



# NEWS & VIEWS

Newsletter of the American College of Veterinary Preventive Medicine

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**Please forward any news that you would like for us to consider publishing in the next Newsletter! Next issue deadline: **May 10, 2017****

## President's Commentary...

Dr. Marianne Ash

### ACVPM – Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow



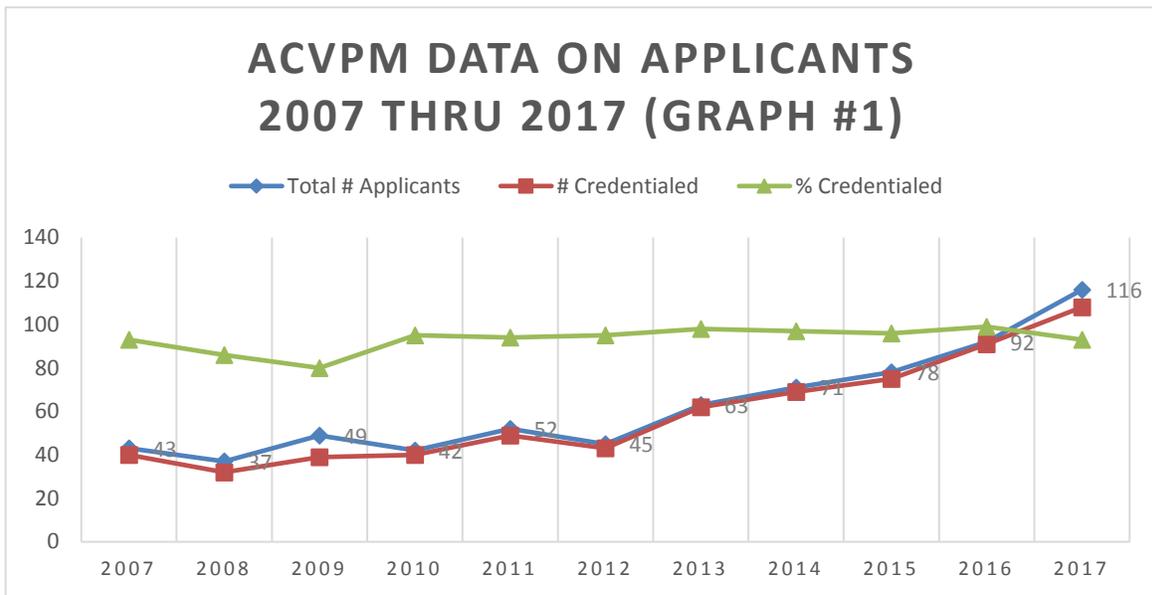
In recent weeks I have been thinking about the history of our College and the outstanding accomplishments of our founders and early leaders. How do we follow their lead and make comparable contribution to protecting the health and wellbeing of man and animals? It is a very difficult task; however, it is not beyond the reach of this College.

Important to our success will be increased numbers of new talented diplomates with a commitment to our mission. Also important will be a clearer understanding of our past, that can help us better define our future goals and means for achieving those goals.

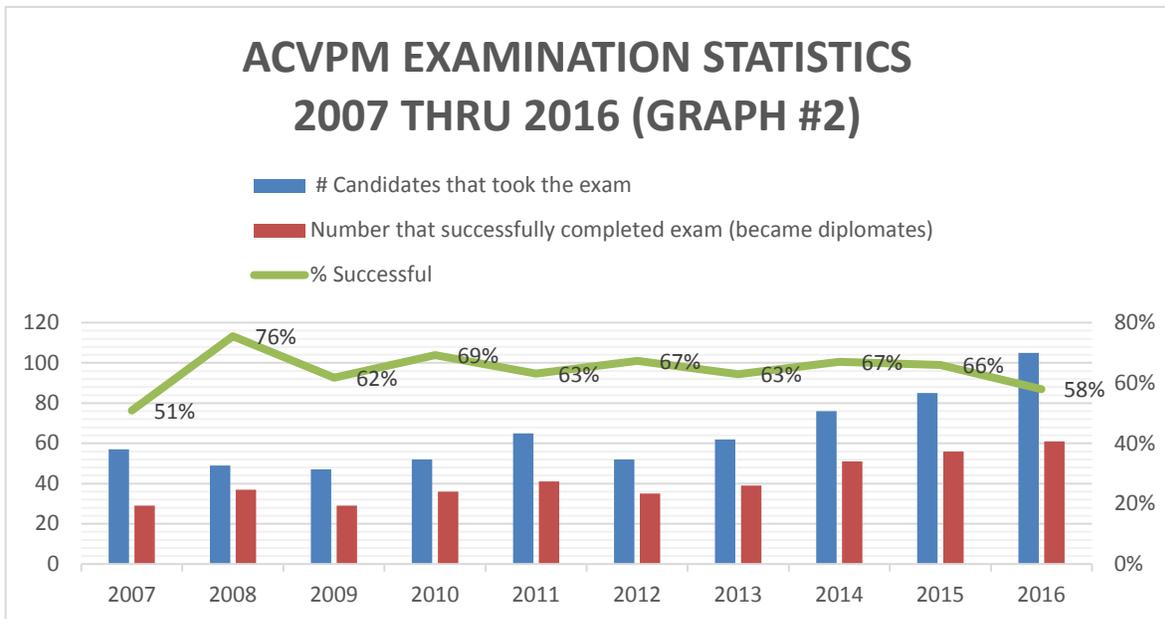
History tells us that ACVPM evolved from the efforts of 12 veterinarians that in 1949 formed an organizing group to establish the American Academy of Veterinary Public Health, later named the American Board of Veterinary Public Health (ABVPH). By early 1951, there were 33 Fellows in the ABVPH which will later become the ACVPM. From there the College has grown to 1057 Diplomates as of July 31, 2016. Below is information from recent years on the number of applicants to sit the ACVPM exam, the number of those found eligible (credentialed) to sit the exam and the pass rate for the exam. The applicants for the 2017 exam have been credentialed, so that information is also included on the first graph below.

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You can see in Graph #1 that the number of applicants to sit the examination was without change from 2007 through 2012. There has been a steady increase in the number of applicants from 2012 through 2017. The 116 applicants to sit the exam in 2017 is an all-time high. The percentage of applicants credentialed to sit the exam has remained fairly constant at around 95%. I would be interested in your feedback as to the reason for the increasing number of applicants. How can we sustain and hopefully grow this number?



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Graph #2 displays information on the number of candidates that took the exam and the number and percentage that passed the exam. You can see that the pass rate has stabilized at around 65% from 2009 forward. Lack of variability in pass rate over time suggests to me a consistency in the content and evaluation of candidates. Do you agree? Do you have comments on pass rate?

I have shared this information with you as a baseline from which we can set new objectives. Any feedback you want to share will be greatly appreciated. Feel free to contact me at [MASH@BOAH.IN.GOV](mailto:MASH@BOAH.IN.GOV) .

As a final note, you might be surprised to know that of the 22 specialty groups recognized by the AVMA American Board of Veterinary Specialties, ACVPM ranks 6th largest in size and is the 2nd oldest specialty group.

Best wishes to you all!

Marianne



## Get to Know a Fellow Diplomate



The ACVPM Communications Committee would like to invite you to get to know fellow Diplomate, Dr. Jarod Hanson.

What degrees do you hold and where did you obtain them?

I have a BS in Biochemistry from Minnesota State University, a DVM from the University of Minnesota, and a PhD in Infectious Diseases from the University of Georgia.

What was your path to obtaining ACVPM board certification?

I decided to take the exam after I completed the first year of my PhD as I thought the breadth of my initial PhD classes and my overall project on Influenza biomarkers in various hosts would prepare me well for it. I had also deployed to Afghanistan where food inspection, preventive medicine, and public health were all part of my role as a Veterinary Corps Officer. That experience combined with my prior experience as a swine veterinarian in North Carolina prepared me well for the food safety and population medicine aspects of the exam.

What is your current position in the U.S. Army and how does your board certification help you perform in that role?

My current role is as the Operations Manager for the Army Public Health Center's Toxicology Directorate which focuses on understanding the toxicity of compounds of military relevance. Board certification definitely gave me a greater appreciation for the multitude of toxins that can impact any number of species, and combined with my PhD, has allowed me to transition into a research support role where I can leverage my knowledge and skills across a very military-specific research field, although it has obvious One Health implications given the potential for animals to serve as sentinels for toxin exposure.

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Tell us about your new position as the first veterinary Associate Editor at ProMED.

I am excited to have been selected as the first veterinary Associate Editor for ProMED. The position is a unique opportunity to help identify and publicize disease outbreaks on a global scale using a variety of sources including social media. After using ProMED to help keep current on disease issues for ACVPM boards I thought the position represented a unique opportunity to help give something back to the public health community. I know many public health professionals (including many in the military) use it as a way to monitor emerging diseases as well as the spread of those diseases to new areas and species.

How do ProMED activities further One Health collaboration?

ProMED activities aid in One Health collaboration by publishing not only diseases and toxins of human concern, but also zoonotic threats. ProMED has been at the forefront of emerging diseases for many years, including being one of the early reporters of what we now call SARS virus which largely occurred through local reports that were largely ignored by mainstream media. The low level, local involvement piece of the ProMED model is key to advancing One Health as so many times we've seen that diseases were circulating at a low level and known to the local population before spreading to larger areas and garnering media attention. One Health relies not only on identifying zoonotic transmission events, but also monitoring circulation of zoonotic diseases in any/all host species in order to better identify risk factors and develop intervention strategies to mitigate the risk of spread while preserving the livelihoods of those in close contact with animals, and most likely to be infected.

## CDC Response to Seoul Hantavirus Outbreak

In response to a human outbreak of Seoul hantavirus infection associated with pet rats, a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) team provided investigative assistance to Illinois and Wisconsin officials on January 18. A trace-back investigation has revealed that the eight affected individuals, who have since recovered, purchased the rats from suppliers in Illinois and Wisconsin. As of January 27, the CDC was also providing technical assistance to Alabama, Arkansas, Colorado, Indiana, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Utah, due to the potential for distribution of infected rats to these areas of the United States.

Current epidemiologic investigations are in progress to discern how individuals were exposed to the Seoul hantavirus. The CDC team and state health officials will conduct trace-out investigations of individuals who purchased or were otherwise exposed to pet rats or their facilities.

The Seoul hantavirus can be found worldwide and circulates particularly among Norway and brown rats. Although rats shed hantaviruses mostly within 1-3 months of infection, shedding can be intermittent, as infections are considered lifelong in reservoirs. There is little to no evidence that hantaviruses cause illness in mammalian species such as cats, dogs, swine, horses, and cattle.

Contrary to the more common Sin Nombre virus in North America that causes hemorrhagic pulmonary syndrome (HPS), Seoul virus is a hantavirus known to cause hemorrhagic fever with renal syndrome (HFRS), typically within 1-2 weeks after exposure. Although most individuals infected with Seoul hantavirus experience mild or no signs, in severe cases kidney failure can occur. Other signs of illness in humans can include fever, hypotension, headache, gastrointestinal signs, disseminated intravascular coagulation, and in some cases, death.

Treatment of human hantavirus infections is supportive. Various serologic tests are often used for diagnosis of hantavirus infections in humans, although the viral antigens can also be identified by immunohistochemistry. Additionally, viral RNA can be detected using reverse-transcriptase polymerase chain reaction assays. Some jurisdictions within the affected states are recommending that pet rat owners keep their rats in place until more specific information becomes available. Some jurisdictions are asking that owners who still choose to relinquish their pet rats keep them at least 10 feet away from animal-control facilities, and in enclosed shoe-size clear boxes with no bedding to help prevent aerosolizing viruses while at animal control. Likewise, in some cases, animal-control staff are advised not handle the rats or their surroundings until all needed paperwork is completed (e.g., owner name, contact information, and information about the animal(s)). In addition to compliance with state guidance, veterinarians who treat rats are reminded to follow the National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians (NASPHV) guidance on personal protective equipment.

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In its guidance, the NASPHV underscores advanced training and preparation of staff for planned procedures, disinfection practices, biosecurity, and donning/doffing of appropriate personal protective equipment.

Additional resources can be found at the following sites:  
[www.cdc.gov/hantavirus/outbreaks/seoul-virusindex.html](http://www.cdc.gov/hantavirus/outbreaks/seoul-virusindex.html)  
[www.nasphv.org](http://www.nasphv.org)  
[www.cfsph.iastate.edu](http://www.cfsph.iastate.edu)

Dr. Lynne White-Shim  
Communications Committee Member



## ~~~Committee Updates~~~

### Communications Committee

The Communications Committee would like to ask our fellow diplomates if there are any ideas or changes that we could incorporate into this newsletter. Committee member Ross Free has graciously volunteered to take the reins as our new editor. In this time of transition, we would be glad to ensure that you are getting the most out of ACVPM's communications. Please continue to submit ideas, articles, and news items to any member of the Communications Committee (our email addresses are on the front page of the Newsletter).

Dr. Matt Doyle  
Communications Committee Chair

### Membership & Outreach Committee

The Membership & Outreach Committee has been busy pairing our volunteer mentors with exam candidates. Thanks to all who have signed up so far! We are planning to broaden our advertisement of the mentorship program and are still looking for mentors! If you are interested in providing exam candidates with study tips and career advice, please complete the mentor survey at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/39DRBNT>. If you are unable to complete the survey, please send an email with your name, contact information and professional interests to [membership@acvpm.org](mailto:membership@acvpm.org). Thanks for your willingness to support our future Diplomates!

We are working on an outreach presentation and we need your help! We would like to add pictures of Diplomates "in action" to the presentation. If you are willing to share some photos, please send them to [membership@acvpm.org](mailto:membership@acvpm.org). Our vision is to have the presentation play at the AVMA Convention booth and to make it available on the website for Diplomates to use in outreach activities. Thanks in advance!

Finally, in an effort to strengthen ties with the national One Health community, the Membership & Outreach Committee is working towards the establishment of a working relationship or partnership with the American College of Preventive Medicine (ACPM). If you have a direct connection with a member of the ACPM, and would like to assist us in establishing a dialogue, please contact [membership@acvpm.org](mailto:membership@acvpm.org). Alternately, if you are planning to attend the ACPM annual meeting in Portland, Oregon, May 23-26, would you please let us know? It may be an opportunity for communication.

Dr. Sarah Speth  
Membership & Outreach Committee Chair

### Examinations Committee

Examination Time!!!

Do you recall the time that you spent studying for the certification exam? Fond memories? Probably not.

At the same time that the 100+ Candidates which were approved by the Credentials Committee are preparing for this year's exam, the ACVPM Exam Committee's Subject Matter Experts are dreaming up questions for this year's examination. As in recent years, two section exams will be administered: 1) a Subject Matter Expertise Evaluation (essay) and 2) a Comprehensive Knowledge Evaluation (multiple-choice) exam.

What will be the topic of concern this year? Oropouche? *Diphyllobothrium nihonkaiense*? Maybe not, but the exam will be a comprehensive evaluation of the candidate's knowledge in each of 5 study areas: Environmental Health; Epidemiology & Biostatistics; Food Safety; Infectious & Parasitic Diseases; and Public Health Administration & Education.

The Examination Committee is scheduled to meet February 21, 2017 to finalize the 2017 Essay Exam Questions and will administer the entire exam June 7-8, 2017 at the Ohio State University in Columbus Ohio. As always, Exam Committee members are willing to receive assistance from members on the test questions. For reference, contact information for the current committee can be located at <http://www.acvpm.org/leadership/>. The Membership and Outreach Committee also offers a mentoring program to provide candidates with professional advice, exam study hints, and career guidance. See <http://www.acvpm.org/certifying-exam-information/> if you are interested in the mentor program.

Respectfully submitted,  
Rick Hill, Exam Committee Chair

### Credentials Committee

We are finally done reviewing applications after numerous glitches in the application process. A total of 116 people submitted applications. Of those, 3 were re-takes that had not passed the exam on previous tries and were approved. 8 people were denied; 4 of these have appealed the decision to an ad hoc appeals committee. The rest were approved to sit the exam. We are planning on making numerous recommendations to the web manager to improve the application cycle next year.

Dr. Marcy Souza  
Continuing Education Committee Chair

## Continuing Education Committee

The CE Committee has been very active through the end of 2016 and the start of 2017. The AVMA 2017 One Health program is going to be a diverse and well-rounded one. The 4 program areas are harmful algal blooms, vector borne diseases, the environment and antibiotic resistance, and toxoplasmosis. We have wonderful speakers from a variety of backgrounds to provide a One Health approach to each subject. The harmful algal blooms format will be 3 hours of speaker talks and the 4th hour will be a panel and audience discussion. Please provide feedback on this format.

We are already putting together the AVMA 2018 program; send any ideas on subject areas or themes for the program. We want the program to be relevant and useful to the members of the college!

The next ACVPM/CDC COCA webinar will occur in February/March - it will be posted on the ACVPM's website 'webinars page' under continuing education drop down. These are very relevant and exciting topics. Remember, if you attend a CDC COCA webinar to print your certificate, especially those individuals requiring maintenance of their board certification. The CE Committee and Dr Scott Cornwell are working to have the webinar registration available on the website prior to a scheduled webinar in addition to the email notices. In addition, we are working to have the webinars archived on the website for those who are unable to attend the webinar live. This is a work-in-progress, so please bear with us!

Finally, we are still looking to build a repository of individuals who are willing to give a webinar in their area(s) of expertise. Please reach out to the CE Committee with your name and subject matter expertise so we can add you to the list!

Respectfully submitted,  
Barbara Jones  
CE Committee, Chair



## ~~~Epidemiology & Biostatistics~~~

### ~~Epidemiology Specialty Update~~

Three ACVPM Diplomates applied for certification by the Epidemiology Specialty, and all three were determined to be qualified to sit for the exam. The exam will be given simultaneously to the 3 candidates at separate locations under proctors so that they will not need to travel to Indianapolis in August. The examination date has not been finalized at this writing.

The Continuing Education Committee welcomes 2 new members: Drs. Rosalie Trevejo and Christa Hale. We appreciate their willingness to serve. The Committee's submission for a presentation at the general session in Indianapolis was not accepted by AVMA, and no clear answer has been received on whether there will be a time allotment in the Public and Corporate Practice Section, so there may not be an epidemiology-sponsored continuing education at this year's AVMA meeting.

The Nominations Committee is seeking nominations for the position of President of the Epidemiology Specialty for the 2017-2019 term. Please contact a member of the Epi Specialty Nominations Committee if you would like to nominate, or are willing to accept nomination, for this exciting position. Please submit nominations before March 15 to one of the following Nominations Committee members:

Dr. Sean Altekruise: [altekrucesf@mail.nih.gov](mailto:altekrucesf@mail.nih.gov)

Dr. Christa Hale: [hgk5@cdc.gov](mailto:hgk5@cdc.gov)

Dr. Chuck Dodd: [cdoddemail@gmail.com](mailto:cdoddemail@gmail.com)

Dr. Robert Brady  
Secretary, Epidemiology Specialty

## ~~~Announcements~~~

Congratulations to the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps officers and ACVPM diplomates that were recently honored. CAPT Kris Bisgard, CAPT Kris Carter, CDR Stacey Bosch, CDR Mary Anne Duncan, CDR Jeff McCollum, LCDR Tara Anderson, and LCDR Danielle Buttke were among the officers recognized with the 2015 USPHS Veterinary Category's Commissioned Corps Veterinary Responder of the Year Award. LCDR Buttke also has honored with the Veterinary Junior Officer of the Year Award and the 2016 Dr. Daniel E. Salmon Award from the National Association of Federal Veterinarians. CAPT Ronald Landy received the 2016 James H. Steele One Health Outstanding PHS Veterinary Career Award. Additional details about these honors can be found in JAVMA (Vol. 250, p. 145; <https://www.avma.org/News/JAVMANews/Pages/170115r.aspx>).

