

NEWSLETTER

August 2006

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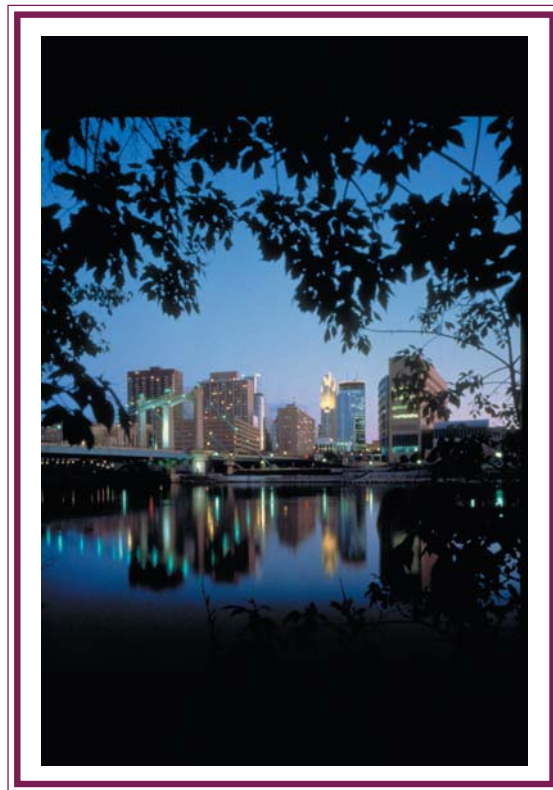
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The American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians

49TH Annual AAVLD/USAHA Meeting



**Minneapolis, Minnesota
October 12-18, 2006**

2006 Executive Board

President.....Donal O'Toole

President-Elect.....Barbara Powers

Vice President.....Grant Maxie

Immed. Past President...Gary Osweiler

Secretary/Treasurer.....Alex Ardans

North East.....Alfonso Torres

South East.....Ron Wilson

North Central.....Dave Steffen

South Central.....Richard Mock

North West.....Bill Layton

South West.....Carlos Reggiardo

Canada Provincial.....Maria Spinato

Canada Federal,
Ex-Officio.....Shane Renwick

NVSL, Ex-Officio.....Elizabeth Lautner

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AAVLD PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



The Network Turns a Corner

Turning points, just like wives' birthdays, are funny things. Both can be a little hard to recognize, except in retrospect, when you realize something important has happened.

That's just occurred with the National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN). Twice this year, once in May in the California Animal Health and Food Safety Laboratory (CAHFS) at University of California, Davis, and again in July at the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory at Colorado State University a high volume testing demonstration was staged. They were designed to test various components that have been in development for the past 3 years.

All diagnosticians working in state or federally funded animal health diagnostic laboratories in the US should now be aware of what these components are, and their intended end point: our ability to accurately and rapidly test for high impact diseases, and look-alikes, in food animals. It originated with awareness that the 2001 Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) outbreak in the United Kingdom slipped out of control in large part because laboratories could not keep pace with the volume of submitted samples. It was advanced with an approach in 2001 by CAHFS to Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, with the suggestion that the United States needs to have better rapid DNA tests for FMD. The NAHLN demonstrations were the first time all the components were tested together.

The exercises involved testing 800-1,000 cattle in a day, transmitting data from animals at the time of collection using tablet computers to each NAHLN laboratory, where they were entered into the laboratory data system. This was followed by testing each sample for multiple viral agents or viral strains, including FMD and six look-alike endemic or foreign animal diseases, with results reported electronically to the National Veterinary Services Laboratory data repository. The goal was to see whether robotics and current testing technology allow this volume of testing to be done by two technicians in one 10-hour shift

They do. The samples chosen were oral swabs from cattle. High-throughput testing was done using a multiplex liquid array assay, which can detect each of 17 viral signatures and, in theory, up to 100 per tube. I was particularly impressed with the ability to transmit animal identification and owner information remotely from the field to a NAHLN laboratory information system. This minimizes errors inherent in the entry of multiple animal numbers, and makes good use of bar coding.

I doubt whether anyone watching the demonstration was not struck by the notion that this is the next generation of diagnostic technology - it's a big jump forward. It was proof positive that the imagination which led to the establishment of the NAHLN in 2002, with limited funding of 12 Core Laboratories, is now paying off. Creation of the NAHLN represented a sea-change on the part of the USDA, indicating a strong willingness to partner with - and trust - state laboratories. It was recognition that, if we are to get through the next large-scale domestic or foreign animal disease emergency, it will take the combined efforts of state and federal laboratories, with shared equipment, protocols, IT systems and philosophy.

So far, so good. Yet, having demonstrated that state laboratories in collaboration with USDA APHIS, the USDA Foreign Animal Disease Center, the Department of Homeland Security, and Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory can deliver the goods, the NAHLN remains a fragile institution. It was developed, for the most part, by the hard work and imagination of people like Barb Martin, Terry McElwain and Willie Reed, combined with what might be called the clippings of tin - laughably small infusions of Federal dollars into both Core and Member NAHLN laboratories.

We need to move beyond showing that the system works, to ensuring that the technology on display at CAHFS and CSU is put in place regionally, so that we have an assurance that the system can be brought on line when needed. The NAHLN concept only has value if it is properly funded, and is fully functional in the event of a widespread animal disease crisis. Current federal investment of \$10M per year into the network is not going to cut it.

At a minimum, the system needs infusions of approximately \$32.5M per year for the next 3 - 5 years to ensure we've gone beyond proof of concept, and that we indeed have a network that can deliver accurate, timely results. The big needs at the moment are to expand the national inventory of BSL-3 space in the NAHLN, ensure that laboratories committed to test for foreign animal diseases have sustained funding, that the NAHLN information technology system is fully functional, and that tests such as bead-based liquid arrays are deployed throughout the network.

Neither USDA APHIS nor personnel at Lawrence Livermore can lobby to ensure that adequate federal dollars infuse the system that will make it truly viable. But you, as a diagnostician and director, working with your stake-holders, particularly in state and federal government and with producer organizations, can help accomplish this goal.

Donal O'Toole
August 7, 2006

AAVLD EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

Thursday, July 13, 2006, 8AM - 12PM

Holiday Inn SFO North, South San Francisco, CA

Present: Barb Powers, Ron Wilson, Gary Osweiler, Bill Layton, Donal O'Toole, Maria Spinato, Shane Renwick, Alex Ardans, Carlos Reggiardo, Beth Lautner, Richard Mock, Grant Maxie. **Guests:** Sharon Hietala, Leon Thacker, Terry McElwain.

1. President Donal O'Toole called the meeting to order at 8:07 am.
2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** A motion to accept the minutes of the February 21, 2006 Executive Board meeting was made (Layton) and seconded (Reggiardo), and carried unanimously.
3. **TREASURER'S REPORT:** Dr. Alex Ardans presented the report of the Treasurer as follows:

January 1, 2006 – June 30, 2006

Checking Account Balance on Hand January 1, 2006:	\$31,248.03	
Total Administrative Operating Receipts	\$243,616.96	
Total Administrative Operating Expenses	(\$191,033.84)	
ENDING BALANCE JUNE 30, 2006:		\$83,831.15

Certificates of Deposit as of JUNE 30, 2006		
CD#000418518 (Maturity Date: January 12, 2007)	\$16,359.55	
CD#650338113 (Maturity Date: March 23, 2007)	\$49,482.06	
TOTAL, CERTIFICATES OF DEPOSIT		\$65,841.61

Mutual Fund, Edward D. Jones, as of JUNE 30, 2006		
Account #190876276 New Perspective Fund	\$119,353.05	
Account #165939129 Investment Co. of America	\$102,261.43	
Account #650338114 American Balanced Fund	\$ 51,603.80	
Account #650338119 Capital World Growth & Income Fund	\$ 49,019.38	
Account #650338120 Washington Mutual Investors Fund	\$ 26,626.58	
Account #650338121 Growth Fund of America	\$ 11,506.75	
TOTAL, MUTUAL FUNDS		\$360,370.99

TOTAL ASSETS ON HAND- JUNE 30, 2006 **\$510,043.75**

FOUNDATION TOTAL ASSETS ON HAND- JUNE 30, 2006 **\$120,287.40**

Dr. Ardans reviewed some of the big ticket income/expense items including online start-up costs for JVDI and travel expenses for annual meeting site visits, meeting administrative support and AAVLD President, Donal O'Toole's, participation in NVSL director interviews. AAVLD is now close to achieving goal of maintaining approximately two years worth of operating expenses in reserves, as recommended by financial advisors. The Treasurer's report was accepted as presented.

4. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Donal O'Toole reported that there has recently been activity by National Poultry Improvement Program (NPIP) laboratories lobbying to perform HP AI testing. John Clifford and Ron DeHaven have been contacted and AAVLD has taken a stance in opposition of NPIP performing the AI PCR test. Additionally, representatives from other animal industries and individuals have submitted letters opposing the testing change.

Dr. O'Toole participated in interviews of several candidates for USAHA's executive director position, but a final decision has not been reached. The USAHA executive director will have overlapping responsibilities with AAVLD's meeting planner, Jackie Cassarly. The USAHA executive director and USAHA office may be based where ever the selected candidate is located.

Dr. O'Toole also participated in the selection process for the new NVSL director resulting in the selection of Dr. Beth Lautner.

David Korcal of Michigan State has been appointed to replace Monte Reimers as chair of the Quality Assurance committee. Mr. Korcal will attend the Accreditation Committee meetings as an ex-officio member. He held a conference call with the Quality Assurance committee to introduce himself, discuss recently circulated documents, set an agenda for the fall meeting and discuss holding a symposium at the annual meeting. The committee will be holding a half-day symposium on Thursday, October 12.

A contract for meeting planning assistance has been signed with Jackie Cassarly of the Planning Connection, Inc. and she has been involved in final arrangements for the Minneapolis meeting.

The American College of Veterinary Pathologists (ACVP) has renewed contacts with AAVLD regarding holding a joint meeting. They have asked AAVLD to help sponsor an ACVP pathology student award. Dr. O'Toole presented an alternate option that each association sponsor the other association's best graduate student award winner's attendance at their annual meeting. He also suggested that it would be useful for AAVLD to have a booth at the ACVP meeting in December.

The Office of Science and Technology Policy is convening an expert panel to discuss the feasibility and utility of a national companion animal health surveillance system as a sentinel for infectious disease threats to humans and livestock. Panel discussions will address the potential utility of a companion animal surveillance system, the characteristics and components of such a system, how such a system could be implemented to complement existing surveillance capabilities and the requirements for such a system to be successful. AAVLD has been invited to participate, and Dr. O'Toole will attend on behalf of AAVLD.

Dr. O'Toole was not able to attend the OIE meeting this year due to a conflict.

5. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Accreditation

Leon Thacker reported that the Accreditation committee will meet the afternoon of July 13th and the morning of July 14th to discuss requests to participate in NAHLN laboratory approval, AAVLD requirements and validation, composition of the AAVLD Accreditation committee, standardization of the checklist for AAVLD accreditation site visits and AAVLD laboratory updates. No site visits have been performed since the February meeting. The committee has been invited to visit NVSL in late fall.

B. Publications

i. JVDI

Donal O'Toole distributed a written report submitted Jerry Saliki. A contract has been signed with HighWire Press for online publication of the journal. The implementation process is progressing and Dr. Saliki expects to meet the January 2007 deadline. Manuscript submissions continue to increase with an acceptance rate of 58.2%. The number of articles published has also continued to increase; 118 articles were published in 2005, 110 in 2004 and 104 in 2003. The journal ranks 39th out of 129 Veterinary Science journals. Dr. Saliki is hopeful that with online submission, review and publishing this ranking will improve. Once online publishing is in place, the journal will be available online to members and subscribers-only for 6 months to a year, and will then be made available to the public. The Executive Board requested that the journal be made public after one year.

ii. Newsletter

Dave Steffen reported that Pat Blanchard has requested to revamp newsletter. Instead of a three-time yearly newsletter, she proposes to distribute periodic email newsletters announcing items posted on the AAVLD website. Most material currently included in the newsletter is already available elsewhere on the AAVLD website. In addition, "Current news" on website could be used for new blurbs. With this change, information could be distributed in small, timely installations rather than one long newsletter, and will hopefully increase readership.

C. Program

Barb Powers distributed the program for the Joint Plenary on “Animal Disease Surveillance – The Next 20 Years”. Speakers for the session have been set and confirmed. Plans for the AAVLD Plenary session are still in the works and two additional speakers are needed. A total of 187 abstracts were submitted. Not all of the abstracts can be accommodated; however Donna Dare was able to secure space for 20 additional posters and an extra room for an additional scientific session. The program committee is currently reviewing the abstracts. Pre-meeting symposia include NAHLN/AAVLD Laboratory Emergency Management, Toxicology, Quality Assurance, Food Safety, and Sampling Methods and CL Davis Avian Pathology.

Two sponsors have been secured; Bio-Rad has agreed to a \$4,500.00 sponsorship and HydroPro has agreed to \$1,000.00. The Foundation will again hold an auction at the AAVLD President’s reception. This year a silent auction portion will be added. Most of the agencies contacted have agreed to donate an item to the auction. The Foundation is trying to arrange for a local auctioneer, but if one cannot be secured Steve Cummings, who performed as auctioneer in 2005, will be asked to participate again in 2006.

D. Canada Report – Dr. Shane Renwick presented the report as follows:

1. Avian Influenza

The 2006 Federal Budget provided \$1 billion over five years to further improve Canada’s pandemic preparedness—\$600 million to be allocated to departments and agencies and \$400 million to be set aside as a contingency. Over the last few years, a Canadian Pandemic Influenza Plan has been put in place and the Public Health Agency of Canada was created to respond to growing concerns about the capacity of Canada’s public health system to anticipate and respond effectively to public health threats, including a pandemic.

The \$600 million will be used primarily by the Public Health Agency of Canada (\$367 million), the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (\$195 million), Health Canada (\$16.5 million) and the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (\$21.5 million) for a variety of pandemic preparedness activities. This includes the purchase of additional antivirals for the national stockpile, animal health guidelines and surveillance for wild birds and commercial poultry, laboratory enhancements and research, and improvements in vaccine readiness and emergency management preparedness. The Government will work in collaboration with provinces, territories and other partners as these activities are implemented.

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) will have over \$25 million available over 5 years to invest in improving provincial and university veterinary diagnostic laboratory network capacity for detecting notifiable avian influenza, including HPAI and by extension, other foreign animal diseases (FAD). The money will be used to enhance biocontainment to a new FAD Diagnostic Lab Standard; achieve accreditation of network labs to ISO 17025, and to purchase equipment.

Work continues under the Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) Strategy funding on developing laboratory interoperability and communications in the federal provincial laboratory network. Pilot projects are underway in managing BSE test data and soon, AI data. The 2006 wild bird survey for AI has commenced. As of July 10, about 2000 samples have been collected from wild birds across Canada, including Canada and Brant geese, herring gulls, eider ducks, arctic terns, and red knots (sampled in Iceland).

2. Canadian Animal Health Laboratorians Network (CAHLN) Meeting 2006

The CAHLN Annual Meeting was held June 4-7, 2006 in Ottawa in conjunction with the Canadian Association of Veterinary Pathologists (CAVP). Keynote speakers included: Dr. Brian Evans, Chief Veterinary Officer of Canada on the new Canadian Animal Health Strategy; Dr. Barb Powers, of the American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians (AAVLD) on developments with the US National Animal Health Laboratory Network; Dr. Paul Kitching on the Canadian Animal Health Surveillance Network (CAHSN); Dr. Jane Parmley of the BC Centre for Coastal Health on Avian Influenza; Dr. Ed Empringham, animal health consultant on Quality Assurance; Dr. Peter Wright, of Department of Fisheries and Oceans on the laboratories’ role in the new National Aquatic Animal Health program.

