



# American Association of Veterinary Immunologists

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## Message from the AAVI President Doug Bannerman

As President of AAVI, I thank the members for all of their hard work and dedication to making AAVI thrive as an organization. I would like to particularly recognize the Officers, Board Members, and Committee members for all of their efforts throughout the year. It is due to the contributions of so many members that AAVI continues to be a very active organization. I would like to highlight some of AAVI's recent and upcoming activities, and hope that you will share my enthusiasm for all AAVI has accomplished.

On Monday, May 10, 2010, AAVI and the American Association of Immunologists (AAI)-Veterinary Immunology Committee (VIC) jointly sponsored a symposium, titled "Immunology of Emerging Infectious Diseases." The speakers for the event included: Dr. Michael S. Diamond of Washington University; Dr. Linda J. Saif of The Ohio State University; Dr. Christopher M. Walker of the Research Institute at Nationwide Children's Hospital; and Dr. Adolfo García-Sastre of the Mount Sinai School of Medicine. The high caliber of the speakers and timely relevance of the topics undoubtedly contributed to the high attendance at the symposium.

In addition to AAI-VIC, AAVI also jointly sponsors an annual symposium with the American College of Veterinary Microbiologists (ACVM).



This year's symposium, which is being organized by Paul Coussens and Christopher Chase, is titled "Emerging and Re-Emerging Zoonotic Pathogens." The symposium will be held on Sunday, December 5, 2010, in Chicago, IL, in conjunction with the *Conference of Research Workers in Animal Diseases (CRWAD)* ([http://www.cvmbs.colostate.edu/mip/crwad/aavi\\_symposium\\_2010.htm](http://www.cvmbs.colostate.edu/mip/crwad/aavi_symposium_2010.htm)).

As in the past, AAVI will be organizing the oral and poster sessions for the Immunology section of the CRWAD meeting. On behalf of AAVI, Isis Mullarky will be serving as the Immunology section leader and organizing the sessions, which will provide an opportunity to learn about recent advances in the field of veterinary immunology research. The AAVI Graduate Student Competition, which will also be held in conjunction

with the CRWAD meeting and organized by Carol Chitko-McKown, provides an opportunity for student presenters to be recognized for their outstanding research and presentation skills.

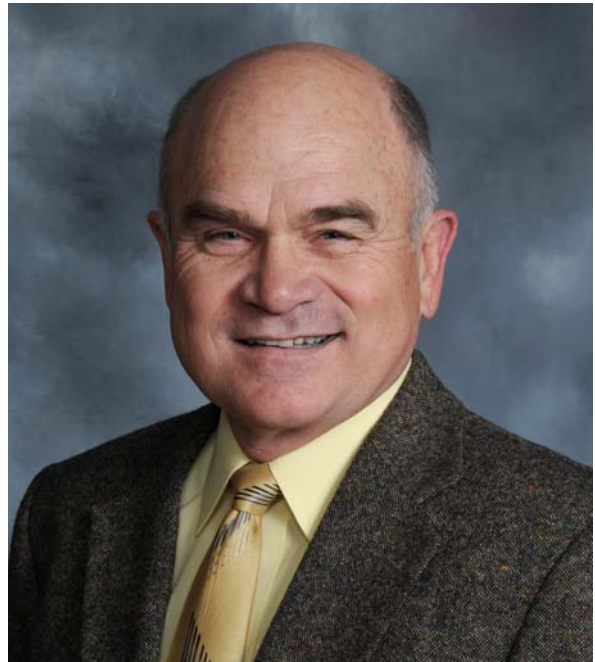
AAVI has also continued to be successful in competing for funds to sponsor student and junior faculty travel to veterinary immunology-related meetings. This year, due to the concerted efforts of Gina Pighetti, Joan Lunney, and Carol Chitko-McKown, AAVI was awarded \$20,000 from the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) to fund travel stipends for individuals attending the 9<sup>th</sup> *International Veterinary Immunology Symposium* (<http://9th-ivis.jtbcom.co.jp/>), held in Tokyo, Japan.

