

Spring 2003  
Volume 68

# News & Views



## President

Dr. Paul Sundberg

## President-Elect

Dr. Patty Scharko

## Secretary-Treasurer

Dr. Don Seedle

## Historian

Dr. Tom Murnane

## Past President

Dr. Niall Finnegan

## Publisher

Dr. Dave Dreesen

## Editor

Dr. Kevin Grayson

## Highlights:

Legislative Alerts	3
Annual Meeting	
Schedule	5
AVMA Sessions of	
Potential Interest	6
Scientific News	8
EVP's Notes	10
Diplomate	
Recognition	12
Epidemiology	
Specialty news	13
It's Just the Flu	15
AAPHV	
Newsletter	17
Exam Committee	
Meets	21

## President's Corner

Preparations are under way for the annual meeting, so I thought that this would be a good opportunity to bring everyone up to date on some of the things that have been going on. I hope for stimulating questions, opinions, thoughts, and discussion in Denver.

One of the front-burner issues has been a process for drafting position statements for the College. We have been asked to review and offer an opinion on the issue of rabies quarantine requirements for pets (dogs) moving between states. The specific question comes from Hawaii—quarantine requirements, are they justified? Who better to provide scientific input into this question than the College? Certainly we have the expertise among our Diplomates to provide an expert opinion. One of the ways our College will be recognized as a resource of knowledge and expert advice is to be prepared and willing to weigh in on issues. Sitting on the sidelines is comfortable, safe, and easy. But, to do so will not serve the long-term interests of our College and its professional standing. But, the important issue—the one that will last with the College—is not any position on whether it is or is not appropriate to quarantine dogs upon entry into a state that doesn't have rabies in feral animals. The Executive Board will be considering whether we can come to an appropriate, science-based position that can be used as part of a risk assessment.

The important issue, though, is the process by which the College can produce position statements. Sound science. A good place to start in developing positions for the College. But saying that we will base positions on sound science is not enough. Sound science can vary depending on who is interpreting the science and their inherent biases. One of the strengths of scientists is that they are continually questioning. "What if" is one of the phrases that leads to a greater understanding of the world in which we live. That questioning very rarely leads to absolute statements from scientists. Therefore, I have asked the Internal Affairs Committee to provide the Executive Board with a recommendation for a process by which the College can draft, consider and approve position statements. This will be no easy task. It will require the vigilance of all of our Diplomates. The strength of



our College rests with the knowledge of our Diplomates. If we are to take meaningful positions, we need to tap our strengths. Your Executive Board will work to draft a method by which there will be adequate checks and balances without handcuffing the College.

Another issue is the development of core competencies for Diplomates. What, specifically, should be the basic knowledge and abilities required for a person to become a Diplomat? This appears to be a relatively easy question—they have to qualify to sit for the certifying examination, they have to take it, and they have to have a passing grade on each section. But, in order for our credentialing and examination process to be consistent in its ability to identify those people that qualify for Diplomat status it is important that we have a systematic structure upon which to build that process. As with any academic exercise we first have to ask what it is that we want the successful candidate to be able to do and then we have to build the examination to provide the best assurance possible that that standard will be met. This isn't to say that the Examination Committee hasn't been consistent and diligent in their work. Each of the subject matter experts and the Committee as a whole do yeoman's work and each of us owe them our gratitude. But our examination process is the summation of our membership criteria. The College owes it to the Examination Committee to do what we can to make their process easier, more standardized, and more defensible. Therefore, I have asked some key people to review the core competencies that are necessary for proficiency in each of our subject areas. They are working with small, ad hoc committees to provide their recommendations. The process might not be finished by the annual meeting but we have a good start. When we get done, the Examinations Committee should have another tool to use in their work.

Next, I want to make you all aware that our College is in the process of defending itself against a legal challenge to our examination and appeals process. One of the candidates who did not successfully complete the examination has asked for legal remedy. Although unfortunate it is not necessarily a surprise that at some time we would be faced with a challenge such as this. This legal issue is not related to the examination content itself, but is a challenge of our examination grading and appeals process.

—continued on page 7

## Legislative Alerts

### Board Pay for Federal Veterinarians

The federal government's need for highly trained health science professionals has increased significantly over the past several years. The role of many federal health scientists places them on the front lines of current homeland security efforts. However, government agencies lack sufficient incentives to recruit and retain the best and brightest scientists for government service. To meet these needs, Senator Mary Landrieu (D-LA) has introduced Senate Bill 953, legislation that would extend specialty pay to board certified federal employees in positions related to dentistry, human medicine, nursing, veterinary medicine, pharmacy, psychology, and optometry.

S.953, Special Pay for Federal Board Certified Health Scientists, is one of five AVMA legislative initiatives for the 108th Congress. Senator Landrieu has asked the AVMA for help in obtaining cosponsors for this important legislation. The bill has been referred to the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee. It would be extremely helpful if your Senator is on this committee and if you would contact him or her and ask them to cosponsor this legislation. Refer them to Senator Landrieu's office at (202) 224-5824 and ask for Helen Cymrot. Helen can sign them up as cosponsors. The sidebar contains a list of members of the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee.

**What Can You Do?** Please contact your Senators and ask them to join Senator Landrieu in sponsoring this legislation that would extend specialty pay to all federal health science professionals who obtain board certification in their fields. It would also be very helpful for you to ask your senator to be a cosponsor even if they are not on this committee.

Please help us encourage Congress to pass this legislation in recognition of the important role that these highly skilled health science professionals play in the federal government.

**For Additional Information:** Please contact the American Veterinary Medical Association's Governmental Relations Division at (800) 321-1473 ext. 3210 to speak with Dr. Michael Chaddock ([mchaddock@avma.org](mailto:mchaddock@avma.org)).

#### Senate Governmental Affairs Committee Members

- Susan Collins, ME--Chair
- Ted Stevens, AK
- George Voinovich, OH
- Norm Coleman, MN
- Arlen Specter, PA
- Robert Bennett, UT
- Peter Fitzgerald, IL
- John Sununu, NH
- Richard Shelby, AL
- Joseph Lieberman, CT--  
Ranking Member
- Carl Levin, MI
- Daniel Akaka, HI
- Richard Durbin, IL
- Thomas Carper, DE
- Mark Dayton, MN
- Frank Lautenberg, NJ
- Mark Pryor, AR

—continued on page 4

—continued from page 3

## Minor Use and Minor Species Animal Health Act

In the United States, there is a critical shortage of approved animal drugs intended for minor uses or minor species. The Minor Use and Minor Species (MUMS) Act is similar to the human Orphan Drug Act of 1983. It is intended as a mechanism to provide FDA authorized drugs for uncommon animal disease conditions in a major species (major species include: cattle, horses, swine, chickens, turkeys, dogs, and cats), and for conditions in minor species where therapies are unavailable. Minor species include: sheep, goats, game birds (e.g. pheasants, quail), emus, ranched deer, elk, rabbits, guinea pigs, lizards, caged-birds, free ranging wildlife, zoo animals, and all fish and shellfish (e.g. farmed catfish, trout, bait fish, ornamental fish, oysters, clams, lobsters, striped bass).

### The MUMS Act:

- 1) Creates a program similar to the successful human Orphan Drug Program that has, over the past 20 years, dramatically increased the availability of drugs to treat rare human diseases;
- 2) Incorporates the significant proposals made by the FDA's Center for Veterinary Medicine to increase the availability of drugs for minor species or uncommon conditions in all animals;
- 3) Creates incentives for animal drug manufacturers to invest in product development and obtain FDA-drug marketing authorization; and
- 4) Creates mechanisms to alleviate the shortage of approved drugs while maintaining and ensuring protection of the public health.

**Legislative Update:** Senator Jeff Sessions (R-AL) has introduced the MUMS bill, S.741 on March 27, 2003. Representative Charles "Chip" Pickering (R-MS) introduced the House version of the MUMS bill, H.R. 2079 on May 13, 2003.

**Action Needed:** Please contact your Members of Congress and ask them to sign on as co-sponsors to H.R. 2079 and S. 741, the Minor Use Minor Species Animal Health Act.

**For further information:** Dr. David Scarfe ([Dscarfe@avma.org](mailto:Dscarfe@avma.org)) or Dr. Elizabeth Curry Galvin ([EGalvin@avma.org](mailto:EGalvin@avma.org)), at the AVMA-Scientific Activities Division at (800) 248-2862; or Dr. John Melcher at (202) 546-4084.



## Annual ACVPM Meetings

Note: All meetings will be held at the Hyatt Regency Denver Downtown.

<u>DATE</u>		<u>MEETING</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
Tuesday	July 15th	Examinations	Mt Evans
Wednesday	July 16th	Examinations	Mt Evans
Wednesday	July 16th	Examinations Committee	Longs Peak
Thursday	July 17th	Examinations Committee	Longs Peak
Friday	July 18th	Examinations Committee	Longs Peak
Saturday	July 19th	Executive Board	Board Room
Monday	July 21st	Epidemiology Specialty	Gold Room
Monday	July 21st	Credentials Committee	Pikes Peak
Monday	July 21st	General Membership	Mt Elbert

## Help Wanted

Volunteers are needed to represent the ACVPM in the College information booth at the annual AVMA meeting in Denver this summer.

Please contact Dr. Dave Dreesen, EVP, to select a time, or stop by the booth to sign up for a time when you arrive at the convention.

**AVMA Annual Sessions of Potential Interest**

<b>Saturday, July 19</b>	<b>All Day</b>	<b>Update on West Nile Virus</b>	<b>Vaccination Update</b>	<b>Canine or Feline Infectious Diseases</b>	<b>Food Safety in the News</b>
<b>Sunday, July 20</b>	<b>All Day</b>	<b>Toxicology Update</b>	<b>Animal Behavior</b>	<b>Dangerous Animals</b>	<b>Food Safety in the News</b>
<b>Monday, July 21</b>	<b>Morning</b>	<b>Animal Euthanasia and Disposal of Medical Wastes</b>	<b>FARAD and ELUD Guidelines</b>	<b>International Veterinary Medicine</b>	<b>Science- Based Intervention and Control Strategies for Food Safety</b>
	<b>Afternoon</b>	<b>West Nile Virus</b>	<b>Human- Animal Bond</b>		<b>Antimicrobial Resistance in Agriculture</b>
<b>Tuesday, July 22</b>	<b>Morning</b>	<b>Veterinary Preventive Medicine</b>	<b>Veterinary Public Health</b>	<b>CAFO and Manure Management</b>	<b>Food Security Issues</b>
	<b>Afternoon</b>			<b>Emergency Preparedness and Response</b>	<b>Small Animal Zoonoses</b>
<b>Wednesday, July 23</b>	<b>Morning</b>	<b>CAFO and Regulatory Compliance</b>	<b>Disaster Management</b>	<b>Emergency Preparedness and Response</b>	<b>Current Issues in Food Safety</b>

**Congratulations to Dr. Gary Gackstetter  
and to Dr. Candace Jacobs,  
newly elected Councilor  
and Secretary-Treasurer  
for the College.**

—continued from page 2

The College has been working through the situation with the help of very good legal counsel. Each side has made their arguments and the issue is before a judge. The timeline for a decision is the prerogative of the judge and I've been told that there is no way to predict when we can expect a decision. Because things can easily change, I won't go into the possible scenarios and consequences until after a decision is made. Be assured that the Executive Board is aware and continues to discuss the College's options.