There were over 35 technical presentations and 100 participants. Dr. John Robinson was named as the Canadian Laboratorian of the Year in recognition of his distinguished career as a microbiologist with the British Columbia provincial veterinary laboratory in Abbotsford and his pivotal role in contributing to

laboratory diagnosis during the 2004 outbreak of HPAI in the Fraser Valley. Associated meetings included the Canadian Animal Health Surveillance Network (CAHSN) and the National TSE Veterinary Diagnostic Lab Network. The 2007 meeting will be held at the Western College of Veterinary Medicine in Saskatoon in conjunction with the CAVP, dates to be announced.

3. BSE

Canada has recently detected its 4th case (awaiting confirmation as of July 11) of BSE in 2006, bringing the total to 7 since May 2003. Cases during 2006 have included a six year old cross-bred cow from Alberta, a six year old dairy cow from British Columbia, a 15 year old cross-bred cow from Manitoba, and most recently a 4 ½ year old dairy cow from Alberta. The epidemiology reports from the last two cases will be released on the CFIA website within the next few weeks.

About 33,000 BSE surveillance tests on high risk animals have been completed this far in 2006. The 2006 target of 30,000 samples was met in late June, however it is anticipated that more than 65,000 samples will be tested during 2006. Over 115,000 samples have been tested since January, 2004 when the enhanced BSE surveillance program was announced.

It was announced on June 26, 2006 that the Canadian Food Inspection Agency is banning specified risk material (SRM) from all animal feeds, pet foods and fertilizers. The enhancement will significantly accelerate Canada's progress toward eradicating the disease from the national cattle herd by preventing more than 99% of any potential BSE infectivity from entering the Canadian feed system. The new regulations enter into force on July 12, 2007, with additional time provided for small establishments to achieve full compliance. In the meantime, an awareness campaign will be undertaken to ensure that all regulated parties are fully aware of their responsibilities and have adjusted their practices and procedures as required. Special emphasis will be placed on working closely and in full cooperation with small abattoirs to help them transition to the new requirements and facilitate their long-term viability. The Government has set aside \$80 million to work with the provinces to assist industry's implementation of the new feed controls.

4. Anthrax

Several premises near Melfort, Saskatchewan have tested positive for anthrax and are under quarantine, including an Indian reserve. An additional 25 suspect farms are under quarantine. As of July 11, there are 113 suspected cases and 76 confirmed. Several horses are currently suspect cases. Over 7,000 animals in the area have been vaccinated. Up to 11,500 doses of vaccine will be arriving in the area this week. The vaccine is provided by CFIA and compensation is paid for confirmed cases.

5. New Veterinary School at the University of Calgary

Dr. Alastair Cribb, who was recruited in April as associate dean of research and faculty affairs, has been named dean of the new Faculty of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Calgary. Dr. Cribb is a 1984 graduate of the Western College of Veterinary Medicine, in Saskatoon, PhD in clinical pharmacology and was a faculty member at the Atlantic Veterinary College in Prince Edward Island. The outgoing interim dean, Dr. Eugene Janzen, will remain in his permanent role of associate dean, clinical partnerships.

E. Membership Report:

Grant Maxie reported that the time of Membership Committee meeting has been moved to avoid conflict with other meetings and to hopefully improve attendance. As of June 30, 2006 there were 1266 members. The New Member Orientation will again be held at the Annual Meeting.

F. Foundation:

Barb Powers reported on behalf of Paige Carmichael. The Foundation would like to convert the membership poster created in 2005 into a brochure for the Foundation. She noted that no donations have been received recently and encouraged the members of the Executive Board to consider donating to the Foundation.

F. NVSL– Dr. Beth Lautner presented the report as follows:

Dr. Beth Lautner officially began her duties as NVSL director on May 8th. One of the first issues requiring her attention was waste water treatment. The National Centers for Animal Health have assembled an expert

panel to review waste water treatment procedures and content of what is being released into the water system. This issue has piqued the interest of the city as to the role of NVSL and the activities that occur at the facility.

Scrutiny from and briefs to communication staff regarding avian influenza are steadily increasing. An avian influenza 101 course has been developed to educate communication staff on the disease. The federal government is primarily concerned with the H5N1 strain. Currently, the standard procedure for presumptive positives requires identification and reporting out the N1 test. Notification procedures are undergoing review.

Dr. Lautner distributed the NVSL Strategic Plan, which is currently undergoing review, and discussed each of the goals. The goals are as follows:

Goal 1: Providing diagnostic service, reagents, and training in world-class facilities.

Goal 2: Preparing for and responding to animal health emergencies and emerging threats.

Goal 3: Taking an active role in the leadership of the National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN).

Goal 4: Serving as an international reference laboratory.

Goal 5: Maintaining a well-trained and responsive staff.

NVSL will be filling two new positions; an Associate Director and Assistant Director. The Associate Director will be responsible for quality assurance, international outreach, speaking engagements, coordination with the NAHLN and the strategic plan. The Assistant Director will be responsible for laboratory operations. NVSL is striving to create a work environment that attracts and maintains a high caliber of employees, and this goal has been incorporated into the NVSL Strategic Plan. Dr. Lautner noted that flexibility is necessary for changing program needs and that the role change will mean changes for employees and the way accomplishments are measured.

Dr. Lautner reported that NVSL is looking at ways to better relate with State veterinary laboratories and is very interested in sabbatical concepts and laboratory exchanges. NVSL also hopes to expand and enhance international interactions, which will be one of the roles of the new Associate Director.

The memorandum of understanding between NVSL and AAVLD is up for renewal and Dr. Lautner suggested the possibility of holding a ceremonial renewal at the AAVLD/USAHA Annual Meeting.

Dr. Lautner also provided a quality assurance update. An accreditation visit will occur late in September with a goal of achieving ISO 17025 accreditation by December 2006. Internal audits are being performed and a management review will be held in August. A list of additional tests to potentially accredit is being developed.

A NAHLN methods technical working group has been formed. An USDA diagnostic road map session was held and workgroups will be developed around of list of issues created.

Since June of 2004 750,000 BSE samples have been tested. The enhanced surveillance will continue until the end of the fiscal year. After the end of the fiscal year the plan is to move towards general surveillance.

The Western blot assay will be done in the future at NVSL rather than NADC.

A review of sites that have applied to replace Plum Island as the national agro and bioterrorism testing center is being performed.

Master Plan update: The laboratory consolidation project is one month ahead of schedule, however it is not yet known if the steel delivery can be moved up. The BSL-3 AG facility has an expected February 2007 move in date.

There are plans to start looking at different areas and bring some standardization into a broad array of proficiency testing. The NAHLN steering committee may be asked to address this issue. The process for laboratories not complying with policies and procedures for performing testing approved for NAHLN laboratories must also be considered.

Lonnie King is moving to CDC and it is hoped that this may open up opportunities for cooperation between animal agriculture and human health.

G. Nominations

Gary Osweiler reported that Nominating committee, chaired by Dr. Osweiler, included Sharon Hietala, R. Flint Taylor, and Gene Erickson. A call for nominations was sent to the membership. The candidates for the offices of Vice President are Beverly Byrum and David Steffen. The candidate for Secretary/Treasurer is Alex Ardans.

H. Awards

Gary Osweiler reported that several nominees were received for the Pope award. The winner will be announced at annual meeting. Life membership nominees are Leon Thacker (IN) and William Quinn (MT). A motion (Osweiler, Layton second) to approve the nominees for Life membership carried unanimously. Seven applications for graduate student/resident travel awards were received. Two awards will be supported by AAVLD, and one by the Pathology committee.

6. OLD BUSINESS

A. MemberClicks Update

Alex Ardans and Allison Reitz provided an update on the MemberClicks online membership management implementation. Mrs. Reitz demonstrated the new website and membership database along with online payment forms, which are still under construction. A link to the site will be sent to the Executive Board members and Publication committee members for review and suggestions.

B. Standardizing BVDV Testing

Donal O'Toole reported that he will write a letter to send to Dale M. Grotelueschen, chair of the National Cattleman's Beef Association's BVD working group, regarding BVDV testing. The letter will address developments at State funded laboratories and the issue of private laboratories using protocols and test kits, but with alterations outside their approved and/or licensed use.

