

American Association of Veterinary Immunologists

Newsletter

Spring 2024



[A Brief Message from AAVI President: Leela Noronha](#)

We are pleased to bring you the Spring edition of the AAVI's semi-annual newsletter. I would first like to express my gratitude for the opportunity to serve you as the 2024 AAVI President. I first joined AAVI as a graduate student and am grateful for the encouragement and inspiration I've received from the organization and its members in the years since.

I would like to thank Laura Miller for her exceptional leadership as our President over the past year. This was her second term as AAVI President, and her experience and dedication were instrumental to our organization's success as we continued to transition back to in-person activities following the COVID pandemic and adjust our operations to align with CRWAD's new January meeting dates. We are happy to continue to benefit from Laura's leadership in her current role as Past Present and Chair of the Constitution/By-Laws Committee. Thank you also to our other Officers who recently stepped down including our Past President Jodi McGill, Member-at-Large Brina Lopez, and Nominations Committee member Paola Boggiatto. We appreciate your service to AAVI!

We're well-positioned for a strong 2024 thanks to the combined expertise of our returning Board members and fresh perspectives brought by our new Officers. Sheela Ramamoorthy has rotated into the President-Elect position, where she is leading planning efforts for the upcoming 2025 AAVI Mini-Symposium. We welcome Tobias Käser to his new position as Vice President, and Ignacio Correas who was elected to fill Toby's position as Chair of the Nominations Committee. We are fortunate to continue to have Angel Abuelo as our Treasurer and master problem solver. We thank Heather Wilson for agreeing to continue in the position of Secretary where her skillful management keeps the organization's business on track. We appreciate the continued service of Members-at-Large Lucas Huntimer, Paige Adams, and Lindsay Fry, and welcome recently elected Elisa Crisci. We thank our continuing Nominations Committee members Teresia Maina, Waithaka Mwangi, and Pooja Choudhary, and welcome



Incoming AAVI President Leela Noronha receiving the AAVI flag from outgoing AAVI President Laura Miller.

new members Leonie Bettin and Brianna Beam. We also want to highlight the contributions from newsletter editor Katy Kesler and website editor Crystal Loving and express our gratitude for the vital work they do in advancing AAVI communications.

The Nominations Committee's busy season is nearing with Officer elections and 2026 DVI nomination package submissions in the second half of the year. The committee has been adeptly managing the year-to-year variations that occur in the number of open positions that result from current Officer term cycles and have identified some changes which they expect will make the annual elections process more efficient. With the current term cycles, some years have very few position openings and other years have several positions that need to be filled. The impact of this is that promising candidates interested in serving AAVI may have fewer opportunities some years, and in other years it can be difficult to recruit enough people to fill all of the open positions. To reduce the variation between years, the Board voted to support the Nominations Committee recommendation to reduce the Member-at-Large (MAL) positions from four to three, and to increase the Nominations Committee member positions from five to six. This change would result in a consistent number (five) of officers to be elected annually, including one MAL position and two Nominations Committee positions. This change would require an amendment to the By-Laws, so we will be making use of last year's vote passing electronic voting to send this motion to the general membership. We ask that you kindly take a few minutes to submit your vote when the ballot comes out to help ensure that we reach a quorum to move forward.

2024 Board

President

Leela Noronha

President Elect

Sheela Ramamoorthy

Vice President

Tobias Käser

Past President

Laura Miller

Secretary

Heather Wilson

Treasurer

Angel Abuelo

Nominations Chair

Ignacio Correas

Looking ahead, this year promises to be another period of growth and achievement for AAVI and its members. We are happy to be strengthening our relationship with the American Association of Immunologists by resuming support for an invited speaker at the AAI's Veterinary Immunology Committee Symposium at Immunology 2024, the annual AAI conference. We are planning for another great AAVI Mini-Symposium at CRWAD 2025, as previewed by Sheela below, which will bring together experts to discuss advancements in veterinary vaccinology. If you are interested in participating in next year's meeting by supporting our student presentation competitions, we will be looking for a Chair and judges for the Student Awards Committee later this year.

We appreciate your participation in AAVI activities, and the continued involvement of our members is what fuels our collective success. I encourage you to submit comments and suggestions to the Officers and Board. We value your feedback and want to align AAVI activities with your interests and goals. Together, we can ensure another productive and successful year for AAVI!

