



ACVM

American College of Veterinary Microbiologists

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Winter 2014-2015

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News from the President

This is my first column as President of ACVM and I would like to thank Jim Fahey for his service to the College and for making this transition for me and the College a smooth one. I have been fortunate to be on the Board of Governors (BOG) for two different terms so this is not my first “ACVM rodeo” (please excuse the South Dakotan coming out). During those two terms I had the opportunity to work with Past Presidents Jim Roth and Scott McVey and I hope that I have learned something from their leadership. We are a College going through a transition in leadership and administration. In the short 3 months that I have been President it has become clear to me how blessed we are that Becky Wilkes and Tim Frana stepped up and have filled the Secretary and Treasurer positions (in

Past President's Article: Continuing Education

Two years ago a vigorous e-mail discussion occurred among ACVM diplomates about the merits of continuing education that included multiple comments about criteria for membership in ACVM. The commentary from participating diplomates was in response to an e-mail about choices for continuing education programs for ACVM. A hot point of this discussion was whether clinical microbiology residency training is necessary to become a mem-

Continued on pg. 3

ber. In the future it will be necessary for new diplomats to be recertified so the ACVM website will be important for this activity as well. My greatest concern for ACVM is providing them with enough support so that they are not overwhelmed. To that end I have been working at getting a consultant with expertise in association management to look over our structure and provide us with counsel on the right support. This will be an item that was discussed at our December BOG

meeting. A number of other diplomats have stepped up to provide leadership and I have full confidence that we are gaining momentum. My long-term goal is that ACVM is recognized by AVMA and the practitioner specialty groups (AABP, AASV, AAEP) as the go to organization for infectious disease and vaccinology expertise. This can only happen if we communicate what we do and actively engage in providing continuing education both for ACVM but also for the other veterinary groups. However, first we need to get ACVM infrastructure fine-tuned so we can then engage our members.

Chris



New Diplomates

We had another fantastic year certifying new diplomates! Our 13 new diplomates for 2014 are listed below, and brief biographies authored by the diplomates are on page 12

Becky Wilkes, ACVM Secretary

- Kenitra Hammac- Virology
- Owais Khan- Virology
- Suresh Kuchipudi- Virology

Continued on pg. 3

ELECTIONS: Board of Governors

Members of the ACVM Board of Governors are elected for three year terms. The Board meets biannually, and new BoG members are elected in July.

Brief biographies and vision statements for this year's candidates are presented on pages 5-9 to allow for evaluation and informed voting.

Please direct comments or concerns to Rebecca Wilkes, ACVM Secretary:

beckpen@utk.edu

News from the President (continued from page 1)

President's Biosketch:

Dr. Chris Chase, Professor, Department of Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences, South Dakota State University (SDSU) is a native of Sisseton, SD and attended SDSU. He received his DVM from Iowa State University (1980) and MS (1987) and PhD (1990) from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He was an associate at the Viborg Veterinary Clinic, Viborg, SD, for 5 years and continued his active involvement in clinical veterinary medicine for 25 years.

Dr. Chase's research has been

directed at understanding the initial events of viral infections to develop better methods for preventing virus infections in animals. He also has applied the tools of molecular biology to developing better methods of detecting disease producing organisms. He also has an interest in the emerging diseases of wildlife origin. His clinical experience is with dairy, cow-calf, feedlot, and hog herd health. He is the past president of the South Dakota Veterinary Medical Association, American Association of Veterinary Immunologists and past chair of the

AVMA Council of Biologics and Therapeutic Agents (COBTA).

Dr. Chase co-founded RTI (Research, Technology Innovation) LLC., an animal health contract research organization in 1994 and has served as President since 1998. Besides contract research with international animal health companies, RTI also markets diagnostic reagents worldwide.



News from the Vice President

Hello ACVM Diplomates! As your current Vice President, one of my responsibilities is to identify new members to join each of our standing committees when one-third of the committee members rotate off in July of each year. I'll be looking for volunteers willing to join our committees this spring. Please think about whether you are willing to join one of our standing committees, and send me a note by email (awoolums@uga.edu) if you are. For some committees we will need only 1 new member, for others we will need as many as 3 or 4 new members. We try to ensure that committees include a mix of diplomates from all of our specialties. Thus it's very helpful if we can select new members from multiple volunteers willing to serve. With one exception, members of our standing committees serve a 3-year term beginning after the July Board of Governors (BOG) meeting. The Chair of the Exam

Committee serves a 5-year term.

So you know what volunteer opportunities will be available this spring, here is a list of our standing committees with a brief description of the responsibilities of each committee. More information regarding our standing committees is available in Article IX of our By-Laws. Thank you!

Amelia

See biosketch on page 4

Nominating Committee: Identifies nominees to run for President and membership on BOG. Identifies nominees for Honorary Diplomate status and for the Distinguished Veterinary Microbiologist award. Members of the Nominating Committee cannot be members of the BOG.

Exam Committee: Approves candidates for certifying examination, and prepares, administers, and grades certifying exams. Individual members occasionally

help address appeals of exam results.

Continuing Ed and Program Committee: Plans and oversees continuing education (CE) programs offered by the College. Solicits funds to support CE programming.

Grad Student Awards Committee: Establishes procedures for recognizing graduate students who present outstanding papers at CRWAD. This includes judging student presentations and selecting the winners at each year's CRWAD meeting.

Budget Committee: Audits the income and expenditures of the College each year, and recommends budget prepared by Treasurer to the BOG. Makes recommendations regarding honoraria for College officers.

Communications Committee: Creates biannual ACVM newsletter, oversees and moderates listserv activity.