C. Contract with Jackie Cassarly:

A contract for meeting planning assistance has been signed with Jackie Cassarly of the Planning Connection, Inc. The contract is available for review through the Secretary/Treasurer's office.

D. AAVLD-USAHA Annual Meeting Sponsorship

Barb Powers reported that Jackie Cassarly offered two proposals for sponsorship. Option one is to have different sponsorship levels; option two is to have event sponsorship. Ms. Cassarly will be asked to make a formal presentation to the Foundation, Executive Board and AAVLD/USAHA Joint Executive Committees at the annual meeting. Dr. Powers suggested that the responsibility for oversight of sponsorship be moved to the Foundation. Ms. Cassarly would be able to perform follow-up contact once initial contact with sponsors has been made. A motion (Ardans, Spinato second) to move responsibility for sponsorships to the Foundation carried unanimously.

E. Donna Dare Recognition

Donal O'Toole reported that he contacted Harvey Gosser regarding a suitable gift to recognize Donna Dare for her service with AAVLD. Dr. Gosser provided several gift ideas and also suggested contacting Donna's husband, John Burke. The award will be presented at the first Plenary session.

7. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Accreditation Assistant

Terry McElwain reported that the administrative responsibilities of the Accreditation Committee chair have increased. Dr. McElwain requested 10% support for administrative assistance when he takes on the duties of committee chair. The cost for this assistance, including salary and benefits will total approximately \$10,000.00. Currently this can be accommodated with existing committee resources; however there may be a need to consider raising accreditation fees next year to cover the costs. A motion (Steffen, Reggiardo second) to fund (up to \$10,000.00) administrative support for the Accreditation Committee chair carried unanimously.

B. AVMA Fellowship Program

Alex Ardans reported that AVMA has again solicited support from AAVLD for the AVMA Fellowship Program. Members of the Board expressed interest in meeting with fellows when in Washington DC. A motion (Layton, Steffen second) to contribute \$1,000.00 to the AVMA Fellowship Program carried unanimously.

C. Government Coordinating Council

Barb Powers reported that a Food and Agriculture Government Coordinating Council was formed in 2004 by the Departments of Agriculture and Homeland Security. Curt Mann noticed that diagnostic laboratories were not represented, and has extended an invitation for AAVLD to have a member on the council. The council will meet four times per year in Washington DC. A motion (Ardans, Spinato second) to participate in the Food and Agriculture Government Coordinating Council carried unanimously. The AAVLD representative will be one of officers elected to represent the association, including the President, President-Elect, Vice President and Immediate Past President. Barb Powers will serve as the first representative.

D. Membership Dues Increase

Alex Ardans distributed data on the costs associated with membership benefits and benefits and dues for membership in comparative associations. The costs associated with membership total approximately \$115.00 per member. Membership dues were last raised in 2002. The Board discussed the appropriate level for a fee increase. A motion (Layton, Osweiler second) to submit a proposal to the House of Delegates recommending increasing dues to \$115.00, with an annual review of fees, carried unanimously.

E. 50th Annual Meeting

Donal O'Toole recommended that an ad hoc committee be formed to plan a special way to acknowledge the 50-year anniversary of the association. He suggested that Grant Maxie chair the committee. He also suggested that plans include recognizing those involved in founding the association and soliciting presentations from them on AAVLD's beginnings and providing all members with a special item to commemorate the occasion.

Meeting adjourned at 12:05 PM

USAHA/AAVLD Registration

Please Print – Check All Spaces Applicable

- Dr.
 Mr.
 Ms.

Last Name	First Name	Initial	Hotel
Address	City	State	Zip
Affiliation _____		Phone No: _____	
E-Mail _____		Fax No: _____	

Please Print Clearly

PLEASE CHECK APPLICABLE BOXES

- U.S.A.H.A. Member
 A.A.V.L.D. Member
 NON-Member
 Program Speaker

Please Remit To:

U.S. Animal Health Association
 P. O. Box K227
 Richmond, VA 23288
 Fax: 804-285-3367

Pre-registration Deadline – **September 18, 2006**

Pre-registration (Members)	\$250.00	\$ _____	
Pre-registration (Non-Members)	\$425.00	\$ _____	
Pre-registration (Life Member)	\$125.00	\$ _____	
Spouses Registration	\$ 75.00	\$ _____	
Registration At Meeting (Members)	\$300.00	\$ _____	
Registration At Meeting (Non-Members)	\$425.00	\$ _____	
Registration At Meeting (Life Member)	\$150.00	\$ _____	
U.S.A.H.A. Resident or Graduate Student Registration	\$125.00	\$ _____	
U.S.A.H.A. Veterinary Student Registration	\$ 0.00	\$ _____	
U.S.A.H.A. Individual Annual Dues – 2007	\$120.00	\$ _____	
A.A.V.L.D. Annual Dues – 2007	\$ 75.00	\$ _____	
A.A.V.L.D. Graduate Student Registration	\$125.00	\$ _____	
A.A.V.L.D. Graduate Student Dues - 2007	\$ 25.00	\$ _____	

Total \$ _____

Office Use Only:

Date: _____

Check No: _____

Amount: _____

You must have tickets to attend meal events included in your registration. Please indicate below which meals you plan to attend so that proper counts can be determined.

I will be attending the USAHA/AAVLD President's Reception and Dinner on Sunday Evening. Oct. 15, 2006 Yes No

I will be attending the USAHA Membership Luncheon on Monday. Oct. 16, 2006 Yes No

You can register online at <http://www.usaha.org>

USAHA'S Federal ID No: #21-6008168

PAYMENT METHOD:

Enclose your personal check, money order, or credit card information as indicated below: Please make checks payable to USAHA.

- Check
 Money order
 Master card
 Visa

We do not accept American Express

Credit Account Number: _____ - _____ - _____ - _____

Type of Credit Card: Company Personal

Expiration Date: ___ - ___ Cardholder Name: _____
 Month Year

Cardholder Signature: _____

REFUND POLICY

\$25 will be withheld for processing if notified before the meeting.

\$75 processing fee if notified after the meeting.

USAHA must be notified within 7 days following the meeting for a refund

Spouse's Registration

Name: _____

Address: _____



HOTEL RESERVATION FORM

**United States Animal Health Association / American Association of Veterinary
Laboratory Diagnosticians 2006 Annual Convention**

Wednesday, October 11, 2006 – Thursday, October 19, 2006

GUEST ROOM RATES:

SINGLE OR DOUBLE OCCUPANCY: \$126.00

ADDITIONAL PERSON: \$20.00

*** All room rates are subject 13% tax ***

All reservations must be received by the hotel no later than 5:00pm on Monday, September 11, 2006. Any reservation request received after this date will be subject to hotel availability. If the rate you requested is no longer available, the next available rate category will be confirmed. Check-in time is 3:00pm and check-out time is 12:00pm. An early departure fee of \$75.00 will be assessed if any changes are made to the reservation after check-in that result in departure prior to the confirmed departure date.

Reservations may be made by one of the following methods:

Telephone: Dial **1-888-933-5363** and request the USAHA rate for your stay.

Internet: Visit us online at

http://www.hilton.com/en/hi/groups/personalized/mspmhhh_aha/index.jhtml

Fax or mail: Complete the form below and fax to **612-397-4888** or mail to:

Reservations Manager • Hilton Minneapolis

1001 Marquette Avenue • Minneapolis, MN 55403

All reservation requests must be received no later than 5:00pm Monday, September 11, 2006.

NAME: _____

ROOMMATE NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____ FAX: _____

ARRIVAL DATE: _____ DEPARTURE DATE: _____

Accommodation Requests:

One King Bed

Non-Smoking

Two Double Beds

Smoking

ADA Accessible Room

All accommodation requests are subject to availability on the date of arrival.

To guarantee your reservation, please enclose a check for the first night's room and tax (\$142.38) or provide a credit card number in the space below. All credit cards used will be charged immediately for the first night's room and tax. Deposits are refundable up to 72 hours prior to arrival. All reservation cancelled within 72 hours of arrival will forfeit the paid deposit of one night's room and tax.

