

Board of Governors

President

J.R. Fahey (2014)

Vice President

Steven Olsen (2014)

Secretary

Rebecca Wilkes

Treasurer

Tim Frana

Past President

D. S. McVey

Board of Governors

B.A. Byrne (2014)

J.R. Fahey (2014)

D.M. White (2014)

A. Woolums (2014)

H. Naikare (2015)

A. Swinford (2015)

D. Tewari (2015)

L. Ballweber (2016)

S. K. Narayanan (2016)

E. Subbiah (2016)

Newsletter Spring, 2014

News from the President

“Progress is impossible without change, and those who cannot change their minds cannot change anything.”

George Bernard Shaw

As you all are well aware change is common in virtually every area of our lives. With the recent change to the ACVM; the resignations of our long-term Secretary-Treasurer and Executive Director, we have undergone a significant change to the management of our College. How we respond to that change and move forward with the growth and development of ACVM is up to all of us. The Board of Governors has taken these changes very seriously and I am pleased to report that they have responded quickly and with clear vision by taking immediate steps to strengthen ACVM. First, the Board amended the By-laws to split the former Secretary-Treasurer position and eliminate the Executive Director position thereby providing both financial savings and the means to reduce the individual workload of those who oversee the business operations of the College. In this regard, it was noted by a survey of smaller veterinary specialty boards and other similar organizations that utilizing the talents of both a Secretary and Treasurer is a favorable means of addressing the operational needs of small to medium sized organizations, without having to hire additional help. Please see the introductions of our new Secretary and Treasurer later in this newsletter. Second, the Board has

approved the development of a Listserv, that is, an online forum for ACVM members to connect regularly on issues of importance to them. A description of the Listserv, its management and access can be viewed later in this newsletter. Thirdly, there will be an ACVM symposium at CRWAD in December of 2014. The details of the symposium are currently being developed by the Continuing Education Committee under the leadership of Dr. Kamesh Sirigireddy with help from Bob Ellis, Executive Director of CRWAD and Steve Olsen, Vice-President of ACVM. Bob and Steve did the initial legwork to get the topics and timing of the symposium figured out. There will be more detailed news from the CE Committee about the symposium in the next newsletter. There are more important changes to come in the near future and the Board will keep you informed as these changes are made. ACVM elections were delayed recently by the Board who suspended the By-laws section regarding the election dates. This was done to provide time to the Nominations Committee to find an additional candidate when it was determined that a candidate was withdrawing from consideration near the deadline for voting.

Meeting Minutes from Board Meeting 12/06/2013

Attendees: Dr.'s B. Byrne, M.M. Chengappa, J. Daniels, M. DeBey, J. Fahey, T. Frana, L. Gershwin,

Office of the Secretary

Dr. Rebecca Wilkes,

2407 River Drive, Knoxville, TN 37996 (865)-974-5643 beckpen@utk.edu

R. Griffith, C. Hayhow, J. Kiel, H. Naikare, S. Narayanan, S. Olsen, K. Platt, K. Snowden, D. Suarez, E. Subbiah, D. Tewari, R. Wilkes, A. Woolums, and J.L. Hayhow

Call To Order

President J. Fahey called the meeting to order at 9:05 AM Central Standard Time. All of the attendees introduced themselves. There was a quorum of the Board. The minutes from the July 21, 2013 ACVM Board of Governors' meeting, which was held in Chicago, Illinois were reviewed. Motion made by S. Narayanan and second by B. Byrne to approve the minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

President's Report

President J. Fahey welcomed all diplomates to the meeting. He stated that the association has budget concerns. The recertification was on the agenda and would be discussed later in the meeting. In addition, we have web site changes to discuss and continuing education matters for the new business section of the meeting.

Vice President's Report

Vice President S. Olsen gave his report. He stated that there will be 19 presentations and 6 posters to be graded this year at the CRWAD meeting, and help was needed by diplomates to grade these presentations and posters. He talked briefly about committee assignments.

Executive Director's Report

J. L. Hayhow reported that the application process ran very smoothly this year. She stated that we had approximately 55 approved applicants pay to sit for examinations in 2013. J. Hayhow brought up concerns regarding lack of payment from several diplomates and their stated reasons. She once again stated that if the college does not offer appropriate educational symposiums that their non-profit status could be in jeopardy.

Secretary-Treasurer's Report

- a. Chris Hayhow summarized the financial status of the college. We have \$31,671.98 in checking and \$17,727.02 in the two Certificates of Deposits. Our tax return was filed with the IRS and approved. The liability Insurance has been renewed for another year. Also, our 2012 annual reports were submitted and approved by the ABVS.

- b. Request for Emeritus Status: Jorge Guerrero requested Emeritus Status. Motion by S. Olson and second by B. Byrne to approve the request. The motion passed.
- c. Deceased: Ray Loan, ACVM Diplomate #92. A moment of silence was taken.

A motion to approve the officer reports was made by A. Woolums and second by E. Subbiah. The motion passed unanimously.

Committees

- a. Examinations Committee: Dr. Josh Daniels, Chair Dr. Daniels gave the test results of the candidates that sat for ACVM Examination's in 2013. General Microbiology, 18 sat for the exam, 9 passed (9/18, 50%). Bacteriology/Mycology, 11 sat for the exam, 5 passed (5/11, 45%). Virology, 9 sat for the exam and 4 passed (4/9, 44%). Immunology, 7 sat for the exam and 3 passed (3/7, 43%). General Parasitology, 1 sat for the exam and 1 passed (1/1, 100%). Parasitology specialty, 3 sat for the exam and 3 passed (3/3, 100%). We have nine (9) new diplomates, and three (3) diplomates with new specialties. A motion to approve the exam results was made by A. Woolums and second by E. Subbiah. The motion passed.

The new ACVM Diplomates are: Esteban Soto, Bacteriology/Mycology and Immunology, Martin Nielsen, Parasitology, Shailbala Singh, Virology, Manigandan Lejeune, Parasitology, Sriveny Dangoudoubiyam, Parasitology, Anandan Paldurai, Virology, Mark Schrenzel, Immunology, Stefanie Gobeli Brawand, Bacteriology/Mycology, and Artem Rogovskyy, Virology and Immunology. We had three current ACVM Diplomates that became certified in an additional specialty: Anil Thachil, Virology, Tamara Gull, Bacteriology/Mycology, and Melissa Bourgeios, Immunology. Congratulations to all the new diplomates!

There was a brief discussion regarding the Examinations Committee Policy and Procedures Manual. The Job analysis results and survey of diplomates was discussed. The committee will be updating the exams as needed in the future.

- b. Continuing Education and Program Committee: Dr. Kamesh Sirigireddy, Chair It was reported that no grant had been written.
- c. Graduate Student Awards Committee: Dr. Steven Olsen, Chair S. Olsen stated that he had little to report at this time; however, to please remember that help is always

Office of the Secretary

Dr. Rebecca Wilkes,

2407 River Drive, Knoxville, TN 37996 (865)-974-5643 beckpen@utk.edu

needed at CRWAD to grade papers and posters for the ACVM.

- d. Nominating Committee: Dr. Mary DeBey, Chair Dr. DeBey stated that she has received information concerning four (4) candidates to serve on the ACVM Board, and two (2) candidates for the office of president. She is still working on the Honorary Diplomate and Distinguished Veterinary Microbiologist awards for 2014.
- e. Budget Committee: Dr. C. L. Chase, Chair Dr. Chase was not available to attend the meeting, Dr. Chris Hayhow gave the budget report. The budget committee stated that they had reviewed the bank statements and other information they had received from the ACVM office and reported that all appears to be in order. It is very clear the college has more expenses than income. Donations are zero and dues payments are down. They recommended the board consider methods to raise additional income. The committee commended the Executive Director and Secretary/Treasurer in their due diligence and timely providing the financial reports.
- f. American Board of Veterinary Specialties: Dr. Chris Hayhow C. Hayhow reported that the ACVM was approved for continued recognition as an AVMA recognized veterinary specialty organization for another year. A revision to the ACVM By-Laws was proposed to address the number of members on the ACVM Board. Following a discussion there was a motion by E. Subbiah and second by D. Suarez to approve the changes. The motion passed unanimously.
- g. COBTA: Dr. L. Gershwin, representative Dr. Gershwin spoke about controlled drugs, internet pharmacies, fluoroquinolones, and health food claims. The council is very active.

There was a motion to approve all of the committee reports by S. Narayanan and a second by D. Suarez. The motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

- a. ACVM Symposium: President Fahey will follow up on this subject for 2014.
- b. The Distinguished Veterinary Microbiologist Award for 2013 will be presented on

Monday, December 9, 2013. Dr. M. M. Chengappa is the recipient for 2013. The ACVM Honorary Diplomate for 2013 is Dr. Steven Krakowka.

- c. Recertification: The topic was briefly discussed, C. Hayhow provided his hard copy comments to J. Fahey to provide to the committee.
- d. Renovation of the ACVM web site: C. Hayhow stated that the ACVM office had no details on the proposal or results of voting on the proposal. President Fahey agreed to provide details.

New Business

- a. New board members in 2014: J. Fahey will work with Mary DeBey on this issue.
- b. Committee Members in 2013: J. Fahey stated that we need to stagger years due to previous committee appointments and term completions that were not appropriately staggered on the standard cycle. C. Hayhow stated we first need to confirm who is willing to stay on committees. J. Fahey agreed to contact committee members and make a proposal to the board.
- c. ACVM Board meeting in conjunction with AVMA: President Fahey will contact the Board for input. L. Gershwin agreed to follow-up on a presentation on antibiotic stewardship.
- d. European College of Veterinary Microbiologists (ECVM): C. Hayhow stated that the office had been contacted regarding development of a new college. Following a brief discussion, J. Fahey, requested the ACVM office instruct the person to contact him.
- e. Banquet for 2013: C. Hayhow stated that the banquet will be held at the Weber Grill, just a short walk from the Marriott.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 AM Central Standard Time.

ACVM Listserv

News

Introduction of New Secretary and Treasurer

Secretary

The Board of Governors is pleased to announce that Rebecca (Becky) Wilkes has accepted the position of Secretary. Becky is a Research Assistant Professor in the Biomedical and Diagnostic Sciences Department, College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Tennessee. She oversees molecular diagnostics for the clinical virology lab and does research to develop new ways to treat feline viral infections, particularly feline herpesvirus and feline coronavirus. Becky has been an ACVM diplomate since 2005. She previously served as a member of the ACVM Board of Governors from 2008-2011. Now serving as Secretary, Becky will manage administrative business of the College, for example, correspondence, exam candidate certification, etc. You can correspond with Becky at: 2407 River Dr. Rm A205 Knoxville, TN 37996, or at beckpen@utk.edu. You will be hearing more from Becky in the near future.

Treasurer

The ACVM Board of Governors is pleased to announce that Tim Frana has accepted the position of Treasurer. Tim currently serves as Bacteriology Section Leader in the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory at Iowa State University College of Veterinary Medicine. Prior to joining ISU, he worked at USDA APHIS Center for Veterinary Biologics also in Ames, Iowa. Tim has been a diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Microbiologists since 2006. For some time now, Tim has expressed his interest in giving back to ACVM by serving the College in some capacity. Now, as Treasurer, Tim will be managing the financial affairs of ACVM. For example, collection of dues, paying bills, etc. To correspond with Tim Frana use the following address: 2363 210th Street, Ames, IA 50014. If you wish to correspond by e-mail, please contact Tim at: tfrana@iastate.edu. Tim has posted information about dues and other payments on the website. Note that we have a new, secure vendor for electronic payments. Tim will announce financial information of interest to the membership in future newsletters and on the website.

The ACVM Board of Governor's is pursuing the creation of an email list for the College using ListServ. Other options that were considered included a closed group on LinkedIn and free email marketing-type services. However, the true two-way communication potential of ListServ was considered the most viable option to facilitate the College's internal communications. As a cost-saving measure, two Diplomates (J. Daniels and J. LeJune) have volunteered to use their status at The Ohio State University to house and support the ListServ, with administrative and moderation support from the BOG. This ListServ is now operational and information will be forthcoming soon from Dave White (see his contact information below) pertaining to how to join the Listserv and how it will operate.

For those not familiar with ListServ, technological answers to the problem of communications basically revolve around the decision to employ "push" or "pull" information. Push information is that which is sent fully intact to membership, which they can then consume or ignore (digital = email, analog = shouting from a stump, overhead PA notification, etc.). Pull information is posted in such a way that users can view it at a central location, but must seek it out on a regular basis (digital = blog, analog = posting on a central bulletin board). Given the ubiquitous nature of email in today's professional world, and the desire to facilitate rapid dissemination of College information (including requests for information from outside individuals or agencies), the Board felt that "push" communications would best fulfill our goals.

The Board hopes that this initiative will facilitate member commentary on College activities, including solicitation of ideas on College initiatives and membership services such as starting to provide continuing education seminars using Diplomates as educational resources, partnerships with external organizations or agencies, and/or methods of increasing membership numbers and engagement. Any Diplomate with comments or questions on this topic, or those interested in serving the College with administrative (e.g. moderation) or technical support of the ListServ, should contact David White at David.M.White@aphis.usda.gov or Deepanker Tewari at dtewari@pa.gov.

Website Changes

The ACVM website will be upgraded and moved to a private secure server in the near future. Look for updates on these changes in upcoming newsletters and on the Listserv.

2014 Board Meeting in conjunction with the AVMA meeting in Denver, Colorado

The Board of Governors voted to conduct the 2014 Board of Governors meeting in July, 2014 by conference call. Additional details will be announced.

Newsletter

The Board recently appointed an ad hoc Newsletter Committee to accomplish several things; communicate more frequently to the membership, utilize a more attractive format, and open the newsletter to more information from membership. If you are interested in joining this committee, contact the Newsletter Committee Chairman, Dr. Dave White: David.M.White@aphis.usda.gov. We welcome your input.

Elections

Descriptions of new candidates for the ACVM Board of Governors can be found later in this newsletter. There are 6 (6) candidates for the three (3) positions available on the Board and two candidates for ACVM President. Please provide your response to the ballot in this newsletter to Jim Fahey by e-mail at jim.fahey@jax.org or by printing and mailing the ballot to the following address: Dr. James R. Fahey, The Jackson Laboratory, 600 Main Street, Bar Harbor, ME 04609. Remember to **return ballots no later than May 15, 2014.**

Dues

Annual ACVM dues are due by July each year. If you have not paid your dues for 2014 or for any past year(s) please submit payment to: Dr. Tim Frana at 2363 210th Street, Ames, IA 50014. Make the remittance payable to ACVM by check drawn on a U.S. bank or by international money order. As a reminder, Dues were increased in 2013 from \$100.00 to \$125.00. The electronic payment account is available on the ACVM website if you prefer to pay by that method.

ACVM 2014 Presidential Candidates

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 studies 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 to work at the Rockefeller University in New York, with joint appointment at the Aaron Diamond AIDS Research Center. In 1999, I joined Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture to direct microbiology services for the Pennsylvania Veterinary Laboratory in Harrisburg and in July 2013, I was appointed as the Laboratory Director. I received my board certification in 2005.

Vision Statement

It is an honor to be nominated to be running for the President, particularly when it comes from the current President. You all gave me an important privilege of serving the board as a member. During this tenure, I have tried to promote the interests of the membership in addressing important issues. The Board during this time under the leadership of Dr. Fahey pursued important issues related to continuing education, increasing communication within the membership and with other organizations, addressing examination issues, and residency programs. You will start seeing outcomes of these actions soon.

I intend to continue with some of the same efforts, and will like to develop a plan to recruit new members in the College and increase communications among members. Once we can establish good communication, I want to seek advice from our current members to see if we can open the associate membership for those aspiring to become diplomats, so they can seek help from senior members. I am very optimistic that our growth will continue because role of veterinarian besides safeguarding animal health is considered very important also in protecting human health. Many of microbiology specialists are already engaged in cutting edge infectious disease research.

Veterinarians with infectious disease training are also shaping the national and international response in important research areas as flu, and bioterrorism. Even with recent economic downturn, the market for veterinary microbiology jobs has stayed strong. I and many of my fellow Laboratory Directors find it hard, when filling microbiology positions and we know the candidate pool is not very big too.

Besides continuing with recruitment effort, our attempt should also be making the College visible in other organizations that have animal health focus e.g AVMA, AAVLD, USAHA etc. by contributing expert opinions on important issues and by tapping the expertise that exists in our college (e.g. antimicrobial susceptibility, avian flu, MRSA etc.) and forging the connections. College can play important role in improving communication among residency program coordinators and bringing them on the same table, so as we start discussing a basic framework of such programs to better prepare the candidates.

Finally, I think there should be bang for your buck—for your continued support to the College, we should be able to give something back to you in return that is of value. Otherwise, I realize, as careers evolve, keeping members active and involved is a big challenge. I will try my best to promote the College and fulfill the needs of our membership and therefore I ask your support!

Over the years my research program has had several themes: IgE responses in domestic animals (including animal models of asthma and IgE responses to parasites – *Ostertagia* and *Dirofilaria*), bovine respiratory disease (particularly BRSV alone and in synergy with other pathogens), vaccinology, and modulation of immune responses.

