



AMERICAN COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MICROBIOLOGISTS

Board of Governors

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March 31, 2000

NEWSLETTER

ACVM on the Internet

Visit our site at: <http://cem.vet.utk.edu>
It contains meeting minutes, the history, goals, directory, constitution, bylaws, guide for potential candidates, and application form. One may print all or any part of the information listed. An e-mail message can be sent to the Secretary-Treasurer directly from the Internet site. The information will be updated regularly (at least monthly). I intend to place news items in this site periodically also. If any errors are identified, please let me know. Suggestions are welcome.

Ballot for Officers and Honorary Diplomates

A ballot form to vote for the next three members of the Board of Governors is enclosed. Information on the five candidates is enclosed. Please follow instructions on the ballot form. Mail the ballot in the enclosed stamped, return-address envelope. Dues status is encoded on the back of the envelope. Only votes from members in good standing will be

counted. You may include a check for dues if in arrears to ensure counting of your ballot.

Please note that emeritus and honorary members do not pay dues to remain in good standing; honorary members cannot vote. Dr Melissa Kennedy shall be the teller this year.

Please vote also for the nominee for honorary diplomate status. A 2/3-majority vote is required for election to honorary diplomate standing.

The nomination for the new Vice-Chair of ACVM is Dr Melissa Kennedy (ACVM 1995). She graciously has agreed to accept the position, if approved by the Board. Additional nominations may be made by Board members at the July meeting.

AVMA Meeting in Salt Lake City

Please plan on attending the ACVM Annual and Board of Directors' Meeting on

Sunday, July 23rd, 2000. It will be held at 2:00PM in the Grand C Room of the Marriott. The agenda will soon be placed on the ACVM web site.

ACVM again will sponsor a symposium at the AVMA meeting. It will be on **“Challenges to the Development of New Generation Vaccines – Meeting the Needs of Practitioners, Clients, and Patients”** from 8:00 AM to 12 PM on Monday, July 24th. Moderator will be Dr Chris Chase and speakers include **Dr Alice Wolf** (Challenges to New Vaccine Development – an Internist’s Perspective), **Dr Christopher Olsen** (Contemporary Approaches to Immunization: Pros and Cons and Prospects for the Future), and **Dr Richard Hill** (Meeting the Challenges of Getting New and Novel Products Licensed).

Dues Status

Dues are still \$20 - a bargain. They become due in July each year and go up to \$30 on January 31 the following year. According to tradition, I have enclosed a reminder for those of you who have forgotten. Please make remittances payable to ACVM by check drawn on a US bank or by international money order and mail directly to me. Emeritus or honorary diplomates do not need to pay dues (donations are always welcome). Emeritus diplomates can vote, but not honorary diplomates.

Suggestions and Corrections

For additional information or to provide suggestions, please contact Dr Leon Potgieter, College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Tennessee, P.O. Box 1071, Knoxville, TN 37901-1071 (865-974-5576), Fax (865-974-5640) or by e-mail at potgieter@utk.edu.

Candidates for Board of Governors

Bruce R. Charlton

Dr Charlton received the B.S. and M.S. degrees in microbiology from University of Maryland (1977) and Colorado State University (1980) respectively. He completed the D.V.M. degree from Colorado State University (1984) and a Ph.D. degree in Comparative Pathology at the University of California, Davis (1998). He was certified by ACVM (Bacteriology/Mycology and Immunology) in 1991 and in ACPV in 1992. Dr Charlton currently is Chief of the Turlock Branch of the California Veterinary Diagnostic System. His experience includes private practice for a year and diagnostic microbiology/pathology in the California Department of Food and Agriculture and, since 1987 in the California Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory System. He has authored or co-authored 29 scientific publication, teaches poultry anatomy, pathology and microbiology to veterinary students.

ACVM Vision and Challenges

Microbiology is a broad field of study but is a key component of the time-honored processes involved in infectious diseases. Certain aspects of microbiology have also become key components in the fairly recent new fields of food safety and molecular biology. Consequently, microbiology is one of the core subjects of the veterinary curriculum. Why then, does the ACVM not enjoy the prestige that it should? Are we not meeting the College’s objectives? Is there a specific direction the College should head as expressed by the members? Do the members know what they want from the College? What does the College do for the members? What have other College’s done for their members? These are questions that need further investigation in order for the ACVM to remain a viable specialty and a prerequisite or at least “highly preferred” in any academic or industry announcement. Reshaping the College to enhance its status in the view of academia or industry will take years but is essential for the survival of the College.

Laurel J. Gershwin

Dr Gershwin received the D.V.M degree from U.C. Davis (1971) and the Ph.D. degree in Immunology from the same institution (1979) after completing an internship at Angell Memorial Animal Hospital in Boston. She was certified by ACVM in 1980. Currently she serves as professor of immunology (Dept. of Pathology, Microbiology and Immunology) and service chief for clinical immunology and virology for the Veterinary Teaching Hospital. She has served also as the Chairperson for the department (1988 – 1994). Dr Gershwin has been awarded numerous substantial research grants and has published over 60 peer-reviewed articles. She has received numerous honors and was elected to the AVMA Council on Research in 1996. She has trained 10 graduate students and currently serves as the advisor for three students. She is extensively involved in the teaching of veterinary students.

