

News & Views



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ACVPM News from the AVMA meeting in Atlanta



New Chairs of Committees:
Internal Affairs: Dr. Tracy DuVernoy
Membership and Outreach: Dr. Deanna Brown
Nominations and Awards: Dr. Peggy Carter
Continuing Education: Dr. Kelley Donham
Communications: Dr. Tom Doker
Credentials: Dr. Bob Lavan
Examinations: Dr. Dale Moore



The American College of Veterinary Preventive Medicine (ACVPM) held its annual meeting at the 2010 AVMA Convention in Atlanta, Georgia. At the business forum, the Exam Committee reviewed all the exam scores of the 2010 candidates to certify them and determine lessons learned. The Executive Committee met to discuss the future of the College.

For his long-term outstanding and unwavering service to the American College of Veterinary Preventive Medicine, the 2010 Helwig-Jennings Award was awarded to Dr. David W. Goolsby.



The 2010 Distinguished Diplomate Award was presented to Dr. Marguerite Pappaioanou for her significant contributions to veterinary preventive medicine.



A Special award, the 2010 Frank A. Todd President's Award, was presented by Dr. Margaret Carter to Dr. Malcolm Roberts for meritorious service to the American College of Veterinary Preventive Medicine.

2010 Communications Committee members:

Dr. Tom Doker

thomas.doker@gmail.com

Dr. Tom Berg

thomas.Berg@pfizer.com

Dr. Ethel Taylor

ETaylor@cdc.gov

Please forward us any news or items that you would like for us to consider publishing in the Newsletter!

Fall issue deadline:
12 November

Presidents letter.....

Dr. Roger Krogwold

As I begin my term as President of the ACVPM, I want to thank two members of the Executive Board who completed terms in office this summer, John Herbold and Kevin Grayson. Both provided many contributions to our College. Members of our Executive Board who have moved to another position on the Executive Board are Peggy Carter and Mo Salman. Peggy completed her term as President and is now Past-President, and Mo Salman, who was a Councilor, is now President-Elect. Both will serve a two-year term. Also continuing on the Executive board are Marianne Ash as Secretary-Treasurer, Candace McCall as Executive Vice President, John Sanders as ACVPM representative to the ABVS, Rosalie Trevejo as President of the Epidemiology Specialty, and Russ Currier as Historian. Joining our Executive Board are Councilors Scott Brooks and David Goolsby. We have quite a breadth of talent and experience and I am certain all will serve the College well.

An issue facing the College is one that was discussed at the annual general membership meeting in Atlanta. This involves the shelter medicine group, who want to form a new Recognized Veterinary Specialty Organization (RVSO), just as the ACVPM is a RVSO. The ABVS of the AVMA directs new groups to first explore options to fit in as a Specialty in an existing RVSO. The shelter medicine group and the ABVS feel the ACVPM may be the closest match to what the shelter medicine people feel are their core competencies. Therefore, the shelter medicine group has approached the ACVPM to explore how they might be a Specialty in our College. The Executive Board looked into the feasibility of revising our present exam to be more general, but with a separate part to include a Specialty examination in one of our core competency areas. The Epidemiology Specialty is already in place. Another potential Specialty is Food Safety. This topic was addressed at the general membership meeting in Atlanta and there was mixed opinions. The next step may be to present options to the general membership using a survey. This would be used to get your opinion on whether this should be pursued and, if so, what direction this process might take.

Our website is looking better and becoming more functional. Many updates have occurred in the past several weeks. This progress will need to continue to get everything up to date and then the website must be maintained. The website is a window to our College viewed by prospective members and the general public, so the website is now and will be a high priority item. If you are seeing problems with the website, contact us. We can't afford to have a non-functioning or error-filled website.

Our goal of online applications has been difficult to work out, but should happen prior to the deadline. In the meantime, the announcement has been posted alerting potential applicants that November 15, 2010 is the deadline for submitting an application to sit for the 2011 examination. We want to increase College membership, so if you know someone who might be eligible, encourage them to look at our website for the latest requirements. During last spring's election, the qualification language changed allowing more flexibility in credentialing. The new language can be found on our website in Article VIII of the Constitution and Bylaws. Some may be surprised to see they are eligible to apply.

As many of you know, there are opportunities for applicants to study for the examination. Two of these are online and sponsored by Dannelle Bickett-Weddle and Glenda Dvorak at Iowa State and Kelly Vest at Virginia Tech. They are providing us an important service in preparing candidates for our examination. These study groups are not paid by the ACVPM and are not connected to the ACVPM other than the providers of subject information may be Diplomates in our College. Our special thanks to the providers of these programs for all their hard work and dedication to the profession in providing applicants with the best possible opportunity to pass the certification examination. We would appreciate knowing about any other opportunities and whether they are available just for enrolled students or if they are available to others.

Continued on page 5



2010 Examination Stats

52 individuals sat for the exam; 13 candidates were re-takes

36 (69%) approved for diplomate status

Pass rate by section:

Essay 78%

Multiple Choice 77%

2011 Exam Information

Application due 15 November 10

Scheduled for June 16 and 17, 2011 in Columbus, OH at The Ohio State University

Welcome New ACVPM Members!

Loren Adams, DVM	New Liberty, IA
Kristin Eugenia Agresta	US Army Africa
Kathryn A Belill, DVM	Silver Spring, MD
Joy Patricia Bennett	Albany, NY
Marla Brunell, DVM, MPH	Silver Spring, MD
Deborah A. Carr, DVM, MPH	Washington D.C.
David M. Chico, VMD, MPH	Albany, NY
Kira Ann Christian, DVM, MPH	Atlanta, GA
Troy Dale Creason	Ft. Lewis, WA
Russell F. Daly, DVM	Brookings, SD
Colleen Duncan, DVM, MSC, PhD	Ft. Collins, CO
Timothy Goldsmith DVM	St. Paul, MN
Eric Doran Gordon DVM	Marysville, OH
Rose Catherine Grimm, DVM	Silver Spring, MD
Aron J. Hall, DVM, MSPH	Atlanta, GA
Juliette Hanson, DVM	Wooster, OH
Morgan Hennessey DVM, MPH	Shoreview MN
Jennifer A. House, DVM, MPH	Indianapolis, IN

The ACVPM challenges fellow veterinarians engaged in public practice to improve the strength and breadth of their knowledge in veterinary preventive medicine by pursuing board certification. This experience will enhance personal skills, expand professional expertise, strengthen the specialty of Veterinary Preventive Medicine and ultimately favorably affect the health of mankind and the animal kingdom



Dr. Kendra Stauffer received the 2010 James H. Steele Veterinary Public Health Award. Dr. Stauffer, an Epidemic Intelligence Service officer since 2008 led a multi-state investigation of brucellosis cases linked to feral swine hunting, and she has provided essential work on anthrax investigative and preparedness activities for the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention.

Welcome New ACVPM Members!

Terence R. Kline, D.V.M., M.P.H.,	Wooster, OH
Therese Ann Kreuzberg, DVM, MS	Davis, CA
William A. Lanier, DVM, MPH	Salt Lake City, UT
Daniel Alan Leach	Norfolk, VA
Brendan Aynsell Lucius Lee	St. Paul, MN
Jeffrey T. LeJeune	Wooster, OH
Lindsey Jeanette Long, DVM	Columbus, OH
Jeffrey Todd Nelson, DVM, MPH	Ames, IA
Mohammad Muhi Eddin Obaidat	Washington D.C.
Robert Ririe Paul, DVM, MPH, MPVM	Japan
James W. Pratt, DVM, MPH	San Antonio, TX
William Raphael B.V.Sc.	Lansing, MI
Joseph M Royal	Bethesda, MD
Fortune Sithole, BVSc, MSc, PhD	Victoria, BC, Canada
Marcy Jan Souza, DVM, MPH	Knoxville, TN
Ethel Virginia Taylor, DVM, MPH	Atlanta, GA
Shannon Gayle Tucker, DVM, MPH	Clarksville, IN
Jennifer B. Walker	Westerville, OH

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Epidemiology Specialty News

The next Epidemiology Specialty examination will be held in St. Louis, MO on July 15, 2011 in conjunction with the AVMA Convention. For study references and additional information about the examination, please visit our web site: <http://www.acvpm.org/Epi-Certification-Info.aspx>.