Finally, it is my honor to announce that Dr. Frank Blecha, who is currently the Associate Dean for Research and Head of the Department of Anatomy and Physiology in the College of Veterinary Medicine at Kansas State University, has been selected as this year's Distinguished Veterinary Immunologist (DVI). Dr. Blecha will be presented with a plaque and deliver the keynote lecture of the Immunology Section of the CRWAD meeting on Monday, December 6, 2010, at the Chicago Marriott Downtown Magnificent Mile in Chicago, IL. I would like to extend my appreciation to David Hurley and the rest of the Nominations Committee for all of their efforts in soliciting nominees for this year's award.

As I finish out my term as President, I would like to thank the membership for entrusting me with a leadership position during the past one and a half years. I have the highest confidence that my successor, Gary Splitter, will continue to move AAVI forward and be an exemplary steward of the organization.

-- Doug Bannerman

## 2010 Distinguished Veterinary Immunologist: Dr. Frank Blecha



### **Congratulations to Dr. Frank Blecha selected as the 2010 AAVI Distinguished Veterinary Immunologist.**

Congratulations to Dr. Frank Blecha on his selection as AAVI's 2010 Distinguished Veterinary Immunologist (DVI). The AAVI DVI award is intended to honor individuals for their outstanding contribution to the field of veterinary immunology. Recipients are individuals whose contributions are widely acknowledged as significant and important to the understanding of the immunology of domestic and/or wild animals. The award recognizes all specialties of veterinary immunology and is open to members and non-members of AAVI.

This year's recipient, Dr. Frank Blecha, is a University Distinguished Professor at Kansas State University in Manhattan, Kansas where he is the Associate Dean for Research and Head of the Department of Anatomy and Physiology in the College of Veterinary Medicine. He earned his bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Idaho and his doctorate from Washington State University in Pullman, Washington. His research is focused on the interrelationship of immunology and

physiology, and regulatory mechanisms involved in innate immunity. He has authored 139 refereed publications, 24 book chapters, more than 200 abstracts, and four U.S. patents.

Dr. Blecha's studies on the immune system have been supported by grants from the NIH, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the American Heart Association. His expertise has been recognized by invitations to serve on several USDA and NIH study sections and advisory panels. He has held leadership positions in a number of national and international organizations, including the American Association of Immunologists, and the American Association of Veterinary Immunologists. He serves on several journal Editorial Boards in his areas of interest.

Dr. Blecha's primary research interest is in immunology and host-pathogen interactions. A current focus is on the isolation and characterization of antimicrobial peptides and antiviral cytokines. Although most studies on antimicrobial peptides usually have focused on bacterial and fungal killing, these host defense peptides have antiviral properties and other nonmicrobicidal functions that mitigate viral infection. A current major interest in Dr. Blecha's lab is focused on understanding the interactions between antimicrobial peptides, antiviral cytokines, viruses, and pattern recognition receptors.

Dr. Blecha will receive the DVI award and give a presentation on his research at the Immunology Section of the annual Conference of Research Workers in Animal Diseases (CRWAD), in Chicago, Illinois on Monday, December 6, 2010.

## **AAVI/ACVM Symposium 2010 "Emerging and Re-Emerging Zoonotic Pathogens"**

**Sunday December 5, 2010, 1:30-5 PM  
Chicago, Illinois**

[prior to the CRWAD meetings]

### **Co-organizers:**

Paul Coussens, Michigan State University  
Christopher C. L. Chase, South Dakota State University

### **Schedule of Speakers**

The AAVI/ACVM Symposium will take place again in 2010 in conjunction with the Conference for Research Workers in Animal Disease meeting in Chicago, IL. The symposium will run from 1:30pm to 5:00pm on Sunday December 5th. This year, the AAVI/ACVM symposium will focus on emerging and re-emerging pathogens. The program begins with an overview presentation by Dr. Richard Bowen (CSU), followed by a presentation on arboviruses from Dr. Tom Ksiazek (UTMB). After a short break we will hear from Dr. Ray Waters (NADC) on bovine tuberculosis and from Juergen Richt (KSU) on swine influenza. The scientific program will be followed by a panel discussion. There is no USDA Project Directors meeting this year, so we are looking forward to a great turnout from AAVI and ACVM members as well as many others.

### **Secretary/Treasurer's Note**

The annual AAVI meeting, will again be held at Bucca di Beppo's, across from the Marriott at Rush and Grand streets. Watch for additional announcements for more specifics from Gina Pighetti.



