

American Association of Veterinary Immunologists

Newsletter

Fall 2023



A Brief Message from AAVI President: Laura Miller

I hope you all had a great summer! This will be my last contribution to the newsletter as the AAVI president. In this regard, I would like to, once again, thank you for giving me this rare opportunity to serve in this capacity and for your support. I would also like to thank my colleagues on the AAVI board for their commitment to AAVI and their support as I navigated this leadership journey. It has been both an honor and a privilege, and a rewarding experience that I will treasure. Dr. Leela Noronha will take over as the AAVI president effective January 1, 2024. At that time, I'll begin to serve on the board as a past-president. I am committed to supporting Dr. Noronha and the board, and to serving AAVI in this capacity.

In the coming weeks there will be an opportunity for you to elect your future leaders. I would encourage you to participate in this process - make your vote count! As you know, AAVI is run by people who volunteer their time and effort to serve. There is always a need, so consider nominating yourself as a candidate for one of the available positions. Please remember to renew your membership to be eligible to vote or be a candidate, if you haven't already done so. The membership approved the proposed changes in the constitution and by-laws that bring our processes in-line with the electronic age and fine tuning of the payment/membership process, finding ways to become more visible to attract new members.



2023 Board

President

Laura Miller

President Elect

Leela Noronha

Vice President

Sheela Ramamoorthy

Past President

Jodi McGill

Secretary

Heather Wilson

Treasurer

Angel Abuelo

Nominations Chair

Tobias Kaeser

The most anticipated event in the international veterinary immunology community, the IVIS (International Veterinary Immunology Symposium) is fast approaching. It will be held in November at the Kruger National Park, South Africa (details available later in the newsletter). I would encourage you to consider attending and presenting your work as this symposium happens once every three years. This is a great opportunity for all of us to showcase our research and network with others for collaboration, training, or career.

In January we will have our annual AAVI events during the CRWAD conference in Chicago. We have lined up several excellent featured speakers as well as the student competitions, with sponsorship shared with AAI, Cargill and VCCIS, and we anticipate that the presentations will be exceptional. Be sure not to miss this rare opportunity to hear and interact with these experts.

In Chicago, we will also have an AAVI board meeting, and the ever popular AAVI business luncheon for all members as well as a social mixer we invite all to join. More details about these events will be provided in this newsletter.

See you in Chicago, if not South Africa before then.

Thank you,

Laura C. Miller

CRWAD 2024 AAVI Symposium

Leela Noronha, President Elect

The AAVI Distinguished Immunologist Symposium will take place at CRAWD on Sunday, *January 21, 2024*, from 8:30am – 12pm.

AAVI Featured Speakers

- Dr. Christopher Chase (2024 DVI)
- Dr. Randy Sacco
- Dr. Adam Moeser
- Dr. Daniela Rajao

Student Awards Competition

Laura Miller, President

The 2024 AAVI Student Presentation Competition will again be sponsored by AAI during CRWAD in Chicago, Illinois. Oral and poster presentation categories will be judged. Award recipients will be awarded at the award ceremony at the end of the meeting. Please attend and be recognized. The awards consist of a certificate and a monetary prize. All awardees will be given 1 year of AAVI membership.

Please note: entry into the AAVI Student Presentation Competition at CRWAD requires the mentor to be an AAVI member in good standing (as defined by dues paid in all of the last 3 years). You will be contacted by the AAVI Board if you do not meet this criterion.

At least three judges are assigned to judge each contestant using the [AAVI evaluation criteria](#).

Some helpful hints for contestants:

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 labmates 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. Finally, be courteous to everyone in your audience. You may not know who the judge is.

When you are presenting (oral/poster) remember to have your name badge all the time and introduce yourself as a graduate student/postdoc.

Good luck and see you soon at the AAVI symposium!

Once again, this competition would not be possible without AAI sponsorship and provision of certificates, Cargill sponsorship, and the support of the AAVI membership, board, and especially our fine judges.

SAVE THE DATE: AAVI Business Luncheon 2024

Angel Abuelo, Treasurer

The 2024 AAVI Luncheon will take place on January 22, 2024. This is a great opportunity to spend some time together, honor the 2024 Distinguished Veterinary Immunologist, and receive more updates about the association. We hope to see you there.