In order to sit for the 2011 Epidemiology Specialty examination, candidates must submit a completed application and a \$50 application/examination fee to the ACVPM Executive Vice President, Dr. Candace McCall, no later than November 15, 2010.

Presidents letter...*continued from page 2*

Dr. Roger Krogwold

We now have two residency/MPH programs that were reviewed and approved by the ACVPM. The University of Minnesota's College of Veterinary Medicine and Public Health was re-certified and The Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine/College of Public Health was recently certified. These programs, like the online preparation courses, provide veterinary graduates who are ready to challenge our certification examination. If you are involved with a residency or graduate program that may be eligible for certification, please contact us. Our goal is to recognize programs that teach and emphasize our core competency areas and prepare students for the certification examination.

The Executive Board is further exploring ways to reduce postage costs via email notification for voting and paying dues online. One of the problems is how to interpret a lack of response. Is it because they didn't see the message or were just not interested? This creates a problem in deciding what to do next. Should we send a letter or just interpret a failure to respond as no interest in the topic at hand? Snail mail is both labor intensive and expensive. We'll inform you of our progress via another newsletter.

I hope you enjoy autumn wherever you may be or travel!

With Great Sadness.....

Bioterror expert dies: William C. Patrick, who grew deadly germ weapons (such as anthrax) for the US military before spending four decades developing treatments to fight them, died this month of bladder cancer at the age of 84, according to the New York Times. (At one point, while trying to develop a weapon out of Q fever, Patrick himself became infected.) Over the years, Patrick worked with the Secret Service, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the United Nations, and the Central Intelligence Agency. His business card carried a picture of a skull and crossbones; his stationary included a drawing of the Grim Reaper, with a scythe labeled "Biological Warfare" and germs spilling out of an outstretched arm. - the Scientist-Daily; 11 Oct. 2010



Dr. Leon Russell received the 2010 AVMA Award for contributions to organized veterinary medicine. Dr. Russell is past president of the AVMA and past president of the World Veterinary Association

AAPHV Update Fall 2010

The American Association of Public Health Veterinarians (AAPHV) Board of Directors and volunteer members have been busy since the last entry in the American College of Veterinary Preventive Medicine's (ACVPM) News & Views. The organization had a productive annual meeting that was held jointly with the National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians (NASPHV) on August 2 at the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) convention in Atlanta, Georgia.

New items approved at the business meeting included:

- ◆ The revised Bylaws were unanimously approved by the membership! To review the new AAPHV Bylaws, please see the AAPHV homepage: <http://www.aaphv.org/>.

According to the new Bylaws, Diplomates of the American College of Veterinary Preventive Medicine (ACVPM) are no longer automatic members of AAPHV without officially joining AAPHV and paying dues. However, ACVPM members will retain their automatic membership in AAPHV through the end of this calendar year (2010) and will not be required to pay dues until 2011. For all ACVPM Diplomates who wish to continue their AAPHV membership, please complete a membership form and submit your dues payment of \$30.00 (<http://www.aaphv.org/membership.html>). This will be AAPHV's last notice to ACVPM Diplomates through ACVPM communication channels. ACVPM members are a core constituency and strength of AAPHV and we hope that you will continue to help shape the direction of AAPHV, so please fill out a 2011 membership form today! Thank you!

