

AMERICAN
ASSOCIATION OF
VETERINARY
LABORATORY
DIAGNOSTICIANS, INC.

January 1999 Newsletter



Doris Miller, President 1999

AAVLD Newsletter Goes Electronic!

Beginning in 1999, the newsletter will be available in PDF format on the AAVLD web page (www.aavld.org) in order to improve timeliness and reduce production and mailing expenses. We need to know if you are willing to access and print from the web or if you will require a hard copy. Only those requesting hard copies will receive a mail copy beginning with the summer 1999 issue. All other members with an email address will be notified via Email when it is available on the web site. Please let us know via e-mail, phone or regular mail if you want to continue to get a mail copy or use the web site. If the latter, we need a current email address to inform you of the newsletter availability. Contact me with your choice at: pblancha@cvdls.ucdavis.edu, phone: 559-688-7543 or mail: CVDLS, 18830 Road 112, Tulare, CA 93274.

1999 Executive Board

President	Doris Miller
President-Elect	Bruce Akey
Vice President	David Zeman
Immed. Past-President	Stan Snyder
Secretary/Treasurer	Art Bickford
Northeast	Steven Rowell
Southeast	Lenn Harrison
Northcentral	Gary Osweiler
Southcentral	William Edwards
Northwest	Jerry Heidel
Southwest	Frank Galey
Canada Federal	W.D.G. Yates

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AAVLD Members attend a scientific session at the 41st Annual Meeting in Minneapolis, MN
October 2 - 9, 1998

President's message...

As I mentioned at the recent AAVLD meeting in Minnesota, I consider it an honor and privilege to be serving as your president this year. I want to thank Dr. Stan Snyder for his help and guidance this past year. Our program in Minnesota was the culmination of the hard work and efforts of many people including the presenters, moderators, program committee, my secretarial staff in Athens, Donna Dare, Pam Wyckoff, Emily Sanson and Dr. Art Bickford. Thank you all.

Remember to request your Continuing Education certificate from our meeting in Minneapolis from USAHA. If you need a C.E. documentation form, I'll be glad to send you one.

The success of our organization is due to our many talented and enthusiastic members who actively serve on committees and in the various offices. Thanks to the efforts of our Membership Committee and others, we now have over 1000 members. This next year, with the committee chairs' help, I hope to have written guidelines for each committee and updated folders of all their meeting minutes and recommendations. We also plan to standardize all the QA/QC documents previously submitted by the various committees. We plan to have these on the AAVLD web page this year. Thank you to all the members who worked so very hard to develop the QA/QC guidelines for AAVLD!

With the meeting in Minneapolis this year, for the first time USAHA and AAVLD began to have joint meetings of combined committees. The feedback from these four committees (now combined into two committees) was positive. The Executive Boards and Program Committees of both organizations are now in the process of identifying and combining additional committees to aid in communications and efficiency between the two organizations.

This next year the Executive Board will be reviewing all the expenses and income of AAVLD. We want to be sure we are as self-supporting as possible without a dues increase or the need to dip into our reserves. We have some of the lowest dues of a professional organization with numerous benefits such as our journal (now on CD), newsletter, annual meeting, and web page. I hope we can continue all these services without a dues increase.

I am looking forward to another active, progressive, and successful year for AAVLD. I am always willing to listen. Feel free to contact me for help, to make suggestions, or to complain, at 706-542-5568 (phone), 706-542-5977 (fax), or miller@adl300.vet.uga.edu. Take care.

Doris Miller, President 1999

Minutes of the AAVLD Executive Board Meeting

October 3, 1998 -Minneapolis, Minnesota
Hilton Hotel & Towers

CALL TO ORDER: President Snyder called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM

ATTENDEES: President S.Snyder, President-Elect D.Miller, Vice President B. Akey, Past President W.Van Alstine, Secretary-Treasurer A. Bickford; Directors S. Rowell, L. Harrison, J. Thomson, R. Sprowls, J. Heidel, F. Galey, W. Yates, J. Pearson, Newly elected officers for 1999-Vice President David Zeman and Directors Gary Osweiler (North Central) and Bill Edwards (South Central); JVDI Editor J. Kreeger, Newsletter Editor, P. Blanchard, L. Thacker, J. Case, K. Eugster, T. McElwain, M. Vorhies and G. Meerdink.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes of our July 25th (1998) meeting as published in the August Newsletter were considered for approval. Approval was moved by Galey, seconded by Heidel and passed.

SECRETARY-TREASURER'S REPORT: Budgetary status from January 1, 1998 to Sept. 30, 1998 (approximately because final bank reports for September were not available as of meeting date) was detailed as follows:

GENERAL OPERATING BUDGET

Checking Account Balance on Hand Jan. 1, 1998	\$81,076.53
Total Receipts	97,999.13
Total Expenses	95,311.44
Ending Checking Account Balance Sept. 30, 1998	\$83,764.22

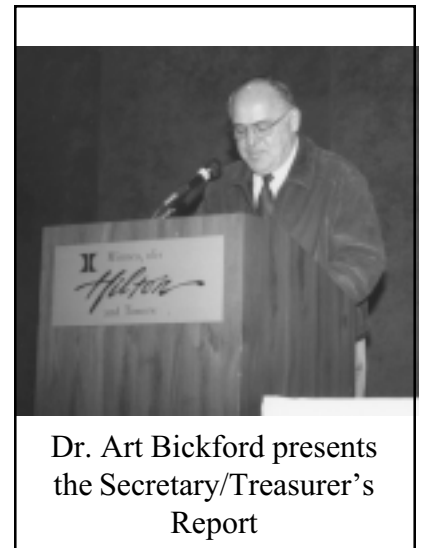
AAVLD FOUNDATION

Checking Account Balance Sept. 30, 1998	\$ 14,961.47
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AAVLD SECURITIES

Certificates of Deposit as of Sept. 30, 1998	\$25,132.46
Mutual Fund Accounts as Sept. 30, 1998	<u>152,728.99</u>

TOTAL ASSETS ON HAND Sept. 30, 1998	\$276,587.14
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As of September 30, 1998 we had 1,034 active members and 198 paid subscribers to JVDI.

There were questions about Newsletter charges and documentation of check test charges. Bickford indicated that these items will be checked and resolved.

Acceptance: The report of the Secretary-Treasurer was moved by Akey, seconded by Heidel and passed.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: President Snyder presented the following information items:

- 1) A sincere expression of gratitude to all of the AAVLD members who have worked to make this a successful year - Committee members, Committee Chairs, Officers and others. We probably never give appropriate formal thanks to the many deserving members, so we want to acknowledge the organization's sincere appreciation here and now.

- 2) Hearty congratulations to our newly elected officers for 1999 - Dr. David Zeman, Vice President and Drs. Gary Osweiler and Bill Edwards, Directors (1999-2001).
- 3) Notation that special expertise within the AAVLD is widely recognized as affirmed by a recent request from the AVMA for nomination of an individual from AAVLD to serve on a new AVMA Subcommittee on Antimicrobial Use. Dr. C.C.Wu has agreed to serve on this subcommittee.
- 4) Consideration of other possible affiliations for our Winter/Spring and Summer Executive Board Meetings. We have had an invitation from the Livestock Conservation Institute to consider their March meeting in Nashville, Tennessee as a possible site for our Winter/Spring Board Meeting. This will not be possible in 1999 because we already have plans for the Las Vegas location (Western Veterinary Conference) but it might be possible for some Board members in states close to Tennessee to attend LCI to evaluate that location. It was also noted that our Board might meet with the USAHA Executive Board at their spring meeting in Washington D.C.
- 5) A letter from Dr. Jim Neufield regarding his inability to attend the last two AAVLD Board Meetings and his wish that we consider someone else to represent Canadian provincial laboratories. Dr. Yates commented on the genesis of the Canadian provincial representative and offered to help in identifying another candidate for this AAVLD Board position. Dr. Van Alstine moved that we rely on Dr. Yates as representative of District 7 until another provincial laboratory veterinarian can be elected and his motion was seconded (Dr. Akey) and passed.

ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE REPORTS: Committee Chair, Dr. Leon Thacker, presented a detailed report which is printed in its entirety in this Newsletter. He reviewed recent deliberations on QA/QC standards and guidelines and on activities related to laboratory accreditation. He indicated that the committee's financial status is sound.

FINANCIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT: Committee Chair, Dr. Leon Thacker, presented a detailed report which is printed in its entirety in this Newsletter. The committee reviewed the financial status of all assets of the AAVLD including the Accreditation Committee. A question about the mutual fund accounts of the association was addressed and it was recommended that they be left as they are. However, the committee recommended that the bank CD's might be transferred to money market accounts when they mature.

REPORT FROM CANADA: Dr. Yates submitted the following report:

- 1) As mentioned in my last report, a request has been put forward for a resolution to change the AAVLD Constitution to reflect some organizational changes to veterinary diagnostic services. Specifically, the federal animal health laboratories are now part of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency.
- 2) The Canadian Animal Health Consultation Committee meetings are held in Ottawa each fall, involving industry, various levels of government, university, and other players. It is Canada's version of the USAHA meetings. The Surveillance Subcommittee of this group guides the Canadian Animal Health Network which deals with matters such as coordinating participation in Animal health surveillance by various players, surveillance standards, and communications. It publishes a newsletter called the CAHNet Bulletin and articles in the Canadian Veterinary Journal. Dr. John Kellar will be reporting on these developments at the AAVLD meeting in Minneapolis.
- 3) In keeping with OIE Surveillance expectations, a routine national, serological survey of cattle is being planned. It will cover Bluetongue, Anaplasmosis and Brucellosis.
- 4) The National Centre for Foreign Animal Disease at Winnipeg is now in operation, and will be opened formally by the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food in the near future.
- 5) The Canadian federal veterinary laboratories are pressing ahead with ISO accreditation, under the auspices of the Standards Council of Canada.

JVDI EDITOR'S REPORT: Dr. John Kreeger indicated that manuscript submissions are 10-12% ahead of last year. The October issue was just mailed out and is the last issue on the 10-year compilation of JVDI issues on CD. The CD's will be available at AAVLD Information Booth (450 CD's are here). Dr. Snyder thanked Dr. Kreeger for his special efforts on preparing the CD's and asked that he make a brief presentation at the first Plenary Session.



Dr. Pat Blanchard,
Newsletter Editor

NEWSLETTER EDITOR'S REPORT: Dr. Pat Blanchard discussed the approximate cost of recent Newsletters - the last (August) issue cost about \$3200.00. Newsletter costs are rising about \$300 - 700 per year and this year's expense will be about \$6500.00. There was an effort to determine how many members will need a hard copy of the Newsletter by inserting the question with ballots sent out nationally this year. About 550 members returned ballots but only 120 indicated they needed a hard copy but we don't have e-mail addresses for those that do not. Dr. Blanchard indicated that the next two issues will all be hard copy but the June 1999 issue will go on the website and only those requesting hard copy will be mailed a printed version. Dr. Van Alstine suggested that a notice be placed in the next newsletter asking that members indicate their choice and those who are willing to receive it on the Website need to provide us with their e-mail address. President Snyder commended Dr. Blanchard for her excellent work with the Newsletter.

NOMINATION COMMITTEE: Dr. Van Alstine noted that the slate of nominees for 1999 were as follows:

- Vice President: Drs. James Case and David Zeman
- North Central Director: Drs. Gary Osweiler and David Steffan
- South Central Director: Drs. Bill Edwards and Melissa Libal

Dr. Herb Smith was nominated for Life Membership. The Pope Award will be presented at 11:00 on Tuesday October 6th. This year there will be five individuals considered for The Graduate Student Award. President Snyder encouraged Board members to be thinking about nominees for Vice President next year and to be in touch with him on suggestions.

NVSL REPORT: Dr. Jim Pearson noted the availability of a new OIE Standards Manual for Infectious Agents and circulated a copy. He also presented the following information items;

- 1) The docket of new fee schedules will be published Tuesday and will be effective November 6, 1998. NVSL can now charge for several items including reagents and check tests. They are now working to expand the new fee schedule and for currently non-listed items they will charge for their work by the hour.
- 2) Emergency disease status - VS is now confirmed in Indiana, EHD was confirmed in Missouri and Iowa.
- 3) NVSL Staffing - Dr. Mark Hall (formerly with FSIS, Athens, Georgia) is the new Pathology Section Head.
- 4) A Focus Group on NVSL is convening at this Meeting .
- 5) Needs for physical plant renewal at NVSL were featured in a recent USAHA Newsletter and support in this effort is appreciated.

PROGRAM COMMITTEE REPORT: President -Elect Miller noted that Abstract Books for this meeting are available at the AAVLD Information Desk. She also noted that the USAHA has created joint CE credit information sheets and attendance certificates for those needing CE documentation. These will also be available at the information desk. She noted a few program changes and mentioned that we only have five graduate student participants (3 papers, 2 posters) this year.

MEMBERSHIP/CREDENTIALS REPORT: Vice President Akey noted that the credentials list for Delegates and Alternates was published in the August Newsletter. Our current membership stands at 1,034 and it appears that restricting AAVLD ListServ to paid members has had a beneficial effect. Dues reminders and calls to regional representatives and delinquent members also had a strong positive effect. The need to promote membership for our bench level personnel was also discussed - it appears there has been minimal demand for our Associate Member status. Dr. Blanchard noted that we need to look at the status of our membership brochures and needs for updating and reprinting.

OLD BUSINESS

THE AAVLD WEBSITE: Publications Editor Meerdink presented a review of the Website. He noted some errors/omissions and layout problems and needs for consideration of candidates for Webmaster and Website Editor. He also questioned whether orientation of Website material should be primarily for members or for the general scientific community. Procedural questions were also raised specifically regarding security, items for inclusion, a review process for entries on the Website, etc. Dr. Jim Case commented that most decisions could be made by the Editor but the Executive Board should decide which information items are secured. Dr. Vorhies noted that we need a mission statement for the Website - he commented that until we have such guidance there will be open questions about content. Dr. Case noted that the following questions need answers quickly: 1) Is the Website to continue at Pennsylvania State University? 2) Who will be the Editor? Does this position need to be at the same location as the Website? 3) What is the page limit? How many Newsletters will be retained? 4) Should we publish test lists for various laboratories? Dr. Snyder noted that Exhibitor application information including costs should be on the Website as well as e-mail addresses for Officers and Committee Chairs and information on donations to the AAVLD Foundation.

NEW BUSINESS

NINTH MEETING OF THE WORLD ASSOCIATION OF VETERINARY LABORATORY DIAGNOSTICIANS: Dr. Konrad Eugster, Chairman of the Organizing Committee, shared preliminary information on this meeting which will be held June 2-5, 1999 in College Station, Texas. Dr. Eugster noted that this meeting will be hosted by the AAVLD and he expressed his hope that our President will attend and participate. He shared registration information and a call for papers with the Board and indicated that the registration fee will cover a variety of social events. There will be exhibits and Dr. Crandell is soliciting donations to enhance the conference. There are special efforts to advertise in Latin American and European Journals and the Conference will have a Website. The Northcentral and Southcentral AAVLD Meeting will be held jointly with the WAVLD. Dr. Snyder urged all to promote and participate in this unique opportunity and asked Dr. Eugster to give a brief presentation at our first Plenary Session.

PCR SYMPOSIUM: This Symposium, organized and chaired by Dr. Lloyd Lauerman, was held on Friday, October 2, 1998 and was fully subscribed. Dr. Snyder expressed the Boards appreciation for Dr. Lauerman's efforts and noted the availability of a Proceedings Book for sale to members. Dr. Galey moved that this publication be referred to the Publications Committee for further action. This motion was seconded by Dr. Akey and passed.

AAVLD/USAHA JOINT AQUACULTURE COMMITTEE MEETING: Dr. Heidel announced this meeting to be held Sunday morning.

NEXT MEETING OF AAVLD EXECUTIVE BOARD: President Snyder announced that our winter meeting will be held on February 17, 1999 from 1:00-5:00 pm in Las Vegas in conjunction with the Western Veterinary Conference.

ADJOURNMENT:

President Snyder entertained a motion for adjournment at 4:10 PM which was seconded and passed.

