

Winter 2006
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News & Views



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President's Corner

For the first time, your Executive Board met at the USAHA/AAVLD conference in Hershey (yum—chocolate bars in every meeting room)! We co-sponsored a half day “Food Supply Symposium” in association with AAFHV and National Association of Food and Meat Inspection Directors. Diplomates Drs. John Sanders, Liz Wagstrom, and other speakers from CDC, FDA, USDA, and the Uniformed Services were presenters. It was an excellent program on risk assessment and well attended. Our booth was placed in a very strategic location; several people stopped to look at the pictures and information. This was a new endeavor that provided exposure to many and promoted our college.

I have so many people that I am thankful to for their help moving the ACVPM forward!

SPECIAL THANKS to:

- Dave Dreesen for his continued efforts to promote the ACVPM, saving funds to improve our financial situation, his enthusiasm in Hershey with our booth, and his patience with my slowness to respond
- Liz Wagstrom for stepping in to present at the Food Supply Symposium. She did an excellent presentation and finished with the importance of Diplomate board certification.

ACVPM 2006 Dues Are Due

If you have not paid as yet, please do so as soon as possible.

- ACVPM Diplomates - \$125
- ACVPM Epidemiology Specialty Diplomates - \$155
-

Pay by check made payable to the ACVPM and mail to:
ACVPM, P.O. Box 119, Winterville, GA 30683-0119.

Or pay by credit card by going to the Members Only page of the ACVPM website and follow the instructions.

Thanks
Dave



- Dr. J. Lee Alley, USAHA Executive Director, for allowing us to have an educational booth (at no cost) and EB meeting at the USAHA
- Peggy Carter for her work to summarize the membership survey and to chair the EVP Search Committee
- John Herbold for his efforts to link the ACVPM with a journal
- Gary Gackstetter for his work on selecting a company for a job analysis of ACVPM diplomates
- Peggy Carter and Gary Gackstetter for presenting an ACVPM check to the AVMA fellows in support of their program and to remind them of our college as a resource
- Kevin Grayson for his efforts this year as chair of the Examination Committee AND editor of News and Views (which also means being patient with me!)
- The newly formed EVP Search Committee with Peggy Carter as chair, Ron Warner, Paul Nicoletti, and Paul Sundberg. PLEASE consider this very important position for you or one of your colleagues!
- Our webmaster Joe Adam, who continues to maintain our website and is working on a new version while moving to New England

Remember to encourage your colleagues to apply in February for the Board Certification Examination in Columbus, Ohio, June 15-16!

Thanks for your support. Wishing y'all a special year in 2006.
Mooving forward,
Patty Scharko

President-elect, Secretary-Treasurer, and Councilor Nominations Sought

Nominations are now open for the position of ACVPM President-elect (2006-2008 term), Secretary/Treasurer (2006-2009 term), and ACVPM Councilor (2006-2009 term). Requirements are that the candidate for President-elect be an active member for at least five (5) years immediately prior to the election and candidates for Secretary/Treasurer and Councilor be active members for at least three (3) years immediately prior to the election.

If you have someone you wish to nominate, check and make certain they are willing to serve, and send a brief resume to the Executive Vice President post-marked by March 10, 2006. You may also nominate yourself if you so wish.

The ballot for the election of these three officers will be distributed during the month of April.

CDC Approved to offer CE Credits by the American Association of Veterinary State Boards (AAVSB).

Since opening, the CDC has been one of the most esteemed sources of public health knowledge for 75,000 plus American veterinarians—and the trainer of thousands of veterinary leaders in the practice of public health. Unfortunately, for every program from Epidemic Intelligence Service conferences to satellite downlinks, we have not been able to consistently provide veterinary continuing medical education contact hour credits. Many states are now "tightening up" on the types of professional training activities permitted to be used by those of us who need to renew clinical licenses. There may soon be a need to document continuing education to renew certification for such specialties as veterinary preventive medicine, too.

As of December 19, 2005, CDC has been approved by RACE (Registry of Approved Continuing Education- the continuing educational approval program of the American Association of Veterinary State Boards (AAVSB)) to provide the contact hours acceptable to most states.

This activity will be coordinated through the CDC Office of Workforce and Career Development (OWCD). There are still some logistic and financial hurdles—but we hope to have the bugs worked out over the next several months. It is hoped that at least one major meeting and one or two smaller programs will be submitted for credit hours this fiscal year.

CAPT Mary Lambert of OWCD serves as the veterinary continuing education contact point, and is demonstrating the Agency's new vision of coordinated service to our constituents as well as our own professional staff.

For more information contact:

Hugh Mainzer, MS, DVM, DACVPM
CAPT, USPHS
E-mail: hmainzer@cdc.gov





Annual ACVPM Meetings

Meeting locations will be announced in the next issue of *News & Views*.

DATE		MEETING
Tuesday	Jun 15th	Examinations
Wednesday	Jun 16th	Examinations
Thursday	July 13th	Examinations Committee
Friday	July 14th	Examinations Committee
Friday	July 14th	Epi Specialty Examination
Friday	July 14th	Executive Board
Sunday	July 16th	Epidemiology Specialty
Sunday	July 16th	General Membership

Help Wanted

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

ACVPM Booth a Big Hit at USAHA Meeting



Pictured from left to right: Dr. Patty Scharko, Linda Ragland (USAHA Staff), Dr. J. Lee Alley (USAHA Executive Director), Dr. Dave Dreesen.

ACVPM Cosponsors Food Safety Symposium

The ACVPM and the American Association of Food Hygiene Veterinarians cosponsored a Food Safety Symposium at the USAHA meeting held in Hershey, PA this past November. ACVPM Diplomates were well represented on the podium, including: Dr. Candace Jacobs—moderator; Dr. John Sanders from FDA-CFSAN, who talked about FDA Perspectives on Risk Assessment in Food; Dr. Nina Marano from the CDC, who discussed Risk Assessment and Food Attribution Data; Dr. John Herbold of the University of Texas Health Science Center Houston School of Public Health, who considered Statistical Aspects of Surveillance; and Dr. Larry Barrett from the California Department of Health Services, who presented details of the DOD Food Vulnerability Assessment program.

Notes from Veterinary Public Health: Past Success, New Opportunities! A Symposium Honoring the Legacy of Dr. James H. Steele

This meeting was held in St Louis, MO by the Association of Veterinary Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine hosting the 2005 Schwabe Symposium on Sunday afternoon, December 4, 2005. The meeting was held prior to the Conference of Research Workers on Animal Disease (CRWAD) conference, held December 5-6. A series of four speakers provided individual perspectives before Dr Steele offered the keynote address. The moderator of the session was Laura Hungerford DVM, MPH, PhD, University of Maryland, Baltimore and the following report summarizes the presentations. (Let's hope a proceeding will be published later).

The first speaker was George Beran, DVM, PhD, LHD, Distinguished Professor Emeritus, Iowa State University with a presentation entitled, "Diseases and Destiny: Mystery and Mastery of Past and Future Zoonotic Pandemics." Dr. Beran provided a dramatic review of the Peloponnesian War between Athenians and Spartans and what role crowding had in the subsequent, devastating and mysterious disease outbreak leading to the death of one fourth to one third of the population and to the downfall of this very advanced civilization in Athens. Was this Rift Valley Fever? [Modern scholars theorize severe smallpox, or typhus, or plague. Langmuir in later years theorized it was influenza coupled with "toxic shock syndrome"]. In addition, Dr Beran quoted W.I.B. Beveridge, "There is one disease that continues to flourish and cause pandemics that sweeps around the world." No problem here identifying it as viral influenza that has been dominating recent news. What should VPH do? Answer: improved international surveillance, better define role of swine, clinical surveillance of poultry including packing plants and live bird markets, and improved surveillance of swine, poultry, and water fowl.

The second speaker was Joseph McCormick, MD, MS, Assistant Dean and James Steele Professor of Public Health, University of Texas Health Science Center Houston, School of Public Health, with an address entitled, "Opportunities for Interdisciplinary Public Health Research and Action." Dr. McCormick emphasized the value of comparative medicine and interdisciplinary research citing the work of Bernhard Bang in advancing the use of tuberculin as a diagnostic agent in cattle (after its failure as an immunizing agent in humans) and its later use in human medicine for diagnosis. Bovine TB losses in US in 1906 exceeded \$1 billion. The development of WARFARIN as an anticlotting agent by the Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation [note derivation of term] resulted from the study of sweet clover poisoning in cattle. In 1930 Richard Shope's study of influenza in swine resulted in isolation of the first flu virus enabling improved studies of flu in humans. Ebola virus has a bat reservoir demonstrated through integrated research and several other examples were provided.

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The third speaker was Primo Arambulo DVM, MPA, DrPH retired VPH coordinator for the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO), who reviewed international programs in the hemisphere and their coordination with WHO and CDC. The PAHO program was established in 1902, and preceded many other public health agencies in the US and abroad. Program areas include rabies, brucellosis, tuberculosis, and many food hygiene activities.

The fourth speaker was Frederick A. Murphy DVM, PhD, Distinguished Professor & Dean Emeritus, University of California, Davis [and now moving to Texas] with an address on emerging zoonoses. Dr. Murphy reviewed the work of Cooper Curtice in 1893, Frederick A.J. Löffler, and H.H. Robert Koch setting the stage for today's problems of emerging diseases through "species jumping." Influenza was again highlighted because it has been responsible for the most devastating epidemics in recorded history. Clear cutting of Brazilian rain forests and the increase in the world's population are worrisome. He requested the audience study the IOM/NAS Report: "Microbial Threats to the Future" published in 2003. He closed by encouraging younger members of the audience to get grounded with a PhD in a laboratory discipline. The unraveling of the SARS episode was the work of a team of broadly skilled and highly competent bench scientists. An MPH is of limited value here and Dr Murphy stated it represents a "terminal vocational degree."

The final speaker was James H. Steele DVM, MPH, Professor Emeritus, University of Texas Health Science Center Houston, School of Public Health; Assistant Surgeon General, USPHS, retired, with the keynote address, "Veterinary Public Health: Past Success, New Opportunities." Dr. Steele started by reviewing the epizootiology of glanders during the Civil War as it infected the Union Force's horses and was later to infect the Confederate Force's mules as well as their handlers. In the 1870s, Frank Billings received veterinary education in Germany and in 1884 wrote a book on the relationship of animal disease to human disease. At that time Daniel Salmon was a veterinary student at Cornell and influenced by James Law who developed 14 strategic areas to develop public health and disease control strategies. Dr. Salmon later assisted in formation of the American Public Health Association including establishment of the Veterinary Section [covered in Dr. Schwabe's text]. A 1905 typhoid fever epidemic in Washington, DC was traced to milk (marketed unpasteurized at the time) and Milton Rosenau, USPHS, worked on this and established standards of dairy hygiene and later in 1913 authored the first edition of the classic general reference text, "Public Health and Preventive Medicine." The term "Veterinary Public Health" was established in 1945 and not long after, CDC was created including an office by the same VPH name with Jim as the first director. Joseph Mountain, Assistant Surgeon General, USPHS who was the principal architect to convert the Atlanta-based Malaria Control in War Areas program to the Communicable Disease Center [later Centers for Disease Control] (CDC) circa 1948, remarked to Jim – sort of his marching orders at the time – "We have a lot of ignorance. Let's exploit it." Thus gave birth to the professional entity of veterinarians in public health careers. In his closing remarks, Jim Steele distributed a recently prepared unpublished manuscript entitled, "The History of Public Health and Veterinary Public Service" that included an addendum, "The 21st Century Look at Public Health."

—Notes submitted by Dr. Russ Currier

Notes from Senior ACVPM Members

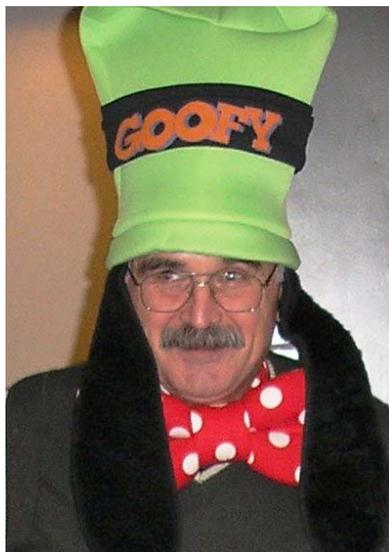
From Emeritus Diplomate William (Bob) R. Miller, 16179 Adams Lane, Summerdale, AL 36580-3960 (lower AL) dated 25 September '05.

“I received the ACVPM News and Views in good shape. Zip code 36580 was in limbo for awhile but seems to be back on track. We were on the west wall of the eye of Ivan and lost two big oak trees but no damage to the house. Dennis went to the east and Katrina to the west. The areas that sustained damage were on the waterfront—Mobile Bay and the Gulf. Our riverfront was hardly affected. But we are ready for a break from hurricanes. Hope you (all) are doing well. I miss all my colleagues from the old days.”

Best regards, Bob Miller

“Hi! Appreciated the little note on the back of the envelope of the most recent N&V. Nice to know that, while one might be gone, he's not forgotten. Haven't done anything very cerebral lately. No one pays me to be smart anymore. Turned 81 a while back. Still have my good looks and cat like grace but not quite as spry as I used to be. Spend a lot of my time as master gardener and handy man. Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, coming back to back, have supplied me with ample opportunity to demonstrate my lumberjacking skills. I enjoy receiving the newsletter. Hope it keeps coming until I leave. (In which case, I'll call to let you know)”.

Harry Hagstad



Dr. Ron Warner on his way to lecture medical students at Texas Tech...

Food Irradiation: A Public Health Measure Long Overdue!

By James H. Steele, DVM, MPH; and edited by Thomas S. Matney, PhD

Public health scientists have had an interest in food irradiation for more than 100 years. The first investigations occurred within a few years of the discovery of X-rays by the German physicist Roentgen in 1895. German and French scientists carried on studies to pasteurize food by radiation up to the start of World War I. The problem at that time was that irradiated foods had an unacceptable taste. In 1915, the X-ray was reported to be effective in killing trichina cysts in pork meat.

In the United States, scientists at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology instituted studies of food irradiation in 1899. During the first half of the 20th century, many more studies were undertaken to learn how ionizing radiation could be used to provide more and safer foods to humanity on a worldwide basis. However, the paucity of suitable radiation sources and their high cost prevented the full benefits of irradiation from being realized for use in food and biomedical research.

Since 1950, many beneficial effects of ionizing radiation have been observed and documented. In addition to its potential to reduce the incidence of food-borne diseases, food irradiation can inhibit post-harvest sprouting in potatoes and onions; disinfest fruits, vegetables, and grains of insects; delay ripening in fruits; eliminate pathogens in meat, seafood, fruits, poultry, fruit juices, and vegetables. With appropriate irradiation doses, prepackaged meats, poultry, and seafood can keep for years without refrigeration. In addition, irradiation can be used to eliminate pests such as the screw worm fly, which preys on cattle, deer, etc., by the release of irradiation sterilized insects from airplanes over wide areas of land. Similar treatments have been used against the Mediterranean fruit fly and the tsetse fly.

In 1958, when the Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act was passed by the U.S. Congress, there were many unanswered questions: Would food be made radioactive? What would be the effect of this additional radioactivity above that of background upon humans? Would there be new toxic products formed in the irradiated foods? Would carcinogens be formed? Would there be excessive loss of nutrients? Would molecular fragments from packaging materials migrate onto the foods in amounts derogatory to the health of consumers? In the killing of pathogens, would new microbiological problems evolve? What radiation doses would be safe to use? What effect would radiation have on the taste, odor, color, texture of the food?

Answers to these questions soon began to appear after 1961-1962, when Ed Josephson was placed in charge of the Department of Defense food radiation research and development program. The top priority was to try to sort out the diverse claims – pro and con – about irradiated foods. During his tenure as head of the program, the U.S. Army Medical Services completed studies for testing in rats, mice, and beagle dogs, using 21 foods representing all major food classes in the diets of Americans. In a June 1965 hearing by the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy, the Army Surgeon General submitted a statement that all foods irradiated at doses up to 5.6 Mrad (56 kGy) using cobalt-60, or electrons at energies below 10 MeV, were wholesome – that is, safe to eat. Nutritional assessments showed that the irradiation process was no more destructive to nutrients than other commercial processes then being used. It was also demonstrated that there were no toxic products formed in quantities that would be hazardous to the health and well-being of consumers. Every conceivable possibility for harm had been carefully considered. None was found. Nor were any chemicals formed that were unique to food irradiation. In the mean time, irradiated foods have been approved by the health authorities in 40 countries.

Between 1964 and 1997, the World Health Organization (WHO), in concert with the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), held a series of meetings of experts from many countries to assess the quality and safety of foods. The latest meeting, in September 1997, recommended approval of irradiated foods without restrictions at all doses, up to the highest dose compatible with taste properties. At each meeting, internationally recognized health authorities have concluded that all irradiated foods are safe to eat without the need for further toxicological testing, at doses as high as taste would be acceptable.

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If food irradiation had been in place in the United States, recent food borne disease outbreaks caused by *E. coli* 0157:H7, which are found in food-producing animals, would not have occurred. If one attempts to tabulate tens of thousands of *Salmonella*, *Campylobacter*, *Yersinia*, *Listeria*, and *Escherichia coli* food borne disease outbreaks related to poultry and meat, the total exceeds millions of human illnesses, over the course of the 50 years since the Delaney Clause established the travesty that gamma rays are a food additive.

The morbidity and medical expense of meat- and poultry-borne diseases can be prevented by irradiation just as milk-borne disease can be prevented by pasteurization. All of the bacteria cited above can be present in unpasteurized milk, even though the U.S. Public Health Service Grade A standards requires that milk be free of disease-causing organisms. Imagine the public outcry if the government allowed the marketing of unpasteurized milk in which *Salmonella* or virulent strains of *E. coli* or *Listeria* were found.

In 1984, the Secretary of Health, Margaret Heckler, endorsed food irradiation, after lengthy studies had proven its safety. If public health officers had spoken out then for the irradiation of foods that are known to carry pathogenic bacteria, events like the *E. coli* 0157:H7 outbreaks from undercooked hamburger (3 deaths and more than 400 cases of illness) that occurred in the northwest United States in January 1993 could have been prevented.

Even today, no national or state local health authority is speaking out to require pasteurization by irradiation of hamburger meat patties, of which some tens of millions are consumed daily. The same attitude and apathy exists in Europe, where *Listeria*-contaminated pork meat and other food caused the death of 63 persons in France, as reported in 1993. Since then, *Listeria* has become a serious public health problem in America.

One hesitates to ask who is in charge of the protection of the public health in these United States, or our neighbors in the Americas or Europe. The “anti” activist can always be relied on to oppose new technologies, and among them are powerful interests. Environmentalists, health food advocates, food processors, wholesalers, retailers, and producers—all for their own reasons are saying that the consumer is not ready, or does want it, or is against it. But, this is not true. A U.S. Department of Agriculture survey of consumer attitudes and actual market tests by Susan Conley, found that 70 percent of the American public wants safe food and will accept food irradiation to ensure that this is so. The University of California survey by Dr. Christine Bruhn found Californians of the same mind. A University of Georgia survey went further and found the consumer willing to pay more for irradiated food that would offer the same protection as pasteurized food. The consumer said the same in surveys by the Food Science departments at Purdue, Iowa State, and Kansas State Universities. More recently, several national consumer surveys find the public seeking an opportunity to test irradiated foods.

Where were the national public health leaders who spoke for irradiation? The American Medical Association was among the few early supporters, as was the American Veterinary Medical Association. But the American Public Health Association was outspoken against food irradiation, and it opposed any discussion of resolutions supporting radiation.

