

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF VETERINARY LABORATORY DIAGNOSTICIANS, INC.

April, 1999 Newsletter



The Canadian Food Inspection Agency's
National Centre for Foreign Animal Disease (NCFAD)
Winnipeg, Manitoba

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President's Message.....Doris M. Miller, DVM, PhD

Greetings from the sunny South. As you will see from this newsletter, AAVLD has been very busy since our annual meeting last October. Plans are well along for our next annual meeting and several excellent topics for presentations have already been mentioned by Dr. Akey. Remember, our meeting starts one day early this year. For example, pre-convention meetings are on Thursday not Friday and our opening session is Saturday not Sunday as in the past. Further changes in the program and joint committee sessions with USAHA will be discussed and evaluated at the joint AAVLD-USAHA program committee meeting to be held April 17-19. Drs. Bruce Akey, Art Bickford, David Zeman and myself will be attending for AAVLD. Let us know if you have any comments or suggestions for us to take with us.

Earlier this year I mentioned the need to review our committees and committee organization. A joint subcommittee between AAVLD and USAHA has been formed to address possible standard operating procedures for committees. Dr. Francois Elvinger is the chairman of this subcommittee with Drs. Alex Ardans and Bill Van Alstine also representing AAVLD. By the time you receive this newsletter, all committee chairs should have been contacted by me for a further update. We hope through this committee to bring continuity from year to year, chairman to chairman, and increase activity (when necessary) between annual meetings. We will more clearly define the role of the chair, vice-chair and committee members. We have an excellent AAVLD organization because of our members and committees and we want to keep it that way.

Lastly, I want to thank our new web-master, Dr. John Thomson of Iowa State University. This will be our last printed issue of the newsletter (unless you tell Dr. Pat Blanchard otherwise); in the future you will receive notification via email that the new issue of the newsletter has been added to the web site. The site has both secured (member only access) and unsecured information. Let John or myself have your feedback about our web-page.

Take care and remember, I'm only a phone call or an e-mail message away.
Miller@adl300.vet.uga.edu or phone 706-542-5568.

1999 MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS

April 27 - 28— Northeastern Regional USAHA and AAVLD meeting in Cape May, NJ.

May 16-17 — Southeastern Veterinary Pathology Conference meeting in Tifton, GA.

June 2-5 — IX International Symposium of the World Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians Meeting, at College Station, Texas. Deadline for pre-registration and submission of papers/posters has been extended to April 1, 1999. For more information, check the TVMDL web site at: WWW.TVMDL.TAMU.EDU

July 23- 25 — Association of Veterinary Microbiologists national meeting. The Colonial State's Chapter of the AVM is host for the 24th Symposium on Techniques in Veterinary Microbiology, which will be held in Annapolis, Maryland, July 23rd - 25th, at the Wyndham Gardens Hotel. Topics include: general business session, keynote address, installation of new officers, and scientific sessions on current topics from veterinary microbiology in Avian, Virology, and Bacteriology. Topics generally range from the implementation of quality assurance guidelines and procedures for newer bench techniques, to national regulations and policy concerning transport and maintenance of infectious substances.

For meeting registration and hotel reservation packets contact BHenricson@Aol.com or by phone at the Warrenton Regional Laboratory of the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services 1-540-347-6385. The information will also be available soon on the AVM website (Dexter Thompson - Webmaster), or from the AVM National President, Teresa Love, both located at the Mississippi State Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory.

August 12-13 — Midwest Association of Veterinary Pathologists, 18th Annual Summer Meeting, will be hosted by the Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory, Ohio Department of Agriculture. The meeting will be held at the Hueston Woods Resort and Conference Center from 1-5 PM on Thursday, August 12, 1999 and 8 AM-1 PM on Friday, August 13, 1999. The contact person is Dr. Sheila Grimes, Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory, 8995 E. Main Street, Bldg. 6, Reynoldsburg, OH 43068 (614-728-6220, e-mail-grimes@odant.agri.state.oh.us)

October 1 - 2 — SouthCentral Meeting, Davis Foundation for the Advancement of Veterinary Pathology at the University of Texas Medical Branch, Galveston, TX. Short case reports with slides sets are invited from the attendees. Dr. Sparks Veasey, Assist. Professor and Director of Autopsy Division, UTMB-Galveston, is the invited speaker and will present "Forensic Pathology." Lodging will be at the Yacht Club. For more information contact Dr. Cory Brayton, email: cbrayton@bcm.tmc.edu or phone: 713-798-3121

October 3-5 -50th North Central Avian Disease Conference and Symposium on Emerging Respiratory Diseases will be held at the Minneapolis Airport Hilton in Minneapolis, MN. For information please contact Dr. Daniel Shaw, Program Chair, Department of Veterinary Diagnostic Medicine, College of Veterinary Medicine, University of MN, 1333 Gortner Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55108. Ph 612-625-4256; FAX 612-624-8707; E-mail shawx006@tc.umn.edu.

October 7 - 14 — AAVLD and USAHA Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA at the Town and Country Hotel. Note the meeting dates are one day earlier starting on Thursday rather than Friday. Registration material available after May 1st via <http://www.aavld.org> or USAHA office call 804-285-3210. Deadline for preregistration and convention rate room reservations will be approximately September 9, 1999.

October 23-24 — Northeast Veterinary Pathology Conference, in Cobleskill, NY. Dr. Tracy McNamara of the Bronx Zoo will be the guest speaker on Saturday. **Case submission deadline is September 15th.** Contact person: Dr. Lois Roth, Angell Memorial Animal Hospital, Department of Pathology, 350 S Huntington Ave. Boston, MA 02130. Phone: 617-451-5020. Email: lroth@mcpca.org

AAVLD/USAHA meeting in San Diego, October 7-14

Registration material for the meeting will be available after May 1st on the USAHA (<http://www.usaha.org>) and the AAVLD (<http://www.aavld.org>) web sites. USAHA members will be mailed registration material in May or June. Nonmembers without access to the web can contact the USAHA office for registration forms at phone: 804-285-3210. Deadline for pre-registration is ~September 8.

Information on San Diego attractions, city and area maps and things to see and do is available on the San Diego Convention and Visitors Bureau web site: <http://www.sandiego.org>. This site contains the following information: Major visitor information services including lodging, dining, shopping, arts & attractions, sports & recreation, transportation, and Mexico and features such as the Frequently Answered Questions, visitor events and San Diego information sections. The site includes everything that is in the printed guide (San Diego Official Visitor Planning Guide) and has added a few things to provide you with the best possible web site planning tool for visiting San Diego.

The site of the 1999 convention will be the **Town and Country Hotel** at 500 Hotel Circle N., San Diego, CA 92108. (619) 291-7131, FAX (619) 294-4681, US (800) 772-8527. Visit their web site at <http://www.towncountry.com> Hotel features spa and health club, 4 pools and jacuzzi, 5 restaurants, 4 lounges with live entertainment, championship golf next door, close to all major attractions. Walk to Fashion Valley shopping. Trolley Station on property. Theatres & night clubs within walking distance. Tennis, racquetball & spa facilities nearby. Layout of convention rooms on their web site.

Town And Country Hotel Reservations

Please don't forget- make check or money order payable to TOWN & COUNTRY RESORT. Please do not send currency.

CANCELLATION POLICY. Deposits refundable if reservation is cancelled 48 hours in advance of arrival date. Be sure to record your cancellation number.

United States Animal Health Association October 7 - 14, 1999 Annual Conference

Please reserve accommodations for (please print or type)	
Name: _____	Company: _____
Address: _____	
City: _____	State: _____ Zip: _____
Sharing room with: _____	CHILDREN UNDER 18 FREE WHEN STAYING WITH PARENTS AND UTILIZING EXISTING BEDS
<small>Additional charges of TWENTY DOLLARS (\$20.00) for each EXTRA PERSON</small>	
Signature: _____	

PLEASE INCLUDE FIRST NIGHT'S DEPOSIT BY CHECK OR DEPOSIT CAN BE CHARGED TO ONE OF THE FOLLOWING CREDIT CARDS TO CONFIRM YOUR RESERVATION

- | | | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Amex | <input type="checkbox"/> Diners | <input type="checkbox"/> MasterCard | CC# _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Carte Blanche | <input type="checkbox"/> Discover | <input type="checkbox"/> Visa | Exp. Date _____ |

Circle Rate:	Garden Rooms	Court Yard	West Tower
Single	\$95.00	\$105.00	\$115.00
Double	\$95.00	\$105.00	\$115.00
Triple	\$110.00	\$120.00	\$120.00
Quad	\$110.00	\$120.00	\$120.00

RATES PLUS PREVAILING TAX.

Estimated time of arrival: _____
Arrival date: _____
Departure date: _____
<small>Check in 3:00pm- Check-out 12 noon) Reservations processed before 9/15/99 receive priority consideration at Town & Country. Overflow housing arrangements will be made as necessary.</small>

If rate requested is not available, nearest available rate will be assigned.
convention rate will be extended three days before and three days after meeting on availability basis only. Sorry! No Pets.
RESERVATIONS (800) 772-8527

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

42nd ANNUAL MEETING OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF VETERINARY LABORATORY DIAGNOSTICIANS

San Diego, California

October 7-14, 1999

AAVLD Exhibits and Posters

Saturday, October 9	1:00 pm - 5:00 pm
Sunday, October 10	8:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Monday, October 11	8:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

AAVLD Information Desk

Saturday, October 9	10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Sunday, October 10	8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Monday, October 11	8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Thursday, October 7, 1999

— Veterinary Mycology Workshop (separate registration)	10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
— Accreditation Committee	1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
— Serology Quality Assurance Workshop (separate registration)	3:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
— Program Committee	7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Friday, October 8, 1999

— Financial Advisory Committee	7:30 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.
— Subcte on Bacti, Mycology & Mycoplasma	8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.
— Newsletter Committee	8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.
— Accreditation Committee	8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
— Subcommittee on Anaerobic Infections	10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
— Long Range Planning Committee	10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
— Virology Committee	12:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
— Subcte. on Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing	1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
— Executive Board	1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
— Informatics Committee	3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
— Serology Committee	3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
— Editorial Board of JVDI	3:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.
— Foundation Committee	6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
— Diagnostic Bacti Case Presentations	7:30 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

Saturday, October 9, 1999

- Enteric Diseases Committee 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.
- Publications Committee 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.
- Laboratory Safety/Waste Disposal Committee 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
- AAVLD/USAHA - Animal Health Info System Cte 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
- ABVT Executive Board 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
- AAVLD & USAHA Aquaculture Committee 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
- Constitution and Bylaws Committee 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
- Subcommittee on Mycobacteriology 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
- Membership Committee 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
- Plenary Scientific Session 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
- Administrative Management Personnel Cte 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
- Mycotoxin Committee 3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
- House of Delegates and General Membership 4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
- Histopathology Slide Seminar 6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
- Vet Analytical Toxicology Advisory Committee 7:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
- Bluetongue Committee 7:30 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.
- Bacteriology Steering Committee 8:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.
- Laboratory Directors Committee 8:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.
- Veterinary Analytical Toxicology General Meeting 8:30 pm -

Sunday, October 10, 1999

- Scientific Sessions 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
- Administrative Management Personnel Cte 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
- Epidemiology and Economics Committee To be announced
- AAVCT Annual Meeting 1:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.
- Scientific Sessions 1:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.
- AAVLD-APHIS Emergency Dis. Liaison Comm. 4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
- Pathology Cte (follows path scientific session) 5:45 p.m. - 6:15 p.m.

Monday, October 11, 1999

- Past Presidents Breakfast 7:00 a.m. - 8:15 a.m.
- Scientific Session - Pope Award 8:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
- House of Delegates 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
- Committee Chairs Meeting 1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Tuesday, October 12, 1999

- Program Committee 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

CALL FOR PAPERS

1999 AAVLD Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA

October 7-14, 1999

Papers and posters are being solicited on laboratory procedures, techniques, and research that apply to the activities of veterinary laboratory diagnosticians. Papers and posters dealing with all diagnostic laboratory disciplines and animal species are needed for a well balanced program. Investigative case reports are especially encouraged. Presentations at the meeting are limited to 15 minutes. **Deadline for Abstracts: May 1, 1999** Abstracts will be reviewed by the AAVLD Program Committee and the authors will be notified of the papers selected by June 1, 1999.

***Send the hard copy and disc with abstract in Word Perfect (WP7.0 or older). Please format the body of the abstract with one inch margins and use the Times New Roman 11 point font. Abstracts may also be submitted as an e-mail attachment (WordPerfect document as above). Please indicate on the submission if it is to be considered for the Graduate Student competition.

For style and submission contact:

Dr. Bruce L. Akey
Virginia Dept. Agriculture and Consumer Svcs.
1100 Bank St., Suite 615
Richmond, VA 23219
(804) 786-9202
(804) 371-2380 FAX
bakey@vdacs.state.va.us

Publication of Proceedings:

Manuscripts are recommended for all papers and posters selected for presentation at the annual meeting. Those accepted by the editor after scientific peer review will be published as refereed journal articles in the Association's JOURNAL OF VETERINARY DIAGNOSTIC INVESTIGATION. Guidelines for format and style of manuscripts and posters will be provided to authors of papers or posters selected by the Program Committee. Authors are encouraged to submit their manuscripts to the editor for processing prior to the meeting if possible.

Graduate Student Awards:

A certificate and \$250 will be awarded to the resident/graduate student who contributes the best presentation at the annual meeting of the AAVLD.

A certificate and \$250 will be awarded to the resident/graduate student who contributes the best poster at the annual meeting of the AAVLD.

Note: Graduate student presentations must be indicated on the abstract to qualify. Please indicate in the cover letter if this is for an oral presentation, poster, or either.

**AAVLD Mycology Workshop,
San Diego, CA
Thursday, October 7, 1999, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm**

Lectures and wet labs covering:
Dermatophytes
Deep seated mycotic infections
Case reviews (contributions from participants)
Lunch is included
Enrollment is limited to first 30 people

Lecture titles, brief abstracts and speaker biographical information will be sent via E-mail to all members and 1998 guests of the Bacteriology, Mycology and Mycoplasma Subcommittee. For further information, contact Carol Maddox at **CWM5@psu.edu** or 814-863-1984

Separate registration fee of \$75.00 required. Send registration to:

To register for Mycology workshop, send check made out to AAVLD (outside US remit by draft on US bank or international postal money order) or credit card payment (Mastercharge/ Visa) to:

**AAVLD Mycology Workshop
c/o Dr. Carol Maddox
Animal Diagnostic Laboratory
Orchard Road
University Park, PA 16802
Phone: 814-863-1984
FAX: 814- 865-3907
E-mail: CWM5@psu.edu**

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____
Zip code: _____
Phone: _____
FAX: _____
Email: _____

For payment by: MC ___ VISA ___
Card # _____ Expiration date: _____
Signature: _____

**Serology Quality Assurance Symposium
Thursday, October 7, 1999, 3:00 - 6:30 pm
Town and Country Hotel, San Diego, CA
Hosted by IDEXX Laboratories, Inc.**

Topics of this 3.5 hour symposium will address quality control and quality assurance programs, documentation, protocols, data entry, equipment standardization and calibration, etc.; ISO 9000 and what it takes, OIE function and standards, and industry quality award programs.
Handouts included.