Respectfully submitted,
Arthur A. Bickford, Secretary/treasurer

MINUTES OF HOUSE OF DELEGATES 1

October 4, 1998 Minneapolis, Minnesota

CALL TO ORDER: President Snyder called the meeting to order at 4:10 PM

ROLL CALL: Secretary-Treasurer Bickford call the roll of members of the House of Delegates; thirty-four delegates were in attendance and a quorum was declared.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-TREASURER:

Secretary-Treasurer Bickford presented the financial report (See Executive Board minutes).

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT AND EXECUTIVE BOARD:

President Snyder introduced the new officers and regional delegates to the Executive Board (See Exec. Board Minutes).

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- 1) Accreditation. Report presented by Dr. Thacker, Chair. (See p. 10)
- 2) Financial advisory. Report presented by Dr. Thacker, Chair. (See p. 23)
- 3) Newsletter. Report presented by Dr. Blanchard, Chair. (See p. 6 & 27)
- 4) Membership. Report to be presented by Dr. Evermann, co-Chair, on Tuesday. (See p. 25)
- 5) Constitution and Bylaws. Report presented by Dr. Andrews, Chair.
- 6) Emergency Disease Liaison. Report presented by Dr. Eugster, Chair. (See p. 10)
- 7) Long Range Planning. Report presented by Dr. Reed, Chair. (See p. 24-25)

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: None

ADJOURNMENT: President Snyder adjourned the meeting at 4:30 pm

Resolution passed October 6, 1998

Whereas, the Department of Transportation, Research and Special Programs Administration (RSPA) has published new rules in Volume 63 Number 170 of the Federal Register dated September 2, 1998 and,

Whereas, these proposed rules include for the first time animal diagnostic specimens and,

Whereas, the new proposed packaging rules for animal diagnostic specimens would add substantial financial burdens on the animal industries with a resultant decline in the submission of specimens to diagnostic laboratories with the reduction and possible abolition of our disease surveillance infrastructure and,

Whereas, reduced specimen submission to animal disease diagnostic laboratories would drastically increase the risk of serious spontaneous animal diseases going undetected until the diseases become an unreasonable risk to other animals and a more costly problem to control and,

Whereas, the loss of adequate animal disease surveillance would greatly reduce the global and national marketability of animals, animal products and their genetic products under the new G.A.T.T. and N.A.F.T.A. agreements and,

Whereas, under present guidelines literally millions of animal diagnostic specimens are shipped without an unreasonable risk of exposure or disease spread.

Be it therefore resolved that AAVLD strongly recommends:

That the term "diagnostic specimen" be split into "animal diagnostic specimens" and "human diagnostic specimens" and that "animal diagnostic specimens" be exempted from the proposed packaging rules and,

That RSPA seek guidelines in this matter from the organizations and persons directly involved in animal disease diagnosis such as AAVLD (American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians), USAHA (U. S. Animal Health Association), AVMA (American Association of Veterinary Medicine), AABP (American Association of Bovine Practitioners), AAEP (American Association of Equine Practitioners), AASP (American Association of Swine Practitioners), AAAP (American Association of Avian Pathologists); as well as from the animal industries whose business is directly affected by these proposed rules.

HOUSE OF DELEGATES 2

October 6, 1998 Minneapolis, Minnesota

CALL TO ORDER: President Snyder called the meeting to order at 11:00 AM.

ROLL CALL: Secretary/Treasurer Bickford called the role of delegates representing states and provinces and declared a quorum for the conduct of business (31 delegates attending).

TRANSFER OF GAVEL: President Snyder expressed his gratitude to all who participated in making 1998 a successful year and called forward Dr. Doris Miller to receive the gavel as incoming President. President Miller presented Dr. Snyder with a symbolic AAVLD gavel and a plaque acknowledging his service as President with thanks on behalf of the membership (see photo p. 9).

COMMITTEE REPORTS: President Miller called for reports from those Standing Committees which had not reported at the October 4th meeting. Reports are presented in detail in the following pages of the Newsletter as indicated.

1. Awards Committee: Past President and Committee Chair Van Alstine presented the Pope Award to Dr. John Andrews (photo p. 16) just prior to this meeting. He announced the Graduate Student Award to Dr. E. A Wagstrom for her presentation entitled "Diagnostic Performance of a RT-PCR Test for the Detection of PRRS Virus in Serum" (photo p. 34). He also nominated Dr. M.H. Smith for Life Membership and presented a brief biography including his many contributions to AAVLD including his service as President. Dr. Smith's nomination was moved, seconded and passed unanimously.

2. Publications Committee: Presented by Dr. Meerdink, Chair (See p 7 & 27).

3. Emergency Disease Liaison Committee:
Presented by Dr. Eugster, Chair. (See p 10)

4. Membership Committee: Presented by Dr. Evermann, co-Chair. (See p 25-26)

5. Laboratory Directors Committee: Presented by Dr. Thacker, Chair. (See p 23-24)

6. Constitution and Bylaws Committee: Presented by Dr. Andrews, Chair and dealt with a change in wording of Article 5, Section 1 on the composition of the Executive Board to properly reflect the name of Canadian National Agency. The proposed change was moved, seconded and passed.

7. Resolutions Committee: Presented by Dr. Andrews, Chair. His proposed resolution suggested by the Laboratory Directors Committee, addressed potential change in status of animal diagnostic specimens by Department of Transportation rules. A motion to approve the resolution was made and seconded. Discussion involved suggestions for minor changes. With these changes the resolution was passed (page 8).



President-elect Doris Miller presents outgoing President Snyder with a plaque of appreciation for his service to AAVLD in 1998

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: Dr. Lein announced that the Livestock Conservation Institute has invited AAVLD to consider their Annual Meeting in Nashville as a future site for our Winter/Spring Executive Board Meeting. President Miller reminded everyone of our next Annual Meeting in San Diego, California - October 7-14, 1999.

ADJOURNMENT: President Miller adjourned the Meeting at 11:45 AM

Annual Meeting Committee Minutes

AAVLD – USDA EMERGENCY DISEASE LIAISON

Konrad Eugster, Chair

Eleven members and guests were present.

Drs. Terry Wilson and Jim Pearson gave an update on the foreign animal disease status in the World and the U.S. Of the approximately 300 suspect foreign animal diseases investigated by APHIS last year, five foreign diseases were diagnosed in the U.S., i.e. 2 screwworm cases, Vesicular Stomatitis, VVND and CEM. Slides, CD-ROMs and written material on foreign animal diseases were sent in January, 1998 to all Deans of Veterinary Schools and AVICs. This material will soon also be available via the Internet.

Dr. Lein has been appointed as the AAVLD representative to the National Animal Health Emergency Management Team. He updated the committee on this new activity.

ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE

Leon Thacker, Chair

12 members and guests were present.

The Accreditation Committee met twice at the annual meeting in Minneapolis.

Minutes of the 30 January, 1998 meeting on QA/QC were distributed and approved.



Dr. Leon Thacker

The special session focused on the impact of global trade issues, international harmonization and transparency requirements, and movement toward a global generic veterinary diagnostic laboratory accreditation scheme on AAVLD accreditation activities. Documents shared with the committee included [1] Annex 2, "Principles of Quality Management in Veterinary Diagnostic Testing Laboratories", from the report "The FAO/IAEA External Quality Assurance Programme (EQAP) and Movement Towards a Generic Veterinary Diagnostic Testing Laboratory Accreditation Scheme", [2] Chapter 1.2, "Good Laboratory Practice, Quality Control, and Quality Assurance", from the 1996 OIE Manual, and [3] Appendix III, "OIE Guidelines for Laboratory Quality Evaluation", from the Standards Commission/September 95. These documents were reviewed by the committee. General discussion was held on the FAO/IEAE

proposal for a generic accreditation scheme, the applicability of ISO 25/9000 series or OECD-GLP standards for general veterinary diagnostic testing, and whether our "Essential Requirements for an Accredited Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory" met the proposed standards in the FAO/IAEA report and current OIE standards. It was generally agreed that our Essentials addressed with few exceptions the components of proposed or existing international standards. Chair Thacker distributed copies of the draft revised Essentials. The format of the Essentials document might need to be changed to reflect agreed-upon international standards. However, it was decided to postpone any additional format revisions until some consensus was reached by OIE on international standards. It is anticipated that the new OIE standards will be drafted and adopted in early 1999. A possible date for this is in May, 1999. Once these decisions are made at the international level, AAVLD may need to further revise our Essentials document to be in compliance. The Accreditation Committee is committed to remaining abreast of developments in these areas so that AAVLD accreditation is considered one of the gold standards for accrediting bodies around the world. It is important that AAVLD have increased visibility in efforts at international harmonization of accreditation standards.

The first session of the Accreditation Committee was adjourned at 5:10 PM.

Chair Thacker called the second session of the Accreditation Committee to order at 8:15 AM on Saturday, October 3, 1998. Twelve committee members present.

Minutes of the January 31, 1998 meeting of the committee in Las Vegas were approved as read. The treasurers report was presented by Art Bickford, and was also approved as presented. After a short discussion it was decided to keep annual fees for accredited laboratories at the current level.

Annual updates were provided for the following laboratories:

1. Animal Health Laboratory, University of Guelph (Dr. Grant Maxie)
2. Louisiana Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratories (Dr. Michael Groves)
3. Wisconsin Animal Health Laboratories (Drs. Dellers, Siroki, and Ehlenfeldt)
4. Pennsylvania Animal Diagnostic Laboratory System (Drs. Enck, Purchase, Eckroade, and Castro)
5. Ohio Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory (Drs. Byrum and Glauer)
6. Livestock Disease Diagnostic Center, University of

Kentucky, Lexington (Dr. Harrison).

7. New York State Diagnostic Laboratory, Cornell University (Dr. Lein)

Site visit reports were presented and decisions on accreditation made for the following laboratories:

Montana Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory
Oklahoma Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory
CE Kord Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory, Tennessee
Wisconsin Animal Health Laboratories

Brief preliminary oral reports were provided on recent site visits to North Carolina, South Dakota, and Minnesota. No action was taken.

Laboratories to be visited in 1999 include:

Arizona Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory
Animal Health Laboratory, University of Guelph
Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, University of Connecticut
Florida Veterinary Medicine Diagnostic Laboratory System
Indiana Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratories
Livestock Disease Diagnostic Center, Lexington, Kentucky
Veterinary Diagnostic and Research Center, Hopkinsville, Kentucky
Missouri Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory
Nebraska Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory System
Ohio Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory
Texas Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory

Next meeting of the Accreditation Committee will be in February 1999, at the Western States Meeting in Las Vegas.

ADMINISTRATIVE MANGEMENT PERSONNEL

Pauletta King, Chair

Sixteen members and guests were present.

Agenda items discussed included managing equipment maintenance and repairs using Equipment Insurance policies rather than service contracts. At this time only Missouri is doing this.

PCR testing and reporting was discussed in relation to methods of accounting used to report numbers of tests run and revenues received. It was agreed to share a list of the PCR tests that are done at each lab. We will use our listserve to share this information.

Jim Kruse from Michigan State gave a presentation on the College Business Management Institute course which he attended this summer in Lexington, KY. This is a 3 year program meeting the first week of August each year. It is intended to strengthen an individual's knowledge of management in University settings. It covers everything from basic fund accounting to auxiliary accounting and physical plant maintenance and operations. He recommended that everyone consider attending.

Ralph Cobb reported on the World AVLD Meeting that is being held in June of next year in College Station, Texas. He invited us to consider having a business officers session at that time. The group decided to extend invitations to international labs to send their administrative personnel. The group will use the LAMP Listserve to decide the issue once responses are received. It was agreed that this meeting was not intended to replace the fall meeting in San Diego.

A brief discussion was held on chain of custody procedures.

There was discussion about the use of credit cards for making small purchases. This is being done in several labs, however, each lab handles it somewhat differently. Accounting for the purchases and keeping track of what was purchased and where it was purchased from was discussed.

There was a video presentation by the Oklahoma State Diagnostic Laboratory on their operation and facility. The video was well done and is available by contacting Dr. W.C. Edwards, Director of OAVL. There was also a slide tour of the North Dakota State Diagnostic Laboratory presented by Mary Moen. The tour was well done and very informative. In addition, a van from the Minnesota lab picked the group up on Monday and took them on a tour of the lab in St. Paul. These tours are very useful for generating discussion on how we handle similar problems differently. We always find good ideas to take home and put into use at our labs.

The meeting concluded with a discussion of the agenda for next year's meeting. It was decided to ask the people from California to provide us with a presentation on the Davis lab and an actual tour of the San Bernadino facility if that could be arranged. It was also agreed that we would explore the possibility of having a vendor sponsor a speaker for the group.

ANALYTICAL TOXICOLOGY

Anant Jain, Chairman

The committee met concurrently with Veterinary Analytical Toxicology General Meeting.

Mr. Frank Ross presented AOAC General Referee Report. An ELISA method for the determination of fumonisin has been studied and is ready for publication. A screening method for nitrate in forages has been accepted as the Official First Action. Fumonisin study manuscript can be obtained from Frank Ross, nitrate manuscript can be obtained from Anant Jain.

Dr. Bob Everson presented some ideas regarding pesticide standard exchange program. His main theme was that various laboratories should be able to exchange various pesticide standards among themselves. He distributed a list of various sources for standards.

Dr. Anant Jain discussed his experience with the Agriscreen Pesticide Detector Test for Screening organophosphate and carbamates. Briefly, this is a test which contains a disc of immobilized acetylcholinesterase, and another one containing indoxylacetate. The enzyme disc is dipped in aqueous sample (or a methylene chloride extract of the sample can be applied to enzyme disc and then moistened with water) and then contacted with the substrate (indoxylacetate disc). In the presence of organophosphate and carbamate no color appears on the enzyme disc. In case of negative samples a blue color develops.

Dr. Emmett Braselton presented his experience with two check sample programs. AAFCO feed check sample program and Veterinary Laboratory Association Quality Assurance Program (VLAQAP). The toxicology group felt that the participation in check samples programs should be considered by various laboratories. Information regarding the AAFCO check sample can be obtained from:

Dr. George Latimer, Jr.
Office of State Chemist
PO Box 3160
College Station, TX 77841-3160
409-845-1121
fax: 409-845-1389

Information regarding VLAQAP program is available from:
Diagnostic Chemicals Ltd.
16 McCarville Street
West Royalty Industrial Park
Charlottetown, PE
C1E B0 CANADA
902-566-1369

ANIMAL HEALTH INFORMATION SYSTEMS

Co-Chairs: Bruce L. Akey and Francois Elvinger

The committee held its first annual meeting as a joint committee of the USAHA and the AAVLD on Sunday, October 4, 1998, from 8 a.m. to noon with 60 participants, including 13 committee members, in attendance. Dr. Bruce Akey welcomed the participants and explained the changes in committee structure.

Dr. James Case (California Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory System) gave the invited feature presentation titled *Status of Health Information Standards in Veterinary Medicine*. The invited feature presentation for the USAHA Scientific Section was given by Dr. Mo Salman (Colorado State University) and was entitled *A Monitoring System for Diseases that are Reaching the Level of Eradication*. The entire text of these presentations can be found in the USAHA 1998 Proceedings.

Dr. Mo Salman (Colorado State University), presented the outcome of a **Monitoring and Surveillance Initiative 2-day workshop** sponsored by the USDA at Estes Park, CO, in August, 1998 to discuss future USDA involvement in

such activities. The objectives of the workshop were to create awareness, identify needs and create strategic goals and action plans for activities related to a move towards a comprehensive, integrated and coordinated approach for the establishment of an animal health monitoring system in the US. The important points of discussion included a determination of the concept of comprehensiveness, the necessity of interaction and collaboration of all stakeholders, and the reduction of duplication of efforts. The need for criteria to assess the value of present and future systems was recognized. The development of a comprehensive list of existing systems was declared a priority, including the need to identify all efforts to improve animal identification. A "vision team" consisting of representatives of State and Federal Government, Industry, Academia and the Diagnostic Laboratories was put in place to carry the effort forward. A report of the proceedings of the meeting has been produced and is available from the USDA:CEAH office in Ft. Collins, CO.