Christopher Chase

Chris Chase is a professor of veterinary science at South Dakota State University in Brookings, SD. He is a native of Sisseton, SD. He attended South Dakota State University for pre-veterinary medicine, his DVM from Iowa State University and MS and PhD from University of Wisconsin-Madison. He is the past president of AAVI, a councilor on CRWAD and past president of the South Dakota VMA. He practiced in Viborg SD for 5 years and continued to practice in Flandreau SD in swine and cow-calf until

2009. His research and diagnostic interests are in respiratory disease pathogenesis, emerging diseases with wildlife interface and vaccine development. He co-founded and serves as the president of RTI, a contract research organization that specializes in bovine, swine and poultry studies, immunological testing and development of diagnostic reagents.

Vision Statement

In my 20 plus years in ACVM, I have been fortunate to serve two terms on the Board of Governors and worked with presidents who have guided us through periods of change. We are again at a time where ACVM is facing a period of change. As an organization, we have done a great job of getting ACVM finances streamlined. We have done a really good job of revamping our exams and examination procedures. We now face two major challenges: delivering continuing education programs and making ourselves relevant to the membership so it is clear what the benefits are in being ACVM-Board certified. I believe the ACVM recertification document provides us a framework for continuing education but we need to figure out ways to provide sponsorships with other meetings like AAAP, AABP, AASV, ACVIM, and AAVLD in addition to expanding our role at CRWAD similar to the approach that AAVI has done with the mini-symposium. All “organized” veterinary medicine is facing the challenge of making themselves relevant to the membership. This will require special study to examine other specialty organizations and querying our membership to develop a plan to meet those needs and then to implement it.

ACVM 2014 Board of Governors Candidates

Tim Frana

I received my DVM from Iowa State University in 1985. After graduation I practiced in Nevada and Arizona mostly in companion animal and emergency medicine. In 1996 I received a Master's in Environmental Resources with a focus on wildlife management from Arizona State University. My thesis focused on the use of geographic information systems (GIS) and sparked my interest in the use of GIS in disease surveillance. I subsequently entered an MPH program with the University of Arizona and graduated in 1999. Along the way I did a research project with the AZ Public Health Veterinarian

targeting prevalence of *Bartonella henselae* in cats. The MPH program drew me into the world of microbiology and back to Iowa State University to pursue a PhD in Veterinary Microbiology. There my research focused on *Salmonella typhimurium* DT104, antimicrobial resistance mechanisms, and pre-food safety interventions. In 2002 I began working at the laboratory with USDA Center for Veterinary Biologics (CVB) in Ames. I stayed with CVB for 6 years holding positions as Veterinary Medical Officer, Biologics Epidemiologist and Program Information Management and Security Section Leader. While I enjoyed my tenure at USDA, in 2008 I left to become Bacteriology Section Leader at the Iowa State University Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory. Here I oversee a large staff of microbiologists and technicians. I am also engaged in independent and collaborative research projects with interests in *Salmonella*, MRSA, *Brachyspira*, and mycoplasma. Currently I hold the rank of Associate Professor in the department of Veterinary Diagnostic and Production Animal Medicine at Iowa State University. In addition to certification in the American College of Veterinary Microbiologists, I am also a diplomate in the American College of Preventive Medicine.

Vision Statement

I believe a central issue facing ACVM is finding ways to increase the value of holding certification in the College. Without tangible evidence of added value, membership can be viewed as an economic burden rather than enhancement. I realize this issue has been discussed in the past, but it may be time to renew our efforts. We can start by creating talking points that members can use to describe the value of ACVM certification. By distributing these within the membership we will not only help create a cohesive message, we will also be creating an increased sense of self-identification and self-worth. Additionally we can tap into web resources such as ResearchGate and Google Scholar that can be used to showcase our publications and automatically update as new publications become available. I believe with targeted outreach we can promote our message to organizations which are involved in veterinary microbiology. An area that I am familiar with is veterinary diagnostic laboratories. Many of these labs seek DVMs with advanced degrees in microbiology to serve as clinicians or leaders of bacteriology sections. Although ACVM certification is helpful, it is generally secondary to other credentials. By increasing our presence at organizational

meetings like American Association of Veterinary Diagnosticians we can highlight our value to the veterinary diagnostic community. As we gain more visibility within one area of veterinary medicine we will find ways to reach out to other areas. This will lead to increased desire for veterinary microbiologists to become board certified. Ultimately it may be possible to persuade more employers to more actively seek ACVM members. I believe it is important for ACVM to look inward at this time and formulate a common vision that sets a path for the future. I would like to be a part of this process, and if elected to the ACVM Board of Governors, I will work to find ways to enhance the value of ACVM membership.

Sara D. Lawhon

Dr. Lawhon became a diplomate of the ACVM in 2009. She is a 1997 graduate of the College of Veterinary Medicine at Texas A&M University. She completed a residency in infectious disease and clinical microbiology in 2001 at North Carolina State University where she also received her PhD in 2003. Her doctoral research was in carbon metabolism in *Salmonella*. After completion of this work, she became a postdoctoral research associate at Texas A&M University focusing her efforts on host response to *Salmonella* in a bovine model. For the past 6 years, Dr. Lawhon has served as an assistant professor in the Department of Veterinary Pathobiology and as Associate Director of the Clinical Microbiology Laboratory of the Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital. In the clinical laboratory, Dr. Lawhon serves as a diagnostician and provides expertise in microbiology for clinical research projects. Her research laboratory focuses on two areas of study, *Salmonella* pathogenesis and antimicrobial resistance in *Staphylococcus* species, particularly *S. pseudintermedius*. Dr. Lawhon currently serves on the ACVM Examination Committee.

Vision Statement

I am deeply honored to be considered as a candidate for the ACVM Board of Governors. Board certification by ACVM denotes clinical expertise and competence and is increasingly used as independent verification of the training and skills that diplomates possess. The outstanding reputation enjoyed by our college is the result of tireless efforts of the ACVM members and leadership and our shared commitment to excellence. Our ongoing

efforts to meet the requests of the AVMA Board of Veterinary Specialists (ABVS) through the Job Analysis Survey and the committee to establish recertification procedures for ACVM diplomates can only enhance that reputation. As a group, we must continue to play a leadership role in addressing the critical shortage of veterinary microbiologists. I strongly believe that we need additional training opportunities for clinical microbiologists and to increase our visibility, within our profession and beyond. ACVM members provide unique expertise in infectious disease diagnosis and prevention. This expertise is critical to animal and human health. Increasing our visibility through collaborative efforts with other organizations such as the AVMA, AAVLD, USAHA, and ASM would enhance our ability to share our knowledge and improve animal health. If elected to the Board of Governors, I will work with the Board and fellow ACVM members to identify new opportunities to promote the mission of ACVM to organizations with shared interests and to potential future candidates. I would be honored to have the opportunity to help advance our efforts and educate others about our college. Thank you for considering me for this position.

Eileen L. Thacker

Dr. Thacker obtained her Bachelor in Veterinary Science and Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degrees from the University of Minnesota. Following graduation from Veterinary College, Dr. Thacker practiced in Minnesota. She moved to Michigan and worked in the Michigan State University Diagnostic Laboratory as an Endocrinologist. While there, she obtained her Ph.D (1992) in Pathology. Dr. Thacker then performed a post-doctoral fellowship at the USDA-ARS Avian Disease and Oncology Laboratory working on Avian Leukosis Virus. In 1994 she moved to Iowa State University College of Veterinary Medicine where she was a member of the faculty in Veterinary Microbiology and Preventive Medicine Department performing research on swine respiratory diseases including *Mycoplasma hyopneumoniae*, porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome virus, porcine circovirus and swine influenza viruses. She became Board Certified in Veterinary Microbiology in 1996. At Iowa State University, College of Veterinary Medicine, she actively mentored the graduate programs of more

than 50 students and taught veterinary and graduate immunology and infectious disease courses. She is author or co-author on more than 90 publications and 4 book chapters. She was promoted to the rank of Professor in 2006. In 2008 she became an ARS National Program Leader in Animal Health where her responsibilities include overseeing the bacterial and parasitic research projects for the agency. She also oversees the animal welfare and use at ARS in addition to serving on numerous interagency working groups. A primary area of work at ARS is representing the agency in the select agent and dual use research of concern working groups.

Vision Statement

I have been a diplomate of ACVM since 1992. During that time, I have been a Board Member as well as active in the Examining Committee for 6 years. I have not been as active in the last few years due to other conflicts in scheduling at CRWAD. However, I have remained an active member. Most recently, I served as a liaison as the parasitology specialty was added to the ACVM credentialing program.

