



## American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians E-Newsletter

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### Executive Board

Issue: # 6-13

June 2013

## Register Today !

### 117th USAHA/ 56<sup>th</sup> AAVLD Annual Meeting Town and Country Hotel San Diego CA

The 2013 USAHA-AAVLD Annual Meeting is just a few months away - it's time to make plans to attend this year's premier forum for animal health in the United States. We return to the friendly Town and Country Hotel in beautiful San Diego, California.

The USAHA and AAVLD programs are beginning to take shape, including AAVLD's Plenary and scientific sessions as well as committee sessions bringing together the latest in regulatory and scientific developments on a broad range of animal health and diagnostic related topics.

AAVLD features our Plenary Session on Saturday, October 19, under the theme of "Getting Ahead of the Ball: Diagnostic Adaptation in a Global Health Community".

The AAVLD Technology Committee will present "Basic Bioinformatics for Developing and Monitoring PCR Assays" in a half day symposium. And don't forget the multiple scientific presentations to take place Saturday and Sunday at the meeting in addition to posters and exhibits.

**Thomas McKenna,**  
President

**Catherine Barr,**  
President-Elect

**Francois Elvinger,**  
Vice President

**Tim Baszler,**  
Immediate Past  
President

**John Adaska,**  
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Canada Federal Ex-  
Officio

**Beth Lautner,**  
NVSL Ex-Officio

**Christine Hoang,**  
AVMA Ex-Officio

The USAHA-AAVLD Plenary Session on Monday, October 21 is entitled "Vaccines: 100 Years of Virus Serum Toxin Act and Beyond." Detailed presentations of this session will include:

- Hog cholera: the need for the Virus Serum Toxin Act (VSTA)
- The economics of vaccination: why do we vaccinate?
- Current technologies in vaccines
- Autogenous vaccines: isn't this why VSTA was established?
- Gap analysis for high consequence diseases
- Future of vaccines: beyond existing regulatory diseases

Look for more detailed information on the complete program details in the coming weeks. Make sure and check the AAVLD website [www.aavld.org](http://www.aavld.org) and click on the Annual Meeting link for the latest information on the meeting.

### Registration

Registration opens on July 1st. To register, click on the following link:

<http://www.usaha.org/Meetings/AnnualMeetingRegistration.aspx>

See you in San Diego !

*You may also access this information on the AAVLD website at [www.aavld.org/annual-meeting](http://www.aavld.org/annual-meeting).*

Jim Kistler, IOM, CAE  
Executive Director

## AAVLD Foundation Auction 2013 Annual Meeting

## **AAVLD Foundation Auction** **Presidents Reception**

**FRIDAY, October 18, 2013**

2013 Highlights

- Graduate student trainee travel awards increased from \$1,000 to \$1,500 each to more fully pay for travel costs. Same number of total graduate student trainee travel awards as 2011 and 2012 (9-11 depending upon applicant pool).
- CPCVM total funding increased 50% (from \$4,000 to \$6,000) to increase number of DVM students attending the meeting.

**How to participate:**

- Donate an item(s) of at least \$50 value
- Email Reda Ozuna at the AAVLD Secretary-Treasurer's office - [rozuna@cahfs.ucdavis.edu](mailto:rozuna@cahfs.ucdavis.edu) and include:
  - 1) name of item(s)
  - 2) picture of item(s) (PDF or JPEG format)
  - 3) value of donation for bidding purposes
- Ship item(s) directly to the hotel to arrive between October 15-19, 2013

**Donation Suggestions:**

Hand-made Items  
Art  
Gift Certificates  
Adventure, Travel, Spa packages  
Gift Baskets

**Shipping Address:**

AAVLD Meeting  
Attn: Reda Ozuna  
c/o Town & Country Hotel  
500 Hotel Circle North  
San Diego, CA. 92108

*Come join the fun and help recruit the next generation of veterinary lab diagnosticians.*

Jim Kistler, IOM, CAE  
Executive Director

## President's Message

Dear AAVLD Members,

We are well into our first year with our Executive Director Jim Kistler. Jim has been busy upgrading the website, organizing the many tasks associated with running AAVLD, working with USAHA and coordinating AAVLD's lobbying efforts for increased stable funding for the NAHLN, just to name a few.

