Despite substantial challenges to maintaining the animal health infrastructure in Haiti, particularly following the devastating earthquake Jan. 12, the country’s head veterinarian remains hopeful.

Dr. Max Millien, director of animal health with Haiti’s Ministry of Agriculture, said assistance from foreign agencies will help the country improve its animal health infrastructure.

He spoke at the Global Opportunities in One Health workshop Aug. 1 during the AVMA Annual Convention in Atlanta. In an interview with JAVMA News he said the country has long struggled with animal health issues, particularly disease outbreaks.

In 1995, the number of dogs and cats vaccinated against rabies totaled only 30,000 among the hundreds of thousands of dogs and cats that populate the country. A renewed focus on preventing the transmission of rabies began in 2007, a year after 29 human deaths resulting from rabies were reported.

The ministry developed the Animal Health Groups program, which has a presence in all 565 rural sections of the country. Each group constitutes about 25 animal producers and two or three veterinary agents who have taken a seven-week training course that teaches them about subjects such as animal pathology and epidemiology.

“They received skills to do vaccinations and give help in epidemiological assistance. Through this we have realized a campaign of vaccination,” Dr. Millien said.

This year the agriculture ministry has been able to vaccinate 455,000 dogs and cats against rabies, yet success has been tempered by the fact that more than 40 people have contracted the disease.

“With the destruction of houses, we have a lot of dogs and cats in the streets. That’s why, after the earthquake, we’ve had more people bitten, and that’s why people thought there was an increase in rabies,” Dr. Millien explained.

An additional emerging risk to Haitian animal health is Teschen disease, which is caused by a virulent variant of porcine enterovirus serotype 1. It began spreading among pigs in February 2009 and has ravaged the country ever since. Some areas have seen 25 percent mortality rates and 40 percent morbidity rates.

Haiti is in dire need of laboratories to produce a vaccine against Teschen disease; however, there is a lack of interest in producing such a vaccine because most countries don’t have the disease, and laboratories wouldn’t make much money from its manufacture, Dr. Millien said.

What little animal health infrastructure existed before the beginning of this year was nearly shattered following the natural disaster. A public veterinary clinic, laboratory, quarantine posts, and a school for veterinary technicians no longer stand as a result of the earthquake. It also caused many veterinarians and veterinary technicians to leave the country and caused a shortage of veterinary...
drugs and equipment for those who remained.

Dr. Ian Robinson, emergency relief director of the International Fund for Animal Welfare, said, in the immediate aftermath of the earthquake, the people suffered more because they were in the collapsed buildings rather than the animals, which were mostly outside. Hence, care of animals was low on the agenda. It also became immediately apparent that any one group wouldn’t be able to do anything meaningful in those circumstances, Dr. Robinson told workshop attendees, so foreign aid workers agreed to form the Animal Relief Coalition for Haiti, which now comprises more than 20 organizations, including the IFAW, AVMA, and American Veterinary Medical Foundation. To date, the Foundation and its partners have contributed $50,000 to ARCH, with potential for more giving before the year’s end.

Dr. Millien considers the earthquake not as a setback but as an opportunity to improve the country’s veterinary infrastructure. He also finds hope in the sort of collaboration happening between the Ministry of Agriculture and ARCH.

“In the past, every institution came and did what it wanted. It was not very good,” Dr. Millien said. “Every institution recognizes now that Haiti’s Veterinary Services is the institution that has to take the leadership role and realizes (that) coordination is important.”

Dr. Millien and his staff already had strong views and ideas about the way the recovery could best be helped, Dr. Robinson explained, so ARCH and Haiti’s Veterinary Services joined forces to produce a plan and help with recovery efforts at a cost of approximately $1 million.

Together, they will be instituting use of mobile veterinary clinics, training Haitian veterinarians and veterinary health workers to address welfare problems, restoring appropriate vaccine storage conditions to allow for effective vaccination campaigns, conducting a dog population study to better inform coalition work, promoting local interest in animal welfare, and repairing laboratory infrastructure ruined during the earthquake.

Still, Haiti has a long road ahead in terms of providing adequate animal health services. Five years ago, the Ministry of Agriculture had only six veterinarians for the entire country. To remedy the situation, the Haitian government approached the Cuban government to form an agreement whereby Haiti would send students to Cuba for veterinary training. Since then, about 69 students have been trained and about 60 are working for the agriculture ministry today, Dr. Millien noted.

—Malinda Larkin

Workshop addresses veterinarians’ roles in global health

Veterinarians’ involvement in global health was the subject of a full-day workshop at the AVMA Annual Convention covering Global Opportunities in One Health.

The keynote session, “One Health in Global Context,” examined reasons for veterinarians to become involved in global health. The rest of the sessions discussed how veterinarians can become involved—by starting as students, changing careers, or volunteering for disaster response and other endeavors.

The first speaker was Dr. Lonnie J. King, dean of The Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine and a former director of the National Center for Zoonotic, Vector-Borne, and Enteric Diseases at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Dr. King emphasized the one-health concept that animal health, human health, and ecosystem health are interlinked. The world is experiencing threats to all three, he said. “It is a world that is exquisitely interconnected in ways we have never seen before.”

Population growth and international travel contribute to emerging infectious diseases, most of which are zoonotic, Dr. King said. A key intersection between animal and human health exists in the developing world, where many poor people rely on livestock for their livelihoods.

Dr. King said the one-health approach of collaboration among veterinarians, physicians, and other professionals can improve global health and alleviate global poverty. The perspective of veterinarians is important partly because of the profession’s focus on population health and preventive medicine.

The other speaker for the workshop’s opening session was Dr. David
news | take notice

AVMA releases FAQ on extralabel drug use

The AVMA has released a new FAQ about how to follow federal rules for extralabel drug use in veterinary practice.

The document, available at www.avma.org/issues under “Drugs,” provides answers to frequently asked questions from veterinarians about using drugs in ways that deviate from the labeling approved by the Food and Drug Administration.

According to the document, the Animal Medicinal Drug Use Clarification Act allows veterinarians to prescribe animal and human drugs for extralabel uses only under certain guidelines. The FAQ offers considerations for extralabel drug use in everyday practice as well as a more exhaustive list of criteria for extralabel drug use. The document notes the drugs that the FDA has prohibited for extralabel use in food-producing animals.

Other entries in the FAQ provide more details about using drugs labeled for another species, record and label requirements for extralabel drug use, and many other common concerns.

The document links to the AVMA brochure on extralabel drug use, which features an algorithm for determining when extralabel drug use is appropriate.

AVMA headquarters extern Jessica Green (IL ’12) contributed to the FAQ. ¶

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news | global issues

Veterinarian supports animal relief following Pakistan floods

Dr. Inayat Kathio is on a mission. The Pakistani-American is trying to collect desperately needed antimicrobials for livestock affected by the floods devastating his native country.

The Food and Agriculture Organization issued a report this August in which the United Nation’s agency declared that approximately 200,000 cows, sheep, buffalo, goats, and donkeys had been confirmed dead or missing in the most severe flooding in Pakistan’s history. Poultry losses are estimated to be several times higher.

Livestock account for nearly half of Pakistan’s agricultural gross domestic product. The FAQ says it’s imperative to get food and medicine to the animals quickly. The UN agency worries the number of dead animals could reach the millions, potentially crippling the nation’s economy.

A naturalized U.S. citizen for three decades, Dr. Kathio often takes time off from his small animal/exotics clinic in Pittston, Pa., to promote veterinary medicine and animal welfare around the world and to visit Pakistan, where he oversees seven low-cost veterinary clinics. He saw how dire the situation in Pakistan had become during a visit with Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani in early August.

“I witnessed for myself the flooding, the people displaced, and the disease in the livestock,” Dr. Kathio said.

In July heavy monsoon rains triggered major flooding in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Sindh, and Punjab provinces, putting approximately one-fifth of Pakistan under water and creating a humanitarian disaster affecting more than 20 million people. Grain, sugar cane, and rice harvests have been washed away.

Poultry stocks in some regions have been wiped out entirely. “Livestock in this country are the poor people’s mobile ATM,” said David Doolan,
senior FAO officer in charge of agency programs in Pakistan. “Every animal we save is a productive asset that poor families can use to rebuild their lives when the floods finally pass.”

While he was in Pakistan, Dr. Kathio purchased antimicrobials from local pharmacies and distributed them among the veterinary staff at his clinics to treat livestock. Following a flood, hemorrhagic septicemia is the primary killer of water buffalo, he explained. Animals are also susceptible to foot rot, ringworm, and *Salmonella* and *Escherichia coli* infection.

Additionally, Dr. Kathio encouraged several U.S. veterinary schools to send staff and students to support animal relief efforts.

“I’d like to see the world come together to help Pakistan,” Dr. Kathio said. “This is an ethical issue for the world to come in and help this poor country.”

The UN has requested $5.7 million in emergency assistance for livestock, and the FAO has dedicated $1.4 million to buy feed and animal vaccines. The agency expects to ask for more money once the needs are better understood.

Along with confronting a major animal welfare crisis, Pakistan’s animal agriculture infrastructure is in immediate jeopardy. According to Dr. Ghulam Habib, dean of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Sciences at the Agricultural University in Peshawar, lowered milk and meat production is resulting in reduced income and the lower sale value of weak and sick animals is further contributing to the problem.

“Farmers reported that they would like to sell some of their animals, but the price has gone down to less than half of the normal value because they are sick and weak, and everybody knows they (the farmers) desperately need money, so they pay little,” Dr. Habib wrote in an e-mail to JAVMA News.

The government’s capacity to provide animal medicines, vaccines, and feed is strained to the breaking point, Dr. Habib wrote, and “gigantic efforts” are needed to improve the baseline quality of life for livestock farmers.

“(The) post-flood scenario for livestock, together with agriculture losses, anticipate economic and social chaos. The rehabilitation program shall include immediate, medium, and long term strategies to recover the losses and put the livestock sector on proper footings as a source of livelihood and food security,” Dr. Habib explained.

Since returning to the United States, Dr. Kathio has been soliciting donations of animal antimicrobials that he can take to Pakistan when he returns in November. So far, he’s had little luck.

Dr. Kathio agrees that people are the focus of much of the international relief response, but he worries about the long-term damage resulting from the large-scale loss of livestock, which will eventually have to be replaced because they are a vital national resource.

“When the people have money, they buy and breed livestock;” he said. “When they are poor, they sell the livestock to make a living. Here we treasure our pets—our dogs and cats—but livestock is a source of income for people in Pakistan.”

—R. Scott Nolen

The 5-foot-long, 40-pound water monitor lizard had a hard road leading to its appearance before the crowd at the Hill’s Opening Session July 31 during the AVMA Annual Convention in Atlanta.

The animal had been rescued from the streets of Trenton, N.J., during the winter some years ago, but not before the lizard had had its neck burned by its former owner.

Wildlife biologist and anthropologist Jeff Corwin displayed a menagerie of animals with similar backgrounds, including a 6-foot-long American alligator and a 100-pound alligator snapping turtle, to convey his messages of responsible pet ownership and wildlife habitat preservation during his presentation.

“As veterinarians, your primary interest is to secure the health and well-being of your patients and their keepers, but I’m sure many of you have encountered a client who says, ‘We have a snake. It’s too big, and we want to get rid of it,’” Corwin said.

Abandonment and improper husbandry are big problems in the United States, he said. Without homes for the affected creatures, the situation becomes even more unfortunate not only for the former pets but also for wildlife.

He gave the example of boa constrictors and other nonnative snakes found in the Florida Everglades that have been released by irresponsible owners.

“Hundreds of thousands of them are consuming native wildlife. The truth is, it is our responsibility as stewards of these animals, and it’s not always a great idea to get your kid a snake,” Corwin said.

After more than 10 years on television, Corwin has most recently been working as the science and environmental correspondent for NBC. He primarily has reported on the response to the environmental disaster arising from the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico.

For the past few months, Corwin has witnessed efforts to locate, rehabilitate,
and release some of the more than 400 species that have been put in peril by the oil spill. The sea turtle population has been particularly devastated. Out of a total 10,000 specimens, about 500 adults have died since the oil spill began. But he said he’s drawn hope from the first responders, many of whom are veterinarians.