CREDIT CARD NUMBER: _____ EXPIRATION DATE: _____

SIGNATURE: _____

Hilton Minneapolis • 1001 Marquette Avenue • Minneapolis, MN 55403 • Phone: (612) 376-1000

ANNUAL MEETING WEB LINKS

In an effort to shorten the newsletter we are providing a quick way to find all the information you need for the AAVLD annual meeting which is posted on our web site at <http://www.aavld.org> select **Annual Meeting** from visitor menu or go directly to http://www.aavld.org/aavld-3/annual_meeting2.jsp . Registrations forms and links to online registration can all be found there. As information is updated, updates will be posted also.

49th Annual Meeting
October 12- 19, 2006
Minneapolis Hilton Hotel
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Registrations

- [On-line Meeting Registration](#)
- [On-Line Hotel Registration](#)
- [CL Davis Avian Diagnostic Pathology Symposium](#)
- [NAHLN/Emerg Management Symposium](#)
- [Food Safety and Epi Sampling Symposia](#)
- [Intl Vet Tox Symposium & Single Lab Analytic Tox Method Symposium](#)
- [QA Symposium](#)
- [Meeting Registration](#)
- [Hotel Registration](#)
- [Minneapolis Area Information](#)
- [Trainee Travel Award Application](#)
- [AAVLD Foundation Auction](#)

[Future AAVLD/USAHA Meetings](#)
[2005 Proceedings](#)

Call for Papers

- [Abstracts / Posters](#)
- [Diagnostic Pathology Slide Seminar \[CLOSED\]](#)
- [Bacteriology Case Reports](#)

Meeting Information

- [Guidelines for AAVLD Poster Presentations](#)
- [Scientific Sessions 2006](#)
- [Exhibits Scheduled in Minneapolis](#)
- [Events Schedule](#)
- [2006 Committee Agendas](#)

[Allied/Related Meetings](#)

[2005 Meeting Exhibitors and Sponsors](#)

SPECIAL MEETING SYMPOSIA

REMINDER all symposia registration are separate from the meeting registration.

Symposia registrations are paid to AAVLD with the exception of the CL Davis Avian Diagnostic Pathology Symposium, which is paid to CL Davis directly. All symposia registration forms and agendas are posted at <http://www.aavld.org> under **Annual Meeting**.

The following 6 symposia are taking place at Minneapolis this year:

International Veterinary Toxicology Symposium, October 13, 2006, 7:30am-12:45pm (shared registration with Single Lab Anal Tox, sign up for one or both)

Single Laboratory Analytical Toxicology Method Symposium, October 13, 2006, 2:00-6:30pm (shared registration with International Vet Tox, sign up for one or both)

Food Safety Symposium October 12, 2006, 8:00am-12:30pm (shared registration form with Sampling)

Sampling Methods for Detection of Disease Symposium, October 12, 2006, 2:30pm-6:30pm, (shared registration form with Food safety sign up for one or both)

NAHLN / Emergency Management Symposium, October 12, 2006, 8:30am-5pm

Quality Assurance Symposium, October 12, 2006, 1-5pm

CL Davis Avian Diagnostic Pathology Symposium, October 13, 2006, 8:00am-5:30pm, register via CL Davis. Flyer provides information to register.

AAVLD HOUSE OF DELEGATES 2006

Alabama	Delegate Alternate	Fred Hoerr Lanquing Li	New York	Delegate Alternate	Alfonso Torres Edward J. Dubovi
Alaska	Delegate Alternate	Open Open	North Carolina	Delegate Alternate	Gene A. Erickson Karen W. Post
Arizona	Delegate Alternate	Gregory A. Bradley Carlos Reggiardo	North Dakota	Delegate Alternate	Neil W. Dyer Mary M. Finseth
Arkansas	Delegate Alternate	Konnie Plumlee Jim Britt	Ohio	Delegate Alternate	Beverly Byrum Sheila D. Grimes
California	Delegate Alternate	Sharon K. Hietala John Adaska	Oklahoma	Delegate Alternate	Bill J. Johnson Open
Colorado	Delegate Alternate	Barbara E. Powers Doreene Hyatt	Oregon	Delegate Alternate	Jerry R. Heidel Rob Bildfell
Connecticut	Delegate Alternate	Herbert Van Kruiningen Sandra Lee Bushmich	Pennsylvania	Delegate Alternate	Helen M. Acland Deepanker Tewari
Delaware	Delegate Alternate	Open Open	Rhode Island	Delegate Alternate	Michele Mariano Open
Florida	Delegate Alternate	Betty Miguel Open	South Carolina	Delegate Alternate	Pamela G. Parnell William E. Brewer
Georgia	Delegate Alternate	Doris M. Miller Charles A. Baldwin	South Dakota	Delegate Alternate	Regg Neiger Larry D. Holler
Hawaii	Delegate Alternate	Open Open	Tennessee	Delegate Alternate	Ronald B. Wilson David A. Bemis
Idaho	Delegate Alternate	Marilyn Simunich James J. England	Texas	Delegate Alternate	Lelve Gayle Amy Swinford
Illinois	Delegate Alternate	Dale M. Webb Open	Utah	Delegate Alternate	Emma Jane Kelly Thomas Baldwin
Indiana	Delegate Alternate	H. Leon Thacker Stephen B. Hooser	Virginia	Delegate Alternate	Joseph Garvin D. Jack Tate
Iowa	Delegate Alternate	Patrick Halbur Lorraine Hoffman	Washington	Delegate Alternate	James Evermann Jay P. Weidner
Kansas	Delegate Alternate	Jerome Nietfeld Brad M. DeBey	West Virginia	Delegate Alternate	Lynn O. Post Randall A. Lovell
Kentucky	Delegate Alternate	Lenn Harrison* Craig N. Carter	Wisconsin	Delegate Alternate	Suzanne Gibbons-Burgener Open
Louisiana	Delegate Alternate	Alma F. Roy Robert P. Poston	Wyoming	Delegate Alternate	Donal O'Toole Kenneth Mills
Maine	Delegate Alternate	Open Open	Alberta	Delegate Alternate	Bill Yates Pamela Gale
Maryland	Delegate Alternate	Jimmy Huang William R. Hare	British Columbia	Delegate Alternate	Ronald J. Lewis Maria Spinato
Massachusetts	Delegate Alternate	Open Open	Manitoba	Delegate Alternate	Paul Kitching Mark Swendrowski
Michigan	Delegate Alternate	Willie M. Reed Thomas P. Mullaney	New Brunswick	Delegate Alternate	James P. Goltz Open
Minnesota	Delegate Alternate	James E. Collins Marie L. Gramer	Newfoundland	Delegate Alternate	Open Open
Mississippi	Delegate Alternate	Lanny W. Pace S.W. Jack	Nova Scotia	Delegate Alternate	Lyn Ferns Open
Missouri	Delegate Alternate	Alex Bermudez Gayle C. Johnson	Ontario	Delegate Alternate	Grant Maxie Murray Hazlett
Montana	Delegate Alternate	A.W. Layton Donald J. Marshall	PEI	Delegate Alternate	Paul Hanna Carmencita V. Yason
Nebraska	Delegate Alternate	David Steffen David Scott McVey	Quebec	Delegate Alternate	Madeline Fortin Doris Sylvestre
Nevada	Delegate Alternate	Anette Rink Keith Forbes	Saskatchewan	Delegate Alternate	Andrew L. Allen Open
New Hampshire	Delegate Alternate	Joseph J. Moore Wendell P. Davis	NVSL	Delegate Alternate	Open Open
New Jersey	Delegate Alternate	Denise DiCarlo-Emery Open	USAHA	Delegate Alternate	J. Lee Alley Rick Willer
New Mexico	Delegate Alternate	Gregory P. Jillson R. Flint Taylor			

EXHIBITS AND POSTERS SCHEDULED IN MINNEAPOLIS . . .

Exhibits and the AAVLD Poster Session will be open on Saturday (12:00 noon - 5:00 p.m.), Sunday (8:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.) and Monday (8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.), October 14-16, in the Grand Ballroom, Minneapolis Hilton, Minneapolis, MN.