ACVM Vision and Challenges

This fall will be my 20th anniversary as a diplomate of ACVM. I think that over these past 20 years the college has done well to increase its once dwindling membership by developing sub-specialty certification and is now in a strong position to exert an influence on the future direction to be developed in the field of veterinary microbiology. It is a critical time for our discipline because there will soon be a dearth of trained veterinarian/microbiologists to fill positions in diagnostic laboratories and academic departments in the schools of veterinary medicine. Therefore challenge #1 is to work towards recruiting DVM graduates into post-DVM microbiology training programs to produce the veterinary virology, bacteriology, and immunology professors of the future. To do this we can work at the college level by promoting our discipline to DVM students and demonstrating to them the satisfaction that accompanies working in research, teaching, and diagnostics as a veterinary microbiologist. Sponsorship of symposia at such meetings as the SCAVMA convention might be one way to begin this process.

The environment in biological science is rapidly changing: genomics and proteomics are the current buzzwords on most of the college campuses. As veterinary microbiologists we must keep abreast of these newer areas of emphasis so that our knowledge and skills are kept current. The college can assist its members

in this endeavor by sponsoring workshops, symposia, and fostering collaborative relationships that address the increased emphasis on genomics as it pertains to our science. Therefore, challenge #2 is to foster the acquisition of new knowledge and skills among our diplomates so that they are able to participate in the exciting future of biology.

Frequently new and emerging diseases and related problems involving microbiology (such as vaccine reactions) arise in veterinary medicine. Funding for research on these issues is often provided in a “too little, too late” manner (if at all). As the major source of veterinary microbiologists, the college should take a proactive role in identifying, publicizing, and actively promoting the importance of solving these problems by identification of sources of funding. This is the third challenge. A potential mechanism to begin could include the formation of a sentinel network of veterinary microbiologists that would interact with other colleges, diagnostic laboratories, and agencies (AVMA, COR, USDA, Species-oriented groups, etc) to keep abreast of problems that are likely to reach the category of “new and emerging diseases”. Lobbying of funding agencies would be a natural sequel to identification of areas in need of immediate funding.

As for Visions, my visions for ACVM would be for the college to meet the three stated challenges. By so doing, we will have: 1) generated new “replacement” microbiology teachers, researchers, and diagnosticians, 2) increased the expertise of our current diplomates to meet the challenges of the future, and 3) assisted our profession in addressing critical needs in research.

Meeting these challenges will keep ACVM viable and useful to the profession rather than becoming just another set of letters to list behind a diplomates name.

Donald L. Reynolds

Dr Reynolds received the B.S. degree in animal science (1977), the D.V.M. degree in 1981 and the Ph.D. degree in Poultry Disease and Microbiology (1986) from The Ohio State University. Currently he is a Professor at the Veterinary Medical Research Institute, Iowa State University. He has done an internship in avian medicine at North Carolina State University and was a graduate research associate at the Ohio

Agricultural Research and Development Center. He has been a productive researcher (over 40 publications; numerous extramural grant awards), nationally known for his contributions to the study of avian diseases and a well-respected teacher. Was a member of the ACVM Board of Governors from 1994-1997 and on the Board of Directors of the American Association of Avian Pathologists.

ACVM Vision and Challenges

In order for the ACVM to survive, prosper and make an impact on the future of veterinary medicine, I believe we need to embrace challenges within our society and profession and make strategic changes within our college. Our college has the potential to be a leader in many important issues such as antimicrobial resistance, food-safety, vaccinovigilance, emerging diseases, etc. The ACVM should be proactive and take traditional and contemporary approaches to address these issues to ensure a leadership role in directing our profession and serving our society.

David L. Suarez

Dr Suarez received his DVM degree from Auburn University (1988), the PhD degree from Iowa State University (1995), and was board certified in ACVM in virology in 1996 and in immunology in 1998. He was a small animal practitioner in Anniston, Alabama from 1988-1991, an adjunct instructor at Des Moines Area Community College, Boone, IA in 1994, a postdoctoral researcher at Plum Island Foreign Animal Disease Center in Greenport, NY in 1995. He is currently a veterinary medical officer at the Southeast Poultry Research Laboratory (ARS, USDA) and an adjunct instructor for the Department of Medical Microbiology, College of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Georgia. Dr Suarez is a member of the AVMA, AAAP, CRWAD, and is on the board of reviewers for AJVR. He has 17 peer-reviewed publications, multiple competitive grant awards; several book chapters, and review articles. His current research is on the pathogenesis of avian influenza virus including molecular epidemiology of influenza outbreaks in poultry and the role of the nonstructural gene in virulence of the virus.