## **Notes from the AAVI Awards Committee**

Submitted by Carol Chitko-McKown, AAVI  
Awards Chair

### **AAVI Junior Scientist Travel Stipends for the 9<sup>th</sup> International Veterinary Immunology Symposium in Tokyo, Japan**

The American Association of Veterinary Immunologists (AAVI) was once again successful in obtaining funding from the United States Department of Agriculture – National Institute of Food and Agriculture (USDA-NIFA) to support travel awards to the 9<sup>th</sup> International Veterinary Symposium (9<sup>th</sup> IVIS). Applicants were required to submit a copy of their abstract as well as a letter of support from their major advisor or Department Head. One M.S. student, two Ph.D. students, one postdoctoral fellow, and two Assistant Professors were awarded six stipends of \$2,000 each.

The winners of the 2010 Junior Scientist Travel Awards are Mr. Eric Pringle, M.S. student with Dr. Patricia Shewen at the Ontario Veterinary College, University of Guelph, Ontario; Ms. Katerina Zelena, Ph.D. student with Dr. Marek Sinkora at the Institute of Microbiology, Academy of Science of the Czech Republic; Ms. Subramaniam Renuka, Ph.D. student with Dr. S. Srikumaran at Washington State University; Dr. Heloisa Rutigliano, postdoctoral fellow with Dr. Christopher Davies at Utah State University; Dr. Bettina Wagner, Assistant Professor at Cornell University; and Dr. Renukaradhya Gourapura, Assistant Professor at The Ohio State University.

The winners presented their research during the Symposium which was held August 16 – 20, 2010. Special thanks go out to AAVI Secretary-Treasurer Dr. Gina Pighetti for all of her hard work that resulted in the funding from USDA-NIFA.

## **AAVI Graduate Student Presentation Competition at CRWAD 2010**

Once again, the American Association of Veterinary Immunologists (AAVI) will be sponsoring their yearly student presentation competition at the annual CRWAD meeting, December 5 – 7, 2010. As was initiated at last year's competition, awards for the best student oral presentations will be \$500, \$250, and \$100 for the first, second and third place presentations, respectively. Awards for the first and second place poster presentations will be \$350 and \$150, respectively. The third place student poster presenter will be awarded membership in the AAVI for 2011, as will all other winners in the competition.

Some helpful hints for contestants: please refer to back issues of the AAVI newsletter for copies of the judging forms used during the competition. The judges really do keep track of time – it's much better to be a little under and have time for questions than to be over and not have time for any. Be sure your lab-mates and advisors sit in while you practice – they will be able to catch errors on your slides/posters, and can suggest sections where you might need better explanations. Can your colleagues read your slides/poster? If they can't, the judges sure can't! Too much information on a poster really can be a bad thing. We know you've done a great deal of work, but some of it may just have to wait for another occasion to show off. Sometimes, less IS more! Dress for success – this is a professional meeting and is your time to shine. And finally, be courteous to everyone in your audience. You may not know who the judge is.

If anyone is interested in helping judge the competition, please email me at the address below. Being on the judging committee is a nice addition to your CV, and gives you a great chance to mingle with the younger members of our society.

See you in Chicago!

[Carol.chitkomckown@ars.usda.gov](mailto:Carol.chitkomckown@ars.usda.gov)

## Teaching Tools

By Gary Splitter

Want to wow your students about the role of eosinophils in killing extracellular bacteria? The following article appeared in Nature Medicine.

Summary: Yousefi *et al.* reveal a new function of eosinophils and suggest they have an antibacterial role in the gut. The cells fire spurts of mitochondrial DNA and granule proteins in response to infection, entrapping and killing the extracellular bacteria.

[Catapult-like release of mitochondrial DNA by eosinophils contributes to antibacterial defense.](#)

Yousefi S, Gold JA, Andina N, Lee JJ, Kelly AM, Kozlowski E, Schmid I, Straumann A, Reichenbach J, Gleich GJ, Simon HU. *Nat Med.* 2008 Sep;14(9):949-53