Election of new Officers:

Please join AAPHV in welcoming Drs. Millie Eidson as the newly-elected AAPHV President-elect; Kendra Stauffer as AAPHV Secretary; and Louisa Castrodale as Treasurer! Millie, Kendra and Louisa join the remaining newly installed members of the Board of Directors: Drs. Tracy DuVernoy (President) and Katherine Feldman (Immediate Past President). In addition, our revised Bylaws created two At-Large positions to serve on the AAPHV Board of Directors (BoD). Drs. Kelly Vest and Adam Langer were recently elected to the At-Large positions in a Special Election.

Other activities of the BoD include regular updating and enhancement of the AAPHV website and the Members Only section; support of various legislative issues; contact with current and potential members through our Working Groups (Outreach and Communications); and discussion on the development of public health position statements. The BoD is also addressing strategic planning for the organization. The annual AAPHV business meeting summary from the 2010 meeting will be distributed to the membership soon; please refer to that summary for more detailed information on any of the aforementioned activities.

If any ACVPM member would like to serve as a volunteer in any capacity on behalf of AAPHV, participate in a Working Group, or offer suggestions to enhance the organization, please contact the BoD at: AAPHVet@gmail.com. Thank you for your support of AAPHV!

News From the American Public Health Association

Update from the Chair of the Veterinary Public Health Special Primary Interest Group (VPH SPIG) of the American Public Health Association

The VPH SPIG focuses on the interface of humans and animals; not just the diseases but the quality of life, health benefits, and environmental health issues as well. We positively influence the human-animal connection and advance the One Health concept. We have just over 100 members, about 70 are veterinarians. Our goal is to be the leaders within the APHA for food safety, the health benefits of animals, the humane treatment of animals, climate change, and advancing the One Health initiative. Please feel free to read our most newsletter located at: <http://www.apha.org/membergroups/newsletters/spignewsletters/veter/fall10/>

The VPH SPIG submitted a resolution encouraging community leaders to discuss trap-neuter-release (TNR) as an option for managing stray and feral cat colonies. The resolution did not call for TNR as a blanket practice, rather that the various local organizations involved in public health, animal control, and wildlife management meet and discuss options, and adopt TNR wherever applicable. The resolution received a negative assessment due to numerous unanswered concerns, and the VPH SPIG will likely re-submit an updated policy recommendation in 2011. Lastly, the APHA has already published a policy recommendation on food, antimicrobial use in animal feed, and other veterinary related issues that can be viewed at:

http://www.apha.org/APHA/CMS_Templates/PolicySearch.aspx?NRMODE=Published&NRNODEGUID=%7b40FCA601-747E-4190-936B-BBB2DB8CDD36%7d&NRORIGINALURL=%2fadvocacy%2fpolicy%2fpolicysearch%2fdefault%2htm%3fid%3d1361&NRCACHEHINT=NoModifyGuest&id=1361#top

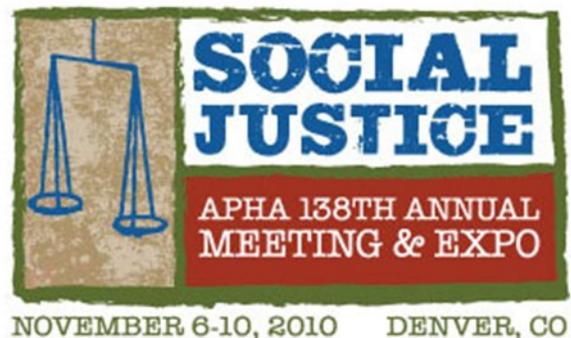
Evaluating this policy will be on the agenda for our business meeting in Denver on 8 November. All ACVPM diplomats are most welcome to attend.

Thank you!

Bill Courtney

Chair, VPH SPIG of the APHA

billcourt1@aol.com



Upcoming Events

Upcoming COCA Conference Call Title: Neglected Infections of Poverty in the United States

Neglected infections of poverty are a group of parasitic, bacterial, and viral infections that disproportionately affect impoverished groups in the United States, and lead to illness in a significant number of individuals in vulnerable populations. These infections are often not well studied or tracked; thereby impacting diagnosis, treatment, and prevention. During this call, a CDC subject matter expert will describe the epidemiology, diagnosis, and treatment of 3 neglected infections of poverty - Chagas Disease, Toxocariasis, and Trichomoniasis.