Speakers will include: Belinda Lawler-Goff, PhD, Quality Consulting, Ames, IA; Sharon Hietala, PhD, California Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, Davis, CA; Sandy Rodgers, IDEXX Laboratories, Inc., Westbrook, Maine; QA Manager, National Veterinary Services Laboratory, Center for Veterinary Biologics, Ames, IA; Peter Wright, PhD, National Centre for Foreign Animal Disease, Manitoba Canada; OIE, Paris, France; Jim Evermann, MS, PhD, Washington State University-ADDL, Pullman WA; AAVLD Accreditation Committee Member and others.

**Enrollment is limited to 40
Separate registration of \$35.00 is required.**

To register for Serology workshop send check made out to AAVLD (outside US remit by draft on US bank or international postal money order) or credit card payment (Mastercharge/ Visa) to:
IDEXX Laboratories, Inc.
Attn: Sandy Rodgers
One Idexx Drive
Westbrook, ME 04092

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____
Zipcode: _____
Phone: _____
FAX: _____
Email: _____
For payment by: MC ___ VISA ___
Card # _____
Expiration date: _____

Signature: _____

Saturday Histopathology Slide Seminar

October 9, 1999, 6:30- 9:30 pm. San Diego, CA

Short, interesting, and educational cases presented in an informal setting. Presentations should be no more than 5 minutes in length. A copy of abstracts will be available at the seminar.

Please limit abstracts to no more than one single-spaced page in length. Case submission abstracts should be accompanied by a block of tissue so that slide sets can be prepared in advance of the meeting.

DUE DATE for Abstracts: August 15, 1999

Submit abstracts to:

Dr. R. Gayman Helman

Oklahoma Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory

Oklahoma State University

Stillwater, OK 74078

Phone: 405-744-6623

Fax: 405-744-8612

E mail: ghelman@okway.okstate.edu

or

Dr. Pam Parnell

Clemson Veterinary Diagnostic Center

PO Box 102406

Columbia, SC 29224-2406

Ph: 803-788-2260

Fax: 803-788-8058

Email: ppnll@clemson.edu

Please send your abstract via mail, FAX or as an E mail attachment to either chairperson. Format: MS Word 6.0 or WordPerfect 5.1(DOS), 6.0, c.1. If sending by mail, include hard copy and a 3.5" disk in one of indicated formats. Authors will be notified of presentations accepted by September 1, 1999. If there are multiple authors, please underline the individual who will be giving the presentation.

Diagnostic Bacteriology/Mycology Case Report Discussion

Friday, October 8, 1999 7:30 to 10:00 PM.

Come and join an interesting and informative discussion group. We need your case presentations in order to make this gathering as successful as it has been over the past few years. All presentations are very informal - yours will be very welcome! Please send your presentation title to: Nonie Smart at nsmart@lsd.uoguelph.ca by **August 1**.

Canada's National Centre for Foreign Animal Disease

The animal health portion of the world's first laboratory facility designed for both human and animal disease research opened in May of 1998. The National Centre for Foreign Animal Disease (NCFAD), located in Winnipeg, Manitoba, is the Canadian Food Inspection Agency's centre of expertise on animal diseases foreign to Canada.

As the organization responsible for all federally-mandated inspection services related to food safety and animal and plant health programs, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) protects the national animal health status and access to world markets. This mandate is supported by a network of laboratory centres of expertise across the country, including the new centre in Winnipeg, which is solely dedicated to the prevention and control of foreign animal diseases.

The NCFAD is located within a \$142- million facility operated jointly by the CFIA and Health Canada's Bureau of Microbiology, the laboratory component of the national organization responsible for the identification, investigation, control and prevention of human disease. The Bureau relocated to Winnipeg in summer of 1998 and will phase in operations during 1999.



Pathologist trimming fixed tissues in a fume hood for histology blocks

The joint laboratory complex contains Canada's first Level 4 biocontainment laboratories as well as Level 2 and 3 facilities. The six-story building is approximately 29,000 square meters on a 15- acre site located in a mixed industrial, commercial and residential neighborhood. Besides laboratory space, the state-of-the-art facility includes an animal wing containing Level 3 and Level 4 laboratories and animal cubicles designed with the involvement of the Canadian Council on Animal Care. The complex also contains administrative and operations offices, a library, cafeteria, 137-person capacity theatre, and parking for the 220 employees. Three of Manitoba's major centres of medical research are located nearby.



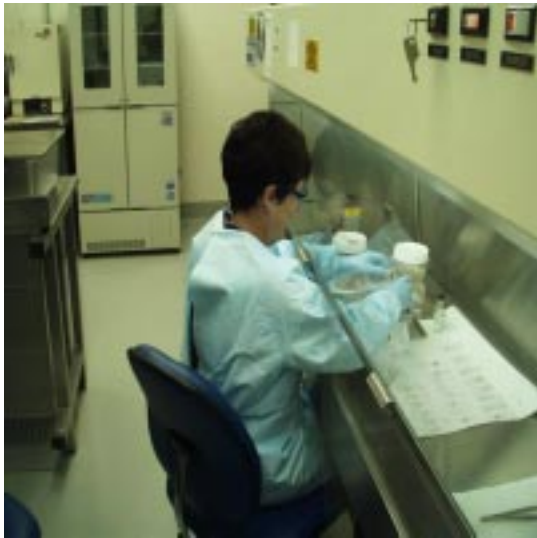
Biosafety level 4 laboratory showing a space-suit", air lines, and biosafety cabinet.

Given that the laboratory will work with the most serious diseases of humans and animals, safety of employees and the community continues to be a primary concern. Throughout the project's 10-year development, other laboratories around the world were evaluated to incorporate the best features and operating procedures with the ultimate objective of meeting or exceeding all guidelines related to biosafety and biosecurity.

The Level 3 and 4 laboratories have been built as sealed blocks using a "box within a box" principle. Air flow is used to maintain negative air pressure, with pressure dropping lower and lower as higher levels of containment are entered. Strict operational procedures are followed to ensure proper handling of disease-causing agents. All materials removed from the laboratories are treated or sterilized in some way, either through autoclave heat sterilization, chemical dunk tanks or gas sterilization. Air exhaust from ventilation and laboratory

equipment is HEPA filtered to remove any potential pathogens. Level 3 and 4 laboratories feature complete sterilization of liquid and solid waste, accomplished by a 20,000 litre biological liquid waste system and a specially-designed tissue autoclave to break down and heat solid waste up to a temperature of 147 degrees Celsius for as long as required. The high containment laboratories for both organizations are located adjacent to each other, with HEPA air filtration and ventilation systems located above the laboratories, and biological waste control systems located below. This design ensures maximum cost effectiveness and efficiency.

