

November 2003



47th Annual AAVLD Meeting
at the
Sheraton Greensboro Hotel
Greensboro, North Carolina
October 21- 28, 2004

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2003 Executive Board

President.....	Willie Reed
President-Elect.....	Gary Osweiler
Vice President.....	Donal O'Toole
Immed. Past President....	Terry McElwain
Secretary/Treasurer.....	Alex Ardans
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South East.....	Ron Wilson
North Central.....	Neil Dyer
South Central.....	Melissa Libal
North West.....	Bill Layton
South West.....	Barbara Powers
Canada Provincial.....	Grant Maxie
Canada Federal, Ex-Officio.....	Bill Yates
Ex-Officio, NVSL.....	Randall Levings

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NEW WEB EDITOR - Bruce Janke(bhjanke@iastate.edu)

AAVLD Newsletter Editor: Pat Blanchard (pcblanchard@ucdavis.edu)

Secretary-Treasurers office support: Allison Reitz (areitz@cahfs.ucdavis.edu)

AAVLD PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I am deeply honored to have the opportunity to serve as AAVLD President. This is one of the highlights of my professional career. When I attended my first AAVLD meeting over 20 years ago, as a graduate student, I never thought that someday I would be in a position to lead such a great organization. Thank you for placing trust and confidence in me. I will do my very best.

As I look ahead to the coming year, the task of continuing to move our organization forward is daunting. Thanks to efforts of our previous Presidents and officers, and many dedicated members, the AALVD has gained unprecedented recognition as *the* national organization on matters pertaining to veterinary diagnostic medicine. Along with increased recognition and stature come additional responsibilities. Many have worked hard to see the AAVLD become a player on the national scene for setting standards and direction for diagnostic medicine in the U.S. We cannot lose momentum or retreat at this critical time. In our 46-year history, there has never been greater opportunity to strengthen and develop new partnerships with federal agencies and to develop new disease detection and surveillance systems to protect animal agriculture.

We must not forget the pillars upon which our organization was founded: (1) disseminating information relating to animal disease diagnosis; (2) coordinating diagnostic activities of regulatory, research, and service laboratories; (3) improving existing diagnostic techniques and developing new ones; (4) establishing new guidelines for improving laboratory personnel qualifications and facilities; and (5) serving as a consultant to the USAHA on uniform diagnostic criteria for regulatory and disease programs. Clearly, our goals for the coming year must be to (1) continue efforts to include all 50 states in the National Animal Health Laboratory Network, (2) continue to monitor and be involved in developments pertaining to the Laboratory Response Network and Food Emergency Response Network, and (3) continue to assist the Accreditation Committee to revise accreditation standards consistent with OIE/ISO17025. We must also continue to work with the NVSL, through the existing Memorandum of Understanding, on issues pertaining to test validation, development of approved methods, and disease reporting, and also continue to express to them that state veterinary diagnostic laboratories can and should play an important role in protecting our domestic and wildlife animal populations. No one person has brought our organization to its present stature, nor can one person accomplish these goals alone. I ask you to do all you can to assist me in achieving our objectives, on behalf of our many stakeholders.

We have just completed a very successful 46th annual meeting—one of the largest in AAVLD history. Thanks for the tremendous response from members and others to our call for speakers. During the conference, 118 oral and 43 poster presentations were given, and for the first time, we ran five concurrent scientific sessions. The first plenary session featured presentations on animal influenza viruses, monkeypox, West Nile virus, and SARS. The joint AAVLD/USAHA plenary session focused on chronic wasting disease, exotic Newcastle disease, and establishment of new partnerships with federal agencies such as the Department of Homeland Security. My sincere thanks go to everyone who contributed time and effort: the Program Committee, Allison Reitz, Sharon Hein, Donna Dare, Alex Ardans, and Pat Blanchard, and Janice Fuller and Linda Hall from Michigan State University.

Finally, as I stated in my comments to the House of Delegates, I will do my best to make sure that the AAVLD continues to serve all its members and laboratories, whether accredited or not. We must all pull together to meet the needs of those we serve. I welcome your comments, suggestions, and concerns, so feel free to contact me at any time. I wish all of you a Happy Thanksgiving and a safe and joyous holiday season.

Willie M. Reed, President
Phone (EST): 517-353-0635
Email: reed@dcpah.msu.edu

ADDRESS TO THE 2003 JOINT AAVLD AND USAHA GENERAL SESSION

AAVLD President Terry McElwain

Fellow AAVLD and USAHA members, distinguished guests, colleagues and friends, ladies and gentlemen, it is my pleasure to welcome you to the joint USAHA/AAVLD President's reception, dinner and General Session. As President of AAVLD, I am privileged and honored to Chair the General Session this year.

I'd like to take just a few minutes this evening to share some thoughts about partnerships in animal health. In 1884, a foundation for excellence in disease control was established in the United States through creation of the Bureau of Animal Industry. The BAI was formed to combat several prominent diseases of livestock in the US. It is interesting to note that, particularly in light of the human resource commitment this nation has made over the past year in response to Exotic Newcastle Disease, the original authorization in 1884 was to "employ a force sufficient for the purpose, not to exceed 20 persons at any one time". I don't know about your organization, but in our shop sometimes I think it takes about 20 staff just to get a purchase order out the door! But those original 20 included eminent scientists such as Daniel Salmon, Theobald Smith, Fred Kilborne, and others, who joined efforts to investigate ways of controlling and stamping out infectious diseases that at that time, and in some cases still do, plague livestock in the US. Some of the great scientific advances in history were made by these individuals, including discovery of the cause of Texas Fever, a disease that has occupied nearly two decades of my own research career, and was the seminal demonstration that a protozoan agent could be transmitted by an invertebrate vector. Disease eradication was pursued as a policy of the BAI, and appropriately so, still is by the agency's descendants. Eradication of Texas Fever was successful, owing in part to a bit of climatic help from Mother Nature, and despite, or maybe because of, the occasional armed skirmish with recalcitrant cattlemen. But the important thing to note about these efforts is that the scientists establishing that tradition of excellence in disease control worked hand in hand as equal partners, closely and collaboratively, to seamlessly blend research and regulation, brandishing policy, persuasion and even sometimes pistols to meet the nation's animal health needs.

Infectious diseases continued to be major animal and, importantly, public health issues for our country throughout the 1900's, spawning joint efforts and partnerships to combat and eradicate diseases such as tuberculosis, brucellosis, hog cholera and pseudorabies. Our government scientists were joined in disease eradication efforts by partners such as the USAHA in 1897, which at that time included laboratory diagnosticians, and AAVLD in the 1960's, partnerships that have flourished and continue to this day. But I would submit to you that over the years we became a bit complacent about infectious diseases, particularly as control efforts in both animal and public health achieved success. Brucellosis and tuberculosis were under control, and we saw the eradication light at the end of the tunnel; smallpox was eradicated; vaccines for common animal and childhood diseases were available. These and other successes led us to bring our collective national resources to bear against other health problems considered more pressing, particularly those diseases of humans thought to be of non-infectious origin. As a result, I believe we lost our edge; in my view, we let our partnerships weaken, and, perhaps as a result, we lost some mutual respect.

How different our view of the microbial world is today. In the past 25 years we have seen the emergence or re-emergence, conservatively, of over 30 agents affecting animals, humans, or, most importantly as we would and should have predicted were we watching and listening closely, both animals and humans. HIV, PRRSV, multidrug resistant TB, prion diseases, Nipah virus, HPAI, END, monkeypox, SARS and others – a veritable organismal onslaught that has been unrelenting. As a result, in today's world, the need for strong partnerships has never been greater. Federal and state, animal health and public health, epidemiologists and laboratorians, regulators and researchers, USDA and HHS, public health and veterinary medicine, industry and government, and of course AAVLD and USAHA – these partnerships, based on equality, mutual respect, understanding and constant communication, are

critical to our ability to address disease threats. Nowhere has this been more evident than over the past year in southern California and neighboring states, where all our partnerships and human resources were brought to bear against END. As noted earlier, we have been successful in this effort, and I would like to add my recognition of the extraordinary efforts of our colleagues in USDA, state agencies, diagnostic laboratories, and all the other government agencies, private organizations, and individuals that contributed to this success. I'd like to ask everyone in the audience who participated in the END eradication effort - be it field or lab, state, federal, one week's worth, or one year's worth, to stand. Please join me in expressing our thanks and acknowledging their dedicated efforts with a warm round of applause.

And if Mother Nature were not a formidable enough foe, we now have this ugly threat, this abomination known as bioterrorism to deal with. Multiply 1 Exotic Newcastle Disease, 2 hog choleras and 5 FMD outbreaks; add in a dash of bot tox targeted to milk, and we have a recipe for disaster. The scenarios are frightening. But as Albert Einstein so ably put it, "in the middle of every difficulty lies opportunity". So today we welcome a new partner in the game - Homeland Security. We must work closely together as equal partners. It is more important than ever before to recognize that not one organization, not one agency, not one government is able to do it alone. And in combating this new threat, we should not, we cannot, we must never sacrifice domestic disease control efforts.

I've been privileged to serve as President of AAVLD over the past year during an extraordinary time, and to participate in building and strengthening partnerships. Fortunately these partnerships are growing strong again. We've come a long way, and without a doubt we still have a ways to go. This year saw the implementation of the pilot NAHLN - a federal state partnership - and a commitment to expand it as Secretary Veneman expressed in her report to the Gilmore Commission. We saw official entry of multiple animal disease diagnostic laboratories in the Laboratory Response Network for Bioterrorism, and formal recognition of the Food Emergency Response Network. I am pleased to have been a part of it, and would like to express thanks to some individuals that helped make these things happen. To Bob Frost - who has been absolutely tireless in his support of AAVLD and the NAHLN; to Ron DeHaven, Randall Levings, Bob Smith, Bill Wagner and your staffs for your open communication, support, and commitment to partnerships; to Richard Kellogg at CDC for recognizing veterinary diagnostic laboratories as "low hanging fruit" and as legitimate equal partners in the LRN, and for believing in the vision of a network of networks. And most importantly, to my colleagues in AAVLD - the Executive Committee, the Executive Board, and the membership - the most dedicated group of volunteers in any association with which I have ever been affiliated. I am grateful and blessed to have been in a position to help meet the challenge, and to have your valued and valuable assistance in doing so. And I say to all our partners - we've got a great thing going, so let's keep up the momentum. Let's continue to work with mutual respect and understanding in further developing and strengthening partnerships for animal health.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to share these thoughts this evening.

AAVLD EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

Friday, October 10, 2003, 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Town & Country Resort – San Diego, CA

Present: Alex Ardans, Pat Blanchard, Neil Dyer, Bill Layton, Randall Levings, Mitzi Libal, Grant Maxie, Terry McElwain, Gary Osweiler, Donal O’Toole, Willie Reed, Bill Yates, Ron Wilson. **Guests:** Leon Thacker, Larry Thompson

1. The meeting was called to order at 1:15 p.m. by Terry McElwain, who welcomed newly elected members: Vice-president, Donal O’Toole; Bill Layton, NW Representative; Grant Maxie, re-elected Canadian provinces representative; and Barb Powers, re-elected SW representative.

2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Minutes of the July 19, 2003 Executive Board Meeting were reviewed. A motion was made to approve the minutes (Reed), seconded (Blanchard), and carried unanimously.

3. **TREASURER’S REPORT:** Alex Ardans presented the report of the Treasurer as follows:

Checking Account Balance on Hand January 1, 2003:	\$199,249.14	
Total Administrative Operating Receipts	\$294,428.19	
Total Administrative Operating Expenses	(\$298,464.24)	
ENDING BALANCE SEPTEMBER 30, 2003:		\$195,213.09

Certificates of Deposit as of SEPTEMBER 30, 2003		
CD#000418518 (Maturity Date: January 16, 2004)	\$15,551.93	
CD#00475591 (Maturity Date: December 26, 2003)	\$14,570.05	
TOTAL, CERTIFICATES OF DEPOSIT		\$30,121.98

Mutual Fund, Edward D. Jones, as of SEPTEMBER 30, 2003		
Account #190876276 New Perspective Fund	\$76,453.48	
Account #165939129 Investment Co. of America	\$73,123.61	
TOTAL, MUTUAL FUNDS		\$149,577.09

TOTAL ASSETS ON HAND- SEPTEMBER 30, 2003 **\$374,912.16**

Total paid active members as of 9/30/03: 1249

Total paid subscribers as of 9/30/03: 211

A motion to accept the treasurer’s report was made (Blanchard), seconded (Reed), and carried unanimously.

4. PRESIDENTS REPORT

No report was given.

5. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Accreditation

Leon Thacker reported the Accreditation Committee met on Thursday, October 9, 2003 at 1 p.m. to discuss the new Essential Requirements document. The final version will be circulated and posted on the AAVLD web site, as well as a few other locations. Dr. Thacker acknowledged the dedication and hard work that Monte Reimers contributed to the writing of the document.

The committee met again at 8 a.m. on Friday, October 10, 2003 and considered further edits to the Essential Requirements document and adjusted those accordingly. Virginia has sent a request for an accreditation site visit. Updates were heard from Oregon, Connecticut, Louisiana, and Cornell. Site visit reports were reviewed for Minnesota, Montana, and New Mexico.

President McElwain conveyed his thanks to Dr. Thacker for the dedication and years it has taken to shepherd the Essential Requirements document. This item will be presented at the HOD and Director's meeting. He stressed the importance of communicating these standards.

B. Publications

i. JVDI

Terry McElwain reported that John Kreeger would be stepping down as editor effective the first of the year.

ii. Newsletter

There was no new business regarding the newsletter.

iii. Manuscripts

Manuscripts: Pat Blanchard reported on the following monograph proposal:

Title: Diagnosis of Clostridium perfringens diseases of animals

By: Glenn Songer (University of Arizona) and Francisco Uzal (UCDavis)

Audience: This monograph will be directed mainly towards diagnosticians

Objective: to review and discuss diagnostic criteria for infections by *C. perfringens* in different animal species

Structure: divided in 6 modules as follows;

- 1-Diseases of small ruminants
- 2-Diseases of cattle
- 3-Diseases of horses
- 4-Diseases of pigs
- 5-Diseases of chickens
- 6-Diseases of other species

Each module will be divided into sections for each of the *C. perfringens* toxinotypes (A, B, C, D, E and CPE and beta 2 toxin). Within each section, will be a discussion of the diagnostic criteria to establish if a disease is produced by *C. perfringens* (i.e. clinical history, clinical signs, gross findings, histopathology, culture, toxin detection, ancillary tests, etc.). Special emphasis will be put on differential diagnosis and confirmatory tests available for each condition. One monograph will be written every 3 months, the order to be determined.

The Publications Committee recommended the monograph be submitted as review articles to JVDI and then be posted on the web. Donal O'Toole indicated the Pathology Committee is considering updating the Kirkbride Abortion book.

iv. Web Site Update

Gary Osweiler reported that a meeting was held with Pat Blanchard, Allison Jackson, Randy Berghofer, and himself regarding the responsibilities for the web site (SOP distributed).

A new web site has been designed and can be viewed at <http://panda.vdl.iastate.edu:3333/aavld-2/>. Comments should be sent in by mid-November.

C. Program Committee

Willie Reed reported that the program is set and the proceedings books are available. The first plenary session is scheduled for Saturday morning with five concurrent sessions on Saturday and Sunday, for a total of 118 presentations along with 43 poster presentations. There will be a special Sunday session on *M. paratuberculosis*

Dr. Reed reported that this year's joint session with USAHA was difficult to be put together as it was hard to contact and work with speakers solicited by USAHA. It was recommended that Rick Willer, next year's USAHA

Program Chair, be notified of this year's difficulties. Pat Blanchard stated that USAHA expressed interest in another joint session on Sunday to replace the USAHA Wednesday scientific session. Since AAVLD has concurrent Sunday sessions there was no support for another joint session, however a concession might be made for another concurrent session (USAHA).

Pat Blanchard reported that a vote will be conducted for the 2007 annual meeting site, Reno or San Diego.

D. Canada Report: Bill Yates provided the following update:

Meeting of Western Conference of Veterinary Diagnostic Pathologists on Foreign Animal Diseases.

Pathologists from the Western States and Provinces met in early October 2003 for a program moderated by Dr. Corrie Brown. This group meets annually, alternating meeting sites between the Western College of Veterinary Medicine in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, and another western lab site in Canada or the US, this year Lethbridge, Alberta. A wide variety of cases was presented, including FMD and BSE.

Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy Update. No new Canadian cases have been found since the single case diagnosed in Alberta in May 2003. Thirty-two countries closed their borders to Canadian beef, throwing the industry into a severe cash flow problem, with prices hitting a low of 25 cents CDN for finished steers over the summer. On August 8, the United States announced that they would accept boxed boneless beef from animals younger than 30 months on a permit system, beginning September 1, 2003; Mexico followed suit on August 10. Japan stated that it would consider imports from Canada if each animal were individually tested for BSE, as is done in their country, but such a huge testing program is deemed impractical and unnecessary in most international circles. However, Japan is an important factor in the trading relationship between Canada and the US. In early September, the US further announced that plants dealing with multiple age groups of cattle would be eligible to participate in exports via the permit system, which was a step forward in terms of capacity to deal with the glut of Canadian cattle ready for market. At OIE meetings in Paris during the last week of September, Canada, U.S., and Mexico made a submission suggesting some changes in order to modernize the BSE chapter of the Terrestrial Animal Health Code in keeping with current scientific knowledge about transmission and other aspects; the OIE will consult and respond, with formal endorsement of changes at its annual meeting in May. On October 2, 2003, Mexico opened its border to fresh, chilled, and frozen boneless beef products, viscera (liver, kidney, heart, and tongue), processed beef products, and bovine fats, all from animals younger than 30 months.

A senior official with the American Embassy in Ottawa spoke at a recent meeting of Canadian Food Inspection Agency managers and emphasized the importance of strong relationships at the working level regardless of political differences. He also said that the opening of the border to boxed beef, though far less than a complete relaxing of the ban, was unprecedented in international actions relating to this disease, and reflected the good will and shared cattle market between the US and Canada. He described the somewhat difficult official process that remains to be done for opening the border to live cattle.

Canadian Public Health Agency. In the wake of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) and other international contagious disease issues in the recent past, Canada's Minister of Health has announced that the Government of Canada is considering the creation of a new agency that would have functions somewhat similar to those of the Centers for Disease Control in the U.S. The mandate would be expected to include zoonotic diseases, which may be an opportunity for involvement of animal health diagnostic and research laboratories.

E. Membership

Gary Osweiler reported that the membership is the same as in July, with new members 16 less than last year. The Membership Committee meets Saturday night. New member orientation and graduate students will be discussed.

F. Credentials

No report was given.

G. Foundation

Barb Powers reported that the Foundation Committee would meet Friday night and review the awards criteria. Solicitation for donations was sent out with dues notices and some donations were received, but would like to see more.

H. NVSL Report: Randall Levings, Director of NVSL provided the following update:

- FMD-suspect from Arizona (Texas animal) samples were sent to Plum Island and was negative for FMD. Mexico has reopened border.
- National BSE surveillance was down to 20,000 due to END surveillance. Based on recent case in Canada, the plan is to increase to 48,000 samples annually, with an emphasis on downer cows.
- TSE labs: Nine sites have been inspected with five genotyping labs having been visited.
- NAHLN highlights:
 - o Training on assays is continuing with CSF sessions in October-November.
 - o END surveillance cooperative agreements with several states.
 - o Funding for END surveillance testing, database development and IT infrastructure. IT NAHLN pilot of five labs to show proof of concept.
 - o A cooperative agreement between USDA and AAVLD was attempted but due to time constraints and USDA structure for funds allocated within California, the effort failed. The funds were instead disbursed to Booz-Allen (BAH) for IT work including AAVLD-NAHLN training funds for HL7, LOINC, SNOMED, etc. USDA feels it would be a good idea to set up in advance a mutually beneficial cooperative agreement with AAVLD that could be supplemented for specific functions with end of year funds.
 - o November HL7 meeting -BAH is looking for people to fund to attend. Special HL7 training session (maybe Las Vegas) is being discussed.
 - o NAHLN coordinator position has been advertised and posted at USDA.
- Facilities – project updates including additions of security wing, Phase I master plan completion, TSE, anthrax, etc. labs, BSL3 – ground breaking, digester building, tuberculosis and Scrapie schools facilities.
- Security – just completed training on an automated inventory system for select agents and completing inventory list related to select agent rule. New security manager has been hired. CDC meeting Jan 24-28, 2004 on impact of select agent rule. CDC has requested a veterinary laboratory director to speak on how it has affected laboratories.
- IT – cyber security issues. CSRI has been hired. More forms are available electronically but mostly internal.
- The directors involved in the NAHLN approved LRN & Steering committee documents with modifications. CDC has approved the LRN checklists completed by several veterinary diagnostic laboratories, which allows them entry into the LRN as a confirmatory laboratory. For a state veterinary laboratory to enter the LRN they still must have an invitation and approval by their Public Health Laboratory director.

I. Nominations

No report was given.

J. Miscellaneous Reports

i. CDC Shipping Regulations

Larry Thompson provided a report on a shipping regulations meeting he attended on behalf of AAVLD. The meeting, organized by the Department of Transportation and CDC entitled “Infectious Substances Transport by Air After January 2005 Discussion on the 13th edition of the UN Model Regulations”, was held in Washington, DC on September 8-9, 2003.

A Summary of specific points in the proposed regulations that will be effective January 2005 are:

1. The UN is abandoning the use of Risk Groups 1, 2, 3 and 4 to classify infectious substances for transport. The new classification scheme will be Category A and Category B.

Category A: Infectious substances which are transported in a form that, when exposure to it occurs, is capable of causing permanent disability, life threatening or fatal disease to humans or animals.

Category B: All other infectious substances which do not meet the criteria for inclusion in Category A.

2. Category A infectious substances must be shipped using UN P620 packaging with accompany shippers declaration of dangerous goods.
3. Category B infectious substances must be shipped using UN P650 packaging.
4. Culture of Category B infectious substances that are transported for the purpose of identification can be shipped as diagnostic specimens, using UN 3373.
5. Exemptions: Substances which do not contain infectious substances or which contain substances unlikely to cause disease in humans or animals are not subject to these regulations.
6. There will be training requirements for all person who package Category A or Category B infectious substances for shipment to assure proper selection and use of packaging material and proper completion of declarations and package marking.

Report will be posted on the AAVLD web site.

ii. **NAHLN Steering Committee**

No report was given.

iii. **Network Updates (LRN, FERN)**

A meeting of the FERN organizing committee held in Rockville, MD was attended by Terry McElwain. The committee is working on further defining the FERN structure. It will be associated with and collaborate with LRN, at least in its inception. AAVLD will continue to be represented. FERN has ambitions to have a system up and going by the end of this year.

AAVLD has been asked to be a member/partner and participate in the LRN Partnership Working Group. The next meeting is at CDC on November 14. Terry McElwain will attend.

iv. **MOU Working Group**

Terry McElwain reported that the MOU Working Group continues to meet by conference call every other month, which involves the Executive Committee, Randall Levings, and specific NVSL staff. Validation assays and proficiency testing have been discussed. It would be a benefit to have AAVLD representation on USDA groups developing proficiency testing programs and panels that labs will utilize. Validation of the DAKO system for Scrapie IHC has been completed with 100% agreement to the Ventana system. Validation of CWD IHC using the DAKO system is close to completion.

Randall Levings commented that NVSL receives a number of requests for proficiency tests to be developed and prioritization of these proficiency tests is needed. It was pointed out that proficiency tests are not covered in a committee; therefore it has been recommended that the AAVLD Committee Chairs and the MOU Working Group be responsible for recommending priorities. The issue will be brought to the Committee Chairs meeting on Monday.

6. OLD BUSINESS

A. EPA Region 8 Proposed Waste Disposal Update

Donal O'Toole reported that copies of the Best management practices draft have been distributed to laboratory directors and an EPA region 8 representative will be present at the Safety Committee meeting Sunday afternoon. If all the laboratories feel collectively that this is overkill, it is a good opportunity to relay this message. The Best Management Practices document will be discussed at the Safety Committee and will be brought back to the Executive Board for further action. Once completed, it will be posted on the web site. Colorado is currently having trouble with local county public health people, which this document may help resolve. The HOD will be informed that this document is being developed, but no HOD approval is necessary.

B. Meeting registration/AAVLD Membership for QA, Administrative Personnel and Laboratory Safety Committee Members

Terry McElwain reported that individuals have been attending the above committee meetings without registering for the meeting. In the past, this has been handled on an ad-hoc basis, and some individuals have been allowed this year (approx. five). Does this process need to be formalized? Suggestions: 1) Need to be a member of AAVLD; 2) Special registration of \$25, which accomplishes the payment of membership; 3) Recommend IT Committee be included on the list. The Committee Chairs of these committees will be asked on Monday to poll their committees regarding paid registrations to see how many have paid.

C. Electronic Registration for AAVLD/USAHA annual meeting

Alex Ardans reported that the USAHA Executive Board has approved online registration and the two organizations will work together to get this done. This will be announced at the HOD meeting.

7. NEW BUSINESS

A. JVDI Editor

Terry McElwain reported that John Kreeger will remain JVDI Editor until approximately January 1, 2004. AAVLD also funds a 0.5 FTE administrative position for the editor, currently filled by Kathy Craighead. She currently has a 0.75 FTE appointment (0.25 is funded through the University of Missouri), with 80% of that position related to JVDI. The editor's job requires approximately 12-15 hours/week. It is important that the administrative position be located at the same place as the editor. A reasonable portion could be handled electronically, but proximity is important. Dr. Kreeger recommended a clerk/typist position and increase amount to .75 FTE including benefits. A software package from Allen Press for manuscript tracking could be helpful for the new editor. The position vacancy, to be announced at the HOD, is open to members with the Executive Board making the final decision. Input will be obtained from the Editorial Board for an interim solution.

B. Comparative Data for AAVLD affiliated state laboratories

Gary Osweiler inquired about the possibility of making available in a non-identifiable manner general information which may be useful to others about the accredited laboratories; e.g., staffing issues, QA issues, etc. A questionnaire approach of approximately 20 key questions was suggested to include with accreditation dues notice.

C. WAVLD, LRN/CDC and FERN Liaison

Terry McElwain stated that the AAVLD currently has the following liaisons:

- a. AVMA – Willie Reed
- b. Association of Public Health Laboratories – Pat Blanchard
- c. NIAA – Alfonso Torres
- d. SQA – Monte Reimers
- e. CDC and LRN Partnership working group – Terry McElwain

- f. OIE meeting – AAVLD President.
- g. HL7 – Jim Case
- h. AVMA Informatics Committee – Pam Parnell
- i. WAVLD – Terry McElwain (2004 will be Willie Reed)
- j. ACVP – Paige Carmichael

D. Travel Funds for AAVLD Officers

After discussion regarding travel funds, a motion was made by Alex Ardans that the organization make \$10,000 available annually for travel, to be used at the discretion of the President and Secretary/Treasurer's Office, Dyer seconded. Motion carried.

E. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Executive Board will be in February, date to be determined and members will be notified.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

MINUTES OF THE AAVLD FIRST HOUSE OF DELEGATES MEETING

Town & Country Resort, San Diego, CA, Saturday, October 11, 2003

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 11:15 am by President Terry McElwain.

Roll Call: Secretary/Treasurer Alex Ardans called the role of delegates from the states and provinces. With thirty-nine state and provincial representatives present, a quorum for business was declared.

Treasurer's Report: Alex Ardans presented the Treasurer's report as follows:

The Association has a balance of approximately \$195,000 in its checking accounts and approximately \$30,000 in two Certificate of Deposits. The Association's two mutual funds are currently worth approximately \$150,000. The Association has a total of \$374,912 on hand. The Foundation currently has \$30,000 in checking and \$54,000 in a mutual fund for a total of \$84,000. The Association's mutual funds have done very well. With an initial investment of approximately \$70,000, the mutual funds are currently worth approximately \$200,000. The Treasurer's office will be looking at how to maximize potential of the Association's money.

Dr. Ardans also announced that in the next year the Association will be looking to implement web registration for the annual meeting.

A motion to accept the Treasurer's report was made (Thacker), seconded (Andrews), and carried unanimously.

President's Report: President McElwain reported that the AAVLD Executive Board will be setting aside money for liaison travel in response to the need to dedicate association resources for liaison travel so that the national laboratory system is recognized at other organizations. President McElwain discussed the incorporation of OIE standards into the AAVLD Accreditation standards. He emphasized the importance of the activities of the committees to the future of the Association. The Approved Methods Committee has been asked to create a list of approved methods for use by laboratories. He acknowledged the work by the committees that has and will go into developing this approved methods list and best practices documents for the Association that will continually evolve. He expressed appreciation for all the work that the committees have done.

President McElwain expressed thanks to Donal O'Toole, Barb Powers and Beth Williams for working with the EPA on waste management issues. They are currently developing a best practices document and working to develop a position on the EPA draft waste disposal policy.

President McElwain thanked the AAVLD Secretary/Treasurer's office for their support. He announced that Dr. Donald Cooperrider, a lifetime member of AAVLD passed away in Ft. Meyers, FL. David Zeman has requested that he be informed of any other members that have passed away so that he can announce them at the memorial.

Dr. John Kreeger, editor of JVDI, is changing positions and will be stepping down as editor of JVDI. The Executive Board discussed his replacement yesterday, but has not yet discussed it with the editorial board. The position will be open to the membership and the association is looking for someone to fill the position. Dr. Kreeger has agreed to work with someone in the interim.

Standing Committee Reports:

1. Accreditation Committee Report: Dr. Leon Thacker presented the report. The Accreditation Committee met the afternoon of October 9, 2003, with all members of the committee present.

The purpose of this meeting was to discuss and continue the rewrite of the new **Essential Requirements for an Accredited Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory**. Following discussion a subgroup met and incorporated changes as discussed.

The committee met again on the morning of October 10, 2003. The committee received a request from Virginia for a site visit for accreditation of their laboratory system. There was further discussion on changes to the Minimum Essentials. duplicate in paragraph after bullets The committee then heard updated status reports from Oregon, Connecticut, Louisiana, and written reports from Cornell, Lexington, Kentucky, and Arizona. The committee discussed site visit reports from Minnesota, New Mexico (newly accredited AAVLD laboratory), Montana, and Mississippi.

Dr. Thacker reviewed the following guidelines for AAVLD accredited laboratories and Accreditation site visits:

- By April 1, 2004 each accredited lab must appoint a QA manager and submit a Quality Manual, which describes their quality system and an implementation plan for their quality system with timeline and appropriate milestones to meet revised AAVLD essential requirements that incorporate appropriate OIE Standards.
- By the annual meeting, October 20 to 28, 2004 the accreditation committee will review and comment.
- Beginning January 1, 2005 the accreditation site visits will include an audit for compliance with the laboratory's implementation plan milestones.
- By December 31, 2006 the Accreditation Committee will require full implementation of the quality system.
- Beginning January 1, 2007 accreditation site visits will include an audit of the complete quality system.

The newly revised AAVLD Essential Requirements for an Accredited Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory will be posted on the AAVLD website on October 21st, 2003.

A model Quality Manual developed by the AAVLD QA Committee is available on the AAVLD website for assistance in developing a Quality Manual for a laboratory. Any questions regarding the Minimum Essentials, Quality Manual or guidelines for incorporation can be directed to the Accreditation Committee.

2. Awards Committee: Pat Blanchard presented the committee's recommendations for life membership for a vote of the HOD. Those presented for life membership were Robert Eckroade, Beth Henricson, Charles Kanitz and John Kreeger. A motion to accept the recommended Life Memberships was made (Thacker), seconded (Powers) and carried unanimously.

3. Nominating Committee: Pat Blanchard announced that Donal O'Toole has been elected Vice President for 2004. Bill Layton has been elected as Northwest representative, Barb Powers has been reelected as the Southwest representative, and Grant Maxie has been reelected as the Canada Provincial representative. Alex Ardans has been reelected as the Secretary/Treasurer.

4. Membership Committee: Gary Osweiler reported that membership for 2002 was 1268, and in 2003 the Association lost 170 members and gained 151 new members for a total of 1249 members. The committee plans to look into why members are not renewing their memberships. Committee co-chair, Dr. Mock, has been looking at the characteristics of membership and the committee will be reviewing the characteristics at their meeting October 11, 2003 at 5:00 PM. The committee will also be looking at developing an orientation packet for prospective and new members.
5. Program Committee: Willie Reed reported that there was a tremendous response to the call for papers this year, and there will be 118 presentations over three days. There will also be 43 poster presentations. Two sessions were added to the program this year to accommodate the high level of submissions. Five sessions will be held Saturday afternoon, October 11, and five Sunday, October 12, 2003. Dr. Reed thanked all of the respondents, the program committee, and the two corporate sponsors, Cepheid and BioRad.
6. Publications Committee: Dave Steffen reported that the committee met in the morning of October 10, 2003. The main item of discussion was a proposal by Francisco Uzal and Glen Songer for a series of monographs on Diseases associated with *Clostridium perfringens*. The committee made the recommendation that it be published as a series of review articles in JVDI or post on the AAVLD website with peer review by JVDI. The committee will be looking at developing guidelines for publishing online. This issue will be brought to the editorial board. Proposed changes to the website were presented by Gary Osweiler and Randy Berghefer to make the website more database oriented. The committee will review the proposal and make a recommendation by January 1, 2004. The committee is looking for a new website editor to replace Dr. Osweiler. Dr. Pat Blanchard has agreed to continue as newsletter editor.

Special Committee Reports:

1. Financial Advisory Committee: Leon Thacker reported that the committee has met several times recently. The committee met with the financial advisor that set up the Association's mutual fund account with Dr. Gosser and reviewed the accounts. The committee will bring the issue back to board for discussion in future and will be looking at how to optimize the Association's resources.
2. Foundation Committee: Barb Powers reported that the committee met the evening of October 10, 2003. The Foundation currently has \$84,000. The committee sent out a request for donations with the 2004 dues notice and will send it out again in November. So far \$1,500 has been received, however the committee is hoping to collect much more. Dr. Powers noted that if each member donated only ten dollars, the Foundation should be able to raise over \$12,000. Donations to the Foundation go to awards for JVDI, graduate student/resident travel awards and more. Donors can designate where they want their donation to go or can give a general donation. The Foundation Committee has come up with a list of possible corporate donors that they will bring to the Executive Board for approval.
3. Constitutions, Bylaws, Resolutions Committee:
 - A. Dr. Dave Steffen brought forward from the Executive Board a resolution regarding:

Resolution for USDA to provide proficiency testing and approval of non-contract state/university laboratories to perform surveillance testing for scrapie and Chronic Wasting Disease on in-state animal populations.

 - Whereas the sheep and goat industries, wildlife agencies and USDA have stated their goal is to eradicate scrapie and Chronic Wasting Disease from sheep, goats and cervids in the United States; and
 - Whereas state/University laboratories have a long standing relationship of mutual support with the animal industries in their state which includes frequent contact between laboratory personnel and industry leaders, producers and state wildlife agencies; and
 - Whereas this mutual and beneficial relationship has shown past success in encouraging and expediting timely testing by state/University laboratories for the purpose of disease detection and disease eradication.

Be it resolved that:

- » The American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians recommends that USDA institute a policy and program to proficiency test and approve non-contract state/University laboratories to perform tests and provide official results using the federally approved testing methods under the federally funded scrapie and Chronic Wasting Disease programs for surveillance testing of animals within their state in order to expedite the goal of eradication of scrapie and Chronic Wasting Disease from the United States.

The resolution was discussed and it was decided that a vote of approval would be held during the second HOD meeting.

B. Dave Steffen brought forward a second resolution from the Executive Board and Epidemiology Committee and after discussion a few amendments were made. The revised resolution follows:

- Whereas surveillance is a validated, comprehensive, active, and systematic diagnostic process developed to detect foreign, emerging, and other animal diseases; In accordance with the Safeguarding Review commissioned by the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture Research Foundation, as well as other reports, it is critical that surveillance systems be developed to provide very early detection of foreign and other potentially catastrophic animal diseases that threaten animal or public health.
- Whereas such systems also must function effectively in the face of an epidemic to prevent and mitigate economic and public health impacts; In order to maximize efficiency and reduce costs, animal disease surveillance will need to serve multiple purposes in addressing indigenous diseases, foreign animal diseases, and diseases affecting public health, including those that would serve as potential agroterror agents.
- Whereas the sampling designs and appropriate testing strategies for early detection must be based on sound research, considering novel approaches and new paradigms; plans must define function and operations regarding surveillance individually and collectively for the country's veterinary diagnostic laboratories, including but not limited to the USDA NVSL in Ames and FADDL at Plum Island, and the National Animal Health Laboratory Network.
- Whereas the strategies also must identify specific technological needs for surveillance in order to direct appropriate research in assay development, sampling methods, and communications.
- Whereas key stakeholders must be involved in the planning, design, development, review, and oversight of surveillance systems; it is imperative that the U.S. immediately develop efficient, science-based diagnostic surveillance systems aimed at foreign animal diseases (FAD) and other diseases that threaten animal and public health.

RESOLUTION:

- » The AAVLD requests the USDA/APHIS to establish immediately a working group to develop a strategic plan for animal disease surveillance. The group must represent the major stakeholders, which include industry, the AAVLD and NAHLN, USDA, DHS, CDC, AVMA, and State Veterinarians. The purpose of the working group will be to provide a plan for the development, implementation and integration of surveillance systems that can be validated to determine the most sensitive, efficient, and cost-effective designs for detection of animal diseases of economic and public health importance. The AAVLD requests that the working group deliver a document by February 2004.

It was decided that a vote of approval would be held during the second HOD meeting.

A third resolution was developed, which will be made available, and considered for approval at the second HOD meeting.

Motion to vote on resolutions at the current meeting to avoid delay was made (Blanchard), seconded (Powers), and the motion carried.

Approval of the first resolution regarding USDA and proficiency testing carried unanimously.

Approval of the second resolution from the Executive Board and the Epidemiology Committee carried with one in opposition.

Old Business:

1. National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN)/Laboratory Response Network (LRN)/Food Emergency Response Network (FERN) Updates:

Terry McElwain reported that there is now a formal procedure for participating in the LRN. However, it still relies on a request from state public health lab for participation in the LRN. There is also a qualification checklist. Drs. Thacker and McElwain can sign off on behalf of AAVLD Accreditation.

There is now a steering committee for FERN. State labs are well represented in both the LRN and FERN.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention are in strong support of involvement for state veterinary laboratories and there has been progress in this area.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:20 PM by Terry McElwain.

MINUTES OF THE AAVLD SECOND HOUSE OF DELEGATES MEETING

Town & Country Resort, San Diego, California, October 13, 2003

Call To Order: President Terry McElwain called the meeting to order at 11:45 a.m.

Roll Call: Secretary/Treasurer Ardans called the roll of delegates from the states and provinces. With 37 state and provincial representatives present, a quorum for business was declared.

Passing of Gavel: President McElwain passed the gavel to President-elect Reed who presented President McElwain with a plaque for distinguished service to AAVLD. Dr. Reed expressed AAVLD's appreciation for President McElwain's efforts.

President's Report: President Reed reported that AAVLD has gained national prominence over the past few years and with this comes extra responsibilities; for instance the National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN), Federal Emergency Response Network (FERN), etc. He expressed that the organization needs to continue to work with its partners with regards to test validation, disease monitoring, and especially accreditation standards to meet ISO and OIE standards. An immediate goal the organization has is that of appointing an editor for the journal.

Awards: Dr. Pat Blanchard announced the recipients of this year's travel trainee awards: Mehrdad Ameri-Mahabadi, (Iowa State U): Western Blot Immunoassay as a Confirmatory Test for ELISAs to Detect Antibodies Against Mycoplasma hyopneumoniae and Joshua Webster, (MSU): Prognostic Classification of Canine Cutaneous Mast Cell Tumors Based on Location, Depth and Staining Patterns of c-KIT and Tryptase. The Pathology Committee Graduate

Student Travel award was awarded to Patty Pesavento (CAHFS): Virulent, Systemic Feline Calicivirus: Pathology of Natural Infection

Lifetime, EP. Pope, Graduate student best paper and poster and JVDI full paper and brief communication awards were presented at the Sunday evening joint AAVLD/USAHA General session. See page 19 for awardees.

Standing Committee Reports:

Membership committee: Gary Osweiler provided the following statistics and comments:

- The association's current membership stands at 1,256.
- Over the past two years, there has been a 5 percent increase in membership, with a loss of 20% of the previous year's members.
- Graduate student memberships have risen from 10 in 2001 to 33 in 2003.
- Pathologists make up 50 percent of the membership
- Target graduate student enrollment
- Develop a new member orientation and handout

Statistics will be posted on the AAVLD web site

Special Committee Reports: There were no committee reports.

Old Business: There was no old business.

New Business: Dr. John Andrews brought forward two resolutions from the Government Relations Committee:

Resolution 1:

- Whereas, United States animal disease diagnosis and surveillance functions most effectively as a shared responsibility of publicly funded state animal health laboratories, represented by the American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians (AAVLD), and federal animal health laboratories administered through the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS); and
- Whereas, this partnership is essential for safeguarding the health and well being of our nation's livestock and poultry, aquatic species, companion animals, wildlife, zoo and exotic species, and for protecting the public health from diseases common to animals and humans; and
- Whereas, a national strategy, melding the nation's federal, state, and local resources, would be capable of responding to any type of animal health emergency, including bioterrorist events, newly emerging diseases, and foreign animal disease agents that threaten the nation's food supply and public health; and
- Whereas, multiple reviews and analyses, including the Animal Health Safeguarding Review and the National Research Council Report on "Countering Agricultural Bioterrorism", have strongly endorsed the importance of a national animal disease diagnostic network; and
- Whereas, the USDA has recognized the importance of a national laboratory system through the funding and creation of a pilot National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN);

Be it resolved that:

- » The Department of Homeland Security work cooperatively and in partnership with the USDA and AAVLD to ensure essential United States animal and zoonotic disease laboratory surveillance and response infrastructure by completing the National Animal Health Laboratory Network, to involve all 50 states and the federal laboratories, and to include funding for biocontainment facilities.

Resolution 2:

- Whereas, United States animal disease diagnosis and surveillance functions most effectively as a shared responsibility of publicly funded state animal health laboratories, represented by the American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians (AAVLD), and federal animal health laboratories administered through the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS); and
- Whereas, this partnership is essential for safeguarding the health and well being of our nation's livestock and poultry, aquatic species, companion animals, wildlife, zoo and exotic species, and for protecting the public health from diseases common to animals and humans; and
- Whereas, a national strategy, melding the nation's federal, state, and local resources, would be capable of responding to any type of animal health emergency, including bioterrorist events, newly emerging diseases, and foreign animal disease agents that threaten the nation's food supply and public health; and
- Whereas, multiple reviews and analyses, including the Animal Health Safeguarding Review and the National Research Council Report on "Countering Agricultural Bioterrorism", have strongly endorsed the importance of a national animal disease diagnostic network; and
- Whereas, the USDA has recognized the importance of a national laboratory system through the funding and creation of a pilot National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN); and
- Whereas this network will function most effectively by expansion to include state animal disease diagnostic laboratories in all 50 states;

Be it resolved that:

- » The United States Congress appropriate such funds as necessary to complete the National Animal Health Laboratory Network by involving all 50 states and the federal laboratories;
- » And that such funds be distributed to USDA for coordination of the network, and to AAVLD-accredited diagnostic laboratories in each state, or in states without an AAVLD accredited laboratory, to the primary state-funded animal disease diagnostic laboratory in that state.

After a brief discussion a motion to accept the two resolutions was made (Taylor), seconded (Powers) and approved by a majority voice with one dissenting vote.

Meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m.



During the second AAVLD House of Delegates meeting Dr. Willie Reed (right), President of AAVLD, presents Dr. Terry McElwain, outgoing President, with a plaque of appreciation for distinguished service rendered during his Presidency .

AWARDEES



Dr. Terry McElwain (left) of Washington State University was presented the EP Pope Award by Dr. Patricia Blanchard (right), Awards Committee chair, at the joint AAVLD and USAHA President's Reception. The EP Pope Award is given to an AAVLD member who has made noteworthy contributions to the Association and to implementation and recognition of the specialty of veterinary diagnostic laboratory medicine.



Lifetime Memberships were awarded to Dr. Charles Kanitz, retired from Purdue University (left), Dr. Robert Eckroade of the University of Pennsylvania at New Bolton Center (right), Beth Henricson, retired from the Virginia Department of Agriculture lab system (not pictured), and Dr. John Kreeger, University of Missouri, for his efforts for the past 7 years as JVDI editor (not pictured)



AAVLD Foundation sponsored **Best Graduate Student Poster** awardee was Dr. Luis Corbellini (left) at University of Nebraska for his poster titled "Diagnostic survey of bovine abortion in Southern Brazil with a special reference to *Neospora caninum* associated pulmonary pathology".

JVDI Full paper: Dr. James E. Benson of Galesburg, IL for his paper: Benson JE, et al, A comparison of virus isolation, immunohistochemistry, fetal serology and reverse-transcription polymerase chain reaction assay for the identification of porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome virus transplacental infection in the fetus. Volume 14:8-14.

AAVLD Foundation sponsored 2002 JVDI awardees:

AAVLD Foundation sponsored **Best Graduate Student Presentation** awardee was Joseph Hermann (right) at Iowa State University for his paper "Effect of exposure to commercial antifoams on viability of three continuous cell lines".

JVDI Brief Communication: Dr. John Adaska of California Animal Health and Food Safety Laboratory for his paper: Adaska JM, et al, Evaluation of result variability with a commercial Johnes disease enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay kit and repeat testing of samples. Volume 14:423-426.

AAVLD Foundation sponsored **Graduate Student Travel awardees** were: Mehrdad Ameri-Mahabadi, (Iowa State U), Joshua Webster, (MSU) and the Pathology funded Foundation Travel awardee was Patty Pesavento (CAHFS)

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Accreditation Committee

Chair Leon Thacker.

The Accreditation Committee met from 1:00 to 5:00 pm on October 9, 2003. All members of the committee were present.

The purpose of this meeting was to discuss and continue rewrite of the new **Essential Requirements for an Accredited Medical Diagnostic Laboratory**. Following discussion a subgroup met and incorporated changes as discussed.

The committee met again on the morning of October 10, 2003, from 8:00 am to 1:00pm

The committee received a request from Virginia for a site visit for accreditation of their laboratory system.

There was further discussion on changes to the Minimum Essentials. The final version of the agreed upon Minimum Essentials will be posted on the AAVLD web site October 21, 2003.

The committee then heard updated accreditation reports from Oregon, Connecticut, Louisiana, and written reports from Cornell, Lexington Kentucky, and Arizona. The committee discussed site visit reports from Minnesota, New Mexico (newly accredited AAVLD laboratory), Montana, and Mississippi.

Membership Committee

Co-Chairs for 2003: Gary Osweiler, Richard Mock, incoming new co-chair: Donal O'Toole (VP elect)

The committee met from 5:00-6:00 pm. Saturday October 11, 2003 with 5 members and one guest in attendance.

1. Review of Membership Statistics: Renewals

Dr. Mock had reviewed data from membership records for the previous three years. He provided a number of tables that will be entered in the AAVLD Membership Committee Minutes. A brief summary of these findings follows.

Membership Totals

	<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>
Membership	1118	1181	1256
Increase vs previous year	—	63	75
% Increase	—	5.6%	6.4%
Members continuing	900	960	1024

Membership Status

	<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>
Active	818	921	1133
Graduate	10	18	33
Life	34	34	34
Retired	18	18	18
Associates	15	26	29
Honorary	1	1	1
<u>Unknown</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>8</u>
	900	1024	1256

Member Interest/Specialty Summary of Members:

Most frequent – top 10 categories

Pathologists	538
Not indicated	153
Virologists	152
Bacteriologists	99
Toxicologists	89
Immunologists	80
Infectious disease	61
Administration	60
Epidemiologists	59
Diagnosticians	40

2. New Member Orientation

The committee agreed there would be value in offering a package of information to new members as well as a direct interactive orientation at the annual meeting. The orientation at the annual meeting was suggested to be a breakfast open by invitation to new members attending the meeting. Committee Co-Chairs will determine the time and place. Recruiting information could also be used to aid new member orientation. Topics such as the function and purpose of committees, interactions with USAHA, governance of AAVLD, benefits of AAVLD continuing membership, orientation to use of the AAVLD WEB are all topics of importance in orientation of new members. New members will be provided an E mail notice of benefits (preferably semi-automated) as well as possibly a welcoming letter from the Vice President.

3. Notice to Delinquent Members:

These are sent on AAVLD stationery as a personal letter from the Vice President in December. There is an established template that can be amended to fit the current situation and the style or preference of the current vice president. A second notice may or may not be considered important after the first of the year, depending on membership renewal status. Renewal status is important in determining the roster of those who receive the Journal and to include the most up-to-date listing in the directory.

To understand better the reasons that approximately 15% of members leave each year, a well-designed survey sent to delinquent or non-renewing members could potentially provide some insight into what AAVLD can do to retain a higher number of members on a continuing basis.

4. Recruitment and Involvement of Graduate Students:

The committee discussed several approaches to encouraging graduate student membership. There are currently 33 graduate students indicated as members, up from 18 in 2002. The benefits of membership could be provided to graduate students, and an invitation to membership sent to academic departments and diagnostic laboratories in Veterinary Colleges, graduate departments of Veterinary Science, and other agencies or organizations that have or support graduate training or trainees. A journal advertisement (JVDI) could also be used, as well as a more obvious and active invitation on the AAVLD Public WEB site. As with some other professional organizations, DVMs with new graduate degrees or board certification could be invited to join. This would be supported best if a new brochure and organized package of application materials and a list of benefits from membership were developed to attract graduates to diagnostic laboratory medicine.

For recruitment of laboratory professionals, invitations could be sent to academic departments and veterinary science departments as well as relevant government agencies and commercial companies where veterinarians are employed in diagnostic positions. In addition, persons who submit to JVDI could be sent an invitation after their manuscripts are accepted for publication.

5. New Co-Chair Appointment:

The committee and Co-Chair Osweiler wish to thank Dr. Mock for his excellent service as ongoing Co-chair, which this year included a substantial review of membership characteristics and establishing an approach that will allow continuing comparative evaluation. The committee respectfully recommends to President Reed that Dr. Mock continue as Co-chair for another year.

Reported October 13, 2003 at AAVLD House of Delegates. Updated November 1, 2003

Publications Committee

Chair David Steffen. The committee met Friday October 10th, 2003 from 8:00-9:30am. There were 5 members and two guests in attendance.

Monographs: Francisco Uzal attended to discuss plans to submit a monograph series of 6 papers on Diagnostic methods and criteria for *Clostridium perfringens* infections. The committee agreed that the project had merit and would be of broad interest to the membership. Methods for the publication of the series were discussed including paper vs. electronic publication and methods for review. It was decided that the individual modules are likely to be suitable for submission and consideration as invited reviews by the Journal of Veterinary Diagnostic Investigations. The JVDI Editorial board will be charged with selecting reviewers and determining suitability of each module for publication in JVDI. It is anticipated that due to length and number some modules or their expansion may be published electronically only to address editorial concerns of the journal. All modules passing peer review would eventually be published on the AAVLD website as a peer reviewed monographs to allow for convenient periodic updates and to allow for additional material that may exceed page limitations for publication in JVDI.

The publications committee will discuss editorial policy for the peer reviewed monograph site and policy for review of updates to monographs at the next meeting.

Web Updates: Gary Osweiler and Randy Berghefer presented information on proposed modifications of the website to make it database oriented to ease data maintenance and updates. A Beta site has been established and committee members will review the site and report back to the editor by December 15th. Changes approved will be implementation in January 2004.

The committee approved changes in website data posting/entry responsibility that distributes the function to various individuals currently responsible for the data collection and editorial review thereby increasing efficiency of uploading data. A draft of web-associated tasks was presented with a listing of responsible parties and a proposal for shifts of responsibility based on the new updates. This draft will be discussed and completed to assist membership in directing information and inquiries to the responsible parties and to assist the new web editor.

Web Editor: The AAVLD sought a new web editor to assist Randy. The editor is responsible for routine editorial decisions to assure compliance of items submitted with formatting and content policies. The editor also brings suggestions for changes in formatting, content, or policy to the publications committee for consideration. Interested parties should contact the publications committee Chair (Dr. Steffen) (Post AAVLD meeting note: Dr. Bruce Janke, ISU agreed to assume editor responsibilities and was appointed by president Reed.)

Newsletter: Pat Blanchard agreed to remain newsletter editor.

JVDI Editor: Dr. John Kreeger, editor of JVDI, announced prior to the meeting that he will resign as editor due a job change. John has agreed to assist during the transition. Members interested in the position should contact the AAVLD president (Dr. Reed).

Membership: Dave Steffen agreed to another term as chair. Dr. Hamar and Dr. Reggiardo agreed to appointment for another term. AAVLD members interested in serving on the committee are encouraged to attend the next meeting.

Animal Health Information Systems, Joint USAHA / AAVLD Committee

Co-Chairs: Dr. Bruce L. Akey,* Albany, NY and Dr. François Elvinger,* Blacksburg, VA

The Animal Health Information Systems Committee (AHISC) held its 6th annual meeting as a joint committee of USAHA and AAVLD on Sunday, October 12, 2003 from 1 to 5 p.m. in San Diego, CA. Attendance fluctuated between 40 and 60 people, with 75 participants (22 of 46 USAHA members, 8 of 22 AAVLD members; 14 participants requesting membership) filling out the attendance sheets. More than 80 association members were counted attending the time specific scientific paper presentation by Dr. Jerry Freier from USDA:APHIS:VS:CEAH, entitled 'Use of Geographic Information Systems in the Exotic Newcastle Disease Outbreak in Southern California.' Dr. Freier's presentation is published as a separate report in these Proceedings.

Dr. Elvinger (Virginia Tech) and Dr. Akey (NY Department of Agriculture and Markets) welcomed the participants and gave a brief synopsis of the past year's meeting and activities. The year 2002 USAHA resolutions #1 and 2 were distributed. Oversight of design, implementation and expansion of the National Animal Health Reporting System (NAHRS) has constituted the principal activity of the committee between meetings as the AHISC chairs also chair the NAHRS steering committee.

NAHRS: Dr. Stan Bruntz, NAHRS Coordinator at the USDA:APHIS:VS:Centers of Epidemiology and Animal Health, presented the annual report on the status of the National Animal Health Reporting System (NAHRS). As of September 2003 thirty-eight (38) States have reported data for NAHRS (34 in 2002). Alaska, Indiana, Maine, and North Dakota were added to the list of reporting States and most of the remaining non-participating States have taken recent steps towards participating in NAHRS. Reporting by participating States covers the following percentages of National production value of the following commodities (2002 %): Cattle-80% (78%); Sheep-87% (85%); Food Fish-84% (84%); Poultry-65% (65%); Swine-62% (61%). Dr. Bruntz further reported that the NAHRS Operational Manual has been updated to reflect the current contact list and program implementation procedures. A CEAH/CAHM NAHRS web site was developed at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/ceah/cahm>. Graphic data representation and U.S. OIE information were added to the NAHRS Annual Summary.

The NAHRS Steering Committee convened by teleconference September 23, 2003. Participants addressed recruiting of non-participating States. The USDA/APHIS/VS is evaluating the ramifications of implementing the NASDA Safeguarding Review Recommendation # 98 which states "Direct USDA to clearly define the National Animal Health Reporting System (NAHRS) as a cooperative, not voluntary, program for all industries and states that request USDA certification of animal products for export." USDA/APHIS/VS will make every effort to bring the remaining non-participating States into the NAHRS framework on a voluntary

basis. Participants also discussed the relationship of NAHRS to the newly formed National Surveillance Unit (NSU) and indicated that the infrastructure of NAHRS would be available to the NSU. The NAHRS Steering Committee also addressed the need for and decided to re-engage Commodity Working Groups to update disease reporting criteria. Finally, the NAHRS Steering Committee considered the expansion of NAHRS reporting and broader distribution of the annual NAHRS report. The NAHRS Steering Committee also discussed collection of quantitative information on OIE List A&B animal diseases that have been identified by the CDC as potential human bioterrorism agents and/or of public health importance (zoonotic agents). The following OIE List A & B diseases have been identified by the CDC as potential human bioterrorism agents: Rift Valley Fever; Anthrax (*Bacillus anthracis*); Q-Fever (*Coxiella burnetii*); Bovine Brucellosis (*Brucella abortus*); Caprine and Ovine Brucellosis (excluding *B. ovis*); Equine Encephalomyelitis (Eastern <EEE> or Western <WEE>); Glanders (*Burkholderia mallei* and *B. pseudomallei*); Venezuelan Equine Encephalomyelitis (VEE); Porcine Brucellosis (*Brucella suis*). The following OIE List A & B diseases have been identified as important zoonotic animal diseases of public health concern: Vesicular Stomatitis (VS); Leptospirosis; Rabies; Trichinellosis (*Trichinella spiralis*); Bovine Tuberculosis (*Mycobacterium bovis*); Bovine Cysticercosis (*Cysticercus bovis*); Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy; Japanese Encephalitis; Porcine Cysticercosis (*Cysticercus cellulosae*); Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza. Quantitative information also could be collected for other diseases, if requested by commodity groups. For all other diseases, data will be collected only on the presence/absence of clinical disease. The NAHRS UM&R may also be changed to allow broader distribution of the NAHRS annual report, given that the NAHRS annual report does not have any reference to individual State, location, or owner. Consideration of such changes was initiated at this annual meeting. The process of change will be slow and deliberate and any change towards collection of quantitative data and expansion of distribution is to be preceded by careful evaluation and the reengagement of Commodity Working Groups to review and update the disease reporting criteria in the NAHRS UM&R, approval by all participating States and commodity groups, prior to submission for a vote to the Animal Health Information Systems Committee membership. This year's committee meeting attendants voted to endorse the consideration and evaluation of such potential changes.

NAHLN IT and USAIP: Dr. Jim Case from the California Animal Health and Food Safety Laboratory, UC-Davis, reported on two topics, the development of the information system infrastructure for the nascent National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN) and the information technology standards of the draft US Animal Identification Plan (USAIP). A consulting firm has been engaged to prepare a needs assessment of the NAHLN project with a report of that assessment due in mid-November of 2003. The NAHLN Steering Committee has agreed to a set of information standards including HL7, LOINC and SNOMED as the basis for the development of the data communications exchange system to be used by all current and future NAHLN laboratories. The USAIP has also established standards for the data elements of premise, individual animal and group/lot animal identification. The USAIP also establishes workflow schemes for assignment of all three types of identifications. The complete draft plan is available on the internet at www.usaip.info.

Summary diagnostic data display: Dr. Jack Schmitz presented the University of Nebraska Veterinary Diagnostic Center's web-based application for dissemination of information on submitted cases. The system provides access to the general public via a standard web browser and provides summarized statistics of cases presented to the laboratory, grouped into syndromes and divided into 6 week blocks of time. The data can be viewed as regional summaries or statewide aggregates. A drawback of the current system is that certain parts of the state more often send animals to an out-of-state laboratory due to proximity, rather than the in-state lab and that data is therefore lost to this system. This project identified the need for interstate cooperation in reporting and exchanging data so that each state may more accurately evaluate conditions within their borders.

Animal Incident Tracking: Mr. Chad DeMeyers and Mr. Matt Corsells, Eagle Technologies Inc., presented a veterinary tracking, reporting, awareness and collaboration suite (VetTRACS), a web-based suite of applications that allow private and state-certified veterinarians to collaborate on animal incidents. The goal of the suite is to centrally track animal issues and events, including daily tasks and emergency management, at the state level. In a single repository, the VetTRACS suite of tools provides timely tracking of animal incidents and diseases with improved data accuracy, consistent management of emergencies, costs, notifications and alerts. Some of the key features of VetTRACS include: general animal observation, tracking of emergency management incidents, inventory management, fleet management, personnel management, financial tracking, GIS mapping tools and unique identification for premises nationwide. The VetTRACS suite consists of four modules which are a Private Practitioners Module (PPP) allowing states to leverage the data and knowledge of private practitioners and state employees in the field in order to further investigate potential incidents and disease outbreaks; the Emergency Management Response System (EMRS) which helps manage people, facilities and costs while geographically tracking disease outbreaks and trends; the Identification System for Premises (IDSP), which provides address validation, address matching, assignment of unique ID's to premises and storage of addresses and ID's and gives states the ability to leverage a federally recognized system; and the Geographic Information System (GIS) which provides field and centrally located personnel the ability to spatially and visually manage disease incidents and outbreaks through the use of maps. The modules of VetTRACS will benefit an organization independently or implemented and integrated as an entire suite. Presently VetTRACS holds a contract with the USDA:APHIS:VS for the development and implementation of the Federal EMRS application.

National Surveillance Unit: The final presentation was by Dr. Bryan McCluskey, the newly appointed leader of the National Surveillance Unit (NSU) the intended operational unit for the development of the National Surveillance System (NSS). Dr. McCluskey explained the needs for a coordinated, comprehensive and integrated NSS. The NSU has been established beginning as of October 2003 as a unit within the Center for National Surveillance at the Centers for Epidemiology and Animal Health of USDA/ APHIS/VS and will serve all of Veterinary Services. The charge to the NSU is to coordinate and integrate surveillance activities to maximize the efficiency and minimize the costs of the National Surveillance System; evaluate the overall efficacy of the national surveillance system as well as specific surveillance tools, and combination of tools; provide a focal point for the collection, processing, analysis and delivery of surveillance information for the purposes of action and risk analysis, both domestic and international; lead the design and implementation of surveillance strategies and processes; identify and manage baseline data sets for surveillance necessary for meaningful analysis; and establish linkages and liaisons necessary to carry out elements of this charge. Initial tasks include building collaborations across VS units and with outside partners, evaluation of existing surveillance systems, and integration of existing data sources. The following discussion centered on strategic planning for National Surveillance Systems, and on activities and impact that the NSU may have on efforts to establish new surveillance efforts. The NSU needs to provide a hub for peer review and evaluation of all present and especially all future VS surveillance activities. The committee discussed the establishment of a working group of stakeholders to write a strategic plan for NSS activities.

The committee concluded its' meeting by voting on and passing a resolution on strategic planning and development of the National Surveillance System.

Approved Methods Committee

Co-chairs: Barbara Martin and Jim Pearson. The committee met on October 9 from 2:00-5:30pm with 9 committee members or their representatives and 23 guests in attendance.

Barb Martin presented the following request from Dr. Terry McElwain, President of the AAVLD:

The committee is to develop a benchmark of approved/accepted methods that could and should be used by veterinary diagnostic laboratories. Some might be OIE approved and validated, some validated but not to OIE standards and some not validated at all but accepted by current practice as the best method available. Dr. McElwain went on to point out that the latest version of the OIE guidelines as described in the OIE "Quality Standard and Guidelines for Veterinary Laboratories: Infectious Diseases" states: "The laboratory shall use appropriate test methods and related procedures for all infectious animal disease diagnostic testing activities. Consideration shall be given to all factors that impact on the relevance of the test method and test results to a specific diagnostic interpretation or application. These factors include the suitability of the test method, its acceptability by the scientific and regulatory communities, its acceptability to the client, and its feasibility given available laboratory resources. To the extent possible, test methods shall be chosen from those endorsed or published by reputable technical organizations or sources." A matrix for recording the tests was presented. The first categories, which have been completed, are the OIE Prescribed and Alternative tests. The Committee then discussed the plan to develop a list of approved tests. The Committee decided that tests for other diseases be added to the matrix by the appropriate AAVLD Committees. Columns were added to the matrix to identify if the test has had a bench or field validation, if it is an established test but validation is unknown, or the test has not been validated.

Peter Wright made a presentation concerning potential changes to the OIE validation process. The OIE is looking at a way to identify validated tests. The International Atomic Energy Agency/Food and Agriculture Organization (IAEA/FAO) held a meeting November 18-20, 2002 in Vienna Austria: 'OIE Validation and Certification of Diagnostic Assays for Infectious Animal Diseases.' The OIE test validation system was discussed and proposals to improve it were developed. Recommendations of the meeting were presented to the OIE Standards Commission and they made a recommendation on approval of validated tests to the OIE International Committee.

The International Committee approved the following resolutions:

1. Fitness for purpose should be used as a criterion for validation.
2. The Director General should make provisions to establish a registry for assays with levels of validation specified.
3. OIE Reference Laboratories should be intimately involved with validation efforts.
4. OIE Reference Laboratories should establish serum/sample reference collections to be used for validation in line with their mandates.
5. The Director General should be given the mandate to review, in close consultation with the Standards Commission, the procedures involved in the timely approval of assays. This may entail the creation of a specific Ad hoc Group comprising relevant experts to evaluate any submissions received.
6. The Director General should be authorised to recover, if necessary, any costs incurred in the process of validating such assays.

The IAEA/FAO consultants group will meet in December 2003, to discuss how to implement the resolutions.

Jim Pearson presented the status of the OIE validation chapters that are going to be included in the 2004 edition of the OIE *Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals (mammals, birds and bees)*. The *Manual* will be published in the spring of 2004 and the Chapter “Principles of validation of diagnostic assays for infectious diseases” that was in the 2000 edition has been updated. A second Chapter “Validation and quality control of polymerase chain reaction methods used for the diagnosis of infectious diseases” has been added. The Member Country comments have been received and are being incorporated into the final version of the Chapters.

Tammy Beckham discussed current validation efforts by ARS and APHIS. Real time RT-PCR methods are being developed as a rapid means to diagnose foreign animal diseases. Assays for foot and mouth disease (FMD), classical swine fever (CSF), highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI), Newcastle disease (ND), vesicular stomatitis (VS), African swine fever (ASF), Rinderpest, lumpy skin disease, and contagious bovine pleuropneumonia are in varying stages of development and validation. The ND and HPAI test validation was discussed by Bev Schmitt. All the other tests were developed by the ARS at the Plum Island Animal Disease Center. Bench validation of the FMD, VS and CSF assays is nearing completion and outbreak samples are being obtained for field validation. The bench validation of the remaining assays is in process.

Bev Schmitt described the validation of the HPAI and ND tests during an outbreak. The validation of assays during an outbreak is often necessary due to the need for a particular type of assay, a more rapid assay and to streamline testing. While the high volume of samples received during an outbreak makes validation difficult from a workload standpoint, it also provides an excellent set of field validation samples from a real-world, applied standpoint. Validation should be against a “gold-standard” assay and target numbers of positives and negatives should be used as defined by the OIE. The HPAI and ND tests were developed and bench validated at the South East Poultry Research Laboratory, Athens, GA. The technology was transferred to the Diagnostic Virology Laboratory, NVSL for the field validation. The HPAI test was validated with samples collected during the 2002 outbreak in Virginia. The ND test was validated with samples collected during the outbreak in California. Negative cohort sampling will be completed in the near future.

Sharon Messenger, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, made a presentation on methods development and validation of new tests for the Center for Disease Control’s Laboratory Resource Network (LRN). She discussed the determination of candidate signatures and the testing involved. Signatures that pass the screening process are optimized for Taqman[®] detection on different platforms. The assays are defined by their input samples, extraction method, the detection process, and instrumentation. Assays are then validated through a multi-center collaborative study that follows AOAC methods.

Aquaculture Committee, Joint USAHA and AAVLD

Co-chairs: Drs. Scott LaPatra (USAHA) and Tom Baldwin (AAVLD)

The Aquaculture Committee met on October 12, 2003 from 1-5 PM with 19 attendees.

- A. Dr. Scott LaPatra – Welcome and introductions
- B. Invited speakers
 1. Dr. John Clifford, Assistant Deputy Administrator, USDA, spoke on the National Aquatic Animal Health Plan, including sections on mission, rationale, challenges, objectives, task force members, process, anticipated results, and progress.
 2. Dr. Mark Engle, National Animal Identification Task Force, outlined how national animal identification efforts in swine and poultry might apply to fish. He emphasized that group identification under dynamic conditions might be most appropriate.
 3. Dr. Otis Miller, National Aquaculture Coordinator, USDA-APHIS, reviewed USDA-APHIS efforts in aquaculture disease control, emphasizing successful control programs for infectious salmon anemia virus and spring viremia of carp.
 4. Dr. David Scarfe, AVMA, outlined the past years efforts of the AVMA Seafood Advisory Committee.
 5. Dr. Scott LaPatra, Clear Springs Foods, reviewed opportunities provided to members by the Fish Health Section of the American Fisheries Society, emphasizing affiliate membership, the Journal of Aquatic Animal Health, national and regional meetings, and a recently released combined publication “*Standard Procedures for Aquatic Animal Health Inspections and Procedures for the Detection and Identification of Certain Fish Pathogens*”.
 6. Dr. Scott LaPatra, Clear Springs Foods, reviewed interactions with members of the Environmental Protection Agency, which have expressed interest in regulating drug, chemical, waste effluent and pathogens released from fish farms.
 7. Dr. Tom Baldwin, Utah Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, presented a reminder of Robert’s Rules of Order, which are the foundation of procedures for doing business in a parliamentary body.

C. Old business

The resolution passed last year, encouraging USDA-APHIS to work with other agencies, organizations and entities to develop a uniform process for aquatic animal diagnostics and pathogen identification, along with the USDA-APHIS response, was discussed.

D. New business

1. A motion to replace the existing mission statement with a new one was made, seconded and passed. The new mission statement reads:

The Aquaculture Committee provides a forum for discussion and cooperation between members of the diverse aquaculture industries, regulatory and tribal agencies, and the research community, as they address problems and opportunities related to aquatic animal health and well-being, seafood safety, and public health. The committee also develops and recommends policies and actions for the USAHA that will facilitate harmonization of aquatic animal health regulations and the activities of stakeholder federal, state, tribal, and local agencies, and in so doing, ensure the economic stability of the aquaculture industries.

2. A motion to have the committee chairs prepare and submit a letter requesting USAHA issue a letter of support to NCCLS for their efforts in standardizing procedures in aquatic animal laboratory diagnostics was made, seconded and passed.
3. A motion to accept a resolution drafted by Dr. Robert Ehlenfoldt was made, seconded and discussed. A modified version, included as Appendix 2 (see <http://www.usaha.org/resolutions/reso03/res-0903.html>), was motioned, seconded, and passed.
4. A motion to accept a resolution drafted by Dr. Scott LaPatra was made, seconded and discussed. A modified version, included as Appendix 3 (see <http://www.usaha.org/resolutions/reso03/res-0803.html>), was motioned, seconded, and passed.

- E. A motion to adjourn was made, seconded, and passed.

Bacteriology Steering Committee

Co-chairs: Carol Maddox and Linda Schroeder-Tucker. The steering committee met from 8:00 to 10:00pm October 11, 2003.

2003 Bacteriology/Mycology Subcommittee meeting: The following agenda items were covered:

1. Check Test – Forty-six participants with generally good results, one laboratory needs improvement.
2. Select Agents – Method Protocols were posted on website. Members were notified and will have review and consensus in 30 days.
 - Request made for possible QC microorganisms – Dr. David Bemis and other members investigating sources.
 - Workshop on select agents will be organized for next year by Dr. Karen Post.
3. Identification of problem isolates – A spreadsheet was circulated to create a manual similar to the list of unusual serological tests manual created some years past.
4. Shipping Dangerous Goods – Presentation was given by Dr. Carol Maddox summarizing training she received from Federal Express.
5. Creation of AAVLD Bacteriology List Serve – it was agreed to develop a discussion list separate from the AAVLD list serve as a vehicle to accomplish the above tasks and to facilitate dissemination of future information.
6. Anaerobe Workshop – Presented by Mike Cox of Anaerobe Systems Inc. and Spencer Jang of SVM, UC Davis. Well attended and well received by all.
7. Susan Sanchez from the University of Georgia was recommended to replace Dr. Brenda Love as co-chair for the next three years

Adoption of OIE Standards – A list of agents spreadsheet was reviewed and will be sent by E-mail to those members present. Members agreed to provide commentary by December 25th. A recommendation was made to review the spreadsheet as minimum standards for level A competence.

Request by the National Pork Producers to have a swine Salmonella protocol similar to the NPIP protocol - It was suggested to have Dr. Paula Cray's protocol reviewed by the AAVLD swine laboratories for use as an accepted protocol. Dr. Cray was contacted and agreed to provide their protocol.

Summary of the Subcommittee on Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing - (See below).

Bacteriology and Mycology Subcommittee report

Co-chairs: Drs. Brenda Love and William Fales. The committee met from 8:00 am to Noon on October 10, 2003.

Internal Quality Assurance Survey (aka “Check Test”): There were a total of 46 participating labs this year. The survey consisted of 6 case histories and associated unknown organisms. In general, participants did quite well in correctly identifying the unknown organisms and in providing QA/QC information as appropriate. One lab seemed to have more difficulty than the rest in correctly identifying organisms. It was agreed that six questions is a good number for the test. Six individuals volunteered to provide case histories for next year’s test: Doreene Hyatt, Val Patton, Tim Klinefelter, Marie Archambault, Lindsay Oaks and Bruce Charlton.

Protocols for identification of select agents: Several were compiled by subcommittee members last year. These protocols are posted on the visitor site under “New and Current events” on http://www.aavld.org/MainMenu2/vis_frame.html. None of the attendees had read through the protocols as of this meeting; it was decided that feedback/comments would be collected from subcommittee members within the next month to submit to the executive committee. At that point, with no major problems encountered, the protocols would be considered to contain the recommended course of action for any laboratory encountering these agents. Issues surrounding this topic that were subsequently discussed were 1) availability of QC organisms for individual tests required in the identification of all the select agents (Dave Bemis agreed to spearhead an effort to identify organisms that could be made available for this purpose); 2) training for bacteriologists to recognize the agents and perform the tests (Karen Post agreed to organize a workshop for 2004, put on by NTLM and held at the Department of Health labs in Raleigh, NC); 3) protocols need to include a specific location to which suspect organisms can be sent for definitive identification; 4) registration with CDC to be able to keep select agents on hand, or even upon “inadvertent” isolation and identification of a select agent, is problematic; 5) accessing the AAVLD website is problematic for some members.

Identification of difficult organisms: This also relates to NVSL’s shift in focus to the select agents, and away from more routine diagnostic bacteriology. Several labs discussed how they are currently doing DNA sequencing of 16S (bacterial) or 18S (fungal) genes of isolates that prove difficult to identify through other means. It was decided that it would be informative to publish on the website a list of labs with expertise in certain areas, whether it be fish bacteriology or molecular techniques or any other area, or labs with the capacity to perform certain tasks (analogous to the list of serology labs that perform “unusual” tests that was published several years back).

Shipping requirements: Carol Maddox gave a presentation of the highlights of a training session she recently attended given by FedEx on shipping requirements for infectious isolates. While many labs are attempting to follow the infectious substance shipping rules, they are difficult to interpret and often change in subtle ways. Subsequent discussion ensued on the experiences of Cornell and Texas with unannounced FAA audits to examine their compliance with shipping requirements. Documentation of training, which must be renewed every two years, was a major component of the audits. Failure to comply with requirements can result in a \$30,000 fine (to the individual, not the institution) for each violation cited. Fortunately, in both of these instances, violations were not found.

Implications of the adoption of OIE standards by the AAVLD accreditation committee were briefly discussed. It was decided that we would attempt to have a presentation at the steering committee meeting by someone who attended the Quality Assurance and the Accreditation Committee meetings, which ran concurrently with the Bacteriology/Mycology Committee meeting.

Microbiology Discussion List: The group decided they wanted to establish a discussion list in AAVLD, specifically for microbiology issues. The committee was told that Jim Case can do this and is willing to do this, but he wants to be assured that the sub-list will be used routinely. Brenda Love will submit the request to Jim Case.

Anaerobic workshop: The committee thanked co-chair Bill Fales for organizing the anaerobic bacteriology workshop that was presented by Mike Cox (Anaerobe Systems) and Spencer Jang (UCDavis) on Thursday. It was a well-received workshop, and very informative.

New co-chair: Susan Sanchez from the University of Georgia has volunteered to serve as the new co-chair for 3 years pending approval by President Reed. There were no additional volunteers. Bill Fales term ends at the 2004 meeting

Antimicrobial susceptibility testing (AST) subcommittee report

Co-Chairs Dr C.C. Wu and Deepanker Tewari. The committee met from 1:00-3:00 pm on October 10, 2003.

There were 30 attendees at the meeting. Topics covered included anaerobe susceptibility testing, NCCLS document updates and a discussion on a published survey conducted on antimicrobial susceptibility testing practices in the Veterinary diagnostic laboratory in United States.

Anaerobe susceptibility discussion was led by Mr Spencer Jang from California. He discussed the importance of testing for *beta lactamase* production to obtain some limited resistance information economically. Test for *beta lactamase* production can be performed using a Dry Slide™ and recorded with change of color to red based on the enzyme production. Mr Jang reported, analysis of gram-negative clinical isolates recovered from various animal species were found to be resistant to penicillin and ampicillin to varying degree in his laboratory. Seventy nine percent of *Bacteroides fragilis* isolates were found to be resistant. The resistance among other isolates was 13% for other *Bacteroides* spp, 14% for *Porphyromonas* spp, 18% for *Prevotella* spp and 4% for *Fusobacterium* spp isolates. For laboratories testing susceptibility for anaerobes inclusion of Amoxicillin-clavulanate, Impipenem, Ampicillin, Ceftiofur, Chloramphenicol and Metronidazole in the test panel was considered useful. The gram positive anaerobes are reported to be broadly susceptible to a wider selection of antimicrobials however some Clostridia including *C difficile* are reported to show some resistance. Metronidazole as a drug choice still remains highly effective against *C. difficile* isolates.

National Committee for Clinical Laboratory Standards (NCCLS) update was provided by Dr Ching Ching Wu. Several newly approved interpretive criteria were provided and discussed. The consensus report, M42-R, *Performance Standards for Antimicrobial Disk Susceptibility Tests for Bacteria Isolated from Aquatic Animals –a report*, was introduced to the members. It will be a good reference for labs dealing with aquaculture samples. These documents are available at NCCLS for a fee. NCCLS membership can be purchased with a subscription fee of \$300 and application material for membership can be found at www.nccls.org

Dr. Wu also informed members that NCCLS had sent a request to AAVLD that they were considering the development of a new guideline related to the methods for dilution susceptibility testing of bacteria isolated from aquatic sources. The organization wanted to know if such a document is needed. Comments can be emailed to exassess@nccls.org with interest in such document regarding:

- the utility of the document
- the level of urgency that exists in developing the document
- the appeal to industry, professions, and government
- the application of the document internationally

If anyone would like to participate on this project, please reply to exassess@nccls.org letting NCCLS know your interest in this project. A current Curriculum Vitae or resume is required to be submitted along with your contact information.

Dr Doreene Hyatt summarized the survey report published in J Am Vet Med Assoc. 2003 Jan 15; 222(2):168-73 about antimicrobial susceptibility testing practices. The survey was based on a questionnaire that was mailed to veterinary diagnostic laboratories recently throughout the United States. Interestingly, 88% of the laboratories were performing these tests with disk diffusion and the rest were utilizing broth microdilution technique. Most AAVLD labs reported that they were utilizing the NCCLS standards and which is important for unified standards across diagnostic laboratories for generating quality results.

Dr Tewari informed the group about FDA approval of Tylosin for Chickens (orally), Florfenicol for swine use and Danafloxacin for bovine respiratory disease. More emphasis was placed on better educating the clients about utilizing the MIC data reported with broth dilution techniques.

The National Pilot Monitoring Program was discussed and Dr. Wu indicated that if further funding attempts are not successful, the program might have to end in January 2004. Efforts are underway to seek support.

Dr Doreen Hyatt was nominated to replace Dr Tewari as Co chair who finished his three-year term.

Constitution and Bylaws Committee

Chair Dave Steffen. The committee met on October 10th, 2003 from 5:00 to 6:00pm with four members in attendance.

Two resolutions were presented for formatting. One resolution was presented by the epidemiology committee and one by the executive board. Each group had a member present to discuss the resolution and to assist in formatting. Formatting suggestions were made and resolutions will be presented at the House of Delegates meeting on Saturday October 11th. The committee requested that all committees intending to submit resolutions for formatting have a member present to assure formatting does not change the substance of the resolution.

As several resolutions are jointly developed by AAVLD and USAHA a need to standardize those resolutions was discussed and the committee will consult with the executive committee to get clarification on the SOP's for resolutions and the desired format. Establishing guidelines for distribution of proposed resolutions so that HOD members have time to debate and consider them adequately will be requested and discussed with the executive committee.

Emergency Preparedness Workgroup

Chair John Andrews. The Emergency Preparedness Workgroup met from Friday, October 10, 2003 from 9:00 am to 10:10am with seven committee members and 37 guests present. The discussions centered on suggested changes to the document “Suggested Laboratory Guidelines for Animal Health Emergency Management.”

Specific language related to “chain of custody”, sample handling and tracking (both inter- and intra-laboratory), laboratory security, coordination with and notification of law enforcement agencies and information release to the public and to media was added. The amended document will be circulated to the committee for approval and presented to the AAVLD Executive Board for approval of the changes.

Discussions were also held regarding the need to convert the document into a checklist format that could be used by laboratories and their administrators and the State Veterinarian to assess the preparedness of a laboratory or laboratory system. The document will be drafted in a checklist format and circulated to committee members for input. The amended and approved document will be added to the National Animal Health Emergency Management Steering committee 2002-2003 biennial report as an appendix.

Other issues discussed that were considered beyond the scope of the document included: identification of essential personnel for weather related emergencies during which the laboratory is open for routine business or for an animal health emergency, access to electrical generators, physical security of the facilities during an animal related bioterrorism event, business resumption plans following and during a natural or animal emergency, continuity-of-operations plans in event of terrorism or natural disaster, data protection from FOIA during the emergency (does it fall under national security?), and on-site location for law enforcement to triage samples if bioterrorism is suspected.

Enteric Diseases Committee

Chair Chobi DebRoy. The committee met from 3:00-5:00 pm on October 10, 2003 with 14 members and 20 non-members in attendance. A sign up sheet was circulated for any new members with an interest to serve on the Committee. There were two speakers.

Dr. Pina Fratamico, Lead scientist and microbiologist at the Eastern Regional Research Center, Agricultural Research Station, USDA, Wyndmoor, PA presented a seminar on “Detection and Characterization of Pathogenic E. coli”

Diarrheagenic *Escherichia coli* strains are grouped into specific categories based on virulence properties, pathogenic features, and serotype. These categories include the enteropathogenic *E. coli* (EPEC), enterotoxigenic *E. coli* (ETEC), enteroinvasive *E. coli* (EIEC), enteroaggregative *E. coli* (EAEC), diffusely adhering *E. coli* (DAEC), and enterohemorrhagic *E. coli* (EHEC). The production of Shiga toxin/s distinguishes Shiga toxin-producing *E. coli* (STEC) from other *E. coli* strains. The main emphasis with respect of STEC has been EHEC serotype O157:H7; however, other serotypes have been isolated from patients with conditions identical to those caused by *E. coli* O157:H7, as well as from food sources, animals, and the environment. Research in our laboratory has focused on the development of methods for detection, identification, and characterization of pathogenic *E. coli*, in particular *E. coli* O157:H7. Both conventional and real-time multiplex polymerase chain reaction (PCR) assays targeting virulence and other genes, were developed for detection of *E. coli* O157:H7 in food and bovine feces. A number of DNA extraction techniques and immunomagnetic separation were employed to remove PCR inhibitors from food and fecal samples and to improve the sensitivity of the PCR. In addition, comparisons were made of the relative efficiencies of different enrichment media and protocols for detection and isolation of *E. coli* O157:H7 from food. A study conducted to determine the prevalence of STEC in swine showed that 70% (484/687) of swine fecal samples tested were positive for *stx1* or *stx2* using a PCR assay targeting these genes. *E. coli* serogroups that have been associated with disease in swine and in humans were isolated from swine fecal samples, thus, swine may be a potential source of STEC infection in humans. Since procedures for serotyping *E. coli* isolates are time consuming and labor intensive, PCR-based typing methods targeting unique sequences in the *E. coli* O antigen gene clusters are being developed. To identify unique sequences, long PCR products of the O antigen gene clusters were sequenced, and the genes were then annotated and analyzed. PCR assays based on the *wzx* (O antigen flippase) and *wzy* (O antigen polymerase) genes of *E. coli* serogroups O26, O103, O104, O113, O121, and others have been developed for typing these serogroups. Research is underway to develop similar assays for all of the known *E. coli* serogroups to ultimately develop a DNA microarray-based method for *E. coli* typing and characterization.

Dr. Roger Maes, Professor and Section Chief of Serology and Virology Section at the Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI, presented a seminar on Detection of Bovine Rotavirus, Coronavirus, Norovirus, Torovirus and *Cryptosporidium parvum* in neonatal calf diarrhea cases. Coauthors were: A.G. Wise, D. Grooms, M. Kiupel, S. Bolin, L. Hanson, G. Sila Diagnostic Center for Population

and Animal Health, Dept. of Microbiology and Molecular Genetics and Dept of Large Animal Clinical Sciences, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI 48824.

Neonatal diarrhea induced by bovine group A rotavirus causes significant economic loss in the dairy, beef industry due to increased morbidity and mortality, treatment costs, and reduced growth rates. The objective of this study was to evaluate a human group A rotavirus assay (ImmunoCardSTAT® Rotavirus) as an on-site diagnostic test for bovine rotavirus. Using a collection of bovine diarrhea samples submitted to the Virology Section of the Diagnostic Center for Population and Animal Health at Michigan State University, and compared to a bovine group A rotavirus specific RT-PCR, the ImmunoCardSTAT® Rotavirus Assay had a sensitivity and specificity of 87.0% and 93.6 % respectively. When compared to the same RT-PCR and using the same fecal sample collection, a commercially available group A ELISA (Pathfinder®, Sanofi Diagnostics, Redmond, WA) had a sensitivity and specificity of 78.3 and 67.7% respectively. Subsequently, the ImmunoCardSTAT® Rotavirus Assay, RT-PCR and a different commercially available group A rotavirus ELISA (Rotaclone®, Meridian Diagnostics, Cincinnati, OH) were used to evaluate fecal samples collected from neonatal calves experimentally infected with bovine rotavirus. When diarrheic fecal samples that were positive for bovine rotavirus by RT-PCR were evaluated, the ImmunoCardSTAT® Rotavirus Assay and the Rotaclone® assay detected bovine rotavirus 85% and 95% of the time respectively. Based on these studies, the ImmunoCardSTAT® Rotavirus assay appears to be an excellent test for detecting group A bovine rotaviruses. This assay may be useful as an on-site diagnostic test for veterinarians as an aid in the management of bovine neonatal diarrhea.

Cryptosporidium parvum is an important cause of bovine neonatal diarrhea. *C. parvum* is also a zoonotic agent, infecting people through direct contact with diarrheic feces or contaminated environments. Current laboratory diagnostic methods include direct examination of fecal smears using specific stains, fecal flotation, antigen detection ELISA, latex agglutination, and PCR. However, none of these tests are easily applicable on the farm. Development of rapid, accurate and economical on-site assays would be useful as an aid in determining the etiology of outbreaks of neonatal bovine diarrheas, allowing for rapid implementation of appropriate control and prevention measures. The ColorPAC *Giardia/Cryptosporidium* Rapid Assay and ProSpecT *Cryptosporidium* Rapid Assay are two patient-side assays used for the detection of *C. parvum* in human feces. We addressed the hypothesis that these assays can be used in the rapid identification of *C. parvum* in neonatal bovine diarrhea samples. Fifty-one diarrhea samples from calves ranging in age from 1-30 days were evaluated. All samples were tested with the ColorPAC and ProSpecT assays and results were compared to the microscopic identification of oocysts in fecal smears after diamant-fuchsin staining. *Cryptosporidium*-like organisms were identified in 28 of 51 fecal samples by diamant-fuchsin staining. The ColorPAC correctly identified 23/28 (82%) positive samples and 23/23 (100%) negative samples ($\kappa = 0.81$). The ProSpecT assay correctly identified 22/28 (79%) positive samples and 23/23 (100%) negative samples ($\kappa = 0.77$). We conclude that both the ColorPAC *Giardia/Cryptosporidium* Rapid Assay and ProSpecT *Cryptosporidium* Rapid Assay are rapid and accurate diagnosis assays that could be used for detecting *C. parvum* in neonatal bovine diarrhea samples on farms.

Noroviruses have emerged as the leading worldwide cause of acute non-bacterial gastroenteritis in humans. The presence of noroviruses in diarrheic stool samples from calves from Michigan and Wisconsin dairy farms were investigated by RT-PCR. Norovirus-positive samples were found on 6 out of 8 farms in Michigan and on 2 out of 14 farms in Wisconsin. Phylogenetic analyses of the partial polymerase and capsid sequences derived for a subset of these bovine noroviruses showed that these strains formed a group genetically distinct from the human noroviruses, but were more closely related to genogroup I than to genogroup II human noroviruses. Examination of 2 full and 12 partial capsid (ORF2) sequences of these bovine strains revealed the presence of two genetic subgroups or clusters of bovine noroviruses circulating in Michigan and Wisconsin farms. One subgroup appears to be “Jena-like”, the other “Newbury agent-2-like”.

Toroviruses are enveloped, single-stranded, positive sense RNA viruses, identified in diarrheic fecal samples from neonatal calves since 1982. Experimental inoculation of colostrum-deprived, gnotobiotic calves with torovirus (Breda virus) causes diarrhea, but its pathogenic potential in traditionally raised calves is still unclear. Furthermore, its presence in Michigan or Wisconsin dairy herds has not been previously determined. Utilizing RT-PCR, 85 fecal samples from neonatal calves with diarrhea from Michigan (72) and Wisconsin (13) were screened for Torovirus as well as other known causes of neonatal diarrhea, including Bovine Coronavirus, Bovine Calicivirus, Bovine Rotavirus, and *Cryptosporidium parvum*. A total of 26 (36%) Michigan samples and 3 (23%) Wisconsin samples were positive for Torovirus confirming the virus’ presence in these two states. Torovirus was not detected as the sole agent in any of the diarrheal cases examined. There was no predominant co-infection pattern between Torovirus and any of the other pathogens detected. Instead, Torovirus was found in various combinations with all of the above listed pathogens. These data indicate that Torovirus could be a contributing factor to neonatal calf diarrhea. Further research is needed to determine to what extent Torovirus infection increases the severity of neonatal diarrhea in traditionally raised calves.

The format for next year’s committee meeting was discussed. Suggestions for topics and speakers were solicited.

Epidemiology Committee

Co-chairs: Mark Thurmond and François Elvinger. The committee met from 10:00 am to Noon on October 10, 2003. There were ~55 in attendance, forty-three participants signed in including eleven of 20 committee members. Thirteen additional participants expressed interest in committee membership.

Following a brief introduction by co-chair Elvinger (Virginia Tech), a joint meeting with the Approved Methods committee on Foreign Animal Disease Test Validation (CSF, FMD and END) was announced for 8 pm on 10/11/2003. Jeff Zimmerman (Iowa State University) reported on the progress of a report on validation proposed during the 2002 annual meeting. The committee agreed that there was a need for continued communication and education on validation and validation methods, including those used by the USDA. Following a brief presentation by Peter Wright on recommendations for veterinary diagnostic test validation and certification from a workshop at the International Atomic Energy Commission and the Food and Agriculture Organization, the committee asked for dissemination of those recommendations to AAVLD membership via the *Journal of Veterinary Diagnostic Investigation* or another outlet.

The design and planning of surveillance systems focusing mainly on foreign animal diseases was introduced as main topic for discussion by co-chair Thurmond (University of California, Davis). Surveillance is a formal, active, systematic, validated diagnostic process undertaken to maximize the earliest possible detection of a disease or agent in a population. Uncertainties in a surveillance system are related to the probabilities of an infected animal being in a detectable disease transition state, of sampling schemes capturing the infected animal, of diagnostic tests detecting evidence of the agent in the specimen submitted from the infected animal, and of results being communicated to the appropriate audience or decision makers. The surveillance session was organized such that speakers were to answer the following questions: What are the plans for surveillance? What are the logic, reasoning, and science supporting the plans? What are specific plans for the NAHLN in FAD surveillance? Discussions were to focus on national strategy and commitment; stakeholder involvement in planning, organization and implementation; research needs; prioritization of test development and validation; validation of surveillance models; and the role of AAVLD.

Dr. Brian McCluskey (USDA:APHIS:VS:NSU) presented Architecture and Design considerations for the National Animal Disease Surveillance System (NSS). Dr. McCluskey is the leader of the newly created National Surveillance Unit (NSU), an autonomous unit within APHIS Veterinary Services. A National Surveillance System Steering Committee is to be formed to guide direction, planning, and implementation of the NSS. Surveillance systems need to be coordinated, comprehensive and integrated. The NSU is to coordinate and integrate surveillance activities to maximize efficacy and minimize costs of the National Surveillance System (NSS), evaluate the efficacy surveillance tools and combination of tools (presently applied and future), and, principally, provide a focal point for the collection, processing and delivery of surveillance information for the purposes of action and risk analysis, both domestic and international. The NSU is to lead the design and implementation of surveillance strategies and processes, identify and manage a baseline data set for surveillance necessary for meaningful analysis, establish linkages and liaisons necessary to carry out elements of this charge. Initial tasks for the NSU are the evaluation of existing surveillance systems and integration of existing data sources. Surveillance systems need to be evaluated as to their usefulness, sensitivity, specificity, representativeness, timeliness, simplicity, and flexibility. Dr. McCluskey also stated that such systems had to be acceptable. Surveillance will consist of practitioner/producer based passive surveillance, mass screening systems using currently available sources, and sentinel systems utilizing herds, labs, markets, slaughter plants. For foreign animal diseases surveillance will be augmented with programs to monitor disease status of trading partners and neighbors. In case of outbreaks, continued surveillance will depend on the possibilities for expansion of surge capacities within the National Animal Health Lab Network. Dr. McCluskey underlined the urgency of creating a Steering Committee that will serve to connect all responsible parties in the design of surveillance systems.

Dr. Blanchard (University of California, Davis) presented the history of the creation of the National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN) and discussed the funding of that initiative. Structure, expansion and integration of the NAHLN were discussed in multiple venues at this meeting, and NAHLN is to play a major role in national animal health surveillance; however, format and magnitude of its contribution to NSS are yet to be defined.

Dr. Tom McKenna (DHS:FADDL) addressed the planning process for identifying appropriate and necessary diagnostic tests and assays to be employed in a national surveillance system. Different tests are needed to address specific needs, be it to prove absence of a disease or disease agent, or to detect the first clinically ill animal if a disease was introduced into a population, or for detection of infected animals, herds or flocks during a disease outbreak or after control and eradication of the disease. Dr. McKenna elaborated on the impact of false positive or false negative test results: every positive result requires action to be taken; should a positive result occur when surveying a healthy population, then more testing needs to be done of the samples which were positive, as well as samples from other animals in that location, to either confirm or dismiss the first positive result, which, although being relatively inexpensive, is time consuming; false-negative test results in 'healthy' populations delay response to the introduction of disease agents, which may be very

costly – that is, when looking for an exotic disease, you cannot afford false negatives! Consequently, Dr. McKenna stated that **very good tests** were needed to do surveillance for exotic diseases such that all incursions can be detected but the number of false alerts remains low. Presently real-time PCR are being developed for foreign animal diseases that may be adequate; however, regulators, testers and stakeholders need to understand the meaning of test results, in light of the tests' performance characteristics, **determined by appropriate and transparent validation processes**. Dr. McKenna concluded his presentation by stating that new diagnostic technologies were making it easier to do 'appropriate' surveillance, and that the United States could **not afford not to do** surveillance for exotic livestock diseases in today's environment of international trade, international travel, and potential agrobioterrorism.

Discussion following these presentation centered on the criteria that may be used for evaluation of surveillance systems. Performance characteristics for surveillance systems are similar to those used to describe performance of diagnostic tests; that is, sensitivity and specificity, as described by Thurmond in an upcoming publication in the *Journal of Veterinary Diagnostic Investigation*, and especially the fitness for purpose must be considered. The meeting concluded with a unanimous affirmative vote for a resolution requesting from USDA:APHIS:VS the immediate preparation of a Strategic Plan for the National Surveillance System (see HOD1 minutes on page 15 and companion USAHA resolution at <http://www.usaha.org/resolutions/reso03/res-0603.html>)

Report of the Special Session on Diagnostic Test Validation for Foreign Animal Diseases.

Co sponsored by: AAVLD Approved Methods Committee and AAVLD Epidemiology Committee.

8:00-10:00pm on October 11, 2003.

Co-chairs: Barbara Martin, Jim Pearson-Approved Methods; Mark Thurmond, François Elvinger- Epidemiology

Fifty-six association members signed in for this special session on diagnostic test validation.

Dr. Tammy Beckham, NVSL, presented procedures, progress and data on the validation of a real time PCR for the detection of classical swine fever virus, developed by ARS and Tetracore, and four tests for foot and mouth disease virus.

Dr. David Suarez of USDA ARS SEPRL provided an overview of a real time PCR assay for all APM viruses and a paired END-specific assay developed and validated in collaboration with the NVSL. No validation or test performance data was presented.

Dr. Sharon Hietala of the CAHFS Davis presented their equivalency approach in developing a high-throughput (96-well format) END assay based on the previously validated SEPRL – NVSL assay, and provided validation data using samples from the END outbreak and from outside the END quarantine zone during the outbreak. Data for analytic and diagnostic performance of the assay were presented, including a diagnostic sensitivity of 0.9933 and a diagnostic specificity of 0.9999.

There was considerable discussion about the lack of specificity of the ARS/Tetracore CSF assay, particularly relating to other pestiviruses like BVDV and border disease virus. The issue also was raised about why field validation for the ARS/Tetracore FMDV assay was prioritized ahead of the other three FMDV assays.

The approach described by Dr. Suarez was to screen for all avian paramyxoviruses with the matrix assay, and verify END with the specific but non-sensitive END assay. Reconciliation of the discrepant results between the two assays was not provided. A question was raised concerning NVSL approval of the END assay described by Dr. Suarez (with sensitivity = 0.783 and specificity = 0.991, as presented in an earlier scientific session) and whether an assay with such low sensitivity would produce too many false negative results to be fit for surveillance. It was noted that, in contrast, the high sensitivity (0.993) and specificity (0.999) of the high throughput assay with the 96-well format would lend itself well to END surveillance, as demonstrated in the face of the California END outbreak. General questions related to the need for establishing defined criteria and procedures in the process of assay approval by APHIS and NVSL, and for further work by these two AAVLD committees to address issues of validation.

Food Safety Committee

Chair Richard Oberst (KSU). The committee met from 6:30-8:30pm on October 9, 2003 with 19 persons attending.

-Dr. Valerie E. Ragan, Assistant Deputy Administrator, USDA, APHIS, Veterinary Services, gave an overview of the National Animal ID System. The system would be an identification and information system developed to respond within 48 hours of a disease outbreak. Dr. Ragan reported that veterinarians and diagnostic laboratories would be involved in the system and that the draft proposal was going to be presented later in the USAHA meeting for finalization. Updates can be obtained at <http://www.usaip.info/>
The presentation was followed by a question/answer period.

-Dr. John Ragan, USDA, FSIS invited participants to attend the Food Safety Symposium on 8:00am PDT, Sunday, October 12, 2003 and the USAHA Committee on Food Safety at 12:30pm PDT. He expressed the hope that both the AAVLD and the USAHA Food Safety Committees could work together in the future.

-Dr. Nathan E. Bauer, USDA, FSIS, Office of Public Health and Science, Zoonotic Diseases and Residue Surveillance Division, Animal and Egg Production Food Safety Branch, College Station, TX, gave an overview of pre-harvest food safety opportunities for veterinary diagnostic facilities. The presentation was followed by a question/answer period.

Foundation Committee

Chair Barb Powers. The committee met from 8:00-9:00 pm on October 10, 2003 with five members and guests in attendance.

Financial Status: Foundation has \$84,582.04 total assets as of September 30,
2003. There has been \$2265.00 in donations year to-date.
2004. Call for donations will be repeated in November 2003 using the same donation form.

Awards: The committee reviewed and approved the criteria recommended by the Awards committee for the best full JVDI manuscript award (\$1000), the best JVDI brief communication award (\$300), and criteria for selection of travel awardees. The awardees will be recognized at the AAVLD/USAHA general membership meeting on October 12, 2003.

Corporate Sponsors: Approaching various corporations for contributions to Foundation was discussed. Corporations to be approach include: Banfield, Dako, Ventana, Tetra Core, Idexx, Antech, BioRad, Heska, Sefia, Pfizer, Novartis, and Bayer. Before these corporations are approached, the Executive Committee will have to review and approve. This list will be brought to Executive Committee in February.

Endowed Funds: The committee discussed the minimum donation to create a self-sustaining endowed fund would be 25,000.

Government Relations Committee

Chair: Dr. Bruce Akey. The committee met from 3:30-5:30pm on October 11, 2003 with eight members and one guest in attendance.

DHS: Impact of the new Department of Homeland Security (DHS) was discussed. It was announced at this year's meetings that the DHS, by Presidential Directive, would now be the agency in charge of investigating any confirmed Foreign Animal Disease outbreak in the US. There is an obvious need to begin to build working relationships with key staff of the DHS and to explore issues of mutual interest such as the effect of security clearances on communication of critical information and the research and diagnostic priorities of Plum Island as well as any effects DHS might have on the continued development of the National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN). The next NAHLN Steering Committee meeting in Washington, DC will include a DHS representative as will the annual USAHA/AAVLD Government Relations Committee meeting in Washington early next year. A resolution was proposed and endorsed requesting DHS to support the continued development of the NAHLN.

NAHLN: The continued development of the NAHLN was discussed. It seems that the USDA's Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service (CSREES), the original source of funding for the pilot NAHLN labs, is backing away from continued funding of the effort. AAVLD has written to CSREES seeking continued funding and will re-submit the resolution from last year calling on USDA to fully support the completion of the NAHLN to encompass all 50 states.

LRN: The enrollment of state veterinary labs in the CDC Laboratory Response Network (LRN) was discussed. To join the LRN a lab must seek the endorsement of the director of their state's public health laboratory. However, currently LRN enrollment does not require notification of or endorsement by the State Veterinarian's Office, an oversight that should be addressed. There is concern that CDC will seek increased access to all information concerning testing for zoonotic disease agents.

USDA Vesicular Disease Review: The AAVLD was recently invited to participate in a review of the testing activities of USDA's NVSL concerning vesicular diseases. The participation was judged to be worthwhile and AAVLD should continue to seek such opportunities for input.

Committee Membership: It was agreed that the current President of AAVLD would co-Chair the committee, all officers of the AAVLD would be members and there would be a co-Chair who is not an officer who will serve a 3 year term to provide year-to-year continuity.

Informatics Committee

Chair: Dr. Jim Case. The AAVLD Informatics Committee met from 1:00 to 3:10pm on October 10, 2003 with 29 committee members and guests present.

Committee chair, Dr. Jim Case, reviewed the resolution presented by the Informatics Committee to the AAVLD House of Delegates at the annual meeting in 2002. This resolution to formally adopt HL7, LOINC and SNOMED CT as the terminology and messaging standards for the NAHLN did not pass. Dr. Case posed the question of whether it would be worthwhile to resubmit this to the House of Delegates. After discussion it was determined that since the steering committee of the ANHLN had adopted the recommendation of the NAHLN IT subcommittee to endorse these standards, it was not necessary to have the House of Delegates vote on it.

Dr. Case provided updates on the following standards activities:

HL7 - Version 2.5 of HL7, including a new specimen segment and new message structures more appropriate for diagnostic laboratories, has been approved by the American National Standards Institute as an accredited healthcare standard. Since AAVLD is now an organizational member of HL7, the standard documents may be freely distributed within AAVLD laboratories and among AAVLD members without regard to copyright violations. Anyone wanting specific documents may contact Dr. Case who is currently serving as the AAVLD representative to HL7.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services recently adopted HL7 and the laboratory portion of LOINC for all health related data involved in the Consolidated Healthcare Informatics program.

The National Library of Medicine has established a national license for the SNOMED CT terminology. As of January 1 2004, the SNOMED CT codes will be free for use and integrated into the Unified Medical language System, maintained by the NLM. It is unclear at this point how the terms will be distributed or made available. The original database tables for SNOMED CT may still be purchased from the College of American Pathologists for an annual subscription of \$500/year. This entitles the licensee to 2 updates per year. As participants in the national license, this provides access to the SNOMED CT Browser site, maintained by Dr. Jeff Wilcke at Virginia tech. This site requires a userID and password, which may be requested at the site. The browser and tools are at <http://snomed.vetmed.vt.edu/>.

The Integrated Taxonomic Information System (ITIS) is a project that is attempting to be the “authoritative taxonomic information on plants, animals, fungi, and microbes of North America and the world”. Given the current status of Species and breeds in SNOMED CT, this standard was brought up as an alternative to SNOMED in the standardized representation of Species and breed in laboratory systems. There are ongoing attempts to harmonize ITIS with SNOMED. As ITIS does not currently contain breed information, it may be too early to determine its long-term usefulness. Committee members were encouraged to review ITIS at: <http://www.itis.usda.gov/>

The United States Animal Identification Plan (USAIP) released version 4.0 of the National Identification Development Team recommendation for premises, individual and group identification of animals. Dr. Case explained some of the difficulties in developing a consensus on issues such as premises definition, group/lot numbering formats and validation mechanisms. Given the size of the group and the complexity of needs represented, the efforts are hopeful. He mentioned that premises identification will be released first and identifiers will contain validating check digits, which all systems will need to support.

Dr. Case informed the committee that a small number of veterinary diagnostic labs have been accepted into the CDC LRN. Plans are to include all accredited laboratories, but invitation for entry must currently come through the state public health labs. Hopefully there will be mechanisms to accomplish this in the coming months.

Standards training for the following standards will be available in the near future:

1. SNOMED CT Class in Chicago in October and November
2. HL7 training in Las Vegas in November, in Atlanta in December (Neotool)
3. LOINC/RELMA tutorial/workshop at HL7 meeting in November at AMIA; January in San Diego at HL7 meeting.

NAHLN Update

A steering committee for the NAHLN has been appointed and will be working to set the strategic direction of the NAHLN. An IT technical committee has also been appointed and while a specific charge has not been defined, the underlying emphasis is the desire

to exchange result data. CEAH has retained the consulting firm Booz-Allen-Hamilton to perform needs analysis for pilot release of NAHLN communications. Some of the identified needs for the NAHLN include:

- a. Need for lab registry and unique lab identifiers.
- b. Need for standard methods registry

Dr. Josh Dein from the National Wildlife Health Center has requested consideration of wildlife veterinary organizations in the NAHLN. The premise is that wildlife is an important component of disease surveillance. He has suggested that there is a desire in the wildlife community for a common structure for integration. There are similar needs for security and privacy and the USDA wildlife services are setting up wildlife surveillance system and they will need laboratory services as a part of this project. Additionally the Zoo community is also developing a surveillance system and should have access to what is happening in the lab area. World zoo association and ISIS are currently determining standards for information storage, retrieval and communication.

At the request of the Approved Methods Committee an open discussion was held on consideration by the Informatics committee to design and develop an open source, secure validated methods registry. No decision to move forward with this was made.

Laboratory Administrative Personnel and Management Committee

Chair Linda Hendrickson. There were 19 attendees to the two days of meetings.

Saturday, October 11, 2003, 1:00-5:00pm

Committee chair Linda Hendrickson called the meeting to order. Minutes of last year's meeting were approved with one correction – Katherine Hill should be changed from the Members Present section to the Guests Present section.

Linda surveyed meeting participants to see if they had registered with AAVLD for the meeting and all had. Most people were also members of AAVLD and Linda encouraged non-members to join AAVLD. We can join under the \$25.00 associate member category or the regular membership.

Dr. Leon Thacker gave a presentation on *Impact of OIE Standards for AAVLD Accreditation*. AAVLD is a member of OIE and will be accrediting according to OIE standards. Dr. Thacker said our labs are probably already doing most of what is in the OIE document, we just don't have it documented. Steve Vollmer will be posting some examples of SOP formats on the AAVLD website for labs to look at. There are no specific required SOP or QA manuals. Just make sure that if you write something down, you always do what you say. Timelines established by the AAVLD Accreditation Committee are:

April, 2004: Each AAVLD accredited Lab must appoint a QA manager and submit a QA manual.

AAVLD 2004 Annual Meeting: Accreditation committee will review and comment on QA manuals.

January 1, 2005: Accreditation visits will include an audit for compliance with the lab's QA manual.

December 31, 2006: Accreditation committee will require full implementation of lab's QA manual.

Discussion Items:

The Nebraska Diagnostic Lab will be getting a new air handling system. Some of the labs and offices will need to relocate for up to a year.

Owen Schroeder said the Murray State Diagnostic Laboratory in Hopkinsville, KY was burglarized 3 weeks ago. Luckily they did not destroy any equipment but they opened every drawer and tore down locked doors. They took petty cash, laptop computers, and cameras. They estimate their loss at \$10,000.00 including the damages. Most stolen items were found and returned to the lab. He urged everyone to check their' building security.

Jay Weidner said a building on the Washington State campus was recently fire bombed. It was not a building housing the diagnostic lab and there was minimal damage.

Michigan's new laboratory will be the most secure building on the campus with card access, motion detectors, and glass breakage alarms.

A discussion was held on handling complaints. Geraldine Jessup and Kathy Hill said California started a client feedback process 6 years ago. They have a client feedback site on their web system, and they also survey clients (both owners and veterinarians). They found that you have to collect feedback in various ways. They have a team of feedback coordinators and resolution of all complaints

is documented. Copies of their feedback forms were distributed to the group. They also have a telephone log on their LIMS system and everyone logs calls, case related and non-case related.

Dr. Maxie said the Guelph Lab is an ISO registered Lab so documentation is a regular part of their daily operation. If a significant problem is identified, they go through a root cause analysis. The point of the system is not just to detect mistakes, but also to improve. He will send a copy of the forms they use to Linda and she can make them available to the committee.

Sunday, October 12, 2003, 8:00 - 11:30am

Geraldine Jessup gave a presentation on *Exotic Newcastle Disease in California 2002-03*. Their labs had to handle a tremendous amount of work and it was interesting to learn what they did to accomplish this. Some of the lessons they learned were:

- You need rapid testing capabilities (PCR)

- SOPs were very important

- Sample tracking – Bar coding would have been useful due to the large volume of samples; the process had been considered but not implemented at the time

- Need to have adequate LIS/LIMS to handle large volumes of data

- Long-term temporary personnel versus rotation of personnel every 3 weeks

- Training – there was a lot of turnover of personnel so SOPs were vital in training

- Emergency procurement and hiring processes were needed

Alex Shirshun, a Lab Planner with Harley Ellis, Gwen Chouinard, also with Harley Ellis, and Dr. Willie Reed, Director of the Diagnostic Center for Population and Animal Health (DCPAH) at Michigan State University gave a presentation titled *Large Animal Biosafety Containment – A Detailed Case Study*. Some of the things they had to consider when they were designing the new diagnostic laboratory in Michigan were:

- consolidation of all DCPAH labs into a single facility (they currently are in 5 buildings)

- house the Wildlife Health Laboratory of the Michigan DNR.

- accommodate and blend the diagnostic, research, teaching functions of the Center.

The DCPAH is a large laboratory with 115 permanent staff and 45 part-time student employees. They receive 700-1,000 packages a day, handle 165,000 accessions annually, and perform approximately 1.2 million tests annually. The new laboratory is on a 13-acre site in a rural setting making client access easier, and they also have containment barns to house up to 300 live cattle. There are 5 necropsy rooms that are BSL-2, BSL-3, and BSL-3Ag. They have a high capacity incinerator that can burn 1,200 pounds per hour and two 8,000 gallon tanks for liquid waste decontamination from the BSL-3 labs. The lab was also designed so every office and lab would have as much natural light as possible. Some of the lessons learned were:

- Allow enough time in the design phase. They had 9 months, but a year and a half would be better

- Visit as many existing facilities as possible

- Involve as many users as possible in the design phase

- Review BSL-3Ag containment options. BSL-3Ag space is very expensive.

Kim said she would give us an update at next year's meeting.

Jay Weidner explained how they scan submittal forms into their computer system so they don't have to make copies for all the labs. He said he would try to help other labs get set up to scan forms. Using bar coding and going paperless was also discussed.

Owen moved that Geraldine Jessup be nominated as the LAMP committee chair for the 2004-2007 term. The motion was seconded, and passed unanimously.

Owen said he may be retiring next year and thanked everyone for the information he has gained during the last 18 years he has been coming to this meeting.

Jay Kammerzell encouraged us to look at a questionnaire on the website www.nahln.us. There are 26 questions about business operations for development of a pilot program for NAHRS.

Submitted by Mary Moen

Laboratory Director's Committee

Co-chairs Drs. Bev Byrum and Gary Osweiler. The committee met on October 11, 2003 from 5:30-8:30 pm with ~80 people in attendance. The planned agenda included nine speakers as described below:

1. Report from Veterinary Services, Ron DeHaven, Deputy Administrator, USDA/APHIS/VS.
2. Establishing effective relationships between CDC and veterinary diagnostic labs. Tracee Tredwell, CDC, US Dept of Health and Human Services.
3. Update on FDA's Food Emergency Response Network (FERN) labs. Brenda Holman, Regional Food and Drug Director, Pacific Region, Food and Drug Administration.
4. Update on the National Animal Health Lab Network. Robert Smith, CSREES, USDA.
5. ISO17025 Quality Systems in the Veterinary Laboratory. Andrew Soldan, VLA Weybridge, New Haw, Addlestone, Surrey, KT15 3NB
6. Chemical and Biological Countermeasures. Kimothy Smith, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory.
7. Incorporation of OIE standards into AAVLD Minimum Essential Standards. Leon Thacker, Chair, AAVLD Accreditation Committee
8. Opportunities and alternatives for a universal coding approach for AAVLD. John Andrews, Laboratory Director, University of Illinois Veterinary Diagnostic Lab.
9. NVSL Update. Randall Levings, Director NVSL, USDA/APHIS/VS

The meeting presentations were excellent and well received.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Larry Thompson shared a handout with information concerning new regulations for shipping infectious materials. Speaker notes from the Power Point presentations are available by contacting Beverly Byrum at 614-728-6220.

Laboratory Safety Committee

Chair: Larry Thompson. The committee met from 1:00- ~3:00pm, October 12, 2003. Minutes are pending. The tentative agenda was:

1. Once around with member labs for current safety concerns.
2. Shipping Diagnostic Specimens: New 2005 regulations
3. Shipping formalin safely.
4. Select agent registration
5. Safety with prion suspect specimens.
6. Emergency Management Plans for diagnostic labs

Biological Waste Disposal Committee

Chair: Larry Thompson chair, ~3:00-6:00pm met with and/or immediately following the Lab Safety committee. Minutes are pending. Tentative agenda included:

1. Once around with member labs for current questions and problems.
2. EPA (representative attending) and AAVLD discussion on TSE best practices for diagnostic laboratories
3. Update from member labs on alkaline hydrolysis activities.
4. Update from member labs on incineration and rendering activities

QA Committee

Chair: Dr. Monte Reimers. The committee met from 10:00 am to Noon on October 10, 2003 with 34 people in attendance.

New members were welcomed and instructed to provide contact information on the New Member Information form distributed at the meeting. Their information will be included in an updated QA Committee Roster. Eleven (11) new members provided responses.

Quality systems survey:

Attendees provided information on their laboratory's quality manual status. Completion estimates ranged from 10-100%, with one entry indicating the quality manual will be initiated upon appointment of the quality assurance manager. Nineteen (19) laboratories provided responses.

Attendees provided information on their laboratory's progress on a quality system implementation plan. Completion estimates included No Progress (four), estimates ranging from "just starting" (0%) to 100%, one entry of ISO 17025 Accredited, and one

entry indicating that quality system implementation will be initiated upon appointment of the quality assurance manager. Nineteen (19) laboratories provided responses.

Nineteen (19) laboratories provided the name of their appointed quality manager, as well as the date the incumbent was installed. It is recognized that the responses for information regarding quality manuals, implementation plans and appointment of quality managers is not a scientific sampling, but is provided to advise AAVLD's Accreditation Committee and general membership regarding member laboratory activity in these areas. Copies of the information are available on request.

Discussion of the AAVLD Essential Requirements For An Accredited Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory included distribution of new AAVLD wording in the document. The majority of the new document wording will be very directly derived from the World Organization for Animal Health, Office International des Epizooties (OIE) document "OIE Quality Standard and Guidelines for Veterinary Laboratories: Infectious Diseases," from the Standards Commission of the Office International des Epizooties 2002 as a guide to specific requirements for accreditation. The entire OIE document is available to member laboratories through OIE. It is acknowledged that not all sections of laboratories conduct testing for infectious diseases. The good laboratory practice principles inherent in the OIE document still apply to those laboratory sections conducting work in areas other than infectious diseases. Final revisions will be included in a draft soon to be distributed by the AAVLD Accreditation Committee.

The potential role of QA Committee members on AAVLD site visits was discussed. The additional QA requirements of member laboratories and the depth of analysis of quality systems at member laboratories during AAVLD site visits may require QA personnel as part of the team and/or audit training of site visit team members. Numerous committee members volunteered their services in any way AAVLD can use them to augment this process.

One resource the site visit team may find especially useful is an auditing checklist. The website for the College of American Pathologists (<http://www.cap.org>) provides excellent examples. In addition, committee members will provide audit checklists they have used for inclusion on the AAVLD QA web page.

Software for tracking of internal quality controls was discussed. Suggested resources included Control Charts Pro Plus described by Chem SW (<http://www.chemsw.com>). Committee members indicated a willingness to provide additional examples for posting on the AAVLD QA web page.

Document management software was discussed. Microsoft SharePoint is being utilized by at least one member laboratory, which reports satisfactory results. Document Control Systems (<http://www.mastercontrol.com>), Procedure Net and Quality Systems Integrator were also mentioned as potential products, each with strengths and weaknesses. Jeanine Staller and Wade Northington are the sources for most of this information, and are hereby thanked for their contributions. The formation of a subcommittee on this topic was discussed, as many member laboratories may find it useful, yet many quality managers may not be familiar with these resources. The subcommittee as well as other committee members will provide additional information through our web page.

Utilization, content, and visibility of the AAVLD QA website were discussed. Steve Vollmer and Randy Berghefer have done most of the work on this site, and the large amount of positive feedback indicates they have done a good job. Modification of the site is always a consideration, and in particular, providing easier access to the site through its visibility on the AAVLD home page was emphasized. All members remain committed to making the site an excellent resource for QA personnel throughout AAVLD.

QA training opportunities, particularly for those recently assigned QA responsibilities, were discussed. All experienced committee members offer themselves as a resource for training, documents, links and other information. In addition, the links provided on the QA web page provide numerous resources. The Society of Quality Assurance (SQA) (<http://www.sqa.org>) provides excellent programs, including regional meetings which may provide training with minimal travel. Consideration for QA training sessions at AAVLD meetings such as the annual meeting is strongly recommended. Committee members volunteered themselves as trainers and as sources of contact information for experienced training professionals.

The SQA Animal Health Specialty Section (<http://www.sqa.org/newsite/public/org-specialty-ah.asp>) was recently launched to provide resources and interactions regarding quality assurance in industrial, regulatory and academic activities related to the animal health industry. AAVLD members with potential activity related to these and other animal health industry segments are encouraged to visit the web site and obtain additional information.

Please contact me at 517-432-2516 or mreimers@cvm.msu.edu if you have edits or questions regarding these minutes.

Pathology Committee

Chair: Dr. Donal O'Toole. The committee met from Noon to 2:00 pm on October 12, 2003 with 21 in attendance.

The committee reviewed the **Saturday afternoon slide conference**, which was moderated by Drs. Sheila Grimes and Tanya Graham. A total of 18 cases were presented. Slides were circulated in advance of the meeting. The session ran slightly overtime, as always. The quality of presentations was good and there was a full attendance at this popular session. Dr. Rob Bildfell (rob.bildfell@orst.edu) of Oregon State University as co-chair for 2004. It was agreed that we continue to encourage more "mystery cases," where the answer is not cut and dried, similar to a suspected mitochondrionopathy case presented by Dr. Bildfell.

Dr. Matti Kiupel said the 1-day **CL Davis conference on Diagnostic Reproductive Pathology** was a success. He expressed concern that we were not attracting more trainees to this part of the meeting. The topic for the 4th CL Davis meeting at the 2004 AAVLD meeting will be neuropathology. Speakers have been identified.

Dr. Patty Pesavento from California Animal Health and Food Safety was the recipient of the **2003 AAVLD Foundation-sponsored, pathology committee-selected Trainee Travel Award** of \$500.00 to attend the AAVLD. Dr. Pesavento presented a paper titled *Virulent systemic feline calicivirus: pathology of natural infection*. Dr. O'Toole told the committee that an IDEXX representative, Valerie Leathers, had offered to provide \$500 from her R&D budget to the pathology trainee travel award. He would approach IDEXX's Production Animal Services General Manager, Dr. Andre Fuchs, to endow one travel award. The committee agreed that, in the event of support from industry, it would continue to have one committee-sponsored award. The goal is to have two pathology committee Trainee Travel Awards each year, one of them sponsored by industry. If endowed, the award could be named after the donor company.

A draft report prepared by Drs. Beth Williams and D. O'Toole, ***Handling and disposal of prion-contaminated wastes in veterinary diagnostic laboratories***, was circulated and discussed. A more detailed discussion of how to handle transmissible spongiform encephalopathies in veterinary diagnostic laboratories, and whether chronic wasting disease material should be handled differently from scrapie, followed. The discussion was continued in the Laboratory Safety and Waste Disposal Committee where Dr. John Larsen of Region 8 of the EPA presented his agencies concerns. The draft will be submitted electronically to the Pathology and Laboratory Safety committees after suggested changes are incorporated.

A draft report edited by Drs. Kiupel and Ramos-Vara, ***Guidelines for standardization of diagnostic immunohistochemistry in veterinary laboratories***, was circulated and discussed. Contributors on the subcommittee on standardization of immunohistochemistry were Drs. Baszler, Bliven, Brodersen, Chelack, Czub, Del Piero, Dial, Ehrhart, Graham, Manning, Paulsen, and West, in addition to Kiupel and Ramos-Vara. The subcommittee hopes to have final recommendations for laboratories by next year's meeting. Abbreviated recommendations are likely to become part of Good Laboratory Practice and incorporated into quality assurance/quality control for pathology laboratories. The guidelines will be posted on the SDSU web site.

Dr. Ramos-Vara gave a report on a survey of immunohistochemistry practices in veterinary laboratories titled: ***Immunohistochemical testing in veterinary diagnostic laboratories: a collaborative effort of 47 institutions***. The survey covered location, types of test, technical support, charges, and equipment; number of tests and cases, animal species, and type of disease; and laboratory practice/standardization, as well as technical aspects of testing and standards. Of the 47 laboratories, most were accredited (30), some were non-accredited AAVLD laboratories (10), and the rest were miscellaneous. Among the findings were:

- There is a need to develop AAVLD-approved standards for IHC
- Most laboratories ran either >1,000 (11 laboratories) or >5,000 (15) IHC tests annually
- At the top end, 4 laboratories performed >30,000 IHC tests annually
- Most laboratories (34) considered that demand for IHC testing will increase
- There was an approximately equal split between laboratories using IHC primarily for infectious agents (30) and tumor markers (24).
- Most laboratories (22) did not have a dedicated IHC budget, since the IHC operation were incorporated into the histology laboratory
- Price per antigen varied considerably (<\$10 (4 laboratories), \$11 – 20 (15), \$21 – 30 (12) and >\$30 (5))
- Most IHC testing was done either by a technician trained on-the-job (19 laboratories), or an HT (ASCP)-certified individual (14). In a few laboratories testing was performed by a PhD scientist (1) or a DVM (2)
- Most staining was done using automated stainers (26). Some laboratories continue to use manual methods (10), or both manual and automated methods (6)
- The most commonly used machines were DAKO (19), Ventana (17) and BioGenex (5).

- Of infectious agents for which surveillance was done, the most common were TSE agents (21), BVDV (19) and WNV (19).
- Many laboratories had the capability of doing BVDV IHC testing (27).
- Other agents tested for by IHC in laboratories were PRRS (13), *Neospora* (9), Canine Distemper Virus (8), Porcine Circovirus-2 (9), FIPV (6), TGEV (5), *T. gondii* (5).
- The number of tumor markers used was very variable: <10 antigens (9 laboratories), <21 (12), <30 (5), and >30 (6).
- The most commonly used tumor markers were the cytokeratins (24 laboratories), vimentin (18), CD3 (18), Melan A (8), desmin (5), and Factor VIII r-Ag (5).
- 5 laboratories had ISO 17025 standards in place, whereas 36 had no ISO 17025 standards.

The 1995 plan for QA/QC practices in veterinary pathology, titled **Approved QA/QC plan for diagnostic pathology** written by a past chair of the AAVLD committee (Dr. David Zeman) was circulated. It was agreed this needed to be updated, particularly with regard to IHC minimum standards and handling of TSE agents in the laboratory. Dr. O'Toole will follow up.

A proposal was made to see whether the Publications committee of the AAVLD might consider a Web-based update/edition of **Laboratory Diagnosis of Livestock Abortion**. The 3rd edition of that text was published in 1990, and considerable new information about these agents was now available. Dr. O'Toole agreed to pursue this with Dr. David Steffen, chair of Publications. The core of new text would be presentations of the CL Davis session on reproductive pathology.

Serology Committee

Chair: Peter Wright, The committee met from 4:00 - 5:45pm on October 10, 2003 with 7 members and 57 guests in attendance.

- 1) Due to numerous other commitments, Dr Sang Shin has resigned from the Serology Committee. The Committee would like to thank Sang for his many years of support and we look forward to seeing him at future AAVLD meetings.
- 2) Future Initiatives: Last year, as Chair, I reported "the role of the Serology Committee is evolving and adapting to the recent initiatives taken by the AAVLD with respect to quality standards, validation and harmonization of test methods, and networking of diagnostic laboratories." In addition, I stated, "to this end, the Committee will review its current membership and ensure that relevant expertise is available and that these experts are willing to meet these new challenges." As outgoing Chair, this will be my final challenge and hopefully, after selecting a new Chair as my replacement, we will be able to bring forward news of our progress early in the upcoming year.
- 3) NVSL report: Sabrina Swenson discussed forthcoming changes to the Pseudorabies latex agglutination protocol.
- 4) Proficiency Testing: AAVLD members raised a number of questions with respect to NVSL proficiency testing programs. The Chair invited interested parties to stay after the meeting for more in-depth discussion. NVSL representatives Bev Schmitt, Sabrina Swenson and Heidi Schleicher entertained numerous questions from a dozen or so people after the meeting. A number of divergent views were expressed related to the purpose and format of proficiency testing programs. The Serology Committee will work with NVSL on drafting guidelines for proficiency testing programs.
- 5) West Nile Virus Diagnostics: At the request of AAVLD members, an invitation was extended to three companies (BioReliance, Focus Technologies and Hennessey Research Associates) to present information on their West Nile diagnostic product lines. Unfortunately, none responded nor attended the meeting.
- 6) Product updates: The following companies; VMRD, Synbiotics, IDEXX and Diachemix Corp. gave brief updates on current developments. Miladin Kostovic of VMRD presented information on developments with respect to cELISA's for *Neospora*, *Maedi-visna* and IBR, as well as updates on their product line for CWD diagnosis. Howard Jones of Synbiotics introduced Brenda Glidewell, Director of their Global Poultry Business Unit and invited people to meet Brenda at their booth. Ed Corrigan of Diachemix spoke of their line of fluorescence polarization assays (FPA's) and that they had received USDA approval for their Brucellosis assay. He also presented information with respect to their work on Salmonella group-specific and *Mycobacterium bovis* assays, as well as, the introduction of their hand-held reader. Andre Fuchs of IDEXX presented information on their ELISA kits for Swine Influenza (H2N3), Pseudorabies (gB) and Salmonella, as well as, new developments in tests for CWD. Hardi Liauw, also of IDEXX, made a detailed PowerPoint presentation on the development and validation of their new Pseudorabies gB ELISA that will replace the current screening and confirmatory ELISA's in their product line.
- 7) FAO/IAEA consultants meeting on 'OIE Guidelines for Validation and Certification of Diagnostic Assays for Infectious Animal Diseases' (Vienna, November, 2002). The consultants drafted a series of recommendations that were forwarded to the OIE for their consideration. After review by the OIE's Biological Standards Commission, a resolution was drafted for discussion and potential adoption at the General Session of the OIE (Paris, May, 2003). Resolution XXIX was adopted as follows:
 - a) Fitness for purpose should be used as a criterion for validation.
 - b) The Director General make provisions to establish a registry for assays with levels of validation specified.

- c) OIE Reference Laboratories should be intimately involved in validation efforts.
- d) OIE Reference Laboratories should establish serum/sample reference collections to be used for validation in line with their mandates.
- e) The Director General be given the mandate to review, in close consultation with the Standards Commission, the procedures involved in the timely approval of assays. This may entail the creation of a specific Ad hoc Group comprising relevant experts to evaluate any submissions received.
- f) The Director General be authorised to recover, if necessary, any costs incurred in the process of validating such assays.

The FAO/IAEA consultants group will be meeting again in December 2003 to draft a template and guidelines for submission of validation dossiers. These documents will be submitted to the OIE for approval and implementation. This will represent a major step towards the establishment of an international standard for test method validation based on fitness for purpose. This will allow the development of benchmarks for each incremental step in the validation process. Further updates on progress will be given at next years' meeting.

AAVLD Veterinary Analytical Toxicology & Mycotoxins and USAHA Environmental Residues Committee

Co-chair: Brent Hoff. The committee met on October 11, 2003 from 3:30-6:30pm with 27 people in attendance.

Chemistry Analytical Information Database: Dr. Gary Osweiler updated the group on the FDA-CVM Chemistry Analytical Information Database developed by Iowa State University. It is an informational resource to Veterinary Diagnostic and Service Laboratories on the analytical toxicology capabilities at Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratories. The FDA has interest in its use for relevant tests and testing facilities. The database has interfaces for search and retrieval of information, with primary index of "toxicant". The database focuses on the agent. The group will be able to expand and alter their section. The information about the agent that can be entered into the database includes description with aliases, matrix, laboratory, turn-around-time, detection limit, cost. Point-of-contact ("expert"). There was some discussion on the future opportunities of this database. It would be supported by the FDA (\$21,000 for one year). NAHLN has an interest with tangential support. What is the incentive for laboratories? Ownership would be by AAVLD and there would be updates. There were questions about QA/QC requirements.

Chemical Agroterrorism: Dr. Bob Poppenga gave a presentation on Chemical Agroterrorism. Some of the most economically significant impacts on North American agriculture in the past have resulted from residues (e.g. dioxins, dieldrin, chlorinated hydrocarbons, CB's, PBB's etc.) Such agents introduced to our animal and plant production systems would mean a serious danger to our food supply.

Veterinary laboratories could make a contribution to public health and food safety. There is a grant process for analytical equipment. Agricultural terrorism could lead to a mass mortality event with serious financial impact. One gram of dioxin essentially shut down Belgian agriculture with huge financial impact. The Michigan PBB incident cost many millions of dollars in losses. Other examples are the 1997 dioxin incident in Arkansas, as well as 500 tons of feed contaminated in 1999. Veterinary Laboratories are capable of detecting these agents and are in the best position to discover the problem.

A private list serve is presently used on a daily basis to communicate between laboratories in the US, Canada and many countries around the world. Today, using the list serve, there is a continuous stream of questions and exchange of ideas and recommendations. Information and solutions can quickly be exchanged among laboratories.

The committee discussed the role that diagnostic laboratories will have in the event of agroterrorism. Dr. Poppenga invited input for a paper in the JAVMA. Dr. Mike Murphy volunteered to write a draft.

Dr. Dwayne Hamar and Mr. Nick Schrier, gave a presentation on A Framework for Quality Assurance and Method Validation to meet OIE/ISO 17025 Standards.

Dr. Hamar outlined the purpose of the AAVLD accreditation process and the accreditation of veterinary diagnostic laboratories. There is a timeline for incorporating OIE Standard for Management and Technical Requirements for Laboratories Conducting Tests for Infectious Animal Diseases into the AAVLD Essential Requirements for an Accredited Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory.

- By April 1, 2004 each accredited laboratory must appoint a QA manager and submit a Quality Manual.
- By the annual meeting 2004 the Accreditation Committee will review and comment on the respective QA manuals and timelines.

- Beginning January 1, 2005 the accreditation site visits will include and audit for compliance with the laboratory's implementation plan milestones.
- By December 31, 2006 the Accreditation Committee will require full implementation of the quality system.
- Beginning January 1, 2007 accreditation site visits will include an audit of the respective laboratory's complete quality system.

Nick Schrier gave an outline of the Guelph experience over the past five years with Method Validation Documentation to meet OIE/ISO 17025 Standards. Notes available from co-chair Brent Hoff.

Chair – 3 year term: Brent Hoff term 2003-2006, George Rottinghaus term ending (2000-2003)

Members of the steering committee are selected for three-year terms. The three members elected this year are:

Dr. Mike Murphy – University of Minnesota, Dr. Birgit Puschner – University of California, Mr. Nick Schrier. – University of Guelph
2 year term remaining- John Reagor, Dan McGinnis, Frank Galey, Larry Thompson

1 year term remaining– Gavin Meerdink, Bill Brewer, Steve Hooser, Dwayne Hamar

Liaisons: AOAC, Frank Ross, FDA – Randall Lovell, ABVT – Bob Poppenga, AAVCT – Catherine Barr

Virology Committee

Co-chairs: Drs. David Benfield and Fernando Osorio. The Virology Committee met from 1:00-4:00pm on October 10, 2003 with 57 individual in attendance. The agenda for the meeting included the following:

1. **Companion Animal Viral Diagnostics**, Jim Evermann, Washington Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory, presented an overview of the current status of companion animal diagnostics in state diagnostic laboratories. Dr. Evermann focused on five specific topics related to the diagnosis of companion animals: 1) As in food animal preventative medicine, there is a shift from post-mortem to ante-mortem methods for diagnosis of disease; 2) Practitioners are emphasizing veterinary preventative medicine; 3) There is an increase interest in diagnoses of zoonotic infections; 4) Use of diagnostics to determine potential or risk of animal for transmitting infection; and 5) Use of diagnostic assay to assess immune competency in response to vaccines (in lieu of vaccine boosters). Small animal clinicians are also using diagnostic assays not only for disease diagnosis but also to screen for infection and to certify animals free of infection. This last desire is making PCR assays a very sensitive tool to determine if animals are free of virus. Practitioners are looking to the diagnostic laboratory for technical expertise in performing the necessary diagnostic tests and also for education and outreach in how to use the results of these tests.

One of the weaknesses of companion animal diagnostics is the lack of standardization of assays between laboratories. There is no model in companion animal medicine for check tests to certify diagnostic laboratories in small animal diagnostics. Canine parvovirus and feline herpesvirus were given as models to discuss the interpretation of various diagnostic assays such as virus isolation, ELISA for antigen and antibody, electron microscopy, immunodiffusion and other assays. He indicated that VMRD and American BioResearch are the only two commercial reagent suppliers. There are also five diagnostic laboratories that specialize in selected companion animal diagnostics. These include Kansas State University (rabies and tick transmitted diseases), Cornell University (West Nile Virus), Tennessee (feline enteric coronavirus, feline infectious peritonitis virus PCR assays), Washington State University (feline herpesvirus, feline coronavirus (virus isolation), canine distemper and canine parvovirus (IFA sera titers) and Oklahoma State University (canine distemper and marine morbilliviruses). The final topic addressed was that serological profiles do have diagnostic merit and can be used to determine level of protection versus challenge.

2. **Update from National Veterinary Services Laboratory**, Bev Schmitt, National Veterinary Services Laboratory, presented an update on the new facilities under construction at NVSL, the National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NALHN), NVSL diagnostic virology laboratory, BVDV proficiency panel and Homeland Security issues. The construction of Phase I DBL/PL will be completed in summer 2004. There will also be a groundbreaking for the BSL3-Ag facility in 2004 with completion scheduled in 2006. The NALHN has been training individuals at FADDL for CSF, FMD and VS. There are ongoing discussions on development of the central animal disease database and development of programs for proficiency testing of satellite laboratories to handle an increase demand for the diagnosis of foreign animal diseases. The Diagnostic Virology Laboratory has been focused on the Newcastle Disease outbreak in California. Currently, DVL is validating a real time PCR assay for Newcastle Disease in collaboration with SEPRL and the University of California-Davis. There is training and proficiency testing of laboratories ongoing as part of NAHLN for diagnosis of Newcastle Disease. Additional activities at NVSL include the development of the reagents for the BVDV proficiency panel to be available in 2004. This panel will be for proficiency in detection of BVDV types I and 2 in serum, buffy coat cells and ear notches. There is still much reorganization ongoing with the Department of Homeland Security and APHIS related to transfer of budget and authority from USDA to the DHS for FADDL (Plum Island) and other functions.

3. Report on the SDSU/Tetracore, Inc. Joint Project on Development of a Commercial Real Time PCR Kit for PRRSV in Semen, Jane Christopher-Hennings South Dakota Animal Disease Research and Diagnostic Laboratory and Johnny Callahan, Tetracore, Inc.. The South Dakota Animal Disease Research and Diagnostic Laboratory, the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory at Nebraska and Tetracore, Inc have been collaborating on the development of a commercial real time PCR assay for the detection of PRRSV in semen. The new kit uses a probe to the 3' UTR of the PRRSV, a devised premix for the reaction and is adaptable to several platforms (ABI 7700, Light Cycler and Smart Cycler). The commercial assay was compared to the “gold standard” RT-PCR assay developed by Dr. Christopher-Hennings at the SDSU Diagnostic Laboratory. There is a 94% correlation between the two tests for the detection of PRRSV in semen from field and experimental samples. Two separate protocols and kits must be used to detect the North American and European isolates of this virus. Tetracore continues to investigate a multiplex assay, but to date this have not been feasible. The goal is for the commercial kit to be available to diagnostic laboratories, commercial boar stud producers, government regulatory laboratories and research laboratories. The company is in the process of seeking USDA approval for this assay.