Date: Tuesday, November 2, 2010

Time: 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM (Eastern Time)

Speaker: Paul T. Cantey, MD, MPH – LCDR U.S. Public Health Service,
Medical Officer Parasitic Diseases Branch
Division of Parasitic Diseases and Malaria - CDC

Call Number: 888-790-6180

Passcode: 1281914

For more information on this call visit <http://emergency.cdc.gov/coca/callinfo.asp>.

15th International Congress on Infectious Diseases (ICID) Location Announced

The 15th ICID will be held in Bangkok, Thailand June 13-16, 2012

North Carolina One Medicine Symposium

The annual NC One Medicine Symposium will be held on December 8th this year and I would like to invite you to attend. A save the date memo is attached. The theme this year will be on vector borne diseases and CE credit (six hours) will be available for veterinarians. Registration is open at:

<http://www.onemedicinenc.net/> and the cost is only \$50.00. A draft agenda is available on the website.

Stay tuned for specific speaker information.

Please mark this on your calendars and hopefully you will be able to attend! Thanks for your time and I hope everyone had a good Labor Day.

Carl Williams, DVM, DACVPM
State Public Health Veterinarian
NC Division of Public Health
919-733-3410

Upcoming Events

IMED 2011 (International Meeting on Emerging Diseases & Surveillance)

The next IMED meeting will be held in Vienna, Austria, from February 4 to 7, 2011. You can follow updates at the IMED website: <http://imed.isid.org/>
On-line Abstract Submission and On-Line Registration are currently available, the submission deadline is 1 December 2010.

Kamran KHAN (Canada): The Spread of Emerging Diseases by Global Air Travel

Marc SPRENGER (Sweden): Monitoring Infectious Diseases Threats in Europe

Robert SWANEPOEL (South Africa): Emerging Arenaviruses

Linfu WANG (Australia): Identifying New and Emerging Viruses

Monitoring Emerging Diseases and the Media

Steve BERGER (Israel): GIDEON

Jim HUTCHINSON (Canada): Surveillance of Stewardship

Antoine FLAHAULT (France): Emerging Diseases in Public Health Education

Symposia: H1N1 Pandemic; Antibiotic Resistance; Q Fever in the Netherlands; Wildlife Symposium; New Surveillance Strategies; Emerging Diseases and the Media; Vectorborne Diseases; Vaccines and Reemergences of Old Foes; Farm to Table: Foodborne Diseases; ISC Antibiotic Resistance

CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF VETERINARY EPIDEMIOLOGY AND PREVENTIVE MEDICINE (CAVEPM) 2011 ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND WORKSHOPS

We are pleased to announce the 2011 CAVEPM annual conference that will be held on Thursday May 26th and Friday May 27th under the theme Event detection and surveillance. Surveillance of health and production is a common activity that brings together veterinarians working at the farm level in preventive medicine and

epidemiologists working in disease surveillance or public health at the regional, provincial, or national level. The main goal of the CAVEPM 2011 conference is to bring together these professionals so that they can learn

from one another by presenting, discussing, and exchanging on the most recent scientific developments and methods used in their respective domain of practice.

This year again, the CAVEPM organization is offering two excellent workshops:

Pre-conference workshop, May 23rd to 25th, 2011: Advanced Logistic Regression Models. Instructor: Joseph M Hilbe, JD, PhD, Arizona State University et Jet Propulsion Laboratory, California Institute of Technology

Post-conference workshop, May 28th to 30th, 2011: Burden and health economics assessment of zoonotic infections. Instructor : H  l  ne Carabin, DVM, PhD, Department of Biostatistics and Epidemiology, College of Public Health, University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center.

The call for abstracts is now open and will close on December 17th 2010. We particularly encourage submission of abstracts demonstrating relevance to the conference's theme, Event detection and surveillance. However, abstracts regarding any topic related to veterinary epidemiology, animal health, zoonoses and public health, biosecurity, and animal welfare will be welcomed as well.

