



YOUR MONTHLY NEWS & UPDATES

Laboratory Diagnosticians' News Matters

[Visit our Website](#)



David H. Zeman, DVM, PhD, DACVP, AAVLD Executive Director

2021 Executive Director's Message

The Quest for Normal

Happy New Year Vet Diagnosticians. I hope this finds you all well... not just a cliché statement anymore, but a sincere hope for everyone during this COVID pandemic. Since the weather turned cold and we all started sharing more indoor air, the virus has been spreading easily among us. I have heard several reports of our members acquiring COVID. Fortunately, so far at least, most seem to have recovered well. I hope you all take appropriate precautions. It is indeed good news that the vaccines are being distributed now, and over the next several months vaccination should quell this outbreak and life could get back to “normal”. It is interesting how people are often on a quest for just the opposite of normal; we wait for the weekend to have some fun and break the “normal

routine". We wait for a vacation with the excitement of seeing and doing something different, not the "normal". However, after a year of staying in place and hunkering down... now everyone would be very satisfied with just "normal". Everyone would be very thankful and grateful for just "normal". Despite these tough times, there is much to be grateful for and perhaps that is one upside to the current mess... we may be more appreciative of "everyday normal" when it returns.

On behalf of the AAVLD, we wish you all a very normal New Year ahead. Thank you for all that you do to protect animal and human health, and for doing your part to feed the world.

David H. Zeman, DVM, PhD, DACVP
AAVLD Executive Director



AAVLD Labs in the News

North Carolina Reveals First Look of New Agricultural Sciences Center

Ag Sciences Center shows its progress



The Agricultural Sciences Center, of the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, recently revealed its first look to stakeholders. According to Director Jim Trybus the Center is a unique facility in that it is combining 5 aged agricultural labs into a single facility (veterinary diagnostic, food and drug, structural pesticides, standards lab, and motor fuels). It will be the new home of the North Carolina Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory Services and is located in Raleigh. The new 225,000 square foot building will expand capabilities with larger lab spaces and includes large animal and avian BSL-3 capable necropsy areas.

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Source: NC Agricultural Review Vol. 95-11

Jim Trybus, DVM, DACVP
Director of Laboratories
North Carolina Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory Services
2101 Blue Ridge Road
Raleigh, NC 27607



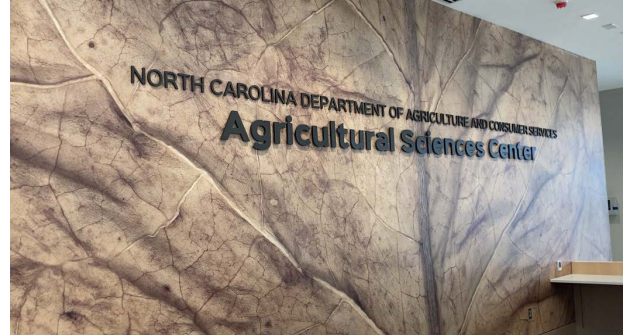
Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler recently invited members of the media to tour the Agricultural Sciences Center for an update on the building's progress. The project remains on task for an end-of-year completion date. See more photos on page 8. Pictured at left is the building entrance and below is a view of the lobby from the second level.

Interior photos of the Agricultural Sciences Center



The Agricultural Sciences Center is nearing completion construction-wise, but equipment and furniture will still need to be moved in after the work is finished.

At left, one of the lab spaces where testing will be done. Above is a sample prep area. Bottom, left, is a view of the main necropsy room, showing the size of the space and some of the equipment that will make work more efficient, including a rising table. In the entranceway, this wall features a close-up photo of a tobacco leaf.



Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources

SCHOOL OF VETERINARY MEDICINE AND BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES

UNIVERSITY of NEBRASKA-LINCOLN

University of Nebraska Laboratory Initiates Human COVID Testing



The Nebraska Veterinary Diagnostic Center (VDC) is ramping up to test for SARS-CoV-2 for the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, reports Lab Director Bruce Broderson. The lab will be testing all students, faculty and staff before they return for the spring semester and continue throughout the semester. This

translates to 5,000 samples per day, to start, and then settling back to about 3,000 samples per day. The VDC will be using the SalivaDirect™ test.

