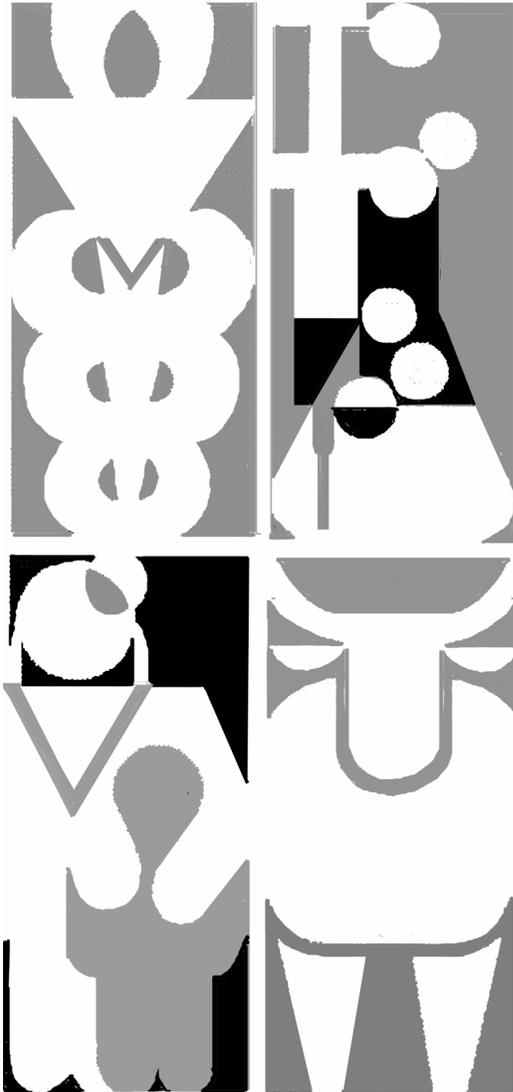


NEWSLETTER



Association for Veterinary Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine

President - Dr. Thomas E. Wittum
Veterinary Preventive Medicine
The Ohio State University
Columbus, OH 43210
Wittum.1@osu.edu

President-Elect - Dr. Paul. S. Morley
Dept of Environmental Health
Colorado State University
Ft Collins, CO 80523
Paul.Morley@Colostate.edu

Secretary/Treasurer - Dr. James Thorne
3310 Cheavens Rd
Columbia, MO 65201-9383
avepm@centurytel.net

Newsletter Editor - Dr. Ronald D. Smith
300 McKain Street
Vicksburg, MI 49097
rd-smith@uiuc.edu

AVEPM is committed to developing and fostering the academic base for veterinary epidemiology and preventive medicine

Visit the AVEPM Web site at...

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ASSOCIATION NEWS

Update on Avian Influenza Epidemiology Workshops in Indonesia

Mo Salman
May 2007

AVEPM is co-sponsoring a series of two-week workshops in avian influenza epidemiology in various locales within Indonesia. The purpose of the workshops is to prepare local field personnel with a general understanding of the principles of veterinary epidemiology, disease investigations, useful information systems, data collection practices, biosecurity and biological sample procurement. Six provincial/district-level workshops are planned in addition to a national-level follow-up course. The goal of these workshops is to prepare approximately 200 Indonesians to implement Indonesia's plan and strategy for HPAI prevention, control and eradication activities.

Four provincial/district workshops, in Tangerang, Medan, Surabaya, and Tuban-Bali, have been completed since the beginning of the project. The fifth workshop, in Makassar, begins at the end of May. Several professionals from throughout the United States have assisted or will assist Dr. Mo Salman with teaching and coordinating. AVEPM members, Dr. Ian Gardner from UC-Davis, Drs. Kristy Pablonia and Barbara McCarthy

from Colorado State University were members of this professional team. Furthermore, Drs. Barbara Corso (USDA APHIS VS CEAH), L. Mia Kim (USDA ARS SEPRL), and Ms. Manon Schuppers, an epidemiologist from SAFOSO in Switzerland, provided their expertise.