Please take time to join our exhibitors and benefit from the information available on new products, techniques and procedures. Following is a list of those planning to participate as of August 7. A complete “Exhibit Directory” will be distributed at the meeting.

Ambion, Inc.

2130 Woodward St., Austin, TX 78744-1832 (Phone: 512-651-0200; Fax: 512-651-0201; Web Site: www.ambion.com)

Ambion – The RNA Company® offers innovative tools for RNAi/siRNA, microRNA, RNA Sample Preparation, RNA Amplification, and RNA Research Essentials. Ambion is leading the way in developing sample prep solutions that maximize the success of viral pathogen detection assays. Experienced and novice RNA researchers alike can depend on Ambion. Ambion, Inc. is an Applied Biosystems Business.

BD Diagnostics

7 Loveton Circle, Sparks, MD 21152 (Phone: 410-316-4000; Fax: 410-316-4906; Web Site: www.bd.com/ds)

BD Diagnostics, the worldwide leader in automated liquid culture systems, will be exhibiting the BACTEC™ MGIT™ 960 paraTB system. This fully automated system utilizes a fluorescent signal with a newly optimized paraTB medium for excellent recovery of *M. paratuberculosis* in bovine fecal specimens. For solid culture of *M. paratuberculosis*, BD offers Herrold’s Egg Yolk Agar slants. We will also display an array of top quality microbiology products, including prepared and dehydrated culture media formulations, chromogenic media, and Difco™ Classic Antisera. BD manufactures products to serve the needs of the clinical, industrial, pharmaceutical and veterinary microbiology laboratories worldwide. Please visit us at Booths 305 and 307.

Bio-Rad Laboratories

2000 Alfred Nobel Dr., Hercules, CA 94547 (Phone: 510-741-5052; Fax: 510-741-5630; Web Site: foodscience.bio-rad.com)

Bio-Rad Laboratories is a world leader in creating advanced tools for biological exploration and clinical diagnostics. Its mission is to create innovative products and services that advance scientific research and development efforts, and support the commercialization and discovery of new technologies. Bio-Rad’s BSE test is the most widely used test in Europe and Japan and is recognized for its high level of sensitivity and specificity. Additionally, Bio-Rad is reported to be the fastest and easiest test method to adapt to mass screening programs. The Bio-Rad TSE test is the only test in the United States approved by the USDA for BSE, Scrapie and Chronic Wasting Disease. Bio-Rad also offers a rapid ELISA for Rabies testing.

Centaur, Inc.

P. O. Box 25667, Overland Park, KS 66225-5667 (Phone: 913-390-6184; Fax: 913-390-5907)

Centaur sells diagnostic products converted from human healthcare to equine applications. Examples include our 45-minute equine infectious anemia test, our 10-minute influenza test, a test for IgG in foals, and tests for two different blood reagents. Centaur’s newest pharmaceutical products include three different strengths of iodine formulations, two formulations of isopropyl alcohol, three different topical sprays, bulk liquids to treat metabolic disorders, serve as laxatives, preserve tissues and to serve as delivery vehicles for custom-compounded medicinals. Centaur also has creams to treat inflamed, abraded tissue and solutions and stains to help identify parasites.

Cepheid

904 Caribbean Dr., Sunnyvale, CA 94089 (Phone: 408-400-8456; Fax: 408-734-1346; Web Site: www.cepheid.com)

Cepheid develops, manufactures, and markets fully integrated systems for genetic analysis including DNA and RNA analysis, in the clinical, life sciences and biotech markets. Our systems enable rapid, sophisticated genetic testing by automating otherwise complex manual procedures.

Computer Aid Inc. (CAI)

470 Friendship Road #300, Harrisburg, PA 17111 (Phone: 717-651-3004; Fax: 717-651-3229; Web Site: www.compaid.com)

CAI will be demonstrating their browser-based Animal Laboratory Management System (PALims) as well as their integrated Animal Health reporting system, PAHerds. Both were developed for the PA Department of Agriculture Bureau of Animal Health and state veterinary lab system. PALims is a complete data collection and management tool for laboratories. The application captures data at the source for early identification of animal health incidents, and provides streamlined diagnostic analysis, reporting and account management. PAHerds is an animal tracking datastore that integrates lab test history for the identification, containment and elimination of disease. Both applications remove the burden of day-to-day administrative activities by capturing data one-time at the source while providing robust GIS and other reporting capabilities, allowing animal health staff to devote their time to analytic and evaluation services. CAI is a leader in the development and maintenance of mission critical custom applications for private and public sector organizations. Government sector expertise includes animal health management and emergency response management and IT human capital management. PAHerds is one of three state and local programs to receive the Intergovernmental Solutions Award at the 26th annual ACT Management of Change Conference. The State of Indiana and the commonwealth of Kentucky are also implementing PAHerds.

Crawford Industrial Group

9101 Parkers Landing, Orlando, FL 32824 (Phone: 407-851-0993; Fax: 407-851-2406; Web Site: www.animal-cremation.com)

Since 1974, Crawford Industrial Group has equipped thousands of animal diagnostic labs, university research labs, veterinarians, and animal control facilities with incineration/cremation systems which have met their unique operational demands and professional standards. Every one of our incineration systems complies with the most stringent Federal and State Environmental requirements. Underwriters Laboratories (UL) has thoroughly tested and approved many of our products for your peace of mind and safety. We offer both "random load" and "batch load" incineration systems, ideally suited to accommodate small to very large disposal needs, with ability for indoor or outdoor installation. Please visit our booth and speak with our representative to receive your free brochure and product literature.

Elsevier/Saunders/Mosby

2020 77th St., Somerset, WI 54025-7447 (Phone: 888-874-5874; Fax: 715-247-2652)

Fair Isaac Corporation

901 Marquette Ave. #3200, Minneapolis, MN 55402 (Phone: 612-758-5200; Fax: 612-758-5201; Web Site: www.FairIsaac.com)

FastPanel™ UR-feline is a multiplex diagnostic test for common upper respiratory infections based on PCR technology. Targets include feline calicivirus, feline herpes virus, chlamydia felis, and bordetella bronchiseptica. FastPanel primer content is designed using Fair Isaac's advanced pattern recognition technology, which greatly increases assay robustness and speeds development. Further panel offerings for companion animals are in development.

Global Vet Link

2625 N. Loop Dr. #2130, Ames, IA 50010 (Phone: 515-296-0860; Fax: 253-793-4763; Web Site: www.globalvetlink.com)

Global Vet Link has become the industry leader with their online application that allows practitioners, state authorities, diagnostic laboratories and other health officials to build, access and monitor animal movement documents all by the click of a mouse. Sending and receiving real time data online for official certificates of veterinary inspection and EIA certificates provides the animal industry with a more efficient way to do business.

IDEXX Laboratories, Inc.

One Idexx Dr., Westbrook, ME 04092 (Phone: 207-856-8059; Fax: 207-856-8399; Web Site: www.idexx.com/production)

The Production Animal Services (PAS) Division of IDEXX Laboratories, Inc. develops, manufactures and sells over 50 different ELISA, DNA Probe and PCFIA-based detection systems for animal health and quality assurance applications. Laboratories around the world use IDEXX PAS products for the detection and monitoring of diseases affecting livestock and poultry, and our xChek* data management software simplifies and organizes test results. One of the latest additions to the PAS product portfolio is the IDEXX HerdChek* BSE-Scrapie Antigen EIA Test Kit. This second generation test is USDA and European Commission approved for use in Europe. For more information, please contact us at phone: (800) 548-9997 or (207) 856-0300; email: PASweb@idexx.com; or visit our website at www.idexx.com. *HerdChek and xChek are trademarks or registered trademarks of IDEXX Laboratories, Inc. in the United States and/or other countries.

Jenrik Ag

21090 Olinda Trail N., Scandia, MN 55073 (Phone: 651-204-9343; 877-251-2804; 651-247-9492 (cell); Fax: 651-204-9925; Web Site: www.prosampler.com)

Pro Sampler livestock ear tissue collection devices capture a uniform tissue sample for disease diagnostic and genomic analysis. Noted for high "lab friendly" features, Pro Sampler packaging and identification methods will help assure optimum integrity of lab results due to proper identification of tissue sample with high degree of handling efficiency and accuracy.

