

REPORT OF THE USAHA/AAVLD COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND TOXICOLOGY

Co-Chairs: Wilson Rumbelha, MI
Larry Thompson, MO

David Ailor, DC; A. Catherine Barr, TX; Karyn Bischoff, NY; Tim Evans, MO; Francis Galey, WY; Tam Garland, TX; L. Wayne Godwin, FL; Ramesh Gupta, KY; Jeffery Hall, UT; Jeffrey Hamer, PA; William Hare, MI; Brent Hoff, CAN; Steve Hooser, IN; Laurent O'Gene Lollis, FL; Travis Mays, TX; David Meeker, VA; Gavin Meerdink, IL; Sandra Morgan, OK; Michelle Mostrom, ND; Eileen Ostlund, IA; Gary Osweiler, IA; Robert Poppenga, CA; John Rathje, IA; John Reagor, TX; Jane Robens, MD; Nick Schrier, CAN; Lori Smith, KY; Patricia Talcott, WA; Gary Weber, MD.

The Committee met on Saturday, October 20, 2012 from 3:30 - 6:30 p.m. at the Sheraton Hotel, Greensboro, North Carolina with 27 members and guests.

Dr. Wilson Rumbelha opened the meeting by welcoming current and new committee members as well as guests. Agendas were distributed and attendance sheets passed around. Rumbelha announced that at the close of the meeting Dr. Tim Evans of Missouri would assume the AAVLD Co-Chair position. Dr. Larry Thompson continues as USAHA Co-Chair. Rumbelha also announced Dr. Cynthia Gaskill of Kentucky as the new committee scribe and expressed appreciation for the filling of these positions.

Report of the Proficiency Testing Subcommittee (PTS)

Steve Hooser
Purdue University

The PTS has collaborated with the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Center for Veterinary Medicine (CVM) Veterinary-LRN (Laboratory Resource Network) to complete an initial Proficiency Testing (PT) for copper. The committee announced plans for a PT of lead in bovine liver, a matrix generated by Dr. Jeff Hall of Utah. Plans for the distribution of PT samples were made. Dr. Renata Reimschuessel of Vet-LRN agreed to finance containers and mailing costs for the PT. The results of the PT would be both shared with FDA-CVM as well as posted on a public website. Additional PT studies were considered including anticoagulant rodenticides in liver, which would be collected and supplied by Dr. Bob Poppenga and colleagues at the UC-Davis diagnostic laboratory. Additional analyte/matrix combinations were discussed.

The report on the State reporting requirements for toxicological diseases was not given because Dr. Jeff Hall could not attend the meeting. Discussion on this topic included information from Dr. Brent Hoff of Ontario on the new requirements set forth in Canada, the verbiage of which was discussed as possible models for those states without requirements.

Dr. Renata Reimschuessel, FDA-CVM, gave an update of the VET-LRN system activities and proposals for future work, including the major topics of Salmonella contamination of feed and analysis of chicken jerky treats.

The program on Drought-Related Toxicology Topics began with Dr. Deon van der Merwe presenting information on Water Quality for animals, including an extensive review of blue-green algae poisoning in animals and the diagnosis and evaluation of water samples for blue green algae.

Dr. Tim Evans of Missouri presented a fascinating review of nitrate/nitrite poisoning of ruminant animals during drought conditions.

Dr. Michelle Mostrom of North Dakota presented the current status of mycotoxin problems in the Midwest.

Individual member laboratories reported on their experiences and results of testing for mycotoxins, which have been especially variable due to the drought of 2012 and the widely varying growing conditions throughout the country.

Committee Business

There were no resolutions to be forwarded from this Committee. The Committee adjourned with no further business.