so we very well may be at a spot now where we have a growing susceptible herd in the country."

Full text: <http://tinyurl.com/zg7f6nx>

Disease Outbreak? There's A Game For That.

Planning for a disease outbreak? There's a game for that.

By Anne Ju Manning

Colorado State Univ. News Release

February 1, 2016

Computer scientists and statisticians at Colorado State University are turning disease outbreak planning exercises into a game. They're creating powerful new software that can predict, simulate and analyze a major disease outbreak - all in the form of an intuitive, multiplayer game.

Researchers led by Shrideep Pallickara, associate professor of computer science in the College of Natural Sciences, are in year one of a three-year, \$2.04 million Department of Homeland Security Science and Technology Directorate grant. The project is aimed at connecting the latest, greatest computing and data management technology to the fight against widespread livestock disease.

Livestock disease outbreaks can spread far and fast across the U.S. From foot and mouth disease in cattle to avian influenza, the illnesses can wreak havoc on animals, the industrial food system and the economy.

"When a disease breaks out, you need to know - how severe is it? How long will it last? How many field personnel do you need? What are the economic consequences? How will commodity prices be affected? What will happen if you start vaccinating?" Pallickara said.

Computer scientists are used to dealing with hundreds or thousands of variables and running what-if scenarios. The Department of Homeland Security, the U.S. Department of Agriculture/Center for Epidemiology and Animal Health, and other outbreak specialists such as the Federal Emergency Management Agency, respond to emergencies by identifying a handful of scenarios. Then they can change parameters for each scenario - adjusting variables including disease biology and virulence - to help determine action plans for things like vaccine stockpiles, vaccine efficacy, and deploying field personnel. But that whole process can take hours or days; meanwhile, the disease spreads.

"In these cases, sometimes hours elapse between modifying your scenario, running it, and getting your response back," Pallickara said. "What we do instead is, given a national scale outbreak scenario, we generate 100,000 variants, run them in a computing cloud that generates several billion files, and then do the analytics on all this data. So even if a user is trying to change something in real time, we have already learned what will happen. This involves a lot of back-end processing, which allows us to make real-time predictions."

Full text:

<http://source.colostate.edu/planning-for-a-disease-outbreak-theres-a-game-for-that/>

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We value your opinion and contributions. If you have any comments, questions or suggestions for articles, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Jim Kistler
Executive Director
American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians