



American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians E-Newsletter

In This Issue

[NAHLN Funding Movin in Congress](#)

[UPDATE from NAHLN](#)

[PEDv To Ease By Year-end](#)

[Annual Meeting Call For Cases](#)

[Joint US BVDV / ESVV Pestivirus Symposium](#)

[Save The Dates !](#)

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Quick Links

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[News](#)

[Related Links](#)

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Executive Board

Issue: # 5-2014

News & Events for May 2014

NAHLN Funding Moving in Congress

More progress in NAHLN funding is reported from Washington. According to the Senate plan, monies for the NAHLN are now to be administered through veterinary diagnostics in APHIS, but the net increase of \$200,000 is less than we had hoped. On the House side, the total funding level looks better - \$11.2 M - but the funding streams are still separated. Efforts are now toward a proposal to utilize the Senate's funding stream plan with the House's budget amount ... stay tuned!

Thank you for your support of AAVLD

Dr. Catherine Barr
2014 AAVLD President

Update on National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN) Electronic Messaging of Test Results

Background: The United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) Veterinary Services (VS) has been collaborating with the American Association of Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratories (AAVLD) and other NAHLN laboratories in implementing an electronic network for animal disease diagnostic laboratories within the United States for a number of years. This electronic network has historically been known as the NAHLN Information Technology System, which was one of the first of its kind in veterinary medicine to provide standardized, electronic transfer of lab results. The purpose of this electronic network is to provide the capability to securely aggregate and share laboratory information electronically regarding the testing for high consequence pathogens and

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animal diseases of regulatory concerns and those that affect public health and homeland security.

Update: Over the last year, VS has been working on a number of changes to the NAHLN IT system. This includes transitioning to a Laboratory Messaging Services (LMS) module that is more flexible and can accommodate standardized results [Health Level 7 (HL7)] messages for multiple diseases including: Influenza A virus in swine (IAV-S), Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea Virus (PEDV) and Porcine deltacoronavirus (PDCoV) and others. Most recently, LMS has been integrated with the Emergency Management Response System, version 2.0 (EMRS). Furthermore, VS is working with personnel at the Cornell University Animal Health Diagnostic Center to integrate with and support their efforts in implementing the State Animal Laboratory Messaging Services (SALMS)-a technical router designed to allow for electronic messaging *between* laboratories and to the State Animal Health Officials.

Overall Significance of these improvements:

- • Electronically messaging results reduces the need for resources to enter the results and the frequency of hand-entry errors.
- • Implementation of standards provides consistency and accurate electronic communication across the network.
- • Electronic messaging of diagnostic test results allows for the technical capability to move results in near real-time from the NAHLN laboratories to a variety of VS IT systems.
- • The reformation of the NAHLN IT system to LMS provides significantly increased flexibility for the different disease testing results that can be electronically transferred from NAHLN laboratories to VS.
- • Integration of LMS with the EMRS 2 fills an identified gap for the capability for direct and electronic transfer of testing results from the testing laboratory to the VS database used to manage animal health disease incidents. This electronic linkage greatly reduces the resources and time required for hand entry of test results and decreases the possibilities for errors, especially in periods of surge.
- • All LMS laboratory results use standardized language-- Logical Observation Identifiers Names and Codes (LOINC) to ensure interoperability across veterinary medicine and public health.

The next steps for LMS and messaging include continuing to add additional LOINC codes, which will enable additional diseases to be electronically messaged, and integration with other key VS IT systems. These advancements in electronic messaging will continue to increase capability, capacity, and strength of the NAHLN.

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Deadly Pig Virus Likely to Ease in US by Year-end: OIE Chief

By Sybille de La Hamaide
Reuters
May 20, 2014

PARIS (Reuters) - A deadly pig virus that has decimated herds in the United States and sent prices rocketing is likely to subside before the end of this year as the causes are being identified, the head of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) said.

Porcine Epidemic Diarrhoea virus (PEDv) has wiped out more than 10 percent of the U.S. pig population and forecasters have said losses from PEDv in the world's biggest pork exporter could cut production by as much as 7 percent in 2014.

"I'm confident. Like in all other diseases we know how to stop them once we have identified the causes properly," OIE Director General Bernard Vallat told Reuters.

He said the spread of the virus was likely mainly due to a lack of hygienic precautions, notably disinfecting trucks entering and leaving farms, but was also potentially linked to feed.

Vallat expected the disease to stabilize in the United States after a first wave mainly hit so-called "naive" herds which had not been previously exposed to the virus and had not developed antibodies.

"I expect it to subside before the end of the year," he said.