Treasurer Report

Angel Abuelo, Treasurer

AAVI continued to maintain good financial health during 2023. The bank account balances at the beginning and end of 2023 were \$26,015.03 and \$29,541.32, respectively. Note, however, that with the CRWAD conference being scheduled in January, some income is obtained towards the end of the calendar year that is subsequently disbursed after the conference (i.e., student award sponsorships, AAVI contribution to CRWAD, etc.). Overall, AAVI's income during 2023 totaled \$8,879.08, and expenses (e.g., website maintenance, PayPal fees, student awards, etc.) accounted for \$4,549.43. For 2024, the Board has approved a balanced budget of approximately \$7,300 in income and expenses.

In 2023, we also implemented a new financial audit system. Each year, the immediate past president and a general member will review all AAVI bank and PayPal transactions. Drs. Jodi McGill and Amelia Woolums conducted the audit of the 2023 transactions and were satisfied with them and had no concerns. Dr. Diego Diel has agreed to be the general member auditor for 2024. Please join me in thanking them for their continued service to AAVI. Also, I would like to acknowledge and thank Allan Young for his continuous assistance in maintaining AAVI's non-profit status.

Secretary's Note

Heather Wilson, Secretary

Unfortunately, I was unable to attend CRWAD and the in-person AAVI board meeting, and Angel took the minutes for me. I can report that we have 127 general members with 14 trainees and 6 lifetime members. I'd like to

remind everyone that we have an AAVI Google account where the AAVI constitution, by-laws, duties of members, and minutes from the meetings are all kept. Please contact me for access. I look forward to seeing you at CRWAD in 2025.

2024 CRWAD & AAVI Mini-Symposium Recap

Leela Noronha, President

January marked the second CRWAD meeting held since the dates moved from the former December timeframe. Our colleagues were able to successfully navigate challenges such as winter storms and delayed approvals to come together in Chicago for another great meeting with 546 registered attendees.



Annual Business luncheon at the Labriola.

Our AAVI Mini-Symposium was held on Sunday morning this year, with the topic "Inflammation and Disease: Tempering the Sleeping Giant," selected by our 2024 DVI, Chris Chase of South Dakota State University (see bio below). Chris was presented with the DVI award for the first of two times (per AAVI tradition), and then gave an engaging talk on Bovine Respiratory Disease and his work. Next, Randy Sacco of USDA-ARS provided a heartfelt tribute highlighting the work of our colleague John Lippolis, whom we lost last year. Adam Moeser from Michigan State

University gave a thought-provoking presentation on the impacts of early weaning in swine, and Daniela Rajao from the University of Georgia provided us with new insights into the very timely topic of influenza A adaptation in veterinary species. The Mini-Symposium was well received, and we thank our speakers and all who attended. Also on Sunday, AAVI members participated in a Social Mixer held in the Marriott alongside several alumni receptions. We resumed having a mixer last year, and the event continues to evolve with input from members. We welcome any feedback and/or suggestions from AAVI members for future events.



Laura Miller receiving her plaque thanking her for her service as the 2023 AAVI president.

Prior to the conference, our annual Business luncheon encountered a significant hiccup with the unexpected closing of the Grand Luxe hotel, home to the luncheon for many years. Thanks to quick action by Laura Miller and Angel Abuelo, an alternate venue was organized at the nearby Labriola for Monday afternoon, where Chris was again presented with the DVI award and finally allowed to keep it. Laura also received a plaque to acknowledge her leadership as AAVI President. Laura and Chris almost didn't get their awards after an efficient cleaner at the Marriott thought they were lost and turned

them in at the CRWAD registration desk after the mixer. Fortunately, Angel came to the rescue again and got them to where they needed to be and earned the inaugural (albeit unofficial) "Certificate of Awesomeness." Feedback regarding the new luncheon venue was positive; however, reaching the restaurant's required minimum was a challenge. We would love to hear from AAVI members and friends who might have suggestions for alternative options for the 2025 luncheon.



Angel Abuelo receiving the "Certificate of Awesomeness".

Elsewhere at the CRWAD meeting, several AAVI members were honored as 2024 CRWAD Fellows. Chris Chase, Scott McVey, Steven Olsen, Jim Roth, and Amelia Woolums were inducted into this prestigious cadre of scientists honored for their sustained and notable contributions to CRWAD. AAVI member, and 2021 CRWAD Fellow, Linda Saif was honored by the American College of Veterinary Immunologists as this year's Distinguished Veterinary Microbiologist, and provided the featured presentation at Tuesday's ACVM Mini-Symposium. Throughout the conference, several students

participated in the AAVI Student Research Awards competition which was sponsored by the American Association of Immunologists and Cargill, and Chaired by Laura Miller (see below for winners). Additionally, several trainees participated in CRWAD's first Three Minute Thesis (3MT®) competition.

We thank our partners, speakers, sponsors, and members for making this year's conference a success. We look forward to next year's events, and welcome input from AAVI members as planning moves forward.