For more information pertaining to the conference, workshops, abstract submissions and more, please visit our website at: <http://www.medvet.umontreal.ca/acempv/angl/index.asp>.

Upcoming Events

CALL FOR PAPERS AND REGISTRATION: INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ANIMAL HEALTH SURVEILLANCE

The aim of the conference is to gather scientists and policy makers working in the area of animal health surveillance to exchange new ideas and better understand the challenges and opportunities that each group faces, and to develop solutions for future surveillance approaches under considerations of efficiency, cost-effectiveness and quality that fulfill the needs of both policy and science. We hereby invite submissions of papers for oral and poster presentations. Oral presentations will be 15 minutes plus discussion. Details on poster formats will be provided directly to the authors after acceptance of their submission.

Submissions are invited in the following themes:

- 1) Value and evaluation of surveillance systems
- 2) Design of surveillance for different objectives and populations (developing and developed countries)
- 3) Data collection, transmission and management
- 4) Dissemination of surveillance information
- 5) Training in animal health surveillance
- 6) Implementation of surveillance

More information on the themes as can be found at: www.animalhealthsurveillance.org

Conference registration and submissions are managed through the online web site

<http://www.conference-service.com/ICAHS/welcome.cgi>

A link is also available on the ICAHS web site (www.animalhealthsurveillance.org).

More News

New Executive Board:

Roger Krogwold - President

Mo Salman - President Elect

Marianne Ash - Secretary/Treasurer

Margaret Carter - Past President

Beth Karp - Councilor

Scott Brooks - Councilor

David Goosby - Councilor

Rosalie Trevejo - President Epidemiology Specialty

Candace McCall - Executive Vice President

More News

USDA/APHIS News for States

Latest edition available at following link:

http://www.aphis.usda.gov/APHIS_News_4States/2010/October/index.html

USDA accreditation remains valid for now

Veterinarians accredited through the older model of the National Veterinary Accreditation Program can continue to perform duties allowed under that system, even if they haven't signed up for the revised NVAP. The department expects to process all the applications by March 2011 and, when that is closer to completion, will publish another Federal Register notice with a new date by which veterinarians will have to elect whether to participate in the NVAP.

The USDA is replacing the lifetime accreditation system with one that includes renewals every three years, continuing education, and tiered accreditation categories. The program will also include specializations for some disease control activities. The USDA previously announced that veterinarians who did not elect to participate in the revised NVAP by Aug. 2 would lose their accreditation.

More information on the NVAP is available at www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/vet_accreditation. A PDF version of the latest announcement is available at <http://frwebgate2.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/PDFgate.cgi?WAISdocID=ta320e/0/2/0&WAIAction=retrieve>.

Graduate Certificate in Veterinary Preventive Medicine

The College of Veterinary Medicine at Iowa State University is pleased to offer a new education program for working professionals - a Graduate Certificate in Veterinary Preventive Medicine. The 1st cohort will begin classes in January 2011, and therefore applications for admission are welcome now.

The purpose of the Graduate Certificate in Veterinary Preventive Medicine is to address the continued and advanced education needs of animal health professionals. The certificate enables professionals to gain recognition for a skill set that includes epidemiology, risk assessment, production medicine and animal welfare.

A graduate certificate may be used to increase knowledge in a new or emerging area of interest to the candidate. As such it may be used to formally gain recognition for retraining to meet the needs of today's food production systems.

Also, a graduate certificate provides an introduction to graduate education that enables a candidate to decide if further degree programs are "right for them". Completing a certificate by distance, allows animal health professionals to try returning to graduate school without leaving a current position or committing to the larger number of credits needed for a Masters (30+ credits) or Doctoral (72+ credits) level program.