Continuing Education (CNTD.)

ber of ACVM; it was pointed out that there are many excellent veterinary clinical microbiologists who are not veterinarians and there are many veterinary microbiologists who do not do clinical laboratory work. This brought up the notion that a tiered approach to membership in the ACVM should be considered so that we can include individuals not typically eligible for membership in ACVM. I briefly addressed this in a newsletter at the time (see News from the President, Spring 2013 ACVM Newsletter) This was actually initially suggested by several diplomates

commissioned by the Board of Governors in 2010 to write a white paper about the future direction of ACVM. They stated “To expand its membership and impact the ACVM needs to actively recruit individuals who might not otherwise seek accreditation. The college must convince potential members of the value-added aspects of diplomate status, which include enhanced professional status and opportunities for personal and professional development. The ACVM will likely need to consider alternative or additional criteria for board certification. These must address the

needs of an expanded membership as well as maintain the requirements for AVMA recognition.”

The heart of this matter is what I would call the “perceived value of veterinary board certification”. There are many views about the value of board certification in veterinary specialty colleges; however, I can say with certainty that it is neither a union card nor an invitation to the king’s table. No doubt there are lots of opinions about this subject, it is complex. The matter at hand that I am urging you to consider is how to broaden our approach to member-



New Diplomates (CNTD.)

- Randall Levings- Immunology and Virology
- Rinosh Mani- Bacteriology/ Mycology
- Claire Miller- Bacteriology/ Mycology, Immunology, and Virology
- Deepti Pillai- Bacteriology/ Mycology
- Arathy Nair- Bacteriology/ Mycology
- Leyi Wang- Virology
- John Schaefer- Parasitology
- Gui Verocai- Parasitology

No biosketch was submitted for these diplomates, but we’d still like to introduce:

- Raghavendra Pudupakam - Virology
- Edisleidy Rodriguez- Bacteriology/Mycology

ACVM Board of Governors Meeting, December 7, 2014, Chicago

The ACVM Board of Governors met in conjunction with the CRWAD meeting in Chicago. Complete meeting minutes are available upon request – below are highlights of the meeting that may be of interest to the membership.

Officer Reports

Secretary’s Report: The ACVM Banquet for new diplomates

was at the the Weber Grill on Monday night (12/8) at 6pm. Additionally, the ACVM received full recognition by ABVS as a specialty College for another year. Recertification requirements were the main topic at the ABVS meeting held in Feb 2014. A recertification draft document outlining our process has been produced; the latest draft will be sent out to the dip-

lomates via email for further comments by the membership at large. Upgrades to the website should allow each diplomate to have a unique login, track their dues payment, allow new applicants to apply for approval to take exams through the website and track their results.

Continued on page 11

Continuing Education (CNTD.)

ship? Can we accept a multi-tiered approach in which we allow atypical applicants such as non-veterinarians to become members of ACVM, but not at the level of diplomate? Should we expand the number of honorary diplomates so that more individuals who are not veterinarians can become members, albeit with fewer privileges than full diplomates? What other options do we have? I am hopeful that you will give this subject some thought. Furthermore, I would like to see the Board of Governors make this one of the first discussion points that goes out to members on the new

listserv. It will be great to get some feedback on this matter!

Jim Fahey

Ebola virus

Photo: CDC / Cynthia Goldsmith



The Dream (Rousseau)



Ebola virus – Excerpt from AVMA Release (October 9, 2014)

The death of an international traveler diagnosed in the U.S. as having the Ebola virus disease (EVD), coupled with the precautionary measure by Spanish health officials to euthanize the dog of an exposed healthcare worker, have raised questions and concerns among veterinarians and the public alike.

Key points:

- There have been no known animal cases in the US.
- Although EVD is a zoonotic disease, there has not been evidence of its transmission to humans from dogs. A study analyzing the 2001-2002 Ebola virus outbreak in Gabon found antibodies in 25% of dogs from affected areas. No virus was found in them
- The CDC recommends that if

a pet is in the home of an EVD patient, veterinarians, in collaboration with public health officials, should evaluate the pet's risk of exposure (close contact and exposure to blood or body fluids of an EVD patient). Appropriate measures, such as closely monitoring the exposed pet while using necessary precautions, should be taken based on that evaluation.

Vice President's Biosketch

Amelia Woolums is currently a faculty member in the Department of Large Animal Medicine at the University of Georgia. Amelia was introduced to ACVM as a graduate student by her PhD advisor, Laurel Gershwin. The friendly welcome Amelia received from diplomates at her first ACVM banquet, which was then held at Berghoff's, won her over, and she was pleased to be certified as a

diplomate in virology and immunology in 2000. She is also a diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine, in the specialty of Large Animal Internal Medicine. At the University of Georgia Amelia works as an internist in the Large Animal Teaching Hospital, and she lectures in various courses in the DVM curriculum. Amelia's research interest is immunity in bovine respiratory

disease (BRD); she works to characterize protective and harmful mechanisms of the immune response to BRD pathogens, the nature of protective immunity induced by vaccination against these pathogens, and other aspects of immunity in cattle and calves.