One important point is that we have a very good and very solid process for examinations and appeals right now. The Internal Affairs Committee has reviewed that process and has provided the Executive Board with some recommendations regarding making it even stronger. But I also pointedly asked the lawyer for his advice on "how we could make our system even stronger, so we wouldn't have to go through this type of challenge in the future." The response was that we have now a very defensible system for grading and appeal. There may be some room for additional safeguards but there is no amount of safeguards that will prevent a lawsuit. Anyone can sue for any reason, so don't expect that this is the last challenge that we will ever see—no matter the number of protections that we have in place. The bottom line is that we can be thankful we have our current thoughtful and defensible process.

Finally, I want to personally thank our Committees, our Executive Board, and our Executive Vice-President for all their work and dedication through the last year. Their work and your interest are the reasons the College is progressing. I would like to challenge those of you that have not yet become involved with a Committee or some activity with the College to do so. As we look to the next year and continue to search for ways to serve our Diplomates, look to find new ways to provide opportunities for public and private service veterinarians to certify, and to expand our influence, we need fresh ideas and input from a wide variety of people. Please send an email with your interests, what issues you would like to address, and how you would like to be involved.

See you in Denver!

— Dr. Paul Sundberg  
paul.sundberg@porkboard.org



## Scientific News

*Edited, with permission, from the May/June issue of the News-O-Gram of the American Association of Food Hygiene Veterinarians.*

FDA, February 28, 2003. The FDA issued an order prohibiting the extra-label use of phenylbutazone animal and human drugs in female dairy cattle  $\geq 20$  months of age. The order was issued based on evidence that extra-label use of this drug in these cattle will likely cause an adverse event in humans. Investigation by FDA and State agencies has found phenylbutazone on farms and identified tissue residues in culled dairy cattle. FSIS has also reported residues in such cattle presented for slaughter for human food throughout the U.S. in the past two years.

Eurosurveillance Weekly, April 3, 2003. The new Health Protection Agency ([www.hpa.org.uk](http://www.hpa.org.uk)) came into operation on April 1 in England and Wales. It draws together a range of existing organizations and staff working in the surveillance, control, and research on communicable diseases, emergency planning, and chemical incident handling.

FSIS Consortium Newsletter, Winter, 2003. The FSIS has adopted the BAX<sup>R</sup> system to screen for *Salmonella* in ready-to-eat meat and poultry and in pasteurized egg products. FSIS has determined that this screening method is as sensitive as the current method for detecting *Salmonella* but also reduces the reporting time for negative samples by three days or more. FSIS implemented this new system on February 17 in the agency's three field laboratories and the Microbial Outbreaks and Special Projects laboratory (MOSPL) in Athens, GA.

Perez, D.R., *et al*, J of Virology, March, 2003. H9 influenza viruses have become endemic in land-based domestic poultry in Asia and have sporadically crossed to pigs and humans. Findings by these investigators suggest that quail provide an environment in which the adaptation of influenza viruses from ducks generates novel variants that can cross the species barrier.

Institute of Food Technologists, April 3, 2003. The Department of Food Safety at Penn State University has announced the availability of a 26 minute video and an accompanying 24 page booklet entitled "Control of *Listeria monocytogenes* in Small Meat and Poultry Establishments." The cost is \$25.00 for educators. Spanish versions are available. For more information contact Dr. Catherine Cutter, Food Safety Extension Specialist – Muscle Foods, Department of Food Science, Penn State University. Phone 814-865-8862. E-mail: [cnc3@psu.edu](mailto:cnc3@psu.edu).

—continued on page 9

—continued from page 8

MMWR, February 21, 2003. Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (CJD) has an annual incidence of approximately one case per million population and occurs in the U.S. in three forms: sporadic, genetically determined, and acquired by infection. Recent evidence that prion infection can cross the species barrier between humans and cattle has increased public health concerns about the transmission to humans of a transmissible spongiform encephalopathy (TSE) among deer and elk known as chronic wasting disease (CWD). During 1993-1999, three men who participated in wild game feasts in northern Wisconsin died of degenerative neurologic illnesses. This report reviewed these three cases. No association could be made between case participation in the wild game feasts and the development of CJD. A previous investigation of unusually young CJD patients in whom transmission of CWD was suspected also did not provide convincing evidence of CWD and CJD. However, limited epidemiologic investigations cannot rule out the possibility that CWD might play a role in causing human illness. Ongoing surveillance of CJD, particularly in states with CWD, is important to assess the risk, if any, for CWD transmission to humans.

FSIS, February 14, 2003. On this date, FSIS released a draft risk assessment for *Listeria* that could lead to reduction in illnesses and deaths associated with this pathogen. The risk assessment allows for evaluation of various control measures in the production of ready-to-eat meat and poultry products and is a further step toward rule making. The assessment is available at [www.fsis.usda.gov/OPHS/lmrisk/DraftLm21403.pdf](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/OPHS/lmrisk/DraftLm21403.pdf).

Helms, M., et al, British Medical Journal, February 15, 2003. The number of deaths from foodborne diseases is likely to be underestimated. Researchers in Denmark identified 48,857 people infected with the bacteria *Salmonella*, *Campylobacter*, *Yersinia enterocolitica*, or *Shigella*, plus 487,138 controls from the general population. A total of 1,071 (2.2%) of people with gastrointestinal infections died within one year after infection compared to 3,636 (0.7%) of controls. Risk of death was three times higher among patients infected with one of the four bacterial.