Each workshop provided training for 30-40 Indonesians who are poultry managers or field veterinarians. In addition, a 3rd or 4th year veterinary medicine student, who had special interest in epidemiology and international affairs, was selected for each session to join the Indonesian participants. To date, Ms. Rachel Nichols (Colorado State), Ms. Jananne Mathison (NCSU), Ms. Brooke Bloomberg (U of Florida), Ms. Rivka Shoulson (Mississippi State) and Ms. Sally Davis (NCSU) have attended a two-week workshop.

Two additional workshops are planned in August and September 2007. The last two-week workshop will be held in Bandar Lampung in August. The final workshop, which is the national-level follow-up, will be held in Jakarta in September.

Other co-sponsors for this series of workshops include the United States Department of Agriculture-Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services (APHIS), the Center for Indonesian Veterinary Analytical Studies (CIVAS) and Colorado State University.

NEWS & COMMENTARY

HEALTHmap

<http://www.healthmap.org/>

HEALTHmap brings together disparate data sources to achieve a unified and comprehensive view of the current global state of infectious diseases and their effect on human and animal health. This freely available Web site integrates outbreak data of varying reliability, ranging from news sources (such as Google News) to curated personal accounts (such as ProMED) to validated official alerts (such as World Health Organization). Through an automated text processing system, the data is aggregated by disease and displayed by location for user-friendly access to the original alert. HEALTHmap provides a jumping-off point for real-time information on emerging infectious diseases and has particular interest for public health officials and international travelers.

Carter Named Director of UK Livestock Disease Diagnostic Center

By Laura Skillman

Editor's note: The appointment of Dr. Carter, long-time AVEPM member, to this post will most certainly increase the visibility and effectiveness of modern epidemiologic methods in an important animal health surveillance activity. It is hoped that his initiatives will positively influence similar efforts nationwide – RD Smith

LEXINGTON, Ky., (July 10, 2007) – Craig Carter, a 26-year veteran in diagnostic veterinary medicine, is the new director of the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture's Livestock Disease Diagnostic Center.

Carter, who currently serves as epidemiology professor and section chief, will take over the helm on Aug. 1 replacing Lenn Harrison, who is retiring after serving 16 years as director.

“The appointment of a nationally distinguished successor to Dr. Harrison at LDDC continues our progress toward our goal for the LDDC – to become a world class center commensurate with Kentucky's world class animal enterprises,” said Scott Smith, dean of the College of Agriculture.

Since coming to the state two years ago, Carter has spearheaded the development of Kentucky's first fully integrated animal health information and surveillance system which provides near real-time analysis of health events involving animals.

This analysis is currently conducted on information gathered at the LDDC but soon will capture health events at the farm level and will be integrated with information captured at the Breathitt Veterinary Center in Hopkinsville. Once validated, the system will generate automated alerts to the state veterinarian and other stakeholders when statistical thresholds are exceeded. These alerts will allow for rapid response to emerging diseases as well as providing early detection of possible agri-terrorist attacks. It also includes a sophisticated disease mapping application that will aid the State Veterinarian's Office in its emergency response to animal diseases. The system will become fully functional in 2008.

“We are fortunate to have Craig's experience and abilities with animals important to Kentucky, from cattle, poultry and other food animals, to horses, dogs and cats,” said Nancy Cox, UK College of Agriculture associate dean for research and Kentucky Agricultural Experiment Station director. “His information management skills have already brought Kentucky to a new day of animal health surveillance and enhanced partnerships with the Office of the State Veterinarian and the Breathitt Veterinary Center.”

“I look forward to working with Dean Scott Smith and Associate Dean Nancy Cox, our clients and stakeholders, the Gluck Center, Veterinary Science faculty and staff and faculty and staff of the LDDC to take the next steps to better serve Kentucky animal agriculture and public health,” Carter said. “We all salute Dr. Lenn Harrison for his many outstanding years as LDDC director and wish him and wife Sandra the very best in retirement.”

In his first 100 days, Carter said he plans to assess client satisfaction in specific service areas as well as the quality of LDDC-client communications and build a consensus action plan for improvement. With the delay in funding of the LDDC facilities renovation and

upgrade, Carter wants to review the budget to ensure adequate resources are available to complete the project.

