



USAHA/AAVLD Meet with Secretary Johanns

The U.S. Animal Health Association (USAHA) Committee on Government Relations traveled to Washington, D.C., for meetings with various government officials on February 26 and 27. The Committee meets in the winter each year to discuss resolutions and key issues with appropriate federal agencies.

Despite challenges with weather, 17 individuals participated in the meetings, including the USAHA Executive Committee, American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians (AAVLD) officers, committee chairs and district representatives. The meeting included a visit with Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns, which was highlighted by discussion on the National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN).

Committee Chair Don Hoenig, USAHA First Vice President and, noted the importance of the meeting for USAHA and AAVLD. "Each year, the committee on Government Relations uses this

Photo Courtesy USDA



Front row, from left: Donal O'Toole, WY; Barb Powers, CO; Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns; Lee Myers, GA; Don Hoenig, ME. Second row: Nancy Robinson, MO; Alex Ardans, CA; Rich Breitmeyer, CA; Bob Tully, KS. Third row: Bruce Akey, NY; Ben Richey, MO; Keith Roehr, CO; Dan LaFontaine, SC; J. Amelita Facchiano, TX; Back row: Bill Hartmann, MN; J Lee Alley, AL; Scott Wells, MN; Jim Watson, MS.

valuable time to meet face-to-face with the key federal animal health officials, which helps to further carry the messages of the organizations," he said. "Maintaining open dialogues and developing our relationships with the individuals provides a greater return on the work of our committees and membership."

Attendees met with representatives from the Food and Drug Administration- Center for Veterinary Medicine; Department

of Homeland Security; Animal Agriculture Coalition; USDA-Agriculture Research Service; USDA-Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service; USDA-Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service-Veterinary Services, including the National Veterinary Services Laboratory and National Animal Health Laboratory Network, and USDA-Food Safety Inspection Service. □

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USAHA President's Remarks

The New Year is off with a bang and the United States Animal Health Association's (USAHA) Executive Committee is in full swing! History was made on many accounts at the last annual meeting in Minneapolis. You elected the first female President, hired the first Executive Director, and awarded the first USAHA Medals of Distinction.

My top priority during the coming year as President is to provide direction and necessary support to our new Executive Director, Ben Richey. I am pleased to report that Ben is off on the right foot!

Since Ben came on board November 1, 2006, he has had his nose to the grindstone learning the business processes of the Association from Secretary Dr. J. Lee Alley and Linda Ragland. Ben is developing a transition plan that will seamlessly relocate the USAHA headquarters to Missouri, enhance membership and financial database management, and augment support for USAHA Committees. And, if that were not enough for his first few months on the job, Ben and his wife, Meghan, are expecting their first child in March! Congratulations!

The Executive Committee is working side-by-side with Ben, and expects to roll out the transition by the beginning of our new fiscal year, July 1, 2007. So, stay tuned for more exciting news from our new Executive Director.

The week of February 26th, USAHA and the American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians (AAVLD) Com-



Lee Myers, USAHA President

mittees on Governmental Relations convened in Washington, DC. Although

weather-related cancellations prevented many from attending, 17 participants engaged in dynamic discussions with the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture, Mike Johanns, and other officials with USDA, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, the Food and Drug Administration, and colleagues in the Animal Agriculture Coalition. Topics of discussion included the National Animal Health Laboratory Network, National Animal Health Programs, State Meat Inspection, Cooperative Agreements, Agriculture and Food Defense, Congressional appropriations, staffing, and other pertinent topics. Secretary Johanns committed to review funding for the NAHLN as requested by the group. It was evident throughout the meeting that USAHA and AAVLD serve as credible resources for national animal health policy makers. Thanks to my AAVLD Presidential colleague, Dr. Barbara Powers, for co-hosting a successful committee meeting in Washington, DC.

Mark your calendars for the 111th Annual Meeting October 18-24, 2007 at John Ascuaga's Nugget Hotel in Reno, Nevada. USAHA President Elect Jim Leafstedt and AAVLD President Elect Grant Maxie are developing an exciting

and novel Joint Session to engage USAHA and AAVLD in reducing impacts of major economic diseases. I would be remiss if I did not recognize Immediate Past President Dr. Bret Marsh and the staff that made the 2006 annual meeting a grand success, including Linda Ragland, Dr. Alley, as well as Kim Sprout and the folks from Treasurer Dr. Bill Hartmann's office. Highlights from 2006 annual meeting include:

- 41 Resolutions distributed to key agencies and organizations,
- Record attendance of 1,468,
- Approval of an executive director,
- First USAHA Medals of Distinction awarded to Drs. Clarence Campbell and Richard (Dick) McCapes,
- Successful membership luncheon, featuring USAHA activities and plans,
- Joint district breakfast, and
- Cutting edge information on animal disease surveillance systems at the Joint Scientific Session.