Australian National Animal Health Information System

Dr. Peter Miller (Australian Embassy, Washington, D.C.) gave a presentation on the Australian National Animal Health Information System (NAHIS) which has been established to protect and enhance market access for a livestock industry valued at A\$11.6 billion with exports of livestock, livestock products and livestock genetic material worth A\$8.7 billion. The system is managed as a key program of the Australian Animal Health Council, Ltd that is a partnership of the Commonwealth Government, State / Territory governments, and industry. The development of NAHIS was a major coordinated and long-time effort that resulted in the compilation of data and information from animal health authorities, diagnostic laboratories, eradication and control programs, health monitoring systems, universities and research programs. Also included are regional disease or agent specific surveillance and monitoring programs (including a transmissible spongiform encephalopathy surveillance program). The monitoring activities of NAHIS are specific and limited to a small but flexible list of targeted diseases, based on existing and emerging trade issues and concerns identified by the system's users. The purpose of NAHIS is to collect existing relevant summary data, collate, manage and analyze the data, and provide timely and accurate information in a cost effective manner to satisfy the needs of the various information clients. In addition to disease findings, NAHIS also contains a range of background materials on disease history, control measures and other animal health related activities in Australia and worldwide. Program products are a small dynamic information management system containing textual and summary numerical data, a world wide web site to permit remote access to information, and quarterly and other reports as requested by international agencies, stakeholders and clients. The NAHIS can be accessed via the World Wide Web at <http://www.brs.gov.au/brs/aphb/aha/index.html>.

Canadian Animal Health Network

The Canadian Animal Health Network (CAHNet) was

described by Dr. John Kellar (Canadian Food Inspection Agency, Nepean, Ontario) as having emerged from the needs identified in the early 1990's especially to satisfy international trade requirements under NAFTA, GATT and later WTO. The CAHNet was also to be integrated into a monitoring and protection matrix that includes the human Health Canada Network, the Wildlife Cooperative Health Center, and the Center for Coastal Health and the Environment Canada Network.

The CAHNet is a consultative committee which includes representatives from commodity sectors and the veterinary infrastructure linked by the net surveillance committee into a Disease Surveillance Unit. The federal government provides resources amounting to Ca\$120,000, expertise, coordination and support of activities, data and most importantly, the mandate to carry the project through. The other partners provide resources, data and expertise and the networking activities necessary to optimize collaboration and reduce duplication of efforts. Data gathering is coordinated through federal surveillance and provincial diagnostic activities that include data from the Canadian Food Inspection Agency. Information from veterinarians, sector health committees and other sources is assembled through frequent teleconferences and symposia.

Tangible products resulting from these activities include the CAHnet Bulletin, Canadian Veterinary Journal article series, reports to the OIE, disease specific reports, establishment and maintenance of a world wide website, and responses to queries from participants or other information clients. A range of intangible products include enhanced credibility under WTO, enhanced intelligence on the national health situation and variables affecting that situation, better disease control, and establishment of a surveillance mind set that will contribute to better surveillance and monitoring activities of all stakeholders and participants. New databases are being put in place, standards for surveillance and communication are being developed, response to inquiries is coordinated nationally and "passive" surveillance from laboratories and other entities can be maximized. The major benefit has been the linking of all animal disease surveillance partners at this time.

Mexico National Epizootiological Surveillance System (SIVE)

MVZ Elisa Rubi Chavez (Unidad de Regionalización y Análisis De Riesgo, CPA) reported that in Mexico, the National Epizootiological Surveillance System (SIVE) has been implemented since the late 70's. It was sustained by experiences with diseases like foot and mouth disease, Venezuelan equine encephalomyelitis and screwworm. Criteria for surveillance and monitoring of diseases are determined within SIVE which is charged to collect timely, complete and reliable information that can be used to determine the health status of the Mexican animal populations and make decisions to maintain or enhance this status. Federal animal health legislation sets the basis for the establishment of SIVE. Authority to request reporting is anchored in the Mexican Penal Code. The federal adminis-

trative structure of the Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock and Rural Development, within which SIVE operates, comprises the operational units at the level of the Rural Development Districts, the intermediate State Delegations and the Animal Health General Directorate. The SIVE uses morbidity and mortality records from federal and some municipal slaughterhouses from disease free zones, from universities, diagnostic laboratories and field research units, epidemiological surveys and other programs. Livestock producers, veterinary practitioners, businesses providing services to the livestock industry, and the public at large are participating in the surveillance and reporting efforts. Exchange of data and information is ongoing with international organizations like OIE, the Organismo Internacional Regional de Sanidad Agropecuaria (OIRSA), the Interamerican Institute of Cooperation in Agriculture (IICA) and the Panamerican Health Organization (PAHO). Interchange of data and information also occurs with other national organizations like the Secretariat of Health (SSA) and the Secretariat of Ecology and Environment (SEMARNAP).

The SIVE classifies diseases into three groups: 1. exotic diseases that do not exist in the country, which would have significant impact and for which immediate notification is obligatory; 2. enzootic or epizootic diseases with significant zoonotic and socioeconomic impact, that are present on Mexican territory, and for which immediate notification is required; 3. enzootic diseases with lesser impact for which monthly reporting is required. All OIE list A and B diseases are incorporated into the three groups.

One of the important activities of the SIVE is the training of field personnel for activities related to monitoring and surveillance, as well as providing the expertise for epidemiologic research and risk assessment. Since establishment of this structure the total number of disease cases reported has increased from 9,900 in 1996 to more than 42,000 in 1998. The products of SIVE are monthly bulletins and periodical reports to international organizations as necessary to comply with international and national trade requirements.

Panel discussion on specific issues

Following these three presentations, the speakers participated in a panel discussion on how specific concerns identified during the design of the United States' National Animal Health Reporting System (NAHRS) were approached in their respective countries. The first question involved the differentiation of commercial and "backyard" flocks in disease reporting. In all countries the differentiation is not necessarily made at the national level. Disease is reported in poultry, but it is recognized in each country, that an epidemiologic relationship exists between these commercial and "backyard" populations. Regarding issues of trade, if a case of a reportable disease occurs in "backyard" flocks, cases are reported with the necessary assessment of risk to the commercial operations. Large commercial enterprises are interested in compliance with norms and regulations and cooperate very well with animal health

authorities in order to maintain and expand their markets. Commercial operators in “disease free” zones are interested in maintaining that status. “Backyard” flock owners are not well informed about risks inherent to animal disease, which is reflected in the sampling procedures (sample sizes to reach a given level of confidence in declared animal health status) employed by animal health authorities. Assessments in Mexico, as well as in Australia and Canada are made on a case by case basis, considering newly established regionalization and risk assessment methodologies.

The same approaches are used in the reporting of disease in wild or feral animals and in captive exotic animals. In all three countries surveillance is largely either passive, or based on opportunistic sampling. Implications of detection of disease for the health of domestic and commercially important species are evaluated by risk assessment on a case by case basis. The OIE will address concerns of disease in non-commercial species in January and May of 1999.

The timing of reporting was addressed. Results are reported in all three countries at the time that the investigation is completed. Depending on the disease, pending results are being reported. However, for certain conditions, regulatory action has to be taken based on the presumption that a disease with potential high impact on animal health may be present.

Laboratories are required to meet or exceed testing standards contained in the OIE manuals. Recognition of testing by trade partners is determined on a case by case basis, and is considered appropriate if sensitivity of tests used meets or exceeds OIE standards. Coordination, setting of test standards and quality control in Australian laboratories is assured by a Sub-Committee on Animal Health Laboratory Standards. Provincial laboratories in Canada are certified, but 98% of testing that affects international trade is done in federal laboratories. Private laboratories participate in the passive data flow and are encouraged to submit information if at all possible. In Mexico, laboratories are certified by the Secretariat of Commerce and approved by the Secretariat of Agriculture.

Regarding monitoring and surveillance on transmissible spongiform encephalopathy (TSE), Australia has determined a target number of cattle with central nervous disease signs for examination and investigates all neurologic disease cases. In Canada, all rabies negative cattle and animals with central nervous disease signs at slaughter are tested for TSE. Surveillance for TSE in Mexico is passive and active, and sheep imported for slaughter from the United States are followed closely since scrapie is not present in Mexico. However, dead rendered animals are not systematically controlled in any of the three countries.

On the topic of maximization of passive surveillance, it was pointed out that major efforts have to be directed towards education of all stakeholders to enhance their motivation to participate and their commitment to report. Cost recovery

and proximity to centers for reporting are important considerations that can affect the flow of information.

United States National Animal Health Reporting System

Dr. Bruce L. Akey (Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services) presented a summary of the National Animal Health Reporting System (NAHRS) Pilot Project for 1998. During the past year the reporting criteria were refined and seven states (Alabama, California, Illinois, Nebraska, New Jersey, South Carolina and Texas) participated in a six month trial of reporting the presence of the OIE's List A and List B diseases to the USDA's Center for Epidemiology and Animal Health (CEAH). The information was collected monthly and validated in each participating state by the State Veterinarian before being sent to CEAH. The staff at CEAH coordinated review of the data by USDA:APHIS:VS program staff and returned the data to the states for final review. The pilot program provided an opportunity to evaluate the logistics of collecting and verifying such data within each state and at the national level. Participants were required to file a report by the 10th of each month with USDA:CEAH. The CEAH staff coordinated review of the data by USDA program staff (including the NVSL and the FADDL) and the data was returned to the states in approximately 10 days for final verification. Both Federal and State participants found this to be a workable time line for reporting. The cost of participation for the states in time, staff and money was not burdensome or an impediment to participation. As was the intent of the pilot, several issues were raised during the pilot program that need to be addressed if the NAHRS is to be expanded to include all 50 states successfully.

Several key issues came to light during the pilot including: confidentiality of reporting, reporting of endemic diseases, timing of reporting diseases which require long-term testing or investigation, cost and funding of the NAHRS, reporting of diseases in free-ranging species, captive exotics or cervidae, non-commercial or “back-yard” poultry and in imported animals.

The pilot NAHRS program was highly successful in testing the logistics of the program and bringing to light additional issues that need to be addressed in the next phase of development. As a result, a number of recommendations were formulated by the Steering Committee towards implementation of the next phase of the NAHRS:

1. A start-up phase for the full NAHRS should begin January 1, 1999 for all states willing to participate. Data on the presence of a clinical case of disease for all the OIE's List A and List B diseases should be reported by the State Veterinarian to CEAH on the 10th of each month starting in February of 1999.

2. Determination of the occurrence of a clinical case of a disease may, at the discretion of the State Veterinarian, be based on criteria or testing other than that considered definitive however, the occurrence of a clinical case of a disease must be reported if it meets the definitive criteria.

This policy will allow the reporting of a disease occurrence when the definitive criteria are unobtainable or an experimental testing procedure has been used.

3. Retrospective data on the occurrence of diseases that take more than a month to reach a final determination should be entered in the comments section of the NAHRS reporting form and the database will be updated to accurately reflect the correct month of occurrence.
4. Data collected by the CEAH during 1999 will be distributed only to the participating State Veterinarians and will be used as a source to more accurately prepare the annual OIE report for the United States. The first report of data collected by the CEAH will not be made until the end of the first quarter of 1999 to give new participants time to work out logistical problems in reporting. Reports to the State Veterinarians will include a hard copy short report and an electronic spreadsheet file of the data.
5. The NAHRS will report on all OIE List A and List B disease except for those in Lagomorphs and Bees. The coverage of reporting for aquaculture will be limited to commercial food fish. Except for FADs, reporting of diseases will be limited to traditional commercial poultry and livestock for now.
6. The continued oversight of the development and implementation of the NAHRS should be placed under the direction of the joint USAHA/AAVLD Animal Health Information Systems Committee. The Co-Chairs of this committee will coordinate the continued efforts of the Commodity Working Groups in reviewing existing reporting criteria or developing new reporting criteria as needed.
7. The expansion of the NAHRS to cover other species or free-ranging species will require the addition of appropriate expertise to the Commodity Working Groups for the development of reporting criteria. The first of these to be addressed for inclusion in the NAHRS should be captive cervidae and bison.
8. All states should begin the process of adopting by reference the OIE's List A and List B of diseases as part of their state's monitoring and surveillance program.
9. The USDA:CEAH should expeditiously develop a secure site on the World Wide Web which would facilitate the entry and update of data by participating states as well as the review of data in multiple formats by authorized persons.
10. There should be a joint effort by the USAHA, the AAVLD, the USDA and animal industry to educate livestock and poultry producers and their veterinarians on the purpose and benefits of the NAHRS. Endorsement of the NAHRS should be sought from the major industry associations and those endorsements conveyed to the industry at large.

Equine NAHMS

Dr. Josie Traub Dargatz (Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO) gave an overview of the completed Parts I and II of the USDA's National Animal Health Monitoring System's (NAHMS) Equine '98 Study designed to provide both participants and the equine industry with information on the United State's equine population for education and research purposes. In the spring of 1998, data were collected on equine health and management practices by personal interviews from a representative sample of equine operations (2,904 operations) in 28 States. These operations represented about three fourths of the equine population and operations with equids in the U.S. Detailed information on the study design and results has been published in reports available from the Centers for Epidemiology and Animal Health, USDA:APHIS:VS , Fort Collins, CO or on the World Wide Web at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/ceah/cahm>.

USDA International Resources

The final presentation of the session was given by Dr. Dan Sheesley (USDA:APHIS International Services) who presented the USDA's international resources for surveillance and monitoring. Realizing that a key component of readiness is international surveillance and monitoring, the President in July of 1982 issued an Executive Order to modify the Foreign Service Act of 1980 to include the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), International Services as a Foreign Affairs Agency.

APHIS' primary goal is to protect U.S. animal and plant resources from foreign diseases and pests while at the same time supporting the expansion of U.S. agricultural trade. Consistent with this mission, the objectives of APHIS International Services activities are to: Safeguard U.S. animal and plant resources through active monitoring and surveillance in foreign countries and responding quickly to emerging foreign diseases and pest threats, and facilitate agricultural trade by working closely with foreign regulatory officials to ensure that trade in agricultural products is not thwarted by unjustified sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) requirements.

Examples of recent foreign disease and pest threats include the classical swine fever outbreaks in Europe, Haiti and the Dominican Republic, the changing BSE situation in Europe, and new outbreaks of Mediterranean fruit fly in Mexico. These threats greatly increase pressure on APHIS resources to protect the only sector of the U.S. economy to consistently generate trade surpluses; U.S. agriculture.

A key part of APHIS' strategy is to monitor and respond to these and future threats while they are still outside U.S. borders. Given these foreign pest and disease threats, APHIS' cadre of Foreign Service Officers, scientists and technical experts, in the United States and posted in twenty seven foreign countries, are being called on to increase vigilance, evaluate agricultural health risks in other countries, and interact on a daily basis with other scientists, regulatory officials, and technical experts worldwide.

APHIS International Services facilitates the exchange of scientific information and helps explain the USDA:APHIS' interpretation of the science. It also provides appropriate and strategic technical assistance to developing countries in using new surveillance and monitoring tools and technologies. Another role is to facilitate access by U. S. scientists to verify disease status, arrange visits of trading partners' scientists and regulatory officials to the U. S. and ensure transparency of other countries' import rules.

A resolution was passed unanimously by the Committee as follows:

RESOLUTION:

WHEREAS: There is a need for a National Animal Health Reporting System to further national interests and fulfill the requirements of international trade agreements, and

WHEREAS: A valid system for reporting animal health information has been developed and successfully piloted in 7 States, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED:

that USAHA recommends continued support for the development and implementation of NAHRS as a top priority of the USAHA, the AAVLD, and the USDA. This includes:

Charging USDA:APHIS with the expansion of the NAHRS to include the voluntary participation of all US States and Territories.

Continued utilization of the Steering Committee in the development of a Unified Methods and Rules to aid States in their full participation in the NAHRS.

AQUACULTURE

AAVLD co-chairs: Skip Jack and Randy White

USAHA Chair: Dr. Robert C. Goetz and Vice Chair: Dr. Althaea Langston

The first joint meeting of the Aquaculture Committees of the American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians and the United States Animal Health Association convened on Sunday, October 4, 1998, from 9am to noon in Minneapolis. The meeting was called to order by Dr. S. W. Jack (AAVLD) and Dr. Bob Goetz (USAHA).

Dr. Randy White (Purdue University) provided a brief review of the listing of fish disease diagnostic facilities put together by the AAVLD committee. Currently, the listing is on the AAVLD web page and the committee voted to maintain the listing on the "public" portion of the web page.

