



**2025 NORTHEAST US ANIMAL HEALTH
ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING**

Program

April 27-30, 2025

**PA Farm Show Complex & Expo Center
2300 N. Cameron Street
Harrisburg, PA 17110**

THE 2025 ANNUAL NEUSAHA/AAVLD
CONFERENCE
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THE 2025 ANNUAL NEUSAHA/AAVLD CONFERENCE APRIL 27 – 30 IN HARRISBURG, PA.

SUNDAY, APRIL 27, 2025

6:00 PM – 8:00 PM Welcome Reception- Hospitality Suite

MONDAY, APRIL 28, 2025

7:00 AM – 12:00 PM Meeting Registration

7:30 AM – 8:30 AM Coffee and Breakfast Snacks

Introductions and Welcomes

7:50 AM – 8:30 AM

Dr. Kaitlynn Levine, NEUSAHA President
Dr. Peter Mundschenk, USAHA President
Dr. Alex Hamberg, Pennsylvania State Veterinarian
Secretary Russell Redding, Pennsylvania Secretary of Agriculture

North America Rabies Update

8:30 AM – 9:40 AM

Raccoon Rabies Variant Vaccination Program, Mr. Rich Chipman, USDA/APHIS/WS (Virtual)
National Rabies Laboratory Testing Survey, Dr. Joanne Maki, Boehringer-Ingelheim
Animal Health USA, Inc.

NADPRP Projects: Virtual Reality for Training Responders

9:40 AM – 10:10 AM

Dr. Brian Ladman, University of Delaware

10:10 AM – 10:30 AM

Sponsor Speaker: Boehringer-Ingelheim Animal Health USA, Inc., Dr. Joanne Maki

10:30 AM – 10:40 AM Coffee Break

CWD

10:40 AM – 11:40 AM

NY Outbreak overview - Dr. Beth Ann Shane-Holser, NYDAM
Challenges of IHC testing Dr. Gavin Hitchner, Cornell University

11:40 AM - 12:00 PM

Sponsor Speaker: GlobalVetLink, Ms. Michelle Scheepstra

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM Lunch

Transboundary, Regional Emerging and Novel Disease (TREND) Rounds

1:00 PM – 2:30 PM

Mr. Robert Gibson, NH Veterinary Diagnostic Lab; Dr. Mani Lejeune, Cornell University;
Dr. Kevin Niedringhaus, University of Pennsylvania

2:30 PM – 2:45 PM Coffee Break

Sponsor Speaker: Thermo Fisher Scientific, Ms. Priscilla Nuño-Cochran

2:45 PM – 3:00 PM

mRNA Vaccine Development

3:00 PM – 3:30 PM

Dr. Gary Althouse, University of Pennsylvania

3:35 PM – 4:05 PM

VS TEP and Emergency Response in the Northeast

Dr. Heather Hirst, USDA (virtual)

Banquet

6:00 PM – 7:30 PM

Featured Speaker: Dr. Jason Brooks, PennState Eberly College of Science
Veterinary forensics in One Health and the American College of Veterinary Pathology

TUESDAY, APRIL 29, 2025

7:00 AM – 9:30 AM	Registration
7:30 AM – 8:30 AM	Coffee and Breakfast Snacks
8:30 AM – 9:15 AM	HPAI-NAHLN Response/Raw Milk Cheese Study
	Dr. Diego Diel, Cornell University
9:15 AM – 10:00 AM	Milk/Egg Prices
	Dr. Seth Meyer, USDA Chief Economist (virtual)
10:10 AM - 10:25 AM	Coffee Break
10:25 AM – 11:00 AM	Broad Lab Testing Protocol
	Dr. Elyse Stachler, Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard (virtual)
11:00 AM - 11:40 AM	HPAI in Cats, Bears, and the One Health Task Force
	NJ case studies with Drs. Darby McDermott and Amar Patil, NJDA
11:40 AM – 12:00 PM	Sponsor Speaker: Medgene, Ms. Julia Schaar
12:00 PM – 1:00 PM	Lunch
1:00 PM – 2:00 PM	USDA Leadership Updates
	Dr. Adis Dijab, Field Operations Associate Deputy Administrator USDA
2:00 PM – 2:15 PM	Coffee Break
2:15 PM – 2:35 PM	Sponsor Speaker: National Pork Board, Dr. Brent Pepin
2:35 PM – 4:00 PM	Industry roundtable
	Facilitated by Dr. Alex Hamberg, PDA
	AVMA Depopulation Guidelines
	Featuring Dr. Don Hoenig, AVMA
4:00 PM	Tour of the Pennsylvania Veterinary Lab and the Pennsylvania WoodMobile
	Dinner on your own