### Abstract

Although eosinophils are considered useful in defense mechanisms against parasites, their exact function in innate immunity remains unclear. The aim of this study is to better understand the role of eosinophils within the gastrointestinal immune system. We show here that lipopolysaccharide from Gram-negative bacteria activates interleukin-5 (IL-5)- or interferon- $\gamma$ -primed eosinophils to release mitochondrial DNA in a reactive oxygen species-dependent manner, but independent of eosinophil death. Notably, the process of DNA release occurs rapidly in a catapult-like manner—in less than one second. In the extracellular space, the mitochondrial DNA and the granule proteins form extracellular structures able to bind and kill bacteria both in vitro and under inflammatory conditions in vivo. Moreover, after cecal ligation and puncture, IL5-transgenic but not wild-type mice show intestinal eosinophil infiltration and extracellular DNA deposition in association with protection against microbial sepsis. These data suggest a previously undescribed mechanism of eosinophil-mediated innate immune responses that might be crucial for maintaining the intestinal barrier function after

inflammation-associated epithelial cell damage, preventing the host from uncontrolled invasion of bacteria.

Check out Movie #4 at

[http://www.nature.com/nm/journal/v14/n9/supinfo/nm.1855\\_S1.html](http://www.nature.com/nm/journal/v14/n9/supinfo/nm.1855_S1.html)

If you have a teaching tool that you would like to share through this newsletter, contact: Susan.Eicher@ars.usda.gov.

## Joining or Posting on the Vetimm Listserve

Joining and posting on the listserv: to send a message just email to [vetimm@vasci.umass.edu](mailto:vetimm@vasci.umass.edu).

To let colleagues know how to subscribe or to change your own subscription (i.e. when you get a new email address) go to the following web page: <http://list.umass.edu/mailman/listinfo/vetimm>

## Up-Coming Meetings

**Conference for Research Workers in Animal Diseases (CRWAD)**, December 5-7, 2010, Chicago Marriott Downtown Magnificent Mile.

<http://www.cvmbs.colostate.edu/mip/crwad/index.htm>

## AAVI BALLOT 2010

Thank you to the nominating committee and all members who agreed to be considered for service to the association. I have attached the ballot for 2010. To help in your decision, brief biographies and vision statements are available for candidates who submitted them. Please mark an XX in the space provided next to your choice(s) and return the ballot to the current president Doug Bannerman (doug.bannerman@va.gov) before **October 31, 2010**. Please return your ballots via email – copy paste in or as an attachment. Thank you!

### Vice President (vote for 1):

Carol Chitko-McKown, USDA-ARS \_\_\_\_\_

Ernie Minton, Kansas State University \_\_\_\_\_

### Secretary-Treasurer (vote for 1):

Waithaka Mwangi, Texas A&M University \_\_\_\_\_

Gina Pighetti, University of Tennessee \_\_\_\_\_

### Board Member (vote for 1):

Radhey Kaushik, South Dakota State \_\_\_\_\_

Matt Sylte, University of Georgia \_\_\_\_\_

Bettina Wagner, Cornell University \_\_\_\_\_

### Nominations Committee (vote for 2):

Robert Gogal, University of Georgia \_\_\_\_\_

Julia Flaminio, Cornell University \_\_\_\_\_

Susan Lamont, Iowa State University \_\_\_\_\_

Bonnie Mallard, University of Guelph \_\_\_\_\_

Katherine Petersson, University of Rhode Island \_\_\_\_\_

Amelia Woolums, University of Georgia \_\_\_\_\_

## Nominee Statements

Candidates were given the opportunity to write brief biographies and their vision or statement of intent if elected into the position for which they have been nominated.

### Vice President

#### *Carol Chitko-McKown*

Research Microbiologist (Immunologist), Animal Health Research Unit, USDA-ARS US Meat Animal Research Center, Clay Center, Nebraska

Bio – I am a native of New Jersey and received a B.S. in Animal Science from Rutgers University in 1983 followed by a M.S. in Animal Breeding and Genetics from Oregon State University in 1986. In 1991, I obtained a Ph.D. in Immunophysiology from Kansas State University in the lab of Dr. Frank Blecha where I studied intravascular macrophages in food animal species. I received a Cancer Research Institute Fellowship to study interactions between HIV and macrophages at the Seattle Biomedical Research Institute from 1992 – 1993, followed by a position as post-doctoral associate at Texas A & M University. In 1996, I became an Assistant Research Scientist in the Department of Veterinary Pathobiology. I joined ARS in 1998 as a Research Microbiologist in the Animal Health Research Unit at MARC where my research focuses on the role of the innate immune response in food animals – with particular emphasis on respiratory disease. Other efforts in my laboratory are aimed at the development of cell lines for use in food animal research.

