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Secretary-Treasurer  
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Board of Governors  
M.C. DeBey (2008)  
M.C. Libal (2008)  
A.J. Phipps (2008)  
J.A. Roth (2008)  
J.R. Fahey (2009)  
L.J. Gershwin (2009)  
M.A. Kennedy (2009)  
C.S. Baldwin (2010)  
H.W. Dickerson (2010)  
D.K. Meyerholz (2010)

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## NEWSLETTER Spring 2008

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### News from the President

**Please encourage all eligible veterinary microbiologists to register to take the ACVM board examination this fall.** The deadline for application is April 30. All of the necessary information for applying can be found on the ACVM website at: [www.acvm.us/](http://www.acvm.us/). I would be happy to speak to any candidates who are considering applying to take the examination. They could contact me at 515-294-8459, or [jaroth@iastate.edu](mailto:jaroth@iastate.edu). If you send me their contact information, I will call them to answer their questions and encourage them to apply.

Dr. Amelia Woolums and the examination committee are working hard to revitalize the examination process. They plan to engage in the following efforts in an attempt to raise the success rate:

1. Improve the overall quality and relevance of the exam.
2. Provide a detailed study guide with example questions taken from the exam bank.
3. Provide information to each candidate on recommended examination strategies (e.g. single-exam success rate versus multiple-exam success rate).
4. Establish a mentoring program so that all candidates have a Diplomate available to provide information about the examination process.

Recruiting new ACVM Diplomates is essential for the future of our organization, and to fill the increasing national need for veterinary infectious disease experts in teaching, diagnostics, research, and public policy.

Best regards,  
Jim Roth

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### News

#### ABVS Meeting Chicago, IL

On February 23, 2008, Chris Hayhow, ACVM Secretary-Treasurer, attended the ABVS Joint meeting entitled "ABVS/AAVMC/AAVC meeting on residencies and internships." We discussed the issues concerning the trend of residents leaving academia and going to private practice and industry. There was concern that some institutions are unable to maintain full staffs of specialists as well as the impact the drain will have on future training of specialists and students. It was agreed that no easy solutions exist. Problems identified include a) money, b) quality of life, c) gender and generational issues, and d) internal and external expectations. Possible solutions include a) money, b) coalitions, and c) delay payment of loans during residency programs. It was agreed that the working committee at AAVMC would summarize the comments and seek input from additional stakeholders. During the

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ABVS annual meeting on February 23-24, 2008, the ACVM's annual report was reviewed and approved. The ACVM was encouraged to consider purchasing Errors and Omission and Directors and Officers insurance. The reason is some colleges have had claims due to credentialing issues. Unfortunately, fewer policies are available at this time. We were told that the key is to act in a consistent and prudent manner in all activities. It was obvious that the ABVS is still focused on helping colleges ensure that their examinations are valid and legally defensible. Our current plans to review all examinations will help support this objective.

### **Elections**

Included with this newsletter is information on candidates for the ACVM Board of Governors'. There are three (3) candidates for President. There are also seven (7) candidates for the three (3) positions available on the board. In addition, information is provided on the candidate for ACVM Honorary Diplomate for 2008, Dr. X.J. Meng. Please provide your response to the ballot to me via email at [Buckeyeone@kc.rr.com](mailto:Buckeyeone@kc.rr.com). The deadline for returning your ballot is April 15, 2008.

### **ACVM President Candidates for 2008**

#### **M.M. Chengappa**

Dr. M.M. Chengappa earned his BVSc and MVSc degrees from the College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore, India in 1970 and 1973, respectively. In 1974, he joined Michigan State University where he earned an MS and PhD in Veterinary Microbiology under Dr. G.R. Carter. Dr. Chengappa was certified as a Diplomate of the ACVM in 1981. He became a University Distinguished Professor at Kansas State University in 2003. He was accorded the Distinguished Postdoctoral Veterinary Alumnus award from Michigan State University in 2004.

Dr. Chengappa was a member of the faculty at Murray State University from 1981-83, and 1985-88; and at Kansas State University from 1983-85 and from 1988-present. He was promoted to the rank of Professor in the Department of Laboratory Medicine at Kansas State University in 1990, and became Head of the Department of Diagnostic Medicine/Pathobiology in 1996 after serving as Assistant Head from 1994-96. In 2000, Dr.

Chengappa assumed the responsibilities of Interim Director of the Food Animal Health and Management Center at Kansas State. He served as the Director of the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory from 1997-2001. Dr. Chengappa was awarded the Beecham Award for Research Excellence in 1990. He has 4 patents, and has authored or co-authored 125 scientific papers, 127 abstracts and presentations, and numerous book chapters. In addition, Dr. Chengappa has co-authored two books in veterinary microbiology. He coordinates the Veterinary Bacteriology and Mycology class taught to professional students in the College of Veterinary Medicine. He serves on the Editorial Board of Veterinary Microbiology, Veterinary Research Communication and Pet India. He was elected to serve on the ACVM Board of Governors in 1992-95 and 2003-06. He served as the Vice President of ACVM in 2004-06. Dr. Chengappa is a member of the AVMA, KVMA, AAVLD and CRWAD.

### **Vision Statement**

For the sustained growth and development of the ACVM, it must continually add new diplomats, define the short and long-term goals of the organization, maintain high visibility at national and international levels, improve the communication among diplomats and between various professional organizations, and maintain high standards for the certification process. The ACVM must nurture an environment where diplomats can share and discuss teaching, research and service to advance and benefit their careers. The ACVM must address not only research challenges, but also teaching and service challenges that face our discipline. These challenges should be regularly discussed among diplomats during meetings held in conjunction with national professional meetings.

The ACVM should continue to hold annual meetings as a means to gain increased visibility and to encourage individuals to work toward certification. The relationship that has been started with the ACVIM should continue and be enhanced. Serious considerations should be given to hosting workshops in conjunction with the annual meetings of other specialty boards (e.g. ACVIM and ACVP) on subjects that are relevant to our discipline and College.

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The AAVMC, in association with AVMA, is mounting an initiative to increase the number of veterinarians interested and trained in the areas of public practice and regulatory veterinary medicine and biomedical research. USDA APHIS alone suggests that it needs as many as 200 new veterinarians each year for the foreseeable future to cover their needs. Research resources within the NIH is concerned that there are not enough veterinarians (certified with or without PhDs) to support the biomedical infrastructure, particularly in the areas of laboratory animal medicine, pathology, and comparative medicine. I suggest that ACVM become engaged in these discussions so that the need for training in veterinary microbiology and immunology is not forgotten and the value of ACVM certification is demonstrated.

In the last three to four years, the ACVM has made significant progress under the leadership of Dr. Jim Roth. Several initiatives have been undertaken to enhance the visibility of the College. These initiatives must be continued with passion and deep commitment to the growth of the College. The president must possess the ability to listen and understand individual diplomate's perspectives and then build a consensus of opinion among diplomates for the long-term success of the College. Also, the president must promote an intellectual atmosphere conducive to the stimulation and exchange of ideas and enhance the quality of scholarship in every discipline of the College. We must cultivate an environment that fosters mutual respect, honesty, integrity and trust among diplomates.

I believe the ACVM should be very active in local, state and national organizations to promote the mission of the College. The biotechnology revolution will continue to have a tremendous impact on laboratory diagnostics, vaccines, and therapeutics, as well as clinical management of infectious diseases. The diplomates of the ACVM represent a tremendous resource of scientists, educators and administrators that can contribute to many different biomedical disciplines. We must actively seek points of engagement.

### **Mary DeBey**

Dr. Mary DeBey graduated from Kansas State University College of Veterinary Medicine in 1979. She was in private practice, and then returned to K-State to work with *Rhodococcus equi*. In 1986, she

received a Masters in Veterinary Bacteriology. In 1992, she received her PhD in Veterinary Microbiology from Iowa State University while working with *Mycoplasma hyopneumoniae*. During graduate studies she helped teach virology, mycology and bacteriology in the professional curriculum, and worked in the clinical bacteriology and mycology laboratories. She moved to the National Animal Disease Center as a mycologist working with *Aspergillus fumigatus* in turkeys, and then worked part-time in the clinical bacteriology and mycology laboratory at University of California Davis, Tulare Lab. In 1996, she came back to K-State to teach mycology and avian diseases, assisted with bacteriology in the professional curriculum, and coordinated a research project investigating the role of *E. coli* in acute diarrhea of Greyhounds. Currently, she is a consultation clinician for Hill's Pet Nutrition, manages occasional product issues, and discusses medical and nutritional management of diseases in dogs and cats.

### **Vision Statement**

In our changing world, several factors may contribute to increased visibility of ACVM in society. The potential threat of agro-terrorism directed toward food animals, coupled with a shortage of food animal practitioners, creates a vacuum in veterinary infectious disease knowledge that can be competently addressed by ACVM diplomats. Emerging infectious diseases in humans are frequently linked to established animal diseases. Veterinarians trained in infectious disease provide the most logical link between detection, and treatment or control of emerging infectious diseases. The ACVM Biosecurity Task Force offers tremendous opportunities for visibility of ACVM in the areas of bioterrorism and emerging infectious diseases.

To address the needs and opportunities available to ACVM, the college needs bright, energetic recruits. The Recruitment Committee and Dr. Jim Roth have done a good job of encouraging applicants and reminding current diplomats to recruit more people. I'd like to see the current level of enthusiastic recruitment continue. Along with recruitment, there are opportunities for ACVM to define and validate residency or mentor programs, designed to train applicants to successfully master the ACVM boards and function as ACVM diplomats.

Increased visibility and wider recognition of ACVM proficiency is important to elevate the perceived value of ACVM diplomats to employers. When employers seek ACVM certification, the College and all diplomats benefit.

### **Scott McVey**

It is an honor to be nominated as a candidate for the ACVM presidency. I appreciate your consideration of me and my ideas for the future of the college. I believe that Microbiology is a cornerstone of Veterinary Medicine. This is especially true with regard to the One Medicine concept. The members of this college are key players in education, research, clinical medicine and policy development. Therefore, it is essential that we actively participate in creating the future of Veterinary Microbiology. The faculty of the American College of Veterinary Microbiologists is strong and capable of fulfilling its highest aspirations. As President, it would first be my task to facilitate the definition of these aspirations by the college membership. Secondly, it would be my task to then to provide leadership to create the environment to achieve our goals with continual growth. I have been encouraged by a recent increase in newly certified diplomats and a growing applicant pool. We have also successfully increased our visibility and activity level over the last few years. We have an opportunity to build on recent successes of the college and its leadership. We should actively seek to identify and make use of the mechanisms that have lead to these achievements. In addition, I believe that we need to seek or reinforce strong alliances that will enhance growth of our college as well as the growth of our selected partners. I appreciate your consideration and I look forward to serving the college as opportunities allow.

### **ACVM Board of Governors' Candidates for 2008**

#### **Walter J. Bruyninckx**

I am honored to be nominated to stand for election to serve on the Board of Governors of ACVM because I am proud to be a diplomate and wish very much for the College to flourish and succeed in its mission. I received my formal training from the University of Gent Belgium (DVM in 1974 and PhD in 1987) and became certified shortly thereafter (1989 and 1991). My research interests have carried me from the University of Oregon Health

Sciences Center (Oxygen toxicity) to National Jewish Hospital in Denver (mouse macrophages) to Colorado State University (chemotaxis and phagocytosis of neutrophils of domestic animals). For the last 14 years I have been a full-time teacher at Hanover College (Hanover, Indiana) in microbiology, immunology, cell biology, and general biology courses.

### **Vision Statement**

I like to actively support the mission of ACVM. We have to keep encouraging colleagues to pursue their interests in microbiology and infectious diseases, foremost to maintain humane treatment of animals, keep food production economic, but also to understand zoonoses, and be ready for new emerging and old reemerging infections. We have increasing responsibilities in keeping the human food supply safe, slow the development of antimicrobial resistance and the members are well placed to have important roles in the defense against bioterrorism. We have a duty to make membership attractive and entry fair, attainable, and meaningful.

### **Dan Grooms**

Dr. Dan Grooms is a native of central Ohio where he grew up on a small commercial cow-calf operation. Dr. Grooms received his BS degree in Animal Science from Cornell University in 1985, his DVM degree from The Ohio State University in 1989 and was in private practice in central Ohio for 5 years. He returned to Ohio State and received his PhD in Veterinary Preventive Medicine in 1996. He joined the faculty in the Department of Large Animal Clinical Sciences at Michigan State University in 1996 where he is currently an Associate Professor. He is a diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Microbiologists since 1996. His extension and research activities have focused on the control and prevention of infectious disease in cattle, specifically BVDV, Johnes's disease, bovine respiratory disease and bovine tuberculosis. He has also been actively involved in beef quality assurance, preharvest food safety, biosecurity, emergency preparedness and farm security initiatives in the state.

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## **Vision Statement**

To paraphrase the objectives of the American College of Veterinary Microbiologists, "our purpose is to be advocates for educational and scientific progress in the specialty of veterinary microbiology". There are numerous reasons this is important and many ways these admiral goals can be accomplished. Key to advancing the field of veterinary microbiology is involvement of people in advocating the profession. With the wide variety of expertise available through ACVM, this organization should be at the table anytime a significant veterinary microbiological discussion is being held. This includes discussion surrounding food safety, bioterrorism, antimicrobial resistance, etc. We should strive for representation and input in major organizations that represent veterinarians, animal and public health. My vision is that we capitalize on the unparalleled expertise represented by ACVM in the field of veterinary microbiology to move this organization forward by actively seeking opportunities to be involved in the larger veterinary and public health community. By doing this, we move ahead the importance of the organization and the importance of the field of veterinary microbiology.

## **Carlton Gyles**

I am a 1964 DVM from the Ontario Veterinary College (OVC), University of Guelph. Following M.Sc. and Ph.D. degrees from the same institution I did postdoctoral studies in England and Denmark, then returned to the faculty of the OVC in 1969. Over the next 36 years I held faculty and administrative positions and conducted research on pathogenesis of *E. coli* infections in animals and humans. I retired in 2005 and am presently Professor emeritus in the Department of Pathobiology, at the OVC.

## **Vision Statement**

The objectives for the ACVM are stated on its web site. Briefly, they involve promoting the highest professional standing of veterinary microbiologists; establishing standards of postdoctoral training and experience for specialists in our discipline; and certification of competence. In the 9 years since I have been a member we seem to have been pre-occupied with certification. It appears that there was good reason for this and the efforts at revitalization

of the examination system are paying off with a more relevant examination process, improved information for candidates, plans for a mentoring program, and interest in certification by a larger number of individuals. We are well along the path to dramatically improving the certification aspect of our mandate and I would be very supportive of continuing efforts in this direction. I would also want the Board to explore the two other objectives. Are these realistic objectives for our organization? If they are, what are we doing and what do we plan to do about them? My goal then, would be to seek a re-examination of our objectives with a view to having the Board ensure that they are clearly articulated, relevant, and achievable. I would ask the Board to involve the entire membership in such an exercise.

## **Matthew J. Sylte**

In 1988, I began my college education as a pre-veterinary student at Kansas State University, and worked part-time in pathology and infectious disease laboratories. These experiences greatly affected my interest to pursue a career in infectious disease research, so I changed my degree program to include microbiology and pre-veterinary medicine. In 1992, I received a bachelor of arts in microbiology from Kansas State University, and entered veterinary school. During my veterinary training, I participated in several infectious disease and immunology research projects, and graduated in 1996 with a doctorate in veterinary medicine. Afterwards, I entered graduate school at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1997, and graduated in 2002 with a Ph.D. in veterinary immunology, under the supervision of Dr. Charles Czuprynski. During my graduate training, I annually attended the Conference for Research Workers in Animal Diseases, where I became aware of and fueled my interest to become an ACVM diplomate. Post-graduate, I worked as a post-doctoral researcher in the laboratory of Dr. Lorraine Sordillo at Penn State and Michigan State University. In 2004, I became an ACVM diplomate, certified in immunology. From 2005 to 2007, I was employed as a microbiologist at the Southeast Poultry Research Laboratory (USDA ARS), under the supervision of Dr. David Suarez. I was very fortunate to work with highly pathogenic avian influenza in chickens, which broadened my research interests to include viral immunity and vaccinology. Recently, I joined the department of infectious

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diseases in college of veterinary medicine at the University of Georgia as a research assistant scientist. My research interests include host-pathogen interaction (virus and bacteria), innate immunity and vaccine development.

### **Vision Statement**

I am honored to be considered as a candidate for the ACVM board of governors, and I look forward to serving the organization and addressing of vital issues such as growth and recruitment of new diplomates. There is a disconnect between veterinarians with post-graduate degrees in infectious diseases or immunology and the ACVM. Young professionals are not aware of the importance of the ACVM, and ACVM has the difficult task of interesting them while they are busily seeking funding and establishing themselves in the scientific community. The mission of increasing the number of ACVM diplomats is daunting. Only a small percent of veterinarians pursue post-graduate education. Of those, even fewer are trained in infectious diseases or immunology with the credentials necessary for diplomacy. A variety of techniques to increase membership should be considered. Below, I have outlined an option that I feel will be beneficial to increase the awareness of the organization to young professionals, as well as the number of new diplomates. I believe that existing ACVM diplomates should locally, within their department or university, seek out graduate students with veterinary degrees that are pursuing degrees in infectious diseases or immunology, and discuss the mission statement and importance of the ACVM in infectious diseases research early in their training. If the students are interested, the diplomate may assist in preparation for the general and specialty examinations. I look forward to contributing towards the exploration of new recruitment options to increase ACVM membership.

### **Deepanker Tewari**

I obtained my Veterinary and then Master's degree in Microbiology and Immunology from Veterinary School at the Haryana Agricultural University, India. I then worked for a year investigating diarrheal diseases of cattle as Senior Research Officer before starting graduate work in 1991 at the Cambridge University in the UK on recombinant vaccines. I joined the National Institutes of Health at Bethesda in 1995 and worked on gene therapy strategies till

1998 before moving on to work at the Rockefeller University in New York, with joint appointment at the Aaron Diamond AIDS Research Center. In 1999, I accepted the position of Manager at the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture to direct microbiology services for the Pennsylvania Veterinary Laboratory in Harrisburg. I was board certified in 2005.

### **Vision Statement**

Efforts to recruit new members in the College are already beginning to show positive results. I am optimistic this growth can be continued as veterinarian's role besides safeguarding animal health, is now also considered very important in protecting human health. Whether it's preparing for pandemic flu, fighting bioterrorism, or dealing with emerging infections, veterinarians with infectious disease training are helping shape the national and international response for addressing such problems. It does appear the market outlook and scope for veterinary microbiology jobs will continue to be strong in future years.

In my view, besides recruiting new members, visibility of the College needs to be increased by working with organizations having animal health focus e.g AVMA, AAVLD, USAHA and other subject matter specialties by participating in developing consensus expert opinions on important issues.

We should also focus on the needs of members by conducting a survey and to see if any of their academic or growth needs can be met through expertise or resources available within the College.

For attracting new veterinary graduates into microbiology programs at the Vet schools, and into the College, we need to undertake job and compensation analysis for veterinarians with microbiology training and board certification. The findings should be made available to the Vet schools and new graduates and could be posted on the ACVM's website to help attract the best and brightest.

I do feel honored to be nominated to run for the Board of Governors and will try my best to promote the College and fulfill the needs of our membership.

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### **Rebecca P. Wilkes**

I received a B.S. from Union University in Jackson, TN in 1996, and received my DVM from the University of Tennessee in 2001. Following vet school, I immediately entered graduate school at the University of Tennessee. I earned my PhD in Comparative and Experimental Medicine in 2007, having taken a two year hiatus from the program to work in the Clinical Virology Diagnostic Lab at the University of Tennessee under the tutelage of Dr. Melissa Kennedy. This experience was instrumental in my certification in virology in 2005. I am currently teaching full-time at Lincoln Memorial University in Harrogate, TN, and I am continuing my research exploring RNA interference as a therapeutic for feline herpesvirus as an adjunct professor at the University of Tennessee.

### **Vision Statement**

My vision for our College is to increase our visibility. I was recently invited to present my research at the Veterinarians in Biomedical Research symposium for veterinary students, sponsored by Merck-Merial-NIH. The purpose of this symposium is to attract veterinary students to research careers. The majority of the presenters had developed animal models for human diseases, and some of the presenters were not veterinarians. I was surprised to learn that several veterinary pathologists at the symposium were not familiar with our college. We will not be able to increase our visibility with the community at large unless we first increase our visibility within our own veterinary community. There have been great gains in the last two years to attract potential diplomates, as evidenced by the increase in number of individuals seeking eligibility to sit for the board exam. We need to further increase our visibility with veterinary students by attending symposiums like the one I previously mentioned, or even sponsoring a symposium in the future. There are viable career options in veterinary infectious disease research; however, the students at the symposium were not given this message, despite the fact that many of them had performed infectious disease research projects.

As a recent graduate, I feel I can contribute enthusiasm and a fresh outlook on concerns facing the ACVM. I am honored to be considered for the Board of Governors.

### **Kyoung-Jin Yoon**

Dr. Kyoung-Jin Yoon, a Korean native, completed the DVM in 1985 and MS in 1987 at Seoul National University in Korea. He was an Adjunct Instructor in the College of Veterinary Medicine at the same university until 1988 and then served the Korean Army as veterinary officer where he experienced public health and comparative medicine. After discharged from the military service, he briefly took a job at the Veterinary Science Research Institute of Seoul National University as a research fellow until he came to US for advanced study. Dr. Yoon received his PhD degree in Veterinary Microbiology from Iowa State University in 1995. Since then, he has been a faculty member in the Department of Veterinary Microbiology and Preventive Medicine and then the Department of Veterinary Diagnostic and Production Animal Medicine at the Iowa State. Currently he holds professor rank. In addition, Dr. Yoon has been serving as diagnostic/research virologist and headed Virology and Molecular Microbiology Section at the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory. He was boarded by ACVM in 2000. Dr. Yoon's educational and research interests have been on viral infections of livestock particularly pigs and cattle. The main focus of research is the pathogenesis, diagnostics and prevention of viral diseases.

### **Vision Statement**

We are living in a very rapidly changing world. There is no discernable difference in the world of infectious agents and our world. As a result, we have been seeing the midst of emerging and re-emerging of infectious diseases. This 'chaotic' nature would continue as it is a survival game to microbes. If so, it stresses the importance of preparedness for unpredicted events to animals in order to secure food supply and minimize zoonotic threat if present. This brings up the need for a good pool of well-trained microbiologists with leadership. In my point of view, ACMV board certification certainly a proof of good training and proficiency in application of science and basic knowledge to clinical situation. Historically ACVM maintains high standards for certification. I think this tradition must continue. Unfortunately though, we at ACVM all face the decline in the number of applicants (particularly young generation), not to mention a high rate of failing in board certification. I think of two reasons for this. One reason would be

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suboptimal recognition of ACVM board certification by academia, health profession and industries in comparison to board certification in other specialty such as pathology or clinical science. It could be corrected if we broaden the exposure of ACVM. In an attempt to increase the awareness of ACVM and board members, I strongly believe we should actively pursue the alliance with other veterinary organizations, commodity groups and public health sectors and also include ACVM activities in their meetings. The other reason would be the lack of formal/uniform training program or guideline for board certification. To keep the value of board certification, the proficiency and knowledge of members in veterinary microbiology and infectious diseases should be demonstrated to others and hopefully public too. I don't believe this can be accomplished without a very rigid and solid training program led by board members. If we can tackle these 2 areas effectively as briefly stated above, I believe we should be able to recruit very talented, qualified members in no time, which sustains ACVM and also serve country's need well. That would be my goal of serving on the Board of Governors. To this end, I appreciate the honor of being nominated for the Board and hope that I will have a chance to enthusiastically pursue the goals I stated above.

### **Candidate for Honorary Diplomat**

#### **Dr. X.J. Meng**

It is with great pleasure that I nominate Dr. X. J. Meng to be considered for the distinction of being a honorary diplomate of ACVM. Dr. Meng is a physician turned scientist who has contributed immensely to the field of Veterinary Microbiology since he was a graduate student at the College of Veterinary Medicine at Iowa State University in 1991. Dr. Meng started his academic and research career by determining the sequence of the first U.S. isolate of porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome virus when he was still a graduate student. Some of his major accomplishments are:

Invention of the first USDA fully-licensed vaccine against porcine circovirus and its associated diseases ("PCVAD"). During the first year on the market, the vaccine has already saved millions of dollars for the U.S. swine industry, and will continue to save the global swine industry millions of dollars each year and for many years to come. In addition,

the novel strategy (chimeric virus approach for vaccine development) invented by Dr. Meng for the development of the vaccine will help develop similar vaccines against other viruses of human and veterinary public health significance.

Discovery of swine hepatitis E virus from pigs in the United States, establishment of a pig model for the study of human hepatitis E, and completely changing the way scientists and physicians used to think about hepatitis E (i.e. hepatitis E is a zoonotic disease and pigs are reservoirs). Immediately after the discovery of swine HEV, Dr. Meng challenged the scientific community by proposing a bold hypothesis that hepatitis E is a zoonotic disease and pigs are reservoirs. His initial proposal received strong oppositions at the beginning from the scientific community, however after years of research by Dr. Meng's group and others in the scientific community, the zoonosis concept has now been well accepted by the scientific community and it has been documented that indeed hepatitis E is a zoonotic disease, and that pigs and perhaps other animals species are reservoirs for human HEV. Prior to the discovery, non-human primates are the only model to study HEV, and consequently little is known regarding the biology and pathogenesis of HEV. The discoveries of swine HEV in pigs and avian HEV in chickens (see below) allow Dr. Meng to develop two unique animal model systems (chickens and pigs) to study various aspects of HEV replication and pathogenesis, and conduct HEV vaccine trial studies in chickens and pigs. Therefore, the discovery of swine HEV has revolutionized the way scientists and physicians used to think about this important human disease and opened new revenues for hepatitis e research and vaccine development.

More recently Dr. Meng discovered yet another new virus, designated avian hepatitis E virus (avian HEV), from chickens with Hepatitis-Splenomegaly syndrome in the United States. This discovery further expanded the spectrum of HEV host tropisms and opened additional new avenues for HEV research and vaccine development. By using avian HEV, Dr. Meng developed a unique chicken model for the study of human hepatitis E virus, and this unique disease model in chicken will help test future HEV vaccine candidates and could lead to the development of a vaccine against human HEV. Dr. Meng also showed that, like swine HEV, the newly discovered avian HEV also has the ability to infect



across species barriers. This discovery significantly contributes to our understanding of HEV ecology, epidemiology and natural history, and will help devise effective preventive and control strategies against hepatitis E virus.

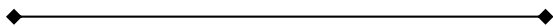
He is an author or co-author for over 150 peer-reviewed publications and book chapters. He has more than 50 funded research grants (as PI or co-I) in the last 8 years from various federal grant agencies (NIH, USDA, etc), non-profit organizations and private sectors with millions of dollars awarded. He was the recipient of numerous prestigious awards including the 2007 and 2001 Pfizer Award for Research Excellence, 1996 Zaffarano Prize for Research Excellence, etc.

Dr. Meng's graduate students and postdocs won a total of 32 national and university awards in the last 7 years, a strong testimony of research excellence and productivity by Meng's group. He is an inventor for more than 18 patents on PRRSV, PCV2 and HEV, and of these patents three have resulted in licensed commercial products (a PCV2 vaccine, a PCV2 differential diagnostic test, and a PRRSV vaccine).

It is needless to say that a non-veterinarian such as Dr. Meng, who has accomplished several milestones in veterinary microbiology, should be properly recognized. There is no single august body other than the American College of Veterinary Microbiologists that would be fitting to endow him such a honor. Therefore, as a diplomate of ACVM, I strongly recommend the candidacy of Dr. X. J. Meng for consideration as an honorary diplomate of ACVM for the year 2008.