Although this year is full of many firsts, we will continue to hold fast to the core values and principles ingrained in USAHA by the many leaders over the past century. As we pass through new gates, enter new territories, blaze new trails, and graze new grass to ensure a bright future for our nation's animal agricultural sector, we will be mindful of our strong heritage as animal health professionals that has made USAHA successful for its 110 years. ■

A Word from AAVLD

Greetings from your AAVLD President! The recent AAVLD/USAHA Meeting held in Minneapolis, Minnesota, was full of wonderful scientific information with more than 185 scientific presentations and posters, with abstracts available at www.aavld.org. At the AAVLD plenary sessions, we heard presentations about avian influenza, high-throughput testing for foreign animal diseases, and the future of veterinary diagnostic medicine. At the joint plenary session with USAHA, we heard about the future of surveillance systems for the next 20 years. Surveillance for emerging and foreign animal diseases will remain a high priority for this country for the foreseeable future, and we were pleased to be able to provide such an informative session. We also had numerous successful pre-meeting symposia, committee sessions and fun at the president's reception, auction and joint AAVLD/USAHA dinner.

Many challenges face AAVLD in the future. We need to continue our work with USDA to strengthen and expand funding for the National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN). The importance that the NAHLN has gained was repeatedly mentioned throughout the meeting at both AAVLD and USAHA sessions. The progress of the NAHLN has been truly amazing, particularly through the efforts of Terry McElwain and Willie Reed (*see page 7*), as



Barbara Powers, AAVLD President

well as Barb Martin. Still, challenges remain as the NAHLN needs to have full-funding to all laboratories that are participants.

Recognizing our success, the signing ceremony for the renewal of the MOU between AAVLD and USDA/NVSL after the second House of Delegates was a major highlight. John Clifford, Elizabeth Lautner, Barb Martin, Donal O'Toole, Barb Powers and Grant

Maxie are the signatories for the MOU which now expires in 2011. Still, issues such as the new AAVLD accreditation standards, now currently in effect, force changes upon each of our lives. We are all committed to meet all the requirements for this new accreditation standard, raising the bar for all of us.

There are so many issues that we need to continue to work on and certainly will not be solved in my short tenure as an AAVLD President, but hopefully, we can continue our momentum and progress on these. □

Meet your Executive Director

It is truly my pleasure to write to you as the first executive director of the U.S. Animal Health Association. I am thrilled at the opportunities before me with this fine and historic association. The mission of USAHA is easy to be passionate about, which will add to the enjoyment of this position. I look forward to serving you in the fullest of my abilities.

As many of you may know, one of my first charges is to establish and execute a transition plan for moving the headquarters from Richmond to Missouri. My hope



Ben Richey

is that you see no disruption in the services during this transition.

Other duties will include to outline my duties and priorities in conjunction with the Executive Committee, and to document and enhance the processes of

USAHA. I must express my thanks to both Linda Ragland and J Lee Alley for the ongoing support and teaching during this transition time, it is invaluable.

I can easily be reached via email at brichey@usaha.org, or at my interim office, 816-424-1376. I am appreciative of the support the Executive Committee has given me in serving each of you. □





News and Headlines

USAHA Regional Delegates Elected

The USAHA membership elected its regional delegates for 2007. They are Dr. R.J. Eckroade of Pennsylvania and Dr. Ernie Zirkle of New Jersey for the Northeast; Velmar Green of Michigan and Jay Hawley of Indiana for the North Central; Dr. Wayne Godwin of Florida and Greg Rosales of Alabama for the South; and Herbert Richards, III, of Hawaii and William Sauble of New Mexico for the West.

New Committee Chairs Named

USAHA committee leadership has turned over a new group of leaders, with a certain number of committees. The following new chairs have been named:

Committee on Animal Welfare:
J. Amelita Facchiano, Chair, Ria DeGrassi and Carolyn Stull, Co-vice chairs.

Committee on John's Disease:
Scott Wells, Chair; Andy Schwartz, Vice chair.

