



American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians E-Newsletter

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Issue #: 8-2015

News & Events August 2015

WELCOME To Your New AAVLD !!

The next time you visit the AAVLD website, you may notice some things have changed. We have an all new website to help you get the most out of your AAVLD membership!

The new website features user friendly navigation with easy to access Quick Links for the most up to date information. You will also find a Facebook feed allowing you to see what's been posted to the AAVLD Facebook page. Join almost 1,000 others in following the AAVLD on Facebook.

Front and center on the new website, AAVLD will feature an accredited laboratory each month. This month its the new laboratory planned for Texas A&M. Read all about the new laboratory on AAVLD's homepage at www.aavld.org.

If your laboratory would like to be featured on the AAVLD website, please contact Jim Kistler, AAVLD Executive Director at jkistler@aavld.org

2015 USAHA/AAVLD Annual Meeting Registration Now Open

Plans are well underway for the 119th United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) and 58th American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians (AAVLD) Annual Meeting. The meeting will take place October 22-28, 2015 at the Rhode Island Convention Center in Providence, R.I. The event brings together leaders and stakeholders from across the country to address the most pressing issues in livestock and poultry disease, regulations, diagnostics and research in the United States. Registration is open to anyone interested in the mission of USAHA and AAVLD to safeguard the health of the U.S. herds and flocks.

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"Program development is well underway for the multiple committees, scientific and plenary sessions," says Jim Kistler, executive director of AAVLD. The program includes committee meetings, topical presentations, scientific sessions and peer collaboration across a wide range of topics including multiple species of livestock and poultry. "We are excited to be in Providence for the first time in the history of the organization, and working with our hosts in the northeast for a great meeting this fall."

The AAVLD Plenary on Saturday, October 24 will focus on the highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) outbreak of 2015, and the Joint Plenary Session on Monday, October 26 will feature "Future of Livestock and Poultry: Food Security for the Next Decade," looking comprehensively at the food chain and issues from producer to consumer. Details on both sessions will be forthcoming as they are confirmed. Dr. David Schmitt, Iowa State Veterinarian and Dr. Tom Baldwin, Utah Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory Director, are serving as 2015 program co-chairs for USAHA and AAVLD, respectively.

Meeting registration is now open and available. Early registrations will be accepted through September 30, and rates go up after that date. Detailed meeting information is available at www.usaha.org and www.aavld.org.

ANNUAL MEETING MOBILE APP NOW AVAILABLE

AAVLD and USAHA are proud to announce the Providence, R.I. installation of the 2015 AAVLD / USAHA Annual Meeting App! The app will again be available for registered attendees on your smartphone and tablet devices as well as a laptop-compatible version. The app will allow access to all of the meeting information on your devices. The app is available on Apple and Android systems, downloadable through the Apple store or Google Play. The app will be accessible for attendees to the annual meeting. It is a native app meaning internet connection is not required to run the program. However, internet connection is necessary for any updates or announcements and we will have complimentary wireless internet available for your use in Providence. The app is brought to you by the generous support of Thermo Fisher Scientific.

- Key App features
 - Interactive Schedule & Agenda, including the ability to build your own agenda
 - Connect with other attendees through the app
 - Downloadable Scientific and other session presentations to your device
 - Interactive Exhibitor information
 - General meeting information & announcements

Watch for an upcoming tutorial to better acquaint you with using the app - coming soon!

How to access the mobile app:

- You must first be registered for the 2015 Annual Meeting to have an account. PLEASE NOTE: if you used the app last year (2014), your registration is no longer active. Only 2015 Registrants will be recognized.
- Once you have registered for the meeting, you will receive a notification once your app activation is completed.
- If you used the app last year, you should be able to update the 2014 app with the current version. If you are a new user, simply go to your app store, and search for AAVLD USAHA Annual Meeting, and select download. (Data rates may apply). Once you've downloaded, start the app and you will be prompted to enter your email address, and you're all set.
- For those interested in the desktop version, it can be accessed at: <http://www.bravuratechnologies.com/aavld2015/web/attendeelogin.aspx>

AAVLD & ACVM Joint Mini-Symposium

58th Annual AAVLD Meeting

Registration for the AAVLD & ACVM Joint Mini-symposium is now open. Please register ASAP at <http://www.aavld.org/symposium-workshops>

Emerging Technologies in the Veterinary Microbiology Lab

Friday, October 23rd, 8:00 am-11:45 pm

Topics

- MALDI-TOF - Present and Future (principles, incorporation into the clinical bacteriology workflow, user database expansion, offline classification, new features and opening the box - expanding the spectral range) 8-9:30
 - Dr. Timothy Frana DVM, PhD, Associate Director of Pharmacovigilance at Boehringer Ingelheim Vetmedica.
 - Dr. Durda Slavic DVM, MSc, PhD, Bacteriology supervisor at the Animal Health Laboratory, University of Guelph.
- Break 9:30-10
- The utilization of next gen sequencing instruments in a veterinary diagnostic laboratory - 10-10:45