For further information please feel free to visit the website at <http://vetmed.iastate.edu/vdpam/graduate-programs/certificate>

Article of Interest

Debate dogs Lyme meeting

Conflicting views over a chronic form of the disease cause some advocacy groups to withdraw from key workshop

By Bob Grant [from - the Scientist-Daily; 11 Oct. 2010]

[Published 11th October 2010 02:22 PM GMT]

As Lyme disease experts gather today (11th October) in Washington DC for a two-day scientific workshop organized by the Institutes of Medicine (IOM), a trio of disease advocacy groups have withdrawn their participation, claiming that the meeting is biased. After "much deliberation," the groups – Time for Lyme, the Lyme Disease Association (a national group), and the California Lyme Disease Association – decided to walk away from the meeting, arguing that organizers are not presenting enough information about the possibility that the disease can be chronic, and requires a long-term regimen of antibiotic drugs. Patients are typically administered a 2-3 week course of antibiotics to clear the infection. Some Lyme patients, however, complain of lingering symptoms weeks, months, or years after treatment stops, prompting some physicians and patient advocates to claim that the disease is chronic and persistent, and should be managed with long-term antibiotics.

The groups object to an agenda listing several presentations from members of the Infectious Disease Society of America (IDSA), which in 2006 published widely-accepted Lyme disease treatment guidelines that advise against long-term antibiotic treatment. Four of the six members of a panel that will write a report about the workshop are also members of the IDSA. "We can't give any kind of approval to these people and this process. This is wrong. It does not at all serve the interests of patients," said Patricia Smith, president of the non-profit Lyme Disease Association. "I don't think that there's any chance of openness of mind there." IOM spokesperson Christine Stencel contends that the institute did not invite speakers in a biased way and in fact precluded individuals who had worked on the 2006 IDSA guidelines – which were criticized by some for perceived conflicts of interests among its authors – from serving on the workshop committee. "We know that there are different perspectives that are important, and we are trying to be responsive to all these challenges and needs."

This week's meeting will seek to highlight gaps in science on the disease as voiced by stakeholders in the field, Stencel added. "The selection of the topics and the development of the agenda for this upcoming workshop has been based on hearing from many groups, individuals and organizations on issues that they think are important." Smith, along with her peers at Time for Lyme and the California Lyme Disease Association, protested by withdrawing a report that the IOM had asked them to submit to the meeting, instead entering it into the Congressional record. The report deals with patient perceptions of gaps in the research surrounding Lyme and other tick-borne diseases and calls for more research into treating chronic Lyme infections.

Lyme is the most common tick-borne disease in the U.S. There were approximately 30,000 confirmed cases of Lyme disease last year, up from just 16,000 confirmed cases in 1999. Most cases of Lyme disease in the US are caused by *Borrelia burgdorferi*, a species of bacteria that is transmitted by tick bites to humans and other mammals. The kerfuffle over this week's IOM meeting highlights a long running rift in the Lyme disease community. A minority of Lyme disease researchers and physicians believe that chronic persistent Lyme disease is a real threat that is best treated with months of antibiotics, and sometimes



An adult deer tick (*Ixodes scapularis*)
Photo: Scott Bauer, courtesy
USDA

Article of Interest

even intravenous injections of the drugs. Patients and their advocates often recount harrowing stories of fatigue, chronic pain, cognitive impairment, and other ailments lasting long after contracting the disease.

However, scientists like Paul Mead, medical epidemiologist at the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, cite a handful of placebo-controlled clinical trials that failed to find any benefit of extending antibiotic treatment beyond three weeks in Lyme patients. The most recently published paper, a 2008 NIH-funded study in Neurology, tracked 37 patients complaining of memory impairment, fatigue, and pain after receiving a standard regimen of antibiotics after contracting Lyme disease. Patients on a 24-week course of antibiotics showed only mild cognitive function improvements. The study echoed the results of two earlier trials in which researchers found no greater benefit in patients who received 3 months of antibiotics compared to those who were given a placebo. "If there was good scientific evidence that people were infected for a long time and long-term antibiotics were beneficial, I don't think we would be having this debate," Mead, who is presenting at the IOM meeting, told *The Scientist*. "The fact is that the studies have been done, and the science doesn't support that view."