Committee on Pharmaceuticals:
Jim Bradford, Chair; Liz Wagstrom, Vice chair.

On behalf of USAHA, thank you for your leadership.

USAHA Represented on Search for New Plum Island Animal Disease Center Director

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Chief Medical Office has appointed USAHA President Lee Myers to serve on the search committee for the new Director of the Plum

Island Animal Disease Center (PIADC). The application period is now closed and the eight member committee is in the process of reviewing candidates. The US Department of Homeland Security plans to name the new Director by April 1, 2007.

Myers said, "Realizing the vital importance of maintaining premier programs in animal disease research and diagnostics over the next decade, I look forward to participating in the committee that will bring the most qualified candidate forward to this important post." PIADC will continue its work in animal disease diagnostics and research until the programs are transferred to the National Bio and Agro Defense Facility proposed to be operational after 2014.

Delaware Hires State Veterinarian

Sara Busch, DVM, Manor College, Jenkintown, Pa., has accepted the position as State Veterinarian with the Delaware Department of Agriculture (DDA). She is replacing Dr. H. Wesley Towers who retired in 2005 and Dr. Robert Ricker who has been acting State Veterinarian in the interim. As State Veterinarian, Dr. Busch will be the administrator of the DDA Poultry and Animal Health Section that has the responsibility to protect the health of domestic animal and avian species from the introduction and spread of infectious and contagious disease, including those transmissible to humans. She began her duties on December 29, 2006.

Pearson Recognized by ISU College of Veterinary Medicine

Dr. Jim Pearson was recently presented with the Stange Award for Meritorious Service by the Iowa State University College of Veterinary Medicine. The award was established in 1970 to honor alumni for outstanding professional achievements in education, government, industry, practice, or other professional endeavors in veterinary medicine. Pearson has been recognized for his work with the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE). Pearson is also a 2005 E. P. Pope award winner from AAVLD.

Rankin Named Acting State Veterinarian in Montana

Assistant State Veterinarian Jeanne Rankin will serve as acting state veterinarian, replacing Thomas Linfield, DVM, who has been chosen to serve as an epidemiologist for Veterinary Services in Cheyenne, Wyo. Rankin will fill the role until a new individual is selected.

Oldham Steps Down as Wyoming State Veterinarian

Wyoming State Veterinarian Dwayne Oldham has resigned, according to the president of the Wyoming Livestock Board, announced in late January.

Oldham began as state veterinarian and chief executive officer for the Wyoming Livestock Board in 2004. He helped Wyoming regain its status as a brucellosis-free state last year.

News and Headlines

Yellowstone Launches Wildlife Health Program

Glenn Plumb, National Parks Service Yellowstone National Park (YNP) recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Montana State University and the University of California, Davis, School of Veterinary Medicine Wildlife Health Center to establish the Yellowstone Wildlife Health Program, focused on understanding and addressing priority wildlife disease and ecosystem health problems at Yellowstone National Park. Initial five-year funding is being provided by the Yellowstone Park Foundation.

The Yellowstone Wildlife Health Program goal is to design and implement a long-term wildlife health assessment program to monitor and evaluate wildlife diseases and health indicators as a subcomponent of the Greater Yellowstone Network Vital Signs Monitoring Program. Specific objectives of the program include:

- Facilitation of cooperation among scientists seeking competitive grant funds to investigate wildlife health issues.
- Development of an outreach program, including educational materials for field courses on wildlife health, that provides information for the public, faculty, and federal and private funding agencies.
- Development of on-site wildlife veterinary services, including veterinary support for animal handling activities, disease surveillance, and disease outbreak investigation, including field evaluation, necropsy and specimen sampling.

- Establishment and coordination of on-site or cooperative wildlife disease diagnostics and field and laboratory research capacity.

- Facilitation of wildlife health professional capacity development, as well as research by veterinary students, graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, and post-graduate researchers.

The mission of YNP includes protection and improved knowledge of natural and cultural resources and associated values within their broader ecosystem and cultural context. Under the MOU, which became effective October 15, 2006, the program will develop information and mechanisms to understand and address present or future diseases, including brucellosis in bison and elk, West Nile virus in birds, whirling disease in trout, and hantavirus in small mammals, because they have the potential to alter the outcome of YNP's mission. *Adapted from the SCWDS BRIEFS, Vol. 22, No. 3.*

AAVLD Names Officers

The American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians named their new

leadership, during their annual meeting in Minneapolis. Dr. Barbara Powers has been elected president, while Dr. Grant Maxie will serve as the organization's president-elect in 2007. Dr. David Steffen is vice president, and Dr. Alex Ardans was reelected at Secretary/Treasurer. Immediate past president for AAVLD is Dr. Donal O'Toole, University of Wyoming.

