



American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians E-Newsletter

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Executive Board

Francois Elvinger,

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News & Events February 2015

2015 Government Relations Meetings

The AAVLD / USAHA Government Relations Conference is next week.

Your AAVLD leadership team, government relations committee members and members of USAHA will meet with representatives of at least 13 different federal agencies, other associations and animal industry groups.

Topics of the Government Relations Conference will include:

- General Legislative Priorities of the Animal Health and Animal Producer Groups
- Federal Fiscal Year 2016 Budget
- Antibiotic Resistance
- Issues Relating to Brucellosis / Tuberculosis classification, Vaccination Delivery, B. ovis testing, Elephant TB
- ARS Research and Animal Welfare Initiatives
- Internet Pet Sales
- NBAF Update
- Plum Island Update
- Future of DHS

Please let us know if you have any topics or issues you would like your leadership team to carry to Washington. We will be providing updates on our meetings in a later newsletter.

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" Winds of Change "

AAVLD Accreditation Committee Notes:

Submitted by: Tim Baszler - Chair; Barbara Martin - Vice Chair

Greetings from the AAVLD Accreditation Committee!

In case you did not know, Dr. Bev Byrum, Accreditation Committee Chair for the past 5 years, has stepped down as Committee Chair due to AAVLD By-Laws requirements (there is a 5-year term limit for the Accreditation Committee Chair position). Along with Dr. Byrum's departure also goes Kathy Hayes, the fine administrative assistant that served along side Bev (by tradition the Committee Chair assistant has been provided by a colleague at their home institution).

After the October 2014 Accreditation Committee meeting we, Tim Baszler and Barb Martin, were appointed Chair and Vice-Chair respectively of the Committee through a process of initial nomination by the Accreditation Committee and final approval by the AAVLD Executive Board. So let us be the first to congratulate Dr. Byrum and Kathy on their dedication and very fine efforts towards the AAVLD Accreditation program. Please do the same. They have done an incredible service to us all in the AAVLD the past 5 years.

There is a Chinese proverb that states "When the winds of change blow, some people build walls and other build windmills". Well, the Accreditation Committee has decided to forgo the wall building and proceed with taking advantage of these "Winds of Change" to work toward continual improvement of the AAVLD Accreditation process. Practice what we preach so to speak!

For starters is this newsletter article. The Accreditation Committee will be providing "Notes" to the AAVLD membership through the AAVLD e-Newsletter after each of our Committee meetings, which occur 3 times per year. The purpose is to have more effective communication with all AAVLD membership about Accreditation Committee activities.

Secondly, Reda Ozuna of AAVLD will now provide administrative assistant duties for the Accreditation Committee. Having the administrative assistance of the Committee directly provided by AAVLD will provide more direct and efficient interaction between the Committee and the AAVLD organizational structure. You will already notice some benefits of this change. The Accreditation Committee now has

its own email address (accreditation@aavld.org) so you all can communicate more effectively with us. Also, the AAVLD website "Accreditation Resource" webpage now has a "Repository" (with instructions!) for uploading and providing documents associated with the accreditation process to the Committee, so exchange of documents such as updates, responses and accreditation applications is more efficient.

Thirdly, we have asked the Committee to lengthen our meeting times from 1 to 2 days (three times each year) in order to more effectively conduct our primary business of confidential deliberation of laboratory accreditations (there are now over 35 AAVLD accredited laboratories or laboratory systems in North America all with lots of documentation to review each meeting). Just as important, the Committee needs more time for conducting non-confidential business such as development and implementation of our own documents and processes, and continually reviewing the Committee's interpretation of our accreditation standard, based upon OIE/ISO 17025. The additional time invested developing SOPs and reviewing the Standard will help ensure the site visit processes and reports are standardized and consistent.

Finally, this leads to an abbreviated outline report of Committee Activities in our most recent Committee meeting February 3-5, 2015. Click [HERE](#) to read the full report.

Histopathology Slide Sets and Abstracts Now Available

Slide sets of the 2014 Histopathology Slide Session are available for purchase. The abstracts for this session, in addition to many of the previous Pathology Slide Seminars, can be viewed at <https://aavld.memberclicks.net/histopathology-conference>. It is in the Publications area of the website if you need to navigate that way.

Limited numbers of slides sets from previous years are available at \$50 per set as well (2005, 2011-2013). An order form link is available on the site, as is my contact information.

This year, as in previous years, there were many excellent slides and presentations. Dr. Tim Cushing and I sincerely thank all the participants.

Rob Bildfell
OSU VDL

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Jim Kistler
Executive Director