President Zhang Appoints 2021 AAVLD Committee Chairs

AAVLD President Shuping Zhang has finalized committee leadership appointments. The following table lists the newly appointed 2021 AAVLD Committee Chairs. Committee chairs are key to advancing our discipline through committee work. The AAVLD is grateful for their service and leadership. If any AAVLD member wishes to become a listed member of one or more committees, contact the appropriate committee chair soon. They will finalize their committee member lists this month. Committee chair contact information is accessible to all members via our membership directory on the website.



2021 AAVLD Committee Chairs

Standing Committees	Chairs / Representatives
Accreditation Committee	Dave Korcal, Cochair Amy Swinford, Cochair
Awards Committee	Deepanker Tewari, Chair
Credentials Committee	Eric Burrough, Chair
Foundation Committee	Brett Webb, Cochair Francois Elvinger, Cochair
Membership Committee	Eric Burrough, Cochair Debra Royal, Cochair
Nominating Committee	Deepanker Tewari, Chair
Program Committee	Jerry Saliki, Chair, Chair
Communications Committee	Pam Ferro, Cochair Grant Burcham, Cochair
JVDI Editor and Editorial Board	Grant Maxie, Chair
Newsletter Editor	David Zeman, Chair
Web Editor	Dave Steffen, Chair
Special Committees	
Laboratory Operations and Management Committee	Wendy Stensland, Cochair Susan Sloop, Cochair
Bacteriology Steering Committee	Kerry Sondgeroth , Cochair Dustin Loy, Cochair
Bacteriology Subcommittee on Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing	Josh Daniels, Cochair Stephen Cole , Cochair
Bacteriology Subcommittee on Bacteriology and Mycology	Shipra Mohan, Cochair Orhan Sahin , Cochair
Constitution, Bylaws and Resolutions Committee	Sara Plevel, Chair
Epidemiology Committee	Ashley Hill, Cochair Brant Schumaker, Cochair

Financial Advisory Committee	Tim Baszler, Chair
Government Relations Committee	Pat Halbur, Cochair Bruce Akey, Cochair
Informatics Committee	Katherine Woodard, Chair
AAVLD Laboratory Directors Committee	Rodger Main, Cochair Kenitra Hendrix, Cochair Kevin Lahmers, Cochair
AAVLD Committee on Environment and Toxicology	Tim Evans, Chair
Laboratory Safety Committee	Rajesh Parmar, Cochair Sydney French, Cochair
Laboratory Technology Committee	Kiril Dimitrov , Cochair Kenneth Kim , Cochair
Parasitology Committee	Mani Lejueune, Cochair Matt Krecic, Cochair
Pathology Committee	Grant Burcham, Cochair Francisco Uzal, Cochair
Quality Assurance Committee	Kristine Zuzek, Chair
Strategic Planning Committee	Cat Barr, Cochair Pat Godwin, Cochair
Virology Committee	Jianqiang Zhang, Cochair Devi Patnayak, Cochair
AAVLD/ NALHN IT Committee	Bret Crim, Chair
AAVLD / NAHLN Laboratory Emergency Management Committee	Meg Steinman , Cochair

John R. Bare, Cochair

AAVLD / USAHA Animal Health Surveillance & Info
Systems

Leticia Linhares, Cochair- AAVLD
Maria Cooper, Cochair- USAHA

AAVLD / USAHA Aquaculture Committee

William Keleher, Cochair - USAHA
Danielle Nelson, Cochair- AAVLD

AAVLD / USAHA Committee on NAHLN

Bruce Akey, Cochair- AAVLD
Harry Nelson, Cochair- USAHA

AAVLD / USAHA Diagnostic Laboratory and
Veterinary Workforce Development Committee