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30, 2025

7:30 PM – 8:30 AM	Coffee and Breakfast Snacks
8:30 AM – 9:00 AM	Overflow
9:00 AM – 10:00 AM	Regional Networking Time
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM	NEUSAHA Business Meeting
12:00 PM	Adjourn

Speaker Biographies

Gary Althouse, DVM, MS, PhD, Dipl. ACT University of Pennsylvania

Dr. Gary Althouse joined the School of Veterinary Medicine faculty at the University of Pennsylvania (Penn Vet) in 2001. Dr. Althouse currently is holder of the Marion Dilley and David George Jones Endowed Chair in Animal Reproduction and serves as Associate Dean of Sustainable Agriculture and Veterinary Practices at Penn Vet. Dr. Althouse's academic efforts focus on global food supply and food security. He is the founder and director of Penn Vet's Reference Andrology Laboratory, which provides both critical research and clinical services in food animal production.

Jason Brooks, VMD, PhD, DACVP Penn State University

Dr. Brooks is Director and Teaching Professor in the Forensic Science Program at Penn State University. He is a board-certified veterinary pathologist, a Founding Fellow in Veterinary Forensic Pathology, and an adjunct professor in the Department of Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences at Penn State University. Additionally, he is a Deputy Coroner with the Centre County (PA) Coroner's Office, and Captain and former Chief of Emergency Medical Services in his region. He has been employed as a pathologist at the Penn State Animal Diagnostic Laboratory for 22 years. He is a member of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences where he also serves on the Academy Standards Board Wildlife Forensics Consensus Body and has served on the board of directors of the International Veterinary Forensic Sciences Association (IVFSA) where he currently participates in the development of national standards for veterinary forensic postmortem examination. He teaches graduate and undergraduate courses in pathology and medicolegal death investigation, and he provides instruction to state and local police officers and humane police officers on how to conduct animal crimes investigations. His research is focused on the estimation of the postmortem interval and the pathology of gunshot wounds. He is the editor and contributing author of the textbook Veterinary Forensic Pathology.

Richard Chipman, MS, MBA USDA, APHIS, Wildlife Services

Richard Chipman is a Certified Wildlife Biologist living in Concord, New Hampshire. He has worked for USDA, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Wildlife Services (WS) since 1991 in a variety of professional capacities including as a Wildlife Biologist in Vermont, the State Director in New York, the Assistant National Rabies Management Coordinator and since 2012 as the National Rabies Management Coordinator. Prior to WS, he worked for state wildlife agencies and universities on nongame and endangered wildlife in Vermont, Maine, Kansas and Costa Rica. Rich received his BA (Biology) and his BS (Wildlife Management) from the University of Maine, his MS in Wildlife Biology from the University of Vermont and an MBA from the State University of New York at Albany. His current professional focus is to resolve conflicts between people and wildlife by managing wildlife rabies at the landscape scale to reduce impacts to human and animal health. In his limited but coveted free time Rich is a frequently stung beekeeper, plays the banjo only well enough to scare the neighbors and tries to be good.