BIO/VISION STATEMENT: Hayley Adams

Dr. Adams is the Founder and Director of the Silent Heroes Foundation, a 501c3 charity with a mission to enhance One Health and protect Africa's iconic wildlife through innovative conservation. Dr. Adams has nearly 20 years of experience in wildlife veterinary medicine, conservation, and issues related to One Health in Africa. She has worked with a variety of domestic and wild animals, and has a particular interest in endangered species conservation and studying disease at the human/domestic animal/wildlife interface. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Zoology/Anthropology, and went on to receive her Doctor of Veterinary Medicine from The University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine in 2001. She completed a clinical internship in small animal and emergency medicine, and worked briefly in small animal private practice, before returning to her alma mater to work on her PhD in the veterinary sciences. In 2007 she received her PhD from the University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine's Comparative Medicine Program, with a concentration in epidemiology and virology. Her PhD research focused on the molecular epidemiology and diagnosis of lentiviruses of free-ranging lions in southern Africa. She is a board certified Diplomate in the American College of Veterinary Preventive Medicine (specialties of Environmental health, Infectious & parasitic diseases, Food safety, Epidemiology & biostatistics, & Public health administration & education) and the American College of Veterinary Microbiology

(specialties include virology, bacteriology/mycology, & immunology).

VISION FOR ACVM:

I believe that our greatest strength lies in the diversity of our members. I would like to assist the College in furthering our intra-collegial engagement, so that we can share with one another both in an academic as well as a social sense. This could be implemented through the development of social media (both for intramural and extramural purposes) such as the creation of an ACVM Facebook page (that can be either an open or closed group), Twitter account (Facebook and Twitter can be linked, and both used for the dissemination of news, research, and publications relevant to our discipline, as well as jobs, meetings, and other social events), and the 'fleshing out' of our website to include a more user-friendly layout, with enhancements through personal stories (member spotlights), pictures (of member activities, research, conferences, seminars, etc), educational information for candidates, link to the Listserv and/or a forum for relevant discussion. Additionally, contact information & bios could be available on the website for Board and committee members.

I suggest the creation of a mentor program, whereby voluntary mentor lists are comprised and circulated to veterinary schools, to encourage relationship building and recruitment. Mentors can exist either virtually or through the development of externship opportunities for

interested students. We can compile a list of opportunities and circulate these to veterinary Universities each year. Students can engage in ongoing research and/or develop pilot proposals for projects, with encouragement to carry out the scientific process including publication of results. Additionally, mentors could be paired with exam candidates, and/or exam prep could be provided on the website.

If necessary, the College could broaden our fundraising scope to include the selling of logo merchandise (and develop a logo if one doesn't already exist) through an online webstore. This serves to strengthen our brand and identity, both within the College as well as through our public interface. With the above in mind, I suggest the creation of both a social/social media committee and, if financially necessary, a fundraising committee. I would be happy to assist in the facilitation and implementation of both.

I suggest we broadcast our knowledge by offering position statements to the AVMA and other relevant agencies on issues related to our expertise; create fact sheets or short reports based on priority pathogens or media issues (Ebola outbreak, etc); disseminate information through our social media outlets as well as to the general media. With this in mind, I propose we designate a media representative to make themselves available for public speaking/interviews based on issues of importance related to our expertise.

I suggest that we plan an annu-

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Hayley Adams (CNTD.)

al schedule of webinars, presented from interested members. These can be offered both intramurally and/or extramurally, with intramural attendance to count towards CE requirements. Webinars can be made available on the website through archived links. I suggest adding awards for our specialty areas, ie Virologist, Bacteriologist, Immunologist, and Parasitologist of the year. Out of these 4 categories, the Microbiologist of the year could be selected.

If any of the above ideas have already been suggested or implemented, I apologize for the oversight. I appreciate your consideration for my nomination, and am hopeful that I will be elected to serve our prestigious College.

BIO/VISION STATEMENT: Esteban Soto

My name is Esteban Soto, and I'm very interested in providing my services at the ACVM board. I'm an AFS-Certified Fish Pathologist and an American College of Veterinary Microbiologist (ACVM) diplomate with sub-specialties in Bacteriology/ Mycology and Immunology. I have been involved in wildlife and fish health research, teaching, and diagnostic service for over 13 years. My main research interests are to understand the pathogenesis of important infectious diseases of wild and aquatic animals, and to develop strategies to protect animals from these diseases. I also coordinate and teach a portion of the professional Veterinary Bacteriology and Mycology course to third semester

Esteban Soto (CNTD.)

veterinary students. The course is designed to provide the latest information on all facts of the microbial pathogens of animals of veterinary interest.

I completed my Veterinary Medicine training at the Escuela de Medicina Veterinaria, Universidad Nacional de Costa Rica (DVM) (2005), and finished a MSc. degree at the Department of Basic Sciences, College of Veterinary Medicine, Mississippi State University (2007) and PhD at the Department of Pathobiological Sciences, School of Veterinary Medicine, Louisiana State University (2010). I have also completed different courses related to Animal Diseases, Zoonoses and Medical Education including: AquaVet I:A introduction to Aquatic Veterinary Medicine (2005); AquaVet II: Comparative Pathology of Aquatic Animals (2006), Shrimp Pathology Short Course (2010), Zoonoses: Protecting People and Their Pets (2014), and Essential Skills in Medical Education (2014).

Both my vision as an educator and as a researcher are in alignment with the ACVM goals. I strongly believe that ACVM is in a position to promote all aspects of microbiology; not only to veterinary colleagues, but also to seed interest in veterinary immunology, parasitology, bacteriology and virology to pre-vet and veterinary students. I think that ACVM should continue promoting post-DVM training programs, and should in-

crease its interaction with related organizations like American Society for Microbiologists. Increasing our presence in this type of organization could result in an increase amount of research collaborations, but also will highlight the role of the veterinarian in One Health and zoonosis research and education.

