



American Association of
Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians
E-Newsletter

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Issue: # 8-2016

News & Events August 2016

**ANNUAL MEETING INFORMATION - Early Bird Registration
Closes Sept. 23**

DATES: October 13th - 19th, 2016

Greensboro, NC

**EARLY BIRD (discounted) REGISTRATION closes
SEPT. 23**

[REGISTER HERE](#)

[TENTATIVE AGENDA HERE](#)

Our 2015 Annual Meeting is now in the history books. To view the reports of the committees, please click on "[Committee Reports](#)". Please make sure to use a browser set to open pdf's or download the file from the "Committee Meetings" tab. You can find this tab under "Resources" and then under "Annual Meeting".

Executive Board

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Kevin Snekvik,
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Ashley Hill,
Southwest Rep.

Tomy Joseph,
Canada Provincial Rep.

Maria Perrone,
Canada Federal Ex-
Officio

Beverly Schmitt,
NVSL Ex-Officio

Christine Hoang,
AVMA Ex-Officio

Friends Of The Labs Needs Your Support

NAHLN Funding Not Sufficient

There is urgent need for funding to keep our advocacy to Congress robust so that we can get the NAHLN funded properly.

Our ultimate goal is \$30 M and ALL labs (and USDA and NIFA) will benefit if we can make this happen...we will have to continue to do this in steps and will start with a \$15 million authorization in the Farm Bill and build on that.

Attached is the [donation form](#). Note it is TAX DEDUCTIBLE

I would only add that from starting at NIFA NAHLN funds being zeroed out and Congress not knowing who we are... to our current level of funding at around \$10 to \$12 M (NIFA AND USDA) and authorization for \$15 M in the Farm bill, our progress has been substantial, thanks to the efforts of Brad Mollet and Capital Counsel and all of you who have been on the Hill and/or written letters.

PLEASE DONATE !

Barb Powers

AAVLD Government Relations Committee

AAVLD Accreditation Committee Update

AAVLD Accreditation Committee Update: August 2016

Submitted by: Tim Baszler and Barbara Martin: Co-Chairs

Greetings from the AAVLD Accreditation Committee!

The Committee has been busy in 2016 with "routine" activities of reviewing laboratories for accreditation under the AAVLD Accreditation Program and spending time on continual improvement of the process. There are now 63 laboratories (42 main laboratories and 21 branch laboratories) across North America (USA and Canada) accredited under the AAVLD Accreditation Program.

The AAVLD Accreditation Program, which is closely based upon ISO/IEC 17025 "General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories", develops public and animal industry confidence in laboratories, laboratory personnel and testing methods. It is a tribute to all accredited laboratories for doing the hard work of attaining and maintaining accreditation, and to AAVLD for having the vision to pursue an internationally accepted laboratory accreditation program.

Below are highlights of some "continual improvement" changes to the AAVLD Accreditation Program in 2016 and coming in 2017.

1. Accreditation Committee membership changes

Three new members were added to the Accreditation Committee in 2016 and are listed below.

- 1. Rebecca Davies, Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, University of Minnesota, Clinical Pathology and Quality Management**
- 2. Kristy Farmer, Alabama Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratories, Microbiology and Quality Management**
- 3. Steve Vollmer, Indiana Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory, Information Technology**

Committee membership follows AAVLD by-laws and published Committee SOPs. Potential Committee members are nominated from the Accreditation Auditor Pool with the goal of balancing administrative, quality management, discipline/technical, and auditing expertise. Welcome Rebecca, Kristy and Steve, and thank you to their home laboratories for supporting their time invested toward the AAVLD Accreditation Program!

On the flip side, 3 long time members of the Accreditation Committee retired in 2016; Sharon Hietala, California Animal Health and Food Safety Laboratory System, Bill Johnson, Oklahoma Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory, and Terry McElwain, Washington Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory. A huge thank you to Sharon, BJ, and Terry to the many years of dedication and selfless effort to the AAVLD Accreditation Program. We will miss them all! It will be hard to replace their enthusiasm and constant voice for improving laboratory quality.

