From: jkistler@aavld.org on behalf of American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians
To: rozuna@aavld.org
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American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians
E-Newsletter

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Issue: # 1-14 January 2014

MEMBER NEWS: Texas A&M Hires Bruce Akey

Akey appointed executive deputy director for TVMDL

Dr. Bruce Akey

Bruce Akey, DVM, M.S., has been named executive deputy director for the Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory (TVMDL). Recommended by TVMDL leadership, Dr. Akey's appointment was made Thursday by The Texas A&M University System Board of Regents.

A graduate of the College of William and Mary with a bachelor's degree in biology, Dr. Akey also holds a master of science in parasitology from the University of Florida and a doctorate of veterinary medicine from the University of Minnesota. He served three and a half years as assistant state veterinarian for the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets, was the chief of the Office of Laboratory Services at the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services for 13 years, and was in private clinical practice for 4 years prior to that.

From 2006 through 2013, Dr. Akey served as assistant dean for diagnostic operations and the executive director of the Animal Health Diagnostic Center in the College of Veterinary Medicine at Cornell University. While at Cornell, Dr. Akey oversaw a $21M annual budget and provided leadership to 170 employees at the Center. The Center receives an average of 170,000 submissions per year that generate over 1 million individual tests annually.

"Dr. Akey is an ideal fit for our executive deputy director role," said Tammy R. Beckham, DVM, Ph.D., TVMDL director. "The Animal Health Diagnostic Center at Cornell has many things in common with TVMDL. Both serve as core members of the National Animal Health Laboratory Network and both have a strong commitment to cutting edge diagnostics.

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Both the agency and our clients will benefit from the fresh ideas and energy of a leader like Dr. Akey."

As executive deputy director, Dr. Akey will be responsible for the executive operations of the agency, focusing on day-to-day management of the four laboratory locations. He will assist the agency director in defining and implementing strategic objectives and long-range programs while maintaining the agency's focus on diagnostic service. Dr. Akey will also oversee the agency's quality assurance program and provide leadership to TVMDL's three resident directors.

"I am excited to join the TVMDL team and at the prospect of directing the veterinary diagnostic laboratory for the largest and most diverse animal agriculture state in the nation," Dr. Akey said. "My past experience in directing laboratories as well as serving as an animal health official in two states, previous participation in the design and construction of four diagnostic labs, and involvement with state and national programs should serve me well in my new position. TVMDL is well positioned to become an even more significant partner in promoting agriculture and protecting animal as well as human health in the great state of Texas and the nation."

Dr. Akey is a nationally recognized leader in veterinary diagnostics. He has authored or co-authored more than 25 publications and has been awarded more than 30 government or private industry grants for research on topics such as highly pathogenic avian influenza, classical swine fever, Johne's disease and rabies. He has received several leadership and service awards from the American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians (AAVLD), the United States Department of Agriculture, Richmond Academy of Veterinary Medicine and the American Association of Food Hygiene Veterinarians. A former co-chair of two committees of the United States Animal Health Association, Dr. Akey also served as president of the AAVLD and was recognized by the organization with the E.P. Pope award for distinguished service in 2004 and lifetime membership in 2007.

Dr. Akey will begin his service at TVMDL in June, 2014.

For more information on the Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory, visit tvmdl.tamu.edu.

New APHIS Administrators Announced

Stakeholder Message from APHIS Administrator Announcing New Associate Administrators
USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
APHIS Stakeholder Registry Bulletin
January 28, 2014

Dear Stakeholders:

When I wrote to you in early July, I laid out my vision and goals for APHIS in the years ahead. There is much work to be done, and as Administrator, I

am fortunate that APHIS has many talented leaders throughout the Agency. To help APHIS achieve these goals, I have asked Dr. Jere Dick and Mike Gregoire, both currently serving as Acting Associate Administrators, to join me permanently in the Administrator's office as APHIS' Associate Administrators. Both Jere and Mike have many years of managerial experience, extensive Agency knowledge and understanding, critical analytical skills, and solid relationships with many APHIS stakeholders. I look forward to working with Jere and Mike in leading APHIS and our more than 7,000 employees.

While there will be many issues on both of their plates, I have asked them each to concentrate on a number of issues right away, and I have given each responsibility for supporting the work of specific APHIS programs. Jere will focus on leading our Business Process Improvement efforts, supporting the Agency's emergency response community, and ensuring the field perspective is considered when APHIS makes decisions. He will also focus on supporting the work of Veterinary Services (VS), Wildlife Services (WS), and International Services (IS).