Statement of Intent - The American Association of Veterinary Immunologists has played an important role in my development as a scientist. As a graduate student, the society provided numerous opportunities to mingle with the “big names” in veterinary immunology, as well as meet other students with similar interests – some of which continue to be my collaborators to this day. As Chair of the AAVI Student Awards Committee, I have had the satisfaction of interacting with today’s graduate students and young scientists and hope that I am providing the mentoring that I received from

this group. As Vice-President, I would like to maintain and improve the ongoing relationship AAVI has with AAI and other immunology societies as well as reach out to our brethren in animal science and production. For too long, health and production have been viewed as mutually exclusive areas and a more holistic approach should be attempted by researchers, an approach that some of our society are already taking. Increased outreach and interaction can only help strengthen our small but vibrant organization.

#### *J. Ernest (Ernie) Minton*

Professor, Animal Science, Associate Director, Kansas Agricultural Experiment Station, Kansas State University

Bio – I obtained a PhD in endocrine physiology from Oklahoma State University in 1983. That year, I joined the faculty in Animal Sciences and Industry at Kansas State University. In 2008, I assumed an administrative position as Associate Director of the Kansas Agricultural Experiment Station. Prior to my current assignment, my research was focused on stress-immune interactions in the pig, including a focus on the role of gut epithelial cells in immune interaction with pathogens, principally *Salmonella enterica* serovars Typhimurium and Choleraesuis.

Statement of Intent – The objectives of the American Association of Veterinary Immunologists remind us what the business of the society is about. Those objective are: “...to expand scientific knowledge in the specialty of veterinary immunology by strengthening education in immunology at all levels of veterinary education; to improve and standardize laboratory methods and clinical diagnosis of diseases associated with the immune system; to improve communications with immunologists in the biomedical community; to further the recognition of the specialty of veterinary immunology; and to promote research in immunology of domestic animals.” Obviously, the leadership role of the vice-president and subsequently the roles as president-elect, president and immediate past-president should support these objectives. I have gained valuable leadership experience in my (relatively) new administrative

role and I'm willing to share that experience in support of leadership and service to promote and further the objectives of AAVI.

### **Secretary-Treasurer**

*Waithaka Mwangi*

Assistant Professor, Veterinary Pathobiology Texas A&M University

Bio - Research focuses on methods to improve vaccine efficacy in livestock and humans. Studies are primarily directed at optimizing *in vivo* antigen presentation by dendritic cells following immunization using DNA and live vaccines. Evaluating defined dendritic cell activation factors for their potency in enhancing vaccine immunogenicity in an outbred species model is ongoing for adjuvant development. Strategies for induction and maintenance of memory cellular immune responses in outbred species are also being evaluated. We are interested in defining key molecular processes involved in the development and regulation of innate immunity in an outbred species model and the influence of these processes on the development of adaptive immune responses to gain knowledge needed for adjuvant development. Interaction between dendritic cells and food animal pathogens, especially zoonotic, is an area under development and is expected to define correlates of protection needed for vaccine design. Major efforts are directed at generating efficacious vaccines for induction of protection against Bovine Viral Diarrhea Virus (BVDV) in neonates, and development of cross-protective vaccine against Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome Virus (PRRSV).

Statement of Intent - AAVI efforts in advancing veterinary immunology are commendable but we are faced by many challenges. Efforts are needed to reverse the trends in funding environment to support more junior faculty in vet schools to work on vet interests and I believe that AAVI can play a role in this area by encouraging members to petition their congressmen and women. I believe that AAVI should continue supporting generation of relevant tools and outbred animal models needed for dissecting immune mechanisms and product testing.

I believe that AAVI has a great opportunity to recruit new members and foster collaborations.

*Gina M Pighetti*

Associate Professor, Department of Animal Science, University of Tennessee

Bio – I obtained a PhD in pathobiology from Penn State University in 1998 where I studied the influence of oxidant stress on T lymphocyte function. During my post-doctoral research, I examined the links between breast cancer and fat metabolism at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center. In 2001, I joined the Animal Science faculty at the University of Tennessee. My research has focused on identifying mechanisms linked to mastitis susceptibility in dairy cows. We have identified a marker in the CXCR1 gene associated with mastitis resistance in cows with certain markers. Our current research uses this as a model system to identify immune responses by neutrophils, T lymphocytes, and epithelial cells that promote greater resistance and will provide insight to the mechanisms which should be targeted for improving mastitis resistance the general dairy population.