Dr. Tom Baldwin (Washington State University) presented a proposal drafted by the subcommittee formed to develop guidelines for use by the AAVLD Accreditation Committee when reviewing laboratories with a fish disease diagnostic capability. The proposal was accepted by the committee and will be forwarded to the Accreditation Committee for their consideration.

Mr. Ray Brunson (US Fish and Wildlife Service) reviewed the progress of the national Wild Fish Health Survey. The

eventual goal of this program is the development of a searchable database providing information on the types of diseases found in wild fish in the United States. Contributors from most states have provided information concerning over 70 species.

Dr. Scott LaPatra (Clear Springs Foods, Inc.) reviewed activities of the American Fisheries Society Fish Health Section (AFS-FHS). He discussed their interaction with other fish health organizations and outlined programs for veterinarians to join AFS-FHS.

Dr. Bob Goetz (consultant) reported on the status of the National Animal Health Reporting System. He was pleased with progress that continues. However, more federal, state, and private sector communication links are needed.

Dr. Scott LaPatra introduced a resolution for consideration by the USAHA committee. The proposal relates to the implementation of new diagnostic technologies only after comparison with currently accepted methods in the fish health field. The proposal passed after minor modifications, and will be forwarded to the Executive Committee (USAHA).

Dr. Eric Parks will be nominated as the incoming chair for the USAHA committee, and Dr. John Sanders will be nominated to serve as vice chair.

Both committees agreed that the joint meeting format was reasonably successful, and will plan on a joint meeting in 1999.

AWARDS

Dr. William Van Alstine, Chair

This year's Life membership was awarded to **Dr. Herb Smith**. The Pope Award for noteworthy contributions to the Association and to implementation and recognition of the specialty of Veterinary diagnostic Laboratory Medicine was



Dr. Van Alstine, Awards Committee Chair, presents the plaque for the Pope Award to Dr. John Andrews (pictured below).

BACTERIOLOGY STEERING

Co-chairs Richard L. Walker & Lorraine Hoffman

Five members and 13 guests were in attendance.

Dr. Rich Walker reviewed the mission of the committee as follows: to coordinate subcommittees involved in bacteriology, report activities of the subcommittees to the executive committee and take concerns of the subcommittees to the executive committee.

Item 1: Subcommittee Reports

1. Subcommittee on Bacteriology, Mycology and Mycoplasma: The activities of the subcommittee were summarized by Dr. Carol Maddox. Report is attached.
2. Subcommittee on Anaerobic Infections: The activities of the subcommittee were summarized by Spencer Jang. Report is attached.
3. Subcommittee on Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing: The activities of the subcommittee were summarized by Dr. David White. Report is attached.
4. Subcommittee on Mycobacteriology: Dr. Thoen was not present at the meeting, but he submitted a report which is attached.

Item 2: Agenda Items:

A. Approval status of Bacteriology QA/QC guidelines and NCCLS M31-T documents. A letter was received from Dr. Snyder which indicated that the accreditation committee was using these documents to establish a Minimum Essential Requirements (MER) document. It was the consensus of the steering committee that it would be beneficial for the respective bacteriology subcommittees to have an opportunity to comment on the MER document as it is being developed. The co-chairs of the Bacteriology Steering Committee will maintain an open line of communication with Dr. Miller and the accreditation committee regarding the adoption of these documents for accreditation purposes.

B. Status of list of resources for special testing in bacteriology. Over the last year an attempt was made to compile a list and information on special tests in bacteriology. It was difficult to collect this information in detail and will require substantial effort to keep the list current. It was decided that it might be better to try and offer some access to available tests through the AAVLD webpage. The co-chairs will approach the publications committee about what alternatives might be available to address this issue. Also, it may be an issue with other disciplines in AAVLD and therefore an important general issue.

C. AVMA Steering Committee on Judicious Therapeutic Antimicrobial Use by Veterinarians. The co-chairs of the subcommittee on antimicrobial susceptibility testing were recommended as the representatives to sit on this committee. The co-chairs of the steering committee will inquire as to whether an individual has to be a veterinarian to sit on an

AVMA steering committee.

Post meeting addendum to Section C: Dr. Snyder indicated that Dr. White cannot represent the AAVLD on the AVMA Steering Committee because he is not a veterinarian. Dr. C.C. Wu will serve as our representative.

D. AAVLD acknowledgement of the Penn. State U. *E. coli* reference center. A letter was sent to Dr. Snyder requesting that the AAVLD acknowledge the benefit of this center to AAVLD members. See post meeting addendum below. It was suggested that an alternative approach would be for individuals to write letters indicating the benefit of the center to the individual laboratories. Dr. Carol Maddox will mention this in a memorandum to bacteriology committee members.

The address to send letters to is:

Dr. Catherine Ross, Chair
Veterinary Sciences Department
115 Henning Blvd.
University Park, PA 16802

Post meeting addendum to Section D: Dr. Stan Snyder did send a letter to Dr. Wilson and his personnel at the *E. coli* Reference Center thanking them for their assistance to AAVLD accredited laboratories and encouraging continuation of this service for *E. coli* characterization.

E. Dr. Mitzi Libal was nominated as a new co-chair to replace Dr. Richard Walker. Her nomination was unanimously accepted and will be sent to President Miller.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON ANAEROBIC INFECTIONS

Spencer Jang, Chair

Thirty three members and guests were in attendance.

Robert Walker, Michigan State U., gave an overview on the Anaerobic Society of Americas. He gave a brief summary of his attendance at the last meeting in Buenos Aires. He emphasized the importance of this society for members of the subcommittee and its audience. There are more veterinary topics on the society program. He also mentioned the Journal Anaerobe published several times yearly. Information on web site for the Anaerobic Society of Americas is: www.anaerobe.org. Prague will be the next society meeting in Y2000.

Status of clostridial conjugates. Apparently problems still exist with the *Cl. septicum* conjugate. Cost for these conjugates were \$8/ml or \$40/10ml.

Spencer Jang, U.C. Davis, mentioned the change in the company making PRAS media from Carr Scarborough to Remel and Anaerobe Systems. There are a number of existing problems with the QC and ordering of these products. Difficulties exist with laboratories using the gold standard identification methods.

Anthony Audino, marketing manager of Shellab, Cornelius,

OR, was an invited guest. He was asked to respond to last year's concerns with the Bactron anaerobic chamber. His emphasis was the need for expansion time for Sheldon's growth problems. Apparently this has been corrected. A handout was available to users who may require assistance with the chamber. A newly designed anaerobic chamber was discussed that will cost \$11-12,000. It will take about 30-45 days to receive a new chamber. Lastly, communication was a major problem with Sheldon and chamber designer, Mike Cox president of Anaerobe Systems. With the new chamber this has been corrected.

Spencer Jang gave a talk on continuous updating on anaerobic gram negative rods. Data was presented utilizing the MIDI system for determination of fatty acids. By this method he was able to define 6 distinct groups within the *Bacteroides/Prevotella* species. A 7th group was a mixture of many unknown species. The *Porphyromonas* group was separated by their fatty acid profiles into several distinct species namely *P. levii*, *P. macacae*, *P. gingivalis* and *P. asaccharolytica*. *Fusobacterium necrophorum* in horses still seem to differ from those isolated from cattle and other species. *Fusobacterium nucleatum* is still a confusing group. Several investigators have divided this genus into 3-5 subspecies. Most recent findings indicate 3 groups which concur with what Jang is finding. The primary subspecies is *F. nucleatum ss vincentii*.

Spencer Jang gave an overview of a new commercial anaerobe ID panel by Biolog, Hayward, CA. He mentioned that his lab will be a beta test site for this anaerobic panel. He will perform 25 known veterinary anaerobic isolates and 25 unspciated isolates. He discussed the materials and methods for this system as well as the anaerobic database. This database includes organisms of veterinary origin as well as other known VPI anaerobes that we isolate in animals.

Dr. Robert Walker gave the subcommittee an update on the anaerobic antimicrobial status in the new M37-A. The interpretations for anaerobic susceptibility results will be from table 8 of the NCCLS M11-A4 document.

Dr. Glenn Songer from the University of Arizona gave an overview of his genotyping results with *Cl perfringens* type A in animals. He mentioned the toxigenic *C. perfringens* types which includes *C. perfringens* enterotoxin (CPE). Only one person mentioned the use of mice inoculation for diagnosing enterotoxemia. Songer's results were compiled from over 2000 isolates which were predominantly type A. There were few types B-E. Case reports seem to indicate that *C. perfringens* type A is a cause of enteric disease in young animals.

Dr. Songer discussed characteristics of *C. perfringens* type A, namely the ability to produce alpha toxin. He reported on a Beta-2 toxin in *C. perfringens* type A isolates which has been associated with pathogenesis in piglets and foals. PCR primers were developed from Cpb2 gene for Beta-2 toxin. From his bank of *C. perfringens* strains, Songer found the

Cpb2 gene in 49% of avian, 20% of bovine, 44% of canine, 50% of equine and 67% of porcine isolates.

Dr. Glenn Songer- University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ, was nominated as chairman for 1999-2001.

ANTIMICROBIAL SUSCEPTIBILITY TESTING SUB-COMMITTEE

CC Wu/David White, co-chairs

Thirty-seven members and guests were in attendance.

1. Dr. Carol Maddox presented the results of the antimicrobial susceptibility portion of the AAVLD Bacteriology Check Test. She reported that 54 labs participated with the following breakdown of antimicrobial susceptibility test formats:

33% MIC
~60% Kirby-Bauer
6% Combination

She commented on two problem areas. *H. somnus* - Bovine: antimicrobials approved only for lactating cattle (ampicillin, tetracycline, ceftiofur, erythromycin, penicillin) should have been reported for *H. somnus* and other organisms. Some problems in *H. somnus* surviving transport to diagnostic laboratories. *Actinobacillus pleuropneumoniae* - Porcine: much variation in reporting susceptibility to this agent, especially in the case of tetracyclines. The check test was definitely better than previous year. Everyone needs to adhere to proper QA/QC guidelines.

2. Dr. Maddox also provided an update on the antimicrobial susceptibility panel questionnaire which she had distributed. There were several changes recommended for the panels as follows:

Mastitis panel - add Ceftiofur, sulfadimethoxine, and oxacillin; perhaps change name to lactating dairy panel.
Porcine - add apramycin, neomycin, tylosin, and spectinomycin
Bovine - add neomycin and spectinomycin.
Poultry - add neomycin, clindamycin, and cephalothin.

Discussion followed focusing on NCCLS M31-T and the fact that the above antimicrobials are not included in the document.

3. Status and revisions of M31-T document were discussed. Dr. Robert Walker reported that M31-T document is moving toward accepted status in January 1999, when it will become M31-A. The next NCCLS meeting will be held in Tampa Bay, Florida in January 1999. An addition to M31, will be the inclusion of anaerobic antimicrobial susceptibilities in Table 8.

There will be a flexible designation incorporated in M31 for certain antimicrobials. The flexible designation will be a flag to veterinarians to consult antimicrobial package insert for dosing range. It was suggested that AAVLD adopt these standards for diagnostic laboratories.

4. It was suggested that a workshop on antimicrobial clinical pharmacology be conducted at AAVLD next year. This workshop would include topics of in vitro susceptibility testing, pharmacokinetics of antimicrobials, clinical efficacy of drugs, and prudent use of antimicrobials in human and veterinary medicine. Dr. Walker suggested several individuals who might contribute to this workshop. He also suggested that a plenary session dealing with these topics would be more appropriate than a limited attendance workshop.

Two reports have been released regarding the use of antimicrobials in food animals and implications for human health. One is entitled: "A Review of Antimicrobial Resistance in the Food Chain", Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, United Kingdom. Dr. David White is looking into how to get copies. The second is: "The Use of Drugs in Food Animals: Benefits and Risks", National Research Council/Institute of Medicine.

The AVMA Prudent Antimicrobial Use Task Force has requested that a member of this committee join their group. Dr. C.C. Wu will represent AAVLD at their meeting in October and will submit a report later to AST.

5. The next topic of discussion was surveillance network of diagnostic labs. This issue was found to be fraught with problems, especially confidentiality issues regarding bacterial isolates. However, this system would be invaluable in monitoring emergence of antimicrobial resistance.

It was suggested that information relating to atypical bacterial isolates with unique susceptibilities be shared among personnel of diagnostic labs and investigated further if necessary. The committee unanimously agreed that research presentations should not become an agenda item for next year.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON BACTERIOLOGY, MYCOLOGY AND MYCOPLASMOLOGY

Dr. Carol Maddox, Chair

There were 46 members and guests in attendance.

Welcome and introduction was given by Dr. Carol Maddox. Dr. Maddox acknowledged Dr. Lloyd Lauerman and others for their efforts in coordinating and presenting the informative PCR Workshop conducted at the University of Minnesota Vet. Med. Diagnostic Lab on October 2, 1998 and the excellent resource that the published protocols represent.

Dr. Maddox requested all interested parties to check the current Bacteriology, Mycology, and Mycoplasma membership list as well as the bacteriology check test participants' list and to sign up or make corrections as needed.

OLD BUSINESS

Item 1. Results of 1998 BAC-T check test:

Dr. Carol Maddox presented the results of the 5 clinical cases contained in the BAC-T check test. There were 54 participating laboratories this year, up from 44 in 1997. A copy of the results including the mean scores for all participants is attached. Questions on scoring were discussed and Dr. Maddox responded to questions related to scoring methods. It was mentioned that subjective scoring would be minimized next year with a larger committee involved in the process.

There was a discussion concerning the continuation of the check test. The group responded unanimously in favor of continuing the check test in the same format and with the same intent, as a self-help, QA/QC exercise, not a certification program.

Dr. Maddox indicated that identification of the pathogen and recognition of all other organisms in the mixture would result in 100% scoring. Dr. Wu had communicated concern related to director expectations for perfect scores. Concerns regarding interpretation of less than perfect scores should be addressed in future reporting of results.

Dr. Bemis posed a question as to the identification of the strains sent to the laboratories and were they ATCC strains? Dr. Maddox responded that the isolates were field strains. The comment was made that there is value in the evaluation of field strains and difficult organisms. Dr. Maddox suggested that the isolates be treated as though they are routine diagnostic submissions. There should be very little input from laboratory supervisors to those involved in conducting check tests so that the test reflects normal operation of the laboratory. Dr. Hoffman agreed, but stated that supervisors should meet with their personnel for a discussion of the results and how they performed on the check test. It was suggested that more organisms be added for testing and that more challenging organisms be included as well.

One question was posed regarding the availability of QA/QC organisms. Dr. Carol Maddox suggested that members should freely contact their peers for acquisition of these strains if unable to obtain them from ATCC. Robert Walker offered to help some of those lacking ATCC strains to obtain the strains that they need. Dr. Maddox also suggested that some of the bacterial media supply houses such as Remel might have some QA/QC strains that members could purchase at lower cost than ATCC. Dr. Carol Maddox asked for comments on the BAC-T check test form.

The question of whether commercial ID systems are incorrectly identifying some bacterial strains was raised? Dr. Carol Maddox requested that if any of the members have information on isolates for inclusion in the database to please offer that information to the appropriate micro-identification system manufacturers.

Dr. Robert Walker suggested that long-term continuation of the BAC-T check test would allow for variety of isolates from various species including companion animals. Spencer Jang commented on the need for inclusion of both large and companion animals in the testing.

Dr. Walker noted that transport media will be important for inclusion of more fastidious organisms to the test and suggested that the overall performance of the test in any particular laboratory will depend on the capabilities of the

lab to run certain tests. Spencer Jang and Dr. Maddox agreed that these organisms should be included and considered this inclusion to represent the next step of difficulty for the BAC-T check test.

Dr. Maddox asked for volunteers to provide strains and histories during the next year for inclusion in the BAC-T check test program. Dr. Lorraine Hoffman, Dr. David White, Dr. Beth Henricson, Dr. David Bemis, Dr. Robert Walker, and Dr. Shin volunteered to serve on the committee and provide these materials and assist with scoring.