“There’s a veterinarian on the front lines to help animals in jeopardy. There’s a veterinarian at the Tri-State Bird Rescue center there to treat it and hydrate it. There’s a veterinarian at the end with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to liberate the animal into the wild,” Corwin said.

Many of the affected wildlife remain in captivity, however, because they can’t be released back into a toxic environment. And habitat, he said, is the big secret to saving any endangered species.

“If you maintain and protect wild places and keep them healthy and clean, then you’ll have wildlife,” Corwin said.

If anything can be learned from the oil spill, he said, it is that radical changes are necessary, and part of that transformation will be lessening the dependence on fossil fuels for energy. 

—MALINDA LARKIN

AVMA recognizes contributions to veterinary profession

Annual awards highlight veterinarians and nonveterinarians whose work has made an impact

The AVMA acknowledged 18 individuals with awards during the 147th AVMA Annual Convention in Atlanta for efforts to advance veterinary medicine, animal welfare, and public health.

Dr. Leon H. Russell Jr. received the AVMA Award, the Association’s highest honor (see JAVMA, Sept. 15, 2010, page 611). Fourteen other veterinarians and three nonveterinarians also received awards during the convention.

The AVMA is accepting nominations for many of next year’s awards. The deadline is Feb. 1 for award nominations, except the deadline is March 1 for the Leo K. Bustad Companion Animal Veterinarian of the Year Award. Information and nomination forms are available at www.avma.org/awards.

Leo K. Bustad Companion Animal Veterinarian of the Year Award

This award recognizes outstanding work by a veterinarian in preserving human-animal relationships.

Dr. Kenneth C. Gorczyca
Small animal practitioner

Dr. Gorczyca has worked to help AIDS patients keep their pets ever since HIV struck the country in the 1980s. He has educated health professionals and the public about the minimal risk of zoonoses from pets to HIV/AIDS patients and the health benefits of animal companionship. He helped establish Pets Are Wonderful Support, a San Francisco organization that provides supplies and care for pets belonging to low-income people who have HIV/AIDS or other disabling illnesses and to senior citizens. He is executive secretary of the Lesbian and Gay VMA.

AVMA Animal Welfare Award

This award recognizes an AVMA member for achievements in advancing the welfare of animals.

Dr. Tom R. Lenz
Equine veterinarian

Dr. Lenz speaks across the country to equine, agriculture, and government groups about the problem of unwanted horses and has published articles and book chapters on the subject. He is immediate past chair of the Unwanted Horse Coalition and a past president of the American Association of Equine Practitioners. He has served on the AAEP and AVMA animal welfare committees. He currently serves on the welfare committees of the American Horse Council, Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association, and Missouri VMA. He also chairs the research committee of the American Quarter Horse Association.
Charles River Prize
The Charles River Foundation created this award to recognize contributions to laboratory animal medicine and science.

Dr. Melvin W. Balk
Executive director, American College of Laboratory Animal Medicine

Dr. Balk has devoted most of his career to laboratory animal medicine. After serving in the Army Veterinary Corps, he spent two decades at Charles River Laboratories. There, he developed the Charles River Annual Short Course on laboratory animal science and established a commercial diagnostic laboratory service. He was president of the Charles River Foundation from 1997-2002. He recently retired from Wyeth. Active on committees and in associations, he has served on the council of the Institute for Laboratory Animal Research. He has been ACLAM executive director since 1998.

Humane Award
This award recognizes a nonveterinarian for achievements in advancing the welfare of animals.

Kathryn W. Warnick
President, Humane Society of Missouri

Warnick created the Humane Society of Missouri’s Campaign Against Substandard Puppy Mills to raise awareness of substandard dog breeding facilities in Missouri and raise funds for investigations. She co-created the humane society’s Animal Cruelty Task Force, which responds to reports of animal abuse and neglect. She is a co-founder and president of Pet Shelters Across America, which raises funds for local shelters, and she created a national program that allows senior citizens to adopt shelter pets free of charge. She has appeared on national television shows to promote animal welfare.

Karl F. Meyer—James H. Steele Gold Head Cane Award
The American Veterinary Epidemiology Society gives this award for advancement of human health through veterinary epidemiology and public health.

Dr. Paul L. Nicoletti
Professor emeritus, University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine

Dr. Nicoletti began his career with the Department of Agriculture and spent time as an epizootiologist in Iran for the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization. In 1978, he joined the faculty of the University of Florida’s veterinary college. He taught courses on infectious diseases, epidemiology, public health, and food safety until his retirement in 2003. He is a past president of the Florida VMA, Phi Zeta, and American College of Veterinary Preventive Medicine. His contributions to brucellosis control garnered a $1.3 million private contribution to the Florida veterinary college.

Karl F. Meyer—James H. Steele Gold Head Cane Award
The American Veterinary Epidemiology Society gives this award for advancement of human health through veterinary epidemiology and public health.

Dr. Alfonso Torres
Professor, Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine

Dr. Torres served as deputy administrator for Veterinary Services at the Department of Agriculture’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service from 1999-2002. The native of Bogota, Colombia, was director of the Plum Island Animal Disease Center from 1996-1999 and chief of the USDA Foreign Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory on Plum Island from 1994-1996. He has held various positions with...
SmithKline Beecham Animal Health, Cornell’s veterinary college, and the University of Nebraska. Most recently, he returned to Cornell’s veterinary college as assistant dean for public policy.

**AVMA Lifetime Excellence in Research Award**
This award recognizes a veterinarian for lifetime achievement in basic, applied, or clinical research.

![Dr. Gerald E. Bisgard](image)

**Dr. Gerald E. Bisgard**
Professor emeritus, University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Veterinary Medicine

Dr. Bisgard spent his research career at the University of Wisconsin’s veterinary school primarily studying respiratory physiology, especially the control of respiration during hypoxic states. His laboratory elucidated the role of the carotid body chemoreceptors in the mechanism of increased breathing at high altitude. He further studied the functional and cellular neuroplasticity of the carotid body during chronic hypoxia and early neonatal development. He was founding chairman of the Department of Comparative Biosciences at Wisconsin’s veterinary school. He built a department of 13 faculty members and remained chairman for 17 years.

**AVMA Practitioner Research Award**
This award recognizes an AVMA member who has contributed to research while working in private practice.

![Dr. Timothy C. McCarthy](image)

**Dr. Timothy C. McCarthy**
Surgical Specialty Clinic for Animals, Beaverton, Ore.

Dr. McCarthy began focusing on endoscopy in small animal practice in the 1980s. He pioneered the application of numerous minimally invasive endoscopic techniques ranging from transurethral cystoscopy, rhinoscopy, and otoscopy to arthroscopy and transabdominal nephroscopy. He recently devised a technique for the transurethral correction of ectopic ureters, using cystoscopy and a diode laser. He has published numerous articles on endoscopy and has lectured nationally and internationally on the subject. He is the editor of the definitive work on endoscopy in small animal practice, “Veterinary Endoscopy for the Small Animal Practitioner.”

**Public Service Award**
This award recognizes an AVMA member for contributions to public health and regulatory veterinary medicine.

![Dr. Lisa A. Conti](image)

**Dr. Lisa A. Conti**
Director, Florida Department of Health Division of Environmental Health

Dr. Conti directs the state of Florida’s activities to improve environmental health and decrease preventable diseases mediated through environmental processes. She works with various groups to develop environmental public health services and represents Florida’s surgeon general on matters of environmental public health. She is a founding member of the State Environmental Health Directors group of the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials. She also is an associate professor of pathobiology at the University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine. She was Florida’s state public health veterinarian from 1998-2003.

**XIIth International Veterinary Congress Prize**
This award recognizes an AVMA member who has contributed to international understanding of veterinary medicine.

![Dr. Gary A. Vroegindewey](image)

**Dr. Gary A. Vroegindewey**
Colonel, Army Veterinary Corps

Col. Vroegindewey has served as director of Department of Defense Veterinary Service Activity and assistant corps chief for four Veterinary Corps chiefs. His overseas missions and activities have taken him to Europe, Latin America, Africa, Asia, and New Zealand. He is a member of the International
**Student AVMA Teaching Excellence Award**
The Student AVMA gives this award to recognize a professor who educates, inspires, and strongly impacts veterinary students.

**Dr. Mark D. Freeman**
Assistant professor, Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine

Dr. Freeman spent time in private practice in the areas of mixed, small animal, and emergency and critical care practice and served on the faculty of Tuskegee University School of Veterinary Medicine. At Tuskegee, he was an assistant professor of small animal internal medicine and a clinical instructor in the Clinical Sciences Department. He joined the faculty of Ross University’s veterinary school in June 2009. He has participated in research in the area of molecular microbiology and helped train a number of interns in small animal medicine and surgery.

**Student AVMA Community Outreach Excellence Award**
The Student AVMA gives this award to recognize a professor who goes beyond collegiate responsibilities to focus on education in the community.

**Dr. Michael R. Moyer**
University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine and Bridgewater Veterinary Hospital

Dr. Moyer is the Rosenthal Director of Shelter Animal Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine and the owner of Bridgewater Veterinary Hospital in Bensalem, Pa. At the University of Pennsylvania, he not only delivers lectures and surgical instruction but also represents the veterinary school in collaborative efforts relevant to animal welfare and sheltering. Active in organized veterinary medicine, he is president-elect of the American Animal Hospital Association. He is a past president of the Pennsylvania VMA and of the University of Pennsylvania Veterinary Medical Alumni Society.

**AVMF/AKC Career Achievement Award in Canine Research**
The American Veterinary Medical Foundation and American Kennel Club created this award for contributions to canine research.

**Dr. George E. Lees**
Professor, Texas A&M University College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences

Dr. Lees served in the Army Veterinary Corps for three years and has been a faculty member in the Department of Small Animal Clinical Sciences at the Texas A&M veterinary college since 1980. He has contributed to research in the field of veterinary nephrology and urology. Early in his career, he studied the diagnosis and treatment of bacterial urinary tract infections in dogs and cats. Now he focuses on canine hereditary nephropathy. He organized the Texas Veterinary Renal Pathology Service in 2005 and continues to serve as director of the service.

**AVMF/Winn Feline Foundation Research Award**
The AVMF and Winn Feline Foundation created this award for contributions to feline research.

**Leslie A. Lyons, PhD**
Associate professor, University of California-Davis School of Veterinary Medicine
Dr. Lyons helped organize the Feline Genome Project while she was working at the National Cancer Institute. In 1999, she joined the Department of Population Health and Reproduction at the University of California’s veterinary school. Her research laboratory has had success in identifying the gene that causes polycystic kidney disease in Persian cats as well as the mutations for Siamese, Burmese, albino, chocolate, and cinnamon coat colors and the mutation causing cat blood group B. Recent work includes analysis of the origin of cat breeds and sites of cat domestication.

**President’s Award**

The AVMA president gives this award to individuals or groups who have made a positive impact on health, veterinary organizations, and the profession.

**Dr. Gary C. Bullard**

Owner, Bullard Animal Hospital

Dr. Bullard served in the Air Force before establishing Bullard Animal Hospital in Austell, Ga., which was a mixed practice from 1978-1983 before becoming a small animal practice. He has been president of the Westside Emergency Clinic, Greater Atlanta Veterinary Medical Society, Georgia VMA, and Georgia State Board of Veterinary Medicine. He represents Georgia in the AVMA House of Delegates, serving on the House Advisory Committee for the past five years and as HAC chair last year. He also has served on the AVMA Legislative Advisory Committee and AVMA State Advocacy Committee.

**President’s Award**

The AVMA president gives this award to individuals or groups who have made a positive impact on health, veterinary organizations, and the profession.

**J.B. Hancock**

Director, AVMA Communications Division

Hancock has built up the AVMA staff’s communications activities in areas such as marketing, media relations, state legislative and regulatory affairs, electronic media, and professional and public affairs. She was a partner and head of communications with a lobbying firm in Washington, D.C., before she joined the AVMA staff. Previously, she had been director of broadcasting for AARP. She owned a media production company in Washington for 27 years, acting as a writer, director, and producer. She also is a founding member of the National Association of Women Business Owners.