Full text:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/05/20/us-pork-oie-idUSKBN0E01V920140520>

ANNOUNCEMENT AND CALL FOR CASES: AAVLD Diagnostic Pathology Slide Seminar

AAVLD 57th Annual Meeting Diagnostic Pathology Slide Seminar

October 16-22 2014, Kansas City, Missouri

Submission Deadline: July 1, 2014

Anatomic and clinical pathologists are invited to submit cases for the Diagnostic Pathology Slide Seminar at the 2014 AAVLD meeting. Necropsy, surgical pathology, or cytology cases that presented a diagnostic challenge or represent an emerging disease entity are solicited. Graduate students and residents are encouraged to present.

Presentations are 5 minutes in length, with another 4 minutes for discussion. Abstracts should be submitted electronically to Dr Tim Cushing by July 1, 2014. Cases are reviewed as submitted; case submission will close early if presentation slots (16) are filled.

Style and format: Only one page per abstract please. Please use one inch margins, Times New Roman 11 pt font, center and bold title, center authors (full first name and last name) and affiliations below the title, bold presenter's name. Previous year's abstracts are available on the AAVLD annual meeting page for use as an example.

Presenters of accepted abstracts must supply a set of 65 H&E glass slides for necropsy and surgical pathology cases. Cytology cases should consist of as many glass slides as are available and if less than 65 slides then a series of high quality digital images that are representative of the case. Case materials should be submitted to Dr. Rob Bildfell by September 1, 2014 to allow for distribution and review of slides by attendees before the meeting.

Presenters and their sponsoring laboratory will receive a set of slides at no charge. The additional slide sets will be available, on a first come-first serve basis, for a \$50 donation to the Pathology travel fund of the AAVLD Foundation. A few slide sets from 2011, 2012 and 2013 conferences are still available for purchase. Please contact Dr. Rob Bildfell if you are interested.

Conference coordinators:

Send abstracts to:

Dr. Tim Cushing, Clemson University Veterinary Diagnostic Center;
e-mail tlcushing@gmail.com;
phone (803) 726-7827.

Send slides for accepted abstracts to:

Dr. Rob Bildfell, Oregon State University, Department of Biomedical Science, College of Veterinary Medicine, 146 Magruder Hall, Corvallis, Oregon 97331-4802;
e-mail: Rob.Bildfell@oregonstate.edu;
phone: 541-737-6965

Joint U.S. BVDV / ESVV Pestivirus Symposium Joins AAVLD Annual Meeting Lineup

Pestiviruses: Old Enemies, New Challenges

Sheraton Crown Center

Kansas City, MO

October 14-15, 2014

"Pestiviruses: Old Enemies, New Challenges" will be the theme of a joint meeting of the 6th U.S. Bovine Viral Diarrhea Virus (BVDV) Symposium and European Society of Veterinary Virology (ESVV) Pestivirus Symposium. The meeting will be held at the Sheraton Crown Center in Kansas City, Mo., October 14-15, 2014.

This is the first time that the U.S. BVDV group and the ESVV group will jointly meet. The objective of the symposium is to bring together scientists, animal health industry representatives, veterinary practitioners, educators, cattle producers and policy makers to discuss how the latest BVDV/pestivirus research findings can be used improve the health of beef and dairy cattle and control emerging disease problems.

For more information and to view the program, visit the ESVV website at <http://esvv.vamosarodar.es/meetings/show/joint-us-bvdvesvv-pestivirus-symposium>.

SAVE THE DATES ! AAVLD 57th Annual Meeting

We are gearing up for the 57th AAVLD Annual Meeting and Scientific Symposium this fall. We will be offering an expanded selection of presentations and events this year.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE INCLUDES:

Tuesday & Wednesday, OCTOBER 14-15:

- **International BVDV/Pestivirus Symposium**

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Thursday, OCTOBER 16:

- **AAVLD Quality Assurance Symposium** - 8:00 am to 5:00 pm
- **TOUR OF K-State BIOSCIENCE FACILITY and NBAF SITE** (Limited to first 100) - 8:00 am to 5:00 pm

Friday, OCTOBER 17:

- **C.L. Davis: Diagnostic Pathology of Bovine Diseases** - 8 am to 5:30 pm
- **AAVLD Committee Meetings and Scientific Presentations** - All Day
- **AAVLD Education Foundation Dinner and Auction** - 6 pm - 9 pm

Saturday, OCTOBER 18:

- **AAVLD Plenary Session** - 7:30 am to NOON
- **AAVLD Committee Meetings and Scientific Presentations** - Afternoon

Sunday, OCTOBER 19:

- **AAVLD Committee Meetings and Scientific Presentations** - All Day
- **AAVLD / USAHA Presidents' Reception, Dinner and Awards Ceremony** - 6 pm to 10 pm

Monday, OCTOBER 20:

- **AAVLD / USAHA Joint Plenary Session** - 7:30 am to NOON
- **AAVLD Committee Meetings** - Afternoon

Watch your email and the AAVLD Newsletter for additional information as it becomes available. See you in KC!

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

Sincerely,

Jim Kistler
Executive Director
American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians