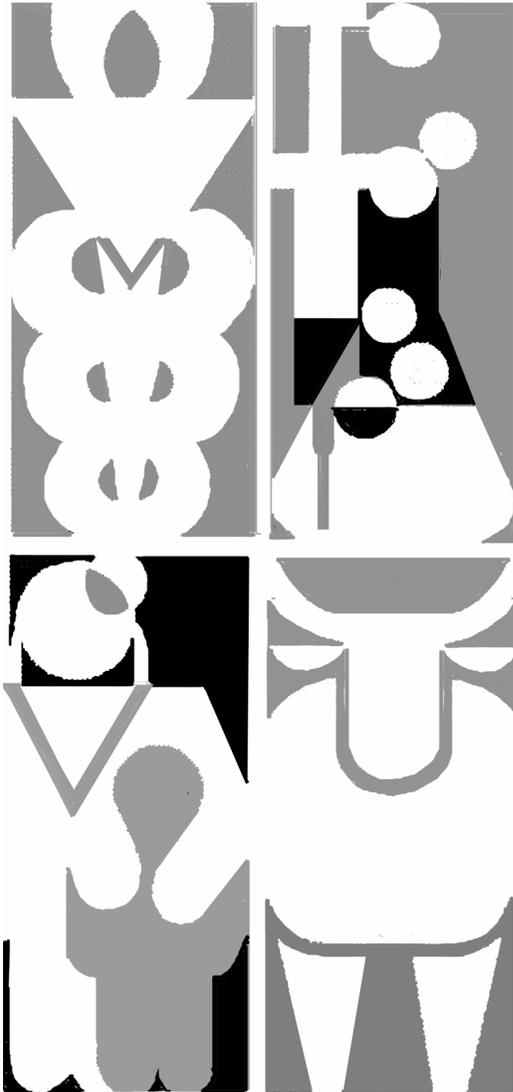


NEWSLETTER



Association for Veterinary Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine

President - Dr. Laura Hungerford
Dept of Epidemiology & Preventive Med
Univ of Maryland School of Medicine
Baltimore, MD 21201
lhungerf@epi.umaryland.edu

President-Elect – Vacancy to be filled in next election

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

Visit the AVEPM Web site at...

<http://www.cvm.uiuc.edu/avepm/>

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Important: Please take a moment to look at your mailing label on the envelope. The number (e.g. 03) in the lower right corner of the mailing label is the last year for which a dues payment has been recorded. Membership dues are \$20 US annually and are payable to ATVPHPM on January 1 of each year. If, for example, your dues payment year is indicated to be 02, then to become current you should remit two years dues or \$40. The AVEPM Constitution and By-Laws require that members two years in arrears in payment of dues shall be dropped from membership (Article VI)

ASSOCIATION NEWS

AVEPM Executive Committee Meeting

November 10, 2003
Congress Hotel, Chicago, Illinois

THE AVEPM executive committee met at 7:00 a.m. on November 10, 2003 at the Congress Hotel in Chicago in conjunction with the CRWAD meeting. Those attending were Laura Hungerford, Pres-Elect; Jim Thorne, Sec-Treas; Tom Wittum, acting awards chair; Ian Gardner, past president; and Ron Smith, newsletter editor.

Brochure: Laura Hungerford said that she should get the electronic file from Margaret Slater and coordinate a revision with John New.

Newsletter: Editor Ron Smith indicated that he is willing to continue producing the newsletter and web-page as long as the U of Illinois allows him to do so.

Awards: Tom Wittum assumed the chairmanship of awards in Jorge Hernandez' absence. There will be 5 CRWAD graduate student awards (\$200 each); 2 for Epidemiology, 2 for Food Safety and 1 for Posters. The Gearhart Award is being awarded to Ashley Hill, graduate student of Ian Gardner, with a stipend of \$300.

Continuing Education: President-Elect Hungerford, in the absence of Mo Salman, announced that we can anticipate 3 USDA epidemiology workshops this year. One will be International with instruction in Spanish, one will be for veterinarians and the other for technicians.

Transition from AVEPM to AVEPM, Inc.: Secretary-Treasurer Jim Thorne explained the transition action necessary to go from Association for Veterinary Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine (AVEPM) to Association for Veterinary Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine, Inc (AVEPM, Inc). AVEPM, Inc. is incorporated as a not-for-profit corporation in Missouri. The proposed by-laws will be voted on. Once they pass, members of AVEPM will be asked to move membership on January 1, 2004, from AVEPM to AVEPM, Inc. Then, members will vote to move \$1,000 from AVEPM to AVEPM, Inc. Then, members will be ask to approve the movement of the balance of AVEPM funds to AVEPM, Inc. on January 1, 2004. This will let the treasurer close out the books on AVEPM and file the appropriate IRS 990 (501(c)(3) forms as of the end of 2003 and begin AVEPM, Inc on January 1, 2004. Application for 501(c)(3) is proceeding. The filing fee to the IRS is \$500. Ian

Gardner moved, 2nd by Tom Wittum, that AVEPM allow Secretary-Treasurer Thorne up to \$400 for expenses to attend the 2003 AVEPM meeting. Motion carried.

Officer election: Nominating committee chair Hungerford announced that Tom Wittum has consented to be a candidate for President-Elect and Gay Miller has consented to be a candidate for member-at-large (this will be a member of Board of Director under new by-laws). She will solicit additional nominations at the annual meeting. The ballot will be in the winter 2003-2004 newsletter. Nominations for Secretary-Treasurer and two members of Board of Directors will be solicited in the Spring 2004 newsletter. That will permit the ballot for election to be published in the fall 2004 newsletter.

Respectfully submitted
James G. Thorne, Secretary-Treasurer

AVEPM Annual Meeting

November 10, 2003
Plaza Room, Congress Hotel
520 S. Michigan Ave
Chicago, IL

President-Elect Laura Hungerford called meeting to order at 11:35 a.m. A list of members attending follows these minutes.

Secretary Thorne directed members to minutes of November 2002, which were published in the Winter Newsletter. John Kaneene moved, 2nd by Ian Gardner, that the minutes be approved at published. Motion carried.

Treasurer Thorne gave a summary of the financial statement, a copy of which is attached to end of minutes.

Pres-Elect Hungerford announced that: Schwabe Symposium is planned for next year. She and John New are working on a new brochure. Tom Wittum, acting as awards chair in absence of Jorge Hernandez, (attending ISVEE10) announced that Ashley Hill received the Gearhart Award of \$300 this year. Last year's awardee was Guy Lonergan. There will be two awards at CRWAD this year in Epidemiology and Animal Health Economics, two for Food Safety and one for the best poster.

President-Elect Hungerford, in absence of Mo Salman who is attending ISVEE10, announced that CE activity

will include 3 workshops in 2004. One will be USDA international veterinarians, one for USDA veterinarians and one for USDA technicians.

Sec-Treas Thorne gave a synopsis of the transition from ATVPHPM to AVEPM and to AVEPM, Inc.

Sec-Treas Thorne moved, 2nd by Chet Thomas, that the proposed by-laws (published in the fall newsletter) be approved for AVEPM. Motion carried.

Sec-Treas Thorne moved, 2nd by John Kaneene, that the AVEPM membership be transferred to AVEPM, Inc on January 1, 2004. Motion carried.

Sec-Treas Thorne moved, 2nd by Tom Wittum, that \$1,000 be transferred from AVEPM to AVEPM, Inc for initial funding. Motion carried.

Sec-Treas Thorne moved, 2nd by John Kaneene, that the balance of AVEPM (ATVPHPM) funds be transferred to AVEPM, Inc as of January 1, 2004. Motion carried.

Newsletter Ron Smith, volunteered to continue producing the AVEPM newsletter as long as the Univ of Illinois allows him the web site privileges.