Laboratory Automation Solutions

613 Rustic Trail, Beavercreek, OH 45434 (Phone: 937-431-9257; Fax: 937-421-1108; Web Site: www.labautomation.com)

Laboratory Automation Solutions, Inc. (LAS) specializes exclusively in the laboratory automation market and is one of very few vendor-independent Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS) consulting companies in the US. LAS has performed requirements analyses, developed RFP's, assisted in vendor source selection activities and supported LIMS implementation projects for Federal veterinary, clinical, and EPA laboratories, State and Local Clinical, Environmental, and Forensic Laboratories, and a myriad of commercial testing facilities. In addition, LAS works daily with laboratories across the country and abroad, solving problems, implementing quality assurance and business process improvement plans, and assisting in certification and accreditation endeavors including the AAVLD Essential Requirements, ISO 17025, and NELAC, etc.

Midland BioProducts Corporation

P. O. Box 309, 800 Snedden Dr., Boone, IA 50036 (Phone: 515-432-7799; Fax: 515-432-7790; Web Site: www.midlandbio.com)

Midland Quick Test Kits (a lateral flow device) measure passive immunity issues in newborn calves and foals. Testing either the calf or foal's whole blood or Dam's colostrum or Mare's colostrum for IgG. Also, antibodies, controls, buffers, and US Standards for quantitatively measuring equine, bovine, and porcine IgG are available.

National Institute for Animal Agriculture (NIAA)

1910 Lyda Ave., Bowling Green, KY 42104 (Phone: 270-782-9798; Fax: 270-782-0188; Web Site: www.animalagriculture.org)

The National Institute for Animal Agriculture (NIAA) is a forum for building consensus and advancing solutions for animal agriculture and to provide continuing education and communications linkages to animal agriculture professionals. Our mission truly reflects NIAA - where it's been, where it is, and where it is going. NIAA is the only forum where producers/owners (cattle, equine, poultry, small ruminants and swine), scientists (corporate, academia and government), veterinarians (private practice, industrial and government), regulators (state and federal), and business executives (corporate and association) meet in a common effort to deal with shared issues and opportunities. Visit our website at www.animalagriculture.org.

Qiagen, Inc.

19300 Germantown Road, Germantown, MD 20874 (Phone: 240-686-7688; Fax: 240-686-7689; Web Site: www.qiagen.com)

Scientific Technologies Corporation

4400 E. Broadway Blvd. #705, Tucson, AZ 85711 (Phone: 520-202-3333; Fax: 520-202-3340; Web Site: www.stchome.com)

Scientific Technologies Corporation (STC) is an international public health solutions firm with nearly two decades of experience. Services include design, development, and implementation of public health information systems from event based early warning, disease reporting and outbreak management to population-based registries. Staff consists of public health specialists and health information technology experts supporting the public health mission at the local, regional, state, national and international level from preparedness to evaluation. Whether it is a planning Pandemic Flu exercise or implementing a disease reporting and contact tracing system, STC serves as public health's partner to ensure success and value.

Synbiotics Corporation

600 Broadway #490, Kansas City, MO 64105 (Phone: 816-460-3424; Fax: 816-460-3424; Web Site: www.synbiotics.com)

Tetracore, Inc.

9901 Belward Campus Dr. #300, Rockville, MD 20850 (Phone: 246-268-5400; Fax: 240-268-2207; Web Site: www.tetracore.com)

Trek Diagnostic Systems

982 Keynote Circle #6, Cleveland, OH 44131 (Phone: 216-351-8735; Fax: 216-485-1163; Web Site: www.trekds.com)

TREK Diagnostic Systems provides innovative products to the veterinary microbiology laboratory, para-JEM® reagents for the detection of Mycobacterium avium ssp. paratuberculosis, and the Sensititre® System, with its automated and manual identification and MIC customizable susceptibility technologies. TREK's products provide cost effective improvements in workflow efficiencies, ergonomics, and test result performance.

VADDS

79 N. Franklin Turnpike, Suite 103, Ramsey, NJ 07432 (Phone: 201-934-7127; Fax: 201-236-1891; Web Site: www.vetstar.com)

VADDS is the most widely used commercial veterinary LIMS system in the market today among public institutions in North America. VADDS handles all aspects of case management with a highly efficient workflow management system. Automatic, real time reporting is available via professional looking hardcopy, fax, email and/or via your own web portal. With new modules for Quality Assurance, web development, and interfaces for NAHLN and Global Vet Link, VADDS handles your laboratory's needs today and tomorrow for a very reasonable price. Over two-dozen veterinary labs have found the VADDS solution.

Veterinary Laboratories Agency

QA Unit, College Road, Sutton Bonnington, Leicestershire, UNITED KINGDOM LE12 5RB (Phone: +44 01509 670 607; Fax: +44 01509 670 206)

The Veterinary Laboratories Agency is the government veterinary laboratory service in the United Kingdom. In addition to all the usual veterinary laboratory diagnostic and research functions, the agency offers a wide range of laboratory proficiency testing services and a large range of biological reagents, antibodies, antigens, diagnostic kits, etc.

VMRD, Inc.

4641 Pullman-Albion Rd., Pullman, WA 99163 (Phone: 509-334-5815; Fax: 509-332-5356; Web Site: www.vmr.com)

VMRD, Inc. produces high-quality, USDA-licensed diagnostic test kits for infectious diseases such as Anaplasma, BLV, BTV, CAEV, EIAV, MCFV, and Neospora; research reagents such as FA conjugates, IFA slides and controls, and a wide selection of monoclonal and polyclonal antibodies against infectious agents, immunoglobulins, CD markers, MHC antigens, cytokines, and hormones. We also produce an array of RID kits for quantitative analysis of immunoglobulin concentrations in many species, and other immunological assays such as Coombs' and FPT kits. VMRD is committed to providing high-quality products, friendly customer service, and excellent technical support.

Waste Reduction by Waste Reduction, Inc.

2910-D Fortune Circle West, Indianapolis, IN 46241 (Phone: 317-484-4200; Fax: 317-484-4201; Web Site: www.wr2.net)

WR2, sole manufacturer of the Tissue Digester™ utilized to process biological material is the world's leading developer of non-incineration technology for safe, efficient, environmentally compatible elimination of hazardous, biohazardous and biological waste materials. As well as destroying all pathogens, including prions, the process converts fixatives, cytotoxic agents and other toxins along with biological and chemical warfare agents, to harmless, biodegradable derivatives.

Whatman, Inc.

200 Park Ave., Suite 210, Florham Park, NJ 07932 (Phone: 973-245-8300; Fax: 973-245-8326; Web Site: www.whatman.com)

Whatman FTA® is a quick and easy way to collect DNA samples at room temperature. Blood, buccal or tissue samples are applied to FTA cards at the farm and sent to testing labs by mail. The DNA is purified for analysis in under 30 minutes. FTA is an easy and cost effective way to collect valuable genetic data for livestock marketing and breeding decisions.

OBITUARIES

Obituary Dr. Ben Yamini

Dr. Behzad (“Ben”) Yamini died in East Lansing, Michigan, on May 15, 2006. Dr. Yamini received his DVM degree in 1963 from the University of Tehran, Iran, and his PhD from Michigan State University in 1976. He became an ACVP Diplomate in 1985. After two years as a private practitioner in Tehran, he served for 10 years as Assistant and Associate Chief of the Pathology Laboratory, Research and Diagnostic Laboratories, Razi State Institute, Tehran. In 1975 he joined the faculty of the Department of Pathology, College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Tehran, as an Assistant Professor. In 1983, he was appointed as a faculty member of Michigan State University’s Department of Pathobiology and Diagnostic Investigation and the Diagnostic Center for Population and Animal Health, in the aftermath of the Iranian Revolution. Dr. Yamini was highly regarded throughout his professional career as an instructor of professional and graduate students, academic advisor, and member of many graduate student guidance committees. His diagnostic expertise included various cancers (mammary, ovarian, testicular, uterine), prostatic disease, and a wide variety of nutritional diseases. His long-time colleague, Dr. Thomas Mullaney, commented that “Ben was the utmost professional, respected and admired by faculty members, technicians, staff, graduate students, residents, and veterinary students. He was kind, generous with his time, always willing to help out colleagues or provide a second opinion. In fact, when I think of collegiality, Ben Yamini is one...[who] comes to mind.” He is survived by his wife Nahid, a son, two daughters, and a grandson. At the family’s request, memorial contributions may be sent to the

Department of Pathobiology and Diagnostic Investigation, Michigan State University, 4125 Beaumont Road, Lansing, MI 48910-8107 (make checks payable to MSU).

