



American Association of Veterinary Immunologists

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<u>Newsletter Editor</u>	Laura Miller

Message from the AAVI President: George Mutwiri

I would like to thank you all for giving me the opportunity to serve you as the president of AAVI. It is an honour and a privilege to be of service to you in this capacity. I am looking forward to a great year for our association as we work together with the very capable AAVI board members. I would also like to thank the past AAVI leaders for their contribution to the association. We plan to build from where they left.

Back in 1979 a few veterinary immunologists had the vision to start an association to serve the unique interests of the veterinary immunology community. This vision was realized by the formation of AAVI. Since then association has grown by leaps and bounds, and has contributed significantly to the advancement of veterinary immunology and in the improvement of animal health. I have no doubt it will continue to so in the future.

As an organization grows, there will be challenges along the way that will need to be addressed. For AAVI, there are a few challenges we need to address for us to continue our growth. We need to increase our membership and our resources. Today, many, many more people are working in veterinary immunology and related areas.

This provides a pool of potential members that we need to recruit to our association. To achieve this we will need to make our association more attractive. Please share your thoughts on ways of making the association more appealing and in recruiting new members. A committee has been formed to deal with new member recruitment and will provide an update soon. I would also like to appeal to all current AAVI members to please ensure that your annual membership dues are paid in a timely manner. This is critical in ensuring that the association runs smoothly.

AAVI will require additional financial resources to support its operations. We have formed a fund-raising committee that will be exploring ways of generating more revenue. We would certainly appreciate your input in this regard.

Forty years can be a long time for any organization in this information age. To a large extent, in the past we operated within animal health and we believed that our influence was limited to this area. The world we operate in is changing and we are in a much broader area. Animal health, human health and the health of environment are all interdependent, and influence each other ('one-world, one health'). Thus we will need to think in a broader context. This appears more complex than just focusing on animal

health, and requires a paradigm shift in our approaches. We have to work more with people across the disciplinary boundaries. This is not a new idea, but gathering momentum will be important. AAVI can play a role in facilitating this. We will continue to work with and also forge new working relationships with organizations in areas of one health around the world. This is an opportunity for our work to have an even greater impact.

Secretary's Note

By Carol Chitko-McKown

Membership: At this point in time, we have 46 members in good standing, and 40 additional members that were in good standing in 2017 but have not yet paid their membership dues for 2018. Many members pay their dues at the annual business meeting so we will continue to collect payments there. However, please keep in mind **that for students to participate in the AAVI sponsored oral and poster presentation at CRWAD, either the student or the mentor need to be members in good standing at the time the abstract is submitted.**

AAVI will also send out a “membership reminder and request for payment of dues” a few times a year because some members have indicated that this is required for them to pay out of their research funds. If there are any other special requests that will make your dues payments easier, please let me know! AAVI dues will remain \$50 for regular members, and \$20 for students.

Each time I send out emails to the membership, several bounce back to me as undeliverable. In many instances, I know I am using the correct email address, so it no doubt has to do with security settings on email accounts. If you are not receiving AAVI notifications via email, please get in touch with me and we will try to sort this out.

Additionally, if you included your personal email address when paying via PayPal, please contact me at carol.chitkomckown@ars.usda.gov or AAVIorg@gmail.com and include both your professional and email addresses so that I can have both on file.

AAVI Business Meeting: The 2017 AAVI Business Meeting was held at the Grand Lux Café on Michigan Avenue, Chicago, IL. Although we had to increase the cost to \$25, the food was plentiful and delicious and we had a fantastic turnout. Due to the high number of participants which we would love to see grow, we are considering a buffet style lunch in 2018 since we are always limited by time. Stay tuned for a vote on the lunch selection. As always, we will continue to have both vegetarian and non-vegetarian selections. All are welcome to attend. If you know of anyone who is considering joining AAVI, this is an excellent chance for them to see our group in action and to meet many of our friendly and helpful members!



Constitution and By-laws Update

By Laura Miller

In accordance with the AAVI Board and as discussed at the membership-meeting luncheon in December 2016, the proposed changes in the By-Laws and Constitution were approved allowing nomination of individuals to the Vice Presidency that have been a member for at least a year prior to nomination. The language to the constitution has been reviewed by the AAVI Board, and has been posted to the AAVI website.

