Can our VDLs compete for infrastructure money? In the last two months I had the pleasure of visiting newly opened labs in Lincoln, Nebraska and College Station Texas. Congratulations to VDL directors Drs. Alan Doster (UNL) and Bruce Akey (Texas A&M) on these impressive buildings. It was equally impressive to see the tremendous pride the faculty and staff have in the new facilities and the important work they do.

Indications are that a major US infrastructure bill is being put together. Our recent Laboratory Infrastructure Survey completed by VDL directors indicated 35% of

At this year's meeting we have several special symposiums taking place that you won't want to miss. Specific information for each will be provided by July 1st so mark your calendars!

Thursday, Oct 12, 2017:
Next Generation Sequencing: Application in Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratories, a Multidisciplinary Symposium
8:00 AM-5:00 PM

Accreditation and Quality Assurance Symposium
Presented by AAVLD and NAHLN
8:00 AM-12:00 PM

Friday, Oct 13, 2017:

Annual Meeting
Hotel Reservations Open
Registration Opens July 1st

60th Annual AAVLD Meeting
October 12-18, 2017
San Diego, CA

Town and Country Resort & Convention Center
500 Hotel Circle North
San Diego, CA 92108

Reserve by Phone:
619-291-7131
Group Code: USAHA/AAVLD
Reserve online: Click Here!

Hotel Rates:
$164 Royal Palm Tower or $149 Garden Rooms
Government Rate:
$149 Regency Tower rooms (rate could change October 1st).
VDLs are over 40 years old, 50% are over 30 years old and 65% are over 20 years old. Our lab at Iowa State University is over 40 years old and we are working hard to generate support to build a new lab. The question has been asked of me several times whether matching federal funding is available for the project. The ISU VDL handles over 80,000 cases per year, many of which come from states across the US. I would argue that the ISU VDL, similar to most VDLs across the US, is part of the critical infrastructure supporting US animal health and the US economy. AAVLD leadership and our lobbyist Brad Mollet will be using the survey information over the next few months to build a story to assist labs in potentially competing for federal funds for VDL building projects.

I was also struck by how diverse AAVLD member labs are in administrative structure, funding sources and reliance on fee income. Just over half of our labs are associated with veterinary colleges and approximately 15% are associated with state departments of agriculture. In particular, there is great variability in size of VDL budgets with:

- 9% between $250,000 to $1 million,
- 53% between $1-5 million,
- 15% between $5-10 million,
- 2% between $10-15 million,
- 6% between $15-20 million, and
- 6% over $20 million.

We know that the type of caseload in labs is often very dependent on the type of livestock and poultry industries in the respective state. It is

AAVLD Bacteriology Mini Symposium
8:00 AM-12:00 PM

CL Davis Symposium
8:00 AM-5:50 PM

Sunday, Oct 15, 2017:

Race Horse Pathology/Diagnostics Special Session
2:00 PM-5:00 PM

Please visit Symposia and Workshops to register for these symposiums starting as of July 1st, 2017.

Extra day of Exhibits

Exhibits will open Friday, Oct 13 and close Sunday, Oct 15.

Schedule:
Friday, Oct 13 10:00 AM-5:00 PM
Saturday, Oct 14 9:00 AM-6:00 PM
Sunday, Oct 15 9:00 AM-1:00 PM

Government rate is reserved for federal government attendees.

Conference Registration

Registration for the annual conference will open July 1, 2017. Watch your email for the announcement or check the annual meeting web-page: http://www.aavld.org/meeting-registration
important that AAVLD leadership understands the diversity in makeup of labs from which our members come and continue to prioritize those things that bring value to all labs like quality continuing education (journal and meetings), advocacy for the profession and impact of diagnostic medicine at the national level, advocacy for federal agencies and programs we depend on (USDA VS, NAHLN) for diagnostic programs, and an accreditation program that is practical, affordable and drives continuous improvement of our labs.

