



AAVLD e-News

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President's Message - Craig Carter



It is difficult for me to describe to you what an amazing experience it has been to serve as AAVLD president this year. I never cease to be in awe of the incredible dedication of our Officers, Executive Board, Committee Chairs and members. What an honor and a privilege it is to work with these wonderful folks and to be a part of the AAVLD. In Buffalo, we will pass the gavel on to now President-elect Tim Baszler. Tim oozes dedication, leadership and talent. I promise you, he will take the AAVLD to dizzying new heights!

Dr. Baszler (Program Chair) and Dr. Tom McKenna, Vice President (Assistant Program Chair) have done an outstanding job planning and assembling our scientific program for Buffalo. This year's AAVLD plenary is entitled ***Bovine Tuberculosis: Here Today, Here Tomorrow?*** This session promises to deliver to you four world class scientists on this important disease. The AAVLD scientific sessions will be equally impressive. You won't want to miss the opportunity to attend your favorite selection of the 95 cutting-edge oral presentations and to review the 44 mind-expanding poster sessions in the fields of diagnostic pathology, microbiology, toxicology, epidemiology and beyond. This will surely be the best C.E. in diagnostic veterinary medicine offered anywhere in the world in 2011. Our sponsors and exhibitors are once again coming out strong this year with support of the meeting. Our annual meeting simply would not be possible without them. Please be sure to thank our sponsors as you browse through the over 40 outstanding displays in our exhibit hall. Many thanks to Jackie Cassarly, AAVLD meeting planner, for her diligence and hard work ensuring your meeting experience is the very best it can be.

Dr. Baszler has been working very closely with Dr. David Marshall, President-Elect of the U.S. Animal Health Association, as co-chair of the joint USAHA-AAVLD plenary session scheduled for Monday of the meeting. The topic for this year's joint plenary is ***Evolving Food Systems for Global Food Security: Can Animal Production and Veterinary Infrastructure Keep Up?*** You will be treated to a first-rate group of speakers that will describe some of our greatest challenges and potential solutions to food safety and security issues for the future. This timely and informative session will be moderated by our very own Dr. Terry McElwain (Past President) from Washington State University. Both plenary sessions will be followed by rich panel discussions and Q&A sessions. **Click here to read full text**

LOBBYING FOR THE NATIONAL ANIMAL HEALTH LABORATORY NETWORK (NAHLN)—A NEW VENTURE FOR AAVLD

Barb Powers/Co-Chair of the AAVLD/USAHA Special Committee on the NAHLN

The AAVLD/USAHA Special Committee on the NAHLN was originally formed as a bridge between the dissolved NAHLN Steering Committee and the more recently formed NAHLN Coordinating Council. At the last AAVLD meeting in Minneapolis, MN, in 2010, the committee decided to continue its existence with a shift in emphasis to be a mechanism for a broad input of AAVLD and USAHA members into the activities of the NAHLN but also to be a strong advocate of the NAHLN to the Federal Government. At that time, little did we realize how critical this latter activity would become.

Early in 2011, the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) budget of the NAHLN was unexpectedly reduced by 39%. This began some discussions in the NAHLN special committee about hiring a lobbyist. I had a meeting with Mr. Brad Mollet (who was a previous legislative aid for our local Congresswoman) and I raised the possibility of him lobbying on behalf of AAVLD to protect the NAHLN. He

donation to the AAVLD Foundation and find out about upcoming events.

Job Board

Announcements of open positions in the field of veterinary diagnostics by discipline (12 currently)

Meeting

Announcements

Announcements of upcoming veterinary/animal health meetings

Membership Directory

Find the most current listing of AAVLD members. Check here for members that have joined since the hard copy directory was printed.

Contact Us

<http://www.aavld.org>

Pat Blanchard (newsletter editor)

or

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expressed strong interest, so I initiated discussion with the AAVLD Executive Board about hiring a lobbyist to prevent further NAHLN funding reductions. Shortly thereafter, the Ag Appropriations Committee of the House of Representatives flat-lined the budget for the NAHLN making this a more urgent proposition. At an emergency conference call on May 19, 2011, the AAVLD Executive Committee voted to pursue a four-month contract with Mr. Mollet of Capitol Partners of Washington, DC, to commence on June 6, 2011 with a possible extension to a full-year. Immediately, he devised a plan that started with a call-to-action to the members of the NAHLN Special Committee and subsequently all AAVLD Directors to write their House of Representatives to restore the \$4.4M cut to the NIFA portion of the NAHLN funding. AVMA, AAVMC and USAHA joined us in this fight which was coordinated by Mr. Mollet. An amazing 30 different states had their lab directors, universities, state veterinarians, and/or agricultural commissioners' write letters to their House Representatives. Representative Cory Gardner (R-CO), working with Mr. Mollet and Colorado State University, agreed to carry an amendment to restore the \$4.4M funding. They worked closely with the University of Georgia and their lobbyist, who worked with Representative Kingston (R-GA), the Chair of the Ag Appropriations committee. Representative Gardner offered the amendment on the floor of the House and it passed without any dissent by voice-vote. Because of House rules, the restoration of the \$4.4M was not specifically directed to the NAHLN but was directed to "Integrated Activities" where the NAHLN funding resides. This bill now has to go through the same process in the Senate and then be agreed upon in conference.

On July 12, 2011, our Vice President Tom McKenna and President Craig Carter traveled to Washington, DC to meet with key Senators and Representatives staffers, especially Senator Herb Kohn (R-WI) Chair of the Senate Ag Appropriations committee; Senator Mitch McConnell (R-KY), House minority leader; and Representative Hal Rogers (R-KY), Chair of the House Appropriations committee to solidify support for NAHLN and garner support in the upcoming Senate vote. Letters from the states have already been sent to the Senate, as was done with the House, to support the restoration of the \$4.4M to the NIFA budget for the NAHLN. If we remain successful, we still have to work with the legislature to ensure that the \$4.4M is directed to the NAHLN as was intended.