Statement of Intent – I have had the pleasure of serving as the AAVI's secretary – treasurer for the past 3 years. This position forms the heart of the organization by maintaining contact with its current and future members, collecting funds to help support our goals, helping submit and deliver travel grants to our bright, young scientists. Over the past few years, we have made a few changes, such as online dues payment and moving the business luncheon to Bucca di Beppo's, both of which have been great successes. I would enjoy the opportunity to continue making improvements that help our organization move forward and meet its goals of educating the public and veterinary immunology community in the newest advances in our fields, and supporting our future young scientists.

## Board members

*Radhey Shyam Kaushik*

Associate Professor of Microbiology and Immunology, South Dakota State University, Brookings, SD, USA

Bio -- I started my journey in the field of Veterinary Medicine by pursuing an undergraduate and a Master's degree in Veterinary Sciences from Haryana Agricultural University, Hisar, India in 1985 and 1988 respectively. Following my veterinary training, I practiced as a field veterinarian in India for six years which primarily involved treating food and laboratory animals for various illnesses. Fortunately in a national completion I was awarded Canadian Commonwealth Scholarship for pursuing a Ph.D. program in 'Veterinary Immunology' at University of Saskatchewan, Canada. I completed Ph.D. program in 1998 and my Ph.D. research was focused on studying the role of macrophages in African bovine trypanosomiasis. Following Ph.D. program I worked for four years as a post-doctoral fellow at 'Vaccine and Infectious Disease Organization' (VIDO), Canada and during this tenure my research was mainly focused in the area of mucosal immunity of food animals. In 2003, I joined as an Assistant Professor of Microbiology and Immunology at South Dakota State University (SDSU) and currently working as Associate Professor at the same institution. My main assignment at SDSU includes teaching Microbiology and Immunology classes to both undergraduate and graduate students. My present research is focused on studying the role of intestinal epithelial cells and innate immune responses in intestinal mucosal immunity of food animals with special emphasis on enterotoxigenic E. coli (ETEC) infections of pigs.

Statement of Intent -- I have been the active member of American Association of Veterinary Immunologists (AAVI) since 2007 and regularly attended AAVI business meetings held in Chicago along with CRWAD meetings. These meetings provided me the opportunity to personally meet and interact with my Veterinary Immunology colleagues and foster the scientific collaborations. I also came

to know the missions and mandates of AAVI during these meetings. One of the most important missions of AAVI is to train, inspire and support the young students and scientists in the field of Veterinary Immunology. One of the concern during these meetings had been the decreasing membership of AAVI especially the young students and scientists. Another important national concern had been the decreasing research funding for the Veterinary Immunology in the USDA and other funding agencies. This may severely affect the future of Veterinary Immunology research at various levels. It is very important to raise these concerns in a timely manner and approach the funding agencies through AAVI. One of the important objectives of AAVI had been to promote and support the development of various immunological reagents for veterinary species in order to enhance the research in the field of Veterinary Immunology. I applaud AAVI efforts in this regard. I fully support the efforts of AAVI in promoting and supporting the field of Veterinary Immunology at various levels and am ready to provide my services and contribution in the coming years to various missions and mandates of AAVI.

*Matt J. Sylte*

University of Georgia – Department of Infectious Diseases (College of Veterinary Medicine)

Bio - I received both a BA in microbiology in 1992, and doctor of veterinary medicine in 1996 from Kansas State University. I received a Ph.D. in veterinary immunology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 2002, under the supervision of Dr. Charles Czuprynski. Afterwards, I was a post-doctoral researcher in the laboratory of Dr. Lorraine Sordillo at Penn State and Michigan State University. In 2004, I became an ACVM diplomate, certified in immunology. From 2005-2007, I was a microbiologist at the Southeast Poultry Research Laboratory (USDA ARS) working with vaccine development for highly pathogenic avian influenza in chickens. In 2007, I joined the department of infectious diseases in college of veterinary medicine at the University of Georgia as a research assistant scientist. My research interests include examining host responses to microorganisms, comparative

immunology and vaccine development and efficacy testing.