The 2024 CRWAD Fellow Inductees.

Student Competition Results

Laura Miller, Past President

We thank the American Association of Immunologists and Cargill for sponsoring our 2024 Student Awards Competition. Congratulations to the Awardees!

AAVI Oral Presentations:

1. Akanksha Hada, University of Maryland: *Characterization of bovine intraepithelial T lymphocytes in the gut.* \$700
2. Melanie Whitmore, Oklahoma State: University *Deoxycholic acid synergizes with butyrate to alleviate necrotic enteritis in broilers.* \$500
3. Bradly Ramirez, Texas A&M University: *Deoxycholic acid synergizes with butyrate to alleviate necrotic enteritis in broilers.* \$250

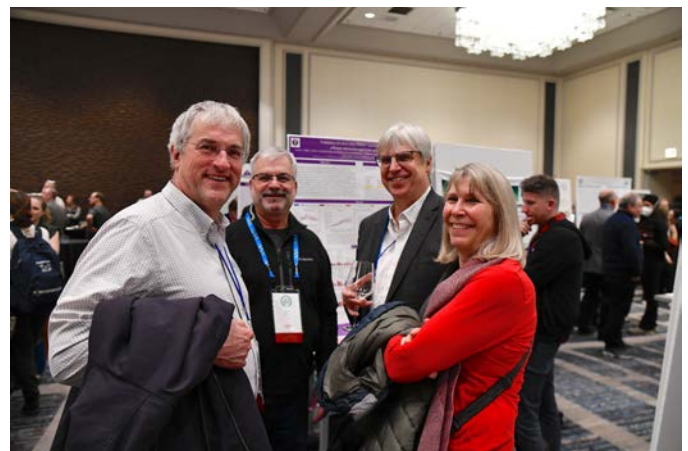
4. Camille Holmes, Cornell University *Unraveling the origin of mucosal T cells in Equine herpesvirus type 1 infection.* \$150
5. Madison Myers (Smith), Michigan State University *Endocannabinoid synthesis is modulated by lipolysis pathways in dairy cows' adipose tissue.* \$150



President Laura Miller with AAVI student presentation award winners Bradly Ramirez, Melanie Whitmore, and Madison Myers.

AAVI Poster Presentations:

1. Karina Hissen, Texas A&M University: *Effects of dietary glutamate supplementation on the respiratory burst of leukocytes in Hybrid Striped Bass.* \$500
2. Jinjing Liu, Cornell University: *Immunogenicity and protection of a novel glycoengineered vesicle vaccine against Glaesserella parasuis.* \$250



Colleagues enjoying the 2024 CRWAD poster session.

Thank you to the judges:

Raghavendra Amachawadi, Erin Schirtzinger, Santosh Dhakal, John Angelos, Laura Miller, Mark Parcels, Natasha Gauderault, Leela Noronha.



Colleagues enjoying the 2024 CRWAD poster session.

2025 AAVI Mini-Symposium

Sheela Ramamoorthy, President Elect

The half-day AAVI Distinguished Immunologist Mini Symposium will feature cutting edge science and presentations on the topic "Prediction of Vaccine Success". The symposium will be held in conjunction with the CRWAD meeting, between 19th -21st of January 2025, in Chicago. The 2025 distinguished immunologist is Dr. Armin Saalmüller, Chair of the Institute of Immunology, University of Veterinary Medicine, Vienna. The other speakers include Dr. Anne DeGroot, Founder and CEO EpiVax, and Center for Vaccines and Immunology (CVI) UGA, Dr. Colin Parrish, John M. Olin Professor of Virology, Cornell University, and Dr. Shayan Sharif, Professor and interim associate vice-president research, University of Guelph. Please check the CRWAD website for additional program updates.

2024 AAVI Distinguished Veterinary Immunologist: Dr. Chris Chase

Jodi McGill, 2022 AAVI President

Dr. Christopher Chase, Professor, Department of Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences, South Dakota State University (SDSU), was recognized as the 2024 AAVI Distinguished Veterinary Immunologist (DVI).



2024 AAVI DVI Dr. Chris Chase holding his multiple awards from the 2024 CRWAD Meeting.

Dr. Chase is an internationally recognized leader in veterinary immunology and virology. His research has been directed at understanding the initial events of viral infections, focusing on cattle and swine, to develop better methods for preventing virus infections in animals and designing more effective vaccines. He has probed innate immune mechanisms involved in early anti-viral responses and applied molecular biology tools to develop improved methods of detecting disease producing organisms.

