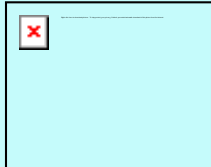


**Reda Ozuna**

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**From:** American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians <jkistler@aavld.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 14, 2018 6:54 PM  
**To:** rozuna@aavld.org  
**Subject:** December 2017 E-News



## **E-Newsletter**

**December 2017**

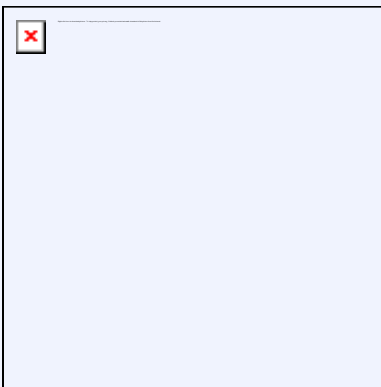
### **Don't miss out!**

**The next issue of JVDI will be sent soon. You must be a current member of AAVLD to receive it.**

**AAVLD memberships expire each year on December 31. If you have not joined for 2018, please click on the following link**

**[AAVLD Membership](#)**

If you are unsure of your membership status, please email Reda at rozuna@aavld.org or Jim at jkistler@aavld.org



## **AAVLD President's Message**

### **2003 - The Cow That Stole the Christmas Holiday**

Fourteen years ago, on December 22, 2003, bovine spongiform encephalopathy was diagnosed in a cow in the U.S. Veterinarians and diagnosticians at the local, state and federal levels worked non-stop through the holiday season to confirm the diagnosis, perform additional testing and insure a safe food supply. This single case of BSE resulted in billions of dollars of lost trade. Testing performed at AAVLD NAHLN laboratories and NVSL, under the enhanced BSE surveillance program begun in 2004, helped restore confidence in U.S. beef.

At AAVLD laboratories, and those within the USDA National Animal Health Laboratory System, and the NVSL, surveillance testing for BSE and other high-consequence viral & prion diseases in

livestock assures countries around the world that U.S. livestock are free of disease, and consumers that products from U.S. livestock are safe. In those accredited laboratories, their robust Quality Management Systems give increased credibility and the ability to provide documentary evidence of the whole laboratory process.

As we end 2017, here's a huge, "Thanks!" to all the diagnosticians and staff of the AAVLD laboratories in the U.S. and Canada!

Steve Hooser  
AAVLD President

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### **Greetings from the AAVLD Accreditation Committee!**

The Committee has been busy in 2017 with "routine" activities maintaining the AAVLD Accreditation Program, and also spending considerable time on continual improvement of the process. There are currently 63 laboratories (41 main laboratories and 22 branch laboratories) across North America (USA and Canada) accredited under the AAVLD Accreditation Program. One new laboratory was added in 2017, the Virginia Tech Animal Laboratory Services at the Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine in Blacksburg, VA.

*Submitted by: Tim Baszler and Dave Korcal, Co-Chairs*

A new document summarizing the AAVLD Accreditation Program in FAQ format is now posted on-line at <https://aavld.memberclicks.net/accreditation-program>. The document is available to the general public as well as AAVLD members and provides an overview of laboratory accreditation, Quality Management systems, the basis for the AAVLD Accreditation Requirements, the scope and process of the AAVLD Accreditation Program, and the laboratory benefits of AAVLD Accreditation.

Some specific highlights from CY2017 include:

1. Accreditation Committee membership changes
2. New site visit audit documents implemented
3. AAVLD Accreditation Program website updates
4. AAVLD Accreditation Requirements updates on horizon
5. Laboratory audit summary
6. Auditor pool management
7. Auditor training events
8. AAVLD Accreditation Program training fees to begin in CY2018
9. Addition of AAVLD Accreditation Program to NAHLN/NVSL/AAVLD MOU

**[Full Text Link](#)**

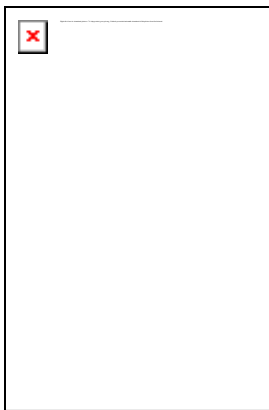
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### **Summary of Q&A Session AAVLD 2017**

This year an open Q&A session was held from 4-5pm Thursday evening (10/12). The intent of the session was to enable interaction between fellow laboratorians; asking questions and seeking answers from others who may have "been there and done that". Topics that arose included automation pros and cons, equipment to consider and maybe not to consider, equipment issues and solutions, problems with testing or test kits, as well as how to improve communications amongst the people that may be affected.

This was the first time to hold this type of session, about 25 people participated ranging from laboratory directors to technical staff which allowed for a more open and insightful discussion. Technical staff were provided a bit of insight into constraints a laboratory director may face as well as staff were able to share some of their struggles and concerns. Overwhelmingly, participants enjoyed the opportunity to share information and expressed interest in doing it again next year.

Dr. Pam Ferro, Chair  
AAVLD Virology Committee



## 2018 AAVLD / USAHA Government Relations Conference

The 2018 Government Relations Conference (GRC) in Washington, DC. will be here before you know it. The conference is tentatively scheduled for March 12-15, 2018.

As leaders with pertinent subject matter expertise, your participation in the development of focal points for the GRC meeting is critical to ensure that agenda items are subjected to thoughtful analysis and receive timely follow-up action when warranted. Space and time are limited, and the intent is to prioritize the time with the respective stakeholders based on your feedback.

Historically, we have met with the following agencies/organizations: APHIS-VS, ARS, NIFA, FSIS, FDA-CVM, NAHLN/NVSL, DHS, Animal Agriculture Coalition, AVMA and AAVMC. This list is not set in stone, and if your feedback suggests that other partners should be included in discussions, we will make every effort to make that happen.

In order to ensure a successful meeting, we need to hear from you on the following issue:

- Please submit agenda items and names of agencies/individuals with whom the groups should meet while in DC. To the extent that there are emerging issues or hot topics that have developed since the most recent annual meeting, feel free to include these items. This conference offers a unique opportunity to engage in dialogue with some non-traditional partners, so brainstorming outside of the box on those possibilities is encouraged!

We look forward to your agenda item suggestions by January 31st. Thank you in advance for your participation in this process!

*Dr. Steve Hooser, AAVLD President*  
*Jim Kistler, AAVLD Executive Director*

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## Using a One-Health Approach to Combating Tick-Borne Diseases

By Nicola M. Parry, BVSC, MRCVS, MSC, DACVP, ELS  
*Contagion Live*

December 19, 2017

Infections transmitted by ticks are increasingly recognized as important causes of disease in humans and pets in North America, said Susan Little, DVM, PhD, DACVM (parasitology), Regents Professor of Parasitology, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, in a recent US Centers

for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Clinician Outreach and Communication Activity webinar.

Dr. Little noted that the last 3 decades have seen a dramatic rise in the number of certain species of ticks and their geographic distributions worldwide. The expansion in tick populations has led to an increased risk of infection for humans and animals with both established tick-borne agents and newly recognized ones, creating a serious One Health problem.

[Full Text](#)

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