ACVM Vision and Challenges

I am a recent diplomat in ACVM and I am very proud of being board certified in my specialty and of being considered for the Board of

Governors. However, the benefits of board certification in ACVM are not as tangible as certain other boards (e.g. ACVP). The lack of these tangible benefits has negatively impacted the ability for this organization to recruit new members to undergo the testing procedure. This stagnant growth in the organization represents a serious threat as the organization ages. Past efforts to provide more tangible benefits of board certification have included efforts to increase the visibility of the organization, and try to include board certification as a selection factor for academic and other research positions. These efforts are important and need to be continued. An additional area that needs to be more actively pursued is the active recruitment of eligible veterinarians to apply for membership. This should include personal visits or contacts by ACVM members, and a general letter of introduction to ACVM including the benefits of ACVM membership. This packet can include instructions for applying, membership lists, and have answers to frequently asked questions. We should target not only veterinarians who have recently become eligible for membership, but also mid-career scientists. While the likelihood for having mid-career scientists applying for membership is low, our organization does have recent examples of this occurring. My own experiences in trying to recruit veterinary scientists to this organization have demonstrated that most potential applicants know little about the organization and what benefits membership can have. I believe that a more directed approach at recruiting members to the organization can help alleviate these concerns. I appreciate the honor of being nominated to the Board of Governors. In my statement of philosophy, I presented one of my major concerns about this organization and a plan to try to solve it. My resolve to work for this organization is not contingent on being elected to the Board of Governors, but I would appreciate the opportunity to serve ACVM in an expanded role.

Eileen L. Thacker

Dr Thacker earned the D.V.M. degree from the University of Minnesota (1978), the Ph.D. degree from Michigan State University (1992) and ACVM certification in Immunology (1995). She completed a post-doctoral fellowship at the Avian Disease and Oncology Laboratory in East

Lansing, Michigan. Currently, Dr Thacker is an assistant professor at Iowa State University. She has authored or co-authored over 20 peer-reviewed publications.

ACVM Vision and Challenges

My vision for ACVM is to increase its visibility and importance to the discipline of veterinary microbiology. We must continue to praise the profile of the membership of ACVM so that our members are contacted when information is needed about veterinary microbiology in both the public and private sector. Currently, board certification in ACVM is generally not considered an important consideration in a job application or as a salary incentive. Awareness must be increased regarding the value that board certification and the accompanying knowledge brings to a position, in both academic and in industrial environments. Our continued involvement in sponsoring symposiums in conjunction with CRWAD and the AVMA national meeting help keep us in the forefront of the field of veterinary microbiology. These symposiums need to be continued and maintained. In addition, the new animal health division within the American Society of Microbiology should be contacted about our potential involvement with them. ASM is the largest microbiology association in the work and would be a good resource and contact.

Since becoming a diplomate in 1995, I have been an active member of the examination committee. The future success of ACVM is through the continued recruitment of new diplomates into our organization. We must all do our part to encourage promising new faculty and personnel to take the boards. We must continue to update our exam and examination procedures to ensure that the content is current and enables us to certify candidates of the highest quality. The new initiative to computerize our exam questions will not only allow us to improve the quality of the figures and information used for the exam questions, but will also make updating the boards easier. The addition of new questions will be facilitated and less expensive to the member submitting questions. In addition, administering the exam will be much easier for the members of the examining committee.

Finally, we need to continue assisting what we can do to keep our organization current with the changing directions of veterinary microbiology. Veterinary microbiology is rapidly expanding and evolving and we must ensure that our

membership is included in the front lines as food safety directives and regulations regarding the use of antimicrobials in animals are developed.

Candidates for Honorary Diplomates

Edward J. Dubovi

Dr Dubovi earned the B.A. degree from the University of Pennsylvania, the M.A. degree from Purdue and the Ph.D. degree from the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine. Dr Dubovi is Associate Chairman of the Department of Population Medicine and Diagnostic Science at the New York State College of Veterinary Medicine at Cornell University. As Associate Director of the Diagnostic Laboratory and Director of the Virology Laboratory, he has organized one of the most comprehensive veterinary viral diagnostic services in the U.S. Additionally, he has carried out a research program that has yielded more than 70 peer-reviewed scientific journal articles. This broad research and diagnostic experience has had a focus on bovine respiratory tract diseases and bovine virus diarrhea work involving both clinical and basic studies. Dr Dubovi's diagnostic and research efforts have involved extensive collaboration with colleagues throughout the U.S. and elsewhere.

Instructions

Fold the completed ballot so that the printing is on the inside and place it in the enclosed stamped, self-addressed envelope (no other envelope will do). **Mail the envelope to be received before May 10, 2000.**

Official Ballot Form March 15, 2000

BOARD OF GOVERNORS ELECTION

Vote for three (3) of the diplomates nominated by marking an "X" in the appropriate box () below.

- () Bruce R. Charlton
- () Laurel J. Gershwin
- () Donald L. Reynolds
- () David L. Suarez
- () Eileen L. Thacker

Honorary Diplomat Election

Is the following acceptable as an honorary member? If so, PLEASE mark the box with an "X".

- () Edward J. Dubovi