A comment was made regarding method of payment for check tests. Dr. Tom Bunn, from NVSL, commented that they would charge \$65.00 plus \$10 shipping for cultures. Discussion followed regarding payment directly to NVSL for the BAC-T check test, but it was agreed that the fees should continue to be collected and administered through AAVLD.

Motion for the BAC-T check test to remain a teaching tool and not a certification tool was made and accepted. Dr. Carol Maddox was congratulated on her efforts for undertaking the check test evaluation during the past year. It was suggested that the test evaluation continue.

Item 2: SOPs

Dr. Beth Henricson led a discussion about the formation of a group to survey the membership and formulate SOPs for AAVLD accredited laboratories. She mentioned that the results of the survey will be analyzed with distribution of the material over the World Wide Web. There will be further discussion on this subject after evaluation of the survey. Copies of the survey were distributed and placed in the registration area. Dr. Henricson asked that they be completed and returned before members leave the meeting. A copy is attached.

Dr. Walker questioned the purpose of the SOPs. Dr. Henricson indicated that they are to provide a uniform body of information and protocols for use by veterinary diagnostic laboratories.

Item 3: New ASM Animal Health Division:

ASM membership division options were discussed and it was suggested that members review the options and decide for themselves which division they should join. Development of a new division called Animal Health Division Z was discussed and presented to members for their consideration.

Dr. Walker commented that ASM provides valuable information on new kits, and other veterinary matters. He encouraged all AAVLD microbiologists to become members in ASM. He emphasized the need for a long-term commitment by key personnel if the new division of ASM is approved. Most displayed a positive attitude toward the development of the new division. A petition for Animal Health Division Z is available for signatures.

Dr. David White suggested that the new Animal Health Division of ASM would benefit members doing research in animal health as well as diagnosticians, especially those not eligible for membership in ACVM.

It was encouraged that members lend their support to the

development of the new division of ASM by signing the appropriate petition.

Dr. Walker noted that, as a member of ASM, you receive the ASM journal and discounts on other journals published by ASM. Dr. Lorraine Hoffman also noted that at reduced cost, the journals can be downloaded from the web.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. A representative from General Foods mentioned difficulty with the HI assay for *Mycoplasma synoviae* in turkeys. He ran HI tests and got low titers but culture and PCR assays were negative. He made his own media for culturing and isolated MS from synovial fluid. Dr. Lloyd Lauerman offered to test these strains for him. Concern was expressed that if only plate tests are being done, false negatives may be reported.

2. A written survey for future workshops indicated that most of the 25 respondents voted for mycology. The group in attendance was asked how many would be interested in a mycology workshop for next year. Approximately 25-30 people agreed they would be interested in attending. Dr. Carol Maddox stated that this idea would be pursued and any further interest should be directed to her. E-mail will be used to distribute further information.

3. Dr. Maddox expressed concerns over some of the micro-identification systems and taxonomy used in them. It was suggested that labs cooperate with manufacturers by contributing organisms not included in their databases.

4. Dr. David White led a discussion on shipping pathogens via mail. He suggested the need for standardized forms and policies in this matter. Federal express is one of the few companies that will ship biological material. Dr. Beth Henricson noted that Mr. Tebo of O. Berk International, a manufacturer of safe mailing containers, may be willing to consult with the organization regarding this matter. Dr. Maddox asked if members would be willing to have someone speak next year regarding this matter. Dr. Rick Hill (NVSL) volunteered to see if someone from the Safety Committee at NVSL would be willing to speak at next years meeting. A comment was made regarding the need for a license from CDC to transport dangerous biologicals and penalties for violation of transport rules was mentioned. Comments on the problems with weight and size restrictions on transport of biologicals. Dr. Carol Maddox made the comment that if a preliminary identification of an organism was made then it must be labeled as such. She also commented on the need to be aware of state regulating guidelines when shipping organisms and how to return mailers. Dr. Bill Fales mentioned exemptions for diagnostic specimens. Check test package delivery was questioned by Dr. Maddox. It was agreed that everything went well except for a couple of late requests.

5. Dr. Carol Maddox commented and the membership agreed that there should be inclusion of a short presentation on a topic of interest and/or cutting edge technology at the next meeting.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON MYCOBACTERIOLOGY

Dr. Charles Thoen, Chair

Dr. M. Palmer reported that the intratonsillar inoculation of deer produces a suitable model of natural infection. Infected deer shed mycobacteria in saliva and nasal secretions and may be a source of infection for deer, cattle, or humans

Dr. D. Brees presented an analysis of tissues from patients with Crohn's disease and from those with chronic inflammatory bowel disease. No evidence of the presence of mycobacterial antigens or pathological evidence of *M. paratuberculosis* was found by immunohistochemical techniques. Dr. Brees showed data indicating that an immunohistochemical test, using a commercial antibody for the detection of mycobacterial antigens, was superior to standard acid-fast staining when applied to paraffin embedded, formalin fixed tissues.

Dr. E. Rohonczy reported that the isolation of *M. bovis* in Canada has decreased sharply over the past 7 years. The proportion of saprophytic mycobacteria isolated has increased with the routine culture of all skin test reactors and of all trace-out animals.

Information on the use of a new PCR for detecting *M. paratuberculosis* in the blood and feces of cattle was presented by Drs. J. Stabel and J. Ellingson. This technique has been applied to detect *M. paratuberculosis* in free-living bison.

Dr. C.O. Thoen reported there was a statistically significant ($p=0.002$) reduction of the shedding of *M. paratuberculosis* in the feces of cattle vaccinated with heat-killed *M. paratuberculosis* in oil. Skin tests using *M. paratuberculosis* PPD were useful in identifying subclinical cases of Johne's disease not positive on ELISA.

BLUETONGUE DIAGNOSTICS

James MacLachlan, Chair

There were 26 members and guests present.

Dr. MacLachlan introduced the session. This was followed by a featured presentation by Dr. Robert Kahrs of the National Center for Import and Export, USDA-APHIS, Riverdale, Maryland. Dr. Kahrs detailed how bluetongue virus (BTV) has been a persistent and major obstacle to exportation of ruminants and ruminant products from the United States, because of the prevalence of the virus and vectors in the United States amongst other issues. He emphasized that some of our trading partners had very real and deep concerns about bluetongue. It remained a challenge to convince foreign trade officials that geographical and seasonal factors limit BTV transmission and permit

safe movement of ruminants from vector-free zones within BTV-infected countries. Furthermore, some existing trade requirements appear to be designed only to protect domestic industries from competition, and some are largely based on now-discredited theories such as persistent BTV-infection of cattle. A review in 1998 showed that 66 countries impose 159 BTV-based import measures on US ruminants and their products. Of these 106 are protocols for live animals, 127 for ruminant semen, and 26 for embryos or ova. Most require serological tests. Dr. Kahrs stressed how critical it is to impress the global community that a carrier state does not exist in cattle, and of the realities of seasonally-free zones. He also applauded the introduction of PCR testing and encouraged further rationalization of trade according to BTV regulations. He also felt that a cost-benefit comparison of the cost of BTV regulatory testing versus the cost of bluetongue disease would be useful.

Dr. Tom Howard of Request Ltd then presented the industry perspective on the impact of BTV infection on the international trade of cattle and germplasm. Dr. Howard described the changes that have occurred in the dairy industry in recent times. Improving technologies mean that more doses of semen now are produced by fewer dairy bulls, thus there has been much consolidation in the industry to the point where just a few companies now control most of the semen industry. These companies have global influence, with operations in Canada and Europe as well as the United States. He emphasized the trend to fewer bulls and reduced testing for BTV. With these changes, diseases such as leukosis and infectious bovine rhinotracheitis are becoming more problematic for the US in many markets, particularly Europe, and BTV less so. Niche operations, such as those in California and Texas which service Central and South America remain and do continue to be impacted by the trade regulations pertaining to BTV. The situation with beef cattle genetics is quite different, with a wide variety and diversity of producers. The markets for beef are not in Europe, rather South and Central America, Australasia etc. To this end Dr Howard envisages a continuing export market for cattle and germplasm from endemic areas, and he reiterated the thoughts of last year's speaker, Dr Cardwell of Elgin TX, who observed that the BTV seronegative animal might be the worst to select for export to another BTV endemic area. Lastly, he stressed that demand for diagnostic testing pertaining to beef cattle and germplasm exports will continue, and that there is likely to be demand for rapid virus isolation and/or detection systems in diagnostic laboratories.

Dr. William Wilson of USDA-ARS ABADRL reviewed procedures for detection of BTV and epizootic hemorrhagic disease viruses by polymerase chain reaction (PCR). In particular he reviewed the multiplex format that he has developed as well as safer methods for separation of double stranded RNA that use heat and formamide for strand separation, rather than methyl mercury which is highly toxic. He also outlined contemporary refinements for template detection that use colorimetric assays and magnetic bead capture. In general discussions, he discussed

advantages and disadvantages of use of the technology in the diagnostic setting.

Dr. Bev Schmitt from NVSL briefly presented results of the latest BTV national serosurvey (included in the USAHA Bluetongue and Bovine Retrovirus Committee report).

Dr. James MacLachlan of the University of California briefly described sequence analysis of 7 different serotypes of BTV that he recently obtained from the People's Republic of China, and their comparison with United States' strains of BTV using phylogenetic assays. Analysis of the S10 genes of the various viruses indicates that they occur as distinct "topotypes" that reflect their country of origin, consistent with the prolonged co-evolution of these viruses with their respective insect vectors in each continent.

ENTERIC DISEASES

Greg Stevenson, Chair

The meeting was brought to order by Dr. Bill Van Alstine, acting in the absence of Chair Stevenson who was unable to attend. Dr. Lorraine Hoffman agreed to take notes and submit the minutes to the Executive Committee of AAVLD.

Item 1: Informational Reports

Population Diagnostics of Bacterial Enteric Diseases in Grower-Finisher Aged Pigs:

Dr. Gerald Duhamel, University of Nebraska, provided a comprehensive review of bacterial enteric agents affecting older swine and discussed diagnostic tools available for determining their presence.

Differentiation of Serologic Response to TGEV and PRCV: Fact or Fiction?

Dr. Jim Collins, University of Minnesota, compared the various ELISA tests for differentiating TGE and PRCV titers. He indicated that results may be quite variable among kits when comparing results from a set of serum samples. It was suggested that the reliability of the kits (for the purposes intended) should be reexamined.

New Developments of *Clostridium perfringens* Type A Enteritis in Cattle and Pigs:

Dr. J. Glenn Songer, University of Arizona, discussed genotyping data from 2000+ *Cl. perfringens* obtained from cattle and pigs across the U.S. He indicated most isolates are *Cl. perfringens* Type A with no enterotoxin gene identified. He reported on a new Beta-2 toxin which is present in a high percentage of porcine *Cl. perfringens* strains, both Type A and Type C.

E. coli Isolates from Weaned Pigs: Prevalence of Adhesins and Toxins:

Dr. Carol Maddox, PA State University, reviewed information collected at the *E. coli* Reference Center concerning adhesin and toxin genes detected in isolates associated with edema disease in swine.

Diagnostic Techniques for Bovine Rotavirus:

Dr. Sanjay Kapil, Kansas State University, discussed the diagnostic tools utilized for detecting rotavirus in fecal samples and intestinal tissues of calves. He compared electron microscopy, virus isolation, ELISA and electrophoretotyping techniques for use in the laboratory.

Item 2: Group discussion

Open discussion following the formal presentations included the following: diagnosis of corona virus in young horses, causative agent and diagnosis of "winter dysentery" in cattle and colitis in adult horses. It was suggested by Dr. Van Alstine that we may consider including speakers who can address these topics at the 1999 meeting.

Item 3: Action Item:

The committee decided to adhere to the same format next year with several invited presenters addressing current issues of interest followed by open discussion and recommendations.

Item 4: Dr. Gerald Duhamel was nominated to be the new chair of the committee to replace Dr. Greg Stevenson who has served for three years.

The nomination was unanimously agreed upon by the Committee and the recommendation will go forward to the Executive Committee.

EPIDEMIOLOGY AND ECONOMICS OF ANIMAL DISEASES

John Thomson, Susan Turnquist, Co-Chairs

Over sixty members and guests were present.

The minutes from the business meeting are as follows:

Committee Mission Statement:

Assist AAVLD accredited laboratories in strengthening their service to society by identifying and sharing applications of epidemiological and economic methodologies .

Committee Objectives:

1. Develop a suggested guideline for conducting field investigations from an accredited diagnostic laboratory.
2. Provide a committee structure that will be recognized as an organization location for epidemiologist associated with veterinary diagnostic laboratories.
 - a. Invite the NCR-168 USDA epidemiology and economics of livestock diseases research group to meet in conjunction with the AAVLD annual meeting
 - b. Plan to represent the AAVLD at the ISVEE meeting to be held in 2000 at Colorado.
3. Coordinate workshops and/or meetings that promote veterinary diagnostic efforts through epidemiology and economics. This would include but not be limited to the

AAVLD annual and regional meetings.

4. Provide a mechanism to assist in the sharing of resources and programs between state, federal, and private agencies and laboratories.

The mission statement and objectives will mature as the committee has appropriate time to assess and formulate the needs of the AAVLD.

It was recommended that next years program include an attempt to coordinate operations between state/federal regulatory agencies activities and the veterinary diagnostic laboratories.

FINANCIAL ADVISORY

Dr. Leon Thacker, Chair

There were 4 members and one guest, Dr. Harold Chute, present.

The Committee reviewed the assets of the Association, the Foundation and the Accreditation Committee as presented by Dr. Art Bickford. With consideration of the state of the stock market at this time, it was the opinion of the Committee that the funds owned had faired quite well and that it would be a mistake to move them at this time unless financial demands require it. Some assets are presently in Certificates of Deposit; it was recommended by the Committee that these funds be moved to Money Market Funds when the CD's mature as the rates are higher and the money is more readily available.

The Committee recognized that the accreditation fees of the Accreditation Committee may need to be reviewed in the future as the expense of site visits have increased and the fees have remained unchanged for many years.

INFORMATICS COMMITTEE

Jim Case, Chair

There were 26 members and guests present.

Introductions included the current status of laboratory information systems at respective institutions. Six laboratories reported that they are using one of the commercial veterinary LIMS, eight laboratories are using in-house developed systems, with five laboratories either currently moving to new systems or in the evaluation phase. Three laboratories are beginning or continuing to develop systems in-house.

Dr. Jim Case gave an update on activities associated with the development of health information standards. He mentioned activities in five standards organizations supported by the AVMA; SNOMED, LOINC, HL7, ASTM E31 and DICOM. Following reviews of the status of each of these standards, guidelines for submission of terminology to SNOMED and LOINC were provided. Dr. Case requested that anyone who was interested in becoming more involved in standards development contact him directly at

jcage@cvdls.ucdavis.edu. Since this was the first exposure many attending had had with health information standards, a question and answer period ensued. Substantial interest in contributing to the efforts on standards was expressed.

The development of Guidelines for Information Management in Diagnostic laboratories was reviewed. Dennis Downing presented a revised draft that included an outline of quality control for laboratory information systems and the first steps in the development of minimum data set for diagnostic laboratories. There was considerable discussion on the background of this document and its eventual purpose. There was also discussion on whether it was feasible to develop a minimum data set considering the current status of information handling in diagnostic laboratories. It was determined that at this time it is more appropriate for the committee to concentrate on finalizing the recommendation to the accreditation committee for including information management in their accreditation review. If these guidelines are adopted, then the future development of more sophisticated standards could be considered. The committee will continue review of the working document and develop a formal recommendation for consideration by the accreditation committee over the next year.

Standards for the exchange of images via listserv distribution lists was discussed. A suggestion was made by Dr. John Andrews that a new discussion list specifically for the exchange of images be developed. The background for this suggestion was concerns expressed by some people on the AAVLD-L list that images took too long to download, clogged mailboxes and overwhelmed email systems if not used judiciously. Interest in this type of list will be determined by polling current members of the AAVLD-L discussion list. If there is sufficient interest, a new list will be developed.

LABORATORY DIRECTORS

Leon Thacker, Chair

There were 42 members and guests present.

Members and guests in attendance introduced themselves.