This year we are also improving how to purchase the tickets for the meal. Instead of a PayPal transfer, we will be using Eventbrite. The fees between both systems are similar but Eventbrite allows us to get a more accurate headcount by allowing people to reserve tickets online but pay on-site if preferred, and it will also permit the selection of choice of entrée and the reservation/purchase of tickets for several people in one transaction. We will be sending multiple reminders until the CRAWD meeting, but you can already go online and buy/reserve your 2024 Luncheon ticket today: <https://aaviluncheon24.eventbrite.com>.

AAVI Board Meeting & CRWAD Social Mixer

Heather Wilson, Secretary

The AAVI board will meet after the CRWAD special symposium from 6-7pm at the Marriot Hotel on Jan 21st. Following the AAVI board meeting, all members and especially trainees are invited to join the AAVI board for a social mixer at a local pub (Details to come soon).

Call for AAVI Board Nominations

Toby Kaeser, Nominations Chair

The American Association of Veterinary Immunologists (AAVI) is currently soliciting nominations for serving on

the AAVI board and nomination committee in four different capacities:

- Vice President
- Secretary
- Member at Large (MAL)
- Nominations committee member

The nominee needs to be an AAVI member and self-nominations are allowed and encouraged. Please send your nomination with a brief bio (usually 200-400 words) to Tobias Kaeser, Chair of the AAVI Nominations Committee, by **October 31, 2023** at tobias.kaeser@vetmeduni.ac.at. For the vice president position, we would additionally request a short statement of intent summarizing the vision for AAVI.

Change in Membership Dues Payment

Angel Abuelo, Treasurer

Effective 2024, we are implementing some streamlining of how the Association manages the payment of membership dues. The dues remain the same, but this new procedure will allow us to better track the payment of dues and notify who hasn't. We have had instances in the past where members thought they had paid - and also instances where members have paid the dues twice. The PayPal recurrent payments have also created some confusion, with some members believing that they had set up automatic payments when in reality the payment only recurs once the following year.

How will the new payment system work? In early January 2024, you will receive an electronic invoice for your 2024 membership dues via email from AAVI's PayPal account. You will be able to pay this invoice electronically (PayPal, Credit/Debit Card, Venmo, etc.). This invoice will be due on March 1, 2024. We will send electronic reminders between January and February. On March 1, 2024, the dues will be considered delinquent. According to the bylaws, those with delinquent dues are no longer considered AAVI members.

What if I have a recurrent payment set up on PayPal?

We are canceling all active recurrent payments, and these will not be used for the 2024 dues.

What if I want to pay for the membership dues of other members (e.g., colleagues, graduate students, etc.)? You can ask them to forward you their

electronic invoices and pay these online.

Alternatively, you can contact the treasurer (abuelo@msu.edu) before January and provide the list of members you want to pay the dues for so he can direct the electronic invoices directly to you.

What if I have retired but want to keep being involved with AAVI?

Our bylaws allow you to earn lifetime member status without further payment of dues. The requirements include: (1) be retired from regular employment, and (2) have been a paid member of AAVI for no less than 10 years. If you meet these criteria and want to apply for lifetime membership status, please contact the treasurer (abuelo@msu.edu).

AAVI 2025 Distinguished Immunologist: Dr. Armin Saalmüller

Sheela Ramamoorthy, Vice President

Dr. Armin Saalmüller received his Dr. rer. nat. degree from Eberhard-Karls-University, Tübingen. He currently serves as a Professor and Head of Immunology, Chair of Clinical Immunology and the Institute of Immunology at the University of Veterinary Medicine in Vienna, Austria. Dr. Saalmüller's distinguished research achievements are focused on understanding of



porcine T cell biology and leadership in developing reagents for porcine immunology. He has published over 200 peer reviewed manuscripts with a H index of 45, mentored 12 diploma theses, 10 bachelor theses, 2 master theses, 10 dissertations, and 5 PhD theses, worked closely with the animal health industry on grant projects, served as an editorial board member for several prestigious immunology and microbiology journals, as a reviewer for granting agencies and as a co-chair of three International Swine CD Workshop. His far-sighted research efforts have resulted in the identification of numerous antibodies against important immunological markers in swine, various swine T cell subsets and their roles in microbial immunology, establishment of a center to predict vaccination success in pigs and the development of pigs as a biomedical model, thus leaving a lasting impact on the field.