Center for Veterinary Medicine, FDA, March 5, 2003. CVM has a new section on its Web Page that includes links to CVM in Spanish. The new page can be found at [http://www.fda.gov/cvm/index/spanish\\_pub/CVMEspanol.htm](http://www.fda.gov/cvm/index/spanish_pub/CVMEspanol.htm). There are two fact sheets about FDA's role in safeguarding animal health to protect consumers and keeping the U.S. free of BSE and four small-entity compliance guides on FDA ruminant fee (BSE) rules.

## Notes from the Executive Vice President



*Dr. David W. Dreesen  
Executive Vice President  
America College of Veterinary  
Preventive Medicine  
P.O. Box 119  
Winterville, GA 30683-0119  
Phone & Fax: (706) 742-2689  
e-mail: [evp@acvpm.org](mailto:evp@acvpm.org)  
web site: [www.acvpm.org](http://www.acvpm.org)*

It has now been nearly a year since I assumed the position of your Executive Vice President. A very challenging, time-demanding, but interesting period. We have made a number of changes during these past months in the operation of the College, most of which I trust you approve.

First, we have reduced spending by increasing the use of electronic mail and the enhanced web site. Using electronic mailing of the News & Views Newsletter saves nearly \$8.00 per copy in printing and mailing costs. We have also initiated use of electronic balloting for those who are on the List Serve (approximately 480). This, as well, saves printing and mailing costs. Response to this means of voting, measured by the number of votes received, is good, but not great. Our returns are about the same as when we mailed out all ballots. We had hoped, and still do, that the response will be greater using electronic voting compared to 'snail mail' voting methods. We, of course, still mail ballots, the News and Views and the Directory to all members, active and emeritus, that are not on our electronic list serve. We trust those of you who receive the electronic notices of the ballots available on the web site, the News & Views Newsletter, job opportunities, late-breaking news, and other informational material like this method and read most of what is sent to you. If not, let us know. Another way to reduce spending has been to eliminate the 1-800 phone number. So far, we have had no complaints. It was not used much anyway. Also, by publishing the 2003 Directory in a CD format for those for whom we have an e-mail address (which indicates computer usage), we saved nearly \$4000 in printing and mailing costs.

Secondly, we have greatly enhanced the ACVPM web site. Nearly every day, informative material is placed on the publications page. More current links are available to other veterinary public health or preventive medicine web sites are on the links page. A calendar of events is on the web site. If you go to the calendar and click on to July, you will see the daily program of activities for the ACVPM at the AVMA convention. There is an interactive discussion page; a listing of all active members; a members only page currently used for voting; an Epidemiology Specialty site (the Specialty also has its own List Serve mailing list now), and much more. My thanks to our Web Master, Joe Adam, for his excellent administration of these electronic sites. Use the web site often and give us your critiques of how we are doing and how we can better serve you.

—continued on page 11

—continued from page 10

Thirdly, the budget will operate in the 'black' this year for the first time in several years. However, we are only just barely getting by. There is no excess. We need to replace reserve funds that were drawn out of our certificates of deposit (over \$20,000) in the past few years for operating expenses. The American Board of Veterinary Specialties (ABVS), which approves the operations and programs of the various AVMA Specialty Organizations, requires that we keep one year of operating funds in the bank as a reserve. We must begin replenishing our financial reserves to continue to meet this requirement.

Finally, the ABVS has just approved our Five-Year In-depth Report and our 2002 Annual Report. Both of these reports are developed by our Internal Affairs Committee. Believe me, there is a great amount of work performed by the committee members to produce these reports. I want to personally thank the Chair, Dr. Roger Krogwold, and his committee members, Dr. Peggy Carter and Dr. Scott Severin for their excellent work. Thanks also to Dr. Leon Russell, our delegate to the ABVS, for his guidance and assistance in preparing these reports.

Now – go vote on the By-law changes that have either been sent to you electronically or by US Mail.

See you in Denver – if you are there, come by the ACVPM booth and visit and sign-up to 'man' the booth for a couple of hours. We need your help. Thanks to all.

Dave

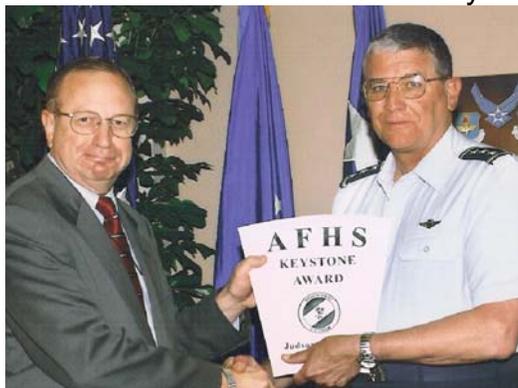
Dr. David W. Dreesen  
Executive Vice President  
America College of Veterinary Preventive Medicine  
P.O. Box 119, Winterville, GA 30683-0119  
Phone & Fax: (706) 742-2689  
e-mail: [evp@acvpm.org](mailto:evp@acvpm.org)  
web site: [www.acvpm.org](http://www.acvpm.org)

## Diplomate Recognition—A Short List of ACVPM Diplomates Recognized in 2002/2003 for Achievements in Veterinary Preventive Medicine



Dr. John Herbold

- **Paul L. Barrows:** Elected President of the Int'l Wildlife Disease Assoc
- **Joanne M. Brown:** State of FL Productivity Award (Anthrax Team)
- **Lisa Conti:** U. of FL Alumni Achievement Award
- **Kelley J. Donham:** ACVPM Helwig –Jennings Award: For distinguished & lasting contributions to veterinary preventive medicine; The U. IA Public Health Distinguished Service Award; and The U. of IA CVM Distinguished Alumni Award
- **Brown, WL; Daise, RL; Noland, BV; Poppe, J; Topping, EH III; Villiard, JC; Walters, BE; & Yehle, ME:** Order of Military Medical Merit
- **Thomas L. Hanna:** Texas VMA: Companion Animal Practitioner of the Year
- **John R. Herbold:** Secretary of Defense Outstanding Public Service Medal for contributions to improvement of defense operations and processes
- **Robin K. King:** Appointed to the National Advisory Committee. for Microbial Criteria in Food
- **Donald A. McClean:** Navy Meritorious Service Medal
- **Judson C. Minor:** Air Force Health Study “Keystone Award”