Pres-Elect Hungerford, chair of the nominating committee, announced that current nominations for President-Elect were Tom Wittum and member-at-large nominee Gay Miller. The ballot will be in the winter newsletter.

John Kaneene moved, 2nd by Randall Singer, that meeting adjourn.

Respectfully submitted
James G. Thorne, Secretary/Treasurer

Attendance at AVEPM meeting in Chicago, CRWAD Congress Hotel, November 10, 2003: Laura Hungerford, James G. Thorne, Tom Wittum, Chet Thomas, Michael Ward, Jim Keen, Bob Wills, Jan Sargeant, Jeff Zimmerman, George Moore, Ian Gardner, John B. Kaneene, Randy Singer, Claudia Munoz-Zanzi, Ronald D. Smith

AVEPM/CAVEPM Joint Meeting - Chile

November 20, 2003, Vina del Mar, Chile

Representatives for the AVEPM and CAVEPM (Canadian Association) met for breakfast. Present were John VanLeeuwen, Margaret Slater, Mo Salmon, Paul Morley, Jorge Hernandez, Ian Dohoo, John Campbell and Ron Smith.

We discussed the activities of CAVEPM, which exists to provide a meeting each year, rotating through the Canadian veterinary colleges. The meeting is aimed primarily at continuing education for graduate students in epidemiology and related disciplines. This spring there will not be a meeting due to other activities including the Guelph GIS conference. 2005 and 2006 meetings will complete the rotation through all the schools. Generally, attendance is limited by the facilities available and the rooms are usually full.

We discussed whether there were any issues or events of mutual interest or ways that the organizations could help each other. We agreed that the CRWAD meeting announcement could be circulated to the CAVEPM members; that the AVEPM newsletter should remind members of the Epi-Vet list-serve; that the ISVEE list (and website) should also be sent an announcement about the vet list-serve.

It was suggested that the AVEPM newsletter and website might have the CAVEPM logo to advertise our sister organizations. We also suggested that CAVEPM might consider "sponsoring" the Schwabe symposium at CRWAD. This would not necessarily involve funds, perhaps just a member on the planning committee.

One further possibility was the idea of a joint meeting in 2007 between the organizations.

The Association for epidemiologists in Mexico was also brought up as a possible additional organization for networking.

Submitted by Margaret Slater
President, AVEPM

ATVPHPM Financial Statement

11/10/01-11/09/03

Balance on Hand 11/10/02			\$ 23,043.89
Income			
Dues	1,580.00		
Gifts Received	1,000.00		
Interest	202.71		
Symposium CRWAD			
USDA	30,000.00		
Other	0.32		
Total Income		32,783.03	\$ 55,826.92
Expenses			
USDA Epi Honoraria	13,500.00		
USDA Epi expense	11,250.00		
CSU Foundation	3,250.00		
Schwabe Symposium	2,152.79		
Newsletter	1,980.00		
NCPPSP dues	500.00		
Travel NCPPSP	340.68		
ASMicro	2,000.00		
CRWAD Awards	1,000.00		
Bank Charge	46.84		
Meeting exp	70.07		
Incorporation filing	25.00		
Total Expense		36,115.38	
Net		-3,332.35	
Balance on Hand 10/31/02			\$ 19,711.54

How to Contact AVEPM

Applications for membership, accompanied by a check for \$20 payable to the AVEPM, should be sent to:

Dr. James Thorne, Secretary/Treasurer, AVEPM
3310 Cheavens Rd
Columbia, MO 65201-9383

Phone: 573/443-0157
FAX: 573/884-5050
E-mail: atvphpm@tranquility.net

Membership application forms are available online at:

<http://www.cvm.uiuc.edu/avepm/>

Newsletter items can be sent to:

Dr. Ronald D. Smith, Newsletter Editor, AVEPM UI
College of Veterinary Medicine
2001 South Lincoln Ave
Urbana, IL 61802.

