



AAVPT Newsletter

**American Academy of
Veterinary Pharmacology and Therapeutics**

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From the President

The AAVPT membership has been continuing to work quietly in the background for the last year or so. We continue to have Fellows who are active in the profession, providing their expertise to national and international expert panels and committees such as USP, AVMA panels, COMPTA, VICH and CODEX. In addition, the AAVPT executive committee has tasked individual members and one ad hoc subcommittee to respond to requests for balanced opinions on problems within our discipline which needed attention. This work is the "background noise" from which arises the peak activity of the Biennial Symposia.

For several years, AAVPT has not held a stand-alone scientific meeting as our Biennial Symposium, but has held a satellite meeting in association with the ACVIM Annual Forum. Although these satellite meetings have been well attended, have provided good programs, achieved broad acknowledgement and have been financially sound, they do not provide the focused and undistracted attention that pharmacology deserves. Further, this satellite format has not provided an adequate outlet for research communications in pharmacology, for graduate students in pharmacology to present their work to their peers nor for the Fellows to quietly (or sometimes critically) trade ideas. I remember fondly the last stand-alone success we had at Asilomar in California last century, which was well organized and efficiently run by our colleague and Fellow, Rick Vulliet.

In 2005, our program committee, chaired by Marilyn Martinez, will convene our 14th

Symposium as a stand-alone meeting. Organization is well underway. In fact, I am writing this letter while resident in the selected Hotel of the meeting. The facilities are superb, providing exactly the right mix of easy access to services within and outside the Hotel and isolated areas where we can gather and commune without much interference from the general public. The Academy will benefit from this next Symposium and the Symposium will be a resounding success if you all give it your full support. Please read the notice of meeting and call for abstracts as they appear. Please plan your research to be presented at the Symposium. Please encourage your graduate students and colleagues to put Washington DC on their calendar for 2005.

The growth and vitality of AAVPT depends on both the underlying continual activity and the successful Symposia. It is time to begin planning for the 15th Symposium: would you benefit by hosting the next one?

Ted Whittam

Secretary/Treasurers Report

Carol Davis

Greeting from a very cold and snowy Central Illinois where the arctic cold has a strong grip on us! We had a very mild December and January but February is another story!

Secretary Report

Our total membership in AAVPT stands at 167 – 107 Fellows, 19 associate fellows, 7 students and 34 emeritus fellows. We still struggle with a significant number of delinquent accounts. As indicated in the last newsletter, we are dropping 53 members from our roster. These are members who we have not heard from or received dues payments since 2001. I did make one last attempt to get a response from these people by including them in our 2004 dues announcement but have not heard from anyone on the list and we have not had any reply from these individuals for the last 3 years. I believe they do not desire to remain as members and we are justified in removing them permanently. I did print out the directory information on these individuals and will keep a hard copy in our records.

At the present, we have 133 members on our active dues list. We welcomed 3 new members to our membership since our last newsletter. New members are Dr. Anthony Lucas (University of Kansas) a new fellow, Dr. Stanley Butch KuKanich (North Carolina State University) and Sara Thomasy (University of California - Davis) – both student members.

Treasury Report

I am in the middle of getting all the dues for 2004 collected. I would remind everyone to get their dues to me as soon as possible. This is particularly important for our members who had journal subscriptions in 2003 and would like to continue it in 2004. As of the end of the year, Blackwell put all the subscription from last year that had not been renewed on their suspended list. If you want your subscription to continue, I strongly encourage you to send in your dues and subscription payment as soon as you can. Blackwell has said that any suspended subscriptions can be reinstated and back issues mailed out just as soon as they receive notification that the subscription has been renewed. The first volume of the 2004 journal has been mailed out (I received mine last week) so if you were expecting to receive your copy and you did

not, you should contact me immediately to clear up any problems that might exist.

We have \$12,184.90 in the local checking account as of Jan. 30, 2004. The dues announcements were mailed out to all members in November, 2003. To date I have received 2004 dues payment from 77 members. ***Stated another way - I have not received 2004 dues from 53 members!*** I remind all our members to please send in your dues as soon as possible. I have also received 33 journal subscriptions. This is down 21 from last year. I remind all members who wish to continue their subscription to get your payment in to me as soon as possible. The last ballot sent out for electing the last.

We would like to extend our thanks to the following individuals for their generous gift contribution to the AAVPT award fund in 2004: Karl Bowman, Mark Heit, Richard Vulliet, Judy Weissinger, Jack Oliver, Cory Langston, Art Craigmill, Joe Clark, Ann Jernigan, Gordon Coppoc, Joe Gloyd, Bhattacharya, Mark Papich, Charles Short, and Jane Owens Clark. The award fund currently has approximately \$5131.00.

The expenses for the 13th Biennial Symposium held last summer have been finalized. The expenses and income have been tabulated and we broke even for the symposium. The total cost for the event was approximately \$16,000 and represented the expenses incurred for a one and one-half day event. We had 31 registrants at the meeting. The expenses were typical meeting expenses such as brochure production, publication costs, AV expenses, food, and speaker costs. Total income for meeting was \$15,672.00 and included income received from registration fees and contributions from corporate sponsors. The registration fee for the meeting was set at \$225.00 which brought in almost \$7,000.00, covering about half of the expenses for the meeting. We received a little over \$8700.00 from five corporate sponsors. These funds were in the form of cash donations and direct payment of meal and printing expenses.