Statement of Intent - I am honored to be considered as a candidate for the AAVI nominating committee, and look forward to serving the organization and addressing the vital issue of maintaining a strong board with the vision of growth. The AAVI board should be a diverse mixture of veterinary immunologists at different stages of their careers. I recommend that there is a campaign to increase membership from underrepresented backgrounds (e.g., industry and government).

### **Nomination Committee**

*M. Julia B. Felipe*

Associate Professor of Medicine, Cornell University  
College of Veterinary Medicine

Bio – I obtained a DVM-degree from Universidade de Sao Paulo-UNESP Botucatu, Brazil (1989), a MS-degree in Veterinary Science from Kansas State University (1997), and a PhD-degree in Immunology (2002) from Cornell University. I am board certified in large animal internal medicine. I currently hold an academic appointment as Associate Professor of Medicine at Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine. The major thrust of my research and training has been in the study of equine clinical immunology, particularly the development of the immune system of the equine fetus and neonate/foal, and immunodeficiencies. I oversee a clinical immunology laboratory specialized in immunologic testing for horses. My research is funded by the National Institutes of Health and other foundations, and I collaborate with projects on bovine and canine health topics funded by USDA.

Statement of Intent – I am ready to become more integrated with the AAVI and its mission. I believe my participation in the Nominating Committee will provide an opportunity to become familiar with the structure of the AAVI. I am interested in helping to promote the field of clinical immunology and make it more applicable and accessible to veterinary

students and practitioners; and promote their involvement with AAVI. I also believe we should create mechanisms for collaborative networks in order to advance research programs and avoid duplication of efforts.

*Robert M. Gogal Jr.*

Associate Professor, Clinical Immunology and Developmental Immunotoxicology, College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Georgia

Bio -- I have had the unique privilege to teach immunology in the veterinary curriculum for the past 16 years, medical immunology for 4 years and undergraduate and graduate immunology for 4 years. I have also enjoyed teaching basic and clinical immunology for the Veterinary Information Network (VIN) these last 8 years. I work hard to keep my fingers on the pulse of our profession while striving to enhance the learning environment of my students and peers. I have come to appreciate that possessing strong collaborative, teamwork and communication skills are important qualities for success in any organization. My research focus has been in the fields of environmental immunotoxicology and autoimmunity for approximately 18 years. During this period, I have studied the effects of numerous environmental contaminants on the immune system during development and through adult life, with a heavy focus on endocrine disruptors. One unique area of strength that I possess, based on my veterinary training, is my diverse experience across numerous animal models facilitating numerous funding and publication opportunities. An additional strength that I bring to my research and veterinary immunology teaching is my past training and professional work experience as a medical technologist in clinical immunology for 6 years in which I learned the importance of good technique and quality control assessments. I have applied this knowledge to the studies we have conducted and trained my staff and students accordingly. Through collaborations with others, I have also been able to branch out in different areas of research. Recent work conducted in my laboratory with TCDD has shown a clear correlation between the consequences of prenatal exposure to this toxicant and the adult onset of immune dysregulation manifested as an

autoimmune-mediated disease. We are now beginning to decipher the cell signaling pathways associated with this disease.

Statement of Intent -- To summarize, I have achieved a diverse teaching record in immunology and a solid record in collaborative and independent research encompassing a wide variety of veterinary and exotic species. I believe that I can provide useful insight and experience if nominated. It would be an honor to be considered for a position within the veterinary immunology community.

*Susan J. Lamont*

C. F. Curtiss Distinguished Professor, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Iowa State University

Bio -- I have over three decades of experience in veterinary immunology, especially with poultry. My specific research interests include elucidating host genetic control of immune responses to a wide variety of pathogens. In recent years, my lab's focus has been on determining the molecular genetic basis of resistance to colonization with food-safety bacteria. We use unique poultry resource populations, combined with contemporary technologies in immunology, genetics and genomics, to generate knowledge that supports the development of tools to enhance animal health and food safety.

Statement of intent -- I strongly believe that research addressing important scientific problems is transdisciplinary, integrative, translational and highly collaborative. These are values incorporated into my own program, as well as ones that I would support in AAVI. I also believe that many of our scientific advances are closely tied to pushing back the limits of knowledge by applying technological advances to the study of a wide range of species. Thus, in veterinary immunology, we have tremendous opportunities to integrate our understanding of the biology of the whole animal with the insights gained by detailed, molecular analysis. I have had the opportunity to be involved in many professional activities over my career, including research grant panel membership and management; organizing national and international

scientific conferences; and scientific journal board service. These activities have allowed me to appreciate and network with a wide variety of scientists with interests related to veterinary immunology. I hope to use my experience to the benefit of AAVI on the Nominating Committee.