4. Report on Standards for BVDV Diagnosis, Ed Dubovi, Cornell University Diagnostic Laboratory. This subcommittee is composed of Fernando Osorio (NE), Jim Evermann (WA), Jerry Saliki (OK), Julia Ridpath (IA) and Ed Dubovi (NY). Ed Dubovi presented the subcommittee’s recommendations to date and provided copies of the report. The report provides suggestions for standard protocols related to testing of fetal bovine sera for BVDV, virus isolation, what cell cultures to use and various formats for quantitation of BVDV. These protocols are not intended to be the only means to accomplish diagnosis of BVDV but these suggestions are issues that need to be addressed to successfully implement procedures for the detection of BVDV. Dr. Dubovi will post these recommendations on the Cornell University Diagnostic Laboratory website for the membership to review.

5. Comments on the Virology Quality Control Documents, Fernando Osorio, University of Nebraska, Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory. The QC Subcommittee composed of Drs. Gene Erickson (NC), Richard Mock (TX), Jim England (ID), Roger Maes (MI), K-J Yoon (IA) and Fernando Osorio (NE) have prepared the first draft of general considerations for QA/QC in diagnostic virology laboratories. Dr. Fernando Osorio reported that these recommendations have been posted on the URL (<http://vbms.unl.edu/nvdl.shtml>) and encouraged members of the Virology Committee to review the document and comment. The subcommittee has recommended a suggested inspection checklist for accredited veterinary virology laboratories. Items on the inspection list include cell culture QC, laboratory safety, PCR and molecular test QC, personnel records and references.

6. Presentation of ballot for co-chair of Virology Committee, membership on the committee and voting. Six names were placed in nomination for the one co-chair vacancy. Fernando Osorio was acknowledged for his service for the past three years. Nominees include Jim Evermann (WA), Jane Christopher-Hennings (SD), Gail Scherba (IL), K-J Yoon (IA), Alberto Van Olphen (WY) and Jerry Salicki (OK). There were no additional nominations from the floor. These names will be placed on an E-mail ballot and sent to the AAVLD membership for vote. The members of this committee discussed the size of the committee. Currently, the Virology Committee operates as a committee of a whole. After much discussion on reducing the membership on the committee, the members decided not to do so but to use the structure of subcommittees as working groups. The diversity of the discipline of virology and the need for various individuals with different areas of expertise favors having a large pool of individuals for working subcommittees.

For 2004, it was decided to have the following five working groups: Quality control, standardization of BVDV diagnostics, standardization of PCR for diagnosis of PRRS virus in semen, molecular diagnostics and companion animal diagnostics.

[NEW BACTERIOLOGY/MYCOLOGY DISCUSSION LIST](#)

The members of the Bacteriology/Mycology Subcommittee have established a discussion list named AAVLD-BACTI. The purpose of this list is to accommodate and foster discussion of any topic that is of particular interest to bacteriology aficionados. Some topics that will undoubtedly be discussed on this list include the issues of OIE standards/consensus protocols for various agents and other administrative points of discussion that arose at the annual meeting, but any topic of discussion—from availability of reagents and supplies to the role of an isolate in a disease condition—is encouraged. Membership of this list will be limited to AAVLD members.

To subscribe to this list, send a message to LISTPROC@UCDavis.edu. In the body of the message type”

Subscribe aavld-bacti yourname

You will get notification when your subscription is approved.

AAVLD 2004 COMMITTEES

Standing Committees

<u>Standing Committees</u>	<u>Chairs/Representatives</u>	<u>EMAIL</u>
Accreditation	Leon Thacker- 2004	thackerl@purdue.edu
Awards	Terry McElwain 2004	tfm@vetmed.wsu.edu
Credentials	Donal O'Toole – 2004	DOT@uwyo.edu
Editor and Editorial Board, JVDI	John Kreeger, editor	kreegerj@missouri.edu
Editor, Newsletter	Pat Blanchard – 2004	pcblanchard@ucdavis.edu
Membership	Donal O'Toole – 2004	DOT@uwyo.edu
	Richard Mock co-chair 2006	rmock@tvmidl.tamu.edu
Nominating	Terry McElwain 2004	tfm@vetmed.wsu.edu
Program	Gary Osweiler – 2004	osweiler@iastate.edu
Publications	David Steffen – 2006	dsteffen@unlnotes.unl.edu
Web Editor	Bruce Janke -2006	bhjanke@iastate.edu

Special Committees and Liaisons/Representatives of AAVLD:

AAVLD Representative to WAVLD	Willie Reed - 2004	reed@dcpah.msu.edu
ACVP Liaison	Paige Carmichael-2004	kpc@vet.uga.edu
Assoc of Public Health Lab Liaison	Pat Blanchard -2004	pcblanchard@ucdavis.edu
Administrative Management Personnel Committee:	Geraldine Jessup –2006	gjessup@cahfs.ucdavis.edu
AAVLD Approved Methods Committee	Barbara Martin- 2004	barbara.m.martin@aphis.usda.gov
	Jim Pearson - 2004	jpearson34@aol.com
AAVLD/USAHA Animal Disease Information Sys:		
AAVLD Co-Chair	Francois Elvinger co-chair–05	elvinger@vt.edu
USAHA Co-Chair	Bruce Akey co-chair –05	bakey@agmkt.state.ny.us
AAVLD/USAHA Aquaculture Cte.	Tom Baldwin co- 06 (AAVLD)	tjbald@cc.usu.edu
	Scott LaPatra, co-chair 03 (USAHA)	scottl@clearsprings.com
AVMA Liaison	Willie Reed – 2004	reed@dcpah.msu.edu
AVMA Informatics committee liaison	Pam Parnell - 2004	pprnl1@Clemson.edu
Bacteriology Steering Committee	Carol Maddox, co-chair 2004	maddox@uiuc.edu
	Linda Schroeder-Tucker, co-'05	linda.c.schroeder-tucker@usda.gov
Subcte on Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing	Doreene Hyatt - 2006	drhyatt@colostate.edu
	Ching Ching Wu, co-chair–2004	wuc@purdue.edu
Subcte on Bacteriology and Mycology	Susan Sanchez co-chair– 2006	ssanchez@vet.uga.edu
	William Fales co-chair- 2004	falesw@missouri.edu
Constitution, Bylaws and Resolutions	Dave Steffen, chair– 2005	dsteffen1@unl.edu
House of Delegates Parliamentarian	John Andrews - 2004	jandrews@cvm.uiuc.edu
HL7 Liaison	Jim Case - 2004	jtcase@ucdavis.edu
Emergency Management Planning Workgroup	John Andrews - 2004	jandrews@cvm.uiuc.edu
Enteric Diseases Committee	Chitrita DebRoy- 2004	chobi@psu.edu
Epidemiology Committee	Mark Thurmond, co-chair– 2006	mthurmond@ucdavis.edu
	Francois Elvinger, co-chair-2004	elvinger@vt.edu
Financial Advisory Committee	Leon Thacker – 2006	thackerl@purdue.edu
Food Safety Committee	PENDING - 2006	
Foundation Committee	Barbara Powers- 2004	bpowers@vth.colostate.edu
Government Relations	Bruce Akey co-chair – 2006	bakey@agmkt.state.ny.us
	Willie Reed co-chair - 2004	reed@dcpah.msu.edu
Informatics Committee	James Case co-chair– 2006	jtcase@ucdavis.edu
	Jay Kammerzell co-chair -2005	jay.kammerzell@colostate.edu
Laboratory Directors Committee	Beverly Byrum- co-chair 2004	byrum@odant.agri.state.oh.us
	Ron Wilson- co-chair 2006	Ron.Wilson@state.tn.us
Laboratory Response Network and Food Emergency Response Network AAVLD representative:		
	Terry McElwain - 2004	tfm@vetmed.wsu.edu
Laboratory Safety/ Waste Disposal Committee:	Larry Thompson - 2003	ljthompson@tifton.cpes.peachnet.edu

National Animal Health Emergency Management Steering committee AAVLD representatives:

	Pat Blanchard - 2004	pcblanchard@ucdavis.edu
	Francois Elvinger - 2004	elvinger@vt.edu
	Alfonso Torres (alternate)	at97@cornell.edu
NIAA Liaison	Alfonso Torres -2004	at97@cornell.edu
Pathology Committee	Donal O'Toole – 2005	DOT@uwyo.edu
Quality Assurance Committee	Monte Reimers – 2004	mreimers@msu.edu
Serology Committee	PENDING - 2006	
Society of Quality Assurance (SQA) Liaison	Monte Reimers- 2004	mreimers@msu.edu
Veterinary Analytical Toxicology & Mycotoxin	Brent Hoff chair-2006	bhoff@lsd.uoguelph.ca
Virology Committee	David Benfield co-chair- 2005	benfield.2@osu.edu
	PENDING co-chair - 2006	

CALL FOR PAPERS

**47th Annual AAVLD Meeting at Greensboro, North Carolina
October 21-28, 2004**

Deadline for Abstracts: MAY 15, 2004

Papers and posters are being solicited on laboratory procedures, techniques, and research that apply to the activities of veterinary laboratory diagnosticians. Papers and posters from all diagnostic laboratory disciplines and animal species are needed for a well-balanced program. Investigative case reports are appropriate and encouraged. Presentations are limited to 15 minutes. The AAVLD Program Committee will review abstracts. Corresponding authors will be notified of acceptance by July 15, 2004.

FORMAT: Send an e-mail attachment of your abstract (in Word 6.0 or older or Word Perfect 6.1 or older). All abstracts should be one page or less. Format the body of the abstract with one-inch margins using Times New Roman 11-point font. Center and bold the title. Center authors below the title with initials followed by last name. Place the location of authors one line below the body of the abstract text. Abstracts should be accurate and complete. Statements such as “results to be discussed” are not acceptable. Previous meeting proceedings should be examined for style (web www.aavld.org, header Annual Meeting Proceedings). Sample format for abstracts can be found online at www.aavld.org under Annual Meeting Information header: Call for Papers.

When submitting your abstract, please provide all of the following information:

- [1] do you plan to use an LCD computer presentation;
- [2] is the submission to be considered for the graduate student competition;
- [3] do you desire an oral presentation, poster, or either;
- [4] which disciplinary session you prefer (microbiology, toxicology, pathology, epidemiology, avian/aquatic); and
- [5] the name, address, phone, fax, and e-mail address of the corresponding author.

AAVLD Foundation Trainee (Graduate Student or Resident) Awards of \$500 are given for the best poster and the best presentation. Note: Graduate student/Resident presentations must be indicated as such on the abstract to qualify for competition.

Submit abstracts to Program chair: Dr. Gary Osweiler via email at osweiler@iastate.edu. For inquiries and questions contact Dr. Osweiler at the following phone number: 515-294-1950.

Publication of Proceedings: Manuscripts are encouraged 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 *Journal of Veterinary Diagnostic Investigation*. Guidelines for format and style of manuscripts can be found in the journal and on the AAVLD WEB site (www.aavld.org). Authors are encouraged to submit their manuscripts to the editor for processing prior to the meeting, if possible.

SATURDAY HISTOPATHOLOGY SLIDE SEMINAR

Saturday, October 23, 2004, Greensboro, North Carolina, 3:30- 6:30 pm.

Short, interesting, and educational cases are requested for the Saturday Histopathology Slide Seminar. We particularly welcome submission of challenging, cautionary or emerging disease entities where feedback is sought. Presentations are 5 minutes in length, with another 3 minutes for discussion. A copy of abstracts will be available at the seminar, and posted on the AAVLD website. Abstracts should be no more than one page long, single-spaced in 11 pt Times New Roman font.

DUE DATE for submission of abstracts and HE slide: July 5, 2004

Please mail the typed abstract and one HE slide of the lesion to:

Dr. Tanya Graham , South Dakota State University, ADRDL, Box 2175, North Campus Drive. Brookings, SD 57007-1396. ph 605-688-5643, email to: Tanya_Graham@sdstate.edu

Email a copy of abstract also to: rob.bildfell@oregonstate.edu

If multiple authors are on the abstract, please identify which individual will make the presentation. Authors will be **notified** of whether the presentation **is accepted by August 1**. Presenters of accepted abstracts must supply a set of 60 glass slides to the moderator by September 1, 2004 to allow review of slides by AAVLD members before the meeting.

DIAGNOSTIC BACTERIOLOGY CASE PRESENTATIONS

Saturday, October 23, 2004, Greensboro, North Carolina, 3:30-6:00 pm

Come and join an interesting and informative discussion group. We need your case presentations in order to make this gathering a success. All presentations are informal - yours will be welcome! Send title of presentation to Dr. Karen Post at karen.post@ncmail.net or phone 919-733-3986 or fax 919-733-0454 by September 1, 2004.

AAVLD WEB SITE- MEMBER INPUT SOUGHT

As newly appointed Web Editor for the AAVLD website, I am in the process of going through the old site bit-by-bit and taking notes of things I think could be improved. I would like to hear from those of you who have used the site in the past and found it wanting, descriptions of features that are annoying or don't work well and suggestions on how they might be improved. Suggestions for the addition of things that are presently not on the site would be welcomed. It would also be useful to know what works well.

I anticipate that this will be an ongoing process, but there are some things that should probably be changed as soon as they can be implemented.

Please contact me at: bhjanke@iastate.edu with any suggestions.

Sincerely,

Bruce Janke

AAVLD TRAINEE TRAVEL AWARD

The American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians is soliciting applications for Trainee Travel Awards. These \$500 awards are open to applicants from all training programs in diagnostic medicine to help defray the cost of travel and lodging to the Annual AAVLD meeting. The successful applicant must be primary author of a platform or poster presentation in the scientific session of AAVLD and must submit:

1) copy of the abstract to be submitted; 2) a one to two page letter stating the candidate's role in the work to be presented and the significance of the work to veterinary diagnostic medicine, and 3) a one to two page biographical data sheet. The application materials must be emailed to: Dr. Terry McElwain, tfm@vetmed.wsu.edu. Any questions contact Dr. McElwain at 509-335-9696.

The deadline for receipt of all application materials is May 5th, 2004. Applicants who do not submit complete applications before the deadline or whose applications do not adhere to the above guidelines will not be considered.

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF VETERINARY LABORATORY DIAGNOSTICIANS
TRAINEE TRAVEL AWARD

Deadline for Applications: Monday, May 5th, 2004

Trainee Travel Award

To promote the attendance of trainees in all disciplines of diagnostic medicine, the AAVLD is offering competitive \$500 Travel Awards to offset travel expenses to the Annual AAVLD Meeting in Greensboro, North Carolina.

Please specify your discipline (select one): Bacteriology ___ Epidemiology ___ Immunology ___

Molecular Diagnostics ___ Pathology ___ Toxicology ___ Virology ___

Other (write in) _____

Candidate name: _____

Position: _____ No. of years in position: _____

Department: _____

Institution: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____ E-mail: _____

Abstract Title (attach copy of abstract) : _____

Include letter stating trainee's contribution to the work to be presented and significance of work to veterinary diagnostic medicine

Include 1-2 page biographical datasheet

THANK YOU TO OUR 2003 MEETING EXHIBITORS

Exhibitors are vital to the financial and scientific success of our annual meeting by providing funding to offset the association costs and most of all providing attendees the latest information on their upcoming and current product lines. Their support over the years has allowed the meeting to grow and kept the registration fees relatively low. We wish to express our heartfelt appreciation to all these companies for their continued support. The following information with web site links and brief descriptions on the 2003 exhibitors can be found at: http://www.aavld.org/MainMenu2/vis_frame.html (under Veterinary Products on our visitor web page)

- ✠ Automated Technologies Inc. 210 W. Hamilton Ave. #297, State College, PA 16801; Ph: 814-237-3001; Fax: 814-237-3236; E-Mail: jakl@bellsouth.net; Web Site: www.atiinternational.com
- ✠ BD Diagnostic Systems 7 Loveton Circle, Sparks, MD 21152; Ph: 800-638-8663; Fax: 410-316-4906; E-Mail: terese_burns@bd.com; Web Site: www.bd.com
- ✠ Biocor Animal Health 2720 N. 84th St., Omaha, NE 68134; Ph: 800-441-7480; Fax: 402-393-4712; E-Mail: tom.kellner@biocorah.com; Web Site: www.biocorah.com
- ✠ Bio-Rad Laboratories 2000 Alfred Nobel Dr., Hercules, CA 94547; Ph: 510-741-1000; Fax: 510-741-5630; E-Mail: olga_padilla@bio-rad.com; Web Site: www.bio-rad.com
- ✠ Biovet Inc. 2900 Av. Vanier, St. Hyacinthe, Quebec, CANADA J2S 6M2; Ph: 450-771-7291 x 310; Fax: 450-771-4158; E-Mail: tremblm@biovet-inc.com; Web Site: www.biovet-bg.com
- ✠ Booz Allen Hamilton, Inc. 1101 Wootton Parkway, Rockville, MD 20852; Ph: 240-314-5565; Fax: 240-314-5510; E-Mail: jones_hilary@bah.com; Web Site: www.elexnet.com
- ✠ Centaur, Inc. P. O. Box 25667, Overland Park, KS 66225-5667; Ph: 913-390-6184; Fax: 913-390-5907; E-Mail: CentaurUnavet@aol.com
- ✠ Cepheid 904 Caribbean Dr., Sunnyvale, CA 94089; Ph: 408-400-8456; 408-718-4425 (cell); Fax: 408-734-1346; E-Mail: colletta@cepheid.com; Web Site: www.cepheid.com
- ✠ DakoCytomation 6392 Via Real, Carpinteria, CA 93013; Ph: 800-235-5743; Fax: 805-566-6688; E-Mail: jpeterson@dakocytomation.com; Web Site: www.dakocytomation.com
- ✠ Eagle Technology Consultants 1140 Hammond Dr. #G-7150, Atlanta, GA 30319; Ph: 770-698-9600; Fax: 770-698-8885; E-Mail: kbaker@eagletc.com; Web Site: www.eagletc.com
- ✠ Global VetLink, LC 2625 N. Loop Dr. #2130, Ames, IA 50010; Ph: 515-296-0860; Fax: 509-691-8647; E-Mail: kmaher@globalvetlink.com; Web Site: www.globalvetlink.com
- ✠ HarleyEllis 26913 Northwestern Hwy. #200, Southfield, MI 48034-3476; Ph: 248-262-1500; Fax: 248-262-1515; E-Mail: lhartman@harleyellis.com; Web Site: www.harleyellis.com
- ✠ IDEXX Laboratories, Inc. One Idexx Dr., Westbrook, ME 04092; Ph: 207-856-0300 or 800-548-9997; Fax: 207-856-0826; E-Mail: PASweb@idexx.com; Web Site: www.idexx.com
- ✠ Iowa State Press 2121 State Ave., Ames, IA 50014; Ph: 515-292-0140 x 618; Fax: 515-292-3348; E-Mail: noneman@iowastatepress.com; Web Site: www.iowastatepress.com
- ✠ National Institute for Animal Agriculture (NIAA) 1910 Lyda Ave., Bowling Green, KY 42104; Ph: 270-782-9798; Fax: 270-782-0188; E-Mail: plogsdon@animalagriculture.org; Web Site: www.animalagriculture.org
- ✠ Prionics Wagistr. 27 A, CH-8952 Schlieren, SWITZERLAND ; Ph: 41 44 200 2000; Fax: 41 44 200 2010; E-Mail: christine.musahl@prionics.ch; Web Site: www.prionics.ch
- ✠ Synbiotics Corporation 11011 Via Frontera, San Diego, CA 92127; Ph: 858-451-3771; Fax: 858-451-5719; E-Mail: cathy@synbiotics.com; Web Site: www.synbiotics.com
- ✠ Tetracore, Inc. 11 Firstfield Rd. #C, Gaithersburg, MD 20878; Ph: 301-258-7553; Fax: 301-258-9740; E-Mail: jcallahan@tetracore.com; Web Site: www.tetracore.com
- ✠ Trek Diagnostic Systems 982 Keynote Circle #6, Cleveland, OH 44131; Ph: 216-485-1143; Fax: 216-485-1163; E-Mail: mmcgeady@trekds.com; Web Site: www.trekds.com
- ✠ Ventana Medical Systems, Inc. 1910 Innovation Park Dr., Tucson, AZ 85737; Ph: 800-227-2155 x 3867; Fax: 520-229-4203; E-Mail: thaikara@ventanamed.com; Web Site: www.ventanamed.com

MEETING EXHIBITORS CONTINUED

- ✦ **Vetstar** 79 N. Franklin Turnpike, Suite 103, Ramsey, NJ 07432; Ph: 201-934-7127; Fax: 201-236-1891; E-Mail: scummins@vetstar.com; Web Site: www.vetstar.com
 - ✦ **Viral Antigens, Inc.** 5171 Wilfong Rd., Memphis, TN 38134; Ph: 901-382-8716; Fax: 901-382-0027; E-Mail: vai@worldcommail.net; Web Site: www.viralantigens.com
 - ✦ **VLIMS, Inc.** 1300 Rosemary Lane #4, Columbia, MO 65201; Ph: 573-268-3921 (cell); Fax: 573-441-0165; E-Mail: scott.fox@verizon.net
 - ✦ **VMRD, Inc.** 4641 Pullman-Albion Rd., Pullman, WA 99163; Ph: 509-334-5815; Fax: 509-332-5356; E-Mail: vmrd@vmrd.com; Web Site: www.vmr.com
 - ✦ **Waste Reduction by Waste Reduction, Inc. (WR2)** 5711 W. Minnesota St., Indianapolis, IN 46241; Ph: 317-484-4200 x 110; Fax: 317-484-4201; E-Mail: lwilson@wr2.net; Web Site: www.wr2.net
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FUTURE MEETINGS

December 4-6, 2003: **Academy of Veterinary Consultants Winter Conference** at the Renaissance Hotel, Denver, Colorado. For Information Call; 806-354-2888

March 6, 2004: **ACPV-Sponsored Workshop "Emergency Preparedness"** at Capitol Plaza Holiday Inn - Sacramento, CA. ACPV workshop will be prior to the 53rd Western Poultry Disease Conference. The workshop will address what are emergencies (infectious, natural and bioterrorism), their impact on the poultry industry, and how to prevent and/or prepare for them. For further information, contact the workshop coordinator Dr. H.L. Shivaprasad by E-mail (hshivaprasad@ucdavis.edu) or phone (559-498-7740).

March 6 to 9, 2004: **53rd Western Poultry Disease Conference** will be held at the **Capitol Plaza Holiday Inn in Sacramento, California**. The program will highlight food safety issues (campylobacter, salmonella, and risk assessment related to antibiotics), avian influenza, and exotic Newcastle disease. For more information see the website at: <http://www.cevs.ucdavis.edu/Cofred/Public/Aca/ConfHome.cfm?confid=179>

April 3-4, 2004: 2nd International Bovine Viral Diarrhea Virus in the Americas Symposia will be held at University of California, Davis California. Space is limited. **Deadline for abstracts & posters is February 1, 2004**. For further information see <http://www.vetmed.ucdavis.edu/CE/BVDV.html>. or contact: sjwais@ucdavis.edu, phone 866-426-5693.

