



American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians E-Newsletter

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Executive Board

Francois Elvinger,
President

Catherine Barr,
Immediate Past
President

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News & Events January 2015

Your 2015 Leadership Team

Changes in leadership are an annual rite of passage in AAVLD. New leaders step forward and experienced leaders provide guidance and historical perspective as AAVLD continues to grow and work on behalf of its members. This year's leadership team is:



AAVLD's New President!

Dr. Francois Elvinger was installed as AAVLD's 2014-2015 President during the House of Delegates meeting on Monday, Oct. 20th, 2014. Dr. Elvinger is Professor of Veterinary Epidemiology, Director of the Public Health Program, and Head of the Department of Population Health Sciences in the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine at Virginia Tech.

Tom Baldwin,
President-Elect

Pat Halbur,
Vice President

John Adaska,
Secretary / Treasurer

Sandra Bushmich,
Northeast Rep.

Lanny Pace,
Southeast Rep.

**Jane Christopher-
Hennings**
Northcentral Rep.

Hemant Naikare,
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Jerry Heidel,
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Hana Van Campen
Southwest Rep.

Estela Cornaglia,
Canada Provincial Rep.

Maria Perrone,
Canada Federal Ex-
Officio

Beth Lautner,
NVSL Ex-Officio

Christine Hoang,
AVMA Ex-Officio



AAVLD's New President-Elect!

Dr. Tom Baldwin has been elected as President-Elect for 2014-2015. Dr. Baldwin is a veterinary pathologist at Utah State University and serves as the Director of the Utah Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory.



AAVLD's New Vice President!

Dr. Patrick Halbur has been elected as AAVLD's 2014-2015 Vice President. Dr. Halbur is Professor and Chair of the Veterinary Diagnostic and Production Animal Medicine program at Iowa State University. Dr. Halbur also serves as the Executive Director of the Iowa State University Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory.



AAVLD's 2015 Immediate Past President

Dr. Catherine Barr will serve her 2015 term as the Association's Immediate Past President. In that role, Dr. Barr will serve on the AAVLD Executive Committee and Chair the Nominations and Awards Committees.

Dr. Barr is Quality Assurance and Safety Manager at the Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory, holds a

doctorate in toxicology from Texas A&M University and is a diplomate with the American Board of Toxicology.



AAVLD's 2015 Secretary - Treasurer

Dr. John Adaska will serve 2015 as the Association's Secretary-Treasurer. Dr. Adaska has served in that role for the past 5 years and provides the Association with financial guidance as well as insuring record-keeping and election protocols.

Zoetis Testing for *Mycobacterium avium* subspecies *paratuberculosis*

*Testing for *Mycobacterium avium* subspecies *paratuberculosis**

Mycobacterium avium subspecies *paratuberculosis* (MAP), the causative agent of Johne's disease, is economically important to the cattle industry. Its insidiousness and chronicity often makes early diagnosis difficult. In the interim, infected cattle may shed MAP organism and contaminate the environment, leading to new infections in calves-the group most susceptible to infection.

Testing options are bacterial culture of feces, PCR assays of feces, ELISAs for detecting antibodies within serum or milk, and identification of bacteria within and resulting consequences to affected tissues through biopsy or necropsy.

Veterinarians may select one or more of these test methods depending on the herd to be evaluated and the goal(s) of testing. Goals for testing may include herd classification, surveillance, eradication, and biosecurity (i.e. prevent disease introduction to a herd classified as negative). For some goals, serum antibody testing is appropriate.

Serum antibody testing may be suited for a dairy herd with known high prevalence of infection in which both the attending veterinarian and the dairy farmer would like to help reduce the number of infected cattle in the herd. They may decide to cull those heifers with high positive serum antibody results (i.e. high optical density [OD] results as determined with a spectrophotometer). Subsequently they may replace the culled heifers with ones from a negative herd and annually assess their efforts to help reduce infection prevalence with serum antibody testing.

A recent addition to the commercially available ELISA tests for detecting MAP antibodies within the sera of cattle is Zoetis' SERELISA® ParaTB Ab Mono Indirect test. Sensitivity is reported at 90.0% (95% CI: 77.95-96.53%) and specificity is reported at 99.6% (95% CI: 98.31-99.77%) based on evaluation of sera collected from well-characterized positive and negative cattle, respectively. Zoetis used this data to verify these test performance characteristics and support licensure of SERELISA® ParaTB Ab Mono Indirect. Of the sera positive for antibodies to MAP, National Veterinary Services Laboratories (NVSL) provided ten. These ten well characterized samples were confirmed at the individual animal level through blood culture of MAP and through histological detection of MAP antigen. The Maryland Department of Agriculture provided the remaining positive sera. The source herd of those sera is located in Minnesota and has a long history of being fecal culture and PCR positive for MAP.

SERELISA® ParaTB Ab Mono Indirect yields results to personnel of Johne's disease approved laboratories in approximately 75 minutes of incubation time. Laboratory personnel may then timely share obtained results with their customers so customers can meet their testing objectives-in the above example, to cull or not cull particular heifers as one of several steps in an attempt to help reduce herd prevalence of infected cattle.

For more information regarding Zoetis' SERELISA® ParaTB Ab Mono Indirect test, please contact your Zoetis laboratory strategic account manager and visit

<https://www.zoetis.com/products/diagnostics/serelisa-paratb-ab-mono-indirect.aspx>

References

Collins MT, Gardner IA, Garry FB, et al. Consensus recommendations on diagnostic testing for the detection of paratuberculosis in cattle in the United States. J Am Vet Med Assoc 2006;229(12):1912-1919.

Sweeney RW, Collins MT, Koets AP, et al. Paratuberculosis (Johne's disease) in cattle and other susceptible species. J Vet Intern Med 2012;26:1239-1250.

Data on file, Product Improvement Validation Report. June 20, 2013, Zoetis Inc.

Veterinary Forensic Pathology Conference

Penn State University

The Department of Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences and the Forensic Science Program of the Pennsylvania State University will host a conference on Veterinary Forensic Pathology on March 26, 27, and 28, 2015.

Core sessions will be held at the Centre County and Penn State Visitor Center on the main campus in University Park, PA. Optional lab sessions will be held in other university facilities. The conference is intended for veterinary pathologists who have experience in the field of veterinary forensic pathology or advanced veterinary pathology residents with a strong commitment to forensic pathology. A basic understanding of forensic pathology is required. Seats are limited and preferential registration will be granted to veterinary pathologists.

Speakers will include forensic pathologists Greg Davis, MD (University of Kentucky), Barbara Weakley-Jones, MD (Jefferson County Coroner), and Gordon Handte, MD (Mount Nittany Medical Center), forensic scientist Reena Roy, PhD (Penn State University), criminalist Ralph Ristenbatt (Penn State University), and the Centre County District Attorney's Office. Lecture and lab topics will include pathology of gunshot wounds, asphyxia, physical abuse, estimation of post-mortem interval, trace evidence collection, DNA analysis, use of alternate light sources, etc. Up to 16 hours of Continuing Education will be available to attendees.

Register by February 27, 2015 to get a reduced registration fee of \$195 (\$155 for pathology trainees). Late registration fee is \$250. Laboratory registration fees are additional and laboratory space is limited. No registrations will be accepted after March 20.

For more information or to register visit our website at <http://adl.psu.edu> or contact Lola Hubler at the Animal Diagnostic Laboratory, (814) 863-0837 or adlhelp@psu.edu

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