The only academic support came from universities and colleges with food science and home economics departments. Strangely, some public health schools and medical colleges were afraid to support food irradiation, or spoke against it, calling it “dangerous” and “destructive.” So-called health letters warned their readers against food processors, who would supposedly use irradiation to cover up failed hygiene.

The first top public health officials to speak out on the importance and value of food irradiation was James Mason, M.D., the Assistant Secretary of Health and Health Services, in an editorial in *Public Health Reports*, Sept./Oct. 1999:

“The bottom line on food irradiation is that the nation deserves to have – and should claim – the health benefit this technology will be sure to provide. We don’t know how great that benefit will be – but we do know it will be significant.”

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Two years later, Philip R. Lee, M.D., the Assistant Secretary of Health, Director of the U.S. Public Health Service stated:

“It is the U.S. Public Health Service’s responsibility to use what we know to protect and improve the health of the public. Each modern food-processing advance – pasteurization, canning, freezing – produced criticism. Food irradiation is not different. It is up to the leaders in the health professions to dispel the myths.”

“The technology of food irradiation has languished too long already. Perhaps our nation has become dangerously complacent about the importance of public health measures. The current health care debate offers us both a mandate and an opportunity to increase the understanding of the importance of public health for ensuring personal health. If this message is lost, our efforts to advance and protect the nation’s health will not succeed.”

The national use of food radiation was approved in principle following the report of Margaret Heckler, Secretary of Health Services, in 1984. This was after an extensive review by the Food and Drug Administration and the United States Public Health Service approved food irradiation, in principle, but went on to say that all facilities must apply for approval from FDA. Unfortunately, many of these approvals came very slowly. The use of food irradiation for prepared foods has not been approved, even at this late date.

In 2003, the new Undersecretary for Food Protection, Elsa Murano, recommended that all meat used in school lunches be irradiated to protect the children’s health. There was strong objection from local school boards in parts of the United States and the project did not go forward at that time. Elsa Murano is now the Vice Chancellor of Agriculture and Science at Texas A&M University, where she is still a strong supporter of food irradiation.

Companies active in food sanitation by irradiation include Food Technology Services of Florida, founded by a true pioneer of food sanitation, Sam Whitney, in 1990. It serves food outlets in the southeastern United States and into the Midwest. Another company, Mitec of Iowa, prepares chopped meat for convenience store outlets through the Midwest and Texas and as far east as Florida. Omaha Steaks has irradiated their ground beef for several years. Texas A&M University has a food irradiation center and is processing commercial volumes of chopped beef annually. A supplier outside the United States is the Hawaiian Pride Company that sends irradiated tropical fruit into the United States. To sum up food irradiation uses in the United States, it is still small but is used by people out of necessity.

In 2005, the United States Department of Agriculture announced that all food except meats and fish coming into the United States can now be irradiated instead of using methyl bromide gas. This will apply to vegetables, fruits, and fibers. This is quite limited inasmuch as there are not too many plants that can handle these products today and apply 400 kGy of irradiation. This will probably expand in the future. As we look ahead in the 21st century, food irradiation will become a necessary part of public health protection.

James H. Steele, a pioneer in food irradiation, is a former public health veterinarian with the U.S. Public Health Service, and has more than 45 years of global public health experience. Steele has held the position of Assistant Surgeon General of the USPHS, and is currently Professor Emeritus from the University of Texas Health Science Center Houston School of Public Health. This article was adapted from a paper Steele presented at a June 1999 conference on irradiated foods, sponsored by the Minnesota Health Department.

Thomas S. Matney is currently Professor Emeritus from the University of Texas Health Science Center Houston School of Public Health and Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences. His area of expertise is environmental genetics.



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From the Desk of the EVP

Now is the Time: Yes, now is the time to ask (read: urge) your colleagues to consider becoming a member of the ACVPM. You will be doing them a favor by sponsoring them as a candidate to become a Diplomate in the oldest and one of the largest veterinary specialties. Peer recognition, job advancement, a continuing flow of topical and relevant information via the News & Views newsletter, E-news, and E-flash, job notices through E-job announcements, and linking with colleagues with similar professional interests are a few of the reasons to become a Diplomate. The deadline for applications is February 10, 2006 and this year the exam will be in Columbus, Ohio at The Ohio State University on June 15 & 16. The College is at a standstill as far as growth is concerned so you need to be a salesperson and promote YOUR College.

2006 Dues Bills Have Been Mailed: If you have not received your bill as yet it is because we do not have a current address for you and your bill has been returned or is wondering around in the bowels of some Post Office. Remember, as I've said in virtually every article I've written for the News & Views, just go to the *Members Only* page of the web site, follow the instructions, and up-date the personal information we have for you on our database. It's really easy, but if you have problems, just contact the College Web Master for help (webmaster@acvpm.org). On the last page of News & Views is a list of individuals for whom we need a current address. If you know someone on the list, please have them send me their mailing address (evp@acvpm.org). Dues remain at \$125 for 2006, with an additional \$30 for Epidemiology Specialty members.