I would like to thank all the sponsors for their contributions to our event.

REMINDER - LISTSERV IS AVAILABLE TO EVERYONE

The AAVPT listserv is up and running and has been used by several of our members. I think I have all our members on the listserv including Emeritus members. If you have not received any listserv messages in the last couple of months, your email may be wrong in our database. You will need to contact me (cdavis@shout.net) to check your email address or you can also go to our website and click on the directory tab to access your listing. If it is wrong, click on the secretary/treasure hotlink and send an email to me and I will make the corrections. You can add additional email addresses if you wish. Please remember – for the listserv to function properly we need to know whenever you have a change in your email address. If you do want me to change your email listing, I will need you to send me your old email address along with your new address so I can delete the old one and get the new one on line.

The listserv is open to all our members. We do not have any restrictions on what you can send and there is not screening of messages. We do ask you be considerate to our members and kept the content limited to items that are of general interest to our members.

PROCEDURE FOR USING LISTSERV

The procedure for sending messages to our membership is to compose your message and then address the message using the email address for the listserv (aavpt@listserv.cvm.tamu.edu). The message will be then be routed through the listserv and to our members. If your email address is on the listserv, the message will be sent out almost instantly and should be delivered immediately. If your email is not on the listserv the message will be stopped and routed to me for approval. If it is rejected, I get a notification that you have tried to send a message and the software does not recognize your email address. If I get a message from the server, I will log onto the listserv site and find out what the hang up is and if I can figure out who is sending the message, I will give permission to release the message. If the email address is wrong

or I can not recognize who is sending the message, I am afraid I will have to delete the message. You will know there is some problem because you will not receive your message from the server. If this is the case, please contact me and I will try to clear up the problem.

For the listserv to work, everyone must keep their email current in our database. We encourage everyone to use the listserv and to get some communication going between our members. In addition to members using the listserv, the officers hope to use the system to pass information in a more timely fashion to our members and to get feedback from our members.

I remind everyone to periodically go to the directory and check what email address we have listed for you. To get to your information, go to our website (www.aavpt.org) and click on “Directory”. It will ask you for your user name and password. We use a universal password for all members so you can get into the directory by entering “aavpt” for the user name and “acadm” for the password. (In both cases, do not type the parentheses) You can then type in your name and it will list your directory information. Check the information we have for you and report any errors or changes by clicking on the “secretary-treasurer” hot link so I can correct it in our database and enter the new one on the listserv.

Program Committee Report

The 14th Biennial American Academy of Veterinary Pharmacology and Therapeutics Symposium will be held in the at the Double Tree Hotel in Rockville, MD on May 16-18, 2005. The organizers of this meeting hope to make this the largest AAVPT meeting yet.

In keeping with our organization's tripartite mission, the meeting will focus on three themes - Regulatory, Scientific and Teaching. The program will be divided into the morning plenary sessions, when everyone is together for talks from the three themes followed in the afternoon by concurrent sessions focused on each of three areas.

Plenary Speakers confirmed to date include:

Steve Sundlof, Pierre-Louis Toutain, Jim Riviere, William Jenkins, and Carlos Lanusse.

High-powered regulatory discussions with outstanding speakers, state of the art scientific discussions, and a review of hot-teaching topics are scheduled for the afternoon breakout sessions. In addition, the AAVPT is actively pursuing the involvement of young scientists through scheduled poster sessions. This is an opportunity for veterinary CVM and Ph.D. students to network with the leaders in veterinary pharmacology.

After full days of discussion and debate, social activities are planned including an evening activity in the DC area and the traditional AAVPT banquet.

Interested parties are encouraged to submit abstracts for poster displays and short oral presentations. A call for abstracts will be sent in Spring of 2004.

Please check the website (aavpt.org) for up to date information on the Symposium or contact Carol Davis (aavptsecretary@yahoo.com).

Program Committee Members: Marilyn Martinez, Jane Owens Clark, Pierre-Louis Toutain, Carol Davis, Cory Langston, Rob Hunter, Bernadette Dunham, Guilin Qiao, Julia Punderson, Anthony Lucas, and Ted Whittem

Journal of Veterinary Pharmacology and Therapeutics (JVPT)

Your journal continues to change and evolve as does our discipline. The many suggestions of the Editorial Board meeting held in Lisbon last July are being implemented. These include a desire to expand the subject area of our JVPT into drug toxicology and to put even greater attention to scientific quality when we review manuscripts. Concerning quality, JVPT now rejects almost half of the papers submitted. This has resulted in a slight decrease in actually published manuscripts over the last few issues, despite the facts that overall

submissions were up about 20% last year! However, this action is essential for the long term health of this journal. The journal lives on the submissions of its members. Please strive to submit the best of your work to JVPT!