Phone: 217/333-3290
FAX: 217/244-7421
E-mail: rd-smith@uiuc.edu

Current and past issues of the AVEPM Newsletter are also available online at:

<http://www.cvm.uiuc.edu/avepm/>

NEW AVEPM BYLAWS

Approved November 10, 2003

**BYLAWS OF
ASSOCIATION FOR VETERINARY EPIDEMIOLOGY
AND PREVENTIVE MEDICINE, INC.
A MISSOURI GENERAL NOT-FOR-PROFIT CORPORATION**

**ARTICLE I
PURPOSES, OBJECTIVES, MEANS, AND RESTRICTIONS**

The purposes of the Corporation shall be those non-profit purposes stated in the Articles of Incorporation as may be amended. Its objectives are to advance veterinary public health and preventive medicine through the medium of education in the United States and Canada. Those objectives are to be accomplished as follows: 1) To disseminate veterinary public health, preventive medicine, and epidemiology knowledge and experience to those individuals preparing for a career in veterinary medicine; 2) To arrange and sponsor continuing education programs for those individuals engaged in the practice of veterinary public health and preventive medicine; 3) to identify and provide expertise to those individuals or groups that request assistance in developing educational programs in the veterinary public health and preventive medicine area; 4) To recruit and maintain professional manpower in veterinary public health and preventive medicine; 5) to promote post-doctoral training programs for individual increased competence and/or specialty certification. No part of the net earnings or other assets of the Corporation shall inure to the benefit of, be distributed to or among, or revert to any director, officer, contributor or other private individual having, directly or indirectly, any personal or private interest in the activities of the Corporation, except that the Corporation may pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and may make payments and distributions in furtherance of the non-profit purposes stated in the Articles of Incorporation.

**ARTICLES II
OFFICES**

The principal office of the corporation in the State of Missouri shall be located in the City of Columbia. The Corporation may have such other offices within or without Missouri as may be required.

The registered office of the Corporation required under the laws of the State of Missouri to be maintained in the State of Missouri may be, but need not be, identical with the principal office in the State of Missouri, and the address of the registered office may be changed from time to time in conformity with the laws of the State of Missouri.

**ARTICLE III
BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS**

A. Management. The affairs of the Corporation, including organization, planning, meeting preparation, shall be managed, supervised, and controlled by a self-perpetuating Board of Directors consisting of the President, the President-Elect, the Secretary-Treasurer, and Three (3) members, all elected by the members in a manner specified in Section B hereof.

B. President. The President shall be the chief executive officer of the Corporation. The President shall preside at all meetings of the Board of Directors, shall appoint all committees, transact all of the usual, necessary and regular business of the Corporation as may be required and, with prior authorization of the Board, to execute such contracts, deeds, bonds and other evidences of indebtedness, leases and other documents as shall be required by the Corporation; and, in general, the President shall perform all such other duties incident to the office of President and chief executive officer and such other duties as may from time to time be prescribed by the Board of Directors.

C. President-Elect. The President-Elect shall act as chief executive officer in the absence of the President and, when so acting, shall have all the power and authority of the President. Further, the President-Elect shall have such other and further duties as may from time to time be assigned by the Board of Directors.

D. Secretary-Treasurer. The Secretary-Treasurer shall record and preserve the minutes of the meetings of the Board of Directors and all committees of the Board, shall cause notices of all meetings of the Board of Directors and committees to be given, shall have charge and custody of and be responsible for all funds of the Corporation, shall deposit such funds in such bank or banks as the Board of Directors may from time to time determine, and shall make reports to the Board of Directors as requested by the Board, shall see that an accounting system is maintained in such a manner as to give a true and accurate accounting of the financial transactions of the Corporation, that reports of such transactions are presented promptly to the Board of Directors, that all expenditures are made to the best possible advantage, and that all accounts payable are presented promptly for payment, shall further perform such other duties incident to the office and as the Board of Directors or the President may from time to time determine.

E. Removal and Resignation. Any officer may be removed, with or without cause, by the vote of a majority of the entire Board of Directors at any meeting of the Board. Any officer may resign at any time by giving written notice to the Board of Directors, the President or the Secretary. Any such resignation shall take effect at the time specified therein; and unless otherwise specified therein, the acceptance of a resignation shall not be necessary to make it effective.

