President’s Message - Tim Baszler

Dear AAVLD Colleagues:

Wow did the year fly by! It has been a real honor to serve as AAVLD President the past 10 months and into our Annual Meeting in Greensboro in October. My experience as an AAVLD accreditation auditor has shown me firsthand the many dedicated, conscientious, and imaginative laboratory professionals working in our veterinary diagnostic laboratories across North America. I think the AAVLD officers and Executive Board made real progress this year in building a better organization for all of you, as well as those who use our laboratories. Below is a short “progress report” of some specific noteworthy goals set out for AAVLD to accomplish this past year.

Hiring an AAVLD Executive Director: Finally after much organization-wide discussion the past 4 years, a nationwide search this past year, and evaluation of 145 applications this past summer, the AAVLD Executive Board announced the hiring of Jim Kistler as the association’s new Executive Director in September 2012. Jim Kistler joins the association later this month and brings with him nearly 20 years of experience in association management. Jim is originally from Missouri and has been engaged with association management in multiple states and on a national level.

Click here to read more in the President’s message about:
- New Executive Director (continued)
- Strengthening federal funding for the NAHLN (lobbying, Farm Bill…)
- Increasing outreach to veterinary laboratory technicians (web QA training..)
- Annual meeting

What’s New on the Web (colored text below are hot links)

- August Executive board minutes include 5 pages of minutes and 65 pages of attachments including extensive treasurer, mutual fund and Foundation account reports and a 13 page NVSL report of their activities.
- Annual meeting material: Updated program (meeting) schedule, committee agendas. CL Davis reproductive pathology registration. Comprehensive Greensboro area and Biltmore Estate information links.
- Deadline for hotel registration at block rate is September 16. Note if the hotel is sold out on-line, call instead as block rooms may be available for call in registration. USAHA and AAVLD contract a block of rooms to minimize costs to attendees. If we do not fill the block, the group is financially responsible to the hotel for the number of room nights we are short. If you have a reservation and need to cancel, we ask that you do so as soon as you know. However, if you find that you must cancel your reservation after September 16, please email jackie@planningconnection.com or call 352.378.5995 as we may be able to place individuals on the waiting list into the hotel.
- Deadline for pre-registration at reduced rate: September 28.
- Deadline for Bacteriology diagnostic case report title is October 1st. The Diagnostic Bacteriology Case Reports Session will be held on Saturday, October 20 from 3:30-5:30 pm in Guilford D. This is an informal session with reports lasting no longer than 15 minutes. If you have an interesting case, please consider sharing them with our group. Please contact Karen Post at Karen.post@ncagr.gov with presentation titles (no abstracts) no later than October 1.
AAVLD Foundation funded travel trainee awardees

The AAVLD Foundation provided $1000.00 travel awards to 9 trainees who are presenting posters or presentations. Congratulations to our 2012 awardees:

- Dr. Kenitra Hammac, Washington State University
- Dr. John Schaefer, Cornell University
- Dr. Melissa Macias Rioseco, University of California-Davis
- Dr. Noah Hull, University of Alabama-Birmingham
- Dr. Kerry Sondgeroth, Washington State University
- Dr. Barbara Brito, University of California-Davis
- Dr. Celeste Foster, University of California-Davis
- Dr. Misa Komine, Michigan State University
- Dr. Stephanie R. Ostrowski, University of California-Davis

AAVLD Foundation is also contributing funding to the Center for Public and Corporate Veterinary Medicine (CPCVM) to provide travel assistance for DVM students from across the USA to attend the AAVLD/USAHA Annual Meeting.

Your contributions to the AAVLD Foundation help us fund these awards that encourage the future generation of diagnosticians to attend our meeting. Please become a 2012 donor to this worthwhile effort to recognize excellence and bring the next generation of diagnosticians to our meeting. Donor form click here.

Exhibitors at AAVLD

We encourage everyone to visit the exhibits. Like last year a few exhibitors will have presentations between 6-7pm on Saturday. Thank you to our Diamond and Platinum Sponsors!

- **Diamond Sponsors**
  - SYNBIOTICS
  - Pfizer Animal Health
  - QIAGEN

- **Platinum Sponsors**
  - VMRD
  - PRIONICS

What’s New at 2012 Annual Meeting in Greensboro N.C.?

- AAVLD plenary session on Saturday October 20 “Advanced Diagnostic Technologies – Are They Making a Difference?” The session includes usage of MALDI mass spectrometry, pros and cons of various pooling strategies, metabolic phenotyping, toxicology “screens”, and high throughput multiplex technology.
- The joint USAHA/AAVLD Plenary Session on Monday October 22 “Science, Economics, and Politics, Oh My!” An interesting combination of science and politics. Economics of farm level animal agriculture, economy wide impact of foreign animal disease, one health approach to antibiotic use in food animals, and proposed amendments to the egg product inspection act

**Change in times and days for some committees:**
- Membership comm. will meet Friday at 4:30 instead of Saturday at noon;
- Laboratory emergency management will meet for 4 hours (8-noon) on Friday and cover writing an emergency plan;
- Bacteriology will have a 3 hour session on Hot Topics Friday morning;
- Bacteriology steering committee meets Friday 2-3 instead of Sat evening;
- Informatics is meeting 8am-5pm on Friday, Oct 19 rather than afternoon only.
- NAHLIN IT committee will meet 8am-5pm on Thursday, Oct 18
- Foundation committee will meet Saturday 7am rather than Friday after
• A few of the USAHA committees have also changed date and time so be sure to check the schedule if you are attending USAHA committee meetings.

Slide sets of the 2012 diagnostic pathology cases are available at $50.00 per set. The donation funds the Pathology trainee travel fund of the AAVLD Foundation. Contact Dr. Alison Tucker, by email alison.tucker@ncagr.gov.

Latin Comparative Pathology Group Diagnostic Exercises

The Latin Comparative Pathology Group (LCPG) diagnostic exercise each month is now being posted on our home page and answers that follow ~3 weeks later are posted under News. These are also being circulated via the AAVLD discussion list.