CRWAD Report

*By Alan Young, Chair,
AAVI Awards Committee*

The 2017 AAVI meeting was held in Chicago on Dec 4 and 5, 2017 at the Chicago Marriott Magnificent Mile. The final number of attendees was approximately 100.

In 2017, the AAVI was responsible for moderating a total of 13 sessions. The total number of presenters in the 2017 AAVI presentations in the Immunology section including the four invited speakers and a distinguished veterinary immunologist were 61. Among them graduate students competitors were 29 (20 oral and 9 poster) and the remaining were Postdocs, Faculty and Research Associates. The Distinguished Veterinary Immunologist for 2017 was Dr. Ray Waters, and the focus of the AAVI Minisymposium was Chronic Bacterial Infections of Animals.

2017 AAVI Student Presentation Competition Results

*By Alan Young, Chair,
AAVI Awards Committee*

A total of 6 awards were given, three each were for poster and oral presentations comprising of 1st, 2nd and 3rd places and the winners received \$250, \$150 and \$100, respectively.

Oral Presentation Award Winners:

1st Agustina Lavagna, University of Calgary

2nd Mariana Guerra-Maupome, Kansas State University

3rd Justin DeKuijper, Michigan State University

Poster Presentation Award Winners:

1st M. Sarjoon Mohamed Abdul-Cader, University of Calgary

2nd Caitlin Merrill, University of Tennessee

3rd Jonatan Mendez, University of Maryland



Caitlin Merrill, Alan Young, Radhey Kaushik, Agustina Lavagna

Mini-symposium Report: Immunity of Chronic Bacterial Infection

*By Alan Young,
and Aradhya Gourapura, Co-Chairs*

The 2017 AAVI mini-symposium at 2017 CRWAD, Chicago IL, was held on Monday December 7 at 2:15 - 5:15pm.

The following speakers were invited:

Jodi McGill, *Kansas State University*, title "Bovine $\gamma\delta$ T Cells participate in local immunity during *Mycobacterium bovis* infection."

Wendy Brown, *Washington State University*, title “Immunoinhibitory receptors PD-1 and LAG-3 contribute to T-cell exhaustion during *Anaplasma marginale* infection.”

Cynthia Baldwin, *University of Massachusetts Amherst*, title “WC1 hybrid pattern recognition receptors and signaling co-receptors direct immune responses by Bovine gamma delta ($\gamma\delta$) T cells to Pathogens.”

David Pascual, *University of Florida*, title “Alternative immune mechanisms for protection against brucellosis”

**2017 AAVI Distinguished
Veterinary Immunologist:
Dr. Ray Waters**



Keynote address by Dr. Ray Waters, 2017 Distinguished Veterinary Immunologist. Veterinary Medical Officer, National Animal Disease Center, Tuberculosis Research Project, Ames Iowa.

“Immunology of bovine tuberculosis: Perspectives on one health approaches and defining correlates of protection versus infection.”

**Obituaries:
Phil Klesius**

By Charles Czuprynski

Long-time AAVI member Dr. Phil Klesius passed away on January 11, 2018 in Dadeville, Alabama. Phil was born in Bryn Marr, Pennsylvania on March 1, 1938 and grew up in Pass-a-Grille Beach, Florida. Phil received his BS in Biology from Florida Southern College in 1961 and his MS in Microbiology from Northwestern State University in Louisiana in 1963. He then earned his PhD in Microbiology from the University of Texas in 1966. After a stint as a postdoctoral fellow at UC-San Francisco School of Medicine, Phil took faculty positions at the University of Texas (1967-68) and then the University of Arizona (1968-1972). Phil then spent one year at the Centers for Disease Control in Fort Collins, CO, before joining the USDA Animal Parasite Research Unit in Auburn, AL. Phil spent the rest of his career there, rising in rank to become Research Leader and Auburn Laboratory Coordinator before retiring in 2014. It is noteworthy that during his tenure the laboratory successfully changed its focus from parasitic diseases of cattle to aquatic animal health. Phil was a very productive scientist, publishing more than 200 research articles over a 55 year period. He demonstrated considerable scientific range, with titles of his publications ranging from basic bacteriology, to assessment of immune function and resistance to parasitic infection in domestic animal species, to prevention, diagnosis and treatment of infectious diseases in fish. Phil was well-traveled, giving nearly 150 invited talks around the world. Phil served on the editorial boards of several journals, including *Veterinary Immunology* and *Immunopathology*. For many years Phil was a regular attendee at the CRWAD meeting, and a very active member of AAVI. He served on the AAVI Board for 10 years, and as Secretary/Treasurer for 6 years. Those who had the pleasure of knowing Phil during this time remember his sense of humor and