Dr. Walther began an equine practice in Reno, Nev., and spent a year in the Army Veterinary Corps before embarking on a long career in small animal practice in the Reno area. He has been president and vice president of the AVMA. He also served as Nevada delegate in the AVMA House of Delegates and as chair of the AVMA Political Action Committee. He is a past president of the Western Veterinary Conference and the Nevada VMA and a past chairman of the Nevada State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners.

**President’s Award**

The AVMA president gives this award to individuals or groups who have made a positive impact on health, veterinary organizations, and the profession.

**Dr. Jack O. Walther**

Part-time small animal practitioner
Speakers share strategies to increase diversity

Medical, dental professions advocate changing admissions process

Speakers at the sixth annual Veterinary Diversity Symposium Aug. 2 at the AVMA Annual Convention in Atlanta touched on past and present situations in veterinary medicine as well as what the dental and medical professions have done to promote diversity.

In the medical field during the ’70s, the goal of diversity initiatives was for the student population to reach parity with the U.S. population, said Gregory Strayhorn, MD, professor of family medicine at Morehouse School of Medicine in Atlanta.

Affirmative action efforts resulted in a slight increase in the number of black applicants to medical schools from 1974-1980, but that progress came to a halt when the schools encountered legal challenges related to concerns about the use of quotas.

In 1990, the Association of American Medical Colleges started a major initiative to increase schools’ diversity efforts. Institutions saw a dramatic increase in minority admissions for about five years, but after more challenges to these efforts, another dip occurred, although not to the same extent as was seen in the previous decade. Dr. Strayhorn said a gradual rebound in minority admissions is happening currently.

That’s because medical schools began looking in the past decade at alternatives to quotas to encourage diversity. They created programs to facilitate entry to medical education, aiming to help minority students overcome poor academic preparation.

Plus, admissions policies were modified—implicitly or otherwise—to consider noncognitive factors. This allowed admissions committees to take a more holistic approach, he said, and look at other achievements and other potential these students had, to predict their success in medical school.

Dental education has also seen success after examining schools’ admissions processes and working with admissions committees.

“We found even if you increase recruitment of minority students, we didn’t see an increase in enrollment. The block seemed to be at the admissions committee level, because they focused on grades and test scores,” said W. David Brunson, DDS, associate director of the Center for Equity and Diversity with the American Dental Education Association.

ADEA began working with dental school admission committees to show them the benefits of holistic admissions.

As a result, 24 of 26 schools that have gone through the workshops have shown dramatic increases in the enrollment of minority students, Dr. Brunson said.

In addition, the American Dental Association’s Commission on Dental Accreditation approved in July revised accreditation standards that include a standard for diversity. It dictates that dental schools must have a diversity initiative and is accompanied by an intent statement for how to accomplish this.

These strategies would be great for veterinary education, too, said Dr. Ronnie G. Elmore, a professor at Kansas State University’s College of Veterinary Medicine, but not by themselves.

“From a recruitment standpoint, one thing I’m convinced of is it’s all about shoe leather on the ground,” he said.

“There are lots of potential applicants. We just need to go to them.”

An untapped resource for potential veterinary students from diverse backgrounds is the annual meeting of organizations such as Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Related Sciences. Dr. Elmore said 500 to 600 students gather every year for the national society’s meeting, but only a handful of veterinary schools have a presence there.

He challenged the AVMA and Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges to put money toward recruiting minority students. Providing travel money for recruiters from interested veterinary schools to go to meetings like the MANRRS one would be very beneficial, he said. Grants of $1,000 per school for minority recruitment could be a big help and likely yield great results.

For many years, minorities were denied the opportunity to pursue a formal path to the profession, Dr. Eugene W. Adams, professor emeritus at Tuskegee University School of Veterinary Medicine, recalled in his talk.

Their absence made people assume they didn’t want to become veterinarians, he said, so no efforts were made to reach out to them. But early pioneers, although a miniscule fraction of the pool, were able to achieve so very much under difficult circumstances, he said.

Dr. Adams, author of the book, “The Legacy: A History...
of The Tuskegee University School of Veterinary Medicine (1945-1995)," could find only 70 African-American veterinary graduates from 1897-1948, with a large share coming from Kansas. Tuskegee University, founded in 1945, has since provided the greatest access for minorities to veterinary medicine for the subsequent 65 years.

“When you think of the limited resources of a historically black college in the South, we often say Tuskegee’s veterinary college was doomed to fail, because we had no buildings, no budget to establish it in the first place, and the difficulty to recruit faculty, because only 70 black veterinarians existed and many hadn’t been in the South or they knew of the conditions there,” Dr. Adams said, referring to the Jim Crow laws.

But Tuskegee persevered, the veterinary school received accreditation in 1954, and went on to educate 50 percent of African-American veterinarians. Central to Tuskegee students’ experience, he said, is providing cultural awareness.

“Diversity has to do with differences that need to be recognized among people,” Dr. Adams said. “It’s not about anyone getting ahead or receiving special treatment. It’s about open-mindedness, embracing nonconformity, and breaking down barriers.”

Dr. Evan M. Morse, moderator of the symposium, gave a talk on the business case for diversity and how a diverse workforce will better understand ways to create and serve a diverse client base.

“The U.S. is undergoing a profound and deep-rooted change in its culture and in the very way business is being conducted,” Dr. Morse said. “The repercussions of ignoring diversity will be apparent in empty waiting rooms and closed clinics.”

Implementing diversity changes within a practice need not be difficult. The first step can be as simple as declaring an intention to do so, he said. From there, a veterinary practice’s diversity initiatives should be made evident in its communication efforts.

Inclusive practices, Dr. Morse said, have a wider talent pool from which to recruit, firsthand knowledge and understanding of emerging markets, an ability to recognize and target these emerging markets, enhanced community relationships, and increased revenue. —MALINDA LARKIN

Sessions explore legislative advocacy

Individual veterinarians as well as the AVMA are advocating for federal and state legislation that will benefit the profession and are speaking out against legislation that could be detrimental.

That’s according to the four speakers during the AVMA Advocacy series at the AVMA Annual Convention. The speakers touched on specific legislative issues but focused on how the AVMA and veterinarians can and do advocate for the profession throughout the legislative process.

Addressing state-level advocacy was Adrian Hochstadt, JD, assistant director for state legislative and regulatory affairs in the AVMA Communications Division. Hochstadt said, “As the Association is ratcheting up advocacy at the state level, so are other organizations.”

State legislative issues range from animal cruelty to veterinary licensure, Hochstadt said. Some issues, such as noneconomic damages, are playing out in the courts.

Hochstadt said AVMA efforts in state advocacy include a new program that involves veterinarians speaking at law schools, many of which offer courses in animal law.

Stephanie Fisher, AVMA grassroots coordinator, spoke about the role that social media such as Facebook have for organizations advocating particular positions on federal legislation.

Many young people have grown up with social media, Fisher said, but some older people are not sure how to participate in this aspect of the Internet. She said, “You really have to just get out there and do it.”

Fisher noted that the AVMA Congressional Advocacy Network has 2,500 followers on its Facebook page.

Dr. Mark T. Lutschaunig, director of the AVMA Governmental Relations Division in Washington, D.C., spoke about how the GRD lobbies Congress.

“Lobbying is not a bad thing,” Dr. Lutschaunig said. “Congress needs to hear from the profession.”

The GRD lobbies largely by meeting with congressional staff and working with various coalitions. Contributions from the nonpartisan AVMA Political Action Committee to candidates help elect legislators friendly to the profession and help the GRD later gain direct access to members of Congress and congressional staff.
When working for the profession in Washington, D.C., “We’re not Democrat or Republican,” Dr. Lutschaunig said. “We’re the veterinarian party.”

Dr. Lutschaunig explained that the Executive Board decides the positions the AVMA takes on legislation, with input from the Legislative Advisory Committee and other AVMA committees and councils.

The GRD currently is lobbying on legislation regarding veterinary shortages, small business issues, animal welfare, and other issues of interest to the profession.

Stephanie Vance of Advocacy Associates gave two presentations about how individuals can advocate on legislation.

“I think the problem with advocacy is people don’t see how it connects to their day-to-day work,” Vance said. Yet, government policies affect people all day long.

Vance said the three stages of advocacy are speaking out, being heard, and being agreed with. Succeeding at advocacy also requires a strategy. Vance said advocates should conduct background research, build an advocacy network, prepare and motivate the network, build a calendar of actions, and stay on target.

–Katie Burns

Four members of the House of Representatives spoke at the AVMA Political Action Committee Congressional Club Luncheon Aug. 1 in Atlanta.

Attending the annual event, held in conjunction with the AVMA Annual Convention, were three Georgia congressmen—David Scott, Phil Gingrey, and Jack Kingston—and the only veterinarian serving in the House, Dr. Kurt Schrader of Oregon.

During the luncheon, Kingston was awarded the 2010 AVMA Advocacy Award for his support of legislation promoting the veterinary profession and animal health.

Kingston and the other representatives stressed the need for veterinarians to participate in the legislative process to ensure public and animal health. “Like never before have we needed the veterinarian to claim his rightful place in health care of the nation and the world,” Scott said.

They spoke favorably of the AVMA legislative agenda and noted the Association’s efforts to shore up the lagging supply of veterinarians in agriculture with the Veterinarian Services Investment Act (H.R. 3519). The bill, which the House Agriculture Committee recently passed, would create a competitive grant program to relieve veterinary shortage situations and support veterinary services.

A common theme among the speakers was the need for veterinarians to be engaged in the legislative process. Gingrey, a physician, said Congress wants guidance from veterinarians in the ongoing debate over the use of antimicrobials in animal agriculture. He worries that banning certain drug uses could harm the agriculture industry as well as animal welfare.

Dr. Schrader called on his colleagues to get involved. “We deal with lots of problems, and veterinarians have the knowledge and expertise to answer them. You have to be engaged,” he said.

The AVMA Council on Education has scheduled site visits to four schools and colleges of veterinary medicine for the remainder of 2010.

Comprehensive site visits are planned for the University of Saskatchewan Western College of Veterinary Medicine, Oct. 3-7; Washington State University College of Veterinary Medicine, Oct. 24-28; Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine, Nov. 7-11; and Iowa State University College of Veterinary Medicine, Dec. 5-9.

The council welcomes written comments on these plans or the programs to be evaluated.

Comments should be addressed to Dr. David E. Granstrom, Director, Education and Research Division, AVMA, 1931 N. Meacham Road, Suite 100, Schaumburg, IL 60173-4360. Comments must be signed by the person submitting them to be considered.
Students make changes with eye to the future

SAVMA overhauls its bylaws, committees

Most of the hundreds of students at the AVMA Annual Convention attended lectures and toured the exhibit hall. And of those, more than 70 met for the biannual Student AVMA House of Delegates meeting Aug. 1-2.

Every U.S. veterinary school and college—along with Ross University, St. George’s University, and St. Matthew’s University—sent delegates to Atlanta to discuss topics that ranged from bylaws changes to long-term goals of the organization to budget-cutting measures.

**Sizing things up**

A major goal of the SAVMA Executive Board was to streamline business to protect the future of the organization. Prior to the meeting, the SAVMA Strategic Planning Ad Hoc Committee evaluated the results of a member-wide survey on the value of the student association’s programs. Plus, it analyzed the current activities and purposes of committees within the SAVMA HOD.

The SAVMA delegates then voted to combine standing committees with similar charges after taking into consideration the ad hoc committee’s suggestions. The argument for merging 10 committees into seven was to decrease the total number of committees and create greater efficiency in carrying out goals.

Specifically, the move enhances the focus of the committees on the issues of debt education, diversity, communication among students and with the AVMA, and animal welfare education.

Another temporary entity—the Governance Documents Review Ad Hoc Committee, which consists of SAVMA Executive Board members—had been working on rewriting the SAVMA Bylaws before the meeting and had completed an analysis of SAVMA’s governing documents. Major changes were proposed to the committee descriptions, SAVMA’s mission statement, the position descriptions for the SAVMA Executive Board, and a change to the board’s name, which was formerly known as the Executive Committee. Care was taken with wording so that the document could stand for many years without the need for change.