The continuity provided to our organization by an Executive Director is already proving its worth. Upon becoming a member of the Executive Board, I was surprised by the vast array of tasks that are dealt with "behind the scenes". I have been a member of AAVLD for many years, and took much of this activity for granted. Having Jim on board is really helping us as an organization to keep on top of all that goes on under the AAVLD umbrella.

Summer is upon us, and with that, the real work begins for the AAVLD Annual Meeting. Registration opens July 1st, which is fast approaching. We look forward to seeing you all in San Diego (October 17-23, 2013)!

Jim Kistler, along with USAHA Executive Director Ben Richey, has arranged for the meeting schedule to be available as an App for your smart phone or tablet. We hope that you will find this useful as you navigate the many meetings and presentations.

Thanks for being an active member of AAVLD

Tom McKenna, DVM, PhD  
2013 President AAVLD  
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**New iPhone / Android App  
To Be Available for the 2013 Annual Meeting**

AAVLD in partnership with USAHA and Life Technologies - a valued supporter of our annual meeting - are preparing to

unveil a new smartphone app to help you navigate the AAVLD / USAHA Annual Meeting. With this app, you can:

- View the entire annual meeting program
- View a map of all meeting rooms and event locations
- Plan your own schedule of meetings and events
- Receive messages and notifications during the meeting
- View presentations at the meeting and during the months following. Refer to this information and receive any updates throughout the year.
- Submit comments and questions to presenters.
- Submit responses and comments to AAVLD / USAHA regarding the annual meeting program.
- Find contact information for other attendees, exhibitors and sponsors.

Join AAVLD / USAHA as we roll out this new smartphone app to help you organize your time and get the most out of your experience in San Diego!

## **NAHLN Hires New Coordinator !**

**The NAHLN is pleased to announce Dr. Sarah Tomlinson has been named the new Coordinator of the National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN).**

**Sarah has been one of the Associate NAHLN Coordinators since February 2010 with her responsibilities primarily focused on surveillance, preparedness, the NAHLN IT system, and collaborations in animal health diagnostics and surveillance.**

**Previously, she served for two years as the Assistant Director of the Centers for Epidemiology and Animal Health's National Surveillance Unit (NSU). She joined NSU in 2004 as one of the first members of the then newly formed unit.**

**Sarah began her career in Veterinary Services working with the National Animal Health Monitoring System (NAHMS) on the 2002 Dairy Study. Dr. Tomlinson completed her undergraduate training in Zoology at Arizona State University and Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine from Colorado State University in 2004.**

**Dr. Sarah Tomlinson's contact information is [sarah.m.tomlinson@aphis.usda.gov](mailto:sarah.m.tomlinson@aphis.usda.gov), office phone 970-494-7152 and cell phone 970-217-7433.**

**Please join me in congratulating Dr. Sarah Tomlinson on her selection as the NAHLN Coordinator.**

**Beth Lautner, D.V.M., M.S.**  
**Director, National Veterinary Services Laboratories**  
**P.O. Box 844, 1920 Dayton Avenue**  
**Ames, Iowa 50010**

## **Deadly piglet virus spreads to nearly 200 U.S. farm sites**

*By P.J. Huffstutter*

*CHICAGO | Mon Jun 24, 2013 5:51pm EDT*

**(Reuters) - A swine virus deadly to young pigs, and never before seen in North America, has spiked to 199 sites in 13 states - nearly double the number of farms and other locations from earlier this month.**

**Iowa, the largest U.S. hog producer, has the most sites testing positive for Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea Virus: 102 sites, as of June 10. The state raises on average 30 million hogs each year, according to the Iowa Pork Producers Association.**