July 11 - 16 2004: **23rd World Buiatrics Congress** that will be held in Québec City at the Québec City Convention Center. For more information see: <http://www.wbc2004.ca/eng/>

August 25, 2004: **Annual meeting of the International Society of Veterinary Dermatopathology** will be held in conjunction with the 5th World Congress of Veterinary Dermatology (August 25th-28th) in Vienna, Austria. Abstract deadline for the Brief Communication session is **December 15th, 2003**. Abstracts following the same guidelines as for the World Congress should be sent to Monika.Welle@itpa.unibe.ch. Information regarding membership and goals of the ISVD, and program details, can be obtained at the website <http://www.isvd.org>. Meeting registration information can be obtained from the website of the world congress <http://www.vetdermvienna.com/>. During the World congress ISVD will organize two slide seminars. One will be held for advanced clinicians, the other will be held for pathologists."

October 15-16, 2004: **36th annual Western Conference of Veterinary Diagnostic Pathologists** at the Delta Bessborough hotel, 'the Castle on the River', in downtown Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. The hotel is holding rooms with one and two bed options at \$101.00 per night (plus taxes) contact Central Reservations Office at 1-800-268-1133 or the Delta Bessborough directly at (306) 244-5521. Callers must mention the group name WCVDP to receive the appropriate rate and be included in the guest room block. The theme for this 2004 case-based conference is nervous system pathology. For more information regarding case submissions or the Conference please contact: Andy Allen (andrew.allen@usask.ca), Department of Veterinary Pathology, Western College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Saskatchewan, 306-966-7294

POSITION ANNOUNCEMENTS

HEAD DIAGNOSTIC PATHOLOGIST at Amarillo in the Texas Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, a member of the Texas A&M University System. **A review of applications will begin October, 15,2003 & continue until a suitable candidate is selected.** This is an excellent opportunity for an individual with expertise or desire to develop expertise in dairy, feedlot, cow-calf, or swine pathology. Requirements: DVM and MS or PhD in veterinary anatomic pathology & board certification required. The position requires an individual with good organizational, oral and written communication skills and ability to successfully interact with colleagues and animal owner/producers. Administrative responsibility will include personnel management of the diagnostic pathology section including evaluation & implementation of new technologies in diagnostic pathology & diagnostic veterinary medicine. Application: Interested candidates can apply at: <http://tamujobs.tamu.edu> on any computer with Internet access. Refer to job # 040179. Applicants' information shall include: Letter of Application, including a Statement of Goals; Curriculum Vita; Three (3) References, including name, address & phone numbers.

VETERINARY PATHOLOGIST: The Texas Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory (TVMDL) of The Texas A&M University, has a non-tenure track position available starting immediately. Responsibilities of this position include a major effort toward providing diagnostic pathology, particularly biopsy readings and necropsies of a variety of species. The ability to interact, consult and communicate (orally and in writing) with practicing veterinarians is essential. Position also assists in maintaining and developing quality assurance procedures, including immunohistochemistry. Qualifications include a DVM degree and postgraduate training in pathology. ACVP certification/eligibility or an advanced degree in Veterinary Pathology is preferred. Temporary employment at 80% for individuals desiring time to prepare for ACVP certification. Salary is negotiable To apply, send letter of intent with curriculum vitae and the names and addresses of 3 references to the name and address to Dr. Bruce Abbitt, Head, Diagnostic Pathology, TVMDL PO Drawer 3040, College Station, TX 77841-3040, Tel: (888) 646-5623, Fax: (979) 845-1794 Email: B-Abbitt@tvmdl.tamu.edu, URL: tvmdlweb.tamu.edu

VETERINARY PATHOLOGIST, tenure track position: The University of Montreal Veterinary School in St-Hyacinthe solicits candidates for the following position: assistant professor of mammalian pathology within the Department of Pathology and Microbiology. Persons interested should hold a DVM degree from a recognized veterinary school and be member, or eligible for membership, of the ACVP. He/she will participate in teaching, in the diagnostic service and in research. The working language at University of Montreal is French. **Application deadline: 15 December 2003, or until the position is filled.** Candidates are invited to submit a letter outlining their interests and career objectives, a curriculum vitae and the name and address of three professionals as reference persons to: Roger Ruppner, directeur, Département de pathologie et microbiologie Faculté de médecine vétérinaire, Université de Montréal C.P. 5000, Saint-Hyacinthe (Québec), Canada, J2S 7C6 Phone: (450) 773-8521 – poste 8146 Fax: (450) 778-8113 E-mail: roger.ruppner@umontreal.ca . For more detailed information visit: http://www.medvet.umontreal.ca/pathologie_microbiologie/default.htm

VETERINARY PATHOLOGIST: New Mexico Department of Agriculture (NMDA) has an opening for a Veterinary Pathologist at NMDA, Veterinary Diagnostic Services, Albuquerque, NM. Salary: Commensurate with qualifications. A complete application consists of the NMDA application form, letter of interest, personal curriculum vitae including three references, and college transcripts. **Review of applications will begin on December 1, 2003. Position remains open until filled.** Minimum requirements include a D.V.M. degree (in hand by hire date) from an accredited college. Preferred qualifications include Clinical experience, veterinary diagnostic laboratory experience; and ACVP Board certified. Related professional experience in veterinary pathology. Defensive driving training required within three months after employment. Driving record subject to investigation. A complete copy of the position announcement, application form is available at www.nmda.nmsu.edu or contact NMDA, Attention Pat Avalos, MSC 3189, P. O. Box 30005, Las Cruces, NM 88003-8005, at (505) 646-7523. NMSU is an EEO/Affirmative Action Employer.

VETERINARY PATHOLOGISTS: Tenure and non-tenure track positions: Section of Pathology, within the Department of Biomedical Sciences at Cornell University. Tenure and Non-tenure track professorial positions are available and the distribution of effort devoted to service, teaching, and research, and the academic track is negotiable depending on an applicant's interests and expertise. Qualifications include the DVM degree or equivalent and board certification or eligibility by the American College of Veterinary Pathologists or the European College of Veterinary Pathologists. Salary and rank will be competitive and commensurate with experience. Applicants are asked to submit a curriculum vitae, a letter of intent concerning career goals, and the names and addresses of three professional references to Search Committee Chair, c/o Ms. Amy Pellegrino, Department of Biomedical Sciences, College of Veterinary Medicine, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853-6401. **Applications will be reviewed until the position is filled.**

SENIOR VETERINARY PATHOLOGISTS (two positions) in the Department of Pathobiology at the University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine at rank of tenured Associate/Full Professor. Applicants should have a D.V.M. or equivalent and record of research accomplishment. Applicants with interest in immunology, host-pathogen interactions or molecular pathogenesis and Ph.D. and ACVP board certification are preferred. Primary responsibilities are a competitive research program and teaching. Other duties may include anatomic pathology service. For information on facilities and programs see: www.vetmed.ufl.edu/path/path.htm. Applicants should submit a letter outlining professional goals, a curriculum vitae, and a list of three professional referees to: Dr. A. F. Barbet, Search Committee Chair, Department of Pathobiology, College of Veterinary Medicine, P.O. Box 110880, University of Florida, Gainesville FL 32611-0880; e-mail barbeta@mail.vetmed.ufl.edu; fax 352-392-9704. Review of applications will begin after November 1, 2003 and will continue until the positions are filled. The start date for these positions is as early as January 1, 2004.

VETERINARY PATHOLOGIST: clinical track at Assistant to Full Professor level, in the Department of Pathobiology at the University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine Applicants should have a D.V.M. or equivalent degree and record of accomplishment. ACVP board certification is preferred. Responsibilities will focus on two or more of the following areas 1) teaching pathology to veterinary students; 2) resident instruction; 3) participation in anatomic pathology service; 4) anatomic pathology service administration; and/or 5) collaborative research. For information on Facilities and programs see: www.vetmed.ufl.edu/path/path.htm. Applicants should submit a letter outlining professional goals, a curriculum vitae, and a list of three professional referees to: Dr. William Castleman, search committee chair, Department of Pathobiology, College of Veterinary Medicine, P.O. Box 110880, University of Florida, Gainesville FL 32611-0880; e-mail: castlemanw@mail.vetmed.ufl.edu; fax: 352-392- 9704. Review of applications will begin after September 1, 2003 and continue until the position is filled. The start date for the position is as early as November 1, 2003.

VETERINARY PATHOLOGIST: The College of Veterinary Medicine, Mississippi State University, is seeking to fill an Assistant/Associate/Professor of Veterinary Pathology tenure-track faculty position. Qualifications: DVM degree, PhD in veterinary pathology, and experience in delivery of a veterinary curriculum. Diplomate status in the American College of Veterinary Pathologists or eligibility for board examination. Responsibilities: Assisting with the professional curriculum, necropsy and biopsy diagnostic service, and the Pathology Residency Program. Salary and rank: Commensurate with qualifications and experience. **Application: Accepted until position is filled.** Qualified applicants should submit a letter of application (describing their interests and professional goals), official transcripts, curriculum vitae, and names and addresses of three references to Dr. Lanny Pace, Executive Director, MS Veterinary Research & Diagnostic Laboratory System, 2531 NW Street, Jackson, MS 39216-4389. MSU is an AA/EOE.

VETERINARY PATHOLOGIST: The Department of Veterinary Diagnostic Services at North Dakota State University invites applications for a position in the AAVLD-accredited Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (VDL). Primary responsibilities are related to diagnostic service and consultation with laboratory clientele. The successful candidate will also participate in the teaching and research mission of the university, and specific expectations will be based upon selection of a tenure track or non-tenure track option. Candidates must have a DVM degree or equivalent degree with postgraduate training/experience in veterinary pathology. Preference will be given to individuals with MS/PhD degree and board certification. Salary and benefits are competitive and commensurate with qualifications and experience. Send letter of application, curriculum vitae and names of three references to Dr. N W Dyer, Director, Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, North Dakota State University, Fargo, North Dakota, 58105. Email: . Electronic applications must be followed by hard copy. NDSU is an equal opportunity employer.

VETERINARY PATHOLOGIST RESIDENCY/GRADUATE STUDY: The Department of Pathobiology and Veterinary Science, University of Connecticut, has an opening for a veterinarian with strong interests in anatomic veterinary pathology and research. The program includes training leading to eligibility for certification examination by the American College of Veterinary Pathologists. The research component, leading to the PhD degree may focus on the pathogenesis of infectious diseases of one species or another or toxicological pathology. Collaborations exist with the New England Regional Primate Research Center, Plum Island Animal Disease Center, Mystic Aquarium and Hartford Hospital. A graduate research assistantship is available which includes a salary of \$25,000 and a tuition waiver. The position is available immediately, and represents a good opportunity for pathology residents to complete their pathology training and get involved in exciting research. For further information and/or application information contact H.J. Van Kruiningen, Department Head, Pathobiology and Veterinary Science, 61 N. Eagleville Rd., Storrs, CT 06269-3089 or email Herbert.vankruiningen@uconn.edu

VETERINARY PATHOLOGY INTERN: The Texas Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Lab, Texas A&M University, is seeking an intern in diagnostic vet pathology. The successful candidate will be involved in necropsy and histopathology service. The position requires a veterinary degree from an AVMA accredited or approved school and completion of at least 2 years of a residency program in vet pathology. Some veterinary practice experience is advantageous. Excellent written and oral communication skills in English are required. The position is at an 80% effort allowing time to prepare for the ACVP board examination via course work or independent studies. The position can be upgraded to a 100% level. Advancements to vet pathology positions are possible after completion of the ACVP examination. To apply, send letter of intent with curriculum vitae and the names and addresses of 3 professional references to: Dr. Bruce Abbitt, Head, Diagnostic Pathology, P O Drawer 3040, College Station, Texas 77841-3040 or email to: b-abbitt@tvmidl.tamu.edu

VETERINARY PATHOLOGIST: The University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine has an Assistant Professor position available in Anatomic Pathology. Depending on the preferences of the applicant, the position may be tenure track (research/teaching/diagnostic services) or clinical track (100% teaching and diagnostic services). Responsibilities include teaching of senior rotations and classroom portions of our professional curriculum and participation in surgical biopsy and necropsy services. The necropsy caseload is 40% small animal, 30% large animal, and 30% exotic, zoo and wildlife. Required qualifications include a DVM degree and board certification or eligibility in anatomic pathology. Additional degrees (PhD, MS) are desirable. Please send applications including curriculum vitae, statement of career goals, and names of three references to: Dr. Linden Craig, Search Committee Chair, Department of Pathobiology, College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Tennessee, 2407 River Drive, Knoxville, TN 37996-4542, phone: 865-974-8213; e-mail: linden@utk.edu. Informal inquires are welcome.

VETERINARY DIAGNOSTICIAN: The University of Arizona is seeking a veterinarian for a position as a veterinary diagnostician at the Arizona Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, a service unit of the Department of Veterinary Science and Microbiology. Duties include conducting gross necropsy and histological examinations, interpretation of results and communication of findings in writing and by phone to animal owners and referring veterinarians. Approximately 10% of the time can be devoted to scholarly activities. The minimum qualifications are a DVM degree from an AVMA accredited institution. Preferred qualifications include one year of experience in either clinical practice or a diagnostic laboratory. To apply, send a letter of intent, curriculum vitae and the name, addresses and phone numbers of three references to: Dr. Greg Bradley, Arizona Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, 2831 N. Freeway, Tucson, Arizona 85705 or to gabrad@ag.arizona.edu. **Review of materials will begin February 2, 2004, and continue until the position is filled.** The University of Arizona is an EEO/AA Employer-M/W/D/V

VETERINARY ANATOMIC PATHOLOGISTS: IDEXX Laboratory Services is seeking full-time veterinary anatomic pathologists. IDEXX provides pathology services to practicing veterinarians, universities, and numerous industrial organizations. For employees, our uniquely supportive professional environment encourages specialty interests and provides strong support for continued professional development. We encourage participation in professional activities of interest such as lab management, specialty organization work, continuing education seminars, and publication. At IDEXX, your skills are complimented by state-of-the-art facilities, veterinary reference laboratories, GLP services, and the experience of seasoned, board-certified specialists. This means an extraordinary opportunity to advance career interests while enjoying great compensation and benefits. Open positions include toxicological pathology, diagnostic pathology, or shared duties including both of these areas. Positions are available at the following locations: West Sacramento, California; North Grafton, Massachusetts; United Kingdom and Australia. R. Gayman Helman, DVM, Ph.D., Dipl. ACVP, Head of Anatomic Pathology, Western Region, IDEXX Veterinary Services, Inc., 2825 KOVR Drive, West Sacramento, CA 95605. gayman-helman@idexx.com

EPIDEMIOLOGY AND FOOD SAFETY: The Department of Clinical Sciences and the Animal Population Health Institute, College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, Colorado State University, are seeking applicants for a tenure-track, 9-month position in veterinary epidemiology and food safety at rank of Assistant Professor. Requirements: advanced degree related to veterinary epidemiology, and knowledgeable of current food safety issues and North American livestock production. Applicants with knowledge and experience in beef feedlot production will be given preference. Position is responsible for teaching professional and graduate courses and conducting research on food safety and beef feedlot production. Applicants should submit a letter of intent, curriculum vitae, and letters from 3 individuals willing to serve as references to: Dr. Paul Lunn Chair, Department of Clinical Sciences, Colorado State University, Campus Mail 1620, Fort Collins, CO, 80523; phone 970-491-1274; fax 970-491-1275; email: . **Review of applicants will begin on January 20, 2004, and continue until a suitable candidate is identified.**

ENVIRONMENTAL TOXICOLOGY POSITION: The Department of Comparative Medicine, College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Tennessee, invites applications for a full-time, tenure-track position at the Assistant Professor level. The position involves a teaching commitment for both undergraduate (DVM) and graduate students, development of an extramural research program and development of a diagnostic toxicology service for the College. The latter involves some consultation duties through the Kord Diagnostic Laboratory of the State of Tennessee in exchange for graduate/residency student support. The position requires a DVM degree, and either a Ph.D. degree or eligibility for the Ph.D. degree. Board certification in the toxicology area is desired, and ultimately expected. Salary level is commensurate with qualifications and experience. For further details, contact Dr. Jack Oliver, Chair of the Search Committee (865-974-5729 or). The University of Tennessee is an EEO/AA/Title VI/Title IX/Section 504/ADA/ADEA institution in the provision of its education and employment programs and services.

ANALYTICAL TOXICOLOGIST: This is a permanent, non-tenure stream position in the Diagnostic Center for Population and Animal Health (DCPAH), CVM, Michigan State University. Candidates must possess a PhD (or equivalent) and at least five years' postdoctoral experience in a discipline that involves extensive use of advanced analytical techniques in organic and inorganic chemistry. The successful candidate will provide supervisory management of the analytical toxicology area of DCPAH's Toxicology Section, participate in service and development of analytical procedures, client/faculty consultation, and collaborative research. Excellent communication skills are required. The laboratory will move into a new facility in early 2004. Review of applications is continuous and applications will be accepted until a suitable candidate is identified. Applicants should send a letter of application and curriculum vitae, and arrange to have three letters of reference sent to: Willie M. Reed, DVM, PhD, Director, Diagnostic Center for Population and Animal Health, P.O. Box 30076, Lansing, MI 48909-7576. For further details, contact Dr. Reed (phone 517-353-0635, fax 517-353-5096, reed@dcpah.msu.edu).

POULTRY VETERINARIAN: College of Veterinary Medicine, Mississippi State University, is seeking a clinical- or tenure-track faculty Assistant/Associate/Professor poultry veterinarian to be located at Poultry Research and Diagnostic Laboratory (PRDL), Pearl, MS (part of Mississippi Veterinary Research and Diagnostic Laboratory System). Responsibilities: avian necropsies and interpretation/reporting diagnostic test results; function primarily within laboratory but will work at production company locations; supervise technicians and daily operations. Required Qualifications: DVM or equivalent degree; advanced poultry medicine training; effective oral and written communication abilities; understanding of poultry production practices. Desirable Qualifications: Preference given to candidates with board certification by the American College of Poultry Veterinarians; poultry diagnostic laboratory environment and poultry production experience; interest in applied research. Salary & Rank: Commensurate with qualifications and experience. **Applications: Accepted until filled.** Submit application letter describing interests and professional goals, official transcripts, curriculum vitae, and names/addresses of three references Dr. Danny Magee, Director, PRDL, P. O. Box 97813, Pearl, MS 39288. MSU is an AA/EOE.

DIAGNOSTIC MICROBIOLOGIST: At North Dakota State University Department of Veterinary Diagnostic Services in the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory. This is a 12-month position, either tenure or non-tenure track. A DVM (or equivalent) with advanced training in microbiology or a PhD is required. Preference will be given to those individuals with experience in veterinary diagnostic microbiology and molecular techniques. Responsibilities are primarily service-oriented, including expansion of laboratory diagnostic services with an emphasis on molecular techniques, interpretation and communication of microbiology case results, supervision of the laboratory microbiology sections, consultation with laboratory clientele, and laboratory QA/QC programs. Excellent oral and written communication skills and supervisory experience are critical to the position. Participation in research and teaching opportunities is expected. Send letter of application, curriculum vitae and names of three references to Dr. M.S. Mostrom, Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, North Dakota State University, Fargo, North Dakota, 58105. Email: . Electronic applications must be followed by hard copy.

VETERINARY VIROLOGIST - Assistant/Associate Professor, Department of Veterinary Pathobiology, Purdue University School of Veterinary Medicine. <http://vetmed.AcademicKeys.com/redirect.php?2262> Qualified individuals must have a strong background in diagnostic veterinary virology and serology, hold an M.S. and/or Ph.D. degree, or hold a highly preferred D.V.M. or equivalent degree. Responsibilities will include oversight and continued development of tests in the diagnostic virology and serology laboratories of the ADDL, as well as teaching and development of an independent or collaborative research program. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. Interested applicants are asked to submit a letter of interest accompanied by a curriculum vitae and a statement of research interest and career goals, along with the names and addresses of three references to: Dr. Leon Thacker; Diagnostic Virologist Search Committee. Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory, Purdue University, 406 South University Street. West Lafayette, IN 47907-2065. Telephone contact may be made at (765) 494-7460, or e-mail at thackerl@purdue.edu.

VETERINARY CLINICAL PATHOLOGY RESIDENCY: The program in the Department of Diagnostic Medicine/Pathobiology consists of a 3-year experience providing in-depth clinical pathology training through informal sessions, diagnostic service, veterinary student teaching, participation in seminars, presentations at national meetings, and writing manuscripts. The program is designed to meet the training requirements for ACVP boards (<http://www.acvp.org/exam/train.php>). The start date is between August 1-October 1 and stipend is \$25,000 with \$1000 increases in 2nd and 3rd years; plus faculty/staff benefits. Requirements: DVM or equivalent degree; with one or more years of clinical experience preferred. Send curriculum vitae, statement of professional goals, veterinary school transcript, and a list of three references (name, address, phone number, e-mail address) to Dr. S.L. Stockham, Department of Diagnostic Medicine/Pathobiology, College of Veterinary Medicine, Manhattan, KS 66506; e-mail: stockham@vet.k-state.edu, fax: 785.532.4039. Additional information is available at (<http://www.vet.ksu.edu/depts/dmp/teach/residency.htm>). The **deadline is February 1, 2004**, but applications will be accepted after that date if the position is not filled.

QUALITY ASSURANCE MANAGER, EXTENSION SUPPORT SPECIALIST III: The New York State Animal Health Diagnostic Laboratory is seeking a Quality Assurance Manager to develop, implement, establish and maintain a Quality Assurance (QA) program for the entire New York State Animal Health Diagnostic Laboratory (AHDL) that complies with AAVLD accreditation requirements including compilation and maintenance of a QA manual and implementation milestones. Facilitate establishment of QA procedures through consensus building, develop methods for monitoring and reporting, and identify QA training needs. Requirements: Bachelors with 5-7 years experience or equivalent. Bachelors or coursework and four years training in microbiology, biology or other medical discipline desired. Advanced graduate degree preferred. Extensive experience in a hospital, laboratory, or research facility with established QA procedures. Proven supervisory/managing experience, excellent communication, interpersonal, and organizational skills, initiative (self-starter); ability to manage multiple priorities and projects, and work under pressure and meet deadlines. To apply for this position, please visit <http://www.ohr.cornell.edu/jobs> and select staff (non-academic) and librarian category.

REGIONAL SALES MANAGER MID-ATLANTIC: To develop and grow our market share. As part the WR²/STI team you will be responsible for generating and developing sales opportunities, submitting proposals, and driving sales processes to closure. Work independently and as part of a team to uncover new opportunities and increase market share. The successful candidate will have a minimum of 5+ years capital equipment sales experience and a track record of exceeding quotas. Also responsible for managing the efforts of independent sales representative that are under contract with WR² and/or STI. Excellent communication skills and ability to complete complex assignments on schedule is a must. Competitive base salary, commission, and benefits package is included. Please submit employer, colleague, and other appropriate references and detailed resume by e-mail, fax or mail to: Terry Bradley, Waste Reduction by Waste Reduction, Inc., 5711 W. Minnesota St., Indianapolis, IN 46241. E-Mail: hr@wr2.net Fax: 317-484-4201. Website: www.wr2.net

AAVLD FOUNDATION DONATION FORM



The AAVLD Foundation is a non-profit foundation, which aims to raise funds for the advancement of veterinary diagnostics through scholarship programs, guest lectures, seminars, awards and research programs. Contributions to the Foundation are tax-exempt (501(c)(3))

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