At the same time, the long-term goal is not just to restore the \$4.4M that previously existed in the NIFA budget but to get full-funding for the NAHLN as was originally planned many years ago. This funding is envisioned to be \$30M to be more widely distributed across the states. With the guidance of Mr. Mollet, the plan for this is to get an appropriation in the 2012 Farm Bill. As a first step on August 8, 2011, a new letter from the AAVLD Executive Committee went to Senator Debby Stabenow (D-MI) Chair of the Senate Agriculture Committee; Senator Pat Roberts (R-KS), ranking member of the Senate Agriculture Committee; Representative Collin Peterson (D-MN), ranking member of the House Agriculture Committee; and Representative Frank Lucas (R-OK), Chair of the House Agriculture Committee.

At this time, there are two processes going on, one to maintain the restoration of the \$4.4M that was passed in the House Ag Appropriations Bill, and second, a more long-term goal to get a separate line item for NAHLN in the 2012-2017 Farm Bill. Mr. Mollet has been instrumental in working with AAVLD, AVMA, members of USAHA and AAVMC, as well as working with many legislative staffers "on the Hill", to present our case and guide us in these activities. He has done a lot of behind the scenes work into getting the \$4.4M restored, working up to midnight in Washington, DC, the day before the restoration amendment came to the House floor for vote. An extension for the Capital Partners contract will be presented and voted upon at the AAVLD House of Delegates meeting in Buffalo, NY, this fall. Mr. Mollet has agreed to travel to Buffalo, NY to report to the AAVLD Executive Board and attend several committee meetings and to answer questions.

This is a new venture for AAVLD into the Legislative arena, and the response of AAVLD members, AAVLD executive committee, members of the NAHLN Special Committee, as well as our strong partnerships with AVMA, AAVMC and USAHA to make the first step of this process successful was truly tremendous. We thank all of you for your incredible work to help preserve and strengthen the NAHLN.

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

- **July Executive board minutes** include a 9 page NVSL report attachment with a number of NVSL activities, upcoming check tests and surveillance activities.
- **2011 Annual meeting** September 29-October 3, Buffalo, NY. Information is posted on the webpage, including meeting and special symposia registration, committee agendas, schedule of events and presentations, sponsors, etc.
- **Travel Awardees:** The Foundation funded 11 travel awards this year and the recipients are listed on the AAVLD website home page "In the Spotlight".

Center for Public Corporate Veterinary Medicine

Dr. Gary Anderson (Immediate Past President) has been working with Dr. Valerie Ragan of the Center for Public and Corporate Veterinary Medicine at Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine to promote veterinary student interest in careers in public veterinary practice and diagnostic veterinary medicine. The AAVLD Executive Board voted to fund 8-\$500 awards to help offset expenses for the annual AAVLD-USAHA meetings. Registration fees are waived for veterinary students for both meetings.

The 2010 annual meeting was our first venture in having these future diagnosticians attend our meeting and the students that were there gave very positive presentation on their experience at the Laboratory Director's committee meeting. Please welcome this group of students at this year's meeting and make their experience as positive as possible- they are the future diagnosticians.

Annual Meeting Special Events and News

Registration links and forms for all the following events are under the Annual Meeting page of the AAVLD website.

CL Davis will have an excellent program, all day Friday, September 30th, on **diagnostic respiratory pathology**. This is particularly valuable for trainees and residents but is also an excellent review for all pathologists. *Separate registration fee – listed under CL Davis (\$125.00 includes continental breakfast and lunch).*

AAVLD Accreditation and Quality Assurance committees and the NAHLN are hosting a full day **Quality Assurance symposium** on Thursday, September 29th. The event will cover internal audits, corrective action and root cause analysis and includes a number of interactive fun game show formats for all participants. Registration is \$55 and includes continental breakfast and lunch.

Bacteriology/Mycology and Antimicrobial susceptibility subcommittees are hosting a **Methicillin resistant *Staphylococcus* symposium** on Friday, Sep 30th (9am-2pm). Sponsored by Pfizer Animal Health and Biolog. Registration is \$50.00 and includes lunch.

There are two **laboratory tours** on September 29th, one to Cornell University and one to University of Guelph. Registration and fee information is available on the webpage.

Tips on your visit to Buffalo:

- **Things to do in Buffalo:** visit the incredible Niagara Falls, Oktoberfest is from 3-10pm on October 1st near the hotel on the waterfront. Several theater events will take place within a couple blocks of the Hyatt. Walking tour maps of Buffalo and its unique architecture can be obtained from the Visitors Center and should be available in the lobby of both hotels. Visit www.visitbuffaloniagara.com for more information on things to do.
- **From the airport:** Taxi is the best way to get to both the hotels as there are no major shuttle providers.
- **Hyatt guests:** There will be regular and frequent shuttles between both hotels for our members with larger buses during the heavy use times. The Adam's Mark is ~15 minute walk. The Hyatt will have an airport shuttle for a fee as time permits. The Hyatt has set aside a gathering room (Ellicott) for AAVLD to use for informal "get togethers" while staying there. The hotel is about a block or two from the theater district and on the route of the free downtown trolley.

AAVLD Web page has a new look

The AAVLD website now has a new look. The Publications committee is soliciting feedback for discussion at our September meeting. Please send feedback to secretary-treasurer@aavld.org.

As part of the new look, AAVLD is soliciting news items of interest to members to post on a short term basis on our home page. Send items to [Vanessa Garrison](#) or contact or Web Editor Dave Steffen (dsteffen@unlnotes.unl.edu).