**PEDV, most often fatal to very young pigs, causes diarrhea, vomiting and dehydration. It also sickens older hogs, though their survival rate tends to be high.**

**The total number of pig deaths from the outbreak since the first cases were confirmed May 17 is not known.**

**Researchers at veterinarian diagnostic labs, who are testing samples as part of a broad investigation into the outbreak, have seen a substantial increase in positive cases since early June, when data on the PEDV outbreak showed it at some 103 sites nationwide.**

**The data was compiled and released last week by Iowa State University, University of Minnesota, Kansas State University and South Dakota State University.**

**The virus does not pose a health risk to humans or other animals and the meat from PEDV-infected pigs is safe for people to eat, according to federal officials and livestock economists.**

**But the virus, which is spreading rapidly across the United States, is proving harder to control than previously believed. In addition to Iowa, Oklahoma has 38 positive sites, Minnesota has 19 and Indiana has 10, according to the data.**

PEDV has also been diagnosed in Arkansas, Colorado, Kansas, Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio, Pennsylvania and South Dakota.

Swine veterinarians, investigators with the U.S. Agriculture Department and others are trying to determine how the virus is spreading from farm to farm and state to state. Currently the focus is on the nation's livestock transportation system.

PEDV is spread most commonly by pigs ingesting contaminated feces. Investigators are studying physical transmission, such as truck trailers marred with contaminated feces, or a person wearing dirty boots or with dirty nails.

While the virus has not tended to kill older pigs, mortality among very young pigs infected in U.S. farms is commonly 50 percent, and can be as high at 100 percent, say veterinarians and scientists who are studying the outbreak.

The strain of the PEDV virus that is making its way across the nation's hog farms and slaughterhouses is 99.4 percent similar in genetic structure to the PEDV that hit China's herds last year, according to the U.S. researchers.

After PEDV was first diagnosed in [China](#) in 2010, it overran southern China and killed more than 1 million piglets, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Emerging Infectious Diseases Journal.

No direct connection has been found between the U.S. outbreak and previously identified outbreaks in Asia and Europe, say scientists and researchers.

(Reporting by P.J. Huffstutter. Additional reporter by Theopolis Waters.; Editing by Bob Burgdorfer)

## Farm bill problems could hurt USDA budget

By David Rogers  
Politico.com  
June 26, 2013

The House farm bill's collapse spilled over Wednesday to the Agriculture Department's annual budget, threatening additional cuts that would lower 2014 appropriations to levels well below the already-reduced funding set by the March sequester.

On a 235-187 vote, Republicans cleared the way for consideration of the \$19.45 billion spending bill after the July 4th recess.

But as part of the bargain, Agriculture Committee Chairman Frank Lucas (R-Okla.) kept his right to be a one-man wrecking crew unless he sees some progress in the interim on his priority - the five-year farm bill.

"I'd like the Ag appropriations bill to not move until we address the future of the farm bill," Lucas told POLITICO. "It's all intertwined, and it is hard to pass an appropriations bill until you have a farm bill, to know how it's going to interact."

**Full text:**

<http://www.politico.com/story/2013/06/farm-bill-problems-could-hurt-usda-budget-93464.html>

## MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY AVAILABLE ELECTRONICALLY

AAVLD is pleased to announce the 2013 Membership Directory is available in multiple formats

The 2013 AAVLD Membership Directory is now available! Members have multiple options for locating other members.

Searchable Internet Directory - Members can now use the Membership Directory function on the website to search for members using name or geographic information.

Full Membership Listing - A listing of all members and their contact information is available on the website.

Downloadable Directory - A full listing of all members is available to download / print from the AAVLD website. To find the downloadable pdf directory,

[click here.](#)

You will need to log in to access the file.

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We value your opinion and contributions. If you have any comments, questions or suggestions for articles, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Jim Kistler  
Executive Director  
American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians

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