Dr. Bill Wagner, National Program Leader- Veterinary Medicine, of the USDA, CSREES gave a presentation of the desirable interactions of USDA and Diagnostic Laboratories. His presentation included recognition of precautions to be acknowledged in generating lists of diseases and conditions recognized and diagnosed in laboratories in various states. Following a period of meaningful and pertinent discussion, it was agreed that communication and trust between the USDA and the various labs is necessary for disease surveillance and reporting and that this interaction is critical to the various animal industries.

Dr. Michael Blackwell, Deputy Director of the CVM of the FDA and Assistant U.S. Surgeon General addressed the group and requested assistance of the AAVLD laboratories in surveillance of issues related to food safety. The accessions and results of the laboratories can be of immense

assistance to the Public Health Service in the early identification of drug resistance and drug resistance trends found in animal populations. It was agreed by the meeting attendees that some of the information regarding antimicrobial resistance could be provided. Some problems regarding anonymity of results were also discussed.

Dr. Larry Thompson of the Cornell Diagnostic Laboratory gave a presentation of a federal proposal regarding restriction and reclassification of biological samples to be shipped via public carrier. As the proposal as presently written is judged to be a deterrent to the day to day receipt and sending of samples in diagnostic laboratories, a subcommittee of Drs. Konrad Eugster and John Andrews volunteered to write a resolution to be sent from the AAVLD Laboratory Directors to the Federal Register with copies to be distributed to the USAHA and the AVMA.

Dr. Barbara Powers gave a report of recent activities of a regional laboratory in Denver, Colorado that has expanded to offer expanded testing capabilities at reduced cost to producers and veterinarians in states well beyond Colorado. The laboratory has both state and federal funding assistance. The activities of the laboratory were discussed among the group, beyond recognition of its existence and activities, no action was suggested or taken at this time.

Drs. Beverly Byrum and Barbara Powers volunteered to serve as contacts for this group on issues of surveillance and disease reporting in concert and communication with USDA/APHIS. It was agreed that contact with the AAVLD committee on antibiotic sensitivity should be made with regard to issues of communication of the group with the CVM/FDA.

Chairmen of the Committee for 1999 will remain Drs. Leon Thacker and Alex Ardans.

LAB SAFETY/WASTE DISPOSAL

Larry Thompson, Chair

There were 31 members and guests present.

The Committee continues its meeting structure of information sharing among member laboratories on topic related to safety. The main discussion topic was OSHA inspection of member laboratories and several member laboratories reported inspections by OSHA, EPA and DOD during this past year.

Significant discussion time was allotted to the proper selection of gloves for use in the laboratory. Standard latex gloves, most commonly used by workers, may cause latex allergies or sensitivities, so non-latex alternatives will be required for these laboratory workers. In addition, latex gloves are not appropriate for use with many solvents or other chemicals in use in animal disease diagnostic laboratories. Nitrile gloves or other chemically-resistant gloves must be available and used when working with specific solvents and chemicals.

Committee discussion also centered around the use of mock inspections by OSHA, environmental health and safety, or industrial hygienists as an aid for member laboratories to assure compliance.

The committee also discussed at length the proposed DOT transport rules published in the Federal Register on September 2, 1998. The proposed rules include animal-to-animal diseases as well as zoonotic diseases. The main item of concern in the new regulations was the proposed designation of animal diagnostic specimens as "infectious substances" and therefore requiring upgraded (i.e. expensive) packaging as well as specific paperwork. The committee believes this rule, as proposed, would severely decrease the number of specimens sent in to animal disease diagnostic laboratories from veterinary practitioners and animal owners. Thus, surveillance for animal diseases would be severely limited. The committee strongly recommends a resolution be passed by AAVLD House of Delegates addressing these concerns. The Committee Chair will verbally forward these concerns to the Director's Committee and the Resolution Committee for action.

Waste Disposal

Discussion mainly centered on the recent US-EPA Industrial Combustion Coordinated Rulemaking (ICCR) activities. The ICCR was a new type of rulemaking in which EPA invited stakeholders to participate in a consensus based development of emission standards over a broad range of combustion sources, including pathological incinerators. The AAVLD/AVMA representative to the EPA was Dr. Larry Thompson of Cornell University. EPA estimates there are approximately 100 large (over 500 lbs/hour) pathological incinerators in the United States and a majority of these are located at animal disease diagnostic laboratories and veterinary colleges. Pathological waste incinerators were specifically exempted from the Hospital Medical Infectious Waste Incinerator regulations and thus will be included in the ICCR to be promulgated late in the year 2000. Because the ICCR process is behind schedule, EPA has allowed the ICCR charter to expire and will be continuing the rulemaking in the normal manner. At this point in time, EPA has received the recommendations of the Incinerator Work Group which is in the form of a Regulatory Alternatives Paper (RAP). Specific recommendations for pathological waste incinerators and crematories include the use of Good Combustion practices, documentation of operational practices, maintenance practices and operator training.

LONG RANGE PLANNING

Willie Reed, Chair

Fifteen members and guests were present.

The committee discussed the following agenda items:
How do we increase contributions to the AAVLD Foundation?
Overall the committee felt that a more coordinated approach to soliciting funds is necessary if the foundation is to become a viable entity. An effort should be made to seek

donations from estates/trusts that would otherwise be given to government in taxes. Also, it is necessary that a formal process be developed for obtaining advertisers, patrons and exhibitors to support the journal and annual scientific meeting. To accomplish these objectives, the Long Range Planning Committee recommends that the Executive Committee appoint an ad hoc committee that is diverse in composition, in terms of length of service to AAVLD, for the purpose of developing a strategic approach for gaining contributions to the AAVLD Foundation and sponsorship for the organization's journal and annual scientific meeting. Part of the strategy should include developing a prospectus that defined the market which AAVLD represents.

Membership: dues structure, new members, etc.

Recruitment of new members, retention of current members, and provisions for meeting the needs of its members are critical to the success and longevity of any organization. Associations and organizations with large memberships generally have more clout and are able to accomplish their goals more easily than those with less members. It was felt that the Membership Committee could benefit from clearer directives from the Executive Committee, who should establish membership goals and address the impact of increased membership and administrative costs to the AAVLD. As an organization with over 1,000 members, it is necessary that efforts be made to enhance the visibility, clout and role of the AAVLD in critical veterinary issues of national importance. One way is by establishing closer ties with the AVMA and perhaps the Livestock Conservation Institute (LCI). Therefore, the Long Range Planning Committee recommends that the Executive Committee pursue membership in the AVMA House of Delegates.

Is there a need for the AAVLD to have a lobbyist?

The committee felt that there are potential benefits to the AAVLD having a lobbyist. However, there might be some restrictions on the amount of funds that can be used for this purpose. The Long Range Planning Committee recommends that the Executive Committee explore this issue further. It was suggested that, since the AAVLD is already an institutional member of LCI, we may be able to use that channel for some of our lobbying efforts.

Are scientific programs necessary for laboratory technicians?

The Program Committee should explore adding sessions, workshops, etc., that target bench technicians. Technician program could run Saturday and Sunday, to hold costs down and minimize the need for technicians to be absent from work during the week. Bench technicians represent a huge and untapped pool of potential members.

Private laboratories: relationship with AAVLD membership, accreditation, and QA/QC.

The committee felt that there needs to be ongoing discussion relative to the interaction of private laboratories with the AAVLD but does not wish to put forth any recommendations on this issue at this time.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Jim Evermann and Bruce Akey, Co-chairs

Eight members and guests were present.

Dr. Pearson reported on recruitment of new members from the International diagnostic community and recommended that AAVLD have its display at the Annual meeting of the American College of Vet Pathologists, the Livestock Conservation Institute and the World Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians.

Dr. Thacker reported on future directions of AAVLD. He presented several areas that he considered priorities in the organization; they were as follows:

-Continued use of labs for surveillance of disease.



Dr. Jim Evermann

- Identification of disease problems in need of investigation.
- Availability of necropsy surveillance.
- Availability of high tech testing at relatively low cost.
- Availability of self help and accreditation programs.
- Support for QC/QA programs.

Dr. Blanchard reported on past activities of the membership committee and indicated that there were several items that were brought up in 1997 and to consider for future action. These included a letter from AAVLD to new members, inviting them to participate in the AAVLD committees (Jim Evermann to contact Art Bickford), the inclusion of the membership application form in one issue of the Journal of Veterinary Diagnostic Investigation (J. Evermann to contact John Kreeger) and the development of a smaller poster of the AAVLD display for use at both national and international meetings (J. Evermann to contact Jim England).

Dr. P. Carmichael requested a demographic profile of current AAVLD membership to better understand the groups that are supporting AAVLD and those groups to be targeted for increased membership (J. Evermann to contact Emily Sanson).

The committee discussed the availability of continuing education for technical staff working at diagnostic laboratories at regional and national AAVLD meetings.

Recommendations:

The membership committee recommends that: In order to enhance visibility to prospective members, the AAVLD display be available for presentation at the annual meetings of the Amer. College of Vet Pathologists, the LCI and the World Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians meeting at Texas A&M in June, 1999.



Dr. Bruce Akey

The AAVLD Foundation explore the possibilities of offering several travel stipends to technical staff to attend the national meeting and expand their technical capabilities and also serve as a source of increased morale.

MYCOTOXIN

George Rottinghaus, Chair

There were 35 members and guests in attendance.

A number of names were deleted from the Mycotoxin Committee last year and George Rottinghaus asked if anyone present was interested in being on the Committee. Four individuals were added: Chris Ashworth, Dirk Holstege, Ramesh Gupta, and Mark Walter. A current membership list will be in the directory.

Frank Ross discussed the National Animal Health Monitoring Systems (NAHMS) semi-nationwide mycotoxin survey on preharvest corn. Samples were collected by the National Agricultural Statistics Service. The survey was suspended for 1997 and 1998 because of lack of funding and future surveys will be contingent upon APHIS/USDA/NAHMS and other partners providing funding. In 1998, feed samples for equine consumption from 28 states are being screened for fumonisin. Five hundred samples have been processed and another 500 are being examined. The results of the survey will be released as a one or two page fact sheet.

Frank Ross also discussed the Neogen fumonisin test kit, which is in the final stages of review. Its approval by the International AOAC is anticipated. If anyone needs information on the study, they can contact Larry Rice or Frank Ross at NVSL.

Dr. Larry Thompson updated the committee on the CDC registration fee (\$15,000/year) for Transfer of Select Agents. This fee could impact the purchase of several mycotoxins in the future. The committee was looking at exempt status for quality control programs in state and veterinary diagnostic laboratories. CDC is committed to following through with the registration policy but they are not pursuing its policing at this time. Mycotoxin analytical standards are still readily available from Sigma and other companies without having to pay the registration fee.

Dr. John Honstead thanked several of the Mycotoxin Committee for their assistance with a large poultry problem in the Northeast US that looked like it might involve mycotoxin contamination. The problem was traced to a nutritional deficiency of salt in the rations. Dr. Honstead also updated the committee on the NCTR fumonisin study. The results of the study will be released in March, 1999. Preliminary results suggest that fumonisin is a carcinogen, however, they are required to do a routine pathology re-look before releasing the results of the study. Dr. Honstead reported that there would be a Fumonisin Conference in April or May of 1999 to discuss implications of this study. The Center for Veterinary Medicine will be asking the Mycotoxin Committee for their recommendations. For more information contact Dr. Randy Lovell at (301)

827-1076.

Several states reported high levels of mycotoxin contamination in the 1998 grain harvest. Dr. Catherine Barr reported that Texas had a major drought for three months this summer. The corn harvest was heavily contaminated with aflatoxin with levels up to 1,400 ppb. Several dairies had violative levels of aflatoxin M₁ in the milk. A temporary permit to blend contaminated corn was approved for one year in Texas.

Dr. Casper reported that vomitoxin was a problem again in North Dakota and surrounding states. Indiana also reported vomitoxin was present in half of the samples tested but at levels below 4 ppm. Most states had not tested many samples from the 1998 harvest or had not found a problem this year. North Carolina suspected that fumonisin would be a problem in their area this year.

Dr. Honstead asked if there was a mechanism to supply CVM with the results of state surveys or diagnostic submissions for mycotoxins by December. He felt the information would be valuable to CVM. Dr. Casper pointed out that many diagnostic submissions are research samples or lack adequate information on where they were collected and would be of little value to CVM. Following some discussion, it was suggested that information could be E-Mailed to Dr. Honstead at CVM.

PATHOLOGY

David Steffen, Chair

The committee met at 6:00 pm, October 5, 1998 following the Monday pathology scientific session. This conflicted with the beginning of the reception.

The 1999 Histopathology slide conference co-chairs are: Gayman Helman and Pamella Parnell

All sessions and the slide conference stayed on schedule and went exceptionally well. Approximately 115 members were in attendance at various times during the slide conference. The slide conference ran from 6:30-9:00pm and 22 cases were presented. The abstracts are available at the Michigan State diagnostic laboratory home page. Microscope use in the exhibit hall was minimal. The microscope was discussed and will be better advertised and made available for a longer period next year. Availability will be reassessed after next years meeting. Conference slides will be made available on Saturday and Sunday and the scope will be available for those wanting to share a case with a colleague.

Dr. Zeman stated and others agreed that the full day of pathology made for a much better educational program. The committee wishes to thank all those submitting conference cases and abstracts which made that possible. The committee was very pleased to hear that JVDI will be bimonthly, acknowledging the efforts initiated by Dr. Harrison and completed by Dr. Kreeger.

The committee structure was discussed briefly and all in

attendance at the committee meeting are considered members. The function of the committee was discussed due to inquiries throughout the year regarding the role of members. The committee functions include: Providing a conduit for input from pathologists to other committees of the AAVLD including the executive committee, accreditation committee, program committee, publication committee, Histopathology conference co-chairs and others. Pathologists in good standing with the AAVLD are encouraged to contact the committee chair if they have any issues they would like to have addressed by this committee or added to the agenda at next years meeting.

The committee **requests that a representative of the Accreditation committee**, deliver a QA/QC report at the 1999 AAVLD meeting in San Diego. Feedback regarding the accreditation process and the new QA/QC requirements is sought. Experience from site visits might provide insight and open dialog which could improve QA/QC in other labs. The committee also **requested the conflict with the reception be diminished** by ending the afternoon session 15-30 minutes earlier. Holding the meeting following the scientific session works well in other respects.

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

Gavin Meerdink, Chair

Nine members and guests were present at the meeting.

The discussion concentrated on the AAVLD Website and how our association would organize, secure and use this mechanism. The committee will include the Editors for JVDI, Newsletter, Manuscripts and the Website; and at least 3 members at large.

Website

An editor for the AAVLD Website will be appointed and become a member of the Publications committee. A webmaster will also be maintained to make directed changes. These may or may not be at the same location.

A change in the page format of the AAVLD Website was approved which organizes the information under the following headings: Mission Statement, Purpose, Membership Application, Association, Members, Publications, Services, Scheduled events, Foundation, and Program Schedule. These headings can be changed and added or subtracted as needed. An icon or some other type of device will be used to draw attention to "How to become a member of AAVLD."

Security, what: The primary purpose for the Website is for convenient exchange of information to members of the AAVLD. Secondly, the web is a method to acquaint the web searching world with AAVLD. Therefore, unless otherwise decided, all items on the Website will be secured. Items for public consumption include: Mission Statement and Purpose, Constitution, Bylaws, Accredited Laboratories, Officers, Committees, Past Officers and Pope Award Recipients, Honorary & Lifetime Members, Membership and

Future Meeting Dates and Programs.

Information regarding JVDI, Newsletter and manuscripts on the public web will describe the publications and state subscription mechanisms. Public access information will also include membership application, meeting registration forms and exhibitor applications.



Dr. Gavin Meerdink

Security, how: When the user clicks on a secured item, a prompt will arise for an ID and password. A password could be 1) self assigned by the user (like a PIN no. such as used in ATM's), 2) an individual password assigned by the association or, 3) a generic ID and password assigned for all members. The committee decided on simplicity. A generic ID and password will be announced to the members via a number of avenues. Items can be toggled from secure to public or vice versa easily.

Newsletters from AAVLD Accredited Laboratories: It was pointed out that links have already been established to laboratories under "Laboratories Accredited by AAVLD." Newsletters for these individual laboratories would be available on their website. Some highlighting of their presence may be in order.

