Vaccine Technology to Headline 2013 USAHA/AAVLD Annual Meeting

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) and American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians (AAVLD) have plans well underway for their 2013 joint Annual Meeting, scheduled for October 17-23, 2013 in San Diego, Calif. This year’s joint plenary session on Monday, October 21 will feature, “Vaccines: 100 years of Virus Serum Toxin Act and Beyond,” providing a historical look at VSTA over the years including key disease impacts and economics, as well as address current vaccine technology and what the future may hold.

“The 2013 USAHA/AAVLD Plenary Session should provide a very comprehensive look at a very important tool for animal health – vaccines,” says Dr. Steve Crawford, USAHA Program Chair and New Hampshire State Veterinarian. “Our goal is to celebrate the 100 year anniversary of the Virus Serum Toxin Act, take a look at lessons learned over that time and how that will shape the future.”

Dr. Crawford co-chairs the program with Dr. Catherine Barr, AAVLD Program Chair and Quality Assurance and Safety Manager with the Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory. The two collaborated with colleagues, both in the U.S. and internationally in development of the program. They have tapped Dr. Ron DeHaven, AVMA Executive Vice President to moderate the session. A full outline of presenters and titles is found on page 3 of this newsletter.

In addition to the plenary session, USAHA hosts 30 committee sessions on a broad range of animal health topics. The meeting also includes several opportunities to hear the latest in disease research through the AAVLD Scientific Sessions and poster displays. Learn more about the entire list of events at www.usaha.org, or see the complete agenda on pages 4 and 5 of this newsletter.

Detailed Committee agendas are being updated regularly on the website.

A new feature for this year’s meeting is the offering of a smartphone app for meeting attendees. The app is free for registered attendees, and can be downloaded through your device’s app provider. Details on the app are available on page 8.

Registration is now available for interested attendees – take advantage of early-bird registration (before September 27) and membership discounts.
It's never a dull moment in the animal health world. While we fortunately have not had any major outbreaks of foreign animal diseases this year, there have been plenty of challenges. There's the new porcine epidemic diarrhea virus (PEDV), and the old and vexing problems of brucellosis and tuberculosis. There are the everyday challenges of population medicine and keeping herds healthy and efficient. It's very important that everyone involved, from industry to veterinarians to regulators, keep up to date on technologies, exchange information, engage in joint planning and strategies, and most importantly, get to know and communicate with one another—that's why we put so much effort in planning the annual meeting and convention. The program chairs and committees have done a superior job this year in organizing a meeting you'll want to attend.

Your USAHA officers and staff do much more during the year than plan for the very important annual convention. The Executive Committee and Executive Director, Ben Richey, keep in continuous contact with USDA-APHIS, follow up an action items in the USAHA resolutions, and keep a watchful eye on political developments concerning animal health begging for scientific input. While the federal government in Washington DC seems dysfunctional and certainly gets a big share of negative press, there are many good, sincere people trying their best to do their job. The animal health field seems blessed with a very high percentage of these people, both in and out of government. Sometimes a letter of support for a staff appointment or a letter supporting funding of critical programs is all we can do, but these actions do make a difference.

I believe USAHA is in very good shape. Good work done by a long string of strong leadership has resulted in top notch management, governance structure and member involvement. The association's operations have been effective and efficient over the recent years and have reacted well to changes in society, technology, economics and industry structure. Much of this was made possible by a well-developed strategic plan done five years ago. USAHA will soon start the process again to make sure we are on the right path to keep up the momentum. We have appointed a strategic planning task force, chaired by Dr. Bruce King, and this task force will go through several steps of information gathering, member conversations, brainstorming, and planning to culminate in a rollout of a new strategic plan at the annual meeting in 2014 in Kansas City. Watch for opportunities to participate in surveys and other venues to make sure your ideas are heard.