The SAVMA HOD voted to approve the new bylaws and dissolve the previous SAVMA Constitution, resulting in a more comprehensive set of governance documents that are expected to endure to the next generation of student leaders.

**Balancing act**

SAVMA delegates and Executive Board members made a concerted effort to balance the student association’s budget for the upcoming year. Cost reductions were implemented in the areas of conference call fees, printing and shipping costs, and technology purchases. With these savings, committees were able to reallocate funds toward scholarships, educational grants, and travel stipends for members.

The student association used its working budget to send delegates as liaisons to various meetings this past year, including AVMA committee meetings and meetings of the North American Veterinary Medical Education Consortium and the National Commission on Veterinary Economic Issues.

Doing so has allowed SAVMA to maintain a student voice within the larger veterinary community and...
Major changes in store for Auxiliary

The Auxiliary to the AVMA will draft new bylaws, form a committee to examine its finances, and consider granting student scholarships.

The organization’s leaders also indicated they plan to strengthen their partnerships with, and increase their support for, the AVMA and the American Veterinary Medical Foundation.

The decisions and announcements came during the Auxiliary’s House of Delegates meeting Aug. 2 in Atlanta, which was held in conjunction with the AVMA Annual Convention. About 50 Auxiliary members and guests were present for the session, which included questions about finances and the future of Auxiliary programs.

The delegates received a budget and abbreviated auditor’s report, but numerous delegates requested more information about the costs and benefits of the Kittens Korner shops, which are brought to four conventions annually (including the AVMA Annual Convention), and the income and management expenses for the Auxiliary Student Loan Fund. The delegates then voted to direct the Auxiliary Executive Board to form a committee that will examine finances for the organization.

Auxiliary member Karen Hammer indicated that providing scholarships from the student loan fund could help to reduce the heavy debt burden of veterinary students, and she inquired as to the process that would be needed to begin providing such scholarships.

Several other members indicated they support using the student loan fund to provide scholarships, even if it reduces the size of the student loan fund.

Ginger Brainard, PhD, then president of the Auxiliary, said she hopes the Auxiliary Executive Board can, by the 2011 Auxiliary House of Delegates meeting, develop and present to the delegates a plan and process for providing scholarships. She finished her one-year presidency at the meeting.

Mitzi Brown, the Auxiliary’s new president, said that she expects mem-

be involved with decisions that will affect students’ soon-to-be careers.

Hello and goodbye

Dr. Gary S. Brown finished his term as AVMA vice president at the meeting. He has worked with the SAVMA Executive Board and delegates for the past two years, serving as a liaison between students and the AVMA. In this capacity, Dr. Brown traveled to all 31 veterinary schools and colleges represented in the SAVMA HOD and participated in monthly SAVMA Executive Board conference calls.

Reflecting on his time in this position, Dr. Brown said, “There are a lot of people working for (the students). I’m going to miss you. Enjoy your lives; I can’t wait to see what you do with them.”

At the conclusion of the SAVMA HOD meeting, Dr. Jan K. Strother was welcomed to her new position as AVMA vice president. She will serve as the AVMA Executive Board liaison to the students through 2012.

The House was also visited by Dr. René Carlson, incoming AVMA president-elect. Dr. Carlson was involved with SAVMA as AVMA vice president and spoke of her desire to continue to involve students in discussions about the profession.

“What has kept me most excited (about the profession) is the ability to stay involved in organized veterinary medicine,” she said. “We can all work to make this a more vibrant profession.”

Other speakers invited to address the SAVMA House included Drs. Linda Workman of VetPartners; David E. Granstrom, director of the AVMA Education and Research Division; and Cia Johnson, assistant director of the AVMA Animal Welfare Division.

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AVMA Pavilion provides information—and prizes

Visitors to the AVMA Pavilion in the exhibit hall at the recent AVMA Annual Convention in Atlanta had a chance to win prizes for learning more about Association programs or correctly answering “What Is Your Diagnosis?” questions from the JAVMA feature of the same name.

The AVMA Pavilion offered information in five areas focusing on the Association’s legislative advocacy efforts, Association activities in disaster response, the American Veterinary Medical Foundation, the AVMA Veterinary Career Center, and membership services. Convention-goers who visited three areas were eligible for a raffle of various prizes.

Dr. Mary Ann T. McBride of Fuquay-Varina, N.C., won front-row seats at the Train concert during the convention. Dr. Nora H. Ortinau of Auburn, Ala., received a free year of AVMA membership. Dr. Brenda F. Heyman of Aurora, Colo., won a $100 MasterCard gift card. Dr. Paige K. Stroud of St. Louis received an iPod Nano. Dr. Jennifer Bier of Duluth, Ga., won two round-trip airline tickets.

Convention-goers who visited the AVMA Pavilion could answer questions from one of six “What Is Your Diagnosis?” cases correctly to qualify for a raffle. The cases appeared in the Aug. 15, Sept. 1, and Sept. 15 issues of the JAVMA after the convention. Winning a $25 American Express Gift Card were Drs. Julie Turpin McCormick of Pisgah Forest, N.C.; Joan S. Bowen of Wellington, Colo.; Eileen Yi Ling Ng of San Pedro, Calif.; Lesley S. Kessell Parisi of Stockholm, N.J.; Karla Bean of Salisbury, N.C.; and Felicia Y. Leung of Cleveland.

Visitors to the exhibit hall who completed a daily survey were eligible to win a $250 American Express gift card. The winners were Dr. Brenda F. Heyman of Aurora, Colo.; Dr. Virginia W. Koch of Loveland, Colo.; and veterinary student Jenny Wu of Stockton, Calif.

Convention-goers and local residents who participated in the 5K race during the convention also were eligible for a raffle. Dr. Jacqueline Kottenstette of Jemez Springs, N.M., and Paula Martin of Atlanta each won a $50 American Express gift card. Thirteen-year-old Tyler Tollefson of Marietta, Ga., won a gift certificate to swim with the fish at the Georgia Aquarium.

—Greg Cima

Members of the Executive Board of the Auxiliary to the AVMA share a laugh during the Auxiliary’s House of Delegates meeting Aug. 2 in conjunction with the AVMA Annual Convention in Atlanta.
Honor roll members inducted

The House of Delegates granted honor roll status to the following 418 AVMA members this year. These members have maintained membership for a period of 40 years or more and have reached the age of 70, or have reached the age of 72 and maintained continuous membership since graduation. Earlier this year, the new honor roll members were sent their gold honor-roll membership cards.

**DISTRICT I**
Louis C. Bach, Tolland, Conn.
Fredric K. Baff, Danbury, Conn.
John A. Blake, Norwell, Mass.
Jack Bregman, Brooklyn, N.Y.
Alan M. Chrisman, Setauket, N.Y.
David Covitz, Cheshire, Conn.
Thurston Dale, Medina, N.Y.
Martin P. DeAngelis, Aardsley, N.Y.
Donald F. Disque, West Hartford, Conn.
Edward R. Entine, Roslyn Heights, N.Y.
Edward Feinberg, Bedford Hills, N.Y.
Richard A. Frank, Stillwater, N.Y.
Donald W. Hattrick, South Norwalk, Conn.
Katherine A. Houpt, Ithaca, N.Y.
James L. Ihm, Minneapolis, Minn.
Robert O. Jacoby, New Haven, Conn.
Michael L. Katz, Amherst, Mass.
Aloysius A. Lenhard, Fairport, N.Y.
Ronald P. Maier, Waterbury, Conn.
Steven B. Metz, Shelburne, Vt.
† Albert F. Moraska, Charlotte, Vt.
Reverdy L. Munson, Cohasset, Mass.
Daniel H. Nielsen, New Berlin, N.Y.
Eva B. Ryden, Hudson, Mass.
Daniel F. Sickmiller, Westtown, N.Y.
Joseph L. Tait, New York
Ellsworth B. Thordike, New York
William S. Webster, Northborough, Mass.
Arthur N. Wilder, Westbury, N.Y.

**DISTRICT II**
George A. Banks, Surtland, Md.
Larry R. Bacon, Lock Haven, Pa.
John P. Batta, Lake Hopatcong, N.J.
Walter R. Brown, Doylestown, Pa.
David A. Burrows, Mercersburg, Pa.
Edmond A. Cocks, Fallston, Md.
Terry R. Corkran, Centreville, Md.
William A. Dorsey, Prince Frederick, Md.
Henry M. Fortna, Ephrata, Pa.
Lester C. Griel Jr., State College, Pa.
Joseph J. Gruber, Clementon, N.J.

**DISTRICT III**
Larry J. Ackerman, Andrews, N.C.
Clair D. Argall, Birmingham, Ala.
John M. Booker, Smithfield, N.C.
Samuel B. Bounds, Macon, Miss.
James E. Brehm, Myrtle Beach, S.C.
Talmage T. Brown, Raleigh, N.C.
Joe K. Brumfield, Ocean Springs, Miss.
Shirlee C. Brumfield, Savannah, Ga.
Arthur W. Bunton, Murfreesboro, Tenn.
Terry D. Clay, Covington, Tenn.
Melvin H. Davis, Birmingham, Ala.
Clinton J. DeLoach, Walterboro, S.C.
Richard A. Gallina, Cordova, Tenn.
Dannys A. Hudson, Cary, N.C.
Malcolm C. Johnson, Camden, S.C.
Philip T. Johnson, Chapel Hill, N.C.
Eddie Johnson, Ridgeland, Miss.
Roderick C. Jordan, Harkers Island, N.C.
John M. Loftin, Henderson, Miss.
Thomas Monin, St. Petersburg, Fla.
Robert D. Moss, North Myrtle Beach, S.C.
Kathleen M. Murphy, Franklin, N.C.
Donald L. Noah, Charlotte, N.C.
John E. Offutt, Athens, Tenn.

**DISTRICT IV**
Calvin E. Anthony, Baldwin, Ga.
Roger M. Augenstein, The Villages, Fla.
Fred A. Burnin, Key West, Fla.
John N. Case Jr., Lauderhill, Fla.
Max M. Cooper, Savannah, Ga.
Willibar A. Delling, Gainesville, Ga.
Antonio G. Estarellas, Sumterville, Fla.
Paul Fenster, Miami
Peter T. Fernandez, Pembroke Pines, Fla.
Alfred A. Flynn, Naples, Fla.
George A. Gardner, Macon, Ga.
Robert J. Greenwald, Venice, Fla.
Ralph E. Griffin, Melbourne Beach, Fla.
Jerry C. Hall, Lakeland, Fla.
Frederick E. Hall, Orlando, Fla.
William H. Halliwell, Stuart, Fla.
Jack C. Harrison, West Palm Beach, Fla.
George W. Hess, Satsuma, Fla.
Charles D. Hooks, Stuart, Fla.
Bruce Kaplan, Sarasota, Fla.
Robert P. Kaufman, Key West, Fla.
R. Bruce Keene, Winter Park, Fla.
Stephan A. LaDue, Odessa, Fla.
Paul B. Lamborn, New Smyrna Beach, Fla.
Larry K. LeMay, Naples, Fla.
James E. Lee, Milledgeville, Ga.
Edward L. Lewis, Palatka, Fla.
Charles D. Magill, Crystal River, Fla.
James L. Manning, Palm City, Fla.
Louis M. Mason, Marietta, Ga.
James S. McCown, Delray Beach, Fla.
H. Dwight Mercier, Clarksville, Ga.
Richard A. Raskha, Poinciana, Fla.
Paul L. Roulard, Cape Coral, Fla.
Peter M. Schantz, Atlanta
Ted N. Schoбер, Roswell, Ga.
Harold Siegel, Miami
Balmore M. Silva, Bayamon, Puerto Rico
Calvin P. Smith, Miami
Ronald R. Spink, Williston, Fla.
George L. Tallman, Ocala, Fla.
Richard A. Toulas, Stuart, Fla.
Joseph L. Wagner, Miami
Richard F. Wallin, Bonita Springs, Fla.