Journal of Veterinary Diagnostic Investigation

The Website will list the editorial board for JVDI, how to subscribe and, perhaps, the current Table of Contents. JVDI Status Page For Authors: Dr. Kreeger has requests from authors regarding the status of their manuscripts. The decision was made to develop a link from a secured Website under "Journal of Veterinary Diagnostic Investigation" to Dr. Kreeger's computer which would contain the spread sheet of manuscript status listed by number (with no other identifiers) for access by the authors. This will be developed under Dr. Kreeger's direction and discretion. This site may be opened at a later time to the public to allow non-member authors access.

AAVLD Newsletter

The Newsletter will be placed in PDF format on the secured Website and can be read using Adobe Acrobat file reader software.

AAVLD Monographs and Special Publications

Monographs approved for publication will be available from a secured site under "Publications." The committee voted the following in the affirmative: Monographs and special publications must be sponsored by a committee that will serve as the review board. Final approval regarding format will be made by the Publication committee.

SEROLOGY

Sharon Hietala, Chair

98 members and guests were in attendance.

Updates:

1. Five commercial companies, VMRD, Synbiotics, KPL, Idexx, and Diachemix, provided product, service, and new technology updates.
2. National Veterinary Services Laboratory staff provided updates on staffing changes in the diagnostic bacteriology, diagnostic virology, and FADDL labs, national checktest results for 1997/1998, development of a milk screening test for brucellosis in goats, resolution of a *Brucella* ring test antigen performance problem, and update on the vesicular stomatitis activity in 1998. They announced the availability of a direct ELISA protocol and antigen for *Brucella canis* (sensitivity 98%, specificity 93%) by January 1999, and availability of 27 PRRS isolates for research purposes at \$20.00/isolate by March 1999 (notify NVSL by Jan. 1999, if interested).
3. Dr. Peter Timoney gave informative presentations highlighting the international significance of testing standards for equine arteritis virus and contagious equine metritis.
4. Max Brugh provided an update on approval of avian influenza ELISA (screening test) and AGID (confirmatory test) for voluntary disease surveillance in the National Poultry Improvement Plan.
5. Sandy Rogers gave a short presentations on important components in establishing a routine QA/QC program.

Old committee business:

1. The reference list of "serologic tests performed in fewer than 5 labs" was updated in 1998, and is currently accessible on the Oklahoma State U. web site. Email or hard copies of the list continue to be available by request.
2. Two commercial products were favorably reviewed by the committee in 1998, Synbiotics Equine infectious anemia and Idexx Equine infectious anemia ELISA kits.

New committee business:

1. In response to discussion of cattle export testing for IBR, the committee was asked to address issues of standardization of protocols provided by OIE and NVSL. The issue was forwarded to NVSL and OIE representatives.
2. A sub-committee of the serology committee is being formed for 1999 to address the issue of minimum QA/QC standards for serology testing in AAVLD accredited labs. The committee will start its activities following the release of the OIE/FAO recommendations on veterinary diagnostic lab accreditation and QA/QC standards, so as to not duplicate work of other committees or groups.

VIROLOGY

Edward Dubovi, Chair

The meeting was devoted to reports dealing with various aspects of porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome virus (PRRSV). At last year's meeting, a working group was established to examine all aspects of PRRSV diagnostics. The efforts of the working group were reported along with some additional information regarding PRRSV.

Dr. Bill Mengeling gave a brief review of clinical signs of PRRSV. He indicated that newer strains of PRRSV induced a more severe respiratory lesion than the older type strains. There is also some indication that the newer strains were more pathogenic with regard to reproductive problems.

For virus identification Dr. Mengeling felt that virus isolation was still a reliable test provided that the appropriate samples reached the laboratory. Samples early in infection are sera while later in infection, lung lavage fluids were useful for virus isolation as well as direct fluorescent antibody staining of recovered cells.

NVSL has instituted PCR testing for virus detection but also for obtaining samples for direct nucleotide sequencing and for restriction enzyme mapping (RFLP). Nested PCR was much more sensitive than non-nested tests. These techniques are useful for molecular epidemiology and strain characterization. With RFLP testing, field isolates can be more easily distinguished from current vaccines.

Dr. Gene Erickson followed with a report on the progress of the working group examining serology testing. Three tests are currently in use. The indirect fluorescent antibody test (IFA) was evaluated with three different viruses. Sera from experimentally infected animals both acute and long term as well as field sera from Canada and the U.S. were evaluated. Minor variation was seen with virus strain. While the interpretation of antibody titer may be problematic, the test performed well with respect to classifying animals as either antibody positive or negative.

The serum neutralization test presents some difficulty in that SN titers from infected animals are relatively low. Added to that problem are reports of test variation due to the strain of virus used in the tests. Efforts were directed toward developing a reference serum for use as a standard in all labs. These efforts are still in progress.

Much effort was made in investigating reported inconsistencies with the commercial ELISA test. At last year's meeting there was some indication that different serials of the kit were giving variable results. Testing under controlled conditions showed no variations with test kit serials. Factors were identified which caused lab to lab variations. Strict adherence to test protocols was essential along with certification of accuracy of laboratory instruments.

Dr. Mike Murtaugh gave an excellent presentation on genetic

variation of PRRSV. There are clear sequence differences between the North American (NA) isolates and a prototype European isolate. The NA isolates belong to one family with reported differences in pathogenicity, plaque morphology, antigenicity and nucleotide sequence. Nucleotide variation is not uniform across the genome with greatest diversity in the envelope surface protein gene coded by ORF 5. Genetic diversity will always exist because of the error-prone RNA synthesis system. Recombination between two strains of PRRSV was documented further increasing chances of diversity. RFLP mapping was shown to be a useful tool in analyzing isolates.

Dr. Vivek Kapur gave a presentation on the development of a PCR test for PRRSV using the commercial TAQMAN

system. This test takes advantage of the 5' nuclease activity of TAQ polymerase. This combined with special probes linked to fluorescent dyes permits a rapid and sensitive system for analyzing PCR products. This type of test moves PCR testing closer to the goal of having a rapid sensitive and less expensive PRRSV test.

Dr. Benfield was not available to deliver his report due to transportation problems.

The final item on the agenda was the discussion of dividing the Virology Committee into working groups roughly along species lines. This will be pursued by the chairman through email communication with the committee.

Upcoming Meetings

Western Veterinary Conference, February 14-18, 1999, Las Vegas, Nevada.

Western Poultry Disease Conference, April 25-27, 1999, Landmark Hotel in Vancouver, Canada

Northeastern Regional USAHA and AAVLD meeting will be held on April 27-28, 1999 in Cape May, NJ.

Southeastern Veterinary Pathology Conference meeting will be held in Tifton, GA on May 16-17, 1999. Deadline for submission of cases is March 31, 1999. Submit cases to Dr. Neil Allison, Kord Animal Disease Laboratory, Tennessee Department of Agriculture, Melrose Station, PO Box 40627, Nashville, TN 37204.

IX International Symposium of the World Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians is being held June 2-5, 1999 at Texas A&M University in College Station, Texas. See web page: www.tvmdl.tamu.edu for further information such as submission of abstracts, registration, hotel reservation, etc. **Submission of abstracts deadline is March 1, 1999** to Dr. Catherine Barr, Program Chair (acbarr@tvmdl.tamu.edu, ph: 409-845-3414). Pre-registration deadline is March 1, 1999.

1999 Annual AAVLD and USAHA meeting will be held October 7-14 in San Diego, CA at the Town and Country Hotel.

Special Committees



Poster Session



Networking



STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES (SOPs)

In the previous edition of Quality Corner, I suggested you conduct an in-depth process review in your laboratory to assess: qualified and trained personnel, adequate facilities, maintained and calibrated equipment, exactly “how” assays and procedures are currently being performed, sample handling and documentation, documentation and reporting of work done and data observed/reported, and independent QA/QC system. With your lab review complete, and any indicated improvements already addressed, you are ready to write (or update) your standard operating procedures.

SOP Philosophy:

1. The intent of SOPs is multifaceted, and includes: standardizing procedures and processes, promoting good science, and ensuring high quality data for your customers.
2. “Write what you do and do what you write!”

SOPs should document the lab’s current accepted practices, not “wouldn’t it be nice if we did this....”
An SOP defines a circumscribed set of procedures and is neither too long nor too short.
An SOP provides a step-by-step set of directions that are clear and unequivocal (rather than an oral history passed on through generations of technicians!).
3. An SOP is a dynamic, “living” document and therefore subject to change.

Review it on a regular basis (e.g., annually); modify it if practices or procedures have changed significantly.

It is O.K. to deviate from a current SOP if there are valid scientific reasons to do so in a particular instance. Just be sure to document the deviation adequately so that it is clear what was done and why. (It would be a good idea to keep a copy of the documented deviation with the data in your files).
4. Have SOPs for everything affecting your work, including (but not limited to): assay validation procedures, chain of custody of samples, assay procedures, personnel training, sample tracking, media preparation, equipment, documentation procedures, etc., etc.
5. SOPs definitely should be written by, or in conjunction with, the person doing the operation.
6. The documents must be reviewed and approved by supervisor/management, and (hopefully) the QA manager or committee.
7. Each workstation should have a notebook with SOPs pertinent to the equipment and procedures associated with that area. This is so the person working at that station will have easy access to the SOPs, and thus will tend to refer to it if needed, rather than trusting their memory.
8. Document control and an SOP historical file are very important. It is best if one individual keeps track of all SOPs. Duties of this “SOP Keeper” (for example, the QA coordinator) include:

Keeping an original copy of each SOP (and of all revisions) in an SOP historical file. This is important so that in the future it can be determined which procedures were in place at the time a particular sample was run (for example).

Keeping track of SOP distribution (who has a bench copy of each SOP). Each bench copy should be stamped “DO NOT COPY” in a colored ink. Only the “keeper” of the SOPs is allowed to distribute bench copies - photocopies are not to be made and distributed by anyone else! In this way, you are assured that the copy you are using is current.

When an SOP is revised, the “keeper” will collect all old (stamped) versions, and distribute new ones (which will have a more current date).

SOP Format:

The exact format of SOPs may vary from lab to lab, but certain categories of information are important to include (unique number and title, approval signatures, purpose, application/scope, references, associated SOPs, procedure). Start with an SOP on writing SOPs (see example on web site www.aavld.org). Briefly:

- A. Each SOP needs a unique identifying number appearing on each page (most often in the top right corner). In developing a system of numbering the SOPs, you may wish to categorize by lab sections (pathology, virology, bacteriology, etc.) for section-specific items, and have a separate section for more generic topics such as equipment, specimen handling, data reporting, etc.
- B. SOPs may be written in a general manner and then be supplemented with more specific appendices or additional SOPs. For example, a diagnostic lab can have one SOP for refrigerators, stating general care and use, with an appendix for each particular brand (which could include the manufacturer’s manual or reference to where the manuals are kept).

Examples of SOPs for equipment, reagents, procedures (assays), and even for writing SOPs, will be posted on the AAVLD web site (www.aavld.org) as format/content suggestions. Hopefully you will see how straight forward they are. _____

NEXT COLUMN: Developing worksheets from your SOPs for improved efficiency and documentation. These provide proof of your good work and an excellent paper trail - you never know when you may need it!

DO NOT COPY

Your Vet Diagnostic Laboratory
 Address
 City, State, Zip
 Cute logo, if you have one

SOP No. : _____
 Page: _____ of _____
 Date initiated: _____
 Date revised: _____

WRITING STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES

Computer file location: _____

Prepared by: _____ Date: _____

Approved by: _____ Date: _____

QA Concurrence: _____ Date: _____

1.0 PURPOSE

The purpose of this procedure is to describe the writing of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) in [name] Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory. Each SOP should have a common format and numbering system. This procedure describes the content and organization of the SOPs, their review and approval, distribution, revision, and storage.

2.0 APPLICATION/SCOPE

This procedure applies to all laboratory activities. Methods, practices and quality control policies as performed at [name] Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory should all be documented in the form of an SOP.

3.0 REFERENCES

[Name] lab QA Manual, [21CFR Part 58, etc., other refs used]

4.0 ASSOCIATED SOPs

None

5.0 PROCEDURE

5.1 All SOPs should contain the following sections:

5.1.1 Purpose - to describe the reason for writing the SOP.

5.1.2 Application/Scope - to describe what laboratory activity, samples or project the SOP pertains to.

- 5.1.3 References - any document used to write the SOP (i.e., instrument manuals, published methods, and/or [name] SOPs).
- 5.1.4 Associated SOPs - other [name] SOPs which are directly related to the SOP being written.
- 5.1.5 Procedure - a step-by-step description of the activity itself. This section should also contain reagents, calibrations, calculations used.
- 5.1.6 Quality Control - when applicable, all samples and frequency of sampling are discussed.

5.2 Each SOP shall be assigned a unique number. [describe the numbering system in your lab].

5.3 Each SOP cover page contains a heading block with the lab name/logo, document control header (described in 5.4), title of SOP, computer file location, signature/date lines for author, person approving, QA concurrence.

5.4 The top right corner of each page of an SOP shall contain the following information:

SOP No. :
Page: _____ of _____
Date Initiated:
Date Revised:

5.4.1 The top of each page should also be stamped (preferably in bright color) "Do Not Copy", to aid in proper document control.

5.5 All SOPs must undergo the following development and review process. [detail process in your lab]. Each reviewer is responsible for ensuring that the procedure is adequate and accurate based on his/her area of expertise. Subsequent revisions of all SOPs must undergo the same review process.

5.6 The QA coordinator [or whoever you appoint] is responsible for issuing approved SOPs.

5.7 The Section Heads [or lab group supervisors, or whoever you decide] are responsible for maintaining only current copies of applicable procedures in their respective areas. They must review all SOPs annually. [develop document control form, which will indicate reviews and actions]

5.7.1 Each work area (lab bench or work station) shall have a notebook with pertinent SOPs for work performed at that area, ensuring accessibility and encouraging use of SOPs.

5.8 The original SOP, and the original of any revised SOPs will be maintained in a file by the QA coordinator [or whoever you name].

5.8.1 When an SOP is revised or terminated, the original (or active revision) will be placed in the SOP Historical File by the QA coordinator.

5.8.1.1 All additional old copies of the revised/terminated SOP shall be destroyed.

5.8.2 When an SOP is terminated, its number is to be permanently retired. "TERMINATED" will be stamped/written on the SOP title in the SOP index.

5.9 An SOP Development/Review Summary form will be helpful to capture all necessary information about each SOP.

AAVLD FOUNDATION

Bob Crandell and Harvey Gosser, co-chairs

Four members were present.

1. The minutes of the last meeting were approved as published.
2. The Foundation had \$14,641.47 in checking account as of August 31, 1998 and \$40,128.14 in a money market account as of September 25, 1998 thus giving total assets of \$54,769.61.
3. A copy of the revised brochure was critiqued. The group decided not to include pictures and to make it the same color as the cover of the Journal of Veterinary Laboratory Investigation. Minor changes were made in the wording.
4. Possible projects were considered to promote the Foundation. Guest lectures, preceptor programs, and achievement awards were discussed but no decisions were made.
5. The committee **recommends** an increase in the number of committee members and more frequent meetings. It is very difficult to conduct the activities of the Foundation by meeting only once a year and more would be accomplished by having working subcommittees.
6. Also **recommends** that the goals of the Foundation, contributors and winners of graduate student awards and a donation form be made available on the AAVLD Web site.
7. Committee decided to continue listing names of new contributors in the Newsletter and to add a list of accumulative donors.
8. Student awards of \$250 each for the best paper and best poster presented at this meeting were approved. A bonus of \$100 was approved for Beth Krumm in appreciation for her help.
9. The members **recommended** Dr. Gavin Meerdink as the new Chairman.

The aims of the Foundation are to support the following activities:

- Education-Scholarship programs and advanced training in diagnostic medicine.
- Research Programs in Diagnostic Medicine
- Guest Lectures
- Seminars
- Awards

AAVLD Foundation

PO Box 1522

Turlock, CA 95381

Please accept this donation of \$ _____ as an expression of support in promoting Veterinary Diagnostic Medicine.

Please send me additional information on charitable gift or deferred gift annuity.