I also believe that the ACVM is in a position to significantly grow in not only number of members, but also in overall science contribution to our profession. I think ACVM should disseminate more efficiently its contribution to Veterinary Medicine, and should have a stronger presence in highly attended meetings for practicing veterinarians like the AVMA convention, and for future veterinarians like SCAVMA meeting. I think that by organizing workshops and mini-symposiums in these different meetings we could promote our work and our love to veterinary microbiology.

BIO/VISION STATEMENT: Kris Clothier

Kris Clothier is the Bacteriology Discipline Head for the California Animal Health and Food Safety Laboratory System and an Assistant Professor in the department of Pathology, Microbiology, and Immunology at the University of California, Davis. She received her PhD in Veterinary Microbiology from Iowa State University in 2010 and has been in her current position as a Clinical Microbiologist since October of that year. During her degree program she also worked in the Veterinary



Kris Clothier (CNTD.)

Diagnostic Lab at ISU. Prior to entering a graduate program in 2006, she was a veterinary practitioner for 15 years and owned a private mixed-animal practice for ten of those years.

Her primary area of focus at CAHFS is enhancing diagnostic accuracy for bacterial and fungal pathogens in clinical specimens. Specific agents of interest are potentially zoonotic *Salmonella* serotypes (S. Heidelberg in particular) as well as bacterial pathogens of ruminants (*Mannheimia haemolytica*, *Pasteurella multocida*, *Bibersteinia trehalosi*, and *Mycoplasma sp.*) In addition, she is the liaison with the California Department of Food and Agriculture for several regulatory programs involving high-consequence pathogens, and is involved in teaching for the veterinary curriculum.

ACVM VISION STATEMENT

I strongly believe in the value of the ACVM and would like to ensure that the college stays viable and relevant into the future. I realize through my conversations with colleagues who are members in other specialty colleges that there are many opportunities to enhance our visibility. ACVM diplomates provide a valuable resource of expertise that can be better advertised to our colleagues in diagnostics as well as basic and applied research. Additionally, demonstrating career benefits of certification to potential diplomates can further promote the significance of our college.

I am passionate about the importance of ACVM and that the focus on improvements and

training of new generations of veterinary microbiologists is maintained as we move forward. Many of the diplomates who were certified at the same time that I was don't appear to be very involved in the college and I think improving our outreach could facilitate more participation. We have a rich history of meeting critical needs for microbiology expertise and will need strong leadership into the future to address novel challenges such as implementing periodic re-certification and strengthening involvement among our diplomates. I would like to be part of the response to these challenges.

BIO/VISION STATEMENT: Artem Rogovskyy

I obtained my veterinary training from Faculty of Veterinary Medicine at National Agricultural University of Ukraine in 2001. I became passionate about infectious diseases (as we all are) and decided to start my career at the Veterinary State Diagnostic Laboratory in Kyiv, Ukraine as an epidemiologist and then later I transitioned into the field of food safety. To continue my education, I entered the graduate program in Department of Food Science at Louisiana State University in 2004 and graduated with my Master of Science degree in 2006. Because of my enthusiasm for biomedical research, I continued my work at the University of Georgia as a Research Associate, working in BSL-2 and BSL-3 research laboratories. In 2010 I entered the combined PhD/Residency in veterinary clinical microbiology program at Washington State University. The interdisciplinary microbiology residency included

Artem Rogovskyy (CNTD.)

training in contemporary bacteriology, virology, serology, and molecular diagnostics. I completed the microbiology residency within a fully accredited diagnostic laboratory within 4 years. During the training I became ACVM board certified in two specialties, immunology and virology. My doctoral research focused on the VisE-mediated immune evasion of *Borrelia burgdorferi* in the mammalian host. I recently joined the Department of Veterinary Pathobiology at Texas A&M University as an Assistant Professor. My research laboratory focuses on the immunodominance phenomenon in the pathogenesis of Lyme disease pathogen. I also serve as an Associate Director of the Clinical Microbiology Laboratory of the Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital.

ACVM Vision Statement:

I am truly honored to have been nominated to run for the ACVM Board of Governors. My previous training would be mainly driving this vision statement. As a graduate of a microbiology residency, I strongly believe that more microbiology training programs are needed across the United States. To date very few such programs exist. The residency should provide a well-structured and specialized training for those who desire to do clinical microbiology on a daily basis throughout their career. Some ACVM Diplomates are mentors and graduates of such microbiology residency programs. I believe that with their concerted effort, recommendations/guidelines as to the structure of the programs could be prepared as a start.

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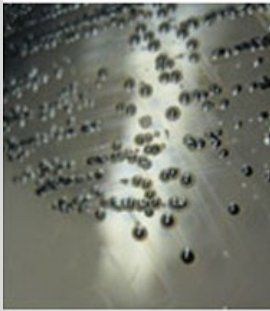
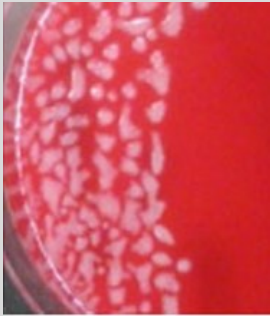


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Artem Rogovskyy (CNTD.)

This may greatly help the Colleges of Veterinary Medicine implement the microbiology residency programs. ACVM has all the experts and credibility required to promote this initiative among veterinary schools. So, if elected, I (with the help of others) would like to initiate this mission.