Diego Diel, DVM, MS, PhD Cornell University

Dr. Diego Diel, DVM, MS, PhD is an Associate Professor of Virology in the Department of Population Medicine and Diagnostic Sciences and the Director of the Virology Laboratory at the Cornell Animal Health Diagnostic Center (AHDC), College of Veterinary Medicine, Cornell University. Dr. Diel's

research focus on studying emerging viruses at the human animal interface. His current research program focuses on the study of the emerging picornaviruses, African Swine Fever Virus, SARS-CoV-2 and influenza viruses, including HPAI H5N1. Dr. Diel was led the Cornell team involved in detection of H5N1 spillover into dairy cows and other mammalian species.

Adis Dijab, DVM
USDA

Dr Dijab received his DVM from Zagreb University College of Veterinary Medicine in Croatia in 1996. After eight years in a small animal clinic in Kentucky, Dr. Dijab began his career at the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) in 2004. Since then, he has served the USDA under both the Food Safety Inspection Services and Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services, as a supervisory veterinary medical officer (VMO), field VMO, area veterinarian-in-charge, program directors and senior executive service positions. Dr. Dijab most recently served as the Associate Deputy Administrator of Veterinary Services Field Operations. Dr. Dijab lives in the Annapolis, Maryland area with wife and daughter, and the house full of pets.

Robert Gibson, MPH
New Hampshire Veterinary Diagnostic Lab

Rob received his microbiology degree from UNH in 1994 and later his Master of Public Health in 2005. He has worked at the NHVDL for 30 years as the microbiology section supervisor and has been in the role of managing director since 2012.

He recently finished serving two terms as AAVLD northeast regional representative and is currently serving as a district at large representative for USAHA.

Some of his specific areas of interest focus on zoonotic diseases and antimicrobial resistance. Outside of the lab Rob serves on various state and local committees related to public health and municipal affairs.

Heather Hirst, DVM, MS
USDA

Heather Hirst joined USDA Veterinary Services in 2022 to serve as the Assistant Area Veterinarian in Charge for Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, and Washington DC. She recently changed roles and is now part of the National Preparedness and Incident Coordination unit of Veterinary Services, where she helps develop and uphold current VS policies for animal emergency response.

Prior to joining VS, Dr. Hirst served as the State Veterinarian in Delaware for 13 years. Her favorite job of all time was practicing dairy production medicine in a 4-person dairy practice in Chino, California.

Dr. Hirst was raised in New Jersey and attended Rutgers University for undergraduate studies. She holds her DVM from Ohio State University and a Master of Sciences degree from Colorado State University, where she wrote her thesis on the epidemiology of Johne's disease in dairy cattle.

Gavin Hitchener, DVM, Dipl. A.C.V.P.
Cornell University

Dr. Gavin Hitchener is a boarded anatomic pathologist and assistant clinical professor at the NY Animal Health Diagnostic Center (NYAHDC) and has a particular interest in wildlife and avian pathology. He also is the director of the Cornell University Duck Research Laboratory located on Long Island and serves as one of two pathologists at the NYAHDC focused on wildlife and avian diagnostic cases. Dr. Hitchener enjoys investigating high consequence diseases such as chronic wasting disease and avian influenza and particularly how these diseases result in consequences for the human, animal, and production animal systems involved.

Don Hoenig, VMD
USAHA Life Member

Don Hoenig earned his bachelor's degree from Bowdoin College and his veterinary degree from the University of Pennsylvania. In a veterinary career spanning over four decades, Don has worked in mixed animal practice, spent time as a USDA Veterinary Medical Officer, was the State Veterinarian and State Public Health Veterinarian in Maine for 17 years, served as an AVMA Congressional Fellow in Sen. Susan Collins' DC office, and taught at Tufts School of Veterinary Medicine. Since retiring from the Maine Department of Agriculture in 2012, Don continues to offer veterinary consulting services in farm animal welfare and public health policy through MIM Consulting. He was the president of the United States Animal Health Association from 2008-2009 and is a lifetime member of the USAHA Board of Directors. He has served on several committees and councils for the American Veterinary Medical Association including his current role as chair of the Poultry Work Group on the Depopulation Panel, a position he has held since 2017.