Although the NCFAD occupies about one-third of the total building area, it contains 85 per cent of the total biocontainment space in the facility. Approximately 70 per cent of the NCFAD space is classified as Level 3, with individual laboratories designated for specific purposes and 14 animal cubicles each designed for the

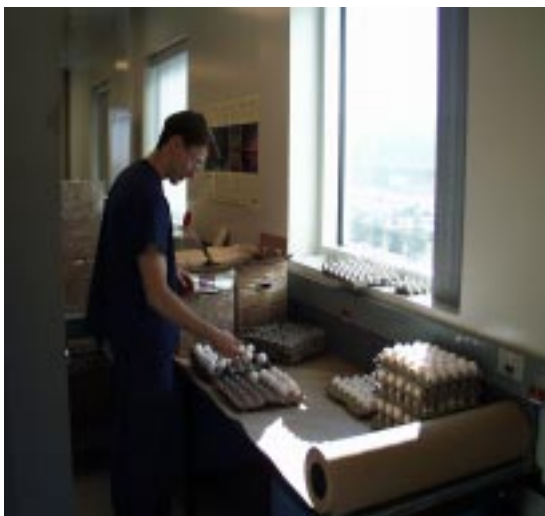


Preparing slides for staining in a biosafety cabinet for surveillance of transmissible spongiform encephalopathies.

needs of various domestic species. The NCFAD area also includes a separate Level 4 laboratory and adjoining animal cubicle that will allow work on unidentified animal diseases or serious diseases that are known to be transmissible to people. The remaining 25 per cent of laboratory space is Level 2 which is used for diagnostic serology. The facilities will allow the CFIA to expand its national animal health program. Besides providing diagnostic services and related laboratory functions for all foreign animal diseases, the centre can now work safely on selected zoonotic diseases as well as emerging diseases. Main activities of the NCFAD's 45 staff include diagnostic testing, reagent production for those not commercially available in Canada, technology development, and quality assurance. The centre is comprised of a professional team skilled in various scientific disciplines including virology, bacteriology, immunology, molecular biology, pathology, electron microscopy and epidemiology.

group is responsible for foreign animal disease policy development; thus the policy makers are located with the laboratory centre of expertise, which represents the science base for policy development.

Training is another important function of the NCFAD . Teaching veterinarians to identify foreign animal diseases has been a critical component of Canada's animal health program since the 1952 outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease spurred the introduction of the first training course for veterinarians in disease recognition that year. Courses were held regularly at the Grosse Isle quarantine facility in Quebec until 1988. Since then, training has been held periodically in cooperation with the USDA facility at Plum Island.



Preparing embryonated eggs for virus inoculation and isolation experiments

In addition to the laboratory component, the NCFAD houses the Centre for Policy and Epidemiology in Foreign Animal Diseases (CPE-FAD). This



Philips CM 120 transmission electron microscope

will be held at the new facility in Winnipeg, with the reinstatement of regular training courses to follow. In the long term, the NCFAD will expand its training program to include both disease recognition and outbreak management, and will offer its services to other countries.

For more information on the NCFAD, contact Dr. Norm Willis at (204) 789-2001 or see the web site at www.hc-sc.gc.ca/hpb/lcdc/fedlab/ or www.cfia-acia.agr.ca/.

QUALITY CORNER - Dr. Belinda Lawler Goff

SOP's: NEVER FEAR, YOU'VE ALREADY GOT THEM !

In the previous edition of Quality Corner, an approach for the writing or updating of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) was suggested. I was going to follow up, in this edition, with examples of how to design and use worksheets for improved efficiency and documentation. However, it has recently come to my attention that there is still some misconception regarding the real purpose of the (sometimes dreaded) SOPs.

Here are some highlights from the last column's "SOP Philosophy" (in italics), with comments regarding common misconceptions.

- (1) *The intent of SOPs is multifaceted, and includes: standardizing procedures and processes, promoting good science, and ensuring high quality data for your customers.*

Writing/updating SOPs is not a meaningless exercise assigned by micromanagers! Rather, SOPs simply say 'how' you do your work. They demonstrate that there has been recent review of procedures and processes, and that this is how they are done in your lab. Sometimes the multifaceted benefits of having and using good SOPs are not appreciated until you are in court defending your work, or until you realize that some data you have reported are meaningless because the procedure was invalid or was not performed correctly. IT HAS HAPPENED!

- (2) *SOPs document the lab's current accepted practices, providing a step-by-step set of directions that are clear and unequivocal.*

Often people are overwhelmed at the thought of having to write SOPs. This is understandable in light of some SOP formats that I have seen. Sometimes these text-heavy documents appear more like novels than the concise reference work that they should, and could, be. There is indeed an art to writing SOPs - but never fear, you already know it! I have had people tell me, after showing me a newly written 12 page SOP, that it is now going on the shelf and they will actually be using their old "method cards". Well, guess what? That method card IS, essentially, your SOP - if it says everything necessary to have the valid procedure reliably performed. "Methods" or "method cards" are most often written in bullet statements, giving enough (but not too much) information. That concise format is common because it is user friendly, just as an SOP should be. So just take that "method" and type it out on a standard size piece of paper, then slap on a cover page with authorizing signatures and a unique number. Voila! Instant SOP!

- (3) *An SOP is a dynamic, "living" document and therefore subject to change.*

SOPs are written on paper, not on stone. Some people seem to fear putting their methods in writing - perhaps because they know the method is variable, or is possibly evolving. Well, just write down the current method and then simply write a revision when it is warranted, in your professional judgment and after appropriate review. Just be sure that everyone using that procedure gets the current version (document control is vital).

- (4) *Have SOPs for everything affecting your work..., including (but not limited to): assay validation procedures, chain of custody of samples, assay procedures, personnel training, sample tracking, media preparation, equipment, documentation procedures, etc.*

You know, there are just some things you can't write SOPs for - and you can drive yourself crazy trying! For example, one group at a large lab was exasperated trying to write an SOP on how to identify parasites. Realizing that a submission could be anything from blood to feces, and that the parasites could range from microscopic to macroscopic, they were at a loss on how to get everything into an SOP. The answer is, you can't! To some extent you can capture basic, pertinent information: for example, preparative procedures based on the size of the parasite, but the actual identification is simply professional judgement. Similar to a pathologist looking at microscopic slides, there are too many possibilities to be written down; each case is unique, so there is no STANDARD operating procedure. Capture the information that IS standard for the SOP, and be sure your personnel in such areas are truly qualified by education and experience, with ample opportunity for continuing education, so that their professional judgement is in peak form.

- (5) *Each workstation should have a notebook with pertinent SOPs.*

Once the SOPs are written, they shouldn't just sit on a shelf "somewhere" out of the way. They are not meant to be museum pieces or to stabilize wobbly tables. Their purpose is to be a reference document, easily accessible so that they WILL be referred to. However, don't have complete sets of SOPs at each work station - only the ones used at that station. This will be a much thinner notebook, less intimidating, and easier to lift and refer to.

In the next issue: "Now the worksheets!"

AAVLD Manuals and Materials AVAILABLE

Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory Guidelines for Radiation, Chemical and Biological Safety, 1996 produced by the AAVLD safety committee are available from the secretary/treasurer for 10.00 each. Check or credit card is acceptable. Make checks payable to AAVLD.

A CD-ROM of the first 10 years of the Journal of Veterinary Diagnostic Investigation are also available for 50.00 for 1999 members or 100.00 for non-members. Address requests to the secretary/treasurer. Check or credit card is acceptable. Make checks payable to AAVLD.