Another aspect that I would like the College to be involved in is providing periodic training opportunities for both practicing and aspiring diagnosticians. One-day seminars, practical workshops, or even webinars led by the leading experts in the field of veterinary diagnostic microbiology could serve as a great teaching platform. Hands-on expertise is something that takes months or even years to master and the College could facilitate sharing this expertise among diagnosticians. With continually developing technologies (e.g., MALDI) it is challenging for a diagnostic laboratory to implement novel protocols, as they require that extensive validation be done first. I believe that periodic practical workshops/trainings should promote and facilitate introduction of new techniques into the routine work of diagnostic laboratories. The ACVM has been successful in its primary goal of education for many years and the College could accomplish this mission as well. Overall, regardless of ACVM priorities, I would be honored and really excited about the opportunity to serve the College.

**BIO/VISION STATEMENT: Joshua Daniels**

BIO

Joshua Daniels, a 2009 ACVM diplomate, received his DVM from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1999, preceded by a Bachelor of Science in Psychology from the same institution. He spent three years as a small animal general practitioner in Massachusetts and New Mexico, and in 2002, matriculated at Washington State University for a combined PhD and residency in diagnostic microbiology (Washington Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory). Dr. Daniels has been the director of the Clinical Microbiology Laboratory at The Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine since 2008, where he is currently an Associate Professor. In addition to clinical laboratory work, he has extensive teaching responsibility in the DVM curriculum and is a co-investigator on multiple funded research projects. He has served on the ACVM Examinations Committee, both as chair (current), and as a member of the Bacteriology/Mycology subcommittee.

Vision Statement

When I became a diplomate of ACVM, I was delighted to be a part of this organization. Receiving certification and establishing bona fides are keys to professional success and recognition as an expert in the field. However, while those in the diagnostic laboratory community recognize ACVM, I have been continually disturbed that general practitioners and specialists in other areas (including in

academia) are frequently unaware of our existence as an ABVS specialty. I feel that we, along with ACVP and ACVS, should be recognizable to the veterinary community at large. We know that we bring a great deal of expertise to whatever endeavor we are involved in, and the honorific "DACVM" should be a meaningful symbol of this.

Increasing our profile, and thus the value of being an ACVM diplomate will require work on several fronts, because I believe that there are several underlying causes. One major cause is that there is a paucity of clinical microbiology training programs. This low number of programs is due in-part to low demand because we are not providing adequate education about our field to the current generation of DVM students. The heavy debt load of U.S. DVM students and the push of AAVMC to produce "day 1 ready" general practitioners has contributed further to this by shifting focus away from educational opportunities post-DVM, in order that newly-minted DVMs can start working as generalists and paying down their student loan debt. Despite these real issues, we need veterinarians with high-quality clinical training who are interested in microbiology specialization in order to meet future societal needs in the critical areas of food security, pharmaceutical development, the advancement of medicine, and diagnostics.

Here are a few ways to raise our profile at the grassroots level: Through the ACVM mem-

Joshua Daniels (CNTD.)

bership in academia, we need to make sure that basic sciences and laboratory diagnostics are not given short shrift as U.S. DVM curricula are continually revised to produce more “day 1 ready” practitioners, and thus fewer laboratorians. We also need to interface more with other specialty groups and organizations in creative ways, such as developing joint consensus publications with spe-

cialties that have overlapping interests. Finally, ACVM should have some role in developing standards and guidelines for microbiology training programs, so that the goal of having trainees attain ACVM certification is foremost on the mind of those developing the training programs.

I have been honored to serve ACVM as exam committee chair

and will continue to advance the quality of our examination process. If elected to the Board of Governors, I would be further energized to help guide our college and see to it that, ultimately, the honor of achieving ACVM diplomate status is conveyed to the rest of the veterinary profession.



BIO/VISION STATEMENT: David White

Bio

I grew up in Colorado and attended Colorado State University, where I received a B.S. in Environmental Health, and then entered a combined DVM/PhD program in conjunction with the Arthropod-borne Infectious Diseases Laboratory. I received my DVM and PhD in 2000, and went on to work as a Veterinary Medical Officer for the USDA-Agricultural Research Service, where my research focused on molecular epidemiology and immunopathogenesis of bluetongue virus. In 2004, I was presented with the opportunity to work for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention-Special Pathogens Branch. While that was a very engaging job, in 2010 I went to the Office of Public Health Preparedness and Response at the CDC, and finally on to become the biosafety officer of the National Centers for Animal Health. I became a diplomate of the ACVM in 2008.

Vision Statement

In my last tenure on the Board of Governors, several

initiatives were considered to both expand and modernize the College, as well as to foster a greater sense of transparency, communication, and collegiality with other related Colleges. Recertification was debated, veterinary parasitologists were invited to join, and it became clear that a rapid method of communication was desired – both from leadership to members, as well as between members. I took on the task of creating and being the first moderator of the ACVM listserv, as well as production of the ACVM Newsletter. If everything went well, you should be reading this statement in one of those two mediums...

In both my personal and professional lives I have tended toward inclusivity over exclusivity, and I believe that the expansion and engagement of the ACVM membership will only continue if the organization reaches out to partner with other veterinary organizations that embrace like-minded goals. From the discovery of the role of ticks in Texas fever by Cooper Curtice

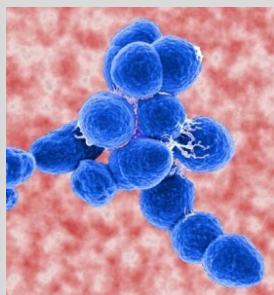
et al. to the recognition of emergent West Nile virus in North America by Tracey McNamara et al. to the current focus on the mutant influenza viruses and no-need-to-mutate ebolavirus, the fact that the rest of the health community is remembering or rediscovering the importance of veterinary medical practitioners in all health (or, more appropriately, One Health) is an opportunity for us to lead and shape the present and coming wave of public health education, awareness, and preparedness.