It's as important now as it ever has been in 116 years to participate in USAHA and to attend the USAHA/AAVLD Annual Meeting. Our coordinated efforts of veterinarians, industry, regulators, diagnosticians, and others are essential to meet the increasing demand for safe, secure, nutritious, wholesome, and plentiful food. On behalf of your Executive Committee and professional staff, I look forward to seeing you – and continuing this important work together - in San Diego!
## 2013 Plenary Session Agenda

### Vaccines: 100 years of Virus Serum Toxin Act and Beyond

Program Chairs: Drs. Stephen Crawford and Catherine Barr
Moderated by Dr. Ron DeHaven, AVMA Executive Vice President

- **Hog Cholera: The Need for VSTA** - Dr. Rick Hill, USDA-APHIS-VS
  - Key concepts: history lesson, challenges, implementation.
- **The Economics of Vaccination: Why do we Vaccinate?** - Dr. John M. Hardham, Zoetis, International Federation of Animal Health
  - Key concepts: disease control, eradication, vaccine development considerations, vaccine deployment and administration considerations, as an alternative to depopulation.
- **Current technologies in vaccines** - Dr. Bryan Charleston, Pirbright
  - Key concepts: use FMD vaccine development as example; DIVA technology; speeding up the process; future technologies; public-private collaborations; the use of genome sequencing.
- **Autogenous vaccines: isn't this why VSTA was established?** - Dr. John A. Smith, Fieldale Farms
  - Key concepts: risk/benefit, approval process, development needs, quality control, organism isolation.
- **Gap analysis for high consequence diseases** - Dr. Luis Rodriguez, USDA-ARS
  - Key concepts: all with a focus on vaccines - African Swine Fever analysis conducted by ARS; current state, new spread, global implications, technology needs and advances.
- **Future of vaccines: beyond existing regulatory diseases** - Dr. Cyril Gay, USDA-ARS
  - Key concepts: potential orbivirus gap analysis underway at ARS; possible involvement of regulatory medicine in the future of disease control beyond our current roles; what is the next frontier and/or how do we identify it?

AAVLD Plenary Session Overview - Saturday, October 19, 8:00 a.m.

**Getting ahead of the Ball:**

**Diagnostic Adaptation in a Global Health Community**

- EHV-1 Ring Trial Results and Discussion - Tim Baszler
- H7N9 Emergence, Response and Projections – Response in the Diagnostic Community - Mia Torchetti
- Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea Virus’s Emergence in the US: Events, Observations and Opportunities - Rodger Main
- It Takes a Diagnostic Village … - Beth Lautner
- Panel Discussion

### Other Notable Events...

- **AAVLD Member Reception and Auction** - Friday, Oct. 18, 6:00 p.m.
- **USAHA All-Districts Breakfast** - Sunday, Oct. 20, 7:00 a.m. ($15)
- **USAHA/AAVLD President’s Reception and Dinner** - Sunday, Oct. 20, 5:30 p.m.
- **USAHA Membership Meetings** - Monday, Oct. 21, 12:00 p.m.

Wednesday, Oct. 23, 2:00 p.m.
2013 Program at a Glance

Daily Events Thursday, October 17
AAVLD Anaerobic Workshop – 1:00-5:00pm, Pacific Salon 1/2/3
AAVLD – Veterinary LRN Workshop – 1:00-5:00pm; Pacific Salon 4/5

Daily Events Friday, October 18
AAVLD – Financial Advisory Committee - 7:00-8:00am; Devonshire. (closed session).
C. L. Davis: Forensic Veterinary Pathology – 8:00am-5:30pm; Sunrise. ($125.00 Registration Fee required see www.aavld.org for link).
AAVLD – Publications Committee – 8:00-10:00am; Devonshire.
AAVLD – Informatics Committee – 8:00-5:00pm; Pacific Salon 2.
AAVLD – Actinomycetes, Nocardia and Other Agents of Pyogranulomatous Lesions (mini-Bacti symposium) – 8:00am-12:00pm; Pacific Salon 3.
AAVLD – Parasitology Committee – 8:00am-12:00pm; Sunset.
AAVLD – Laboratory Emergency Management Committee – 8:00am-12:00pm; Pacific Salon 1.
AAVLD- Epidemiology Committee – 10:00am – 12:00pm; Royal Palm Salon 1.
USAHA – Executive Committee Luncheon and Meeting – 12:00-5:00pm – Devonshire.
AAVLD – Quality Assurance Committee – 1:00-5:00pm; Pacific Salon 1.
ABVT – Annual Meeting – 1:00-2:00pm; Royal Palm Salon 2.
AAVLD – Virology Committee – 1:00-4:00pm; Royal Palm Salon 4/5.
AAVLD – Executive Board – 1:00-5:00pm; Towne.
AAVLD – Antimicrobial Susceptibility Subcommittee – 1:00-2:00pm; Pacific Salon 3.
AAVLD – Bacteriology Steering Subcommittee - 2:00-3:00pm; Pacific Salon 3.
AAVLD/AAVCT - Business Meeting and Case Presentations – 2:00-6:00pm; Royal Palm Salon 1.
AAVLD – Posters –Grand Ballroom - opens at 3pm – end of day.
AAVLD – Enteric Diseases Committee – 3:00-5:30pm; Pacific Salon 3.
AAVLD – Laboratory Technology Committee – 4:00-6:00pm; Royal Palm Salon 4/5.
AAVLD – Editorial Board, Journal of Veterinary Diagnostic Investigation (JVDI) – 4:00-6:00pm; Esquire.
AAVLD – Membership Committee – 4:30-5:15pm; Pacific Salon 7.
AAVLD – Constitution, Bylaws and Resolutions Committee – 5:00-6:00pm; Terrace Salon 1.
AAVLD – New Member Orientation – 5:15-6:00pm; Pacific Salon 1.
AAVLD – Reception and Foundation Auction – 6:00-9:00pm; Towne & Country Ballroom.

Daily Events Saturday, October 19
AAVLD – Foundation Committee – 7:00-8:00am; Terrace Salon 1.
AAVLD – Plenary Scientific Session – 7:45-11:30am; Pacific Salon 1/2/3.
USAHA/AAVLD – Committee on Animal Emergency Management– 8:00am-1:00pm; Golden West Ballroom.
Time-Specific Paper 9:45am - Secure Food Supply Plans; Update on Current and Future Endeavors
Dr. James Roth, Director for the Center for Food Security and Public Health at Iowa State University
USAHA EHV-1 Workshop – 8:00am – 3:00 pm; Royal Palm Salon1/2.
Mycobacterial Diseases of Animals Multi-State Initiative – 7:00am – 6:00pm, Sunset
AAVLD – House of Delegates and General Membership – 11:30am-12:00pm; Pacific Salon 2.
AAVLD – Exhibits – 9:10 – 9:40am; 11:30-1:00pm; 3:00-6:00pm;Golden Pacific Ballroom. (refreshments in exhibit hall)
AAVLD – Posters – All day; Golden Pacific Ballroom. Note: Discussion Time with Presenters, 3:00-4:00pm
USAHA/AAVLD – Student Luncheon - 12:00pm – 1:30pm; Royal Palm Salon 2.
National Assembly of State Animal Health Officials - 1:00-6:00pm; San Diego Ballroom.
AAVLD – Pathology Scientific Session – 1:00-3:15pm; Pacific Salon 1.
AAVLD – Bacteriology Scientific Session – 1:00-3:15pm; Pacific Salon 3.
AAVLD – Virology Scientific Session - 1:00-3:15pm; Pacific Salon 4/5.
AAVLD – Epidemiology Scientific Session – 1:00-3:15pm; Pacific Salon 6/7.

AAVLD – Toxicology Scientific Session– 1:00-3:15pm; Pacific Salon 2.
AAVLD – Administrative Management Personnel Committee - 1:00-5:00pm; Towne.
USAHA/AAVLD – Committee on Diagnostic Laboratory and Veterinary Workforce Development – 1:00-5:00pm; Sunrise.
AAVLD Poster Session (Authors present at posters): 3:00-4:00 pm – Golden Pacific Ballroom.