- **John C. New, Jr.:** ACVPM Distinguished Diplomate of the Year
- **Paul L. Nicoletti:** U. of FL, CVM Distinguished Service Award
- **James H. Steele:** 2002 PAHO/WHO Centennial Award
- **Robert V. Taylor, Jr.:** U.S. Army Legion of Merit & USDA Group Honor Award for Excellence for early detection of a multistate *Listeria* outbreak
- **Lyle P. Vogel:** AVMA President's Award

## Epidemiology Specialty News

The Epidemiology Specialty Credentials Committee (Chaired by Dr. Beth Karp, with members Dr. Samuel Groseclose and Dr. Eric Ebel) reviewed the applications of three ACVPM members for the Epidemiology Specialty, and recommended all of them for the examination. The Epidemiology Specialty Examination Committee (Chaired by Dr. Linda Rae Kelley Schlater, with members Dr. Bruce Burnham and Dr. George Moore) is preparing the examination to be administered on July 15 at the AVMA meeting in Denver. There were no applicants for the Epidemiology Specialty in 2002; thus, we are pleased to have some ACVPM members considering our Specialty this year.



Dr. David Smith, Epidemiology Specialty Secretary, just completed our first internet ballot, with the able assistance of Joe Adam, ACVPM Webmaster. The Epidemiology Specialty By-Laws required updating to reflect the small annual membership fee and the application and certification fees for new members. The previous By-Laws and the amendment read as follows:

### Article VI

#### Fees and Fiscal Matters

Section 1 *There are no membership fees for the Specialty separate from those of the ACVPM.*

#### Proposed Amendment:

Section 1 *There are membership fees for the Specialty in addition to those of the ACVPM, and also an application fee and certification fee set by the officers in consultation with the ACVPM Executive Vice-President.*

#### Justification:

Currently ACVPM does collect \$20 additional annual dues from Specialty members, on top of the ACVPM dues, so we are out of compliance with current by-laws. In addition, there currently is a \$50 application fee and \$150 certification fee (upon passing the exam) that are not mentioned in the by-laws, and it would be better to have enabling language in the by-laws for those fees.

—continued on page 14

—continued from page 13

Twenty-three of the Epidemiology Specialty members voted in the internet ballot through the ACVPM website, and the amendment was passed unanimously. The Specialty By-Laws have been updated on the ACVPM website.

As listed in the AVMA schedule, the Epidemiology Specialty Board Meeting is scheduled for Monday, July 21, from noon to 1:00 pm, and the Epidemiology Specialty general membership meeting is scheduled from 1:00-2:00 p.m. Both meetings are currently scheduled for the Gold Room of the Hyatt Regency Denver Downtown. The Board Meeting at noon is intended for the Specialty officers and committee chairpersons, so we encourage all of them to attend the Board Meeting. We are unlikely to have enough material for the Board alone to take an entire hour. On the other hand, there may be a number of items to discuss with the general membership. **So please make a note that we will start the general membership meeting at 12:30, not 1:00 as indicated in the convention schedule.** We encourage all Specialty members to attend. You're welcome to bring your lunch with you.

At the Convention Specialty meeting, the important issues to be discussed include: how much promotion of the Specialty we should do, in terms of recruitment of new members and participation in conferences; whether to attract new Diplomates from abroad; whether we favor ACVPM having two specialties (e.g. preventive medicine and epidemiology); whether to have 'direct examination'; the results of the activities and interest survey (see previous ACVPM newsletter); and committee assignments/plans. Specialty members are encouraged to submit any additional agenda items to me (mx04@health.state.ny.us) or Dr. Smith (smith8@uni.edu) prior to the meeting if possible. We hope to see you in Denver!

—Dr. Millicent Eidson  
mx04.health.state.ny.us

## It's Just the Flu...Right?

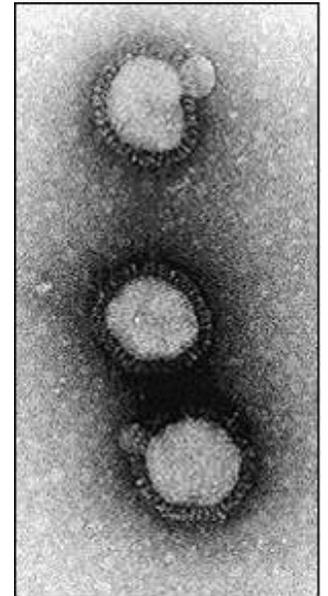
The recent outbreaks of Exotic Newcastle Disease, Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), and BSE in Canada, have captured widespread attention. Meanwhile, another emerging pathogen, the influenza virus, continues to appear in many locations around the world under many different guises. The problem is that influenza is easy to dismiss. Most of us have had firsthand experience with the disease, which though it made us uncomfortable, caused no permanent harm. Also, it has been many years since there was a really serious pandemic, which might tend to lull us into a false sense of security.