AAVLD
c/o CVDLS, SVM, UC Davis
PO Box 1522
Turlock, CA 95381

secy/treasurer email: abickfor@cvdls.ucdavis.edu
fax: 209-667-4261

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zipcode: _____

Phone: _____ FAX: _____

Email: _____

For credit card payment check: MC ____ VISA ____

Card # _____ Expiration date: _____

Signature: _____

Workbook/proceedings from the 1998 AAVLD PCR workshop titled **Nucleic Acid Amplification assays for diagnosis of animal diseases** are still available. The manual is 166 pages and contains over 200 PCR primer sequences for various viral, bacterial and mycoplasmal organisms from 37 contributors. Appendices include guidelines on PCR work area, sample preparation, maintenance and validation of thermocyclers, DNA and RNA extraction from tissue and swabs and gel electrophoresis for restriction fragment length polymorphisms. The manual cost plus shipping and handling are US\$25.00 (within the US) or US\$30.00 (international requests). Send requests for purchase and check or money order to Dr. Lloyd Lauerman, 400 Deer Run Road, Auburn, AL 36832. Make checks payable to AAVLD. Members outside the US please remit by draft on US bank or international postal money order.

Minutes of the AAVLD Executive Board Meeting

February 17, 1999, Gold Coast Hotel, Las Vegas, Nevada

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by President Doris Miller at 1:05 PM.

ATTENDEES: D. Miller, D. Zeman, S. Snyder, A. Bickford, G. Osweiler, L. Harrison, B. Edwards, J. Heidel, F. Galey, W. Yates, L. Thacker, P. Blanchard, J. Thomson, J. Kreeger, W. Reed, A. Ardans. Not Present: B. Akey, S. Rowell, J. Pearson.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Minutes of the Minneapolis, MN meeting October, 1998 were approved as written.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

AAVLD Report of the Treasurer January 1, 1998 - December 31, 1998

Checking Account Balance On Hand January 1, 1998:		\$ 81,076.53
Total Receipts: \$ 97,329.63		
Total Expenses: \$178,076.84		
Ending Balance December 31, 1998:		\$100,329.32
AAVLD Foundation Checking Acct. on hand Dec. 31, 1998		\$ 15,976.50
Certificates of Deposit as of December 31, 1998		
CD#000418518:	\$12,981.96	
CD#000475591:	\$12,513.11	
Total, Certificates of Deposit:		\$25,495.07
Mutual Fund, Edward D. Jones, as of December 31, 1998:		
Account #182504125	Income Fund of America (Foundation asset)	\$43,413.76
Account #190876276	New Perspective Fund	\$64,650.43
Account #165939129	Invest. Co. of America	\$66,094.25
Total Mutual Funds:		\$ 174,158.44
Total Assets on Hand - December 31, 1998		\$315,509.33

Total paid active members as of 12/31/98: 1034

Total paid subscribers as of 12/31/1998: 198

The financial report was approved by the Executive Board as submitted.

Report from the President:

Dr. Doris Miller reported that in September 1998, she participated in a site visit to Plum Island which reviewed the facilities and made recommendations. A master plan developed by USDA and APHIS for a new facility will be out within a couple months.

Last week President Miller represented AAVLD at an emergency preparedness meeting in Ames, Iowa addressing mobilizing the veterinary profession to respond to foreign animal disease threats. She participated on a work group for state diagnostic laboratory preparedness. Their recommendations combined with those of the four other work groups address how all aspects the veterinary profession can be better prepared for a foreign animal disease outbreak. It was suggested that emergency disease preparedness be incorporated into the AAVLD accreditation review process. This will be discussed at the summer Accreditation committee meeting.

The two week Foreign Animal Disease (FAD) training which was to be held in April only had 10 people sign up and was canceled. Factors which may relate to the low sign up were time of year, length of course (in past it was 1 week) and cost (\$3500- \$5000). These issues will be addressed for a later program. At the USAHA Government Relations Committee meeting Dr. Miller attended, it was suggested that USAHA and AAVLD write a joint letter to all members of Congress asking for continued funding for the Foreign Animal Disease Training support. They suggested at least one speaker on Bioterrorism be incorporated into the training courses.

At the beginning of this week, Drs. Miller and Akey attended the USAHA Board and Government Relations Committee meetings in Washington D.C. Dr. Bruce Akey was still at the meeting as an AAVLD representative. There were representatives from the Animal Ag Coalition and AVMA lobbyists in attendance. The USAHA Board invited the AAVLD Board to meet with them during their meeting next year in Washington D.C. Also at the meeting a lawyer discussed organizational constitutions and their loopholes. She felt that the AAVLD constitution looked good.

The USAHA and AAVLD joint annual meeting program subcommittee consisting of Drs. Miller, Akey, Zeman and Bickford along with USAHA President, secretary and 2 or 3 vice presidents will meet soon on the east coast. The 1999 annual meeting program starts on Thursday rather than Friday and the USAHA plans to cut down on oral committee reports and reduce committee sessions from 38 to 30. A joint USAHA and AAVLD SOP committee for committees has been established and Drs. Ardans and VanAlstine were asked to represent AAVLD. Dr. Elvinger who is a member of both organizations will chair the group charged with developing guidelines for joint organization committees and determining their roles and responsibilities.

USAHA/AAVLD Resolutions status: all resolutions passed at the annual meeting are forwarded to Dr. Joan Arnoldi for her response. Her responses were provided at the Government Relations Committee meeting. Regarding the response to AAVLD and USAHA resolutions on the proposed changes in D.O.T. regulations, APHIS will look into it further. In the future, responses will also be given to the chairs of the committees generating the resolution.

The summer AAVLD Executive Board and Accreditation Committee meetings will be Saturday, July 10th, 8am - 5pm at the Hilton in New Orleans. The Accreditation Committee meeting will be held in the morning. AVMA has not given us the room name yet.

Committee Reports:

Accreditation - Dr. Thacker

The accreditation Committee met at 9 am and discussed three diagnostic laboratories. The Committee recommended and approved re-accreditation for North Carolina, South Dakota and Minnesota. It was agreed to keep accreditation fees at the current level established in 1992 (\$300/annual and \$500/site visit). Some laboratories have paid for housing and meals for the accreditation team site visit which helps keep the fees down, but this is not required and is not always possible due to some state or university policies.

The Committee was asked to consider accreditation of NVSL. Four other laboratories have also inquired about obtaining first time accreditation. There was discussion of the need to meet or exceed OIE endorsed standards which will not be available until April or May. This will be discussed at the summer meeting.

Canada Report - Dr. Yates

1. Canada-US Foreign Animal Disease Exercise

In November of 1998, Canada was asked to participate in the first of a series of annual exercises that APHIS-Veterinary Services plan to conduct over the next several years. The goals included examining communication between the three US Regional Emergency Response Teams, as well as between Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) headquarters and the APHIS-VS Emergency Management Operations Centre in Riverdale, Maryland. Veterinary laboratories are a key part of such exercises, and this was an opportunity for Canada's new National Centre for Foreign Animal Disease to participate. The scenario was one of concurrent outbreaks of a highly contagious viral disease in California, Minnesota, Florida, and Manitoba, which were acts of sabotage on four auction markets.