Regional Meetings Scheduled

NORTHEASTERN DISTRICT
March 18-21, 2007

Gideon Putnam Hotel
Saratoga Springs, NY
President: Dr. Bruce Akey

SOUTHERN DISTRICT
June 9-12, 2007

Birmingham Marriott
Birmingham, Alabama
President: Dr. Anthony Frazier

NORTH CENTRAL DISTRICT
June 4-8, 2007

Grand Traverse Resort
Acme, Michigan 49610-0404
President: Dr. Steven L. Halstead.

The Western District was held March 6-10 in Hawaii, President Dr. Keith Roher. □

In Memoriam

John B. Healy, DVM, passed away in September at his home in Port St. Lucie, Fla., following an extended illness. A native of Kansas, Healy earned his DVM from Kansas State University, going on to serve in private practice in Iowa. He joined USDA staff in 1947, serving his 34-year career in a number of states, most notably as area veterinarian in charge in Florida and later California. Healy is survived by his wife of 58 years, Clorinda, as well as two children, five grandchildren and five great grandchildren.



Campbell, McCapes Honored with First Ever Medals of Distinction

Drs. Clarence Campbell and Dick McCapes were the first recipients of the new U.S. Animal Health Association's "Medal of Distinction," the highest award presented to an Association member.

"These two individuals are highly deserving of this award," said Dr. Bret Marsh, then USAHA president, as he presented the medals. Marsh said the new medal, which was established in May of this year, was presented at the Association's annual meeting in Minneapolis this week. The medal will be awarded annually to recognize one or more USAHA members who have demonstrated outstanding leadership, provided exemplary service, and have made significant contributions to the advancement of the Association.

Campbell retired as Florida State Veterinarian in 1991 after 38 years of service in that position – the longest that anyone in any state has served in that capacity. McCapes retired from the faculty of the School of Veterinary Medicine, University of California at Davis, in 1994. His career has also included service in the U.S. Army, private and corporate veterinary medical poultry practice and ownership in an international turkey primary breeding firm.

Both individuals served as president of USAHA – Campbell in 1966 and McCapes in 1999. McCapes also served as editor of the USAHA Newsletter from 1995 to 2000 and helped develop logos currently used by USAHA (1996), the American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians



Dr. Dick McCapes

(1999) and the National Assembly of USAHA (2006). Campbell was the long-time official parliamentarian for USAHA.

Campbell, a native of Indiana, received his Veterinary Degree from the Ohio State University in 1945. Through his leadership as Florida State Veterinarian, cattle fever ticks and screwworms were eradicated from Florida in the early 1960s. In 1972, both hog cholera and exotic Newcastle disease were eradicated from Florida. Campbell also worked diligently to eliminate brucellosis from Florida's cattle herds. Campbell was the long-time chair of USAHA's Committee on Infectious Diseases of Horses, providing leadership for the successful eradication of Venezuelan equine encephalitis (VEE) when that disease invaded the United States in 1971. He also played a key role in the first national efforts to prevent and control equine infectious anemia. In addition to his equine interests, he contributed to the work of USAHA committees on hog cholera, brucellosis, screwworms, tuberculosis, government relations, foreign animal diseases



Dr. Clarence Campbell

and parasitic diseases.

McCapes grew up in San Luis Obispo, Calif., and received his DVM degree in 1958 from the University of California at Davis. He was one of 28 veterinarians selected for inclusion in the 1996 book, "Veterinary Conversations With Mid-Twentieth Century Leaders," by Ole H. Viking Stalheim.