Sincerely,

Elankumaran Subbiah



### **ACVM Biosecurity Task Force**

The **mission** of the American College of Veterinary Microbiologists (ACVM) Biosecurity Task Force is to assist local, state, and federal officials in prevention of, response to, and recovery from infectious diseases, which threaten food security or public health. The accidental or intentional introduction of

these diseases has the potential to devastate food security and/or public health in the U.S. The ACVM Biosecurity Task Force is a group of ACVM Diplomates and Honorary Diplomates who:

- Are experts in microbiology and infectious diseases;
- Have received training in the Incident Command System; and
- Have educational resources related to bioterrorism, agroterrorism, zoonotic diseases, and foreign animal diseases.

The Task Force members are volunteers who will strive to be available when contacted by local, state, or federal officials to lend their expertise to assist in preventing, responding to, or recovering from an infectious disease emergency.

ACVM Biosecurity Task Force members could share their expertise in the following ways:

- Present awareness education seminars for health professionals or the public on bioterrorism, agroterrorism, zoonotic diseases, or exotic animal diseases.
- Advise on infectious agent detection and control prior to, during, and after a public health or animal health emergency.
- Consult with and advise emergency response safety officers before and during an infectious disease emergency.
- Assist in responding to media inquires and in education of the public regarding an infectious disease event.

Officials in the USDA, the CDC and the DHS will be told about the ACVM Biosecurity Task Force and the willingness of its members to assist with prevention of, preparation for, response to and recovery from infectious disease emergencies. State Veterinarians, Public Health officials, and Homeland Security officials will also be notified of the existence of the ACVM Biosecurity Task Force.

The Center for Food Security and Public Health (CFSPH) at Iowa State University will provide task force members with resource materials through the CFSPH website (<http://www.cfsph.iastate.edu/>) which include:

- Power point presentations and fact sheets on all bioterrorism agents and high consequence livestock pathogens.

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Office of the Secretary-Treasurer

Dr. Chris Hayhow, 30705 West 84<sup>th</sup> Circle, DeSoto, Kansas 66018

Phone: (913)-585-1434, E-Mail: [buckeyeone@kc.rr.com](mailto:buckeyeone@kc.rr.com)



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### Dues Status

Dues are \$80 per year. They are due by July each year. Due to the transition to a new Secretary-Treasurer we are currently reviewing the dues status of all ACVM members. If you have not paid your dues for 2008 or for any past year(s) please submit payment to my attention as soon as possible. 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. Please note that dues are \$80 per year.

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### Send Suggestions To Improve ACVM

Dr. Chris Hayhow  
30705 West 84<sup>th</sup> Circle  
DeSoto, KS 66018  
Phone (913) 585-1434  
or by e-mail at [buckeyeone@kc.rr.com](mailto:buckeyeone@kc.rr.com)

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### CRWAD Symposium

On Sunday December 7, 2008 from 1:30 to 5:00 PM the joint AAVI/ACVM Symposium will be presented. Further details will be provided as the agenda is finalized. Please plan to attend.

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**ACVM Official Ballot for  
2008**

Candidates for ACVM Board  
of Governors'

Return ballot by April 15, 2008  
by e-mail to  
[buckeyeone@kc.rr.com](mailto:buckeyeone@kc.rr.com) or  
postal mail to Chris Hayhow,  
30705 West 84<sup>th</sup> Circle,  
DeSoto, Kansas 66018.

**President (vote for one)**

M.M. Chengappa \_\_\_\_\_  
Mary DeBey \_\_\_\_\_  
Scott McVey \_\_\_\_\_

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**ACVM Board members  
[vote for not more than  
three (3)]**

Walter J. Bruyninckx \_\_\_\_\_  
Dan Grooms \_\_\_\_\_  
Carlton Gyles \_\_\_\_\_  
Matthew J. Sylte \_\_\_\_\_  
Deepanker Tewari \_\_\_\_\_  
Rebecca P. Wilkes \_\_\_\_\_  
Kyoung-Jin Yoon \_\_\_\_\_

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Candidate for ACVM  
Honorary Diplomat for 2008,  
Dr. Dr. X.J. Meng

Approve Dr. X.J. Meng \_\_\_\_\_

I disapprove Dr. X.J. Meng  
\_\_\_\_\_