2. Update on CFIA Organization

Some permanent staffing appointments were made within the Agency. Dr. Andre Gravel, a veterinarian, was confirmed as Vice President of Programs Branch, which encompasses the federal veterinary laboratories across Canada and the national animal health policy aspects, as well as the equivalent functions in plant health. Reporting to him are, among others, Dr. Brian Evans, who is Canada's Chief Veterinary Officer and was confirmed as Executive Director of Animal Products Directorate, which includes the animal health policy function; and Dr. Bob Clarke, also a veterinarian, who was named Executive Director of the Laboratories Directorate of CFIA. On the veterinary side, these latter laboratories include the Centre for Animal and Plant Health, Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island; Health of Animals Laboratory, St. Hyacinthe, Quebec; Animal Disease, Winnipeg, Manitoba; Health of Animals Laboratory, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan; and Animal Disease Research Institute, Lethbridge, Alberta.

3. Surveillance

Canada's chosen method for coordinating animal health epidemiological information is known as CAHNet, for Canadian Animal Health Network. It functions by "linking animal disease surveillance partners in Canada", and communicates through various bulletins as well as articles in the Canadian Veterinary Journal. The unifying principle of the Network is "to ensure that animal disease does not impede trade." through this Network, the activities of all players are shared. The players include industry, universities, and provincial and federal agencies, and the activities include the current national survey on brucellosis, bluetongue and anaplasmosis, as well as regional surveys on indigenous diseases.

Membership/Credentials - Dr. Zeman

At the end of 1998 we had 1,034 dues paying members.

Dues notices were sent out in November, 1998. As of February 12, we had 820 paid members. Reminder notices were sent February 5. The 820 includes 41 new members. We hope to go well above 1034 members in 1999.

JVDI - Dr. Kreeger

Changes to JVDI include a new cover design. Also the brief communications will have an abstract added so they can be used for search engines providing abstracts.

148 manuscripts were received in 1997 and 172 were received in 1998. Submissions from authors outside the United States was up 33% in '97 and 38% in '98. Notification of acceptance or rejection of manuscripts (turn around time) is up from 54 days in '97 to 60 days in '98 which is still within acceptable limits.

The annual problem of running out and having to print extra January JVDI issues (because they are sent to members who do not eventually pay dues and to new members) has now been compounded since the March JVDI issue is also before the April 1 purge of the Association list. Suggestions to reduce the insufficient supply of journals or the need to order extras were to move forward the deadline for annual dues payment and the date by which delinquent members are dropped from the rolls.

Dr. Snyder made a motion to recommend to the membership the following By-Laws change:

1. Dues will be due by December 1 and we will only guarantee the first issue of JVDI **after** payment is received.
2. Payments received after December 1, will incur a late fee penalty of \$10.00.
3. If payment is not received by February 1, members will be dropped from the rolls of the Association.

This motion was seconded by Dr. Galey, and passed unanimously. These By-Law changes will be forwarded to the By-Laws Committee for mail vote by HOD prior to the Annual Meeting.

Dr. Miller agreed to check with Linda Ragland, USAHA, about USAHA accepting AAVLD annual dues payment with the annual meeting registration forms. Attendees at the Annual meeting will be encouraged to pay their AAVLD dues at the AAVLD booth.

CAB International is interested in putting JVDI on their Web site. Dr. Kreeger will continue to investigate this and report back at the summer meeting.

Dr. Kreeger was encouraged to advertise the 10 years of JVDI CD-ROM on our Web Page, the USAHA Newsletter, possibly Veterinary Pathology journal, JVDI and CL Davis Newsletter. The next CD will be in 5 years.

Newsletter - Dr. Blanchard

The Newsletter is now on the Web and 106 of 152 members responding to date have requested a hard copy of future Newsletters. All committee reports were received in time for the January newsletter. Request to include interesting NVSL disease notes has been initiated with the January issue. Suggestion to include a thank-you to all 1998 exhibitors in April issue was approved. A list of key pictures from the annual meeting needs to be provided to our volunteer photographers. The list should include all Executive Board members (including new), Life Members, Graduate student and Pope awardees. There was discussion on whether the submission from the Laboratory for Molecular Typing at Cornell University should be entered as an article or an advertisement.

Web Site - Dr. Thomson (not present)

Dr. Thomson would like to establish a continuous up-to-date link with the secretary/treasurer's list of current AAVLD members for the purpose of eventually issuing unique web passwords to members only. There was discussion on whether there is a need for a Mission Statement and standard operating procedures for the AAVLD web home page. Dr. Kreeger will discuss with Dr. Meerdink the issue of putting JVDI manuscripts on the WEB in full text and will also check with CAB International who has asked to provide this service. Drs. Thomson and Meerdink will review the secure and non-secure sides of the web.

Program - Dr. Miller

Pre-meeting workshops at the annual meeting will be held on Thursday. A serology QA/QC symposium proposed and hosted by Idexx and a Mycology Workshop sponsored by the AAVLD Bacteriology, Mycoplasma and Mycology committee were proposed. This motion was moved by Dr. Snyder, seconded by Dr. Zeman and passed.

A suggestion was made to have a neuropathology workshop on transmissible spongiform encephalopathies including microscopic slides with microscope session. A suggestion to incorporate it into part of the pathology scientific session was made.

NVSL Report - Dr. Pearson (not present)

Dr. Eugster requested the AAVLD/USAHA Emergency Disease Liaison Committee name be changed to AAVLD/APHIS Emergency Disease Liaison Committee. The change was approved and the co-chairs will be the head of NVSL, currently Dr. Pearson, and AAVLD's immediate Past President, currently Dr. Stan Snyder.

Foundation - Dr. Thacker

The request of \$1000.00 to sponsor a speaker on porcine multisystemic wasting syndrome for Livestock Conservation Institute was denied. The Foundation Committee would like their monies used for scholarships and awards. The Foundation also needs new committee members.

Old Business

Accreditation of other laboratories

Agreement to perform an accreditation evaluation of NVSL for the purpose of AAVLD accreditation was moved, seconded and passed.

Officers Manual Update

Officers "Outline of Duties" were updated and distributed.

New Business

Financial Review

The Executive Committee approved moving \$50,000 from checking account into an interest bearing account such as a CD or Money Market account, at the discretion of Dr. Bickford, while maintaining a balance of \$50,000 in checking.

A summary of financial trends for AAVLD was prepared for the Financial Review Committee by the Secretary/Treasurer and copies were shared with the Board.

Future Meeting Sites

The Executive Board passed the motion by Dr. Zeman, seconded by Dr. Edwards to approve funding for travel of President Miller and President-Elect Akey to attend the LCI Meeting in April to see if it is an acceptable alternate venue for our winter board meeting instead of the Western Veterinary Conference in Las Vegas.

Long Range Planning

A Long-Range Planning Promotion Committee was established for the purpose of promoting corporate sponsorships of AAVLD. Patrons will be listed in the Journal and Newsletter and will be given examples of how generated funds will be used, for example: supporting scholarships, Foundation awards, sponsoring graduate students for the annual meeting, etc. The committee will send letters to all accredited diagnostic laboratory directors asking them to provide the amount of money spent on significant suppliers and contracts. After a list is compiled, a letter will be sent to major suppliers mentioning the total amount of money the diagnostic laboratories spend on their supplies/contracts and asking for monetary support of AAVLD. This committee will consist of Drs. Zeman, Bickford, Miller, and Ardans and will ask for the assistance of Beth Krum at Columbia, Missouri who has been working on increasing patrons, etc.

Graduate Student Award Guidelines

AAVLD has been asked to distribute grading criteria for graduate student awards to graduate students prior to the meeting. A suggestion was made to include grading criteria with the application.

Other

A suggestion was made to offer the AAVLD exhibit at State meetings for viewing by practitioners. Dr. Miller will look into preparing a smaller photocopied version of our exhibit for use at multiple meetings and she will check the fee for exhibiting at the AVMA meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 4:30 by President Miller

Special thanks to Pam Wyckoff and Dr. Pat Blanchard for preparation of these minutes.

Respectfully submitted,

Arthur A. Bickford, Secretary-Treasurer

EXHIBITORS at 1998 Annual meeting

AccuMed International, Inc.

29299 Clemens Rd. #1-K
Westlake, OH 44145

Advanced Technology Corporation

79 N. Franklin Turnpike, Suite 103
Ramsey, NJ 07446

Anaerobe Systems

15906 Concord Circle
Morgan Hill, CA 95037

Aurora Systems, Inc.

14785 Preston Rd. #550, Dallas, TX 75240

Becton Dickinson Microbiology Systems

7 Loveton Circle, Sparks, MD 21152

Biolog, Inc.

3938 Trust Way
Hayward, CA 94545

Centaur, Inc.

P. O. Box 25667, Overland Park, KS 66225-
5667

Diagnostic Chemicals Limited

16 McCarville St., Charlottetown, PE CANADA
C1E 2A6

Federal Industries Corporation

2550 Niagara Lane, Minneapolis, MN 55447

IDEXX Laboratories, Inc.

One Idexx Dr.
Westbrook, ME 04092

Kirkegaard & Perry Laboratories, Inc.

2 Cessna Ct., Gaithersburg, MD 20879

Medical Chemical Corporation

1909 Centinela Ave.
Santa Monica, CA 90404

MIS, Inc.

10706 W. Grand Ave. #200, Franklin Park, IL
60131-2212

REMEL Laboratories

12076 Santa Fe Drive
Lenexa, KS 66215-3594

Synbiotics Corporation

4444 N. Belleview #207, Kansas City, MO
64116

Syracuse Bioanalytical, Inc.

95 Brown Rd. Cornell Business Park, Ithaca,
NY 14850

Viral Antigens, Inc.

5171 Wilfong Rd., Memphis, TN 38134

VLIMS

600 Morningside Dr.
Columbia, MO 65201

VMRD, Inc.

POBox 502, 115 NW State St., Pullman, WA
99113

W. B. Saunders

844 Mound St.
St. Paul, MN 55106

AAVLD Foundation

The aims of the Foundation are to support the following activities:

Education - Scholarship Programs & Advanced Training in Diagnostic Medicine

Research Programs in Diagnostic Medicine

Guest Lectures

Seminars

Awards

Your support of the Foundation is greatly appreciated, and listed below are those who have contributed to the Foundation since its inception in 1995 (as of 3/20/99):

President's Club (\$1000+)

Patricia Blanchard
Harold Chute
Robert Crandell
A.M. Gallina
Harvey Gosser
Gavin Meerdink
Larry Morehouse
Harvey Rubin
Stan Snyder

Director's Club (\$500- \$999)

Arthur Bickford
Clyde Card
Lenn Harrison
Don Lein
Leon Thacker

Sponsor's Club (\$200- \$499)

Robert Eckroade

Associate's Club (\$100 - \$199)

Terry McElwain
Donal O'Toole
Gary Osweiler
William Van Alstine
Mahlon Vorhies

Contributors (\$1 - \$99)

Bruce Akey
Hans Bertschinger
Corrie Brown
George Crenshaw
Duke Dana
George Daniels
Richard Dubielzig
Davis Ellis
Francois Elvinger
Daniel Gould
Carl Graham
Michael Groves

Contributors cont'd

Patrick Halbur
Lorraine Hoffman
Donald Johnson
George Kennedy
Danielle LaRochelle
Charles Leathers
Thomas Lemarchand
Scott McVey
Frank Miskena
Dan Moolhart
Steven Nicholson

Contributors cont'd

Daniel Paulsen
Barbara Powers
William Quinn
Hermalinda Rivera
Thomas Sawa
Stephen Schmidt
Francisco Trigo
V.E. Valli
A. A. Van Dreumel
Howard Whitford
David Zeman

If you would like to become a Foundation donor fill out the form below and send with check or money order or VISA/MC information to:

AAVLD Foundation
PO Box 1522
Turlock, CA 95381

Please circle any options that apply:

- Please accept this donation of \$ _____ as an expression of support in promoting Veterinary Diagnostic Medicine.
- Please send me additional information on charitable gift or deferred gift annuity.
- Please direct this gift to the following area:

Unrestricted use: _____

Designated Giving: _____

This gift is in honor of _____

Your name: _____

Address: _____

CityStateZip _____

Phone Number _____

Credit card payment:

MC VISA Card #: _____ Expiration date: _____

Signature: _____

AAVLD Web John Thomson, Web Editor

The AAVLD Web site (<http://www.aavld.org>) has recently added public and secure sections. The secure area has a login name and password required. To obtain the login name and password contact pblancha@cvdls.ucdavis.edu (newsletter editor). She also needs to know if you are interested in obtaining your future newsletters via the secure web site. As a reminder when using the secure site, we recommend that you logout when done.

Recent improvements include an announcement page which has been placed at the entry point of the secured area. This will be utilized for special announcements to the membership. A page counter has been added to assist in analysis of when and how people are accessing the web site. The January issue of the AAVLD newsletter as well as past Quality Corner columns are also available on the secure site. On the visitor site you can access information on members, committees, officers, future meetings both national and regional, and our JVDI patrons or obtain a membership application, an AAVLD Foundation donation form and look at position announcements

Future plans are to maintain a current membership directory on the Web via a link to the membership payment files. This will provide each members name, address, phone and e-mail. Further improvements under consideration at this time are expanding the calendar of professional conferences to include regional events, developing descriptions of academic and training programs in Veterinary diagnostics, placing all AAVLD manuals on-line, providing membership surveying capabilities and maintaining multiple years of AAVLD Proceedings abstracts on-line.

The Web editor and master would appreciate your comments and suggestions.
Return comments to thomsonj@iastate.edu (web editor) or rberghef@iastate.edu (webmaster)

AAVLD NEWSLETTER goes ELECTRONIC! As of January 1999, the newsletter has been available in PDF format on the AAVLD web page. In order to improve timeliness and reduce production and mailing expenses, the next issue, August, will only be sent via postal mail to members that have requested it. In order to make sure we do not overlook anyone, we need to know now whether you would like a hard copy or are willing to access the newsletter by the web. Those using the web access will be notified by Email when each issue of the newsletter is available on the web. Please let us know via e-mail, phone or regular mail **if you want to continue to get a mail copy or use the web site.** Contact pblancha@cvdls.ucdavis.edu, phone: 559-688-7543 or mail: CVDLS, 18830 Road 112, Tulare, CA 93274. — Pat Blanchard, AAVLD Newsletter Editor

POSITION ANNOUNCEMENTS

Assistant Professor in Parasitology

The Department of Veterinary Pathology, College of Veterinary Medicine, Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa, is seeking qualified candidates for a full-time, tenure-track position. Position is 60% research and 40% service and teaching. Candidate should have a strong background in biochemistry, cell biology or molecular biology, and be committed to develop an active, funded research program in parasitic diseases of international or national economic importance. Teaching assignments will include team teaching one professional and one graduate course in parasitology. Mentoring graduate students is expected. Participation in parasitologic diagnostic service is optional. The DVM and PhD are required; research experience in helminthology is desirable. Salary is negotiable depending on the experience, training and accomplishments of the candidate. **Application deadline is April 15, 1999.** Send a letter of application, curriculum vitae, names of three references and a summary of current research to: Dr. Norman F. Cheville, Department of Veterinary Pathology, College of Veterinary Medicine, Iowa State University, Ames, IA 50011-1250.

Further inquiries about the position may be made to: Dr. Norman Cheville, phone 515-294-3387, or Dr. Claire Andreasen, Search Committee Chair at phone 515-294-0959, email candreas@iastate.edu

Wildlife Pathologist Position

Département de Pathologie et Microbiologie, Faculté de Médecine vétérinaire, Université de Montréal, Saint-Hyacinthe, PQ, J2S 7C5, Canada. The proposed starting date is May 1, 1999.

A degree in veterinary medicine, and training in pathology and/or biology or the equivalent are required. Duties mainly involve diagnosis of fish and wildlife diseases, with a small component of teaching to veterinary and graduate students. The caseload is about 300 cases per year and is extremely diversified: including terrestrial and marine mammals (coyotes, racoons, deer, bears, lynxes, beluga whales and seals), birds of prey, fish, and amphibians. Much of the work is done in collaboration with government wildlife officers and biologists. Research activities are encouraged and reasonably funded but are not required.

The position corresponds to the "clinician" level. The salary is competitive and commensurate with experience and qualifications. The candidate who desires to prepare for ACVP-board exam will be encouraged to do so. The department faculty includes six ACVP-certified pathologists.

The candidate should be fluent in French and English. Outstanding applicants who do not speak French, however, will also be considered. **Applications should be submitted by April 15, 1999.** Please send a letter of application stating professional goals, a curriculum vitae, and the names, titles, addresses, phone numbers, and electronic addresses of three referees to Dr. Daniel Martineau, Département de Pathologie et Microbiologie, Faculté de Médecine Vétérinaire, Université de Montréal, Saint-Hyacinthe, J2S 7C5, Québec, Canada. Phone: 450-773-8521; 8307. Fax: 450-778-8113; e-mail: martinea@ere.umontreal.ca.

VETERINARY LABORATORY DIAGNOSTICIAN, (AQUATIC)

The Pennsylvania Veterinary Laboratory is anticipating a vacancy at its diagnostic laboratory in Harrisburg, PA. The incumbent will work with the fish (mostly trout) producers of Pennsylvania. The work involves examination of sick fish and fish kills to determine the cause. It includes water quality determinations and performance of histopathological examination of tissues. Issuance of health certificates for interstate and international trade. Work is to be performed in accordance with standards established by the AAVLD and the NVSL laboratory procedures. General direction is received from the Manager of Pathology Services and the Chief of the Laboratory Division, Bureau of Animal Industries and Diagnostic Services. Veterinary degree, Ph.D. and/or board certification is highly desirable. This will be a civil service, full time, permanent position. Expressions of interest or nominations should be made as soon as possible to Dr. H. Graham Purchase, Chief, Veterinary Laboratory Services, Pennsylvania Veterinary Laboratory, 2305 N. Cameron Street, Harrisburg, PA 17110-9449. Phone: 717-787-8808 ext 207, FAX 717-772-3895, E-mail Purchase@sdl.pda.state.pa.us.

POULTRY VETERINARY LABORATORY DIAGNOSTICIAN

The Pennsylvania Veterinary Laboratory is anticipating a vacancy at its diagnostic laboratory in Harrisburg, PA. The incumbent will work with the poultry producers of Pennsylvania. The work involves performance of gross examination of animals (particularly poultry) presented for necropsy and performing histopathological examination of tissues from necropsies or tissue submissions. Work is to be performed in accordance with standards established by the AAVLD and the NVSL laboratory procedures. General direction is received from the Manager of Pathology Services and the Chief of the Laboratory Division, Bureau of Animal Industries and Diagnostic Services. Board certification is highly desirable. This will be a civil service, full time, permanent position. Expressions of interest or nominations should be made as soon as possible to Dr. H. Graham Purchase, Chief, Veterinary Laboratory Services, Pennsylvania Veterinary Laboratory, 2305 N. Cameron Street, Harrisburg, PA 17110-9449. Phone: 717-787-8808 ext207, FAX 717-772-3895, E-mail Purchase@sdl.pda.state.pa.us.

VETERINARY PATHOLOGIST

The Office of the San Diego County Veterinarian operates the veterinary necropsy laboratory and enforces veterinary disease control regulations within the county and state. Career position for California-licensed veterinarian, DVM degree with advanced training in veterinary pathology, and four years veterinary medical practice or research with emphasis in histology, parasitology, animal pathogenic and zoonotic disease, and public health epidemiology. These professionals investigate and consult with veterinarians and livestock producers, perform necropsies to determine cause of death, disease prognosis and causative agents; supervise laboratory and histology technicians, and train students. \$51,022 - \$62,025 plus benefits. A detailed job announcement and employment application form can be printed from the County's web page <http://www.co.san-diego.ca.us> or contact: Department of Human Resources, 1600 Pacific Highway, Room 207; San Diego, CA 92101-2942; Janet Fisher (619) 236-2191 or jfishehr@co.san-diego.ca.us.

Livestock Conservation Institute (LCI)

AAVLD is an organizational member of LCI which serves as an umbrella organization with a diverse membership from virtually every segment of the food animal industry. LCI is a non-profit, consensus-building organization whose members influence the direction of research, product development and regulations related to food animal production. The LCI web site is <http://lconline.org>. The web site has information on meetings, educational opportunities, publications, resolutions, news and technical index. The publications section has on line issues of the multiple LCI publications which include bi-monthly and quarterly publications of: LCI News; The Final Countdown, the Brucellosis progress report; PRV Progress, a report of the eradication of pseudorabies; Scrapie Update, a progress report of the voluntary scrapie program; Food Safety Digest, Swine Health and Epidemiology and Cattle Health Report.

LCI also publishes comprehensive proceedings books from all LCI annual meetings and other industry-oriented and issue-based symposiums sponsored by LCI.



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Laboratory Diagnosticians, Inc.**

CVDLS, SVM, UC Davis
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Turlock, CA 95381



1999 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians, Inc.

CVDLS, SVM, UC Davis, PO Box 1522, Turlock, CA 95381

The purpose of the American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians is the dissemination of information relating to the diagnosis of animal disease, the coordination of the diagnostic activities of regulatory, research and service laboratories, the establishment of uniform diagnostic techniques and the establishment of accepted guides for the improvement of diagnostic laboratory organizations relative to facilities, equipment and personnel qualifications.

Any laboratory worker engaged in the field of disease diagnosis in animals or in allied fields involving teaching, research, commercial or regulatory functions is eligible for membership and is invited to join.

- Full Member \$50.00 Annual Membership Dues
- Graduate Student/Resident/Retired Member \$25.00 Annual Membership Dues
- Associate Membership for clerical and lab technical staff \$25.00 Annual Membership Dues*

Dues include a subscription to the AAVLD Newsletter, a current AAVLD membership roster, and the Journal of Veterinary Diagnostic Investigation (*JVDI not included in Associate Membership).

Please remit in U.S. dollars. Members in Canada and outside the USA must remit by draft on a U.S. bank or by International Postal Money Order.

Payment by MC/VISA is accepted.
A processing fee of \$2.00 is added.

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- Interest: Bacteriology Immunology Virology Pathology Informatics
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