Brian Ladman, PhD, MBA
University of Delaware

Brian Ladman is a Senior Scientist in the Department of Animal & Food Sciences at University of Delaware where he's been involved in poultry health research for more than 25 years. Brian directs the NAHLN testing efforts for the laboratories of the University of Delaware Poultry Health System and leads the laboratory accreditation efforts. Brian is also involved with the management of the select agent program and the BSL3 poultry laboratory.

Mani Lejeune, BVSc&AH, MVSc, PhD, DipACVM
Cornell University

Mani Lejeune is the Director of Clinical Parasitology and Molecular Diagnostics Laboratories at the Cornell Animal Health Diagnostic Center. He is an Associate Professor of Practice in the Department of Population Medicine and Diagnostic Sciences. AHDC Parasitology is a stand-alone lab that handles ~14K samples annually, providing classical and molecular testing services to clients in the Northeast and other regions. Mani's research interests include documenting parasite biodiversity in domestic and wild animals.

Joanne Maki, PhD, DVM
Boehringer-Ingelheim Animal Health USA, Inc.

Dr. Joanne Maki, DVM, PhD is a veterinarian with 30+ years' experience in rabies prevention. Her veterinary degree is from at Louisiana State University and her Ph.D. is in Medical Microbiology from the University of Georgia. She joined the pharmaceutical industry in 1990 and led project teams to license three rabies vaccines: (PureVax®) for cats, an equine rabies/Potomac Horse Fever rabies combo, and the oral wildlife rabies vaccine, RABORAL V-RG®.

From 2005 – 2014, she was the Veterinary Public Health, Global Technical Director at Merial Limited focusing on mass dog rabies vaccination programs. During this time, she was involved in the first World Rabies Day organizing efforts and contributed to the global dog rabies elimination plan which has evolved into the United Against Rabies platform. Since 2014, she has been employed by Boehringer-Ingelheim, and the US wildlife oral rabies vaccine programs and other rabies projects as a Senior Veterinarian in Veterinary Public Health for North America.

Darby McDermott, DVM, MPH
NJ Department of Health, Communicable Disease Service

Darby McDermott is the State Public Health Veterinarian at the New Jersey Department of Health. She oversees the Office of Veterinary Public Health within the Communicable Disease Service, Infectious

and Zoonotic Disease Program, acting as a subject matter expert on zoonotic diseases in people and domestic companion animals, providing technical consultations to local health departments, veterinarians, and healthcare providers, and overseeing programs administered by the Office of Veterinary Public Health. Dr. McDermott received her Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) and Master of Public Health (MPH) degrees from the Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine at Tufts University in Massachusetts. She joined the New Jersey Department of Health in December 2020.

Seth Meyer, PhD
USDA

Dr. Seth Meyer was appointed USDA's Chief Economist in January of 2021, returning to USDA after two years. Prior to his return, Seth was a Research Professor and the Associate Director for the Food and Agricultural Policy Research Institute (FAPRI) at the University of Missouri. FAPRI is well known for its agricultural policy and market analysis, being called on by Congress and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) for its insight into commodity production, price, farm income and trade impacts from various agricultural policies including Farm Bill proposals, trade agreements and disruptions, and crop insurance.

Dr. Meyer was previously the head of the World Agricultural Outlook Board (WAOB) in the Office of the Chief Economist (OCE), the agency at USDA charged with bringing together USDA resources in the assessment of crops around the world. The OCE also publishes those findings in the 'WASDE' report which is closely watched by agricultural markets here and abroad.

Previously, Dr. Meyer served as an economist with the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) of the United Nations and as a visiting scholar at several research institutions around the world. Dr. Meyer grew up in eastern Iowa and has a Bachelor's and Master's degree from Iowa State University and a Ph.D. in Agricultural Economics from the University of Missouri.

Kevin Niedringhaus, PhD
University of Pennsylvania

Dr. Kevin Niedringhaus is a veterinary pathologist based at the Wildlife Futures Program and New Bolton Center, University of Pennsylvania branch of the Pennsylvania Animal Diagnostic Laboratory System. His primary duties as a diagnostic pathologist involve investigating wildlife health events in Pennsylvania and the surrounding region. Academically he is interested in the impact of pathogens and toxins in free-ranging wildlife at both the individual and population level. Specifically, he has strong interest in infectious diseases with an emphasis in protozoan and metazoan parasites.