As a DVM, Dr. Chase has focused his clinical expertise on cow-calf, feedlot, and hog herd health. He is a diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Microbiologists (ACVM) and has been active with veterinary groups, serving on numerous committees including the American Veterinary Medical Association Council of Research and Animal Agriculture Liaison Committee. He was the South Dakota Veterinarian of the Year in 2009 and received the FO Butler Award for Excellence in Research in 2010 from SDSU.

For the AAVI, Dr. Chase served on the board from 1996 to 2001 and was elected AAVI Vice-President in 2002 and AAVI President in 2003. He has continued to be an active member of AAVI and has served on the Fundraising committee and Student Awards committee for many years. Dr. Chase has also been an active member of CRWAD, serving as President of CRWAD as well as ACVM, and was inducted as a prestigious CRWAD Fellow at this year's meeting.

Dr. Chase has been a dedicated veterinary immunology teacher at SDSU in the traditional classroom as well as initiating internet accessible courses. He has been actively sought by veterinary associations and animal health companies to give talks worldwide on the basics of veterinary immunology and its importance for designing effective vaccines. Dr. Chase has been active in small business innovation research (SBIR) at SDSU successfully attracting grant funds for numerous SBIR projects with SDSU colleagues. Starting in 1994 he became involved with Rural Technologies, Inc. (RTI), a Brookings-based company that specializes in animal health improvements. Dr. Chase served as the Chief Executive Officer of RTI since 1998.

2025 AAVI Distinguished Veterinary Immunologist: Dr. Armin Saalmüller

Ignacio Correas, Nominations Committee Chair

"Shaping swine immunology in the past, present, and future"

The AAVI is pleased to honor Dr. Armin Saalmüller with the 2025 Distinguished Veterinary Immunologist Award.



Over the past 40 years, Dr. Saalmüller dedicated his life to promote the understanding of the swine immune system with focus on porcine T cells. His work encompasses 200 peer-reviewed publications leading to an h-index of 45 with over 5,000 citations. Already his PhD thesis led to a game-changing publication introducing the expression of CD8 α on resting CD4 T cells – a distinctive feature of swine. Thereafter, Dr. Saalmüller's research provided an in-depth understanding of T-cell subsets, function and differentiation. His laboratory was not only the first to describe porcine regulatory T cells (Tregs) and other CD48 and TCR- $\gamma\delta$ T-cell subsets, but it also precisely described their differentiation, prevalence and maturation over the lifetime of swine. Furthermore, Dr. Saalmüller's laboratory also studied the role of T cells in important swine diseases such as *Salmonella* Typhimurium, the porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome virus (PRRSV), and influenza. In addition, Dr. Saalmüller is currently establishing minipig models for immune modulatory drug testing: thereby, Dr. Saalmüller is not only promoting swine health but also the use of swine as a biomedical animal model.

As mentioned above, Dr. Saalmüller was chair or co-chair of three Swine CD Workshops – a global effort to discover and characterize novel anti-porcine antibodies. Under his leadership, these workshops described over 75 antibodies detecting a total of 37+ CD clusters. These newly identified antibodies provided essential tools for swine immunology research in laboratories around the world. Thereby, Dr. Saalmüller’s work will impact the global swine research over the past 27 years.

Dr. Saalmüller additionally initiated the creation of the “Christian Doppler laboratory for optimized prediction of vaccination success in pigs.” This laboratory not only tests vaccination success in pigs but it also develops new tools, mainly antibodies, to determine immune responses in pigs. This laboratory is headed by Kerstin Mair, Dr. Saalmüller’s former graduate student. In that way, Dr. Saalmüller ensured that his legacy will continue – the promotion of the understanding of swine immunology as well as the advancement of the porcine immunological toolbox.

In addition to his research efforts, Dr. Saalmüller served swine immunology in various other capacities: he is on several editorial boards of renowned journals such as “Frontiers Immunology” or the “Journal of Immunology;” in the past 20 years, he was invited to 14 plenary lectures at symposia; and besides teaching veterinary immunology to DVM students at the Vetmeduni Vienna, he supervised 12 diploma theses, 10 bachelor theses, 2 master theses, 10 dissertations, and 5 PhD theses.

His outstanding contributions to swine immunology make Dr. Saalmüller truly deserving of the 2025 Distinguished Veterinary

Immunologist Award. It is our great pleasure to welcome Dr. Saalmüller in Chicago at the 2025 AAVI Symposium, held in conjunction with the Annual CRWAD meeting.

Call for 2026 DVI Nominations

Ignacio Correas, Nominations Committee Chair

We are seeking nominations for the **2026 AAVI Distinguished Veterinary Immunologist Award**.