Mike will lead the initiative to identify more alternatives to rulemaking for the many critical animal and plant health and animal welfare issues facing U.S. agriculture today and into the future. He will also focus on APHIS policy, budget and administrative issues and the Biotechnology Regulatory Services (BRS) and Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) program areas.

Full text:
http://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDAAPHIS/bulletins/a1fd04

Farm Bill Passes House with Veterinary Support

Farm bill passes in House, includes support for veterinary interests

DVM360 Magazine
January 29, 2014

The 959-page, $956 billion farm bill passed the U.S. House of Representatives today with a 251 to 166 vote. The overdue bill-its predecessor expired in 2012-will cut food stamps by $8 billion, farm subsidy and commodity programs by $14 billion, and conservation programs by $4 billion. However, several programs affecting veterinary medicine-specifically those lobbied for by the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA)-will be granted funding in the massive piece of legislation.

Most notably, the farm bill includes authorization of the Veterinary Services Grant Program, a modified Animal Health and Disease Research/1433 Formula Funds program, and funding for the National Animal Health Laboratory Network. Other programs supported by the AVMA were reauthorized, as was the animal fighting provision listed as the Animal Fighting Spectator Prohibition Act on the latest AVMA legislative agenda. Notably absent was the Veterinary Medicine Mobility Act, which many hoped would be attached to the farm bill. It will now wait its turn for a vote in the House, having passed the Senate Jan. 8.

Full text:
http://veterinarynews.dvm360.com/dvm/Veterinary+news/Farm-bill-passes-in-House-includes-support-for-vet/ArticleStandard/Article/detail/834099?contextCategoryId=378

PEDv Isolates Available for Purchase

NOTICE: CVB Notice 14-02 Availability of PEDV Isolate for Purchase

USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
APHIS Stakeholder Registry Bulletin
January 28, 2014

Center for Veterinary Biologics (CVB) recently added CVB Notice 14-02 to its website. It is available at http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/vet_biologics/vb_newly_published_info.shtml.

CVB Notice 14-02 - Availability of Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea Virus (PEDV) - effective January 16, 2014, informs interested parties that samples of a PEDV isolate are available for purchase from the National Veterinary Services Laboratories (NVSL) through its online catalog at http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/lab_info_services/reagents.shtml.

Instructions to complete and submit the Reagent Request Form, VS Form 4-9, are included in the notice.

Source:
http://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDAAPHIS/bulletins/a1da49

USDA Approves First Combination of MLV Vaccine to Provide Targeted Protection Against BVD 1b

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has issued a Veterinary Biological License for Viralign™ 6, the first combination modified-live virus (MLV) vaccine to provide targeted protection against bovine viral diarrhea (BVD) virus 1b - the most predominant BVD virus subtype in the United States.1

Viralign 6 also protects against BVD viral strains 1a and 2, bovine respiratory syncytial virus (BRSV), infectious bovine rhinotracheitis (IBR) virus and parainfluenza3 (PI3) virus. This first-of-its-kind vaccine enables low-volume, subcutaneous administration in cattle five months of age and older.

Vaccine innovation
According to a 20-year analysis of diagnostic samples, the incidence of 1b has increased in predominance from 41 to 61 percent among BVD-positive calves, and the incidence of BVD has not been reduced during that same time period.1 Multiple studies also indicate that almost 78 percent of PI calves are infected with 1b.2,3 While ongoing vaccination programs appear to have decreased the predominance of 1a in the United States, the data also suggest current modified-live 1a vaccines might not cross protect calves adequately from 1b infections.

Because Viralign 6 is the first combination MLV vaccine to provide targeted protection against all three major BVD viral strains, including 1a, 2 and 1b, you may see an increase in requests from your clients for BVD subtyping due to the increased awareness of 1b and the availability of Viralign 6.
As an industry partner we want to make sure you have the information you need to answer your client's questions about the predominance of 1b and

Viralign 6. For more information, you can contact an Elanco technical consultant or call 1-800-428-4441 to request Viralign 6 research summaries.

The label contains complete use information, including cautions and warnings. Always read, understand and follow the label and use directions.

Precautions: Do not vaccinate pregnant cows or calves nursing pregnant cows since abortions may occur. Do not vaccinate within 21 days of slaughter.

For vaccination of healthy cattle five months of age or older. Dose: 2 mL subcutaneous in the side of neck. See insert for full instructions.

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USBBUVLN00058

For more information, visit the "In The Spotlight" section of the AAVLD website at www.aavld.org.

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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

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