

# American Association of Veterinary Immunologists

Newsletter

*Spring 2023*



## A Brief Message from AAVI President: Laura Miller

I am honored to have your support as President for AAVI in 2023. As President-elect this past year, I witnessed the ability of the officers, board, and members to overcome obstacles and the ever-changing environment of institutions and electronic challenges. Regardless, we have remained true to a primary premise of the organization to support student attendance and participation in our annual meeting as well as national (AAI) and international (IVIS) veterinary immunology and immunology meetings.

### 2023 Board

#### President

Laura Miller

#### President Elect

Leela Noronha

#### Vice President

Sheela Ramamoorthy

#### Past President

Jodi McGill

#### Secretary

Heather Wilson

#### Treasurer

Angel Abuelo Sebio

#### Nominations Chair

Tobias Kaeser

I would like to welcome the new and returning members of the AAVI board: Sheela Ramamoorthy, North Dakota State University, as Vice-President; Leela Noronha, USDA-NBAF, rotates to President-Elect; with Pooja Choudhary, University of Saskatchewan, and Waithaka Mwangi, Kansas State University, joining the nominations committee. Randy Sacco steps down as Past President and Chair of the Constitution/By-Laws Committee to be assumed by Jodi McGill. Thank you to Tobias Kaiser for continuing to chair the Nominations Committee, and to Heather Wilson and Angel Abuelo Sebio continuing as officers in the roles of Secretary and Treasurer, respectively. Additionally, thank you to Addie Boettcher, newsletter editor, and Crystal Loving, website editor for their services. We will be seeking a newsletter editor in the future and would like to thank Carol Chitko-McKown for filling in for the interim.

We had a full house for the AAVI business luncheon provided by the Grande Luxe Café, - thank you to Heather Wilson and Angel Abuelo Sebio for organizing this. At the business meeting the general membership voted upon allowing electronic communications and

voting. This will speed up our amendment process for the constitution and by-laws as we update into the electronic age. Expect more votes and surveys and information coming from the AAVI board.



Other business items presented at the Grand Luxe were the presentation of plaques to the Past-President, Jodi McGill,



for her leadership and service, and to the Distinguished Veterinary Immunologist, Amelia Woolums, for outstanding contributions and achievements in veterinary immunology. We are grateful for the financial support by the American Association of Immunologists (AAI) for the Distinguished Veterinary Immunologist (DVI) award for the tenth consecutive year. AAVI has presented a Distinguished Veterinary Immunologist award each year since 1988. Additionally, we continue to collaborate with the AAI-VIC committee in development,



funding, and presentations of the AAI-VIC/AAVI symposium at the annual AAI meetings. I look forward to seeing many of you at Immunology2023 and IVIS2023. More details on both these meetings, as well as the Bill Davis symposium, and available travel stipends in this newsletter.



Our Immunology mini-symposium began Tuesday morning with our Distinguished Veterinary Immunologist (DVI) Dr. Amelia Woolums from the College of Veterinary Medicine at Mississippi State University, on her selected theme “Applied research to enhance resistance to respiratory disease in livestock”,



followed by Dr. Rahul Nelli from Iowa State University presenting his 3D cell-culture systems (air-liquid interface respiratory cells and intestinal mini-guts) in different veterinary species. Following the break, Dr. Noah Cohen from Texas A & M University presented on strategies for preventing Rhodococcal Foal Pneumonia, co-sponsored by the Veterinary Clinical and Comparative Immunology Society (VCCIS). Our final featured speaker was Dr. Erica Spackman from the US National Poultry Research Center who presented on highly pathogenic avian influenza.

Along with our Immunology symposium we had the AAVI student competition as part of the CRWAD program sponsored by AAI and chaired by Jodi McGill. A full report later in this newsletter. Congratulations to the winners and thank you to the judges and Jodi for volunteering.

Another set of AAVI winners: Laurel Gershwin, Carol Chitko-McKown, Joan Lunney, and Pat Shewen, were honored as 2023 Fellows of the Conference of Research Workers in Animal Diseases. A large proportion of the CRWAD Fellows have served in AAVI and/or have been elected as AAVI DVI. Fellows are recognized for their distinguished research career, ability to communicate and interpret science to stakeholders and the public, and significant contributions to scientific literature in animal health and disease, population health, and translational medicine.



It was so wonderful to have a large number attend our spontaneous AAVI mixer at Crushed by Giants. I think it will be something we will continue. CRWAD is a great opportunity to come together as a community, to support each other and the next generation of veterinary immunologists.

Welcome to all and we will work together to provide timely and prudent guidance for the organization. To all members, this is your organization, so I encourage comments to the officers and board members for our consideration. I look forward to a productive and successful year.

## Secretary's Note

*Heather Wilson, Secretary*

Thank you to everyone who attended the AAVI luncheon at the Grand Lux at the CRWAD conference this year. We had double the number of participants this year over last year. Thank you to Angel Abuelo Sebio and Crystal Loving who helped set up the Paypal link and Pooja Choudhary and Angel for greeting everyone at the desk. My continued role will involve ensuring our members receive ballots for elections posted by the board members and I will be the contact person for membership fees. Any voting taking place will be performed electronically and will automatically tally votes. Stay tuned as we try out this new-fangled technology!

I look forward to seeing you at CRWAD next year (Jan 19-23, 2024), Chicago Marriott Downtown Magnificent Mile, Chicago, USA). Please note that the AAVI session will be held SUNDAY MORNING (yet to be confirmed) as the CRWAD schedule is a rotating one.

(<http://www.theaavi.org/membership--newsletter.html>).

## Treasurer's Report

*Angel Abuela Sebio, AAVI Treasurer*

The association is in good financial health. The bank account balance at the beginning and end of 2022 was \$26,503.76 and \$26,015.03, respectively. Last year was unusual in that we did not have a CRWAD conference in December 2022 and instead moved it ahead 1 month to January 2023. This timeline change resulted in some income associated with the 2021 meeting reaching the account in 2021 but some expenses being paid in 2022 (e.g., student awards, luncheon). This should be an

exceptional circumstance as CRWAD will take place in January for the next 5 years. Overall, AAVI's income during 2022 totaled \$4,070.00 and expenses (e.g., website maintenance, PayPal fees, student awards, etc.) accounted for \$5,047.39. The treasurer would like to acknowledge and thank Allan Young for his assistance in maintaining AAVI's non-profit status.

## 2023 AAVI Distinguished Veterinary Immunologist: Dr. Amelia Woolums

*"Applied research to enhance resistance to  
respiratory disease in livestock"*



Amelia Woolums received her DVM in 1988 from Purdue University. She then completed an internship at Kansas State University, a residency at the University of Saskatchewan, and a PhD at the University of California at Davis, where she studied cell-mediated immune responses to bovine respiratory syncytial virus (BRSV) infection and vaccination. Dr. Woolums is a diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine and the American College of Veterinary Microbiologists. She is a professor in the

Department of Pathobiology and Population Medicine in the College of Veterinary Medicine at Mississippi State University, where she has clinical teaching and service responsibilities, and conducts research on innate and adaptive immune responses related to bovine respiratory disease resistance

## Upcoming Meetings



The IVIS2023 Organising Committee (IVIS2023.org) is very pleased to announce the rescheduled dates for the 13th International Veterinary Immunology Symposium (IVIS). As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the 13th IVIS, originally planned for August 2022, will now be held from 17-21 November 2023 at Kruger Park as a satellite meeting of the [18th IUIS International Congress of Immunology](#).

The Kruger Park and surrounding rural areas are emblematic of both the opportunities and threats that co-exist at the interface of human societies, their domestic animals, free-living wildlife, and the environments that they inhabit. In a context of global change, sustainably improved livestock systems and disease control are essential for not only the commercial livestock trade, but also for subsistence farming, food safety and security, human wellbeing, and the biodiversity conservation of ecologically and economically important ecosystems. In this spirit, the IVIS 2023 will address the challenging research issues raised for veterinary science in a One World – One Health perspective.

The IVIS 2023 will bring together experts from across the globe to share most exciting results and insights in the field of veterinary science and immunology, including biological

mechanisms underlying host-pathogen interactions and specificities, vaccine and therapeutic strategies, innate and protective immunity, disease diagnosis and control, reagent and methodological developments. This will be an opportunity for delegates from all involved sectors to engage with leaders in the field and network in the comfort of a state-of-the-art conference facility situated in the heart of one of Africa's iconic game reserves. We've secured funding from numerous entities in support of the meeting, including BMGF. We look forward to you joining us!

Please sign up for the IVIS2023 newsletter to stay informed of important dates and information. <https://ivis2023.org/contact-us/>

## Immunology 2023

May 11-25, Washington, D.C.

Immunological Approaches to  
(Re)emerging and Global Zoonotic  
Threats

*Sponsored by the AAI Veterinary Immunology  
Committee Friday May 12, 12:30pm*

Chair

- Janice C. Telfer, Univ. of Massachusetts, Amherst, AAI Veterinary Immunology Committee Chair

Speakers

- Rudra Channappanavar, Oklahoma State Univ. Col. of Vet. Med.
- Joan Lunney, USDA, ARS
- Bronwyn M. Gunn, Washington State Univ. Col. of Vet. Med.

## Upcoming Symposia



### AAVI 2024 Mini Symposium

Sunday, January 21, 2024, Morning Session  
(exact times to be announced)

The topic will be: "Inflammation and Disease:  
Tempering the Sleeping Giant."

We are excited to welcome our 2024 DVI, Dr. Chris Chase of South Dakota State University, who will be highlighting our speaker list. Dr. Chase will be joined by three invited speakers: Dr. John Lippolis from USDA-ARS, Dr. Adam Moeser from Michigan State University, and Dr. Daniela Rajao from the University of Georgia. We hope to see everyone and enjoy some interesting talks on inflammation!

### The Bill Davis Symposium

"Applications of monoclonal antibodies: Gaps and Usage"

Pullman, WA May 22/23, 2023.

<https://cvent.me/XV7nL9>

### CRWAD 2023 AAVI Student Presentation Award Winners

#### AAVI Oral Presentation Award Winners

First Place Award Winner: Leonie Bettin;  
Abstract #: 76708; Abstract Title: Kinome analysis reveals age-dependent mechanisms of TLR7/8 induced signaling in porcine gamma-delta T cells; \$250..

Second Place Award Winner: Camille Holmes;  
Abstract #: 76982; Abstract Title: Mucosal and systemic secretion of antileukoproteinase during equine inflammation; \$150.

Third Place Award Winner: B. Tegner Jacobson; Abstract #: 76939; Abstract Title: Impaired alveolar macrophage phagocytosis contributes to bacterial persistence in *M. ovipneumoniae* infected sheep; \$100.

FourthPlace Award Winner: Beulah Samuel;  
Abstract #: 76987; Abstract Title: Trained immunity in bovine innate cell populations followed by subcutaneous BCG administration; \$100.

#### AAVI Poster Presentation Award Winners

First place Award Winner: Lauren Crawford;  
Abstract #: 76978; Abstract Title: Characterization and effects of bacterial modified live vaccination on natural killer cell populations in cattle; \$250.

Second place (Virtual presentation) Award Winner: Wenliang He; Abstract #: 76814; Abstract Title: Role of glutamate and other crystalline amino acids in diets for the growth of juvenile hybrid striped bass; \$150.

### Positions Available

Supervisory Research  
Microbiologist/Supervisory Research  
Veterinary Medical Officer, Research Leader

USDA-ARS, Animal Disease Research Unit  
(ADRU) Pullman, WA

<https://www.usajobs.gov/job/700410100>

Research  
Virologist/Microbiologist/Physiologist  
(Immunology) - GS-401/0403/0413-12/13/14

USDA-ARS, PGRU, Colombia, MO

<https://www.usajobs.gov/job/712631800>



## AAVI Officers and Board – 2023

### Executive Board

President: Laura Miller, Kansas State University, [lauracmiller@vet.k-state.edu](mailto:lauracmiller@vet.k-state.edu)

President Elect: Vice President: Leela Noronha, USDA , [laura.miller@usda.gov](mailto:laura.miller@usda.gov)

Vice President: Sheela Ramamoorthy, North Dakota State University,  
[sheela.ramamoorthy@ndsu.edu](mailto:sheela.ramamoorthy@ndsu.edu)

Past President: Jodi McGill, Iowa State University, [jlmcgill@iastate.edu](mailto:jlmcgill@iastate.edu)

Secretary: Heather Wilson, VIDO-University of Saskatchewan, [heather.wilson@usask.ca](mailto:heather.wilson@usask.ca)

Treasurer: Angel Abuela Sebio, [abuelo@msu.edu](mailto:abuelo@msu.edu)

Nominations chair: Tobias Kaeser, North Carolina State University, [tekaeser@ncsu.edu](mailto:tekaeser@ncsu.edu)

### Members at Large

Lucas Huntimer, Elanco, [lucas.huntimer@elancoah.com](mailto:lucas.huntimer@elancoah.com)

Brina Lopez, Midwestern, [blopez@midwestern.edu](mailto:blopez@midwestern.edu)

Lindsay Fry, USDA Pullman, [lindsay.fry@usda.gov](mailto:lindsay.fry@usda.gov)

Paige Adams, Cornell, [dgdiel@cornell.edu](mailto:dgdiel@cornell.edu)

### Nomination Committee (Elected by membership)

Teresia Maina, Iowa State University, [twm896@iastate.edu](mailto:twm896@iastate.edu)

Paola Boggiatto, USDA NADC, [paola.boggiatto@usda.gov](mailto:paola.boggiatto@usda.gov)

Ignacio Correas, Zoetis, [ignacio.correas@zoetis.com](mailto:ignacio.correas@zoetis.com)

Waithaka Mwangi, Kansas State University, [wmwangi@vet.k-state.edu](mailto:wmwangi@vet.k-state.edu)

Pooja Choudary, University of Saskatchewan, [pooja.choudhary@usask.ca](mailto:pooja.choudhary@usask.ca)

### Constitution/By-Laws Committee

Past President: Jodi McGill, Iowa State University, [jlmcgill@iastate.edu](mailto:jlmcgill@iastate.edu)

### Website Information

Website: [theaavi.org](http://theaavi.org)

Email address: [AAVlorg@gmail.com](mailto:AAVlorg@gmail.com)