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|  60th and 121st AAVLD / USAHA Annual Meeting |

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| **Dr. Pat Halbur****April 2017 AAVLD President's Message** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_One of the highlights for me as an AAVLD member is attending the Government Relations meeting we co-host with USAHA in Washington, D.C. We spent March 7-8 meeting with leadership of several agencies that through their policies and actions, influence our success and the success of the stakeholders we serve. We met with at least 13 different associations and agencies such as AVMA, AAVMC, CDC, DHS, FDA, USDA NIFA, USDA ARS, USDA ARS, FSIS and others. The highlight for me was meeting with the Animal Agriculture Coalition (AAC). I cannot remember a time where all members of the AAC were fully in agreement and strongly advocating for the same thing. The request is for $275 million in the 2018 Farm Bill. This includes $150 million for FMD vaccine bank, $30 million for NAHLN, $25 million for animal health disease research programs, and $70 million for animal disease and disaster prevention program. This would be transformational for the NAHLN. Please start now to get your respective federal legislators informed and committed to make this happen. My sincere appreciation to Drs. Bruce Akey and Barb Powers for their effective leadership of the government relations committee.  I am very pleased to officially announce launch of the AAVLD *Innovation in Veterinary Diagnostic Medicine* grant program sponsored by Thermo Fisher Scientific. The future of diagnostic medicine depends on our ability to  innovate and create new and bigger opportunities to impact animal health. A recent example of this in swine diagnostic medicine is the  discovery and use of oral fluids for disease surveillance. The call for proposals will go out in April. Watch the AAVLD website and look for an announcement from Thermo Fisher. Two $25,000 grants will be funded in the first year. When you see your Thermo Fisher representatives, show them your appreciation. Lastly, we need your help to recruit new AAVLD members. Please consider signing up your lab for the Institutional Membership. This is a very inexpensive way (cost is based on lab size) to purchase AAVLD membership for 10 people in your lab. Please see our website for details. Thank you for the opportunity to serve you and lead this great organization. I look forward to hearing from you.Pat Halbur | **AAVLD Innovation in Veterinary Diagnostic Medicine Grant Program****\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**The American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians (AAVLD) today announced a new grant program in support of innovation in veterinary diagnostics. Thermo Fisher Scientific is sponsoring the program, which is open to AAVLD members and will provide at least $50,000 in funding to individuals pursuing innovative ideas that advance veterinary diagnostic medicine. "Through this program we are striving to help define the next generation of scientific breakthroughs and enable important research by innovative individuals in our field," said Dr. Pat Halbur, president of the AAVLD. "We hope the research generated by this grant will help diagnosticians keep their labs on the leading edge of technology and improve efficiency and profitability." "We are proud to sponsor this innovative research program with our partners at the AAVLD," said Martin Guillet, global head and general manager of AgriBusiness at Thermo Fisher Scientific. "Supporting cutting-edge research such as this aligns with our mission to drive creative solutions that will push the boundaries of animal health diagnostics and help our customers make the world healthier, cleaner and safer." [***Full Press Release***](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001W88743P7Q0TAT3H_XBOPmOnVpl8pKNNgLAhA5XM8WoL28J2ljnIUahncAiCNQgN2Y-LDP7rKYC_rbi2L1-nz2C5ryCiGRbWuBsVWn51smbHsqT4-7Wh7t2Fk7TyxdYndILJ3nU4c_wtiqAY39_GQacz-P-Z3Y7Tt3tCo3g44UPXnD1zFTNLN7uXA6RSbSaadKJie6SY2rtwkhIPs67RKo_poB1tJvFm4uFyxGplmSIlAVSOso-7F3EHPuE6oslRp&c=jExzxcqwd_uDHKwZhI6AJFJc0190gEksg4f4fpIVZv8WaLOuK1Vfjg==&ch=IMmmxm6-pZZQ07aYpGC6JJ2c2vwitv4rRnVIhxBf2RC9I9Bq48Srfw==)**...>** | **Call for Abstracts****and Application for Awards****\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_****60th Annual AAVLD Meeting** **October 12-18, 2017****San Diego, CA** **Abstract Submission*****Deadline is June 1, 2017***  Thank you for considering submitting an abstract for presentation of your work at the 2017 AAVLD Annual Meeting.  According to the recent member survey, the quality of presentations in the Scientific Oral and Poster Sessions is the single most important reason for attending the AAVLD Annual Meeting.Submit your abstracts EARLY!**ThomsonReuters ScholarOne***is the official AAVLD provider of online abstract submission and management services.  To submit an abstract, login to the AAVLD 2017 Abstract Submission Site with your User ID and Password e-mailed to you by ScholarOne Abstracts (current AAVLD member, previous submitters).  For non-members, or if you did not receive an email from ScholarOne containing your User ID and Password, follow the instructions on the website for creating a new account.*Please click on the following link to access the site [aavld2017.abstractcentral.com](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001W88743P7Q0TAT3H_XBOPmOnVpl8pKNNgLAhA5XM8WoL28J2ljnIUahncAiCNQgN2_I2CexDAb_x1vAbCjyXQeVzKOtrRSTdIOszcvRDkjTccb7GOKKGqPNTW75ibRalgfH-ks3TU25cUQfv224vLXZJUhXgUOR6VCrHVSBxD-G8Xef35w41E8RW1EI0qnYP8&c=jExzxcqwd_uDHKwZhI6AJFJc0190gEksg4f4fpIVZv8WaLOuK1Vfjg==&ch=IMmmxm6-pZZQ07aYpGC6JJ2c2vwitv4rRnVIhxBf2RC9I9Bq48Srfw==)      After login, follow the online instructions to submit your abstract.  You may also access this information on the AAVLD website at: [http://www.aavld.org/annual-meeting-page](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001W88743P7Q0TAT3H_XBOPmOnVpl8pKNNgLAhA5XM8WoL28J2ljnIUapp2bqY-kAbJT0jUzIVhnkDrVZif750Ex5ZG_lvEwYbkrEVvoDJKDkuaPIIxbdFjBMDtUU22x3bY2fOGlezfFYIbhUmE29U_5YyPdWPrGyy0S6h25R_-PsJLclfRtbEU9VngcqdQp4uz&c=jExzxcqwd_uDHKwZhI6AJFJc0190gEksg4f4fpIVZv8WaLOuK1Vfjg==&ch=IMmmxm6-pZZQ07aYpGC6JJ2c2vwitv4rRnVIhxBf2RC9I9Bq48Srfw==)  and click the "Awards Page" tab.[**Read full announcement**](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001W88743P7Q0TAT3H_XBOPmOnVpl8pKNNgLAhA5XM8WoL28J2ljnIUahncAiCNQgN2D8dNwJDJNzXfON_8B8viEWWBZCOy1d0fPBVi9VeMNwC-3INMNLG9s9cnVxsSQ2vtjSxmZyD2GrlmOtZ4FrK-iQU7v-i4J3G_uGzPrsBbXn7W2IkESWIaAp-LpO1XG7BUjvjGAJqw6CgpwfZ-uNIjU-zGE5DV5dGpBoCRV16Hvj8YtDis5WuiE63XhegQfB2E&c=jExzxcqwd_uDHKwZhI6AJFJc0190gEksg4f4fpIVZv8WaLOuK1Vfjg==&ch=IMmmxm6-pZZQ07aYpGC6JJ2c2vwitv4rRnVIhxBf2RC9I9Bq48Srfw==)**... >** |

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