President’s Message - Gary Anderson

It has been a distinct honor and privilege to serve as your association president this past year. It won’t be long before we will be in Minneapolis passing the gavel to President-elect, Dr Craig Carter. I invite each of you to Minneapolis for the annual USAHA/AAVLD meeting. Scientific program co-chairs, Drs. Carter and Halstead and the program committees have planned an excellent program. One Health will dominate both plenary sessions, with an objective of helping us determine our roles as veterinarians, diagnosticians and animal health officials in the One Health Initiative. I continue to believe there is no better foundation piece for One Health than animal diagnostic medicine, and I anticipate forward progress in our continuing need to understand the Initiative and assist in determining how to practically apply it within our widely varying disciplines and areas of expertise. In addition to the plenary sessions, there will be over 180 presentations and posters included in the scientific sessions, as well as presentations in various committees - plenty of information and opportunity to juggle your busy schedule!

Our sponsors and exhibitors are crucial to the success of our meetings, and I am pleased with the work of a task force representing USAHA, AAVLD and exhibitors and sponsors earlier this year. You will definitely notice changes in the overall format – session breaks during Sunday scientific sessions will be staggered, the exhibit area will be open longer both days and before the sessions begin on Sunday, light refreshments will be available throughout the exhibit area at specified times, and sponsors will be highlighting products and technologies via formal presentations. The goal is to increase the quality and quantity of time between attendees and exhibitors and sponsors. We hope these changes will be positive for everyone; however, we recognize it’s pretty tough to get it right the first time, so we welcome and appreciate your feedback after the meeting.

Click here to read President Anderson’s message in its entirety.

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

- **2010 Annual meeting**: November 11th – 17th
  - Updated schedule of events and Presentation & poster titles & times
  - Hotel registration link and information – register at meeting rate, if space is available, by Oct 12th – if any of the days you are staying have no available contract rate rooms, you should call the hotel to make your reservation as the website may bill the higher rate for all nights of your stay.
  - Committee agendas posted, updated version coming October 14.
  - Meeting pre-registration deadline is Oct 22nd
  - CL Davis Ocular Pathology symposium announcement.
- **July Executive Board Minutes** – extensive financial information is included as an appendix to the minutes.
- **AAVLD requirements for accredited veterinary medical diagnostic laboratories** version 5.0 is posted (updated September 15, 2010).
- **PCR and IHC databases** updated annually and housed at SDSU are now linked on AAVLD website under Related Links header on the public page.
AAVLD Annual Meeting News

- **Real time PCR standards** symposium will take place Thursday, Nov 11th from 1-5:30pm. Go to the registration form to see this educational program agenda and speakers with plenty of time for Q & A. This event has a separate registration fee of $25.00. Follow up discussion will be part of the Laboratory Technology committee meeting on Friday, 4-6pm.
- The AAVLD plenary session topic is **One Health: opportunities for veterinary diagnostic labs**
- Don’t forget to send your topic to Dr. Karen Post by October 15th for the informal **Diagnostic Bacteriology case presentations** to be held Friday, Nov 12th, 10-Noon this year. Email: Karen.Post@ncagr.gov
- There will be increased opportunities to meet with exhibitors with changes in the Sunday session breaks and expanded exhibitor hours Saturday 9:30am-6pm and Sunday 7am-2pm.
- Donate an item for the **Foundation Auction** - click here for instructions.

Online version of “Guidelines for Safe Work Practices in a Clinical Diagnostic Laboratory” - coming soon to CDC site!

This new guideline which AAVLD members lead by Dr. Tim Baszler had an opportunity to provide input on will be coming out soon. As soon as the document is available on line a link will be posted on the AAVLD web site.

Just a reminder: the (2010) online version of CDC/NIH *Biosafety in Microbiological and Biomedical Laboratories* (*"BMBL"") 5th ed published in December 2009 can be found on the CDC website. Hardcopy is available via ordering from www.gpo.gov for US $38.00.

Council for Agricultural Science and Technology (CAST)

AAVLD is an organizational member of CAST and Dr. Bob Poppenga is the AAVLD liaison with CAST. CAST disseminates information via a weekly resource called Friday Notes that provides links to a number of articles and topics germane to agriculture. A new endeavor of CAST is to sponsor Symposia. Proceedings from the first Symposium- Sustaining animal agriculture: Balancing bioethical, economic and social issues” are available -click here. For more information on CAST visit their website.

I’d like to encourage any AAVLD member to suggest timely and relevant topics for CAST to consider. There is an Animal Science Working Group that reviews proposals and forwards those deemed important to CAST’s National Concerns Committee. If approved, CAST recruits experts on the topic to review available science-based information and produce a publication summarizing the groups’ findings and recommendations. There is also the possibility of AAVLD members may be recruited to participate on relevant expert panels.

If you have any questions about CAST, I am more than happy to try to answer them for you and, if you have any topics that might be of interest, I can provide some input in how to proceed. - Robert Poppenga, DVM, PhD, DABVT - rhpoppenga@ucdavis.edu