However, Daniel Cameron, an epidemiologist and attending physician at Northern Westchester Hospital in New York, said that the studies had serious design flaws, such as the enrollment of severely sick patients and small sample sizes. He regularly prescribes long-term antibiotic treatment to patients with chronic Lyme disease, and has published critiques of the studies and epidemiological data of his own that he says supports the notion that chronic Lyme is a real problem helped by longer courses of antibiotics. In 2007, Cameron published a case-controlled study in the *Journal of Evaluation in Clinical Practice* that showed that 24 out of 100 patients who were treated for Lyme disease presented symptoms of the disease years after being infected. In the majority of these cases, Cameron suggested, delayed treatment of the initial infection appeared to be a major risk factor in developing chronic symptoms. He cautioned against lending too much credence to the findings that long-term antibiotics are not beneficial to chronic Lyme patients, but said that the placebo-controlled studies on treating persistent Lyme symptoms with long-term antibiotics do much to establish the existence and seriousness of chronic Lyme. "Those trials do one thing: establish the burden of the disease," said Cameron, who is attending the IOM meeting and is immediate past president of the International Lyme and Associated Diseases Society (ILADS), which published Lyme treatment guidelines that do support long-term antibiotic treatment.

Meanwhile, some researchers are elucidating interesting facets of the disease by looking at latter stages of infection in animal models. Stephen Barthold, director of veterinary pathology at the University of California, Davis, has found evidence of pockets of dormant bacteria evade antibiotic treatment and persist in mouse models of Lyme disease. "Persistence is the rule not the norm for this particular bacteria," he said. "It can evade immune clearance quite readily." These "metabolically shut down" bacteria, Barthold explained, could potentially persist and become active long after antibiotics are administered. Extending Lyme research beyond the acute phase of infection is the logical next step, Barthold, who is presenting at the IOM meeting, said, adding that the opponents on both sides of emotionally charged debate must try to stay open to new knowledge about the disease. "We can't afford to be totally dogmatic about things. We need to keep an open mind. There's a lot of mistruth out there, and there's a kernel of truth in everybody's story."

Graduate Program Opportunity

DVM Graduate Program

The Department of Production Animal Health of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine in collaboration with the University of Alberta and commercial partners, is seeking a graduate student (MSc) with interest in the beef cattle industry with a focus on development and evaluation of automated diagnostic methods for feedlot cattle.

Project description: Losses due to disease represent one of the largest liabilities in animal production. The costs involved result from mortality, morbidity (e.g. from lost performance) and treatment costs. Identifying diseased animals in feedlot operations is a labor intensive and specialized job. Like in any diagnostic process, producer identified diseased animals can be false- positive (when non-diseased animals are identified), or false-negative resulting from failure to identify a diseased animal. This project will utilize remote recording of animal feeding and drinking behavior. Combined with an estimated weight of the live animal we will be able to compare the current method of visual assessment of cattle, with automated identification. The aim is to identify diseased animals in the early stages of disease in order to reduce labor and costs associated with disease. The project will be executed on 2 major feedlots in South West Alberta. This collaborative project is funded by the Alberta Livestock and Meat Agency and will commence in the fall of 2010.

A DVM degree is preferred, however, applicants with degrees in animal science or a related field will be considered. The graduate program will help the successful candidate develop strong skills in epidemiology, biostatistics, and production animal health. The salary will be commensurate with the level of education and experience. For additional information please contact Drs Karin Orsel or Herman Barkema (barkema@ucalgary.ca).

Review of applications will start soon as the data collection will start late 2010. Interested individuals should submit a current curriculum vitae and an outline of research interests along with the names of three referees to:

Dr. Karin Orsel, karin.orsel@ucalgary.ca, +1 (403) 210-6127
Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Calgary,
3330 Hospital Drive NW, Calgary, Alberta, Canada

**Please update your information at
acvpm.org
We will need it for the new Web site
and for further communications!**

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