The American Association of Veterinary Immunologists (AAVI) solicits nominations for the AAVI Distinguished Veterinary Immunologist (DVI) award, which is intended to honor an immunologist for outstanding contribution to veterinary immunology. Recipients are individuals whose contribution to veterinary immunology is 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. Any individual other than a current member of the Nominations Committee of AAVI, who is nominated by an AAVI member in good standing, is eligible to be considered for the DVI award. Nominations are good for 3 years from the date of submission.

Please submit a **letter of nomination and the nominee’s C.V.** to Ignacio Correas, Chair of the AAVI Nominations Committee, by **May 31, 2024**, at ignacio.correas@zoetis.com.

AAVI has presented a **Distinguished Veterinary Immunologist** award since 1988. The following are past recipients:

1988 Ron Schultz	2007 John Butler
1989 Alex Winter	2008 Lorraine Sordillo
1990 Bennie Osburn	2009 Mark Estes

1991 Travis McGuire	2010 Frank Blecha
1992 Loren Babiuk	2011 Patricia Shewen
1993 William Davis	2012 Mike Murtaugh
1994 Ivan Morrison	2013 Ian Tizard
1995 Linda Saif	2014 Hyun Lillehoj
1996 Joan Lunney	2015 Philip Griebel
1997 James Roth	2016 Subramanian Srikumaran
1998 Lance Perryman	2017 W. Ray Waters
1999 Wendy Brown	2018 Laurel Gershwin
2000 Doug Antczak	2019 Bettina Wagner
2001 Lynette Corbeil	2020 Scott McVey
2002 Cynthia Baldwin	2021 Gary Entrican
2003 Chris Howard	2022 -no meeting-
2004 Chuck Czuprynski	2023 Amelia Woolums
2005 Gary Splitter	2024 Chris Chase
2006 Mark Jutila	2025 Armin Saalmüller

Please consider submitting a nomination for the 2026 DVI award. Your participation is critical and highly appreciated. Do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Upcoming Meetings

IMMUNOLOGY2024™

May 3-7, 2024, Chicago, IL

AAI Veterinary Immunology Committee Symposium: "Technologies that Enhance the Application of Non-traditional Animal Models for Improved Translational Research"

immunology2024.aai.org

2024 ADSA Annual Meeting

June 16–19, 2024, West Palm Beach, FL

Joint symposium with AAVI: "Colostrum – The Role it Plays in Calf Health, Development, and Future Productivity"

<https://www.adsa.org/Meetings/2024-Annual-Meeting>

EVIW 2024: Working Together

September 4-6, 2024, Dublin, Ireland

The 8th European Veterinary Immunology Workshop is being organized by the European Veterinary Immunology Group (EVIG) and will follow the European Congress on Immunology (<https://eci2024.org/>), also being held in Dublin.

<https://eviw2024.org/>

IVIS 2025

August 12-14, 2025, Vienna Austria

International Veterinary Immunology Symposium (IVIS) 2025 will be taking place August 12-14, 2025 at the Hilton Vienna Park hotel in Vienna, Austria. If you have any questions regarding the event, please feel free to contact the Congress Chair –Tobias Käser– tobias.kaeser@vetmeduni.ac.at

We are looking forward to welcoming you to Vienna!

The IVIS 2025 Organizing Committee: Sabine Hammer, Kerstin Mair, Eva Watrang, Sven Parsons, Armin Saalmüller, Tobias Käser



Dr. Joan Lunney, past AAVI President and longtime AAVI member, was awarded the prestigious Distinguished Veterinary Immunologist Award at the 13th International Veterinary Immunology Symposium in South Africa, November 2023

AAVI Officers and Board – 2024

Executive Board

President: Leela Noronha, norolee@gmail.com

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

Vice President: Tobias Käser, Vetmeduni Vienna, tobias.kaeser@vetmeduni.ac.at

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

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

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

Nominations chair: Ignacio Correias, Zoetis Inc., ignacio.correias@zoetis.com

Members at Large

Lucas Huntimer, Rumin8, lhuntimer@gmail.com

Lindsay Fry, Antech Diagnostics, arbordawg4@gmail.com

Paige Adams, Kansas State University, apadams@ksu.edu

Elisa Crisci, North Carolina State University, ecrisci@ncsu.edu

Nomination Committee (Elected by membership)

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

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

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

Leonie Bettin, VIDO-University of Saskatchewan, leonie.bettin@usask.ca

Brianna Beam, Zoetis Inc., brianna.beam@zoetis.com

Constitution/By-Laws Committee

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AAVI Graduate Student Assistants

Newsletter editor: Katy W. Kesler, keslerka@msu.edu

Webmaster: Crystal Loving

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