Thank you for the opportunity to lead this great organization. I look forward to hearing from you.

Pat Halbur
AAVLD 2017 President

ANNUAL MEETING Happenings in Pathology:

1. Race Pathology Special Session with Wet Lab - Sunday, Oct. 15th

Program

2:00-2:30: Regulatory aspects of racing and the post-mortem program of California. Rick Arthur (California)
2:30-5:00: Wet lab; Working with legs and bones
  2:30-3:15: Dissection of distal leg of a horse. Janet Moore (UCDavis)
  3:15-4:00: Lesions of humerus and scapula. Francisco Uzal (UCDavis)
  4:00-4:20: Lesions of the carpus. Julie Engiles (University of Pennsylvania)
  4:20-5:00: Lesions of fetlock. Jennifer Janes / Laura Kennedy (University of Kentucky)

2. Gross Pathology Mock Exam - Saturday, Oct. 14th

Program

6:00-6:10 pm Welcome and Introduction-refreshments
6:10-6:40 pm Gross mock exam 1 (25 images) - Denise Imai
6:40-7:10 pm Review of Gross mock exam 1 - Denise Imai
7:10-7:30 pm Break - refreshments
7:30-8:00 pm Gross mock exam 2 (25 images) - Francisco Carvallo
8:00-8:30 pm Review of Gross mock exam 2 - Francisco Carvallo
Nebraska Veterinary Diagnostic Center celebrates grand opening

By Haley Steinkuhler, IANR Media
Nebraska Today
June 5, 2017

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln celebrated the grand opening of its new Veterinary Diagnostic Center from 3 to 5 p.m. on June 9. The center is on the university's East Campus at 4040 East Campus Loop.

The new Nebraska Veterinary Diagnostic Center will provide improved laboratory services for veterinarians and Nebraska livestock owners, and it will also enhance the learning experiences of students in the Professional Program in Veterinary Medicine. Because students in this rigorous program are in school six to eight hours a day and have to study beyond that, they will have card access to the student-designated spaces in the new center 24 hours a day.

"With our new interactive spaces, we've created a state-of-the-art space for our students to study as well as gain hands-on veterinary experience," Alan Doster, the center's director

The center will continue to do research and offer necropsy, histopathology, virology, bacteriology, serology, toxicology and limited clinical pathology services. The increased space and new state-of-the-art equipment, such as the new MALDI-TOF technology, will enable the center to more quickly and accurately diagnose disease causing organisms.

Full text: http://news.unl.edu/newsrooms/today/article/veterinary-diagnostic-center-grand-opening-celebration-is-june-9/

DON'T FORGET:
AAVLD Continues To Work For You In Washington D.C.

As we know, some extra funding has been allocated to the NAHLN, but we also need to recognize the continuing need to make sure it stays next year and every year after. AAVLD will continue to build on recent successes until we reach our ultimate goal of fully funding the NAHLN and insuring that funding is mandatory funding. REMEMBER - the majority of this funding goes TO THE LABS of the NAHLN.

For that we need to keep our advocacy effort going and AAVLD needs YOUR help to keep this effort funded. Please donate to "Friends of the Labs" .....click here --> http://www.aavld.org/ and then click on "Friends of the Lab" in the bar at the top and then on the donor form - you can donate online !

Please consider a donation to keep the NAHLN growing and help protect our animal industries.

The mission of the joint AAVLD/USAHA National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN) committee is to address issues of mutual interest regarding the NAHLN and make recommendations to USDA and the NAHLN Coordinating Council on policies affecting the NAHLN structure and function. The committee will help develop strategies to assist in continued enhancement and securing adequate funding of the NAHLN with the eventual goal of providing the coordinated state and federal laboratory support necessary to protect animal health and assist in protecting public health and food safety.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS: 60th & 121st AAVLD / USAHA Annual Meeting
October 12th-18th, 2017
Town & Country Hotel and Convention Center
San Diego, CA

For Hotel Information, please click here....>

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