W.E. Robinson, Oak Ridge, Tenn.
Barton W. Rohrbach, Knoxville, Tenn.
Charles A. Stutz, Henderson, N.C.
Larry J. Swango, Auburn, Ala.
Sam W. Thompson, New Market, Tenn.
Daniel B. Verdin, Simpsonville, S.C.
James C. Weatherly, Chattanooga, Tenn.
Walter L. Witkowski, Beaufort, S.C.
Lauren G. Wolfe, Auburn, Ala.
Continued on 760

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Edward J. Powell, Maryville, Mo.
Alvin A. Pravecsek, Vermillion, S.D.
Merrij J. Reinhiiller, Moorhead, Minn.
Robert P. Rhoades, Benkelman, Neb.
Keith C. Rolston, Sheldon, Iowa
Ronald R. Sanguinette, St. Louis
Marvin R. Schmitt, Marion, Iowa
Anne J. Scully, Bottineau, N.D.
George P. Sedgwick, Stewartville, Minn.
David A. Spong, Hopkins, Minn.
Joseph O. Swink, Sainte Genevieve, Mo.
Daryl C. Thake, Chesterfield, Mo.
Stanley L. Thompson, Coon Rapids, Minn.
Larry K. Wiggins, Memphis, Mo.

DISTRICT VIII
Richard E. Allen, North Little Rock, Ark.
Joseph W. Bitter, Edna, Texas
Warren S. Bivin, Baton Rouge, La.
Robert W. Botard, Garden Ridge, Texas
Kenneth L. Chitwood, Sherman, Texas
James C. Cooper, Fair Oaks Ranch, Texas
R. Elliott Craig, Missouri City, Texas
Andrew K. Currie, Hempstead, Texas
Tom V. David, Metairie, La.
Dennis W. Duffield, Baton Rouge, La.
Sheridan L. Duncan, Menard, Texas
Thomas T. Elrod, Odessa, Texas
Gerald P. Etheredge, Huntsville, Texas
Frank A. Fitzgerald, Cheneyville, La.
Charles H. Frith, Little Rock, Ark.
James C. Hughes, Austin, Texas
Karl R. James, Winniboro, Texas
Adrien L. Larroque, New Orleans
Joe W. Lindley, Dallas
Errol T. Littleton, San Antonio
James O. Lively, Fredericksburg, Texas
Judy G. Martens, Somerville, Texas
Richard A. Mays, Boerne, Texas
Bernard Mistrutta, Baton Rouge, La.
Francis P. Moynagh, Krum, Texas
Larry M. O’Connor, Barling, Ark.
Wayne W. Porter, College Station, Texas
Robert H. Potter, Columbus, Texas
Herman L. Rathke, Del Rio, Texas
William S. Rowe, San Antonio
Roger N. Schroeder, Gatesville, Texas
Harry Schumacher Jr., Hot Springs National Park, Ark.
W.L. Scrutchfield, Franklin, Texas
John A. Shadduck, Denton, Texas
John H. Shelton, Pearland, Texas
Gary L. Sizenbach, Port O’Connor, Texas
Robert Speyer, Opleousas, La.
Garrett C. Von Eiff, Belleair, Texas
Thomas E. White, Natchitoches, La.
Garnett C. Von Eiff, Bellaire, Texas

JAVMA news  |  AVMA news  | CONVENTION COVERAGE

Continued on 760
Dozens of volunteers turned out July 31 for the American Veterinary Medical Foundation’s shelter rehabilitation project in conjunction with the AVMA Annual Convention.

The third annual Our Oath in Action shelter rehab project benefited Fulton County Animal Services in Atlanta and Our Pal’s Place in Marietta, Ga. The project’s name refers to putting the veterinarian’s oath into action by promoting animal welfare. Hill’s Pet Nutrition was the premier partner for the event.

At Fulton County Animal Services, the volunteers focused on repainting rooms—beginning with the main adoption room.

“It’s an excellent project, to come in and renovate an old building such as this one,” said Shelton Robinson, kennel supervisor. Robinson added that the adoption room is what the world sees of the shelter.

Some of the Our Oath in Action volunteers were returning for a second or third year, while other volunteers were new.

Dr. Lloyd V. Reitz of Pennsylvania was one of the first-timers. He said, “It’s a good opportunity to give back to the community.”

Rita Fobian, wife of AVMF board member Dr. Clark Fobian, had always wanted to volunteer but couldn’t find the time until this year. While painting, she said, “I think we’ll make a big difference.”

The larger contingent of volunteers went to Our Pal’s Place in Marietta, about 20 miles from downtown Atlanta.

Gigi Graves, executive director of the shelter, said afterward, “It was absolutely awesome to see two huge buses pull up and all of these great volunteers, all these great people, get off the buses and just work nonstop in some really tough heat.”

Drs. Brian R. Huseman and Terri Johnston of Kansas,
Rabies titers

Who should be vaccinated against rabies?

Dr. Lynne White-Shim,
AVMA Scientific Activities Division assistant director, responds:

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices published a set of recommendations regarding human rabies prevention in 2008. These recommendations state that rabies pre-exposure vaccines should be offered to individuals with high risk for exposure to rabies, which includes veterinarians and their staff, as well as animal handlers and some researchers and laboratory personnel.

How often should veterinarians and their support staff have their rabies titers checked?

Most practicing veterinarians in the United States are considered to have a frequent risk for exposure to rabies and should have their titers checked every two years, per the CDC’s ACIP recommendations. However, some veterinarians might need their titers checked more or less often, so veterinarians should consult the CDC’s ACIP recommendations—Table 6 provides a summarized guide—to determine their relative risk of exposure to rabies. Veterinarians should take the CDC’s ACIP resource with them to their physician’s office for the titer check.

Two other helpful resources, which are developed by the National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians, are the Compendium of Veterinary Standard Precautions for Zoonotic Disease Prevention in Veterinary Personnel, and the Compendium of Animal Rabies Prevention and Control. The NASPHV advises that state health departments have information regarding the availability of rabies bio-logic and the presence of animal rabies locally and regionally.

What should veterinarians do if their rabies titer falls below an acceptable antibody level?

The CDC’s ACIP resource indicates that if a rabies titer has fallen below the minimum acceptable antibody level, a single pre-exposure booster dose of vaccine is recommended for persons at frequent risk, which are most practicing veterinarians, or continuous risk of exposure to rabies.

If veterinarians or their physicians have further questions, the CDC can be contacted at (800) 232-4636. Or, they can go to the following websites: www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5703a1.htm, www.avma.org/services/Compendium_of_Veterinary_Standard_Precautions.pdf, and www.nasphv.org/Documents/RabiesCompendium.pdf.

husband and wife, volunteered with three of their five children.

“We want to teach our boys the need for community service and volunteerism,” said Dr. Huseman, who represents the American Association of Corporate and Public Practice Veterinarians in the AVMA House of Delegates.

At Our Pal’s Place, the volunteers divided into teams to complete a variety of tasks. One team dismantled, scrubbed, and repainted wire dog kennels while a second team cleaned the room that houses the kennels. Other teams turned to yardwork—replacing old mulch with new, clearing debris from a walking trail, and tending a memorial garden. Another team painted one side of the shelter’s learning center.

Graves said the volunteers who run the shelter are so busy with basic operations that they rarely have time for other tasks, so they are thankful for the AVMF project.

“The Foundation is delighted to embrace these facilities, as our mission is all about promoting the health and welfare of animals,” said Michael Cathey, AVMF executive director.

--KATIE BURNS
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CONVENTION COVERAGE

Honor roll members inducted from 757

DISTRICT X

Marvin M. Adams, Henneyetta, Okla.

Herman A. Anderson, Castle Rock, Colo.
Arnold P. Andres, Sun City, Ariz.
Brent R. Baker, Carefree, Ariz.
Edward E. Barben, Stockton, Kan.
John D. Beal, Muskogee, Okla.
Richard E. Blankenship, Edmond, Okla.
Craton R. Burkholder, Aspen, Colo.
Joseph F. Buoton, Snyder, Okla.
Gary W. Carlson, Patagonia, Ariz.
Michael R. Cathey, Denver
Ross D. Clark, Tulsa, Okla.
Donald D. Connally, Ada, Okla.
Dennis D. Copeland, Spring Hill, Kan.
Dennis D. Elliott, Albuquerque, N.M.
Ray W. Ely, Stillwater, Okla.
Steven R. England, Albuquerque, N.M.
Marvin J. Farr, Scott City, Kan.
John C. Greenlee, Cedaredge, Colo.
Robert A. Griffin, Frankfort, Kan.
Fletcher F. Hahn, Albuquerque, N.M.
Kent D. Haury, Holstein, Kan.
Gailyn D. Holland, Fort Collins, Colo.
Wyile S. Hough, Miami, Okla.
John G. Kirkpatrick, Stillwater, Okla.
Robert F. Lowe, Green Mountain Falls, Colo.
Dixie D. Lycan, Englewood, Colo.
H. Dennis McCurdy, Overland Park, Kan.
Charles P. Meader, Grover, Colo.
William J. Moyle Jr., Lone Tree, Colo.
John A. Mulnix, Fort Collins, Colo.
Jack L. Murphy, Clovis, N.M.
Lafe A. Parrish, American Fork, Utah
Laurnin L. Patton, Ada, Okla.
J. Fred Rule, Elk City, Okla.
Rodney J. Schieffer, Olathe, Kan.
Donald G. Schroeder, Fairplay, Colo.
G. Donald Seedle, Allenspark, Colo.
Jan M. Smith, Canon City, Colo.
Thomas M. Tribolet, Phoenix
David L. Varra, Boulder, Colo.
Jerome G.E. Westveber, Manhattan, Kan.
Harold E. Wasinger, Colorado Springs, Colo.
Jerry A. Whorton, Denver

DISTRICT XI

Lee B. Anderson, Anacortes, Wash.
Richard K. Anderson, Manhattan, Mont.
Thomas J. Blayney, Burley, Idaho
Benjamin B. Braat, Albany, Ore.
Robert F. Cross, Douglas, Wyo.
Gerald E. Dagle, Richland, Wash.
Warren J. Davis, Pocatello, Idaho
Larry K. Dreher, Powell Butte, Ore.
Larry A. Eld, Meridian, Idaho
E. Eugene Elefson, Arlington, Wash.
Jeroald D. Gemar, Edmonds, Wash.
Herbert B. Hanich, Missoula, Mont.
Roy F. Herren, Billings, Mont.
James A. Horan, Billings, Mont.
David K. Johnson, Sisters, Ore.
Michael J. Lust, Yakima, Wash.
Benjamin W. McFrederick, Port Townsend, Wash.
Robert P. Myers, Bozeman, Mont.
Willard B. Nelson, Kirkland, Wash.
Raymond M. Parker, Sequim, Wash.
George W. Passmore, Seattle
William T. Perry, Gresham, Ore.
Priscilla K. Stockner, Stanwood, Wash.

Glen E. Church, Las Vegas
Robert A. Dieterich, Cromberg, Calif.
George G. Deroing, Dublin, Calif.
Lee E. Edwards, Oroville, Calif.
David G. Fairchild, San Rafael, Calif.
Shirley Fischer, Woodland, Calif.
A. Walter Gano, Glendora, Calif.
Thomas L. Gibson, Compton, Calif.
Dennis W. Grummalt, Palo Cedro, Calif.
Dale W. Howard, Fresno, Calif.
Larry D. Kester, Seal Beach, Calif.
Kent B. Killion, Vallejo, Calif.
Michael D. Kirk, Reno, Nev.
John B. Limehouse, Sherman Oaks, Calif.
Robert F. McConnell, Penn Valley, Calif.
Timothy R. O’Brien, Davis, Calif.
Robert M. Powell, Sacramento, Calif.
Lynn D. Reno, Bakersfield, Calif.
Roger A. Rowley, San Diego
Robert J. Schechter, Atascadero, Calif.
Robert E. Schmidt, Greenview, Calif.
Thomas J. Vestal, Fall River Mills, Calif.
Jack O. Walther, Lamoille, Nev.
John G. Warren, Laguna Niguel, Calif.
John N.S. White, South Gate, Calif.
Kent C. Wright, Lake Forest, Calif.

Glen E. Church, Las Vegas
Robert A. Dieterich, Cromberg, Calif.
George G. Deroing, Dublin, Calif.
Lee E. Edwards, Oroville, Calif.
David G. Fairchild, San Rafael, Calif.
Shirley Fischer, Woodland, Calif.
A. Walter Gano, Glendora, Calif.
Thomas L. Gibson, Compton, Calif.
Dennis W. Grummalt, Palo Cedro, Calif.
Dale W. Howard, Fresno, Calif.
Larry D. Kester, Seal Beach, Calif.
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Kent C. Wright, Lake Forest, Calif.

 news | government

FARAD’s funding as uncertain as in previous years

A service to keep drug, pesticide, and contaminant residues out of food is undergoing its yearly fight for funding.

Supporters of the Food Animal Drug Residue Avoidance Databank, including the AVMA, are again advocating for Congress to provide money for the service, which gives science-based withdrawal times for food animals that have been given drugs or pesticides or been exposed to contaminants. The AVMA is asking for $2.5 million for the service in the 2011 fiscal year, which begins Oct. 1.

The service received $1 million in the 2010 fiscal year, but the president’s proposed budget for the Department of Agriculture’s National Institute of Food and Agriculture included no money for FARAD for fiscal year 2011, USDA information states. A budget bill in the Senate would, if passed, provide $1 million for the service; appropriations figures from the House of Representatives were not available at press time.

Staff members at North Carolina State University, the University of California-Davis, and the University of Florida run FARAD.

Dr. Jim E. Riviere, director of the Center for Chemical Toxicology Research and Pharmacokinetics at North Carolina State University’s College of Veterinary Medicine, said FARAD’s administrators have to justify expenses for the program and ask for support every year, despite a need for the service to provide safe extended withdrawal times. He knows people use the service, but he is frustrated with the repeated attempts to make sure it is funded.

Dr. Riviere said the single-year funding commitments make it impossible to hire staff members who can be assured their jobs will be secure for multiple years.

FARAD is used by veterinarians who issue prescriptions for
extralabel use of pharmaceuticals under the Animal Medicinal Drug Use Clarification Act of 1994, which requires extended withdrawal periods for food animals following extralabel drug use. Data from the service are also used by manufacturers to support drug approval applications.

Dr. Ronald E. Baynes, an associate professor of pharmacology at NCSU, said FARAD’s funding problems could be resolved if the service’s operators were allowed to apply for multiple years of funding through competitive grants available through the USDA and National Institutes of Health.

The AVMA supports passage of the FDA Food Safety Modernization Act (S. 510). In addition to giving the Health and Human Services secretary authority to regulate food and order mandatory food recalls, the legislation would bring about a National Agriculture and Food Defense Strategy. Moreover, each food facility would be required to evaluate hazards and implement preventive controls. Foodborne illness surveillance systems would also be beefed up if S. 510 were enacted. The bill is currently awaiting a vote from the full Senate. Contact Dr. Ashley Shelton, AVMA Governmental Relations Division assistant director, at (202) 289-3210, for more information.

Legislation at a Glance

The AVMA supports passage of the FDA Food Safety Modernization Act (S. 510). In addition to giving the Health and Human Services secretary authority to regulate food and order mandatory food recalls, the legislation would bring about a National Agriculture and Food Defense Strategy. Moreover, each food facility would be required to evaluate hazards and implement preventive controls. Foodborne illness surveillance systems would also be beefed up if S. 510 were enacted. The bill is currently awaiting a vote from the full Senate. Contact Dr. Ashley Shelton, AVMA Governmental Relations Division assistant director, at (202) 289-3210, for more information.

Missourians to vote on rules for large-scale dog breeders

Missouri VMA opposes ballot initiative, citing need for enforcement of existing regulations

Missourians will vote Nov. 2 on a ballot initiative that would create tougher rules for dog breeders with more than 10 breeding dogs, including a provision that would limit facilities to 50 breeding dogs.

Leaders of the Missouri VMA believe, however, that the state’s problem with substandard dog breeding facilities results mostly from a lack of funding to enforce existing regulations and that limiting facilities to 50 breeding dogs would not improve the situation.

Several state legislatures recently passed new laws targeting substandard, large-scale dog breeding facilities—also known as puppy mills. Three state legislatures limited dog breeders to 50 breeding dogs, according to the Michigan State University Animal Legal & Historical Center.

Missouri is the first state with a ballot initiative on dog breeders, according to proponents and opponents.

The AVMA has not taken a position on the specifics of the Missouri measure, although an AVMA policy states that the Association “supports the use of appropriately constituted expert bodies to establish public policy on animal welfare” rather than ballot initiatives. The AVMA also recently released its “Model Bill and Regulations to Assure Appropriate Care for Dogs Intended for Use as Pets,” which do not limit the number of dogs in a facility.

Many Missourians think their state’s current regulations for dog breeders are insufficient, said Barbara Schmitz, campaign manager for the ballot initiative and Missouri state director for the Humane Society of the United States.

Schmitz added, “By having the cap in our measure, we’re trying to keep the facilities from having so many dogs to care for that they spiral out of control.”

Richard Antweiler, MVMA executive director, said the limit of 50 breeding dogs is arbitrary.

“The number of dogs in a breeding facility is not the issue; it is the quality of care those dogs receive that must be enforced,” agreed Dr. Michael C. Muhlbauer, chair of the MVMA Animal Welfare Committee.

Schmitz said the measure would make specific changes in state standards for dog breeding facilities.

Under current regulations, among other requirements, facilities must provide housing with a minimum amount of space per dog and a solid resting surface. The temperature cannot fall below 50°F for animals not acclimated to lower temperatures. The attending veterinarian decides on exercise frequency, method, and duration, except facilities do not have to provide exercise if housing provides a certain amount of floor space per dog.

Per the ballot initiative, facilities would have to provide dogs with more space and an enclosure with a solid floor. Facilities could not stack housing. The temperature could not fall below 45°F. Facilities could not breed dogs to produce more than two litters in 18 months. Facilities would have to provide dogs with constant access to an outdoor exercise area that provides at least twice the indoor floor space.

Dr. Muhlbauer questioned the practicality of some of the provisions, among his concerns about the ballot initiative.

The ballot initiative also would establish “puppy mill cruelty” as a misdemeanor
Vet techs celebrate a week of their own

Veterinary technicians often don’t toot their horns loud enough, at least according to Denise Mikita, president of the National Association of Veterinary Technicians in America.

This is why she’s happy there’s National Veterinary Technician Week, held Oct. 10-16 this year and sponsored by Hill’s Pet Nutrition.

“There are a lot of caring people who work really hard and everyone needs to be recognized. It’s a nice way to say we know what you’re doing on a day-to-day basis, and we appreciate it. To identify one week and make it your own is nice,” Mikita said.

The week serves a dual purpose, she said, in that it provides veterinary technicians an opportunity to inform the public about what they do, and explain how it is different from the work of veterinarians and veterinary assistants.

“During this week, it gives an opportunity for national groups, state associations, and clinics to bring awareness to the public of the specific role of the vet tech. When a client starts asking what a vet tech is, they’ll also ask what a vet assistant is. You just started a communication and education process with them. It elevates the veterinary team and brings awareness to one section of that team,” Mikita said.

This year’s theme is “Hands-on Healing,” a catchphrase relating to what veterinary technicians do on a daily basis for clients and patients. Celebrating for one week every year solidifies the commitment every veterinary technician gives to the profession of veterinary medicine, according to a NAVTA press release. National Veterinary Technician Week has been an annual tradition since June 1993, when NAVTA passed a resolution declaring the third week in October as such.

This year, some veterinary technology schools and veterinary clinics will be holding open houses. Others will give discounts on services performed by veterinary technicians, such as ear cleanings and nail clippings. NAVTA sends posters to every member for display.

Going beyond National Veterinary Technician Week, Mikita encourages veterinary technicians to join their state association and NAVTA and become involved.

“They work for the same thing but in different ways,” she said.

Visit www.navta.net/NVTW.php for more information on National Veterinary Technician Week.

—MALINDA LARKIN

A table of state laws relevant to dog breeders is available from the Michigan State University Animal Legal & Historical Center at www.animallaw.info/articles/ovuspuppymilltable.htm.
Studies to pinpoint how, when resistance spreads

Genetic analysis could help identify how drug resistance spreads among bacteria and what humans can do to reduce that spread.

Microbiologists with the Department of Agriculture’s Agricultural Research Service have developed methods to detect more than 700 genes found in pathogens such as *Salmonella* spp and *Escherichia coli* and connected with resistance to one or more antimicrobials. Studies published in 2010 include examinations of *Salmonella* Newport in dairy cattle, *Salmonella* Javiana in humans, and *E. coli* in chicken.

“We’re hoping that our research will have an impact on understanding what is causing multidrug resistance and what is causing its spread,” said Jonathan G. Frye, PhD, a microbiologist for the USDA ARS.

Dr. Frye has studied genes connected with antimicrobial resistance since he was hired by the agency in 2003, and the development of DNA microarray techniques to find those genes is the fruition of his work. He and collaborators published a proof-of-concept paper on the technique in 2006.

Dr. Frye is among researchers with the ARS and the Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center in San Diego who searched GenBank, a database administered by the National Center for Biotechnology with the National Institutes of Health, for information on published genetic sequences connected with antimicrobial resistance. That information was used to design nucleotide probes capable of detecting those genes.

Dr. Frye said the development can help to identify how genes connected with resistance are spread among bacteria and factors that amplify or select for resistance in various environments and within animals. A long-term goal of his studies is to find points during animal production when antimicrobial-resistant bacteria are more prevalent in the animals and in their environments.

Although he does not perform clinical work, Dr. Frye said some researchers in academia are developing clinical assays to use for diagnosis and tailored treatment of antimicrobial-resistant disease in animals and people.

Genetic links to resistance recently gained increased attention owing to publications about a gene identified as NDM-1, which has been associated with multidrug-resistant bacterial infections in humans. Dr. Frye said he had begun work on developing a probe for the gene, and he and colleagues at Walter Reed Army Institute of Research will collaborate on research into the gene.

The World Health Organisation, citing an article in Lancet Infectious Diseases about NDM-1, released a statement Aug. 20 that urges countries to be ready to implement hospital infection control measures and reinforce national policies on prudent antimicrobial use.

“While multidrug-resistant bacteria are not new and will continue to appear, this development requires monitoring and further study to understand the extent and modes of transmission, and to define the most effective measures for control,” WHO information states. ¶

—Greg Cima

Check out reports, policies, and guides on antimicrobial use and antimicrobial resistance at www.avma.org. Click on “Issues,” scroll down to the section on antimicrobials and guidelines for judicious therapeutic use, then click on “Antimicrobial Use and Antimicrobial Resistance.”
news | veterinary community

Journey is the reward for world veterinary award winner

CSU professor honored for applying research to help developing countries

A self-described big-picture thinker, Dr. Mo Salman said he is lucky to have the opportunity to practice his beliefs through his work. The result has been a distinguished, 37-year career marked not so much by accolades—although there have been many—but by the people and animals he’s helped the world over.

The Colorado State University professor’s latest honor, however, may be the most prestigious of all. He is the third winner of the 2010 Penn Vet World Leadership in Animal Health Award, a prize that comes with $100,000 in unrestricted funding. The award is underwritten by the Vernon and Shirley Hill Foundation.

It is presented annually to a veterinarian who has dramatically changed the practice and image of the profession and substantially influenced the lives and careers of others.

Two veterinary students—Nikkita Patel and Brittany Gross—also received $100,000 each through the annual Penn Vet Inspiration Award competition, which is also funded by the Hill Foundation (see page 765). All three gave presentations at the Sept. 28 award ceremony on the University of Pennsylvania campus.

Neither here nor there

Dr. Salman, who founded CSU’s Animal Population Health Institute in 2002, has made a name for himself conducting research that benefits both people and animals globally. Just this year, he helped the institute and CSU’s Institute for Livestock and the Environment win a $15 million grant from the U.S. Agency for International Development to study the impact climate change has on livestock around the globe, particularly in developing countries.