*Bonnie A. Mallard*

Professor of Immunogenetics, Department of Pathobiology, Ontario Veterinary College, University of Guelph

Bio -- I am currently a Professor of Immunogenetics, Dept Pathobiology, Ontario Veterinary College, at the University of Guelph and also Adjunct Professor, Dept of Biology at the University of Sherbrooke, in Sherbrooke, Quebec. My area of expertise is genetic regulation of immune response and disease resistance, particularly as it applies to food-producing animals. I received a B.Sc. Agr. (Animal Science), an M.Sc. (Quantitative Genetics and Animal Breeding), and a PhD. (Immunogenetics) from the University of Guelph. As a faculty member, I have received a variety of awards, including the Pfizer Award for Research Excellence, the Premiers Research Excellence Award (1 of 11 nominees from Guelph), several Merit Awards from the University of Guelph and been a Canada Research Chair Nominee. My primary academic activities include running an active research program in the areas of Immunogenetics and Xenotransplantation. Patents have been issued for our work on developing methods for detecting high-low immune responsiveness in domestic animals, as well a method for vaccine design against A. Pleuropneumonia of pigs. My teaching responsibilities include lecturing in undergraduate immunology, graduate immunology, and medical genetics. I have tried to effectively transmit the results of our research program through the training of highly qualified personnel and publication in referred journals, abstracts and presentations at scientific meetings and book chapters. In addition, I have been involved with a number of scientific and industrial organizations including the editorial board of Animal Biotechnology, the scientific advisory board of Semex Alliance Canada, offering expertise to the European Expert Panel on Disease

Control and recently participating in the Mastitis Expert Panel in Holland.

Statement of Intent -- I am fully committed to the AAVI mandate as it continues to champion veterinary immunology not only in North America, but around the globe, and to the training and inspiration of the next generation of veterinary immunologists. I would look forward to again serving the AAVI on the Nominating Committee.

Amelia Woolums  
University of Georgia

Bio -- My interest in veterinary immunology began when I learned as a resident that a calf I was managing which died unexpectedly of bovine respiratory syncytial virus infection likely did so at least in part because of an immunopathogenic response to the virus. Today I work as a clinician in the Large Animal Teaching Hospital at the University of Georgia and try to keep a research program afloat with the aim of better understanding how the immune response to bovine respiratory infection contributes to disease or recovery. Current areas of focus for the lab include evaluation of the immune response to vaccines against bovine respiratory disease, and evaluation of the effects of airway epithelial cells on immune responses to respiratory infection.

Statement of Intent -- AAVI has impressed me with the support it provides for veterinary immunologists by serving as a central source for information and educational opportunities related to veterinary immunology, and by advocating for veterinary immunology in the larger biomedical community. The friendly and welcoming nature of the membership as directed toward grad students and young scientists is also noteworthy. In a time when it can be difficult to find resources to continue research, support from colleagues as we all use work toward better understanding how to advance and promote the science of animal health is more necessary than ever. I would be happy to serve on the nomination committee to help AAVI identify candidates that will work well in various offices to advance the mission of the organization.

## AAVI Officers and Committee Members 2010

### **2009 AAVI Officers and Board**

**President:** Doug Bannerman, Department of Veterans Affairs, [douglas.bannerman@va.gov](mailto:douglas.bannerman@va.gov)

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Philip Griebel (2012), Vaccine and Infectious Disease Organization, [philip.griebel@usask.ca](mailto:philip.griebel@usask.ca)

Lorraine Sordillo (2013), Michigan State University, [sordillo@msu.edu](mailto:sordillo@msu.edu)

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Dave Benfield (2011), Ohio State University, [benfield.2@osu.edu](mailto:benfield.2@osu.edu)

Isis Mullarky (2011), Virginia Tech, [mullarky@vt.edu](mailto:mullarky@vt.edu)

Joan Lunney (2012), BARC, ARS, USDA, [Joan.Lunney@ars.usda.gov](mailto:Joan.Lunney@ars.usda.gov)

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Paul Coussens, Michigan State University, [coussens@msu.edu](mailto:coussens@msu.edu)

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