2. AAVLD Accreditation Program Dues and Fees increase in 2017

In July, 2016, the AAVLD Executive Board approved a fee increase recommended by the Accreditation Committee to assure the Committee was "self-sufficient" as required by AAVLD by-laws. Beginning in CY2017 laboratory dues and fees will be as follows:

- Annual laboratory dues will be \$1,200 per laboratory system (includes main lab plus all branches)
- Laboratory fees for site visit audits will be \$1,000 for the main laboratory and \$600 for each branch laboratory. The site visit fees will apply to both "regular" 5-year site visits, as well as interim site visits.

The decision to increase laboratory dues and fees, which have not been increased since 2012, was made after a thorough 5-year budget projection analysis. The dues and fees increase was necessary to cover increasing expenses for auditor training (now 40 members in the Auditor Pool), quality symposium during annual meeting, administrative assistance, liability insurance, and site visits.

3. New Application for Accreditation

The Accreditation Committee is revising the "Application for Accreditation" and a new version will be implemented beginning CY2017. Both laboratories and auditors will find the revised application much simpler and focused on the current site visit audit process as conducted under the current AAVLD Accreditation Requirements.

4. Revised Personnel Qualifications in the AAVLD Accreditation Requirements

After much discussion and debate regarding laboratory accreditation requirements for management and technical personnel, the Committee has revised the Personnel Qualifications section of the AAVLD Requirements for an Accredited Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory. The Committee gathered input over the past year from the AAVLD Executive Board, AAVLD Laboratory Director's Committee, AAVLD/USAHA Diagnostic Laboratory and Veterinary Workforce Committee, and general AAVLD membership. The revision of the Personnel Qualifications can be viewed in Appendix 1 of the new version of the AAVLD Requirements for an Accredited Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory posted on the AAVLD website.

5. 2016 Quality Symposium at Annual Meeting in Greensboro

The Quality Symposium at the Annual meeting this fall will focus on QMS implementation from the perspective of laboratory sections. "How to implement QMS" in Bacteriology, Histology, and Molecular Diagnostics will be covered this year. In addition there will be a presentation on comparison of ISO/IEC 17025 and AAVLD Accreditation Requirements, as well as Accreditation Program updates.

6. AAVLD Accreditation Program website

Several "continual improvements" have been made to the Accreditation Committee website. Please visit the website under the "Accreditation" tab at <https://aavld.memberclicks.net>. You will find very useful information regarding accreditation requirements, application for accreditation, responding to a site visit, preparing for a site visit, frequently asked questions, guidance documents from various technical specialties and Committee SOPs. The aim of the Committee is to be as transparent as possible about our policies and procedures, while at the same time maintaining the foundation of the Accreditation Program, confidentiality of Committee deliberations regarding individual laboratory accreditation status.

We look forward to seeing you all this fall in Greensboro at the Annual Meeting!

If you have questions concerning the Accreditation Committee, please don't hesitate to contact either Tim or Barb (<https://aavld.memberclicks.net/contacts>).

NEW - AAVLD Continuing Education Programs

AAVLD Offers New Continuing Education Platform for Members

The American Association Of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians is pleased to offer its members a new education service in conjunction with the World Veterinary Association and the World Continuing Education Alliance.

This global solution to Continuing Education offers our members access to the largest resource of Veterinary Continuing Education in the world.

The global education network has over 1000 continuing education courses from CE educators, with new education content added every week.

Online studying made simple

- AAVLD members can study online from a wide range of CE short courses according to their needs. Many courses are available for free, with others available at a cost.

Free Education Tracker

- AAVLD members are provided with a free Education Tracker which automatically records all learning activity on the Portal and enables members to record all other CE activities, thereby creating one central record of their CE studies. Summary reports can be created and supplied to legislators.

The [AAVLD Education Portal](#) will soon be available to all members on the AAVLD website (you must be a member and logged in) and all members will receive a registration email for easy access.

Watch for your registration email this week !!!!

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We value your opinion and contributions. If you have any comments, questions or suggestions for articles, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Jim Kistler
Executive Director
American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians