

# News & Views



## Welcome to the 2013 ACVPM Diplomates!

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### Communications Committee members:

Dr. Ethel Taylor  
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 Dr. Tom Doker  
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 Dr. George Moore  
[gemoore@purdue.edu](mailto:gemoore@purdue.edu)  
 Dr. Kathy Orloski  
 Please forward any news or items that you would like for us to consider publishing in the next Newsletter!  
 Next issue deadline:  
 10 November 2013

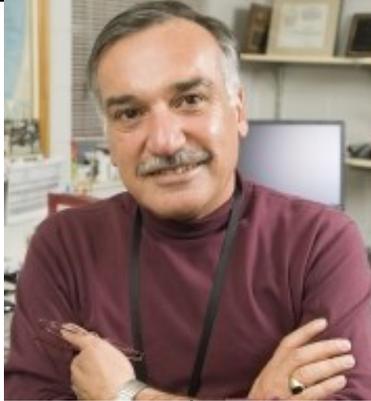
- |                                 |                      |
|---------------------------------|----------------------|
| Lisa J. Becton, DVM, MS         | Johnston, IA         |
| Carolynn J. Bissett, DVM, MPH   | Henrico, VA          |
| Dianna M. Blau, DVM, PhD        | Atlanta, GA          |
| Jennifer Boonstra, DVM          | North Barrington, IL |
| Minden Buswell, DVM             | St Paul, MN          |
| Danielle Buttke, DVM            | Fort Collins, CO     |
| Linda Capewell, VMD, MPH        | Atlanta, GA          |
| Stephen Edward Cassle, DVM, MPH | Gainesville, FL      |
| Clayton D. Chilcoat DVM, PhD    | Stuttgart, Germany   |
| Barbara Cloutier, DVM           | Dewitt, MI           |
| Matthew Lee Doyle, DVM          | Washington DC        |
| Sarah L. Easter Strayer, DVM    | Brooklyn Park, MN    |
| Mary Egan, DVM                  | Greeley, CO          |
| Joanna E. Fishback, DVM, MPH    | Fort Detrick, MD     |
| Christa A. Gallagher DVM, MPH   | Holly Springs, NC    |
| Elliott Richard Garber, DVM     | Burke, VA            |
| Honorata Liv Hansen BVMS MPH    | Silver Spring, MD    |
| Melissa Hehr, DVM               | Columbus, OH         |
| Alicia Humlicek DVM, MPH        | Colorado Springs, CO |
| Robert Kim, DVM, PhD            | Aberdeen, MD         |
| Darrel Kraayenbrink DVM, DACVPM | Platte, SD           |
| Wendy J. Osman, DVM             | Lansing, MI          |
| Amber Downs Pasko, DVM          | Tiffin, OH           |
| Maurice Pitesky DVM, MPVM       | Davis, CA            |
| Thomas Ray Reece, DVM, MS, MPH  | Tipton, OK           |
| Audry Ruple, DVM                | Fort Collins, CO     |
| Gustavo Soberano, DVM, MPVM     | Davis, CA            |
| Thomas R Tucker, III, DVM       | Woodland, CA         |
| Brian Lee Vander Ley, DVM       | Columbia, MO         |
| Kristen Voehl DVM, MPH          | Kindsbach, Germany   |
| William L. Walker, DVM, PhD     | Forney, TX           |
| Rachel Westerlund, VMD          | Sparks, MD           |
| Scott Willens, DVM, PhD         | Aberdeen, MD         |
| Deniece R. Williams, DVM        | Woodland, CA         |

## President's Commentary...

*Dr. Mo Salman*

Dear Diplomates:

First I want to welcome the new Diplomates to our College and I am happy to see several colleagues and professional associates who passed the requirements for being Diplomates. I hope the new Diplomates will participate in the College's activities for a better future and professional outlook.



philosophical discussion with several great ideas and initiatives. The following actions were taken:

I. Initiate a survey of the members with the aim to respond to the questions, "What do you expect the College to do for you?" and "How can you contribute to the wellbeing of the College?"

Happy summer to you; I hope your summer has been productive with some relaxing time and professional accomplishments. A few days ago, we had the AVMA convention and our ACVPM annual gathering as well as the face-to-face meeting of the executive board. During the convention we also had a half day workshop to address the strategic planning for the College for the next five years. Previously, I shared with you the nature of this workshop. I want therefore to share with you some of the action items that were agreed upon during the workshop and the two meetings.

An initiative was brought to the executive board by Dr. Gary Gackstetter involving the ACVPM with the North American Veterinary Licensing Examination (NAVLE). This would involve our College in writing and submitting questions related to basic knowledge in veterinary public health and epidemiology as part of the licensing procedure for DVMs in North America. The board approved the creation of an ad-hoc group with its task to be the liaison between ACVPM and NAVLE. Members of this ad-hoc group are Drs. Katie Steneroden, Renee Funk, Vicky Fogelman, Danielle Bickett-Weddle, and Gary Gackstetter who was asked to be the chair. The ACVPM will be represented by one of these members on the NAVLE board also.

The workshop was organized with the aim to respond to a set of questions that were distributed to the attendees. These attendees had a productive

- Dr. Armando Hoet of Ohio State University has agreed to lead this effort with a potential project with a graduate student
  - The executive board members expect the outcome before next year's annual face-to-face meeting
  - The executive board president will present the outcome with some plans of action during next year's meeting
  - There is no cost to the College for this survey; generous donation will cover the expenses
- II. Initiate a webinar under the title "Preventive Veterinary Medicine" with the aim to promote the College and preventive veterinary medicine within the scientific and profession of veterinary medicine and public health.
- Dr. Scott Cornwell has volunteered to take the lead on this initiative
  - The idea is to have a monthly webinar for a special topic that is open to all Diplomates as well as others
  - The Clinician Outreach and Communication Activity (COCA) may be used for this avenue with volunteer participation of Diplomates
  - The webinar will give continuing education credits for these sessions through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
  - The intention is to promote the College using its limited financial resources

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**Dr. Tegwin K. Taylor, DVM, DACVPM** cited (1st author) in 1 July 2013 JAVMA article titled *Knowledge, attitudes, and practices of veterinary facility owners regarding rabies pre-exposure prophylaxis—West Virginia, 2011. Conclusions and Clinical Relevance—* Except for veterinarians, veterinary staff in West Virginia did not commonly receive pre-exposure prophylaxis or regular assessments of serum rabies virus neutralizing antibody titers. All veterinary practices are encouraged to consider revising or implementing a pre-exposure prophylaxis policy based on the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices' recommendations. (J Am Vet Med Assoc 2013;243:63–67).

## APHA Special Interest Group Update...

*Dr. Jeein Chung*

Greetings from the Veterinary Public Health Special Interest Group (SPIG) of the American Public Health Association (APHA). We would like to remind you that the APHA will be holding its annual meeting November 2-6 in Boston, and would like to invite you to represent the expertise of the ACVPM.

Currently, we are struggling with membership from our veterinary public health and allied health counterparts, and really feel that your presence would help guide policy positions and

recommendations, and even encourage endorsement from the ACPVM. We are always seeking members, especially those that are interested in taking an active role in strengthening our efforts.

If you are interested in membership or are interested in any sort of these collaborations, please feel free to contact me at [chungj@umn.edu](mailto:chungj@umn.edu). Additionally, I am currently working with the USAID RESPOND project and would welcome collaborations on that end as well.

*See presentation schedule on page 8!*

## President's Commentary...

*Dr. Mo Salman*

*Continued from previous page*

III. Continue the dialogue for better professional representation of the College through College members and professionals outside the College. We will attempt to understand, for example, the reason for the lack of engagement of the Diplomates in the College's affairs. The Diplomates should decide about the purpose of the College; Is it only a certificate entity or should it also be a promoter of preventive veterinary medicine?

I therefore encourage you to participate in:

- The survey to communicate with all the officers of the College about your opinion and expectations re-

garding the College

- The webinar to have the opportunity to promote your professional activities through specific presentations.

I am optimistic about the future of our College. I believe we are living in a golden age of preventive veterinary medicine but we need to use this opportunity to move forward with the aim of expanding the membership in the College. Your participation in the College's activities is encouraged and appreciated. Please do not hesitate to contact me at:

[m.d.salman@colostate.edu](mailto:m.d.salman@colostate.edu)

to share your ideas about the direction of the College and your vision for improving our image.

*Mo Salman  
President*

**"Merely having an open mind is nothing; the object of opening the mind, as of opening the mouth, is to shut it again on something solid."**

– G.K. Chesterton, British writer

## New 2013–14 ACVPM Officers/

### ACVPM Officers

President : Dr. Mo Salman

[m.d.salman@colostate.edu](mailto:m.d.salman@colostate.edu)

President Elect: Dr. Scott Brooks

[scott.brooks@yum.com](mailto:scott.brooks@yum.com)

Secretary/Treasurer: Dr. Sherry Burrer

[doc.sherry@yahoo.com](mailto:doc.sherry@yahoo.com)

Past- President: Dr. Roger Krogwold

[rkrogwold@gmail.com](mailto:rkrogwold@gmail.com)

Councilor: Dr. Marianne Ash

[mash@boah.in.gov](mailto:mash@boah.in.gov)

Councilor: Dr. Vicki (Vicky) Fogelman

[vfogelman@charter.net](mailto:vfogelman@charter.net)

Councilor: Dr. Paul Garbe

[pgarbe@cdc.gov](mailto:pgarbe@cdc.gov)

Executive VP: Dr. Candace McCall

[evp@acvpm.org](mailto:evp@acvpm.org)

President, Epidemiology Specialty: Dr. Mark Starr

[mstarrdvm@gmail.com](mailto:mstarrdvm@gmail.com)

### Internal Affairs Committee

Dr. Cynthia Johnson (Chair)

[Cynthia.L.Johnson@aphis.usda.gov](mailto:Cynthia.L.Johnson@aphis.usda.gov)

Dr. David Goolsby (11-15)

Dr. Donald Noah (12-16)

**NEED VOLUNTEER HERE!** (13-17)

Dr. Marianne Ash - Councilor

Dr. John Sanders - ABVS Representative (ex-officio)

Dr. Scott Brooks - President-Elect (ex-officio)

### Membership & Outreach Committee

Dr. Annette Bredhauer (Chair)

[Annette.Bredhauer@nebraska.gov](mailto:Annette.Bredhauer@nebraska.gov)

Dr. Bonnie Martin (10-15)

Dr. Bob Bokma (11-16)

Dr. Sarah Speth (12-17)

**NEED VOLUNTEER HERE!** (13-18)

Dr. Paul Garbe - Councilor

### Nominations & Awards Committee

Dr. Roger Krogwold (08-14) - chair

[rkrogwold@gmail.com](mailto:rkrogwold@gmail.com)

Dr. Mo Salman (10-16)

Dr. Scott Brooks (12-18)

Dr. Paul Garbe - Councilor

### Continuing Education Committee

Dr. Armando Hoet (Chair)

[Armando.Hoet@cvm.osu.edu](mailto:Armando.Hoet@cvm.osu.edu)

Dr. Princess Campbell (11-15)

Dr. Jennifer Koeman (12-16)

Dr. Charles Dodd (12-17)

Dr. Karen Becker (13-18)

Dr. Vicki Fogelman - Councilor

### Communications Committee

Dr. Ethel Taylor (Chair)

[idp4@cdc.gov](mailto:idp4@cdc.gov)

Dr. Tom Doker (11-15)

Dr. George Moore (12-16)

Dr. Kathy Orloski (13-17)

Dr. Paul Garbe - Councilor

Dr. Candace McCall—Executive VP (ex officio)

### Credentials Committee

Dr. Jill Duel (Chair)

[theduels@hotmail.com](mailto:theduels@hotmail.com)

Dr. Evan Shukan (10-15)

Dr. David Chico (11-16)

Dr. Marcy J. Souza (12-17)

**NEED VOLUNTEER HERE!** (13-18)

Dr. Marianne Ash - Councilor

### Examinations Committee

Dr. Kathryn Feldman (Chair)

[katherine.feldman@maryland.gov](mailto:katherine.feldman@maryland.gov)

Dr. Bradford Hildabrand (Food Safety, 09-15)

Dr. Roy Berghaus (Epidemiology, 10-16)

Dr. Rick Hill (Infectious Diseases, 11-17)

Dr. Mary Anne Duncan (Environmental Health, 12-18)

Dr. Lisa Ann Conti (Public Health and Admin, 13-18)

Dr. Vicki Fogelman - Councilor

Dr. Candace McCall - EP (ex officio)

*Continued on next page*

**Dr. Paul C. Bartlett**, MPH, DVM, PhD, **DACVPM** cited (Senior author) in 1 July 2013 JAVMA article titled *Impact of bovine leukemia virus infection on neutrophil and lymphocyte concentrations in dairy cattle.*

#### Conclusions and Clinical Relevance—

Results indicated that absolute lymphocyte concentration is significantly affected by BLV infection in dairy cattle.

Accordingly, hematologic reference intervals should be derived from healthy animals that are not infected with BLV and patient BLV status must be considered for meaningful interpretation of lymphocyte concentration. We recommend that the calculated neutrophil-to-lymphocyte ratio be abandoned because it does not provide more information than direct comparison of patient absolute leukocyte concentration with updated reference intervals from healthy BLV-negative cattle. acute respiratory distress syndrome.

## New 2013–14 ACVPM Officers/

*Continued from previous page* College Historian

### Re-certification Committee

Dr. Peggy Carter (Chair)  
[carterpeggy@aol.com](mailto:carterpeggy@aol.com)  
Dr. Colleen Duncan (13-14)  
Dr. Eric Ebel (13-15)  
Dr. Karyn Havas (13-16)  
Dr. Wondwossen Gebreyes (13-17)  
Dr. Larissa Minicucci (13-18)  
Dr. Danielle Tack (13-19)  
Dr. Vicki Fogelman - Councilor

### ACVPM Representative to the American Board of Veterinary Specialties

Dr. John Sanders (07-13)  
[jpsanderswv@comcast.net](mailto:jpsanderswv@comcast.net)

Dr. Russ Currier  
[russcurrier@yahoo.com](mailto:russcurrier@yahoo.com)

### Other Contact Information

Webmaster: Joe Adam  
[jadam@acvpm.org](mailto:jadam@acvpm.org)

### Our Address

American College of Veterinary Preventive Medicine  
1650 South John King Blvd, # 3802  
Rockwall, TX 75032  
210-382-5400

## Accolades!

### Florida Agricultural Hall of Fame

**Dr. Paul Nicoletti** (MO '56), professor emeritus of infectious diseases at the University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine, was honored Feb. 12 by the Florida Agricultural Hall of Fame's "for his invaluable contributions to Florida agriculture."

An international authority on brucellosis, Dr. Nicoletti began his career with the U.S. Department of Agriculture in Missouri, followed by Wisconsin, New York, Mississippi, and Florida. His field studies on brucellosis led to modifications in use of brucellosis vaccine, which saved the Florida cattle industry millions of dollars and led to the eradication of the disease from the state.

At the UF veterinary college, he taught infectious diseases, epidemiology, public health, and food safety for 28



years. Dr. Nicoletti influenced many veterinary students to consider careers in agriculture and public health, and endowed a need-based scholarship for students interested in public health. After retiring in 2003, he endowed another scholarship for students interested in food animal medicine. He recently donated \$1 million to enable UF students from low-income backgrounds to follow his career path.

Dr. Nicoletti served from 1968–1972 as an epizootiologist in Tehran, Iran, with the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization. He is a **past president** of the **American College of Veterinary Preventive Medicine**, Florida and Alachua County VMAs, and Animal Disease Research Workers in the Southern States.

*JAVMA, 1 June 2013*

## More ACVPM Diplomate Citations!

**Dr. Fortune Sithole**, BVSc, PhD, DACVPM cited (Senior author) in 15 July 2013 JAVMA article titled *Thoracic radiographic findings for dogs with cardiac tamponade attributable to pericardial effusion*.



**Conclusions and Clinical Relevance**—Results of this study indicated none of the evaluated radiographic variables was highly (> 90%) sensitive or specific for identification of dogs with cardiac tamponade (CT) attributable to pericardial effusion (PE). Thoracic radiographic findings should not be considered reliable for identification of dogs with CT attributable to PE.

**Dr. Philip Kass**, DVM, PhD, DACVPM cited (Contributing author) in 15 July 2013 JAVMA article titled *Distribution and outcome of ocular lesions in snakes examined at a veterinary teaching hospital: 67 cases (1985–2010)*.



**Conclusions and Clinical Relevance**—Results indicated that retained spectacle was the most common ocular lesion diagnosed in snakes. Compared with other snakes with ocular lesions, snakes of the genus *Epicrates* had a higher than expected frequency of ocular lesions in general and snakes of the family *Colubridae* had a higher than expected frequency of pseudobuphthalmos or subspectacular abscess.

**Dr. James C. Wright**, DVM, PhD, DACVPM cited (Contributing author) in 1 August 2013 JAVMA article titled *Validation of a low-dose adrenocorticotrophic hormone stimulation test in healthy neonatal foals*.



**Conclusions and Clinical Relevance**—Results suggested that in healthy neonatal foals, the lowest dose of cosyntropin to result in significant adrenal gland stimulation was 0.25 µg/kg, with peak cortisol concentration 20 minutes after cosyntropin administration.

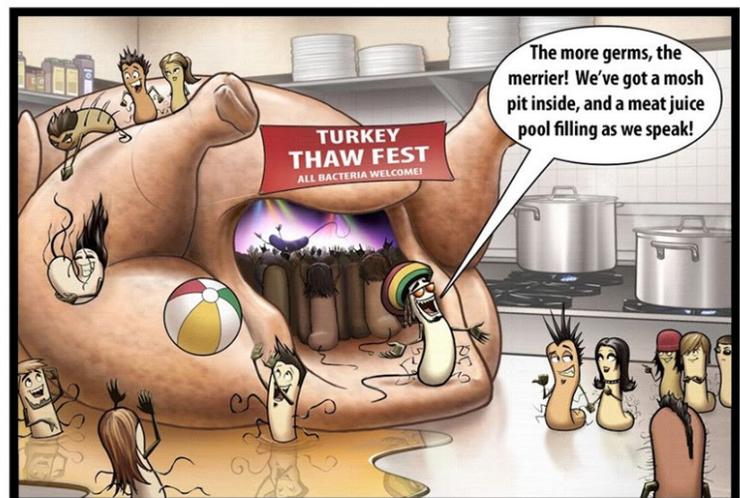
**Dr. Roy D. Berghaus**, DVM, PhD, DACVPM, and **Dr. David R. Smith**, DVM, PhD, DACVPM cited (Contributing authors) in 15 August 2013 JAVMA article titled *Producer survey of herd-level risk factors for nursing beef calf respiratory disease*.



**Conclusions and Clinical Relevance**—Results of this study indicated factors associated with calf bovine respiratory disease (BRD) risk; modification of these factors could potentially decrease the incidence of BRD in nursing calves.

**Dr. Katie Portacci**, DVM, MPH, DACVPM cited (1st author) in 15 August 2013 JAVMA article titled *Assessment of paper interstate certificates of veterinary inspection used to support disease tracing in cattle*.

**Conclusions and Clinical Relevance**—The inconsistency among state interstate certificate of veterinary inspection (ICVI) forms and quality of information provided on paper ICVIs could lead to delays and the need for additional resources to trace cattle, which could result in continued spread of disease. Standardized ICVIs among states and more thorough recording of information by accredited veterinarians or expanded usage of electronic ICVIs



## With Great Sadness...

**Dr. William O. May Jr.** (GA '63), 74, Moultrie, Ga., died Jan. 6, 2013. He joined the Air Force after graduation, retiring in 1993 as chairman of the Department of Military Public Health and Occupational Medicine at the Brooks AFB School of Aerospace Medicine in San Antonio. During his military service, Dr. May earned a master's in public health from the University of Missouri



(1970) and served on the Norton AFB Inspector General Hospital Team, providing guidance and assistance to Air Force facilities worldwide. He attained the rank of colonel.

Dr. May was a diplomate of the **American College of Veterinary Preventive Medicine**. His wife, Rosemary; a son; and a daughter survive him.

*JAVMA 1 June 2013*

## More Accolades!

**Dr. Megin Nichols, DACVPM**, received the 2013 **James H. Steele Veterinary Public Health Award** from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in April at the 62nd annual Epidemic Intelligence Service Conference. The agency gives the award to current and recent EIS officers.

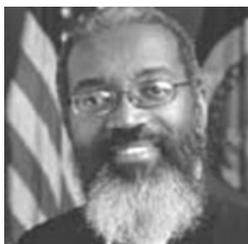


Dr. Nichols is a veterinary epidemiologist for the New Mexico Department of Health, and she was honored for contributions to veterinary public health and public outreach on zoonoses such as plague and rabies.

Dr. Steele, known as the father of veterinary public health, is among the 12 veterinarians profiled in the 2013 *JAVMA* series Legends in U.S. Veterinary Medicine.

*JAVMA 1 August 2013*

**Dr. Gregory Parham, DACVPM**, was sworn in June 12 as **assistant secretary for administration for the Department of Agriculture**. Dr. Parham has served as acting assistant secretary for the past year and previously as administrator of the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.



Dr. Parham served as APHIS' associate administra-

tor from November 2009 until his appointment as administrator in 2011. He worked closely with program heads to provide leadership and direction in science while focusing special attention on international and trade activities.

Prior to his role as associate administrator, Dr. Parham spent two years as the deputy administrator for Marketing and Regulatory Programs – Business Services. In this capacity, he was responsible for providing resource management and administrative services to support the objectives of APHIS, the Agricultural Marketing Service, and the Grain Inspection and Packers and Stockyards Administration.

Dr. Parham joined APHIS in March 2006 as the agency's chief information officer and provided leadership related to the agency's information technology initiatives. He began his federal career in 1980 as an Epidemic Intelligence Service officer with the U.S. Public Health Service at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Dr. Parham joined the USDA in 1982 and worked for several department agencies, including the Food Safety and Inspection Service and the Extension Service. He earned his DVM degree from The Ohio State University in 1980 and holds a master's from Johns Hopkins University in administrative science.

*JAVMA 15 August 2013*

**"The time to relax is when you don't have time for it."**

– Sydney Harris, American journalist

## Veterinary Public Health SPIG (APHA Presentations)

Program Chairs: **Dr. Bill Courtney**, DVM, MPH, DACVPM and **Dr. Tom Doker**, DVM, MPH, DACVPM

**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2013: 6:30 PM: Vet Public Health Business Meeting**

**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2013: 12:30 PM: Human-Animal Health Posters** (Moderator: **Dr. W. Courtney**, DVM, MPH, DACVPM)

**Board 1** — 2011 ground Turkey outbreak: Recommendations on how to improve surveillance and control of salmonella in the United States *J. Ruzante, DVM PhD*; S. Eskin, JD **Board 2** — Pet dogs and child health *A. Gadomski, MD, MPH*; M. Scribani, MPH; Z. Nagykaldi, PhD; N. Krupa, MS; P. Jenkins, PhD; A. L. Olson, MD **Board 3** — Determination of foot-and-mouth disease freedom and associated implications on U.S. trade *A. Taylor, MS* **Board 4** — Molecular epidemiology of canine parvovirus in Taiwan *Y. T. Lu*; M. Y. Hsu; Y. C. Yang; M. H. Sung; T. W. Chi; K. H. Chen; Y. C. Lan, PhD **Board 5** — Tracing the evolution origin of novel *Bartonella* across different host in Taiwan *T. W. Chi*; Y. C. Lan, PhD; K. H. Chen; Y. C. Yang; Y. T. Lu; M. Y. Hsu **Board 6** — Veterinarians and the national biodefense science board, a federal advisory committee *M. Kellman, DVM, PhD, PMP*; **C. C. Spires**, DVM, MPH, DACVPM

**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2013: 2:30 PM: One Health - National and International**

**2:30 PM** — Wild side of trade and health *C. Machalaba, MPH*; K. Smith, DVM, Dipl. ACZM; W. Karesh, DVM **2:50 PM** — Analysis of online veterinary pharmacy regulations in the United States *M. V. Aruru, PhD, MBA, BSPHarm*; M. Hogan, PharmD **3:10 PM** — Presence of quinolone resistance in swine enteric flora *E. Byrd*; C. Smith; E. Goh; E. Hill, PhD; S. Mason, DVM, PhD; M. Thomas, PhD **3:30**

**PM** — Does pet owner knowledge about zoonotic infections lead to improved adherence for preventive medications for dogs? *M. Hogan, PharmD*; M. V. Aruru, PhD, MBA, BSPHarm

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2013: 8:30 AM: Disease Outbreak Response**

**8:30 AM** — Using cross-sectional data to improve anthrax outbreak response — republic of Georgia, 2012 *T. Doker, DVM, MPH, DACVPM* **8:50 AM** — Disease spread modeling: a decision tool for veterinary public health *K. Patyk, DVM, MPH*; T. Boyer, PhD, MPH **9:10 AM** — Best practices for predicting and preventing pandemics *C. Machalaba, MPH*; W. Karesh, DVM; K. Smith, DVM, Dipl. ACZM **9:30 AM** — Synthesizing data and subject matter expert opinion to establish simulation model input parameters: Avian influenza in poultry as an example *K. Patyk, DVM, MPH*; L. Voelker, DVM

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2013: 4:30 PM: One Health - State and Local**

**4:30 PM** — Observational study of facility practices and human interactions at petting zoos in Minnesota *E. Schiffman, MA*; **J. B. Bender**, DVM, MS, DACVPM; K. Smith, DVM, MS, PhD; J. Scheftel, DVM, MPH; C. Cherry, DVM; S. Saunders; A. Herreid **4:50 PM** — Fostering greater cross-agency collaboration to improve one health in Minnesota *J. Chung, DVM, MPH, DACVPM*; **T. Lynn**, DVM, MS, DACVPM; J. Anelli, DVM, MS; J. Kamanzi; C. Stephen, DVM, PhD; K. Pelican, DVM, PhD **5:10 PM** — 2020 healthy pets healthy families: Engaging the community in one health *K. Ehnert, DVM, MPVM, DACVPM*; R. Kim-Farley, MD, MPH; E. Beeler, DVM, MPH; A. Swanson, DVM; T. Scott, DVM, MPH **5:30 PM** — Benefits of pet ownership among homeless youth *H. Rhoades, PhD*; E. Rice, PhD; H. Winetrobe, MPH, CHES

**A year from now you may wish you had started today."**

— Karen Lamb, author

## Epidemiology Specialty Update

*Dr. Mark Starr*

To all ACVPM Diplomates with an interest in epidemiology: **November 15<sup>th</sup>** is the deadline to submit YOUR application for the Epidemiology Specialty exam – mark your calendar and start putting it together. Contact one of your colleagues in the specialty (<http://www.acvpm.org/Epi-Members.aspx>) for any assistance. (And remember that recent successful candidates for the Epidemiology Specialty will be automatically granted a five year ACVPM recertification when this requirement is instituted!)

The “state of the epidemiology specialty” is good, but it could be even better! This year brings us opportunities in several areas, but here are three key ones that I’ll discuss in this issue: specialty/membership models, continuing education, and our website.

Bruce Burnham, our outgoing President, identified some key issues during his two-year term, most notably our relatively static membership, and challenged us all to address this. He and our other officers and committee chairs described some of the reasons why the specialty is not growing along with the many values of membership in the Epidemiology Specialty (see Feb 2013 *News & Views*). And they conducted a survey of members regarding future directions for the Specialty. In short, the highest ranked structure was the current one (if there were stronger efforts to increase membership), but a close second was to work with ACVPM to consider a specialty model similar to other boards (such as ACVIM) where all diplomates specialize in some area. One way this might work is each ACVPM applicant would choose a specialty (say epi, food safety, environmental health, infectious diseases, preparedness, or generalist) and the exam would include two parts – a shorter general exam and a specialty exam (those wishing to be a generalist would take a longer general exam, much like the current ACVPM exam). This was discussed at our annual Specialty meeting (July 21<sup>st</sup> in Chicago) – it would be a significant change that would require considerable effort – and it resonated with ACVPM leadership where a

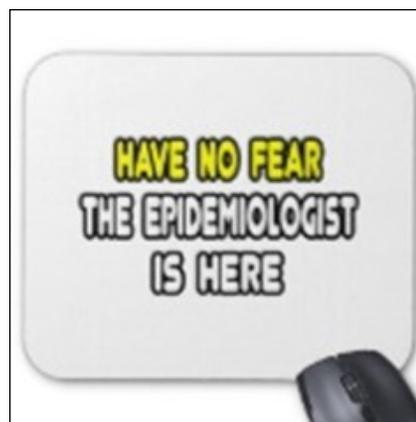
workgroup was formed to evaluate options and impacts. More to come on this...

Our Continuing Education Committee has proposed a NAHMS session at the 2014 AVMA Convention in Denver, and is now looking at ideas for 2015 in Boston. The deadline for proposed sessions for Boston is in January 2014, so please **send in any ideas you have**. For those that are missing the “Excellent Epidemiology” computer trainings, which had been a huge success until dramatically increased computer charges priced them out of the market, the Specialty is looking for ways to possibly bring this back.

Lastly, ACVPM is undergoing a website revision so the Specialty has an opportunity to not only update, but improve our web presence. Please send us any ideas you have for that and, if you have any skills or interests in this area, we would love your help. “Drop” me an email about this, or anything else on your mind, at [Mark.Starr@cdph.ca.gov](mailto:Mark.Starr@cdph.ca.gov).

Let me close with a sincere thank-you to Bruce Burnham for a great job as President (and for making sure I started off on sound footing). Many thanks also to Sean Altecruise, Secretary, and the Chairs and Members of our four committees for the great work that keeps the specialty going – I look forward to working with you all, and am honored to have this opportunity.

*Mark Starr*





## CONGRATULATIONS!

**Dr. Margaret "Peggy" Carter**

receives the

**2013**

**ACVPM Helwig-Jennings**

**Award**

and

**Dr. Patty Sharko**

receives the

**2013**

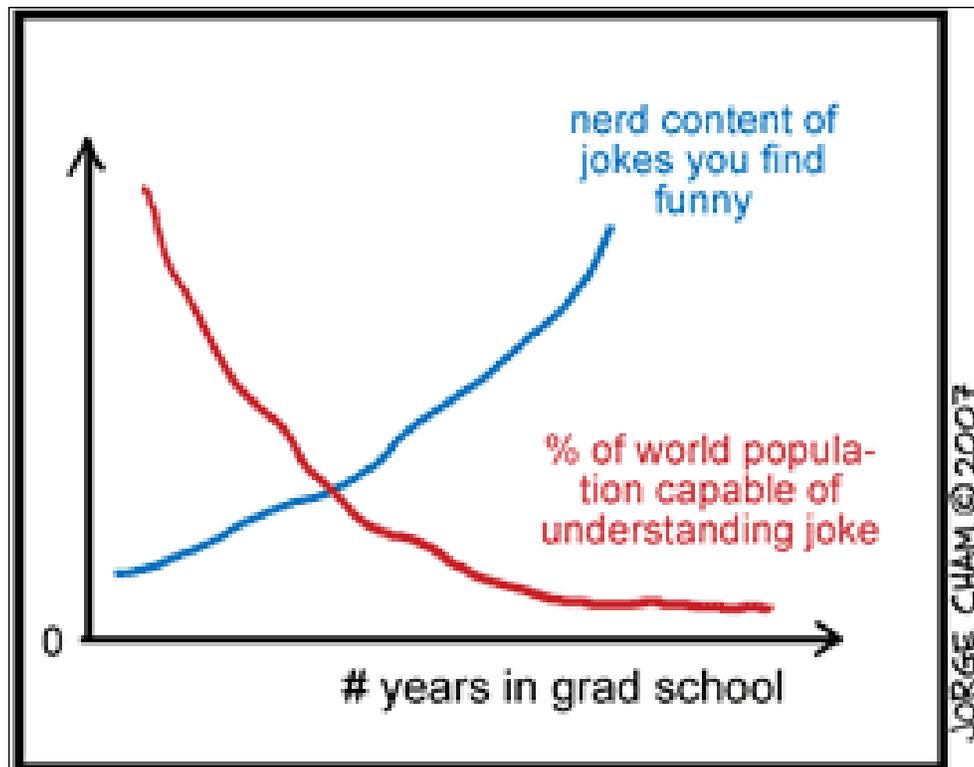
**ACVPM Distinguished**

**Diplomate Award**

at the annual meeting this

year which was held in

Chicago.



Applies to Editor, no reflection on other ACVPM members of course!

*Dr. Tom Doker*