Amar Patil, PhD
NJ Dept of Agriculture/Div. Animal Health

Dr. Amar Patil is a Veterinarian, Scientist, and board-certified Microbiologist in the specialties of veterinary virology and immunology by the American College of Veterinary Microbiologists. He is one of the few professionals who have worked on the laboratory side as well as the regulatory side of animal health in the US. He currently holds the position of the Director of the Division of Animal Health/New Jersey State Veterinarian with the New Jersey Department of Agriculture. Before that, he was the lab director of the Animal Health Diagnostic Laboratory at the New Jersey Department of Agriculture. He has served on various AAVLD committees both as chair and member. He is looking forward to serving USAHA in his current capacity as the State Veterinarian.

Brent Pepin, DVM, MS
National Pork Board

Dr. Pepin earned his BA degree in Biology from the College of Saint Scholastica, graduated as a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM), and completed his Master's in Veterinary Preventive Medicine at Iowa State University, with research focused on swine population surveillance.

Dr. Brent Pepin joined the National Pork Board as the Director of Swine Health in March 2024. Dr. Pepin's current work includes overseeing the PRRSV advisory group and the RFID project, and supporting National Pork Board programs such as Secure Pork Supply, AgView, and traceability. Before joining the National Pork Board, he had a background in research and private practice focused on swine.

Julia Schaar, BS

Medgene Labs

Julia Schaar is the Compliance and Regulatory Director for Medgene Labs in Brookings, SD. Julia grew up on a farm and ranch in southeast South Dakota and was motivated to protecting animals and their owners, obtaining her Bachelor of Science degree in Animal Science and a registered Veterinary Technician. After 12 years of managing mixed animal vet clinics, she took a position with Medgene Labs in Quality Assurance, Compliance, and Regulatory Affairs to help the company establish Medgene's Prescription Platform Biologics platform and products. In her current role as Compliance and Regulatory Director, she has licensed three vaccine production facilities and several vaccine licenses, including fully commercial, autogenous, conditional, and prescription licensed products with the USDA/Center for Veterinary Biologics. She works closely with all departments within Medgene to ensure compliance to the Code of Federal Regulations, licensing requirements, and pharmacovigilance.

Michelle Scheepstra, BA

GlobalVetLink

Michelle Scheepstra is a seasoned Senior Partner Relations Manager with a strong background in both animal health and software. With over a decade of experience spanning global animal health brands and SaaS companies, she brings expertise in product management, partner relations, and strategic planning. In her current role at GlobalVetLink, she manages key partner relationships, these include but are not limited to, enterprise partners on the clinic/hospital side, State Animal Health Officials, and CFIA (Canadian officials). It is through these relationships that she is able to assist with driving collaboration across many cross-functional teams from both sides.

Michelle was previously, at Boehringer-Ingelheim, she led brand management initiatives, oversaw USDA label submissions, implemented CRM systems resulting in a 15% increase in lead growth, and launched high-impact marketing campaigns with over 50% response rates. In this role, she worked in the autogenous vaccine industry which focused primarily on bovine and swine species, but spilled over into many other species including equine and the zoo side of vaccines as well.

Michelle excels in aligning cross-departmental strategies to meet organizational goals, from both sides of the partnership.

Beth Ann Shane-Holser, VMD

NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets

Beth Ann Shane-Holser, VMD was raised in NJ and went to vet school in Pennsylvania. She was in private practice in Nassau, NY for 23 years before joining the NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets. She has now been the captive cervid program manager for 3 years.

Elyse Stachler, PhD

Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard

Dr. Elyse Stachler is a Research Scientist at the Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard working in the lab of Dr. Pardis Sabeti. She has a background in Environmental Engineering and her research has focused on molecular assay development and deployment to inform and improve public health.