Applied Animal Health, Public Health Research and Extension Veterinarians Symposium – 3:00-6:00pm; Royal Palm Salon 3/4.
USAHA/AAVLD – Committee on Environment and Toxicology - 3:30-6:30pm; Royal Palm Salon 1/2.
AAVLD – Laboratory Safety Committee – 3:30-7:30pm; Pacific Salon 6/7.
AAVLD – Government Relations Committee – 3:30-5:30pm; Royal Palm Salon 5.
AAVLD – Diagnostic Pathology Slide Seminar – 3:30-5:00pm; Pacific Salon 1.
AAVLD – Diagnostic Bacteriology Cases – 3:30-5:45pm; Pacific Salon 3.
AAVLD and NAHLN – Laboratory Directors Committee - 5:30-7:30pm; Sunrise.
AAVLD – Exhibitors Seminars – 6:00-7:00pm; .
American Association of Food Hygiene Veterinarians, Board of Directors - 6:00-10:00pm; Terrace Salon 1.
USAHA – Committee on Program – 6:00-8:30pm; Towne.
Extension Veterinarians Business Meeting – 6:00-10:00pm; Royal Palm Salon 3/4.
AAVLD Gross Pathology Mock Examination – 6:45-9:45pm; Pacific Salon 6/7.
AAVLD – USA Lims User Group Meeting – 7:00-8:30pm; Royal Palm Salon 5.
IDEXX Reception – 8:00 – 11:00pm, Tiki Pavillon.

Daily Events Sunday, October 20
Prayer Breakfast – 6:30-8:00am; Tiki Pavilion.
USAHA – District Breakfast Meeting (NC, NE, S, W) – 7:00-8:30am; San Diego Ballroom.
AAVLD – Exhibits – 9:15am – 12:00pm; Golden Pacific Ballroom. (refreshments in exhibit hall)
AAVLD – Posters – Available until 2:00pm; Golden Pacific Ballroom.
Food Safety Symposium – 8:00am-12:00pm; Sunrise.
AAVLD – Pathology Scientific Session – 8:00-11:15am; Pacific Salon 1.
AAVLD – Epidemiology Scientific Session – 8:00-11:15am; Pacific Salon 3.
AAVLD – Bacteriology Scientific Session – 8:00-11:15am; Pacific Salon 2.
AAVLD – Virology (Influenza and Serology) Scientific Session – 8:00-11:15am; Pacific Salon 6/7.
AAVLD – Virology Scientific Session – 8:00-11:30am; Pacific Salon 4/5.
AAVLD – Administrative Management Personnel Committee - 8:00am-12:00pm; Esquire.
Northeast District Meeting – 9:00-11:30am; Royal Palm Salon 1/2.
North Central District Meeting – 9:00-11:30am; Royal Palm Salon 3/4.
Southern District Meeting – 9:00-11:30am; Sunset.
Western District Meeting – 9:00-11:30am; Royal Palm Salon 5/6.
Spouses Brunch – 9:30am-12:00pm; Tiki Pavilion.
AAVLD – Pathology Committee – 12:00-2:00pm; Pacific Salon 1.
USAHA – Committee on Audit – 12:00-1:00pm; Devonshire.
USAHA/AAVLD – Committee on National Animal Health Laboratory Network – 12:00-3:00pm; Pacific Salon 2.
USAHA/AAVLD – Committee on Aquaculture – 12:30-5:30pm; Royal Palm Salon 5/6.
USAHA/AAVLD – Committee on Food and Feed Safety – 1:30-5:30pm; Pacific Salon 6/7.
USAHA – Committee on Import-Export – 12:30-5:30pm; Pacific Salon 3.
USAHA – Committee on Infectious Diseases of Cattle, Bison and Camelids – 12:30-5:30pm; Sunset.
USAHA – Committee on John’s Disease – 12:30-5:30pm; Pacific Salon 4/5.
USAHA – Committee on Wildlife Diseases – 12:30-5:30pm; Sunrise.
USAHA – Scientific Advisory Subcommittee on Brucellosis; Subcommittee on Brucellosis in the Greater Yellowstone Area; Feral Swine Subcommittee on Brucellosis and Pseudorabies – 12:30-5:30pm; Towne.
APHIS-VS – 1:00-5:30pm: Golden West Ballroom.
USAHA/AAVLD – Committee on Animal Health Surveillance and Information Systems – 3:00-6:00pm; Pacific Salon 1.
AAVLD/NVSL – Proficiency Testing Committee – 3:00-5:00pm; Royal Palm Salon 1/2.
AAVLD – Strategic Planning Committee – 3:00-6:00pm; Esquire.
USAHA Distriact-at-Large Meeting – 4:00-5:30pm; Terrace Salon 1.
USAHA – New Member Orientation – 5:00-6:00pm; Pacific Salon 2.
USAHA/AAVLD – Presidents Reception and Dinner 6:00pm; Towne & Country Ballroom.