“During the last two years, I have gained a strong perspective of the many challenges that LDDC is facing,” Carter said. “Veterinary diagnostic laboratories are being asked to do so much more with dwindling resources. We need to better communicate the importance of our mission. The work done at our laboratory, in concert with the Breathitt lab, is directly related to the marketability of Kentucky animal agricultural products. In addition, we are the only ones capable of diagnosing diseases transmissible from animals to humans, thereby providing a crucial public health service for the citizens of Kentucky.”

Carter said he will work in collaboration with many partners to ensure that the lab provides the level and quality of diagnostic service that will enable Kentucky animal agriculture to grow and thrive in state, national and international markets. Significant additional resources must be committed to this, and he is committed to help find and secure these resources.

Additionally, he plans to review the budget for 2008 and identify any critical shortfalls that will have to be addressed; propose and implement some fundamental organizational changes for LDDC to enhance overall operations; fill some critical positions such as the diagnostic services coordinator, virology lab supervisor, epidemiology research analyst and start a search for an equine extension veterinarian. Carter also hopes to quickly approve and fill the position of associate director of LDDC in-house and acquire critically needed instrumentation for toxicology, molecular biology, serology and other laboratory sections.

Over the longer term, his goals are to complete a much needed facility expansion and upgrade, achieve full American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians (AAVLD) accreditation and join and participate in the National Animal Health Laboratory Network. He also plans to review and possibly restructure the lab advisory committees to better serve LDDC stakeholders; complete a comprehensive strategic and operating plan with five-year planning projections; expand the pathology post-doctoral scholar program to enhance pathology service and to help resolve the national shortage of veterinary pathologists; and pursue private and foundation funding for endowed faculty chairs and endowed technician positions to help recruit and retain the very best veterinary diagnosticians for the state.

Other goals are to fully implement the statewide animal health information network including web-based access to clinical reports and epidemiological animal health and

zoonotic disease data. Carter also hopes to justify and add the necessary staffing and contingency funding to meet surge testing demand during emerging disease outbreaks like Mare Reproductive Loss Syndrome (MRLS), Avian Influenza and foreign animal diseases such as Foot & Mouth Disease. In addition, a solid contingency plan needs to be in place to deal with a possible agri-terrorist attack in the commonwealth.

Carter's skills as a communicator, his extensive laboratory experience and background in military administration make him a great choice to take over the helm at the LDDC, said David Switzer, executive director of the Kentucky Thoroughbred Association and the Kentucky Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders Association.

"It is very important to be able to communicate well with constituents – the livestock producers and veterinarians," said Switzer, who is a member of the LDDC advisory council and search committee member. The diagnostic laboratory is very important to the growing cattle industry in the state and needs to be a first class facility, said Dave Maples, executive vice president of the Kentucky Cattlemen's Association. "I'm very excited with Dr. Carter's selection," Maples said. "We need the LDDC to be a first class facility and we believe he has the leadership ability to bring this to fruition."

Carter holds several degrees, including a doctor of veterinary medicine and a doctorate in veterinary public health, from Texas A & M University. Before joining UK, he served in various capacities at Texas A & M including head of the Department of Epidemiology and Informatics. He also was co-founder and served as president from 1989 to 2005 of Texas Medical Informatics (TMI Inc.), a company that developed and marketed medical information systems which aid in the diagnosis and treatment of diseases for veterinary and human medicine.

Carter has had a military career spanning four decades and still serves as a colonel in the U.S. Army Reserves overseeing and coordinating activities surrounding training and readiness of Reserve Veterinary Corps soldiers for overseas deployment in support of the U.S. Army Reserve medical mission. He is a Vietnam veteran and led the first Army Reserve veterinary unit into Afghanistan after 9/11 and was awarded a Bronze Star for his leadership. Carter is currently part of a civilian advisory team that travels to Iraq and Central America to assist in improving animal agriculture. His hobbies are physical fitness, music and flying.

Scientists at the LDDC work with farmers and veterinarians across Kentucky to improve animal health and find solutions as new diseases develop. In 2005, the

facility had about 60,000 cases that included nearly 150,000 animals ranging from horses and cattle, to cats and dogs, to reptiles and a zoo animal. The equine industry makes up about half of the center's work. Cattle comprise 30 percent or more, and poultry also makes up a significant amount of the center's work. The rest is varied animal species.

Writer: Laura Skillman, 270-365-7541, ext. 278

UK College of Agriculture, through its land-grant mission, reaches across the commonwealth with teaching, research and extension to enhance the lives of Kentuckians.

Veterinary Public Health Workforce Expansion Act

24.jul.07
From a press release

WASHINGTON, DC -- The Veterinary Public Health Workforce Expansion Act was approved by the U.S. Senate yesterday. The act, sponsored by Sen. Wayne Allard (R-CO), authorizes a competitive grants program to increase capacity in the nation's veterinary medical colleges and alleviate the critical shortage of veterinarians. The workforce act was offered as an amendment to the Higher Education Authorization bill, which passed in the Senate by a vote of 95 to zero.

"The Veterinary Public Health Workforce Expansion Act will allow us to increase our educational capacity for veterinary students, respond to the national need for veterinarians in public health sectors, and provide services to our rural communities," said Dr. Timothy Boosinger, Dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine at Auburn University and president of the Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges (AAVMC). "We thank Senator Allard for his leadership and efforts in addressing the needs of our veterinary workforce."

The Veterinary Public Health Workforce Expansion Act has been the highest federal legislative priority for the AAVMC for several years. The AAVMC has worked closely with the American Veterinary Medical Association, allied veterinary medical association groups, and industry and government partners to pass this legislation. The legislation now goes to the Education and Labor Committee in the U.S. House of Representatives. The AAVMC will work with the House to ensure that veterinary medical colleges, departments of veterinary science, departments of comparative medicine, and entities offering residency training programs or academic programs that offer postgraduate training

for veterinarians are able to get the resources that will enable them to increase the number of veterinarians in their graduating classes.

"I applaud the Senate for passing the Higher Education Authorization bill which included the Veterinary Public Health Workforce Expansion Act to address the shortage of veterinarians working in the public health practice," said Sen. Allard. "The nation's veterinary medical colleges do not have the resources necessary to meet the

demand for veterinarians who are vital to maintain public health preparedness."

"We appreciate the Senate's recognition of the need to assist the nation's 28 colleges of veterinary medicine with their responsibility to address the serious workforce shortages in veterinary public health. Veterinarians have a vital role in fulfilling society's public health needs," added Dr. Lawrence E. Heider, Executive Director of the AAVMC.

MEETINGS, WORKSHOPS & COURSES

See the AVEPM Web site at <http://www.cvm.uiuc.edu/avepm/> for details and the most current listings.

CRWAD 2007 Call for Abstracts Announcement

The 2007 CRWAD Meeting will be held December 2 - 4, at the Chicago Marriott, Downtown Magnificent Mile, Chicago, Illinois. The meeting will begin with the Researchers Reception, Sunday evening. The first poster session will coincide with the Researchers Reception.

Presentations will conclude by 1 pm Tuesday afternoon, December 4.

DEADLINE FOR ELECTRONIC ABSTRACT RECEIPT - September 7, 2007.

Link to Author instructions and Required On-line Form:
http://www.cvmbs.colostate.edu/microbiology/crwad/aut_hinst.htm

Link to meeting registration form:
http://www.cvmbs.colostate.edu/microbiology/crwad/reg_isfrm.htm

Link to the Chicago Marriott Hotel custom sleeping rooms reservations:
<http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/chidt-chicago-marriott-downtown-magnificent-mile/?groupCode=crwcrwa&app=resvlink>

We now accept Discover Card as well as VISA and Mastercard credit cards.

<http://www.cvmbs.colostate.edu/microbiology/crwad/credit.htm>

Please contact us if you have any questions.

Sincerely, Robert P. Ellis, Executive Director

13th International Congress on Infectious Diseases

Location: Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Dates: 19-22 Jun 2008

Dear Colleagues,

If you have one unique meeting to attend in 2008, look to Kuala Lumpur and the 13th International Congress on Infectious Diseases (ICID).

Sponsored by the 20 000 members of the International Society for Infectious Diseases (ISID), the 19-22 Jun 2008 meeting will host delegates from over 100 countries at a modern Congress Center surrounded by hotels within walking distance. Meet the editors and moderators of our great asset, ProMED-mail, and the gifted plenary speakers including Julie Gerberding, MD, MPH of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Bill Nauseef, MD of the University of Iowa, and Bruce Beutler, MD of the Scripps Research Institute in La Jolla.

