



E-Newsletter

January 2017

Don't miss out! The next issue of JVDI will be sent soon. You must be a current member of AAVLD to receive the JVDI and all of the other great benefits of membership.

AAVLD memberships expire each year on December 31. If you have not already joined for 2017, please click on the following link

[AAVLD Membership](#)

If you are unsure of your membership status, please email Reda at rozuna@aavld.org or Jim at jkistler@aavld.org



AAVLD President's Message

January 2017

What is in store for veterinary diagnostic medicine in 2017? As we discussed in the plenary session of our annual meeting, those who accept the challenge to keep their labs on the leading edge will likely move forward in translating the use of technologies such as next generation sequencing and metabolomics into tools our clients understand, can afford and depend on to make decisions. The leading labs will also move forward to meet client expectations with the "next generation" diagnostic information management technologies. I hope you will take advantage of the relationships built

through membership in the AAVLD to pick up the phone and find out what your peers are doing in these and other areas.

A potential downside to advancements in our laboratory information management systems (LIMS) is our relationships with clients. As we adopt these real-time forms of delivery of diagnostic results, we are in danger of losing the personalized, customer-centric touch that has been the foundation of diagnostic medicine. Perhaps a goal for 2017 could be to pick up the phone and call more clients, ask questions about the case and the client, consider doing a field trip to the farm or clinic...personalize and add value to your services. I know I also learned a tremendous amount from the many conversations I had with referring veterinarians and the farm visits I did over my career as a diagnostic pathologist.

In my December President's message, I discussed the importance of innovation to the future of diagnostic medicine. Within the next few weeks we will be announcing and rolling out a competitive grant program for AAVLD members on "*Driving Innovation in Diagnostic Medicine*".

Thank you for being a member of AAVLD. I look forward to hearing from you throughout the year.

Patrick Halbur
AAVLD President



Management of bovine neosporosis begins with serological testing

Siddra A. Hines, DVM, PhD, DACVIM

Neospora caninum is one of the leading causes of abortion and decreased reproductive efficiency in cattle.^{1,2} This protozoan parasite is insidious, often with abortion as the only obvious sign of disease. Median economic cost of *Neospora* abortion has been estimated at ~\$12,000 per herd in the United States³, and additional losses of \$128 per infected cow have been reported due to decreased milk production⁴. With no effective vaccine or treatment currently available, diagnostic testing by serology with subsequent management interventions are the mainstay of disease control. Positive serology indicates current infection since it is not possible to eliminate the parasite once infected.

[Text Link](#)



2017 AAVLD / USAHA Government Relations Conference

The 2017 Government Relations Conference (GRC) in Washington, DC. is fast approaching, March 6-9, 2017. As leaders with pertinent subject matter expertise, your participation in the development of focal points for GRC meeting is critical to ensure that agenda items are subjected to thoughtful analysis and receive timely follow-up action when warranted. Space and time are limited for these meetings, and the intent is to prioritize the limited amount of time with the respective stakeholders based on your feedback.

Historically, we have met with the following agencies/organizations: APHIS-VS, ARS, NIFA, FSIS, FDA-CVM, NAHLN/NVSL, DHS, Animal Agriculture Coalition, AVMA and AAVMC. This list is not set in stone, and if your feedback suggests that other partners should be included in discussions, we will make every effort to make that happen. For example, this year we are attempting to schedule a meeting with the CDC to discuss the role of VDL's in monitoring antimicrobial resistance.

In order to ensure a successful meeting, we need to hear from you on the following two items:

1. Please submit agenda items and names of agencies/individuals with whom the Committee should meet while in DC. To the extent that there are emerging issues or hot topics that have developed since the most recent annual meeting, feel free to include these items. With a new body of elected officials in Washington soon to take office, we may have a unique opportunity to engage in dialogue with some non-traditional partners, so brainstorming outside of the box on those possibilities is encouraged! The planning committee would like to ensure that the 2017 GRC meeting discussions are dialogue-based and outcome-focused in order to make the best use of your time and that of our partners during these face-to-face meetings.
2. Please indicate if you would like to attend the GRC meeting this year, at your earliest convenience. Space for the various meetings is very limited, so an early response is necessary. Expenses are on your own, and we will secure a hotel block for the group, as cost effectively as possible. (DC Per Diem rate for March rate is \$242). A tentative itinerary follows:
 - o Monday March 6 - Joint AAVLD / USAHA Executive Committee Meeting
 - o Tuesday March 7 - Agency Meetings 8:00 am to 5:00 pm
 - o Wednesday March 8 - Agency Meetings 8:00 am to 5:00 pm
 - o Thursday March 9 - AAVLD Congressional Day on the Hill 8:00 am to 3:00 pm

We look forward to your agenda item suggestions by January 31st and your meeting RSVP if you are interested in attending. Thank you in advance for your participation in this process!

Dr. Pat Halbur, AAVLD President
Jim Kistler, AAVLD Executive Director

Trump picks Sonny Perdue for Agriculture Secretary

By Chris Mooney and John Wagner
The Washington Post
January 19, 2017

[Note: The Associated Press reports that Mr. Perdue is not related to or affiliated with the food company Perdue or the poultry producer Perdue Farms.]

Donald Trump has chosen former Georgia governor Sonny Perdue to be his secretary of agriculture, completing a protracted search with implications for how the president-elect plans to deliver on his promises to the army of rural voters widely credited with helping him win the election.

A transition official confirmed the pick - the final traditional Cabinet department chief to be selected - which could be formally announced as early as Thursday.

Perdue, a former Democrat who switched to the Republican Party before governing Georgia for two terms from 2003 to 2011, has a strong agricultural background, having grown up on a farm and earned a doctorate in veterinary medicine. As governor of Georgia, he also took conservative stances on immigration and voting rights and drew national headlines for holding a public vigil to pray for rain in 2007 amidst a crippling drought.

Although Perdue's Georgia is not among the nation's top 10 agricultural states, it is home to 42,000 farms, with a strong focus in the cattle industry.

[Text Link](#)