McCapes was a member of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Advisory Committee on Foreign Animal and Poultry Diseases from 1991 to 1996, serving as chair 1995-96. He served on the Veterinary Medicine Advisory Committee of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) from 1988 to 1992, chairing that committee 1991-92. McCapes was chair of the USAHA Committee on Transmissible Diseases of Poultry and Other Avian Species from 1986 to 1993. Other USAHA committee assignments included feed safety, *Salmonella*, *Salmonella enteritidis*, epizootic attack and public relations. In 2003, he served as chair of a special committee to review USAHA's long-range plan. □

2006-2007 USAHA Officers



USAHA 2006-2007 Executive Committee includes (front row, from left) Don Hoenig, 1st Vice President; Lee Myers, President; Jim Leafstedt, President-Elect; Richard Breitmeyer, 2nd Vice President (Back row, from left) J Lee Alley, Secretary; Steven Halstead, 3rd Vice President; William Hartmann, Treasurer; Bret Marsh, Immediate Past President.

Reed, McElwain Recognized by APHIS

Dr. Willie Reed and Dr. Terry McElwain were presented with the APHIS Animal Health Award by Dr. Ron DeHaven, Administrator of USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), during the opening joint general session of USAHA and AAVLD.

DeHaven noted that both Reed and McElwain have been instrumental in collaborating with USDA and APHIS in developing and implementing the National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN).

Reed recently ac-

cepted the position of Dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine at Purdue University.

McElwain is Executive Director of the Washington Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory. ■



Drs. Willie Reed (left) and Terry McElwain

Zeman Awarded AAVLD Top Honor

Dr. David H. Zeman was recognized during the USAHA/AAVLD President's Reception and Dinner as the 2006 E. P. Pope Memorial Award recipient.



Dr. David Zeman

Zeman currently serves as the head of the Veterinary Science Department and director of the Animal Disease Research and Diagnostic Laboratory at South Dakota State University. Additionally, he directs the Olson Biochemistry Laboratory there. ■

Holland Receives National Assembly Award

Dr. Sam Holland, South Dakota State Veterinarian, was honored by state regulatory officials during the opening USAHA/AAVLD joint general session.

Dr. James Watson, Mississippi State Veterinarian and president of the National Assembly of State Animal Health Officials, presented this year's National Assembly's annual award to Dr. Holland, who was chosen for his outstanding contributions to U.S. animal health in the regulatory field. He has served as State Veterinarian since March 1995. ■



Preparation Underway for 2007 Annual Meeting

The 111th Annual Meeting of the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA)/50th American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians (AAVLD) is scheduled for Oct. 17 to 24, 2007 in Reno, Nev. at John Ascuaga's Nugget Hotel. The joint meeting again promises to serve as the leading forum for animal health issues.

This year will rekindle a historic focus of the associations at the joint scientific session, scheduled for Monday, Oct. 22: Engaging USAHA and AAVLD in reducing impacts of major economic diseases. Program chairs Jim Leafstedt, USAHA President-

elect, and Grant Maxie, AAVLD President-elect, are in the process of securing speakers with expertise in various species.

"We felt it was important to assess where the industry is at scientifically, in terms of disease control or eradication, diagnostic needs the situations in a number of species, relating to costly diseases," Leafstedt says, who represents the allied industry membership on the USAHA Executive Committee. "More importantly to answer, 'what can these organizations do to reduce economic impacts.'"

Maxie adds that it's important to keep abreast of costly diseases, to focus resources into research, programs and/or diagnostics that can be effectively used by the industry for achieving their

goals. The USAHA/AAVLD partnership has provided an excellent means for communication between the veterinarians and the laboratories to address potential disease problems.

"As we look back at the success with programs such as Pseudorabies eradication in swine, we see other areas of opportunity to continue our support for the producer sector," Leafstedt says. He notes that swine, sheep, beef, poultry and aquaculture, equine, are the initial key species identified for the agenda. "This year will provide a number of our industry constituents a great opportunity to discuss diseases of concern."

Please watch for more information forthcoming on the 111th Annual Meeting. □



United States Animal Health Association
PO Box K227
Richmond, VA 23288

111th Annual Meeting October 17-24, 2007
John Ascuaga's Nugget Hotel
Reno, Nevada

USAHA Proceedings added to Searchable Proceedings of Animal Conferences

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) is pleased to announce that it has entered into an agreement with the American Dairy Science Association, host sponsor of Searchable Proceedings of Animal Conferences (S-PAC). In exchange for contributing the use of USAHA's conference proceedings to S-PAC, the most comprehensive animal production and management

conference proceeding database in the world, USAHA members will now be able to subscribe to S-PAC at the ADSA member rate. USAHA proceedings will continue to be found at www.usaha.org in addition to the S-PAC.

Visit the link at www.usaha.org to learn more. Please email usaha@usaha.org for the discount access code. □