Gary Anderson, Cochair- AAVLD
Valarie Regan, Cochair -USAHA

AAVLD/USAHA Committee on Food and Feed Safety

Tam Garland, Cochair -USAHA
John Sanders, Cochair -AAVLD

AAVLD / NVSL Proficiency Test Committee

Tina Buffington, Cochair
Terra Jenson, Cochair

AACVT- Subcommittee Committee on Environment and
Toxicology

Mike Filigenzi, Chair

Two AAVLD Members Recommended and Appointed to New AVMA Commission Advisory Group



AAVLD leaders endorsed and recommended, via a letter from President Zhang, two of our members to serve on the Advisory Group of the new *AVMA/AAVMC Commission for a Diverse, Equitable and Inclusive Veterinary Profession*. Recommended were Dr. Rafaela

De Negri (Breathitt Veterinary Center, Murray State University) and Dr. Keith Poulsen (WI Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, U of WI). We are pleased to inform you that both have been appointed to the Advisory Group. The selection committee was impressed with their credentials and background, as well as their stated commitment to advancing diversity, equity, and inclusion in the veterinary profession. The Advisory Group will play a crucial role in supporting the Commission's work and will be asked for critical feedback, environmental scanning, and occasionally take on specific projects.

The Commission will establish actionable outcomes for short-, medium- and long-term goals with defined timeframes. Initial goals for the commission will include:

- Promoting the value of DEI (Diverse, Equitable, Inclusive) throughout the veterinary profession
- Increasing diversity among veterinarians, veterinary school applicants and enrollees, interns, residents and board-certified specialists

- Encouraging and assisting veterinary medical associations and animal health companies to measure and improve DEI

JVDI in Focus

JVDI in Focus

The goal of JVDI in Focus is to bring attention to an interesting article appearing in the *Journal of Veterinary Diagnostic Investigation*. This month's focus is on our upcoming March issue:

Evaluation of a real-time RT-PCR panel for detection of SARS-CoV-2 in bat guano

by Eman Anis, Greg Turner, Julie C. Ellis, Andrew Di Salvo, Amanda Barnard, Susan Carroll, Lisa Murphy.

J Vet Diagn Invest 2020;33(2).

Abstract. Severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) is the causative agent of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), which is an ongoing global health concern. The exact source of the virus has not been identified, but it is believed that this novel coronavirus originated in animals; bats in particular have been implicated as the primary reservoir of the virus. SARS-CoV-2 can also be transmitted from humans to other animals, including tigers, cats, and mink. Consequently, infected people who work directly with bats could transfer the virus to a wild North American bat, resulting in a new natural reservoir for the virus, and lead to new outbreaks of human disease. We evaluated a reverse-transcription real-time PCR panel for detection of SARS-CoV-2 in bat guano. We found the panel to be highly specific for SARS-CoV-2, and able to detect the virus in bat guano samples spiked with SARS-CoV-2 viral RNA. Our panel could be utilized by wildlife agencies to test bats in rehabilitation facilities prior to their release to the wild, minimizing the risk of spreading this virus to wild bat populations.