Daily Events Monday, October 21
AAVLD – Past Presidents’ Breakfast – 7:00-8:00am; Tiki Pavilion.
USAHA/AAVLD Joint Plenary Session Vaccines: 100 years of Virus Serum Toxin Act and Beyond – 7:30am-12:00pm; Towne & Country Ballroom.
AAVLD – House of Delegates – 12:00-12:45pm; Pacific Salon 6/7.
USAHA – Membership Luncheon and Meeting – 12:00-12:30pm; San Diego and Golden West Ballrooms.
Directors of State Meat Inspection – 11:00am-8:00pm; Pacific Salon 4/5.
USDA-ARS Animal Health Research Review 2011 – 1:00-5:00pm; Pacific Salon 3.
USAHA – Committee on Bluetongue and Related Orbiviruses – 1:00-6:00pm; Sunset.
USAHA – Committee on Brucellosis – 1:00-6:00pm; San Diego Ballroom.
USAHA – Committee on Infectious Diseases of Horses – 1:00-6:00pm; Sunrise.
USAHA – Committee on International Standards – 1:00-6:00pm; Royal Palm Salon 1/2.
USAHA – Committee on Transmissible Diseases of Poultry and Other Avian Species – 1:00-6:00pm; Royal Palm Salon 3/4.
USAHA – Committee on Tuberculosis – 1:00-6:00pm; Royal Palm Salon 3/4.
USAHA – Committee on Transmissible Diseases of Swine – 1:00-6:00pm; Royal Palm Salon 3/4.
USAHA – Committee on Tuberculosis Scientific Advisory Subcommittee – 1:00-6:00pm; Royal Palm Salon 5/6.
AAVLD – Committee Chairs and Program Committee – 1:30-3:30pm; Towne.
USAHA/AAVLD – Executive Committees – 3:30-5:00pm; Towne.
USAHA - State Animal Disease Traceability Discussion - 5:00 – 6:30pm; Pacific Salon 6/7. National Association of Federal Veterinarians – 5:30-8:00pm; Pacific Salon 3.
USAHA – Board of Directors – 6:00-7:00pm; Golden Pacific Ballroom.

Daily Events Tuesday, October 22
USAHA – Past Presidents’ Breakfast – 7:30-9:30am; Devonshire.
USAHA – Committee on Captive Wildlife and Alternative Livestock – 8:00am-12:00pm; Pacific Salon 3.
USAHA – Committee on Foreign and Emerging Diseases – 8:00am-5:30pm; Golden West Ballroom.
USAHA – Committee on Livestock Identification – 8:00am-12:00pm; San Diego Ballroom.
USAHA – Committee on Pharmaceuticals – 8:00am-12:00pm; Pacific Salon 6/7.
National Scrapie Oversight Board – 8:00-9:00am; Royal Palm Salon 3/4.
USAHA – Committee on Scapie – 9:00am-12:00pm; Royal Palm Salon 3/4.
USAHA – Committee on Salmonella – 8:00-12:00pm; Royal Palm Salon 1/2.
Directors of State Meat Inspection – 8:00am-5:30pm; Pacific Salon 4/5.
American Association of Avian Pathologist Liaison with AVMA – 10:00am-12:00pm; Royal Palm Salon 6.
USAHA – Committee on Biologics and Biotechnology – 7:00-10:00pm; Royal Palm Salon 6.
USAHA – Committee on Public Health and Rabies – 1:00-5:30pm; Pacific Salon 3.
USAHA – Committee on Sheep and Goats – 1:00-5:30pm; Royal Palm Salon 3/4.
USAHA – Committee on Transmissible Diseases of Poultry and Other Avian Species – 1:00-5:30pm; Pacific Salon 1/2.
USAHA – Committee on Tuberculosis – 1:00-5:30pm; San Diego Ballroom.
USAHA – Board of Directors – 6:00-7:00pm; Golden Pacific Ballroom.