However, influenza is a most potent adversary which is worthy of our respect and much wider attention than it receives. Several recent incidents underscore the importance of influenza. Most recently, a Dutch veterinarian died of pneumonia shortly after exposure to highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) type H7N7.<sup>1</sup> Many others engaged in quelling this HPAI outbreak in the Netherlands reportedly developed conjunctivitis. Animal influenza viruses demonstrate a remarkable ability to jump species. Fortunately for us, many avian influenza viruses, once transmitted to man are not highly communicable within our own species. However, they can be highly pathogenic, as illustrated by a 1998 outbreak in Hong Kong, in which the case-fatality rate among people ill with H5N1 avian influenza was thirty-three percent.<sup>2</sup>

Avian influenza strains are not the only sources of zoonotic human infections. Swine flu strains can also make the interspecies jump. In one famous incident, 76 percent of exhibitors at a Midwest agricultural fair seroconverted after an outbreak developed among the pigs being shown.<sup>3</sup> Several visitors also became ill and there was a subsequent death in a pregnant lady who walked through the show barn. Evidence for human-to-human transmission of the swine influenza virus was found in this particular outbreak. Researchers have also developed influenza after working with experimentally infected pigs.<sup>4</sup>

So what makes influenza viruses such dangerous opponents? Being RNA viruses, they tend to accumulate large numbers of mutations, which, if they affect immunogenic surface glycoproteins, may produce a variant by antigenic drift, to which humans have limited or no immune response.<sup>5</sup> The most important of these are hemagglutinins and neuraminidases, which are how influenza A viruses are characterized, hence the H7N7 and H5N1 avian influenza strains mentioned previously. Among humans, the most common influenza A strains currently circulating are H3N2 and H1N1. Constant small alterations in immunogenicity pose a continual challenge to vaccinologists who must predict at least a year in advance which strains will likely be circulating in human populations.

Greater potential risk occurs when entirely new influenza subtypes are introduced into human populations. These generally involve major mutations or even reassortments of gene segments from several host species. With 8 different gene segments, there could be  $2^8$  or 256 potential combinations when two different influenza viruses recombine.<sup>6</sup> All that is required is a so-called "mixing vessel" which can host influenza viruses from two species simultaneously. Swine are thought to fill this role, since they have receptors compatible with influenza virus surface glycoproteins from both humans and avians.

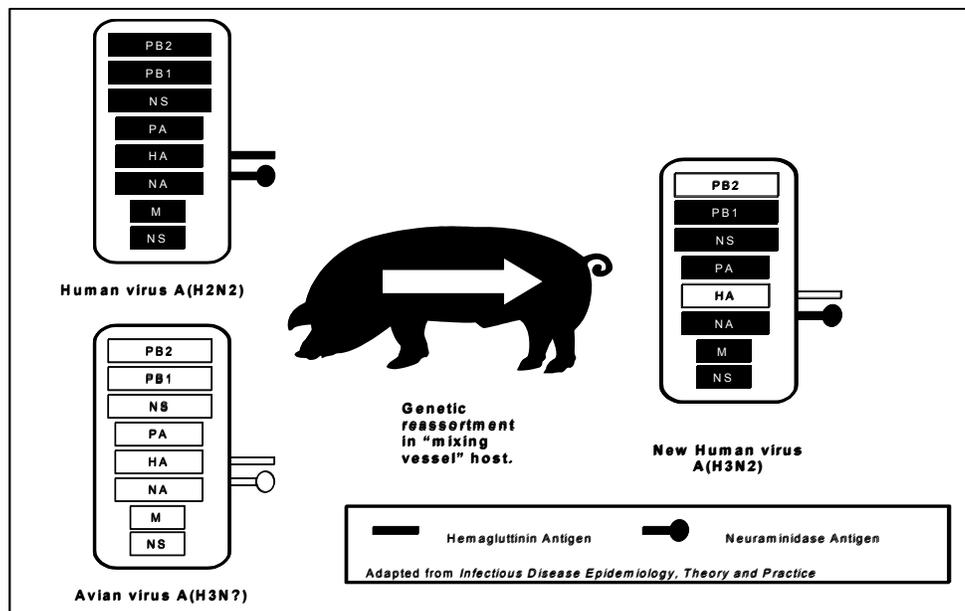


Influenza A Viruses

—continued on page 16

—continued from page 15

Figure 1 shows an example of how reassortment of human and avian influenza viruses were thought to produce the last pandemic strain of influenza A in 1968.



Wild ducks and wading birds have been implicated as the reservoir for influenza A in nature. In these species, infections are often inapparent, with a predilection for the intestinal tract. Large numbers of viruses are efficiently transmitted by fecal material into water supplies. Via this means, outbreaks of influenza have occurred in seals, whales, pigs, and domestic poultry. Live bird markets may serve as an important nidus for the spread of influenza in avian species and have played an important role in several human outbreaks.<sup>7</sup> Clearly, given the recent history of influenza in animals (and people), and the high potential for new strains to emerge, we need to keep our guard up, even though, "it's only the flu."

#### References:

- <sup>1</sup>Avian Influenza, Human (Netherlands) Fatal Case. ProMED-Mail, 20-Apr-2003. Archive Number 20030420.0967.
- <sup>2</sup>Class, ECJ, Osterhaus ADME, van Beek R, et al. Human influenza virus related to a highly pathogenic avian influenza virus. *Lancet* 1998;351:472-77.
- <sup>3</sup>Wells DL, Hopfensperger DJ, Arden NH, et al. Swine influenza virus infections. Transmission from ill pigs to humans at a Wisconsin agricultural fair and subsequent probable person-to-person transmission. *J Am Med Assoc* 1991;265:478-81.
- <sup>4</sup>Wentworth DE, McGregor MW, Macklin MD, et al. Transmission of swine influenza virus to humans after exposure to experimentally infected pigs. *J Inf Dis* 1997;175:7-15.
- <sup>5</sup>Claas ECJ. Pandemic influenza is a zoonosis, as it requires introduction of avian-like gene segments in the human population. *Vet Micro* 2000;74:133-9.
- <sup>6</sup>Webster RG, Shortridge KF, Kawaoka Y. Influenza: Interspecies transmission and emergence of new pandemics. *FEMS Immun Med Micro* 1997;18:275-9.
- <sup>7</sup>Webster RG. Influenza: An emerging disease. *Emerg Inf Dis* 1998;4:436-41.

—Kevin Grayson  
kevin.grayson@brooks.af.mil

*Issue # 2, 2003*

## **AAPHV NEWSLETTER**

### **COMMENTS FROM OUR PRESIDENT**

Colleagues,

Current events continue to challenge us. Whether it is the possibility of a bioterrorist event or the emergence of a new or re-emerging infectious disease such as SARS, West Nile Virus, or smallpox, it is all exciting for public health and for public health veterinarians. There is a challenge for us scientifically: we need to discover sources, transmission routes, and prevention/control strategies. There is a challenge for us physically: we need to cover a wide geographic area and collect surveillance data from numerous sources. There is a challenge for our resourcefulness: we have several high priority infectious diseases vying for our attention and we have limited funds and people. How we meet these challenges as individuals and as a group will have an impact on our success and our future.

As individuals, we've done well. There are more veterinarians in public health, epidemiology, and other related areas than ever before. We are providing leadership in state, local, and federal governments, industry, and academia. The opportunities for jobs and for training are also expansive. As a group, however, we need to seize this opportunity in order to continue our momentum and to solidify our position nationally. We network on some level, by belonging to professional organizations and by holding conference calls. These activities allow us to share new information, strategize on approaches, and initiate new collaborations. Yet they don't help us a group. The difficulty in looking beyond is that we are too busy. It is also because, as a profession, we reason that hard work and success will gain us recognition and resources. As a profession, we are not good self-promoters or marketers. But this is what it will take for us to be pivotal players (as a group) in national and international activities and policy decisions. There are individuals who are highly recognized and who are invited experts at the first meetings but wouldn't it be nice for veterinarians to be recognized on the same level as other medical professionals when the first organizing committees are formed? It is achievable. But we need to network at a higher level. For example, there are two organizations, the Association of Teachers of Veterinary Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine and the American Association of Public Health Veterinarians. Both have members that are veterinarians in public health, perhaps with different career paths. Yet aren't there possibilities to leverage our resources and strengthen our network? Perhaps there is someone in the university that could provide essential laboratory knowledge in an outbreak. Perhaps someone at one of the health departments or federal agencies could use a graduate student or veterinary student for a period of time. This would add resources and enhance the educational experience of the student. Maybe a national meeting to discuss emerging diseases and new strategies would provide more fodder for discussion. If we become more visible on a national level, then we are at the decisive meetings where we can ask for more resources such as laboratory or epidemiologic capacity, or we are on working groups drafting national documents that allow us to direct attention to the expertise of public health veterinarians. It won't just come to us. Along this same line of getting involved and moving forward, the Association needs to find a way to gain more members and keep them involved. Otherwise, this Association is in name only. It is hard to garner anyone's enthusiasm when they come once a year to the meeting and never hear anything more. We're trying to revise our web site to make it more accessible and informative. We are trying to update our email lists so members can communicate with each other. We will also be sharing a booth at the AVMA this year. We really should be having more booth exhibits, e.g. Conference of Research Workers in Animal Disease. With this effort, we also NEED volunteers to spend a little time at the booth. If you would like to sign up for a specific time, please contact me at ([mtorrence@csrees.usda.gov](mailto:mtorrence@csrees.usda.gov)) or Bob Garrison at ([garrisrd@mail.slh.wisc.edu](mailto:garrisrd@mail.slh.wisc.edu)) ahead of time. If you don't care about a specific time, stop by the booth and sign up. If you don't sign up and I see you, I might just volunteer you! Carpe Diem!

P.S. Finally a special thank to Bob Garrison, our treasurer, and the pulse that keeps this mechanism going. He has been diligent and tenacious in determining our active members and updating information and even wrote the President's message in the last newsletter. Thanks!

—continued on page 18

—continued from page 17

**NOTES FROM THE TREASURER**

A few times each month, I get e-mail (or sometimes a letter with a membership application and a check enclosed) from an ACVPM diplomate who's interested in joining the AAPHV. Just so we're all clear on this point: **all diplomates of the College are automatically granted membership in the AAPHV and are exempt from paying AAPHV dues.**

On the subject of dues: to all who have sent your 2003 dues already, thanks ! About 30 members currently need to pay dues for 2002 and 2003; a lesser number owe for 2003 only. The simplest way to communicate this information to everyone is to include it here, so if you see your name on either list below, you're welcome to pay dues anytime (hint, hint). If you have any questions about your dues status, you can reach me at [garrisrd@mail.slh.wisc.edu](mailto:garrisrd@mail.slh.wisc.edu) or by phone at (608) 262-4298. Please return your dues (make your check payable to AAPHV) and any address updates to:

Dr. Bob Garrison  
 Treasurer, AAPHV  
 P.O. Box 260082  
 Madison, WI 53726

Again, please pay dues **through the current year only** (i.e., don't pay your 2004 and 2005 dues at this time). If you have questions about your dues status, e-mail me at [garrisrd@mail.slh.wisc.edu](mailto:garrisrd@mail.slh.wisc.edu) or call me at (608) 262-4298. Thanks.