Please direct this gift to the following area:

Unrestricted use: _____ Designated Giving: _____

This gift is in honor of _____

Your name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone Number _____



At the 41st Annual meeting of the AAVLD held in Minneapolis, Minnesota, the AAVLD Foundation sponsored the graduate student awards for best presentation. Dr. Elizabeth Wagstrom (left) of Iowa State University was the recipient for her presentation entitled, "Diagnostic Performance of an RT-PCR Test for the Detection of PRRS Virus in Serum." Her award is presented by Dr. Gary Osweiler (far left) and she is accompanied by her advisor, Dr. Jeff Zimmerman (right).

1999 Committee Chairs

AAVLD is an organization run by the enthusiastic volunteerism of its members. We particularly want to thank the outgoing committee chairs for their efforts and successes in leading their groups throughout the past years. Our outgoing chairs include Spencer Jang (anaerobic infections), Richard Walker (bacteriology steering comm), Greg Stevenson (enteric diseases), Gary Watson (histopathology slide conference), Jim Case (Informatics), Harvey Rubin (Constitution and Bylaws) and Harvey Gosser and Bob Crandell (Foundation). We also welcome the new and continuing chairs and appreciate their willingness to coordinate and lead the efforts of their respective committees. The minutes of the committee meetings are published in this newsletter. We encourage all members with an interest in a committee to contact the chair for more information on the ongoing activities this year.

AAVLD committee

Standing committees:

Accreditation
JVDI editor
Membership

Newsletter
Publications
Program

Special committees:

AAVLD/USDA Emergency disease
Administrative Management Personnel
Analytical Toxicology advisory
Animal Disease Reporting

Aquaculture

Constitution and Bylaws
Bacteriology steering comm

subcte Anaerobic techniques
subcte Antimicrobial susceptibility

subcte Bacteriology/mycology and mycoplasma

subcte Mycobacteriology

Bluetongue
Enteric diseases
Epidemiology and Economics of Animal Diseases

Financial advisory
Foundation

Informatics
Laboratory Directors

Lab Safety/Waste disposal
Long range planning
Mycotoxins
Pathology

1999 chair (*= new) E mail

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NVSL Disease Updates

Influenza Virus H3N2 Infection in Swine in North Carolina

The Diagnostic Virology Laboratory (DVL) identified an influenza virus subtype H3N2 from a swine breeding herd in eastern North Carolina. Affected sows had typical influenza-like disease and abortion. Mortality in affected sows was approximately 10%. Fifteen to twenty percent of the 2,400 sows in the farm had been vaccinated with swine influenza virus (SIV) vaccine (H1N1 subtype) before the abortion storm. The virus was isolated at the Rollins Diagnostic Laboratory, Raleigh, NC. The finding represents the first isolation of H3N2 virus from swine in the U.S. Infections with H3N2 virus have been reported in swine from Europe and Canada. Molecular and pathogenicity studies on the origin and characteristics of the virus are in progress.

Dennis Senne, Diagnostic Virology Laboratory, NVSL

Goose/Duck Parvovirus

In June 1998, antibodies to goose/duck parvovirus, a pathogen not known to occur in the United States, were detected in Muscovy ducks in Pennsylvania. The ducks were showing clinical signs consistent with the disease which include stunting, leg weakness, ascites, and high mortality. Antibodies were detected by indirect fluorescent antibody test with reagents to goose parvovirus (Derzsy's disease). To date, five premises in Pennsylvania have been diagnosed with the disease as shown by clinical signs and presence of antibodies. Several owners in Pennsylvania had purchased ducklings from a source in California. The California Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory System (CVDLS), Fresno, California, recently isolated a virus from clinically affected Muscovy ducks in California. The virus was characterized in France and was found to be closely related to the French isolate of Muscovy duck parvovirus which was isolated in 1989. As expected, serologic tests on the affected California flock by indirect fluorescent antibody (IFA) showed presence of parvoviral antibodies.

Dennis Senne, Diagnostic Virology Laboratory, NVSL

Tuberculosis in Elephants

Mycobacterium tuberculosis, the organism that causes human tuberculosis, was found in elephants. The NVSL helped develop a plan to evaluate the prevalence of the organism in elephants. Trunk washes from all the elephants in the United States were submitted to the NVSL and tested for *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*. Animals that were found to be infected with the organism were quarantined and treated with antibiotics. Annual retesting of the elephants is continuing.

Janet Payeur, Diagnostic Bacteriology Laboratory, NVSL

POSITION ANNOUNCEMENTS

Veterinary Toxicologist/Chemist

The College of Veterinary Medicine, The University of Georgia, invites applications for a tenure track position at the rank of assistant professor at the Veterinary Diagnostic and Investigational Laboratory in Tifton, Georgia. Candidates must have a PhD in toxicology/chemistry or a DVM degree plus advanced training. Preference will be given to individuals with both DVM and PhD degrees, and to individuals with board certification. Additional requirements include a commitment to academic veterinary toxicology and evidence of developing research strength. Responsibilities include those of section chief of the toxicology laboratory, participation in diagnostic service and development of an independent or collaborative research program. Laboratory facilities are excellent as a result of recently completed building additions and renovations. **Application deadline is Tuesday, January 12, 1999.** Salary is competitive and negotiable, based on experience and qualifications. Starting date is negotiable. Send letter of application, curriculum vitae and names of 4 references to Dr. Louis E. Newman, Director, Veterinary Diagnostic and Investigational Laboratory, College of Veterinary Medicine, The University of Georgia, P.O. Box 1389, Tifton, GA 31793; phone 912-386-3340.

Diagnostic Immunologist

The College of Veterinary Medicine at Iowa State University invites applications for a full-time tenure track faculty position in Diagnostic Microbiology at the assistant professor rank. The appointment will be in the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory within the Department of Veterinary Diagnostic and Production Animal Medicine. The primary emphasis is on professional service with a secondary focus on research related to diagnostic medicine. Professional service activities will include supervision of technical personnel conducting virology/serology diagnostic casework; development, validation, and implementation of new diagnostic assays; quality control/quality assurance of diagnostic and research activities within the virology/serology sections of the laboratory; and oral interpretation of laboratory results for clients. Good verbal and written communication skills will be necessary. The successful candidate will also be expected to become involved in multidisciplinary research and participate in training graduate students and residents at the College of Veterinary Medicine.

The Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory provides diagnostic disease detection, evaluation, and surveillance for approximately 43,000 cases annually. The serology section conducts approximately 800,000 assays annually.

Minimum qualifications for the position include a PhD degree in microbiology (virology, bacteriology, immunology). Preferred qualifications include the PhD and DVM or equivalent degree and board certification in a relevant discipline. Preference will be given to individuals with veterinary diagnostic laboratory experience. Salary will be commensurate with qualifications and experience. The proposed starting date is June 1, 1999. Please submit a letter of application including professional goals, curriculum vitae, and the names and addresses of three references to Dr. Jeff Zimmerman, Search Committee Chair, Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, College of Veterinary Medicine, Iowa State University, Ames IA 50011-1250; phone 515-294-1073; e-mail JJZIMM@iastate.edu. The **deadline for receipt of applications is March 1, 1999** or until the position is filled.

Adjunct Instructor (3/4 time) in Veterinary Diagnostic Microbiology

The Iowa State University Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, Department of Veterinary Diagnostic and Production Animal Medicine is offering post graduate training position in veterinary diagnostic microbiology beginning on or after March 1, 1999. This is a unique opportunity to obtain training, acquire experience, and conduct research in veterinary diagnostic microbiology in the context of a strong departmental effort in production animal medicine. The resident will acquire knowledge in essential diagnostic techniques and data interpretation and will interact with veterinary practitioners, pathologists, and other animal health specialists in the context of diagnostic medicine. In addition, the successful candidate will be expected to conduct research in microbiology (bacteriology, virology, immunology, epidemiology/informatics) applied to problems in veterinary diagnostic and production animal medicine. This position allows time for, and is expected to result, in the successful completion of an advanced degree (MS or PhD). Candidates must possess a DVM or equivalent degree and be eligible for licensure in the state or country where the degree was obtained. One or more years in veterinary practice with experience and interest in diagnostic medicine related to livestock is highly desirable. Applicants who possess the PhD degree will be expected to conduct postdoctoral research. Starting salary is \$22,000 - \$24,000 per year plus benefits, depending on qualifications and experience. Inquiries or applications (to include a letter stating career goals, research interests, and names and addresses of three professional references, plus a curriculum vita and college transcripts) should be addressed to Dr. Gary D. Osweiler, Director, Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, College of Veterinary Medicine, Iowa State University, Ames IA 50011-1250; phone 515-294-1950; e-mail OSWEILER@iastate.edu. The **deadline for receipt of applications is March 1, 1999** or until the position is filled.

Senior Resident in Veterinary Diagnostic Pathology

The Animal Diagnostic Laboratory, a member of the Pennsylvania Animal Diagnostic Laboratory System (PADLS), Veterinary Science Department, Pennsylvania State University, has an opening for an individual desiring to prepare for board certification by the American College of Veterinary Pathologists. This is a non-tenure track position with an annual appointment that is funded for a two-year period. Candidates should possess a DVM or equivalent degree and have completed formal training (residency or graduate program) in anatomical pathology. About 50% of the time will be devoted to a rotation, along with two board certified pathologists and an ACPV diplomate, of diagnosticians responsible for the mammalian and avian food animal/equine diagnostics case load. Remaining time may be devoted to preparation for board certification. Salary commensurate with qualifications and experience. Starting date is February 1, 1999, or as soon, thereafter, as possible. Applicants should send letter of application, curriculum vitae, and names of three references to: Dr. Tom Drake, Animal Diagnostic Laboratory, Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA 16802. Additional information may be obtained from Dr. Drake at the above address or by phone at 814-863-2007, FAX 814-865-3907, or e-mail trd2@psu.edu. **Application closing date is January 30, 1999** or until a suitable candidate is chosen.

Senior Research Analyst

The Oklahoma Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory is accepting applications for the position of Senior Research Analyst. The successful applicant will work closely with the virologist and bacteriologist to develop molecular diagnostic tests for a variety of infectious diseases. Other duties will include: setting up and coordinating the laboratory's quality assurance/quality control program, providing technical support in the serology laboratory with regard to troubleshooting of serologic procedures, and evaluation of new tests. Minimum qualifications are a master's degree in microbiology, immunology or biochemistry and 5-7 years of appropriate laboratory experience. Knowledge and/or experience in molecular biology and immunology techniques are required. This position is an Administrative/Professional job with a competitive salary. Please send a letter of application, a curriculum vitae and names of three references to: Dr. Jeremiah T. Saliki, Oklahoma Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, OK 74078-0622. For full consideration, applications should be **received by January 31, 1999**. For phone inquiries, call Dr. Saliki at (405) 744-6623.

Diagnostic Veterinary Pathologist

The Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory (ADDL) at Purdue University is seeking to employ a veterinary pathologist for a minimum period of 2 years. The successful candidate must have a DVM degree or equivalent and experience in mammalian necropsy. Preferable experience should include diagnoses of diseases in livestock and companion animals. This is a professional, non-tenure track, annually renewable position. The successful candidate should be eligible for certification by the American College of Veterinary Pathologists (ACVP) or a Diplomate of the ACVP and have excellent documented skills in written and oral communication. At least one year in veterinary medical practice is desirable. The responsibilities of the position include: performing gross and microscopic examinations on a variety of mammalian species; coordination of ancillary diagnostic testing, communication of results to animal producers and owners, and teaching diagnostic pathology to residents and veterinary students. Collaboration with other professional staff and faculty at ADDL and the Purdue School of Veterinary Medicine in publishing case material and participating in diagnostic investigations is also expected. To apply for this position, send a letter expressing career objectives, a curriculum vitae, and the names of three references to: Dr. M. R. White, Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory, 1175 ADDL, West Lafayette, IN 47907-1175. **This position will remain open until a suitable candidate is hired.**

Saturday Histopathology Slide Seminar

October 9, 1998, 6:30- 9:30 pm. San Diego, CA

Short, interesting, and educational cases presented in an informal setting. Presentations should be no more than 5 minutes in length. A copy of abstracts will be available at the seminar.

Please limit abstracts to no more than one single-spaced page in length. Presenters accepted are also requested to bring one representative histology slide of the disease/condition to the meeting for examination by participants.

DUE DATE for Abstracts: August 15, 1999

Submit abstracts to:

Dr. R. Gayman Helman
Oklahoma Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory
Oklahoma State University
Stillwater, OK 74078
Fax: 405-744-8612
Phone: 405-744-6623
E mail: ghelman@okstate.edu

or

Dr. Pam Parnell
Clemson Veterinary Diagnostic Center
PO Box 102406
Columbia, SC 29224-2406
Ph: 803-788-2260
Fax: 803-788-8058
Email: pprnll@clemson.edu

Please send your abstract via mail, FAX or as an E mail attachment to either chairperson. Format: MS Word 6.0 or WordPerfect 5.1(DOS), 6.0, c.1. If sending by mail, include hard copy and a 3.5" disk in one of indicated formats. Authors will be notified of presentations accepted by September 1, 1999. If there are multiple authors, please underline the individual who will be giving the presentation.

CALL FOR PAPERS

1999 AAVLD Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA

October 7-14, 1999

Papers and posters are being solicited on laboratory procedures, techniques, and research that apply to the activities of veterinary laboratory diagnosticians. Papers and posters dealing with all diagnostic laboratory disciplines and animal species are needed for a well balanced program. Investigative case reports are especially encouraged. Presentations at the meeting are limited to 15 minutes.

Deadline for Abstracts: May 1, 1999

Abstracts will be reviewed by the AAVLD Program Committee and the authors will be notified of the papers selected by June 1, 1999.

***Send the hard copy and disc with abstract in Word Perfect (WP7.0 or older).

For style and submission contact:

Dr. Bruce L. Akey
Virginia Dept. Agriculture and Consumer Svcs.
1100 Bank St., Suite 615
Richmond, VA 23219
(804) 786-9202
(804) 371-2380 FAX
bakey@vdacs.state.va.us

Publication of Proceedings:

Manuscripts are recommended for all papers and posters selected for presentation at the annual meeting. Those accepted by the editor after scientific peer review will be published as refereed journal articles in the Association's JOURNAL OF VETERINARY DIAGNOSTIC INVESTIGATION. Guidelines for format and style of manuscripts and posters will be provided to authors of papers or posters selected by the Program Committee. Authors are encouraged to submit their manuscripts to the editor for processing prior to the meeting if possible.

Graduate Student Awards:

A certificate and \$250 will be awarded to the resident/graduate student who contributes the best presentation at the annual meeting of the AAVLD.

A certificate and \$250 will be awarded to the resident/graduate student who contributes the best poster at the annual meeting of the AAVLD.

Note: Graduate student presentations must be indicated on the abstract to qualify. Please indicate in the cover letter if this is for an oral presentation, poster, or either.



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Turlock, CA 95381

1999 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians, Inc.
CVDLS, SVM, UC Davis, PO Box 1522, Turlock, CA 95381

The purpose of the American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians is the dissemination of information relating to the diagnosis of animal disease, the coordination of the diagnostic activities of regulatory, research and service laboratories, the establishment of uniform diagnostic techniques and the establishment of accepted guides for the improvement of diagnostic laboratory organizations relative to facilities, equipment and personnel qualifications.

Any laboratory worker engaged in the field or disease diagnosis in animals or in allied fields involving teaching, research, commercial or regulatory functions is eligible for membership and is invited to join.

- Full Member \$50.00 Annual Membership Dues
- Graduate Student/Resident/Retired Member \$25.00 Annual Membership Dues
- Associate Membership for clerical and lab technical staff \$25.00 Annual Membership Dues**

Dues include a subscription to the AAVLD Newsletter, a current AAVLD membership roster, and the Journal of Veterinary Diagnostic Investigation (**JVDI not included in Associate Membership).

Please remit in U.S. dollars. Members in Canada and outside the USA must remit by draft on a U.S. bank or by International Postal Money Order.

Please return the application below with your check or money order:

Name _____ Degrees _____

Institution/Lab _____

Business Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Country _____

Office phone _____ Fax no. _____ Email _____

- Interest: Bacteriology Immunology Virology Pathology Informatics
 Epidemiology Regulatory Toxicology Admin. Other _____

Payment by MC/Visa is accepted.
A processing fee of \$2.00 is added.

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