Executive Board Candidates are Needed: Elsewhere in the Newsletter you will see a note for openings on the ACVPM Executive Board. Nominations are needed NOW for the positions of President-elect, Secretary/Treasurer, and a Councilor. These positions do not demand a great deal of time but they do fulfill a great need and allow the individual to help direct the future of the College. Uncle ACVPM Needs You – Step up and serve. The position of Executive Vice President will also be open October 1.

Examination Committee Position: The ACVPM Examination Committee will need a Subject Matter Expert (SME) in Infectious and Parasitic Diseases beginning in August. This is a five (5) year appointment. The SME positions do require a significant time commitment at certain times during the year, but virtually all whom I know who have served as a SME have found it to be a rewarding and educational experience. If interested, contact the Committee Chair, Dr. Kevin Grayson (kevin.grayson@travis.af.mil).

Hawaii in July: Boy; does that sound good on a 27^oF overcast December morning in NE Georgia. Hopefully you will be able to attend, but get your reservations in soon. Rooms are filling up quickly. The ACVPM Executive

Board will meet all day Friday, July 14; the General Membership meeting will be Sunday, July 16 from 3-5 PM; the Exam Committee business meeting will be Thursday and Friday, July 13 & 14; and the Epidemiology Specialty Exam will be Friday, July 14. Watch the Web Site for more information as the time draws closer.

USAHA in Hershey: (See President Patty's comments elsewhere in this issue of the N & V). This was a very beneficial meeting from the stand-point of informing a potential candidate-rich population of the ACVPM through personal contacts, our convention display, and brochures. The U. S. Animal Health Association, just as the name implies, is an organization of animal health personnel, primarily from state and federal government agencies. These professionals, a large percentage of who are veterinarians, are involved in disease prevention and control in populations of domestic and wild animals. The ACVPM is the natural specialty college for such veterinarians as our goal is "veterinary preventive medicine." While in the past, the College has emphasized public health, in this day of concern for acts of bio-terrorism, as well as a greater emphasis on traditional "farm to fork" food safety programs, veterinarians in both human and animal disease control and prevention programs can find a common "home" in the ACVPM. So – if you know of anyone involved in animal disease prevention and control programs, inform them of your College and urge that they consider membership.

Certificate of Deposit: Good news. The Executive Board, during their last conference call, voted to place an additional \$15,000 in the College certificate of deposit when it comes up for renewal in January. This will bring the total to approximately \$80,000; in line with the requirements of the AVMA American Board of Veterinary Specialties. On behalf of all of your officers, I want to thank you personally for voting additional dues to meet this requirement (the amount in savings must equal one year's budget). This was one of my three major goals (along with website improvements and membership increase) when I accepted the position of EVP. The CD and the web site goals have been met; the third goal, significant membership increase, has not. I guess we'll have to leave that as a challenge to the next EVP.

I'll end by wishing each of you a successful, prosperous, and healthy new year and hope and pray that the troubles in the World subside significantly over the coming months.

Dave Dreesen

ACVPM Officers' Email Addresses

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Dr. Dave Smith, President, Epidemiology Specialty
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Epidemiology Specialty News

What an interesting time to be a veterinary epidemiologist. Daily we read in the news about an interesting problem in veterinary population medicine or public health. Pick your favorite from: avian influenza, food safety pathogens, antimicrobial resistance genes, bovine spongiform encephalopathy, contagious domestic and foreign animal diseases, bioterrorism, and many other topics that involve the transmission of agents in animal or human populations. I can't help but be impressed by the wide range of expertise our Diplomates are applying to these important problems.

The ACVPM Epidemiology Specialty is the specialty organization recognizing veterinarians with advanced levels of competency in epidemiology. Please encourage your veterinary epidemiologist colleagues to become Diplomates of our Specialty. Applications to sit for the ACVPM and Epidemiology Specialty exams are due February 10, 2006.

The Epidemiology Specialty is largely a credentialing organization. However, members of the Specialty have also expressed an interest in doing more to share information with others. To that end, the Epidemiology Specialty Continuing Education Committee, under the leadership of Dr. Terry Lehenbauer, is studying the feasibility of having a veterinary epidemiology poster session during the annual meeting of the American Veterinary Medical Association.

Also, don't forget that the Specialty has a listserv to allow Epidemiology Specialty Diplomates a forum for discussion. To contribute to the listserv send a message to <epi@acvpm.org>

Dr. Wayne Schlosser will complete his two-year term as Epidemiology Specialty Secretary in July. This Spring we will hold elections for Secretary and we are now seeking nominations for this position. Please forward your nominations to me. Finally, it is the Credentials, Examination, Nomination, and Continuing Education committees that keep our Specialty functional. Please consider volunteering some of your time to one of these committees.

Best regards,

David R. Smith





I write this column thankful for a forced brief respite (caused by a severe 12 day URI) from a busy summer and autumn. Between a 45 day tour of duty in the CDC Director's Emergency Operations Center following the impact of the "Storms of 2005" and a several week field assignment in New Orleans as a US DHHS Team lead assigned to the FEMA Area Field Office- not a great deal of "day job work" was accomplished. With public health program administration issues, environmental health/toxicology, wildlife/conservation medicine, zoonoses, food production and protection, terrorism preparedness, vector-borne diseases, and yes- avian influenza – in the headlines and filling our in boxes, for most of you a respite is but a dream for 7 hours of uninterrupted sleep in a home. I am most impressed with all that veterinarians continue to achieve in the field of public health for the betterment of human and animal populations-especially during times of crisis and emergency whether in the Gulf States or the Gulf Region of the Middle East.

Gary A. Balsamo, DVM, MPH & TM, State Public Health Veterinarian and Infectious Disease epidemiologist with the Louisiana Office of Public Health co-authored an article for publication in the Louisiana Morbidity Report, (Louisiana's version of an MMWR), with Dr Martha Littlefield (LDAF) and Dr Conger (USDA APHIS) which I have excerpted (with permission) that addresses some facts associated with the animal response in Louisiana.

"The pre-Katrina planning for animal rescue and sheltering was part of the State of Louisiana's Emergency Preparedness Plan. This plan identified a State Animal Response Team (SART) and Regional Animal Response Teams (RARTs) in major metropolitan areas. Several of these RARTs had prepared facilities in areas distant from the greater New Orleans area to provide emergency shelters for pets of evacuees fleeing the approaching storm. These teams also developed plans to rescue or provide emergency provisions for stranded animals that could not be evacuated. The shelters that were ready to accept pets of evacuees prior to Katrina's landfall were located in Alexandria, Monroe and Shreveport."

"When the magnitude of the effects of Katrina became apparent the Louisiana Animal Rescue and Response Incident Command Post (ICP) was established in the Louisiana Department of Agriculture building in Baton Rouge to oversee the operations. Additional satellite shelters were

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opened in Baton Rouge, Gonzales, Lafayette, Greensburg, and Slidell. Management of the satellite shelters was coordinated by the State Animal Response Team (SART). The operation of these shelters, animal rescue efforts, and the agricultural emergency response, exemplified the very best of private/public and government interagency cooperation. The shelter at Gonzales was managed by the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) at the pre-arranged invitation of the Louisiana SPCA and the LDAF State Veterinarian. The United States Public Health Service (USPHS), American Veterinary Medical Association Veterinary Medical Assistance Teams (VMATs), 248th United States Airborne Army Medical Detachment (that included veterinarians, veterinary technicians, and food inspectors) (Veterinary Corps), several local veterinarians, and hundreds of lay volunteers, provided veterinary assistance at several levels of the operation. The VMATs alone performed over 10,000 animal treatments at the shelters. The Baton Rouge Area Veterinary Medical Association, an association of local veterinarians, was assisted by the faculty and students of the Louisiana State University School of Veterinary Medicine (LSUSVM) in providing veterinary medical support at the Parker Coliseum in Baton Rouge and emergency care for all rescued animals.”

“Personnel from the USDA, APHIS, Veterinary Services, and the Office of Animal Health Services (LDAF) orchestrated livestock, equine, and laboratory animal evacuation and rescue from the Katrina-flooded areas in the New Orleans area and the Rita-marooned areas in Vermilion, Calcasieu, and Cameron Parishes.. The Louisiana National Guard and the U.S. Coast Guard assisted in the rescue effort, providing aircraft and other assets for use in the response. These operations also involved hundreds of volunteers from communities and humane organizations across the state and entire nation. Up to 278 volunteers were employed each day at the Lamar-Dixon shelter alone.”

“The two largest post-Katrina shelters were located in the greater Baton Rouge area. The Lamar Dixon Expo Center at Gonzales, one of the Baton Rouge area shelters, dispatched humane organization affiliated and credentialed teams daily to the New Orleans area for animal rescue and recovery. Besides rescuing abandoned animals, these teams responded to specific requests for the feeding and watering of stranded animals. The Parker Agricultural Coliseum on the campus of Louisiana State University (LSU) served as the other large Baton Rouge area facility. The primary purpose of Parker Coliseum was to serve as a shelter for pets with known owners who theoretically would be available

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to assist in the care of these animals. Parker Coliseum and the LSUSVM served respectively as shelter and healthcare facility for animals in critical need of veterinary care. LSUSVM also provided emergent care for animals at Lamar-Dixon. The aforementioned other five satellite shelters housed approximately 1600 additional pets during the same period.”

The excerpt from the LA Times stating that, "After Hurricane Katrina, emergency planners learned that some people would be reluctant to evacuate their homes without their pets," is in error, as many of you realize. The fact is that many of us in government and in the veterinary profession were aware of this problem. In fact, in Louisiana, the work done by Animal Health Services, Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry, was exemplary. Dr. Maxwell Lea, the State Veterinarian, and Dr Martha Littlefield, along with legions of others in the Louisiana Veterinary Medical Association, animal control organizations, the LSU School of Veterinary Medicine, and the LSU Hurricane Center, had predicted that these problems would surface. These organizations combined to do the best that they could with the assets available at the time... The task that we have is to convince non-animal centered relief organizations, like the Red Cross, that the problem with pets in [*displaced population*] situations must be addressed.