Daily Events Wednesday, October 23
USAHA – Committee on Animal Welfare – 8:00am-12:00pm; Pacific Salon 2/3.
USAHA – Committee on Parasitic Diseases – 8:00am-12:00pm; Pacific Salon 6/7.
USAHA - Membership Meeting – 2:00-3:30pm; Pacific Salon 2/3.
USAHA – Board of Directors – Immediately following membership meeting; Golden Pacific Ballroom.
USAHA – Executive Committee Meeting – 6:00pm; Devonshire.
Report on the 81st Annual Meeting of the OIE

Dr. Stephen Crawford, USAHA President Elect and New Hampshire State Veterinarian represented USAHA at the 81st General Session of the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), May 26-31, 2013 in Paris, France. Dr. Crawford joined the official delegation, represented by Dr. John Clifford, OIE Delegate and Deputy Administrator, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS); Dr. Michael David, alternate Delegate and Director, National Center for Import and Export, USDA, APHIS, VS; and Dr. Karen Slater, Regional Manager, APHIS, International Services, Brussels, Belgium.

Other industry representatives accompanying the U.S. delegation included:

- Dr. Catherine Barr, President-elect, American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians
- Dr. Paul Sundberg, Vice President of Science and Technology, National Pork Board
- Dr. Kathy Simmons, National Cattlemen’s and Beef Association
- Dr. Ron DeHaven, Chief Executive Officer, American Veterinary Medical Association
- Dr. Jamie Jonker, Vice-President, Scientific and Regulatory Affairs, National Milk Producers Federation
- Dr. Shelly McKee, Director of Technical Services, US Poultry and Egg Export Council

For its 81st General Session, the OIE had the honour of welcoming Her Royal Highness Princess Haya, OIE Goodwill Ambassador. Numerous Ministers of OIE Member Countries also honoured the Assembly with their presence at the Opening Ceremony.

Over 800 participants, representing Member Countries of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and numerous international, intergovernmental, regional and national organisations (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, World Health Organization, World Bank, World Trade Organization, European Commission etc.) took part in the event.

The Representative of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation announced an important contribution to support the strengthening of Veterinary Services worldwide.

International standards and guidelines

Animal welfare

The World Assembly of OIE Delegates adopted a new chapter on broiler chickens, which includes criteria and measurables for animal welfare in broiler production systems.

“This new chapter is the culmination of a long-term undertaking and it has taken OIE Member Countries several years to reach a consensus. It also goes to show that our Organisation’s international standards-setting process, based on scientific excellence and democratically adopted standards – one country, one vote – achieves results of worldwide importance” declared Dr Bernard Vallat, Director General of the OIE.

Rinderpest

A new chapter on rinderpest was adopted that confirms its global eradication in animals and enacts measures to be taken in the event of any accidental or deliberate release from laboratories still holding the virus.

A global communication programme on the sequestration and destruction of rinderpest virus was launched during the General Session. Supported by the United Kingdom, which currently chairs the G8 Global Partnership, the campaign includes the use of a video clip calling on OIE Member Countries to respect the commitments they agreed to in a vote at the OIE in 2011.

Antimicrobial resistance

The OIE Delegates continued their work in the field of antimicrobial resistance by updating an important chapter of the OIE Code on responsible and prudent use of antimicrobial agents in veterinary medicine in the 178 OIE Member Countries.

Recognition of official animal health status

This year, the Assembly has added peste des petits ruminants (PPR) and classical swine fever (CSF) to the list of diseases for which Member Countries can apply for official recognition of their disease free status.

Bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) or ‘mad cow disease’

During this year’s Session, the World Assembly of national Delegates recognised Bulgaria and Costa Rica as having ‘controlled risk’ status with regard to bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE); Israel, Italy, Japan, The Netherlands, Slovenia and the United States of America were recognised as having a ‘negligible BSE risk’.

The official status of all the countries that already had an officially recognised status remains unchanged.

Foot and mouth disease

New zones were recognised as officially free from foot and mouth disease (FMD), in Argentina, Bolivia and Peru.

The OIE endorsed the national control programme for FMD submitted by Bolivia.

African horse sickness (AHS)

In 2012, OIE Members validated the application of an official procedure for
official recognition of countries’ AHS status. This year, the Assembly recognised, for the first time, 59 countries as being free from the disease.

**Influenza A(H7N9) virus**

The Assembly gave special attention to the exceptional nature of the influenza A(H7N9) episode in the People’s Republic of China in April 2013. The latest available information, delivered to the Assembly by the Delegate of China, and the results of the recent OIE expert mission to China, were presented to Member Countries with a view to preparing measures to try to prevent any worldwide spread of the virus in animals.

**Scientific network**

This year, the Delegates accredited five new Collaborating Centres and six Reference Laboratories, bringing the number of official centres of scientific excellence within the OIE worldwide network to 284.

Much information about the OIE may be found at http://www.oie.int/.

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**2013 Committee Chairs**

OIE Committees are crucial to the work of the organization, and the work of committee leadership is key to the success of the meeting and USAHA. Joint committees with AAVLD are indicated below.

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<th>Committee Name</th>
<th>Chair/Co-Chairs</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Committee on Animal Emergency Management (Joint)</td>
<td>Chair: Nick Striegel, Vice Chair: Heather Engleking</td>
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<td>Committee on Animal Health Surveillance &amp; Information Systems (Joint)</td>
<td>Chair: Lisa Becton, Vice Chair: Marie Gramer</td>
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<td>Committee on Animal Welfare</td>
<td>Chair: Gail Golab, Vice Chair: Belinda Thompson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Committee on Aquaculture (Joint)</td>
<td>Chair: Kevin Snekvik, Vice Chair: Lester Khoo</td>
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<td>Committee on Biologics and Biotechnology</td>
<td>Chair: James Maclachlan, Vice Chair: Joseph Huff</td>
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<td>Committee on Bluetongue and Related Orbiruses</td>
<td>Chair: N James MacInnes, Vice Chair: William Wilson</td>
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<td>Committee on Brucellosis</td>
<td>Chair: Jim Logan, Co-Vice Chairs: Bill Barton, Tony Frazier</td>
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<td>Committee on Captive Wildlife &amp; Alternative Livestock</td>
<td>Chair: Peregrine Wolff, Vice Chair: Julie Napiar</td>
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<td>Committee on Diagnostic Laboratory &amp; Veterinary Workforce Development (Joint)</td>
<td>Chair: Michael Gilksdorf, Vice Chair: Gary Anderson</td>
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<td>Committee on Environment &amp; Toxicology (Joint)</td>
<td>Chair: Larry Thompson, Vice Chair: Tim Evans</td>
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<td>Committee on Food &amp; Feed Safety (Joint)</td>
<td>Chair: Bonnie Buntain, Vice Chair: Lisa Ramsey</td>
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<td>Committee on Foreign &amp; Emerging Diseases</td>
<td>Chair: Paul Gibbs, Vice Chair: Tammy Beckham</td>
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<td>Committee on Import-Export</td>
<td>Chair: Mark Engle, Vice Chairs: Pending</td>
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<td>Committee on Infectious Diseases of Cattle, Bison &amp; Camelids</td>
<td>Chair: James Evermann, Vice Chair: Chuck Massengill</td>
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<td>Committee on Infectious Diseases of Horses</td>
<td>Chair: W. Kent Fowler, Vice Chair: Andy Schwartz</td>
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<td>Committee on International Standards</td>
<td>Chair: Donald Hoenig, Vice Chairs: Richard Willer, Bill Hartmann</td>
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<td>Committee on Johne's Disease</td>
<td>Chair: Elisabeth Patton, Vice Chair: Pending</td>
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<td>Committee on Livestock Identification</td>
<td>Chair: Tony Forshey, Vice Chairs: Kevin Maher, Steve Halstead</td>
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<td>Committee on NAHLN (Joint)</td>
<td>Chair: Barbara Powers, Vice Chair: Harry Snelson</td>
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<td>Committee on Parasitic Diseases</td>
<td>Chair: Dee Ellis, Vice Chair: David Winters</td>
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<td>Committee on Pharmaceuticals</td>
<td>Chair: Christine Hoang, Vice Chair: Ellen Wilson</td>
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<td>Committee on Public Health &amp; Rabies</td>
<td>Chair: Sandra Norman, Vice Chair: Nancy Frank</td>
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<td>Committee on Salmonella</td>
<td>Chair: Doug Waltman, Vice Chair: Richard Sellers</td>
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<td>Committee on Scrapie</td>
<td>Chair: Charles Palmer, Vice Chair: Kris Petriani</td>
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<td>Chair: William Edmiston, Vice Chair: Don Knowles</td>
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<td>Chair: Julie Helm, Vice Chair: Pending</td>
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<td>Committee on Wildlife Diseases</td>
<td>Chair: John Fischer, Vice Chair: Colin Gillin</td>
</tr>
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**2014 USAHA District Meetings**

