President’s Message

Greetings to all AAVLD Members! My message will be brief as most of the news important to members is either in this newsletter or posted on the AAVLD website. I’ll take a moment to highlight activities since our fall meeting as well as on-going activities and, point you to more detailed information. Read more...

AAVLD Newsletter & Web Get Overhauled

The newsletter you are reading is the first installment of our new e-mail newsletter. In order to provide our members with information in a more timely matter, we are moving to a shorter, more reader-friendly electronic format newsletter. Instead of having to trudge through forty pages of minutes, announcements, registration forms and schedules, we will be providing you with links to current information of interest on the web and short news stories.

By now you may have also noticed that the AAVLD website has gotten a new look. In addition to using MemberClicks™ membership management software for secure online membership renewals, we have utilized the program to give our website a new look. If you have forgotten your username and password to access the members-only side of the site, you can have it emailed to you from the Login page by clicking on "Forgot your password?" You can also use the site to update your contact information and get the most up-to-date contact information for your colleagues using the membership directory feature. Check it out and let us know what you think!

Pet Food Recall: Big News for Veterinary Diagnostics

The ongoing pet food recall has translated into busy times for veterinary diagnosticians. AAVLD has developed a survey to gather information on suspected pet food toxicity cases. If you have suspected pet food toxicity case, please take a moment to complete the survey. In addition, AAVLD members have developed a protocol for dead animals with suspected pet food associated nephrotoxicity.

The protocol and survey, along with pictures of lesions, crystals and chemical analyses are posted on the AAVLD website.

- AAVLD Pet Food Toxicity Survey
- Protocol for Suspected Pet Food Associated Nephrotoxicity
- Photos
  - MSU, DCPAH
  - University of Guelph
  - University of Georgia
  - Colorado State University
Membership Dues Increase
At the 2006 AAVLD Annual Meeting in Minneapolis, MN the AAVLD House of Delegates unanimously approved a membership dues increase. For the 2008 membership year, full membership dues will be raised to $115. Membership dues were last raised in 2002. The increase in dues is being made to help offset increasing expenses for the organization to provide existing membership benefits and for improvements being made, including making JVDI available online, hiring a new conference coordinator and using the MemberClicks™ membership management software. Graduate Student/Resident, Retired and Associate fees will remain unchanged.

2007 AAVLD/USAHA Annual Meeting
The 2007 AAVLD Annual Meeting marks the association’s 50th anniversary! We hope to see you all in Reno, NV for this special milestone October 18-24. Check out the AAVLD website for meeting information including hotel and meeting registration forms, call for papers (deadline June 15), trainee travel award (deadline June 9), schedules and special events like the NAHLN/QA pre-meeting symposium October 18 (separate registration) and CL Davis Orthopaedic Pathology October 19 (separate registration) and other announcements.

• Annual Meeting Homepage

AAVLD Committees on the Web
The AAVLD 2007 directory only included the members of AAVLD standing committees and chairs of all committees. However, you can view the full membership of each committee, committee minutes, special documents and a listing of chairs and liaisons under the Committees link on the AAVLD website.

Bacteriology Self Assessment
Bacteriology quality assurance self assessment isolates are being postponed until after the October annual meeting so the committee can adjust the content to better serve the dual roles of a training exercise and evaluation tool for accreditation. The committee will correspond with the laboratories this summer to inform them of possible options so that they will be prepared to make decisions on future exercise at the meeting. - Carol Maddox (maddox@uiuc.edu) and Deepanker Tewari (dtewari@state.pa.us)

Lab Directors Conference Call Minutes
AAVLD laboratory directors meet every other month with members of USDA including NVSL to discuss topics of mutual interest and concern. The minutes are posted under “News for Members”. A joint NVSL/USDA and AAVLD working group chaired by Kevin Snekvik has formed to address aquaculture issues related to laboratory test methods, reagents and capacity. For the committee charge see Laboratory Directors February minutes.