This new program will emphasize an interdisciplinary approach, Dr. Salman said, with scientists from sociology, atmospheric sciences, animal science, soil sciences, economics, and veterinary medicine working together. The program is intended to not only conduct research and collect data but also apply the findings in the local environment to benefit the entire community, particularly the low-income social classes and women.

For all his life, Dr. Salman’s interest has been in animals in general, but mostly with livestock health and its impact on production. Specifically, he is interested in animal protein as a means of improving the well-being of society.

Dr. Salman was raised in Baghdad, Iraq, and recalls being “an average veterinary student” at the University of Baghdad. After graduation in 1973, he started a small poultry farm with a former classmate and ran it for a short time. He then left the country at 22 because he felt limited in his opportunity to pursue his interests in animal health owing to the political and social systems there.

So he jumped from being a pharmaceutical salesperson in Lebanon to part-owner of a broiler poultry farm in Oman to a veterinarian who treated mostly camels in the United Arab Emirates. Dr. Salman grew anxious to move to a place where he could extend his scientific and technical knowledge.

He found his calling in the United States, where he immigrated in the late 1970s, first to Chicago as an intern at a small animal practice and then to the University of California-Davis, where he worked in the mastitis extension program before he started his master’s in preventive veterinary medicine, which he obtained in 1980.

Initially he was resistant to pursuing a doctorate, but one of his instructors, Dr. Margaret Meyer, convinced him, saying that he needed a doctorate if he wanted to maintain his interest in global animal health.

“I agreed with her, with the condition that I conduct my research outside of the USA since my master’s thesis research was in California, that my PhD research was conducted across the border in Mexico,” he said.

Outside the boundaries

That was in 1983. Since then, Dr. Salman has continued to apply his domestic research in the United States to international settings. His work in building animal health infrastructure has taken him all over the globe.

“I find it’s a challenge for me to apply (my research), especially in developing countries. You see what will work and what won’t work. I also believe we have a mission in life, in some way we transfer whatever we use in one area to another area that’s either deficient or doesn’t have the same opportunity,” Dr. Salman said.

He has found that using established, scientific epidemiologic tools and approaches works best to build the infrastructure of national animal health programs, particularly in countries recovering from war or just becoming established. The
approaches focus on assessing available resources and building a priority list for major animal health issues.

That’s not to overlook the importance of communication as well. Dr. Salman said he knows the importance of adapting to local political and cultural systems.

“I also find any type of interaction and discussion with the locals usually will lead to new ideas or modification of whatever I thought to apply. I like to call it two-way learning. I don’t go there and say, ‘I’m an expert and you have to listen to me.’ I say, ‘I share with you and you share with me,’” he said.

For all his work, Dr. Salman has further ambitions. He would like to explore ideas in applying nonconventional methods to control important animal diseases in specific situations. For example, he is not a strong believer in vaccination as the sole strategy for controlling infectious diseases.

“I think there are plenty of options that can be applied to control some of the current diseases instead of using vaccines. I am not against vaccination but I think this option should be considered after simultaneous assessment of all other options,” he said.

Role model
Dr. Joan C. Hendricks, the Gilbert S. Kahn Dean of the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine, said she is proud that this is the first time the award has been given to a current member of a veterinary school faculty in the United States.

“What I love about Dr. Salman is not only his field of study (the kind of field where he has a broad impact) but also the kind of work he’s done has had a global presence. He embodies the kind of impact we want our students to see what you can do as a veterinarian, and he’s a perfect role model for that,” Dean Hendricks said.

Dr. Salman said, in all honesty, he’s more impressed by the student awards than his award.

“Yes, I appreciate the recognition, but I think for the students, especially the financial support will mean a lot,” he said. “From my side, I am almost two-thirds through my career, where-

About the Penn Vet World Leadership in Animal Health Award
The idea for the award originated from conversations between the donors, Vernon and Shirley Hill, and Penn Vet administrators when the question was raised, “What would the impact be if you gave a student $100,000?”

“For most students it would come close to doing away with their student debt, and it would free them up to really achieve dreams or at least with a dramatically reduced debt load,” said Dr. Joan C. Hendricks, the Gilbert S. Kahn Dean of the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine.

Thus, the Penn Vet Student Inspiration Award was created. The donors then agreed the idea should be broadened to include an award to be given to a veterinarian who impacted the field of veterinary medicine.

“What we were trying to convey is this is the biggest veterinary award anywhere … to be the kind of thing that would really get international attention,” Dean Hendricks said. “The goal is that this would elevate our profession to the kind of standards that the various fields that are recognized by the Nobel Peace Prize are at.”

Nominations are open to veterinarians worldwide. This year 22 submissions were received. Each member of a secret panel, which is made public after the awards are given, ranks the contenders. Then collectively, they agree on a winner.

Former Penn Vet Dean Alan Kelly chooses the panel from people from around the world who have themselves been leaders in veterinary medicine.

as you give that type of award to a starter like these two students, and the impact of the award and recognition should be much more significant than the award given to me.”

— Malinda Larkin

accolades
Academia

Two students have been named the 2010 Penn Vet Student Inspiration Award winners. The awards are given annually to two University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine students in recognition of their plans to substantially advance the frontiers of the profession.

Brittany Gross, South Sterling, Pa., is a second-year student who earned a bachelor’s in biology from the University of Vermont.

Gross’ proposal involves constructing an educationally focused dairy farm in the rural northeast region of Thailand. The dairy would be the site of after-school programs that provide hands-on involvement and instruction in herd care, raw milk handling, and dairy product processing. The students would learn valuable skills in a facility that models methods and technologies that are implementable by the farmers in the region.

Nikkita Patel, Knoxville, Tenn., is a fourth-year student who earned a bachelor’s from the University of Tennessee and a master’s in public health from Yale University.

Her proposal, titled, “Veterinary Public Outreach 2.0,” is about veterinarians educating the public on the depth and breadth of current problems they are working to solve, encompassing public health, conservation, and environmental health. Using Internet tools can be an efficient and effective means of doing so. Patel plans to use these tools for a veterinary intervention to educate and engage individuals and provide a powerful resource for policymakers.
Gene mutation study applies to veterinary, human medicine

Young researcher awarded for work at annual veterinary scholars symposium

Dr. Kari J. Ekenstedt already understands in her short career as a researcher that one may work for a long time before making any breakthroughs. Fortunately for her, that hasn’t been the case.

Dr. Ekenstedt, who received a DVM degree from the University of Minnesota in 2005 and a doctorate this past April, along with her team, discovered two chromosomal regions that have a strong association with Leonberger polyneuropathy. In fact, they have already identified one gene mutation and hope to find the other soon.

“It’s a very heartbreaking disease for the owners and breeders of these dogs, because the really severely affected dogs are often quite young and there’s no cure, so finding the mutation is going to help people make breeding decisions and hopefully avoid producing these puppies in the first place,” Dr. Ekenstedt said.

The team’s work suggests that Leonberger polyneuropathy is comparable, in some aspects, to Charcot-Marie-Tooth disease, a collection of neurologic diseases affecting people. The hope, she said, is that they can make discoveries in affected dogs that will translate into a better understanding of Charcot-Marie-Tooth disease in humans. “Potentially, if the dog disease turns out to be a good model for the human disease, they may be able to try out new therapeutics in dogs that could ultimately help people,” she said.

For her work on the study, Dr. Ekenstedt was honored with the Young Investigators Award at the 2010 Merial-National Institutes of Health National Veterinary Scholars Symposium, held Aug. 5-8 in Athens, Ga. The award, sponsored by the AVMA and American Veterinary Medical Foundation, goes to a graduate veterinarian pursuing advanced research training through a doctoral or postdoctoral program.

Out of 35 applicants, five finalists were invited to attend the symposium and present their work as a 15-minute platform talk.

Dr. Ekenstedt’s work, “Whole genome association analysis reveals two loci strongly associated with Leonberger polyneuropathy,” was selected as the winner.

Dr. Ann E. Hohenhaus, chair of the AVMA Council on Research and one of eight judges for the competition, said, “What she did was take an uncommon breed of dog, and those dogs have a neurologic problem that is a model for human disease. She not only found the area in the genome where the gene defect was but also identified (one mutation) that seemed to be related to this disease. It was a complete project—a thorough evaluation of the disorder on a genetic level.”

The 10th annual symposium capped off summer training programs across the United States and Canada that introduce veterinary students to biomedical research. This year marked the first time the conference welcomed European veterinary scholars from international summer programs supported by Merial. About 360 students presented posters; 18 students were recognized for their presentations in various areas of veterinary medicine.

“These are the widest variety of posters you could ever imagine in your entire life. One of my favorites was a preliminary study from Tufts looking to evaluate a program called Reading Education Assistance Dogs. These are certified therapy dogs that work as literacy mentors in schools and libraries. Kids read to the therapy dog instead of an adult. The study looked to see if reading to a dog made any difference in the child’s ability to read, and it looks like it does,” Dr. Hohenhaus said. The researchers hope to continue their work in this area on the basis of the results of this study.

A cadre of speakers during plenary sessions rounded out the symposium’s events, giving talks on this year’s theme, “Beyond One Health.”

The keynote speaker was Dr. James G. Fox, director of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology’s Division of Comparative Medicine. Other notable speakers included Dr. Guy Palmer, director of Washington State University’s School for Global Animal Health; Dr. Lisa Freeman, vice president for research and graduate studies at Northern Illinois University; and Dr. Gregory Bossart, senior vice president of veterinary services and the chief veterinary officer for the Georgia Aquarium.

Dr. Ekenstedt said the sessions covered a wide spectrum of topics “because there’s such a spectrum of research going on, but they still made it relevant for everybody.”

In all, 402 people attended the
event. Dr. Hohenhaus said the symposium gives students a chance not only to meet with peers doing research but also state-of-the-art speakers who are established and internationally recognized researchers.

“For most of the students, this is the first scientific gathering they’ve attended, so they’re energized and excited for the opportunity for the exchange of information. Even if one person was working on the influenza virus and the person next to them was working on pain measurement postsurgery, you could still find them talking about the challenges of doing research and how they overcame problems in their studies that will serve well in the future for whatever research they pursue next,” Dr. Hohenhaus said.

Sponsors of the symposium included Merial, The National Institutes of Health, the Burroughs Welcome Fund, the AVMA, the AVMF, the Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges, and other veterinary professional organizations.

More information on the symposium speakers and a list of all Young Investigators and poster session award winners is available at www.veterinaryscholar.org/symposium2010.php.

—MALINDA LARKIN

new diplomates

American College of Laboratory Animal Medicine

The American College of Laboratory Animal Medicine certified 48 new diplomates following the certification examination it held July 25, 2010, in Bethesda, Md. The new diplomates are as follows:

Trinka Adamson, Duarte, Calif.
Mark Bates, Richmond, Va.
Leslie Birke, New Orleans
Rebecca Blackwood, San Antonio
Christine Boehm, Tallahassee, Fla.
Robin Burke, Frederick, Md.
Lynn Collura, Alice, Texas
Coreen Cooper-Pesco, Austin, Texas
Michael Drake, Columbia, Mo.
Laura Gallaugher, Columbus, Ohio
Peter Gasper, Fremont, Wis.
David Hanwell, Toronto
Kelly Hopper, Homestead, Fla.
Kelly Hugunin, Pooler, Md.
Sherrie Jean, Atlanta
Andrew Jefcoat, Madison, Wis.
Kelly Jensen, Berkeley, Calif.
Colena Kemp-Johnson, West Point, Pa.
Vanessa Lee, Atlanta
Jamie Lovagilo, Richland, Wash.
Luis Lugo-Roman, Silver Spring, Md.
Jamus MacGuire, Pennington, N.J.
Maria Martino-Cardona, Iowa City, Iowa
Mary Ann McCrackin, Missoula, Mont.
Krinon Moccia, Bethesda, Md.
Rashida Moore, Bethesda, Md.
Pablo Morales, Homestead, Fla.
Joanne Morris, Charlestown, Mass.
Fakhrid-deen Muhammad, Rockville, Md.
Heather Narver, Bethesda, Md.
Nicole Nemetz, Houston
Denise Newsom, Seattle
Rhonda Oates-O’Brien, Davis, Calif.
Lise Phaneuf, Toronto
Rodolfo Ricart Arbona, New York
Matthew Rosenbaum, Greenville, N.C.
Timothy Settle, Bethesda, Md.
Steven Shipley, Baltimore
Brett Taylor, Frederick, Md.
Betty Theriault, Chicago
Danielle Turner, East Hanover, N.J.
Christin Veeder, Philadelphia
Michael Wadanoli, Andover, Mass.
Ida Washington, Seattle
Tiffany Whitcomb, Hershey, Pa.
Allison Williams, Atlanta
Gerard Winnen, Pittsburgh
Erin Yu, Nashville, Tenn.