John Lippolis (1964-2023) in

Memoriam

Dr. John D. Lippolis, a Research Molecular Biologist in the Ruminant Diseases and Immunology Research Unit, at the National Animal Disease Center, Ames, Iowa, passed away on Saturday,



August 26th, 2023, at the age of 59 after a battle with cancer. During his 21 years at the USDA, ARS, National Animal Disease Center, Dr. Lippolis developed an internationally known research program in mastitis. He developed a research program focusing on immunology, nutrition, biochemistry, molecular biology, and mass spectrometry. Among his many accomplishments, Dr. Lippolis demonstrated the potential therapeutic use of vitamin D against mastitis, identified bacterial virulence factors critical to pathogenesis in the mammary gland, and established that Holsteins with the genetic background commonly found in 1964 dairy animals have a significantly better disease outcome in an experimental mastitis protocol than contemporary cows. Dr. Lippolis authored or co-authored more than 83 scientific publications, five book chapters, and one patent. For his work in

mastitis and mass-spectrometry, he was the recipient of the American Dairy Science Association, West Agro, Inc. Award, recognizing outstanding milk quality research as affected by control of mastitis, management of milking, and practices in milk production. In two occasions his papers were selected as the “Editor’s Choice” for the Journal of Dairy Science. His research led him to more than 40 speaking engagement invitations and was keynote speaker in many of them in the United States, Italy, Norway, and Spain. Dr. Lippolis not only was an excellent scientist, but also served Acting Research Leader for the Ruminant Diseases and Immunology Research Unit and Acting Associate Director for the Center. Dr. Lippolis received a B.Sc. from Brigham Young University, and a Ph. D. from The University of Pennsylvania. Prior to accepting a position at the National Animal Disease Center, he was the Technical Director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases MHC Tetramer Core Facility, Emory Vaccine Research Center, at Emory University in Atlanta, GA. Dr. Lippolis will be missed and remembered by his colleagues at the National Animal Disease Center. He is survived by his wife, Lea, and their four children (Nora, Julia, Aria, and Evan), his mother, his sister, and countless friends.

<https://www.grandonfuneralandcremationcare.com/obituary/659292/John-Lippolis/>

AAVI Officers and Board – 2023

Executive Board

President: Laura Miller, Kansas State University, lauracmiller@vet.k-state.edu

President Elect: Leela Noronha, norolee@gmail.com

Vice President: Sheela Ramamoorthy, North Dakota State University, sheela.ramamoorthy@ndsu.edu

Past President: Jodi McGill, Iowa State University, jilmcgill@iastate.edu

Secretary: Heather Wilson, VIDO-University of Saskatchewan, heather.wilson@usask.ca

Treasurer: Angel Abuelo, Michigan State University, abuelo@msu.edu

Nominations chair: Tobias Kaeser, North Carolina State University, tekaeser@ncsu.edu

Members at Large

Lucas Huntimer, Elanco, lucas.huntimer@elancoah.com

Brina Lopez, Midwestern, blopez@midwestern.edu

Lindsay Fry, USDA Pullman, lindsay.fry@usda.gov

Paige Adams, Cornell, dgdziel@cornell.edu

Nomination Committee (Elected by membership)

Teresa Maina, Iowa State University, twm896@iastate.edu

Paola Boggianto, USDA NADC, paola.boggianto@usda.gov

Ignacio Correias, Zoetis, ignacio.correias@zoetis.com

Waithaka Mwangi, Kansas State University, wmwangi@vet.k-state.edu

Pooja Choudary, University of Saskatchewan, pooja.choudhary@usask.ca

Constitution/By-Laws Committee

Past President: Jodi McGill, Iowa State University, jlmcgill@iastate.edu

AAVI Graduate Student Assistants

Newsletter editor: Katy W. Kesler (keslerka@msu.edu)

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