- Dr. Suelee Robb-Austerman DVM, MS, PhD, supervisor of the Mycobacteria and Brucella section of the National Veterinary Services Laboratories.
- Luminex assay development and use in the veterinary diagnostic laboratory 11-11:45
 - Dr. Jane Christopher-Hennings , DVM, MS, Head South Dakota Veterinary & Biomedical Sciences Department, Director, SD Animal Disease Research and Diagnostic Laboratory
 - Dr. Steve Lawson PhD, Research Associate III Virologist, South Dakota State University Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences Department

The symposium and breakfast is sponsored by Zoetis

EXHIBITOR ARTICLE: VMRD

Title: Anaplasma rMSP5-GST cELISA Non-Reactive with Sera from Ehrlichia spp PCR Positive Cattle

Author: D. Scott Adams

In 1996 Knowles et al¹ reported a diagnostic MSP5 epitope on *Anaplasma marginale* which formed the basis of a highly specific and sensitive cELISA. A commercial cELISA based on this epitope using a rMSP5-MBP expression product⁶ was licensed by the USDA in 2002 after sensitivity of the complement fixation test for anaplasmosis in persistently infected cattle was found to be quite low². The cELISA immediately became the required import test for entry of cattle into Canada. After several years of testing, Al-Adhami et al¹ postulated serological cross-reactivity between *A. marginale* and *Ehrlichia* species in naturally and experimentally infected cattle using the rMSP5-MBP commercial assay cELISA.

Last year Chung et al³ reported a rMSP5-GST expression product for the cELISA antigen which improved specificity of the assay and this was licensed by USDA. Chung et al⁴ tested sera in both cELISAs from 33 cattle which were PCR negative for *Anaplasma marginale* but PCR positive for *Ehrlichia* spp. The rMSP5-MBP cELISA was positive with 6 of the samples but the recently licensed rMSP5-GST cELISA was negative with all 33 samples.

References:

1. Al-Adhami B, Scandrett WB, Lobanov VA, Gajadhar AA: 2011, Serological cross-reactivity between *Anaplasma marginale* and an *Ehrlichia* species in naturally and experimentally infected cattle. *J Vet Diagn Invest* 23:1181-1188.
2. Bradway DS, Torioni de Echaide S, Knowles DP, et al.: 2001, Sensitivity and specificity of the complement fixation test for detection of cattle persistently infected with *Anaplasma marginale*. *J Vet Diagn Invest* 13:79-81.
3. Chung C, Wilson C, Bandaranayaka-Mudiyanselage B. et al., 2014, Improved diagnostic performance of a commercial *Anaplasma* antibody competitive enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay using recombinant major surface protein 5-glutathione S-transferase fusion protein as antigen, *JVDI*, 26(1):61-71
4. Chung C, Wilson CL, Scoles GA. et al., 2015, Field Evaluation of an Improved *Anaplasma* Antibody competitive blocking Enzyme-linked Immunosorbent Assay and Evaluation of Cross-reactivity of *Ehrlichia* antibodies, Submitted to *JVDI*
5. Knowles D, Torioni de Echaide S, Palmer G, et al.: 1996, Antibody against an *Anaplasma marginale* MSP5 epitope common to tick and erythrocyte stages identifies persistently infected cattle. *J Clin Microbiol* 34:2225-2230.
6. Torioni de Echaide S, Knowles DP, McGuire TC, et al.: 1998, Detection of cattle naturally infected with *Anaplasma marginale* in a region of endemicity by nested PCR and a competitive enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay using recombinant major surface protein 5. *J Clin Microbiol* 36:777-782.

EXHIBITOR ARTICLE: Zoetis

PADX315 AAVLD KOL Article

Veterinary Diagnosticians Examine Changing Landscape of Animal Health

The role of veterinary diagnostic laboratories reaches far beyond simply providing their customers with test results. These laboratories fulfill critical roles in disease surveillance among livestock and in monitoring the human food supply and drinking water to help ensure its safety, as well as guiding companion animal veterinarians in the care of their patients.

Today, the veterinary diagnostic medicine landscape is rapidly evolving and has significantly impacted veterinary diagnostic laboratories. Laboratory personnel acknowledge this rapid evolution and are currently strategizing on ways to meet the many challenges-and, importantly, the opportunities-it brings.

Recently, leaders in veterinary diagnostic laboratory medicine gathered to discuss their perspectives on the trends, challenges and opportunities that lie

ahead for diagnostic laboratories. Sponsored by Zoetis-a leader in providing diagnostics tests to meet the needs of veterinarians, producers, breeders and pet owners-this discussion provided an opportunity to identify and explore key issues. These include: maintaining quality control and system maintenance; decreased state and federal government funding; point-of-care competition; lack of public recognition of the value of university laboratories; lack of connectivity among multiple communication data systems; new assay and service development costs; recruitment and retention of qualified employees; new technology adoption; independent laboratory relevance and competitiveness.

"It was interesting to hear directly from individuals who have been involved in the diagnostic laboratory industry for many years," said Chris Demiris, Director of Marketing, U.S. Diagnostics-Zoetis. "They shared some remarkable insights into what lies ahead in the coming decade."

As part of its commitment to the industry, the full proceedings from this important meeting are being made available in October to veterinary laboratory professionals by Zoetis. To obtain your free copy visit Zoetis booth #28 at the 2015 AAVLD Conference or send an email request to Chris.Demiris@zoetis.com.

WIT-00112

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