**Northeast:** (Tentative) May 11-14, 2014, Portland, ME

**North Central:** (Tentative) May 20-22, 2014, Branson, MO

**Southern:** (Tentative) June 1-4, 2014, Oklahoma City, OK

**District at Large (Allied Organizations):** March 31 –April 3, 2014 – In conjunction with NIAA – Omaha, NE

**Western:** July 14-17, 2014 MontBleu Resort Hotel, Lake Tahoe, NV
USAHA and AAVLD are proud to announce a new addition to the 2013 Annual Meeting – the AAVLD/USAHA Meeting App! For smartphone and tablet users, the app will allow access to all of the meeting information on your device. The app is available on Apple and Android systems, downloadable through the Apple store or Google Play. The app will be downloadable for all attendees – it is a native app meaning internet connection is not required to run the program. However, we will have complimentary wireless internet available for your use at the Town & Country Hotel in San Diego. We are grateful for the support of Life Technologies in bringing the app to the Annual Meeting.

The new, free and easy-to-use AAVLD/USAHA Annual Meeting app will allow you to:

- View the entire annual meeting program
- Plan your own schedule of meetings and events, including dates, times and locations
- Search sessions, abstracts and author information
- Find contact information for presenters, exhibitors and meeting attendees
- View presentation materials at the meeting and for months after the meeting
- Submit comments and questions to presenters
- Reference meeting presentation materials months after the meeting, and receive updates from presenters as they become available
- Changes in meetings, rooms or times will automatically be updated into your app
- Schedule to minimize meeting conflicts
- Navigate the conference center grounds to meeting rooms, exhibits, etc.
- Stay up-to-date with meeting announcements and alerts
- Send and receive messages from colleagues at the conference
- Submit comments and evaluations to AAVLD/USAHA regarding conference content and facilities

**How to access**

Once you have registered for the meeting, your account will be established within the app. Simply go to your app store, and search for AAVLD/USAHA, and select download. (Data rates may apply). Once you’ve downloaded, start the app and you will be prompted to enter your email address, and you’re all set.

**You must be registered for the meeting to use the App.**

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See you in ...

San Diego®