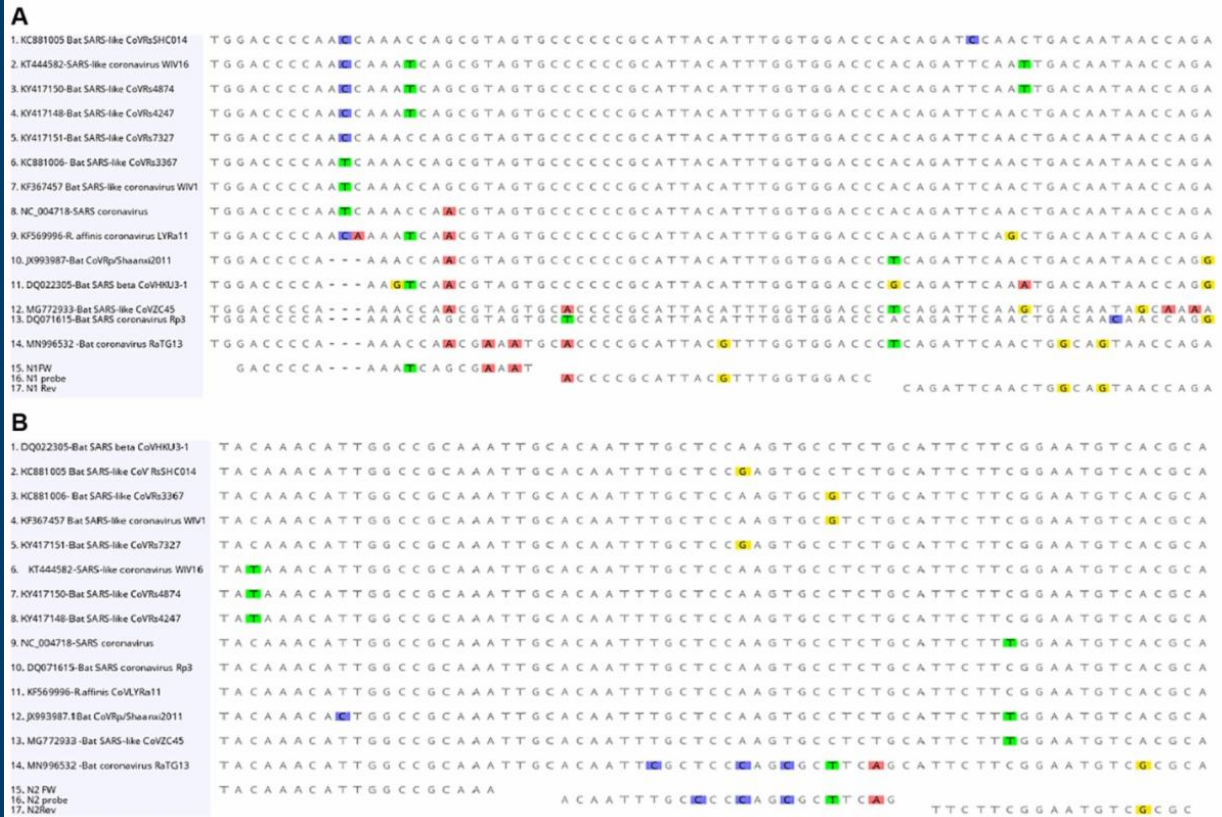


Figure. Alignment of the primers–probes and representatives of bat betacoronavirus group B

JVDI News

Tired of JVDI emails going directly to your Spam/Junk folder? Ask your IT person to greenlight the 2 domains listed below:
amazonses.com; manuscriptcentral.com

Board Member News



Keith Bailey, DVM, PhD, DACVP

Bailey Reports from AVMA HOD Winter Session

AAVLD Members:

Attached is my Liaison Report for the AVMA House of Delegates Regular Winter Session that recently concluded.

The following 2 resolutions presented to the HOD for consideration were directly applicable to AAVLD:

[AAVLD Liaison Report House Advisory Panel January 2021](#)

1. Resolution #2 pertaining to reduced AVMA dues for recent veterinary graduates was

deferred to the AVMA Board of Directors for further review. The resolution generated a lot of discussion (approximately 90% of the overall discussion at this meeting) prior to and during the meeting. What I found most interesting is that strong sentiment was voiced by newer graduates and student chapter members that the resolution misses the mark. The reason given was that they would prefer to have resources committed towards AVMA programs, support and activities they can use, rather than have reduced annual dues. One such program commonly cited was additional mental health resources for newer graduates.

2. Resolution #8 pertaining to the use of ventilation shutdown for animal depopulation was not considered at this meeting since the sponsor did not submit the resolution by the prescribed deadline. However, it has potential to be an important issue at the AVMA Summer Meeting given its implications for the poultry and swine industries.

It was my honor to represent AAVLD at this meeting, and I greatly appreciate your trust in me.

Please stay safe!

All my best,

Keith L. Bailey DVM, PhD, Dipl. ACVP

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory



AAVLD MC I LMS

Certification
&
Training Materials

AAVLD is bringing you a new membership benefit that is sure to peek your interest. The MC I LMS is a Learning Management System. The MC I LMS will keep certification and training materials in one place. Members can view training videos, scientific presentations and much more. AAVLD will determine the packages, availability, and pricing soon.