For me, the take home message is that veterinarians and veterinary medicine can get the job done effectively and collaboratively. Our critical next step is to communicate the notion of “joint interoperability” beyond the field of response and preparedness and into the domain of improving those mutually beneficial preventive and mitigation activities aimed decreasing adverse human as well as animal health outcomes. The challenge to those who responded and led during the crises of 2005 is not just to recall, re-evaluate, improve, and market -but to identify a subordinate or colleague to mentor, teach, and guide through the important problem solving and outcome assurance processes that were experienced. The time, place, “rules of engagement”, and type of event may change-but the “next time” is just over the horizon...

On the CDC/ATSDR “home front”...

First, Thanks to the leadership of Dr’s Nina Marano, Jennifer Wright, Jennifer McQuiston, and Heather Bair-Brake, as well as the co-sponsorship of the AAVMC, AVMA, AAPHV, ACVPM, and the CDC Foundation-almost 300 Veterinary Students and their Veterinary School Faculty Mentors from around the country will be to attend a seminar, “A Day at CDC for Veterinary Students”, in Atlanta Georgia at CDC Headquarters on Monday January 23, 2006.

The seminar is designed to introduce participants to the CDC mission of prevention and preparedness, and to the exciting fields of public health and epidemiology, so that current veterinary students might consider public health as a career choice.

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Speakers from CDC, Emory University and other organizations will provide their perspectives on the following topics:

1. Global Health: challenges and strategies
2. Emerging Infectious Diseases
3. Migration and health
4. Environmental health
5. Bioterrorism
6. Career Opportunities
7. Epidemiology in Action - A Test of skills

A second news note-

Since its opening, CDC/ATSDR has been a key source of public health knowledge for America's 75,000 plus veterinarians-and the trainer of thousands of vet leaders in the practice of public health. Unfortunately, for every program from Epidemic Intelligence Service conferences to satellite downlinks, we have not been able to consistently provide veterinary continuing medical education contact hour credits. Many states are now "tightening up" on what type of professional activity is permitted to be applied by those of us who choose to/need to renew clinical licenses and there may soon be need to document continuing education to renew certification for such specialties as veterinary preventive medicine.

As of December 19, 2005, CDC has been approved by RACE (Registry of Approved Continuing Education- the continuing educational approval program of the American Association of Veterinary State Boards (AAVSB)) to provide the contact hours acceptable in most states.

This activity will be coordinated through the CDC Office of Workforce and Career Development (OWCD). There are still some logistic and financial hurdles-but we hope to have the bugs worked out over the next several months. It is hoped that at least one major meeting and one or two smaller programs will be submitted for credit hours this fiscal year.

It is a privilege to support these exciting new efforts to elevate the importance of veterinary medicine at CDC/ATSDR as well as to provide the entire veterinary community with quality public health information that will also have a personal benefit to those of you engaged in improving the lives of our herds and our communities.

I remain yours in health and prevention
Hugh

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Dr. Stacie M. Greby
Dr. Martin L. Hoffman
Dr. Bryan Ketenberger
Dr. Albert H. McCullen
Dr. Rick J. Probst
Dr. Martha E. Stebbins
Dr. John R. Taber
Dr. William H. Torrence
Dr. Bob E. Walters
Dr. Russell L. Wiessinger, III

Search for ACVPM Executive Vice President

The Executive Board (EB) of the American College of Veterinary Preventive Medicine (ACVPM) is conducting a search for a new Executive Vice President. The individual must be a veterinarian and should be a Diplomat in the ACVPM with some knowledge of the operation and goals of the College. The College seeks a motivated and highly organized leader to manage the daily operations of the organization including, but not limited to, membership services, assisting various College Committees including staff support to both the Examination and Credentials committees, working with a computer support person to coordinate and facilitate effective communications, custodian of all monies including receipt and disbursement of funds, planning and organizing meetings, assisting the Internal Affairs Committee with the Annual and Five-year reports to the AVMA, assisting the "News and Views" editor with three newsletters per year, and serving as an Ex Officio member of the Executive Board. The individual must be willing to commit at least 15-20 hours per week to the duties of the EVP, though additional time will be required during the dues billing period, preparation for the EB and membership meetings during the AVMA annual meeting, application and examination periods, and drafting annual reports. The current salary for the EVP is budgeted at \$17,000 plus \$5,500 for a computer support person who manages the database, electronic newsletters, website maintenance, and general computer assistance to the membership concerning ACVPM matters.

Interested individuals should apply electronically with: a short (200 words or less) statement of intent; list of qualifications that make them an outstanding candidate for the position; and names of three (3) persons who can be contacted as references (with at least one previous or current employer) listing their e-mail and surface mail addresses and telephone numbers. Reply to Dr. (COL) Peggy Carter at <peggycarter@ln.amedd.army.mil> by February 2, 2006.