—MALINDA LARKIN

AVMA Honor Roll Member

Richard F. Bristol

Dr. Bristol (MSU ’51), 85, Waunakee, Wis., died July 6, 2010. He was professor emeritus and past associate dean for clinical affairs at the University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Veterinary Medicine. Following graduation and until 1962, Dr. Bristol practiced in Montfort, Wis. During that time, he also served as a visiting lecturer at the University of Wisconsin-Platteville. From 1962-1970, Dr. Bristol worked at Iowa State University. He then returned to Wisconsin, where he set up practice in Merrill. In 1974, Dr. Bristol joined the University of Wisconsin Extension Service as a professor and in 1981 he moved to the School of Veterinary Medicine in the same capacity.

Dr. Bristol was a past president of the Wisconsin and Southwestern Wisconsin VMAs. He was named Wisconsin Veterinarian of the Year in 1958 and received a 50-year Award in 2001. Dr. Bristol also received the Iowa-Grant County Award for contributions to education in 1960 and the Cardinal Key for outstanding leadership, service, scholarship, and character from ISU in 1967. His wife, Barbara; a son; and four daughters survive him.

Rosendo Cordero

Dr. Cordero (KSU ’47), 86, Mayaguez, Puerto Rico, died May 27, 2010. During his career, he worked for the Department of Agriculture’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service; served on the faculty of what was known as the Mayaguez College of Agriculture and Mechanical Arts, where he eventually directed the Animal Industry Department; and owned a mixed animal practice and a veterinary products distribution company in the Mayaguez area. In the 1960s, Dr. Cordero served on the Puerto Rico Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners. He was a
founder member of the Colegio de Medicos Veterinarios de Puerto Rico and served on its board of directors. Dr. Cordero is survived by a daughter and a son.

**Gregory J. Gramer**

Dr. Gramer (MIN ’97), 39, Shoreview, Minn., died July 5, 2010. He was an associate veterinarian at the Farmington Veterinary Clinic in Farmington, Minn. Dr. Gramer began his career at Indian Lake Animal Clinic in Hendersonville, Tenn. In 2000, he moved back to Minnesota, where he practiced in the Twin Cities and served as an instructor of veterinary technology at Globe Cities and served as an instructor at the University of Minnesota. Memorials may be made to the CVM Class of 1997, Greg Gramer Memorial Scholarship, CVM Development Office, 1365 Gortner Ave., St. Paul, MN 55108.

**Ronald J. Greer**

Dr. Greer (CAL ’71), 65, Eugene, Ore., died July 4, 2010. A small animal practitioner, he owned Animal Health Associates, with clinics in Eugene and Creswell, Ore., prior to retirement in late 2006. Dr. Greer is survived by his wife, Rosemary, and three daughters.

**John E. Henton**

Dr. Henton (MSU ’68), 66, Knoxville, Tenn., died July 22, 2010. He was a professor in the Department of Large Animal Clinical Sciences at the University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine. Dr. Henton also directed continuing education for the university and coordinated alumni activities at the college. From 1994-1997, he served as chairman of the AVMA Convention Management and Program Committee. During that time, Dr. Henton strived for first-class scientific programming for practitioners as well as veterinarians in public health and research. Under his leadership, the committee converted the program into a grid for attendees, began publishing bound “Convention Notes,” and had veterinary technicians create their own program for the AVMA Annual Convention. In 1997, the AVMA Executive Board presented a resolution to Dr. Henton, acknowledging and commending his efforts as chairman of the CMPC.

A past president of the American Board of Veterinary Practitioners and the Tennessee VMA, Dr. Henton was a member of the American Association of Equine Practitioners, Society for Theriogenology, and American Association of Veterinary Clinicians. He received the TVMA Faculty Award in 1985. He is survived by his wife, Cathryn. Memorials may be made to the Bellaire Community United Methodist Church, PO. Box 235, Bellaire, MI 49615.

**Cindie D. Holub**

Dr. Holub (OSU ’83), 52, Westford, Mass., died Feb. 28, 2010. She co-owned Countryside Veterinary Hospital, a small animal practice in Chelmsford, Mass., with her husband, Dr. Brian E. Holub (OSU ’83), since 1985. Earlier in her career, Dr. Holub owned Merrimack Equine Practice in Merrimack, N.H. An avid horsewoman and athlete, she participated in several marathons and triathlons. Dr. Holub’s husband and four sons survive her. Memorials may be made to the Humane Society of Greater Akron, 7996 Darrow Road, Twinsburg, OH 44087.

**Davis A. McCue**

Dr. McCue (OSU ’57), 78, Richmond, Va., died June 17, 2010. A small animal practitioner, he owned Hilliard Veterinary Hospital in Richmond prior to retirement in 2003. Earlier in his career, Dr. McCue practiced at Farmers Veterinary Hospital in Richmond. His wife, Barbara; two daughters; and a son survive him.

**Carlton W. Remer**

Dr. Remer (MSU ’39), 94, Utica, Mich., died June 21, 2010. He practiced in the Utica area for 41 years. Dr. Remer was a member of the Michigan VMA and a founding member of the Macomb County VMA. He is survived by four sons and four daughters. Memorials may be made to The Todd Remer Scholarship Fund, Trinity Lutheran Church, 45160 Van Dyke, Utica, MI 48317.

**Ralph W. Rieke**

Dr. Rieke (ISU ’43), 94, Fairmont, Minn., died July 9, 2010. Prior to retirement in 1986, he owned a mixed animal practice in Fairmont for 42 years. He also bred and raised Arabian and Tennessee Walking horses. Dr. Rieke was a life member of the Minnesota VMA and a past member of the Minnesota Board of Veterinary Medicine. Active in civic life, he was also a 50-year member of the Kiwanis Club. Dr. Rieke is survived by his wife, Elizabeth; three sons; and a daughter. One son, Dr. Todd W. Rieke (MIN ’75), is a relief veterinarian in White Bear Lake, Minn.

**Norman R. Schneider**

Dr. Schneider (KSU ’68), 67, Ceresco, Neb., died July 5, 2010. A past president of the American Board of Veterinary Toxicology, he was a veterinary toxicologist in the Department of Veterinary
and Biomedical Sciences at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln from 1979 until retirement in 2002. Early in his career, Dr. Schneider served 11 years in the Air Force as a base veterinarian and veterinary toxicologist. He retired as a lieutenant colonel from the Air Force Reserve in 1995, after 30 years of commissioned service, the last 16 of those as chief of public health with the Nebraska Air National Guard.

During his tenure at UNL, Dr. Schneider developed new majors in the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, served as an academic adviser, and directed the preveterinary advising center in the Department of Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences. He also coordinated and initiated the UNL Chapter of Veterinary Scholars Early Admission Program at Kansas State University College of Veterinary Medicine.

Dr. Schneider was a fellow and past councilor for the American Academy of Veterinary and Comparative Toxicology and a member of the American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians and Kansas and Nebraska VMAs. He served as a representative for the veterinary profession on the Nebraska State Board of Health and was an adviser and consultant for the Nebraska Master Poison Control Center. In 2004, Dr. Schneider received a KSU CVM Alumni Recognition Award. He also received several awards from UNL, recognizing his teaching, advising, and mentoring skills.

A life member of the American Legion, Dr. Schneider was the recipient of several military honors, including the Meritorious Service, Joint Services Commendation, and Air Force Commendation medals. He was also honored by the Nebraska National Guard Association with a Distinguished Service Award.

Dr. Schneider’s wife, Karen, and a son survive him. Memorials toward an UNL veterinary scholarship may be made c/o Karen Schneider, 1860 County Road D, Ceresco, NE 68017.

Lester G. Slayton Jr.

Dr. Slayton (ISU ’56), 82, Pueblo, Colo., died July 9, 2010. Prior to retirement in 1995, he worked as veterinarian-in-charge for the Department of Agriculture in meat inspection. Earlier in his career, Dr. Slayton owned a mixed animal practice in Missouri with offices in Mercer and Princeton, and later in Lineville, Iowa. An Army veteran of the Korean War, he was a member of the American Legion. Dr. Slayton is survived by his wife, Mary, and three stepdaughters. His granddaughter, Dr. Tegwin K. Taylor (ISU ’03), is a veterinarian in Charleston, W.Va.

Memorials in his name may be made to Pueblo Animal Services, 4600 Eagleridge Place, Pueblo, CO 81008; Diabetes Foundation, 13 Sunflower Ave., Paramus, NJ 07652; or Southern Colorado Alzheimer’s Association, 455 Sherman St., Suite 500, Denver, CO 80203.

James H. Steere

Dr. Steere (CAL ’53), 85, Petaluma, Calif., died Aug. 3, 2010. He practiced equine medicine for more than 50 years, primarily in California’s Sonoma and Marin counties, founding a practice in Santa Barbara, and Artaurus Veterinary Clinic in Petaluma. During that time, Dr. Steere also taught a veterinary technology course at Indian Valley College in Marin for more than 30 years. Early in his career, he was awarded a Fulbright scholarship at the Royal Veterinary and Agricultural University in Copenhagen.

Dr. Steere was a member of the Marin and Sonoma horse councils and participated in long-distance endurance riding, helping to establish many of the safety standards that govern the sport today. A veteran of World War II, he served as a second lieutenant in the Army Air Corps. Dr. Steere is survived by his wife, D’Ann, and eight children. Memorials may be made to the Hospice of Petaluma, 416 Payran St., Petaluma, CA 94952.

Hilding M. Strandberg

Dr. Strandberg (COL ’46), 87, Atherton, Calif., died June 4, 2010. He owned Redwood Pet Hospital in Redwood City, Calif. Dr. Strandberg was a veteran of the Army and Air Force. While serving in the Army, he was stationed in postwar Japan, where he established a veterinary clinic in Tokyo and initiated a rabies immunization and control program. Dr. Strandberg also conducted food inspection, worked in zoonotic disease control, and provided care for military working dogs. He was a member of the California and Peninsula VMAs and the American Animal Hospital Association. Dr. Strandberg’s wife, Patricia, and five children survive him.

Jack P. Stream

Dr. Stream (ISU ’51), 87, Creston, Iowa, died July 19, 2010. Co-founder of Creston Veterinary Clinic, he practiced in Creston from 1951-1990. Dr. Stream was a past president of the Southwest Iowa VMA and served on the Advisory Committee of the Iowa State University College of Veterinary Medicine. Active in civic life, he was a past president of the Creston School Board and the Kiwanis Club.

Dr. Stream served in the Army during World War II. His wife, Lorraine; two sons; and two daughters survive him. Memorials may be made to Greater Regional Hospice Home, 1700 W. Townline St., Creston, IA 50801; or Creston Animal Rescue Effort, 304 W. DeVoe, Creston, IA 50801.

Eldon M. Todd

Dr. Todd (KSU ’54), 86, Sabetha, Kan., died July 28, 2010. A mixed animal practitioner, he founded Todd Animal Clinic in Sabetha in 1955. Earlier in his career, Dr. Todd practiced for a year in Des Moines, Iowa. He was a lifetime member of the Kansas VMA. Dr. Todd’s wife, Adelle; a son; and two daughters survive him. Memorials toward the Kansas State University College of Veterinary Medicine may be made c/o Popkess Mortuaries, 823 Virginia St., Sabetha, KS 66534.