PLEASE REMEMBER TO VOTE FOR YOUR BOARD OF GOVERNORS! YOUR FAVORITE CANDIDATE WILL SHAPE THE CHARACTER AND DIRECTION OF THE COLLEGE FOR THE COMING YEARS!



“Dr. John Prescott is being nominated for the Distinguished Veterinary Microbiologist of the Year Award.”



Nomination: Distinguished Veterinary Microbiologist Award

I wish to nominate Dr. John Prescott, Ontario Veterinary College (OVC), University of Guelph, for the Distinguished Veterinary Microbiologist of the Year Award for 2015. Dr. Prescott deserves this award based on his exceptional career in research and teaching as well as in service in the field of veterinary microbiology.

John Prescott has a record of sustained internationally recognized scholarship. He has published 207 refereed papers, 71 book chapters, 2 books, and edited 7 books. More important than the large number of papers he has written is the quality of his contributions. He is the world's foremost authority on the bacterium *Rhodococcus equi*. His work has involved studies of the biology, genome sequence and analysis, virulence genes, methods for genetic manipulation, and development of a vaccine against the disease caused by this bacterium. In recognition of his work, there is a proposal in the journal *Antonie van Leeuwenhoek* that the name *Rhodococcus equi* be replaced with *Prescottella equi*. This is fitting, as John has contributed substantially to every aspect of this organism and the disease it causes in horses, including diagnosis, prevention and control, and several novel discoveries about mechanisms of disease.

John is also a world leader in research on *Clostridium perfringens*, and its role in disease in poultry, pigs, cattle, and dogs. He has been a leader of research on sequencing and annotating the genome of the organism, diagnosis of disease, and prevention through vaccination. Importantly his labora-

tory has discovered and characterized a number of new toxins and the genes that encode them in *C. perfringens*. These developments have cast new light on our understanding of the mechanism by which this bacterium causes disease in animals.

John's research accomplishments have been recognized with the Pfizer Research Excellence Award at the OVC. His scholarly activities have also been recognized by his selection as a Fellow of the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences (FCAHS). Requirements for fellowship in this organization include "creativity (scholarship, publications, innovative technologies, patents)" and "internationally recognized leadership and impact that have meaningfully advanced the academic health sciences." He has a leadership role in the CAHS as a member of the committee that evaluates nominations for fellowship.

John's work on antimicrobial agents and the public health impact of their use in animals is recognized internationally. He has been a leader in Canada in the field of antimicrobial stewardship, for which he received the Canadian Animal Health Leadership Award in 2012. John is a coauthor of five editions of the book "Antimicrobial Therapy in Veterinary Medicine" which has been translated into Spanish, Italian and Portuguese. John has also been a co-editor and contributor to several editions of the book "Pathogenesis of Bacterial Infections of Animals."

John is the international member on the Advisory Board of the Australian Research Coun-

cil's Centre of Excellence in Structural and Functional Microbial Genomics, Monash University. John served on the editorial board of a number of research journals and was for 5 years Editor-in-Chief of "Veterinary Microbiology." John has written extensively on veterinary education and in areas outside of veterinary medicine. As an example, he is the author of a book "In Flanders fields: the story of John McRae".

John is a gifted teacher and the creativity which is evident in his research also finds expression in his teaching. He received the Carl J. Norden Distinguished Teaching award and was selected two times by students as the winner of the student chapter of the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (SCVMA) teaching award. John was also a highly effective administrator during his term as Chair, Department of Pathobiology.

Sincerely,

Carlton Gyles



**Dr. John Prescott,
Ontario Veterinary
College, University
of Guelph**

ACVM Board of Governors Meeting, December 7, 2014, Chicago (CNTD.)

Treasurer’s report: Status of individuals that owe dues for more than two years was discussed. The ACVM bylaws state specifically that a member whose dues are more than 2 years in arrears will be declared no longer active and removed from the ACVM roster as diplomate in good standing. The ACVM Secretary and Treasurer will work together to identify the individuals that need to pay dues and will contact them as soon as possible.

Committees:

The Examinations Committee is now statistically analyzing the exam questions and answers from 2014, and may conduct another workshop to evaluate the exams. Also, the use of a commercially-available exam software package (ExamSoft) is being considered to allow for exams to be given at each university rather than at a central location each year.

A change to the bylaws is being considered to formalize the current *ad hoc* communications committee to produce the

newsletter and create and maintain a listserv.

Certification:

The Board is considering residency training programs such as those offered at Colorado State University as an additional route for certification to take ACVM exams. An I committee was formed to research this initiative further and make a proposal to the BOG that would follow the Policies and Procedures set forth by ABVS with regard to residency training programs.



ProMED-AHEAD recent highlights

While lions, tigers, and bears have not been our problem of late, primates, camels, and cattle have sure been in the news. Possums may give us all typhus, bats continue to die, and hope is held close (but strong) since Ebola (might) be over in Liberia. Unfortunately, “avian influenza” continues to kill people, and the yellow fever mosquito is coming for us...