gregarious nature. Phil was a regular attendee at the annual expeditions to the Parthenon and other social events; his presence helped to ensure there was seldom a dull moment. Phil is survived by his wife of 48 years, Patty Klesius of Auburn; sons, Stephen (Elaine) Klesius of Ashville, NC and Patrick Klesius of New York, NY; grandsons, Henry Klesius and Lyle Klesius; and brothers, Steve (Janell) Klesius of Tampa, FL and Gary (Chris) Klesius of Dunedin, FL.

Upcoming Meeting Announcements



IMMUNOLOGY 2018 May 4-8, 2018 Austin, TX

AAI Veterinary Immunology Committee Session at IMMUNOLOGY 2018

Neonatal Immunity: Getting it Right from the Start

*Support in part provided by the American
Association of Veterinary Immunologists*

Saturday, May 5, 12:30 PM – 2:30 PM,
Room 19AB

Speakers:

- **John E. Butler**, Univ. of Iowa Carver Col. of Med., *The critical window of neonatal immune system development: lessons from animal models*
- **Bettina Wagner**, Cornell Univ. Col. of Vet. Med., *Neonatal memory B cell activation in horses*
- **Tod J. Merkel**, FDA, *Protecting neonates from pertussis—lessons from a baboon model*

- **Philip Griebel**, VIDO-Intervac, Univ. of Saskatchewan, *Bovine mucosal immune system development: vaccines targeting the pathobiome*

This symposium will emphasize factors impacting neonatal immune development and protection against disease across various animal systems. Whereas transitioning from a sterile environment to a world with a multitude of microbes makes a neonate vulnerable to infection, exposure to the microbial world is important for immune maturation, but poses a risk to neonatal health. Maternal-derived immune factors can provide protection during the vulnerable neonatal period, and various methods are being utilized to exploit maternal immunity or enhance neonatal acquired immunity. This symposium will highlight factors that can improve or impede neonatal health, identifying commonalities relevant to both human and animal health.

***AAI granted 11 travel awards in the Veterinary and Comparative Immunology Session at IMMUNOLOGY 2018! This is more than triple what was granted in 2017, and is reflective of increased veterinary research presence at the Immunology meeting! Keep it coming!



**Conference for Research
Workers in Animal Diseases
(CRWAD)
November 30-December 5, 2018,
Chicago Marriott Downtown
Magnificent Mile.**

AAVI sponsored graduate student oral and poster presentation competition at CRWAD.
***either the student or the mentor need to be AAVI members in good standing at the time the abstract is submitted.*

**Call for abstract submission is Monday,
March 1, 2018**

**2018 AAVI CRWAD
Mini-symposium:
Mucosal Immunology**

*A joint session with AAVI and
the Society for Mucosal
Immunology (SMI)*

**17th International Congress
of Immunology (ICI 2019)**



IUUIS

*Immunology
without
Borders*

International Union of Immunological Societies



**October 18-23, 2019
Beijing, China**



**International Veterinary
Immunology Symposium
2019 (IVIS 2019)**

**August 13-16, 2019
Seattle, Washington**

*Meeting supported by IUUIS and organized
by AAVI*

Scientific Committee Chair: Philip Griebel,
University of Saskatchewan

Organizing Committee Chair: Crystal
Loving, USDA-ARS-NADC

AAVI Officers and Board - 2018

President: George Mutwiri, U. of Saskatchewan, Canada, george.mutwiri@usask.ca
President Elect: Alan Young, South Dakota State University, alan.young@sdstate.edu
Vice President: Aradhya Gourapura, The Ohio State University, gourapura.1@osu.edu
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Treasurer: Glenn Zhang, Oklahoma State University, glenn.zhang@OKstate.edu

Members-at-Large:

Amelia Woolums (2018), Mississippi State University, amelia.woolums@msstate.edu

Nomination Committee (Elected by membership)

Jodi McGill (2017) Kansas State University, jlmcgill@vet.k-state.edu

Membership Committee

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