Last year also saw the first of the USP Veterinary Pharmaceutical Information Monographs published as a Supplement to JVPT. A second should be published this year. We also have a number of outstanding reviews in the pipeline which should further add value to our journal.

News

The Institute of Medicine of the National Academies names new members

The Institute of Medicine of the National Academies named Drs. **Jim Riviere, Lester M. Crawford, and Mark B. McClellan**, as newly elected members. The Institute was established in 1970 by the National Academy of Sciences and has become recognized as a national resource for independent, scientifically informed analysis and recommendations on issues related to human health.

To view press release and list of new members:
<http://www4.nationalacademies.org/news.nsf/isbn/10272003?OpenDocument>

President Bush Signs Animal Drug User Fee Act

On Tuesday November 18, 2003, President Bush signed the Animal Drug User Fee Act, helping to dramatically reduce the review time for new animal drugs.

ADUFA had the support of the Food and Drug Administration Commissioner Mark McClellan, who requested that President Bush sign the bill.

Modeled after the successful Prescription Drug User Fee Act, ADUFA gives the FDA the resources and incentives to expedite New Animal Drug Applications.

Despite a statutory review time of 180 days and the enhanced flexibility granted the FDA in the Animal Drug Availability Act, the review process for New Animal Drug Applications typically takes 5 to 10 years.

A large coalition supported passage of ADUFA. Led by the AVMA, coalition members include the Animal Health Institute, American Association of Equine Practitioners, American Sheep Industry Association, National Pork Producers Council, and National Turkey Federation.¹

FDA commends senate passage of bill providing improved consumer protection and incentives for animal drug development

FDA commends the Senate's passage of S741, a bill that includes the proposed Allergen Labeling and Consumer Protection Act of 2003, as well as the Minor Use and Minor Species Animal Health Act of 2003. Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee Chairman Judd Gregg and Ranking Member Senator Edward Kennedy were instrumental in moving this bipartisan legislation forward.

The Food Allergen Labeling and Consumer Protection Act would provide improved food labeling information to the millions of consumers who suffer from food allergies. It requires food labels to identify in plain English if the product contains any of the eight major food allergens – milk, eggs, fish, crustacean shellfish, peanuts, tree nuts, wheat and soybeans.

This labeling will be especially helpful to children who must learn to recognize the presence of substances they must avoid. For example, if a product contains the milk-derived protein casein, the product's label would have to use the term “milk” in addition to the term “casein” so that those with milk allergies would clearly understand the presence of an allergen they need to avoid.

¹ Adapted from JAVMA. (2003). President Signs Animal Drug User Fee Act. JAVMA, 223(12), 1711.

The Minor Use and Minor Species Animal Health Act is intended to increase the availability of new therapies for animals, including zoo animals and some pets for which treatments for many ailments currently do not exist or are not available. This legislation will establish two new ways to lawfully market new animal drugs while safeguarding public health and make available incentives, such as grants, for certain new animal drugs for minor uses and minor species.

“We hope that these new provisions will be as successful as the FDA's Orphan Drug Program that has enabled many new drugs to be approved for people with rare diseases and conditions, said FDA Commissioner Mark B. McClellan, M.D., Ph.D. “FDA is heartened by Senate passage of both of these important measures and looks forward to providing further technical assistance to the House regarding this legislation.”

March 9, 2004

U.S. FDA Press Release

<http://www.fda.gov:80/bbs/topics/news/2004/NEW01034.html>

Liaison reports

USP Drug Information: *Cory Langston*

In October of 2003 the USP Veterinary Medicine Drug Information Expert Committee published a 271 page supplement to JVPT specific to veterinary antimicrobial use. A similar series of monographs on glucocorticoids and NSAIDs planned as a JVPT supplement this summer.

News from the Pharmaceutical Industry

2003 Elanco Distinguished Lecturer

Ian D. Duncan, BVMS, PhD, FRCPath, FRCVS has been honored as the 2003 Distinguished Lecturer by Elanco Animal Health, A Division of Eli Lilly and Company. As a part of this award, Dr. Duncan

delivered a lecture to Elanco Scientists on October 14, 2003 titled, "Brain repair through stem cell transplantation; what might be achieved?"

Dr. Duncan's research involves the study of genetic disorders of myelin formation in the central nervous system (CNS) and the use of animals with mutations as models in which to study brain repair, particularly in regard to multiple sclerosis. He has worked extensively in establishing the cell type that could be transplanted into the brains of such models to bring about remyelination. His research has been supported by over \$8 million from public institutions and private foundations. Dr. Duncan was also depicted in the movie *Lorenzo's Oil*; a true story about Augusto and Michaela Odone's only child Lorenzo, who is afflicted with adrenoleukodystrophy (ALD). In an effort to help their son, the Odones developed a therapy, now adopted on both sides of the Atlantic, which reverses the biochemical defect of ALD. The Odones invited Dr. Duncan to become a founding member of the Myelin Project, a work group set up to explore strategies to promote remyelination of the CNS of people suffering from inherited and acquired myelin disorders.

Novartis Animal Health has released Atopica (cyclosporine, oral) for the control of atopic dermatitis in dogs.

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