**Owe \$40 (2002 and 2003) dues**

ADAMSON	COLE	KASSENBERG	MCCORMICK, M.	SESLINE	WAINRIGHT
BOKHARI	GILMORE	KJEMTRUP	O'LEARY	SILVERS	WRIGHT
BROUSSARD	HATCH	LATHROP	OVEREEM	SPAIN	
CANTOR	HEMPHILL	LESLIE	SAINI	STONECIPHER	
CHOMEL	IRIYE	LUND	SANDERS, JR.	TANAKA	
CHRISTENSEN	KAHN	MCCORMICK, G.	SCHANTZ	THOMAS, T.	

**Owe \$20 (2003 dues)**

ASHFORD	JOHNSON
GAUTHIER	KORDICK
GOOD	LEVINE
HANLON	STONE
HANSEN	
HARVEY	

**A REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE**

If anyone can assist us with updating the AAPHV's web page and tending to its care and feeding occasionally , we would greatly appreciate it. Much of the information is out-of-date, and the page could use some sprucing up. Contact Bob Garrison at [garrisrd@mail.slh.wisc.edu](mailto:garrisrd@mail.slh.wisc.edu) if you're interested.

—continued on page 19

—continued from page 18

## NEW TEXTBOOKS

1. *Microbial Food Safety in Animal Agriculture: Current Topics*

(Below is a review, of sorts, from <http://store.yahoo.com/isupress/0813814952.html>, of this new textbook co-authored by none other than our current president, Mary Torrence. Nice job, Mary !)

"In answer to public concerns, *Microbial Food Safety in Animal Agriculture: Current Topics* provides timely information on this area of increasing importance, giving a broad overview of pre-harvest microbial food safety.

Written by specialists from around the world, this essential reference focuses on research in the areas of antimicrobial resistance, risk assessment, microbial detection methods and diagnostics, and emerging diseases. Coverage provides balanced overviews of Federal, industry, and academic perspectives on key issues in food safety. Specific organisms explored in depth include: *Salmonella* spp., *Campylobacter* spp., *Escherichia coli* 0157:H7, and *Listeria monocytogenes*. No other single source offers current information and detailed references on issues in pre-harvest food safety in production animal agriculture. Veterinarians, researchers, and food safety professionals in academia, government agencies, and food animal production industries will discover this resource crucial to defensive awareness."

**Availability:** Estimated Due Date (subject to change): 5/9/2003

**Publication Date:** 2003

**Size:** 416 pages; 7 x 10

**Binding:** Hardback

**Publisher:** Iowa State Press ([www.isupress.edu](http://www.isupress.edu))

**Price:** \$90

2. *The Resistance Phenomenon in Microbes and Infectious Disease Vectors: Implications for Human Health and Strategies for Containment -- Workshop Summary*

**Availability:** now

**Publication Date:** 2003

**Size:** 336 pages; 6 x 9

**Binding:** Hardback

**Publisher:** National Academy Press ([www.nap.edu](http://www.nap.edu))

**Price:** \$36

3. *Scientific Criteria to Ensure Safe Food*

**Availability:** forthcoming

**Publication Date:** 2003

**Size:** 342 pages; 8.5 x 11

**Binding:** Hardback

**Publisher:** National Academy Press ([www.nap.edu](http://www.nap.edu))

**Price:** \$36

—continued on page 20

**ARTICLES OF INTEREST**

1. Emerg Infect Dis 9:17-21, 2003. Geographic translocation of bats: known and potential problems. (Kudos to AAPHV member Dr. Denny Constantine for this interesting paper.) Available electronically at <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/eid/vol9no1/02-0104.htm>.
2. Emerg Infect Dis 9:515-519, 2003. Planning against biological terrorism: lessons from outbreak investigations. (AAPHV member Dave Ashford is the lead author—nice job, Dave !) Available electronically at <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/eid/vol9no5/02-0388.htm>.
3. Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists 57: 38-44, 2001. Planting fear / how real is the threat of agricultural terrorism ? Available electronically at [www.thebulletin.org/issues/2001/so01/so01vogel.html](http://www.thebulletin.org/issues/2001/so01/so01vogel.html).
4. Clin Micro Rev 16:265-72, 2003. Toxocariasis: clinical aspects, epidemiology, medical ecology and molecular aspects.
5. Clin Micro Rev 16:144-72, 2003. Indoor mold, toxigenic fungi and *Stachybotrys chartarum*: infectious disease perspective.
6. J Inf Dis 187:1015-18, 2003. Legionnaire's' disease outbreak in an automobile engine manufacturing plant.
7. Clin Inf Dis 36:903-8, 2003. *Cryptosporidium* species: new insights and old challenges.
8. Clin Inf Dis 35:748-53, 2002. Foodborne viral gastroenteritis: challenges and opportunities.
9. New Engl J Med 347:506-16, 2003. Illness after international travel.
10. J Clin Micro 40:117-22, 2002. Prevalence of antibodies to hepatitis E in veterinarians working with swine and normal blood donors in the United States and other countries.



Members of the Examinations Committee met in Bethesda, Maryland on April 10-11 to review procedures, prepare questions, and plan the upcoming examination. Included were Drs. Bill Johnston, Tari Kindred, Mo Salman, Gary Bowman (back row). Also present (front row) were Drs. Dave Dreesen (*ex officio*), Vicky Fogelman (Chair), and Kevin Grayson.

Voting for By-laws changes is now on-going through July 1<sup>st</sup>. Members without e-mail addresses have been mailed a ballot via US Mail and members with e-mail addresses have been sent the information to vote via the List Serve.

### American College Of Veterinary Preventive Medicine

P.O. Box 119  
Winterville, GA  
30683-0119

PHONE/FAX:  
(706)742-2689

E-MAIL:  
[evp@acvpm.org](mailto:evp@acvpm.org)

Listserver:  
[diplomates@acvpm.org](mailto:diplomates@acvpm.org)

We're on the Web!  
See us at:  
[www.acvpm.org](http://www.acvpm.org)