Some of the MC I LMS features:

- Single-Sign-On (SSO) with Oasis
- Content Upload and Management
- Customized Certificates
- Continuing Education Tracking
- Group-based Permissioning
- Progress and Usage Reporting

We have captured most of the 2020 AAVLD Annual Meeting and

will launch the program by featuring recorded scientific sessions and other speakers soon. Information will be sent to you via AAVLD communication emails, so look out for the latest updates.

AAVLD DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION TASK FORCE SEEKS FEEDBACK

Last September, President Tewari and the AAVLD Executive Board established a taskforce to advise the board, help in establishing a policy, conduct a formal assessment and offer recommendations. Amar Patil and Cat Barr co-chair this effort and are joined by a team of volunteers including Maria Spinato, Kristy Farmer, Tanya LeRoith, Gary Anderson, Katie Woodard, Rafaela De Negri, Debbie Reed, William Wilson, Christie Mayo, Moges Woldemeskel, and Jerry Saliki.

The task force has created a draft policy statement and are now seeking your input via a survey. Assessment questions are part of the brief survey which was distributed to all AAVLD members by email and can also be accessed here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Diversity-Inclusion-AAVLDSurvey>

Please respond by January 31st.

AAVLD Accreditation Committee

Dear AAVLD Members and Lab Directors:

Recently, the AAVLD Accreditation Committee and Leaders have been polishing the document below and present it now for general usage. The goal was to produce a one page document that concisely explains the benefits of AAVLD accreditation. We believe this will be useful to lab leaders that need to explain accreditation to upper administration or their stakeholders. It will also be of value to those considering becoming accredited AAVLD labs. Download and share it freely as needed and it will be on the public side on our AAVLD website under the Accreditation tab.

[Download PDF](#)

Thanks.

David Henry Zeman, DVM, PhD, DACVP
Executive Director



Benefits of the AAVLD Accreditation Program

The American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians have been involved in laboratory accreditation since 1967 currently accrediting 63 laboratories in North America. The current AAVLD standard is closely aligned with ISO 17025, the international standard which is accepted by both the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) for veterinary diagnostic laboratories.

What is Laboratory Accreditation?

Accreditation is a voluntary, third party-reviewed process by a certifying body providing formal recognition of laboratory competence and quality. As part of accreditation, a laboratory's quality management system (QMS) is thoroughly evaluated on a basis to ensure continued management and technical competence and compliance with appropriate laboratory quality management system standards. The accreditation process is followed by ongoing maintenance of the QMS by the laboratory, as well as surveillance audits performed by a certifying body. The desired outcomes of this process are assurance of credible laboratory results for clients, and the expectation of continual improvement of the accredited laboratory's processes.

What are the Benefits of Accreditation?

AAVLD Accreditation does not certify a product or service, rather it attests that a laboratory adheres to documented processes and quality controls in conformance with ISO-based international standards. Conformance to standards inherently contributes to higher quality, safety, reliability, and consistency of services. This increases a laboratory's marketability, customer satisfaction, and acquisition of new customers. The increased credibility associated with AAVLD Accreditation leads to advantages such as:

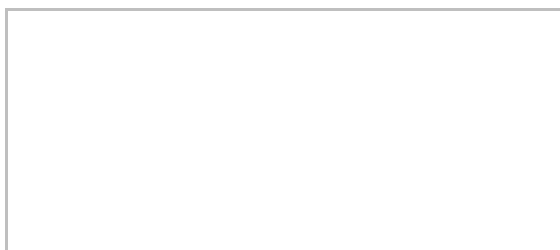
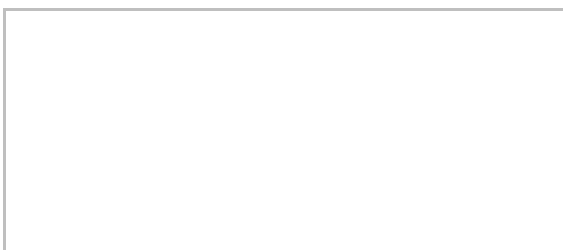
- Decreased operating expenses from retesting.
- Enhanced management control through management review participation.
- Reduced product liability risk resulting from robust QMS.
- Increased customer satisfaction as a result of customer focused QMS.
- Increased marketability from the commitment to meeting internationally accepted quality standards.
- Participation in funded national and international programs for foreign animal disease detection, animal/zoonotic and emerging disease surveillance, and export testing.
- Expanding customer ability to reach international markets.
- Ability to provide documentary evidence (records) of the whole laboratory test process.

Cost of Poor Quality

The potential risks illustrated in the pyramid are some of the potential costs associated with poor quality. A fully functional quality management system will help the laboratory mitigate these and other risks and improve the laboratory's efforts of providing timely accurate test results.



AAVLD Membership Drive Competition – Earn a Free Lunch for yourself or your Lab!!





Eric Burrough, DVM, PhD



Debra K. Royal, BA

Dear AAVLD Members:

We hope you and your loved ones are staying safe during this unprecedented crisis. We want to reach out to you on behalf of AAVLD as co-chairs of the membership committee. The strength of AAVLD as a corporate body largely depends on the commitment of its members and we want to heartily thank you for support of the organization over the years.

Our vibrancy as an organization depends on a strong involved membership base. In this regard, we remind you of the ongoing membership drive competition which due to COVID issues, we have now extended the competition to September 30, 2021.

Competition Timeframe: January 2020 through September 30, 2021.

How to submit: The competition is open to individual members and to Laboratories. The goal is to grow our organization's membership through the recruitment of new members and bringing back previous members whose membership has lapsed by two or more years. Each time you successfully sponsor a new member who subscribes, send your name (personal or institution) and the name of the new member to rozuna@aavld.org and burrough@iastate.edu.

Prizes: Winners will be selected based solely on the number of new or renewing (after ≥ 2 -year lapse) members recruited. The winners will be recognized at the AAVLD annual meeting during the Foundation Auction. There will be two prizes – one individual and one Lab:

- Individual prize: \$100 Visa debit card: treat yourself for being an outstanding supporter!
- Laboratory prize: \$500 Visa debit card: use these funds to celebrate with your lab mates!

We wish you continuous safety during the months ahead and look forward to meeting you online at the October annual meeting.

Debra Royal & Eric Burrough
Co-Chairs, Membership Committee

AAVLD Announcements




October 21 - October 27, 2021

GAYLORD ROCKIES RESORT & CONVENTION CENTER

Single / Double occupancy: \$219.00

Information updated as it comes in:

Go to www.aavld.org → Meetings → AAVLD / USAHA Annual Conference



AAVLD Histopathology Slide Sets available!

Slide sets of cases presented at the 63rd Annual AAVLD Meeting 2020 histopathology seminar are now available for purchase at \$60 (includes shipping to North America). First come first served!

*Contact Asli Mete (amete@ucdavis.edu) for questions or purchase.

Great for resident training!

Worth Quoting

A healthy democracy requires a decent society; it requires that we are honorable, generous, tolerant and respectful.

Charles W. Pickering

Source: BrainyQuote

AAVLD Job Board

Take advantage of the terrific AAVLD resources offered to our members



Veterinary Jobs - American Association of Veterinary...

We use cookies on this site to enhance your experience. By using our website you accept our use of cookies. Yes, I agree More Information Cookies YourMembership uses cookies for your convenience and security. Cookies are text files stored on the...

[Read more](#)

aavld-jobs.careerwebsite.com

Veterinary Jobs - American Association of Veterinary...

The American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians offers the top jobs available in Veterinary diagnostic labs. Search and apply to open positions or post jobs on the American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians now.

2022 Renewals are due by November 15! 'Membership is January to December'

AAVLD membership is open to any individual interested in the disciplines and activities of veterinary diagnostic laboratories. Membership terms are by calendar year (January-December) and membership dues are payable by November 15th of the preceding year (to ensure inclusion in the annual membership directory, eligibility for committee involvement, and receipt of all six issues of the JVDI). Note: In order to receive a discounted rate for the Annual Meeting registration, you are required to be a current AAVLD Member.