Symposia will include the prevention and control of infections of international importance, including XDR-tuberculosis, HIV, malaria, and pandemic influenza. In addition, remarkably creative topics will also be covered in sessions, such as statins and cholesterol in infectious diseases; dengue and chikungunya; international perspectives on palliative care for people with HIV/AIDS; the neglected pathogen: *Orientia tsutsugamushi*; and evidence-based infection control.

The preliminary program, registration, housing, and other information are now available on the congress website at http://www.isid.org/13th_icid/.

Please join us in the exotic venue of Kuala Lumpur, the home of the Petronas Towers and the midnight lamps of

Petaling Street Nightmarket, where Malaysian culture blends with evocative British colonial buildings.

Richard P Wenzel, MD, MSc
President, International Society for Infectious Diseases
<info@isid.org>

POSITIONS

Space does not permit a listing of the many opportunities for graduate study and employment. Please visit the AVEPM Web site at <http://www.cvm.uiuc.edu/avepm/> for the most current listings.

SUGGESTED READING

Impact of Animal Disease Outbreaks on Livestock Markets: An FAO Analysis

Food Outlook - No. 2 December 2006

http://www.fao.org/es/esc/common/ecg/109566_en_Paper_Impact_of_Animal_Disease_Outbreaks_on_Livestock_Markets_FAO.pdf

While it is recognised that animal disease may have a significant local impact, the growing interdependence of livestock markets is creating awareness of the broader costs on livestock industries around the globe.

Certainly, escalating outbreaks of animal diseases have increased market instabilities, most recently with a recurrence of foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) in South America, the identification of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) in various major exporting countries and, most specifically, the ever widening and troublesome spread of Avian Influenza (AI) around the world. These outbreaks have tested the resilience of global livestock markets which have recently exhibited the slowest growth in trade over the past decade. The notification of trade bans for meat has never been higher and, increasingly, consumers' concerns about meat safety are leading them to shift consumption to other animal proteins. As Governments express rising concern about the socio-economic impact of animal disease prevention and control, the zoonotic nature of H5N1 is raising the cost of prevention and disease control, prompted by the possibility of a disease pandemic affecting the human population.

In the context of the considerable policy challenges posed by animal disease to livestock producers, meat processing industries, and policy makers around the globe, this analysis reviews the status of the major animal diseases currently affecting markets and assesses some preliminary scenario results of three broad animal disease scenarios involving AI, FMD and BSE outbreaks¹. The examination of alternative model

simulations helps identify and assess critical aspects of the impacts of animal diseases on markets. In particular, it provides general benchmark estimates on the market and trade costs of these diseases under different scenarios, while providing a framework to assess some of the factors and policies that can influence the market impact of different types of animal diseases.

Alternatives to Animal Disposal

Including the use of foresight technology and agri-intelligence

N.G. Willis, Editor

Although the stamping-out approach to control or eradicate animal diseases has been relatively effective, it has resulted in major hardships, economic losses, environmental damage, negative societal reaction, producer distress, concerns for animal welfare, the destruction of massive numbers of animals and the loss of valuable animal protein. It is now imperative to identify alternative approaches and to develop alternatives that effectively control animal diseases yet minimise the multiple detrimental aspects of mass animal destruction.

The quest for alternatives to mass animal destruction and disposal put forward in the papers of this monograph represent the findings and advancement of an international initiative originally conceived in Canada and consequently examined by an international working group over a five-year period during a series of international workshops. The dilemma is universal but, as the occurrence of major animal diseases increases, so does the urgency. The papers of this monograph have explored, from many perspectives, the concept of alternatives to the use of mass animal destruction for animal disease control. They have analysed and discussed the complex questions and dilemmas that are embedded in this subject. It is the desire of the authors of these

papers and the sponsors of the study, that this monograph stimulate renewed creativity and innovation in addressing this global challenge.

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or by fax to:
Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale dell'Abruzzo e del
Molise 'G. Caporale'
Via Campo Boario, 64100 Teramo, Italy
Tel. +39 0861 332 205 - Fax +39 0861 332 251