Obituary Dr. Peter C. Kennedy

Though not a member of AAVLD, Dr. Peter C. Kennedy had an international impact through his teaching and writing on many of the AAVLD pathologists that are members today. It is with great sadness that we announce his recent death. Dr. Kennedy was an icon in the profession and a genuine and kindly man who mentored many and inspired all who knew him. His life was one of dedication to his family, the profession of Veterinary Medicine, the discipline of Veterinary Pathology and the University of California - Davis.

A California native, Kennedy received his D.V.M. degree from Kansas State University in 1949. He completed an internship at Boston’s Angell Memorial Animal Hospital and graduate studies in Pathology at Cornell University, receiving his Ph.D. in 1953. Following graduate training, Dr. Kennedy joined Drs. Donald Cordy and Jack Moulton to found the Department of Pathology at the new School of Veterinary Medicine at the University of California - Davis.

Dr. Kennedy’s research career developed and expanded basic knowledge of fetal and endocrine pathology. His work with infectious causes of abortion characterized lesions in fetal calves caused by infectious bovine rhinotracheitis virus and defined the pathologic criteria of epizootic bovine abortion. The latter disease proved a career long challenge from his first description in 1960 to his involvement in the 2002 and 2006 publications describing a bacterial

agent and demonstrating experimental reproduction of the disease. His scholarly achievements led to a NATO Post Doctoral Fellowship in 1960 and a Fulbright-Hays Fellowship in 1968. He also served with distinction as a consultant to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization and as president of the American College of Veterinary Pathologists. He was honored as a distinguished member of the college in 1989.

Dr. Kennedy was a consummate diagnostician who recognized many diseases now considered classic in Veterinary Pathology. The breadth of his contributions to veterinary pathology is best exemplified by his authorship, with Kenneth V. Jubb and in later editions, Nigel Palmer, of the classic textbook *Pathology of Domestic Animals*. The 1000 page two volume first edition was published in 1963. Currently undergoing its 5th revision, this encyclopedic text remains in daily use in pathology laboratories throughout veterinary medicine. Its rich descriptions make it a constant companion of veterinary pathologists studying for their certification exam. After his retirement in 1993, Dr. Kennedy remained active in investigative pathology and resident and graduate student training.

In lieu of flowers, the Kennedy family requests that memorial contributions be made to the Peter C. Kennedy Endowed Fellowship c/o Dean’s Office School of Veterinary Medicine UC Davis, Davis, CA 95616

74th Annual General Session of the International Committee of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) [edited] OIE Press Release

The 74th Annual General Session of the International Committee of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) was held in Paris from 21 to 26 May 2006.

The General Session notably brings together representatives appointed by the Governments of the 167 OIE Member Countries. The main points dealt with during the Session were as follows:

- The session accredited the application of a new Collaborating Centre - the Centre for Disease Control (CDC in Atlanta) - with the aim of better preventing and controlling animal diseases transmittable to human beings. It also recognized the crucial role played by the OIE network of 170 reference laboratories and collaborating centres in reaching the organization's objectives;
- Member Countries welcomed the new World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) that will strengthen OIE's actions in terms of transparency on state of animal diseases worldwide;
- Consistent with the framework of its usual standard-setting activities, the Committee adopted new and updated international standards aimed at providing better safeguards for the sanitary safety of world trade in terrestrial and aquatic animals and their products as well as guidelines to better implement surveillance of animal diseases and zoonoses on their territory.
- Member countries also voted new improvements to chapters about animal welfare and food safety in production phase;
- They adopted policy lines on identification and animal traceability;
- Special attention was given to updating the chapter on BSE in the Terrestrial Animal Health Code. Adopted texts highlighted global surveillance methods that will allow the OIE to propose willing Member Countries a new procedure for an official recognition of their status on the disease;
- The Session approved the lists of countries or zones recognized by the OIE as being free from foot and mouth disease, rinderpest, contagious bovine pleuropneumonia and bovine spongiform encephalopathy;
- Member Countries also decided that notification to the OIE of any detection of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in wildlife was to be compulsory;
- The list of Veterinary Critically Important Antimicrobials (VCIA) defined by OIE was published;
- The worldwide zoonositary situation has been examined in detail;
- Two technical items of biggest interest were presented and debated during the Session and gave rise to Resolutions passed by the International Committee:
 - a. Economic and social justification of investment in animal health and zoonoses;
 - b. Future approaches needed to ensure veterinary education meets societal demands.

Full text: http://www.oie.int/eng/press/en_060526.htm

FUTURE MEETINGS

September 6, 2006. **International Society of Veterinary Dermatologists** (information at <http://www.isvd.org/>) in Lisbon, Portugal in conjunction with the annual meeting of the European Society of Veterinary Dermatologists and ECVD (September 7-9, 2006) for more information see ESVD site at <http://www.esvd2006.org/index.htm>.

September 6-8, 2006, **International Symposium on Virulence Mechanisms of bacterial pathogens** at the Scheman Conference Center, Iowa State University, Ames, IA. Sponsored by the Institute for International Cooperation in Animal Biologics, an OIE collaborating center. Renowned experts will give overview presentations of their respective areas in the pathogenesis of bacterial diseases and mechanisms of host-pathogen interactions. For more information see: <http://www.virulencemechanisms.org/>

October 6-7, 2006: **16th Annual South Central meeting of the C.L. Davis Foundation**, San Luis Resort, Galveston Island, TX. Dr. Rob Moeller is the invited speaker on "The Pathology of Foreign Animal Diseases" and attendees can present pathology and laboratory animal case reports. For slide case submissions contact: Dr. John Edwards, TAMU, phone (979) 845-4608 jedwards@cvm.tamu.edu Meeting information at <http://www.afip.org/CLDavis/CLDavis.meetings.htm>

October 11-18, 2006. **Annual AAVLD and USAHA meeting** in Minneapolis, MN at the Minneapolis Hilton.

October 15, -19, 2006, **24th World Buiatrics Congress**, at the Nice Convention Center - ACROPOLIS. For more information see congress web site <http://www.wbc2006.com>.

October 27-28 2006. **39th Annual Western Conference of Veterinary Diagnostic Pathologists** at the University Inn Best Western in Moscow, ID sponsored by the Washington Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory and the Department of Veterinary Microbiology and Pathology at the College of Veterinary Medicine, Washington State. Theme is Diseases of the Hematopoietic and Lymphoid System.

December 2-6, 2006, **57th Annual Meeting of the American College of Veterinary Pathologists** and the **41st Annual Meeting of the American Society for Veterinary Clinical Pathology** at the Hilton El Conquistador Golf and Tennis Resort in Tucson, Arizona. ACVP is approved to conduct educational programs by the American Association of Veterinary State Boards' RACE. For more information, please contact the American College of Veterinary Pathologists at 2810 Crossroads Drive, Suite 3800, Madison, WI 53718; Phone: (608) 443-2466, ext. 145; Fax: (608) 443-2478; Email: meetings@acvp.org; Website: <http://www.acvp.org/meeting>.

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CALIFORNIA - Diagnostic Pathologist (2 positions)
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CALIFORNIA – Disease Research Specialist (lab tech). San Diego County Vet Office.
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AAVLD FOUNDATION AUCTION

Repeating the success from last year, the AAVLD Foundation Auction will return again at this year's annual AAVLD meeting !

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SO support the Foundation by donating an item(s) from your Laboratory!
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