Did your membership Lapse?

Please select 'Renew Now' to access the Lapsed Membership renewal form.
www.aavld.org ->Quick Links->Renew Now->here you can access the Lapsed Membership Form.

Renew Now!

Frequently Asked Questions Regarding AAVLD Membership:

When are my dues fee due?

They are due November 15 for the next calendar year. Many members pay for the next year when they register for the annual meeting. Lead time is needed to finalize committee appointments for the new year.

Does it matter who pays for my dues?

No. Your status will be the same with their respective privileges whether you pay, your employer pays, or your Uncle Vinny.

Are Lab Accreditation dues different than Institutional/Agency membership dues?

Yes

- Laboratory Accreditation dues are different and separate and are related to accreditation only and go to fund the accreditation program only.
- Whether accredited or not, a Laboratory (or Institution/Agency) may additionally become an Institutional/Agency Member. By doing so they are supporting the broad mission of the AAVLD and these funds go to support CE and training and all other activities of the AAVLD. Institutional/Agency Members are highly valued members and are demonstrating leadership and belief in our organizational purpose.

Do Institutional/Agency Member labs have to pay for their employees individual dues?

No. A laboratory, institution, agency or department can become a member under this category even without signing up their employees. They are simply supporting the AAVLD mission with their dues payment. Some states are not allowed to pay for employee dues; and some states have budgetary restrictions.

2021 Committee Appointments



ARE YOU

ENGAGED?

If you wish to serve on a particular committee in 2021, contact the committee chairs now and express your interest. Thank you!

AAVLD & News Worthy Events

Up and Coming!

- Executive Board Meeting, February 3, 2021- VIRTUAL
- Accreditation Meeting, February 8-9, 2021- VIRTUAL
- Accreditation Audit Pool Training, February 10, 2021 VIRTUAL



Do you have ideas to improve the AAVLD annual meeting? Contact David Zeman dzeman@aavld.org

Would you like to sponsor an event? Contact Kaylin Taylor kaylin@taylormadeeventco.com

Would like to make a year-end donation to the AAVLD Foundation? [Make your donation today!](#)

- USAHA/AAVLD Government Relations Committee Meeting, March 8-11, 2021- VIRTUAL

What ever your contribution to the AAVLD mission, we need you!

- AAVLD/USAHA Annual Conference, Gaylord of the Rockies, Denver, Colorado, October 21-October 27, 2021

[AAVLD Events page](#)

Thank You to our Exhibitors and Sponsors of the 2020 Annual Conference!



The generous contributions and participation by our Exhibitors and Sponsors is a huge part of our conference success year after year. On behalf of the AAVLD, we would like to thank these companies for their commitment to our organization and helping us to achieve our mission.

Thank you 2020 Meeting Sponsors



Foundation Donation

AAVLD Donation Supporters
Thank you

Donated Income for 2020
\$11,838.00

AAVLD Foundation Committee

Brett Webb- Cochair
Francois Elvinger- Cochair

John M. Adaska
Donal O'Toole
Tim Baszler
David Zeman
Christie Mayo
Kristy Pabilonia
Beate Crossley
François Elvinger
Pat Halbur
Brett Webb
Jamie Henningson
Kerry Sondgeroth



The AAVLD Foundation is a non-profit foundation that raises funds for the advancement of veterinary diagnostic

laboratory disciplines through scholarship programs, student travel support to our scientific meeting, guest lectures, seminars, professional awards and research programs. Contributions to the Foundation are tax-deductible 501(c)(3), and can be paid when you renew your AAVLD membership. Thank you for remembering your AAVLD Foundation!

Make an end of the year donation today!



Thank you,
Francisco Uzal
for being a great
sport all in good
fun!

Top Secret Live
Auction Item

One of a kind, heirloom diagnostic sweater generously donated by longstanding, respected AAVLD member. It will invest new owner with magical diagnostic powers, not to mention bragging rights.

Virtual Foundation Auction
was fun and a great success
Because of you!