My vision for ACVM has always been its important role as credentialing program for veterinary microbiologists. In the past few years, it has been a positive change for ACVM to see the increase in the number of candidates taking and passing the exams. In earlier years, the number of candidates was often very small and the long term success of ACVM was a concern. As National Program Leader of Animal Health as well as acting National Program Leader for Food Safety at the USDA-Agricultural Research Service, I have a broad perspective on the importance of veterinary microbiology including our current and ongoing needs. Concern for antibiotic resistance, as well as anthelmintic resistance, increases the need for veterinary microbiology and parasitology specialties. In addition, the emergence and re-emergence of diseases and pathogens makes Veterinary Microbiologists leaders in the One Health Movement and ensuring animal and public health.

Being a Federal Employee, the budget and financial concerns facing all of us, both at work and at home, is something I am very familiar with. Fewer Federal and University employees are able to travel to meetings due to financial constraints. As a result, meetings and organizations have to become responsive to the needs of their attendees and members. There is a lot of competition by meetings as well as organizations for a dwindling number of

participants, this makes keeping ACVM current and responding to timely topics important to ensure the continuation of the organization. As expenses mount for our members, new technologies will need to be explored to maximize participation in meetings while minimizing the travel costs. This may result in the use of webinars and potentially even the exams being administered electronically to minimize the expenses to the examining committee. The upcoming need for re-certification also needs to be both effective and practical. The program must be set up to accommodate our diverse membership, while keeping costs in check. Practical and affordable solutions must be investigated. ACVM remains highly relevant and as with all current organizations, faces challenges in the upcoming years. These challenges include facing shrinking budgets with increased expectations. I look forward to continuing my working relationship with ACVM and would be honored to become a member of the board.

Dr. Dmitriy Volokhov

Dr. Dmitriy Volokhov received his DVM degree and PhD in Virology in 1996 and 1999, respectively, in Russia. Later, his DVM degree has been certified in the USA via the ECFVG/AVMA. He is licensed for the veterinary practice in the State of Maryland and the Commonwealth of Virginia. As a veterinarian he also participates to equine clinics at the Humane Society Veterinary Medical Association-Rural Area Veterinary Services program (HSVMA-RAVS). He became board certified in Virology and Bacteriology/Mycology at the ACVM in 2009 and 2010, respectively. From 2001 to 2008 he had post-doctoral training at the Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition and the Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research of the US Food and Drug Administration with his research focused on the detection and characterization of food-borne and gastrointestinal pathogens, mycoplasmas, tuberculosis, and influenza. From 2008 to the present, he works as a Staff Scientist/Research Microbiologist at the Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research, the US Food and Drug Administration, with his major research focused on mycoplasmas, their taxonomy and systematics, clinical aspects of mycoplasmal infections, human and animal rabies, and anti-rabies vaccines. He also performs regulatory review at the FDA. He holds expert positions on several professional boards, e.g. the International Committee on Systematics of Prokaryotes (ICSP) Subcommittee on the Taxonomy

of Mollicutes, the Educational Commission for Foreign Veterinary Graduates at the American Veterinary Medical Association, the Examination Committee at the American Board of Veterinary Microbiologists, and the ad hoc Recertification Committee of the American Board of Veterinary Microbiologists. He has reviewer's responsibilities for several professional journals, and serves on the Editorial Boards of Journal of Clinical Microbiology, Applied and Environmental Microbiology, and Molecular and Cellular Probes.

Vision Statement

My vision for the ACVM is to keep the ACVM certification and re-certification standards at the high professional and scientific levels. I also believe that during the certification and examinations of new members we need to make major emphasis on the clinical aspects of our diagnostic disciplines and to create a perfect balance between basic scientific knowledge and real practical experience. To my opinion, the ACVM should regularly update the College web site with the most up-to-date information about new microbiological research, the latest, cutting-edge diagnostic technologies and expert opinions in the field for all our disciplines; provide information on available research/training activities and potential grants for veterinary microbiologists/parasitologists and residents. Thus, I would like to continue my contribution to the ACVM success and its leadership in the Veterinary Education & Diagnostic Expertise.