- MELIOIDOSIS - USA (05): 2 NEW SEROPOSITIVE MONKEYS at the Tulane National Primate Research Center near

Covington [Louisiana]

- MERS-COV (33): SAUDI ARABIA, GERMANY ex UNITED ARAB EMIRATES, WHO
- FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE - BOTSWANA: (NORTH-WEST), BOVINE, SEROTYPE PENDING, OIE
- BSE, BOVINE - CANADA (05): (ALBERTA)
- MURINE TYPHUS - USA (02): (CALIFORNIA) OPOSSUM RESERVOIR
- WHITE NOSE SYNDROME,

BATS - NORTH AMERICA (05): USA (ILLINOIS)

- Liberia to discharge last Ebola patient Thursday [5 Mar 2015]
- AVIAN INFLUENZA, HUMAN (63): CHINA (ANHUI) H7N9 CASE, DEATH
- AVIAN INFLUENZA, HUMAN (65): EGYPT (MENUFIA, SHARQIYA) H5N1
- INVASIVE MOSQUITO - USA (03): (CALIFORNIA)

APHIS stakeholder registry March 11, 2015 - H5N2 influenza in Arkansas

USDA Confirms Highly Pathogenic H5N2 Avian Influenza in Commercial Turkey Flock in Arkansas

CDC considers the risk to people from these HPAI H5 infections in wild birds, backyard flocks and commercial poultry, to be low

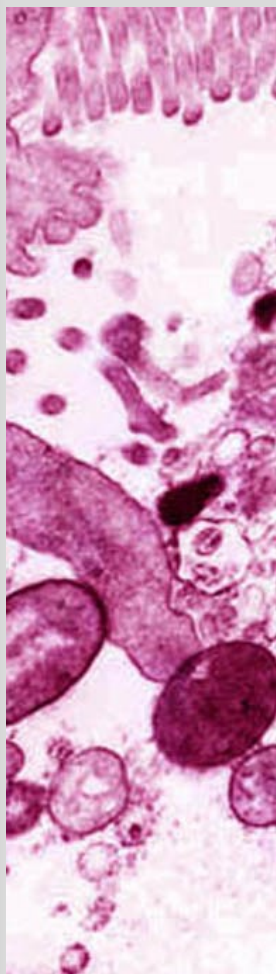
The flock of 40,020 turkeys is

located within the Mississippi flyway where this strain of avian influenza has previously been identified. Samples Arkansas Livestock and Poultry Commission Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory and the APHIS National Veterinary Services Laboratories in Ames, Iowa confirmed the findings. APHIS is working closely with the Arkansas Live-

stock and Poultry Commission on a joint incident response. State officials quarantined the affected premises and birds on the property will be depopulated to prevent the spread of the disease. Birds from the flock will not enter the food system. USDA will be informing the OIE as well as international trading partners of this finding.

NEW DIPLOMATE BIOSKETCH:**Kenitra Hammac - Virology**

Kenitra Hammac earned her DVM from Auburn University's College of Veterinary Medicine ('04) and completed her PhD at Washington State University ('13), with a few years of small animal practice in between. She was trained in diagnostic microbiology at the Washington Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory concurrent with her PhD studies. Dr. Hammac currently serves as the section head for bacteriology, parasitology and molecular diagnostics at the Indiana ADDL at Purdue University where she enjoys clinical microbiology and collaborative research.

**NEW DIPLOMATE BIOSKETCH: Suresh Kuchipudi - Virology**

After graduating in veterinary medicine from veterinary college, Tirupati, India in 1996, Suresh Kuchipudi completed a master's degree in Veterinary Microbiology from the Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal Sciences University, Chennai, India. Later, he worked for 3 years in a mixed practice as a veterinary surgeon before joining SV Veterinary University as an Assistant Professor of Microbiology in 2001. Following 6 years of at SVVU, Suresh obtained a PhD in molecular virology from the University of Glasgow, UK and was subsequently offered tenure at the School of Veterinary Medicine and Science (SVMS), University of Nottingham (U NOTT) in 2010 where he is currently working. Suresh's long-term research goal is to generate underpinning knowledge that leads to the development of novel diagnostic tools and intervention therapies for viral diseases of animals and man. Current re-

NEW DIPLOMATE BIOSKETCH: Owais Khan - Virology

Owais Ahmed Khan earned his bachelor in veterinary science (B.VSc) from Birsa Agriculture University, India (2001) and Master in Veterinary Microbiology (M.V.Sc) from Gujarat Agricultural University (2004).

I worked as an avian virologist (2005 to 2008) at the Central Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, Riyadh (Under the Ministry of Agriculture) Saudi Arabia and was involved in the diagnosis, control, and surveillance of HPAI (H5N1) and virulent Newcastle disease.

I moved to United States in

December 2008 and joined Animal Diagnostic Laboratory, Pennsylvania State University as research scholar in the avian virology section.

Since August 2009 I have worked as a research associate in the department of veterinary pathobiology, Texas A&M University. My research is in avian influenza surveillance and Marek's disease vaccine development.

NEW DIPLOMATE BIOSKETCH: Randall Levings - Immunology and Virology

Randall L. Levings serves as the Scientific Advisor in Science, Technology, and Analysis Services (STAS), Veterinary Services (VS), APHIS, USDA. He received a B.A. from the University of Missouri and a D.V.M., an M.S., and a Ph.D. from Iowa State University, involving research on bovine herpesvirus 1. In his previous positions including Director of the National Veterinary Services Laboratories and Director of the Center for Veterinary Biologics - Laboratory, he was involved in prevention, detection, control and eradication programs for a variety of endemic and transboundary diseases, e.g., classical swine fever, pseudorabies, highly pathogenic avian influenza, bovine spongiform encephalopathy, and exotic Newcastle disease.

NEW DIPLOMATE BIOSKETCH: Deepti Pillai - Bacteriology/Mycology

B.V.Sc and M.V.Sc from Nagpur Veterinary college, India. PhD from Kansas State University. Currently working as a microbiologist at the Department of diagnostic medicine/Pathobiology at KSU. My interests include diagnostic and research Bacteriology.