Rebecca P. Wilkes

Rebecca P. Wilkes is a 2001 graduate from The University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine (UTCVM). She worked in the clinical virology diagnostic laboratory at UTCVM prior to completing her PhD in 2007 at The University of Tennessee in Comparative and Experimental Medicine, with emphases in virology and molecular biology. Dr. Wilkes became a diplomate of ACVM in 2005, with certification in virology and was additionally certified in bacteriology/mycology in 2008. She was a member of the ACVM Board of Governors from 2008-2011. She is currently a Research Assistant Professor in the Department of Biomedical and Diagnostic Sciences at UTCVM. Dr. Wilkes' research interests involve development of new therapeutics for treatment of viral diseases, specifically chronic corneal disease associated with feline herpesvirus 1 and feline infectious peritonitis. She also oversees the molecular diagnostic testing

Office of the Secretary

Dr. Rebecca Wilkes,

2407 River Drive, Knoxville, TN 37996 (865)-974-5643 beckpen@utk.edu

and develops new assays for the clinical virology laboratory at the veterinary hospital.

Vision Statement

My vision is for us not only to continue to increase our membership, which is imperative to the maintenance and financial well-being of our College, but to also strengthen relationships between the current diplomates. This would encourage collaborations and dissemination of knowledge. Having ACVM meetings at multiple conferences, not just in conjunction with CRWAD and AVMA, would allow increased interaction between members. This could potentially be done in combination with continuing education, something we must consider with recertification needs. This College should take advantage of our expertise to educate each other and potentially form collaborations to train those that are seeking to become new diplomates. I believe it is our duty to pass on our knowledge to those that will come behind us. Pass rates for exams, particularly for bacteriology/mycology, have not been as high as they could be, and poor exam preparation is potentially inhibiting us from adding to our membership and being the best College we can be. Maybe if those of us (including me) in diagnostic labs would be willing to host students planning to sit for exams to help with training, it could increase pass rates. This might be particularly beneficial for students in research laboratories that may not have access to clinical microbiology training. There has been continual suggestion that we provide formal residency programs to train additional veterinary microbiologists, but with the current economy, this may not easily be done. However, maybe we as a group can work together to provide this type of training in a less formal manner. We are a diverse group, and I think we can each use our strengths to the benefit of our College. I am honored to be considered again for the Board of Governors and I feel privileged to be a part of this College, amongst those that I respect in this field of Veterinary Microbiology.

Anne Zajac

I received an MS in parasitology and a DVM degree from Michigan State University, and a PhD in parasitology from Ohio State University in 1986. I have been a faculty member at the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine

since that time. I supervise the Parasitology Laboratory in the Veterinary Teaching Hospital at Virginia Tech and teach parasitology to the veterinary students. My research has centered around gastrointestinal parasites, especially the gastrointestinal nematodes of grazing animals. I am a past president of the American Association of Veterinary Parasitologists and have received the Distinguished Service Award from that organization. I am an author of *Veterinary Clinical Parasitology*, the proceeds of which support student travel to the annual AAVP meeting. I am a member of the Advisory Committee of the National Center of Veterinary Parasitology and the ACVM Parasitology Exam Committee, which developed the first Parasitology specialty test, administered in December 2012.

Vision Statement

Like the other parasitology specialists in ACVM, I am new to this organization and am still becoming familiar with the College. Last year, our primary concern in parasitology was to prepare and administer the specialty exam in 2012, but moving forward, my priorities as a Board member would be to promote the objectives of the College generally, and particularly to help integrate the specialty of parasitology and make it a productive and valuable part of the College. Serving on the Parasitology Exam Committee has given me some insights into the particular challenges of specialty board exams and I would like to see the ACVM Board support the use of electronic technology wherever it can improve efficiency and outcome assessment of the ACVM exams. I am also interested in the role the College can play in further establishing standards for specialty training and certification to ensure that the unique qualifications of diplomates are recognized nationally and internationally.

Office of the Secretary

Dr. Rebecca Wilkes,

2407 River Drive, Knoxville, TN 37996 (865)-974-5643 beckpen@utk.edu

**ACVM Official Ballot for
2014**

Candidates for ACVM
Board of Governors'

Return ballot by May 15,
2014 by e-mail to
jim.fahey@jax.org or
postal mail to:

Dr. James R. Fahey
The Jackson Laboratory
600 Main Street
Bar Harbor, ME 04609

ACVM President

Christopher Chase _____
Deepanker Tewari _____

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

Tim Frana _____
Sara D. Lawhon _____
Eileen L. Thacker _____
Hemant Naikare _____
Dimitriy Volokhov _____
Rebecca P. Wilkes _____
Anne Zajac _____