NEW DIPLOMATE BIOSKETCH: Arathy DS Nair - Bacteriology/Mycology

I did my Bachelors in veterinary medicine (BVSc and AH) from Kerala Agricultural University and Master of Veterinary Science (MVSc) from Indian Veterinary Research Institute. After that I continued my PhD in Biotechnology focusing on avian chemokines and defensins from Rajiv Gandhi Center for

NEW DIPLOMATE BIOSKETCH: Rinosh Mani - Bacteriology/Mycology

I am currently working as the Bacteriology Lab Manager at Oklahoma Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory, Oklahoma State University (OSU), Stillwater, OK. My Job duties also include coordinating the Veterinary Infectious Diseases labs at Center for Veterinary Health Sciences, OSU. I have completed my Veterinary Microbiology Residency and PhD at OSU and my interests include veterinary diagnostics and vector-borne disease research.

NEW DIPLOMATE BIOSKETCH: John Schaefer - Parasitology

Hailing from the tick borne disease utopia of the Hudson Valley, NY, and spending a stint in veterinary practice in the parasite haven of the Houston, TX, bayous was ample motivation to pursue further training in parasitology. I am fortunate to have attended Texas A&M, The Ohio State, and Cornell Universities and been trained by exceptional veterinary parasitologists. I am enjoying my new position and colleagues in a very active program at the University of Tennessee and thank the ACVM for this recognition.

Biotechnology, India. I worked as an Instructor in Pathobiology at St. George's University Grenada from 2008-2011. Currently, working as Research Associate at the department of Diagnostic medi-

NEW DIPLOMATE BIOSKETCH: Leyi Wang- Virology

Dr. Leyi Wang is currently working as a researcher in the Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory of Ohio Department of Agriculture. He received his DVM at Shandong Agricultural University in 2001 and his Ph.D. degree in virology at Ohio State University in 2009. He conducted his postdoctoral research on different viruses at the University of Georgia and Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center over 4 years. He has authored or co-authored 24 papers and served as an associate editor/ editorial board member for different journals including *JVDI* and *Scientific Reports*.

NEW DIPLOMATE BIOSKETCH: Claire Miller - Bacteriology/Mycology, Immunology, and Virology

A recent graduate of the Washington State University Clinical Microbiology Residency/PhD program, Claire Miller is now section head of Bacteriology, Virology and Serology at the North Dakota State University Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory. While her main focus is clinical microbiology and collaborative diagnostic-based research, Claire is active in investigation of the molecular biology of Salmonella DNA methyltransferase function in gene and protein expression. Claire lives in balmy Moorhead, MN with her husband Justin, son Jasper and three Chihuahuas.

cine and pathobiology, Kansas State University. Major focus of current study includes transposon based mutagenesis of *Ehrlichia chaffeensis*, evaluation of the mutants for their attenuation in deer and dog by infection study and assessing the attenuated mutants for its potential as a vaccine candidate. Service component of my research with KSVDL (Kansas State Diagnostic Laboratory) include development and validation of molecular diagnostic assays for bacterial infections in dogs. So far I validated a real-time PCR assay for the detection of *Rickettsia rickettsia* infection in dogs.

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NEW DIPLOMATE BIOSKETCH: Guilherme Verocai - Parasitology

Guilherme (Gui) Verocai is a PhD candidate at the Department of Ecosystem and Public Health, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine of the University of Calgary, Canada, and his defense is scheduled to late April this year. Gui obtained his DVM (2005) and MSc (2008) in Veterinary Parasitology from the Universidade Federal Rural do Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. He has varied research interests, which include Zoonoses and Public Health, Biodiversity, Taxonomy, Historical Biogeography and Phylogeography, Wildlife Health, and Vector-borne Diseases. He strongly believes in the integration of classical and molecular approaches in Parasitology. Gui has experience in teaching Veterinary Parasitology and Parasitological Diagnostics for DVM students, and would like to pursue an academic career.

The American College of Veterinary Microbiologists

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Microbiology in Service to One Health



The American College of Veterinary Microbiologists (ACVM) is the specialty organization recognized by the American Veterinary Medical Association for Certification of veterinarians with special expertise in microbiology. An ACVM diplomate is a veterinarian of good moral character who has satisfactorily completed the examination and has been elected to membership by a majority vote of the College's Board of Governors.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO PAY YOUR DUES!
Annual dues for FY2015 are due by June 30th.

We're on the web!

<http://www.acvm.us/>

Award Winners at the 2014 Conference of Research Workers in Animal Diseases (CRWAD) convention

The 2014 CRWAD Meeting was held December 7 – 9, at the Chicago Marriott, Downtown Magnificent Mile, Chicago, Illinois. The event was designed to be a key opportunity for graduate students and industry and academic professionals to present and discuss issues facing today's researchers. Visitors were also able to browse the latest research technology in the CRWAD exhibit hall. The meeting began with the Researchers Reception (Sunday evening) where posters were presented. Awards were given for exemplary work, and the 2014 winners were:

Don Kahn Award: \$500 awarded

No. 165. V. Shivanna, Kansas State University. [Characterization of entry events during bile acid-mediated porcine enteric calicivirus replication.](#)

Oral: \$300

[Not shown] No.150 B. L. Petruzzi, Virginia Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine. [Characterization of Biofilm formation by *Pasturella multocida*.](#)

Poster: \$300

No. 69P K. Ouyang, The Ohio State University. [Comparative Analysis of routes of immunization of a live PRRS virus vaccine in a heterologous virus challenge model.](#)

The American College of Veterinary Microbiologists Awards (ACVM) were presented by the ACVM awards chairman Dr. Steven Olsen (center).