F. Terms of Directors. Each director shall be elected for a term of two (2) years at the annual membership meeting. The President-Elect, and one member shall be elected in one year while the Secretary-Treasurer and two members shall be elected in the next year. The President-Elect shall succeed directly to the Presidency for the next year without election in that year. Vacancies occurring on the Board of Directors may be filled by the directors then in office. Any director may succeed himself or herself indefinitely.

G. Elections. Elections shall be by mail prior to the annual meeting. The nominating committee shall select candidates for all available offices and submit them to the Secretary-Treasurer in time for publication. All information regarding those candidates, together with all other information deemed necessary or advisable by the Board to be considered at the annual meeting, shall be published in the Fall Newsletter for distribution to, and comment by or vote upon, all regular members. The Newsletter shall be the President's delegable responsibility and shall be the sole corporate medium of communication. The Fall Newsletter shall be mailed no less than 60 days prior to such annual meeting at those members' last known address and shall constitute the only notice of such meeting. In the case of the election of the Board or matters related to corporate dues, all members in good standing shall be eligible to vote by mail and all votes must be received by the Secretary-Treasurer no less than thirty (30) days prior to the date of the meeting. There shall be no quorum requirement and election shall be by a majority of votes received. In all other cases, including the adoption of By-laws, the members shall be entitled to comment to the Board, but the Board shall determine the matter.

H. Meetings. The Annual Meeting of the Members and of the Board of Directors shall be held in the month of November on a date chosen and publicized by the Board, and all meetings of the Board, regular or special, shall be held at the principal office of the Corporation, or at such time and place within or without the State of Missouri as shall be designated by the Board of Directors. The annual meeting shall be held for the purpose of transacting such business as may come before the meeting. Special meetings of the Board of Directors may be called by or at the request of the President, or in the President's absence by the President-Elect, or by the Secretary-Treasurer.

Members of the Board of Directors, or of any committee designated by the President, may participate in a meeting of the Board or committee by means of conference telephone or similar communications equipment whereby all persons participating in the meeting can hear each other, and participation in a meeting in this manner shall constitute presence in person at the meeting. Robert's Rules of Order shall be observed at all meetings.

Any action which is required to be or may be taken at a meeting of the directors, or of any committee of the directors, or of the members, may be taken without a meeting if consents in writing, setting forth the action so taken, are signed by the members of the Board or of the committee, or the members as case may be. The consent shall have the same force and effect as a vote at a meeting duly held, and may be stated as such in any certificate or document. The Secretary shall file the consents with the minutes of the meetings of the Board of Directors or of the committee as the case may be.

I. Manner of Acting. The act of the majority of the Directors present at a meeting of the Directors shall be the act of the Board of Directors unless a greater number is required under the Articles of Incorporation, these Bylaws or any applicable laws of the State of Missouri.

ARTICLE IV MEMBERSHIP

- A. The Corporation shall have members.
- B. The membership shall consist of persons actively engaged in teaching, research, or service in veterinary public health and preventive medicine in any of the following disciplines: Biostatistics; Comparative Medicine; Disease Control, Prevention, Eradication; Economics; Environmental and Occupational Health; Epidemiology; Food Hygiene and Food Safety; Herd Health; Risk analysis; Zoonoses.
- C. Regular membership shall be conferred or denied by the Board of Directors after the applicant submits the current year's dues and the Board reviews that applicant's application submitted to the Secretary-Treasurer. The Board shall immediately notify the applicants of such conferral or denial.
- D. The Board may also, in the Board's sole discretion, confer Honorary Membership on individuals who have distinguished themselves in the field of public health and preventive medicine and such members shall not be required to pay any dues.
- E. The Secretary-Treasurer may confer Institutional Membership for those applicants not actively involved in the disciplines set forth in subparagraph B above, but who are interested in supporting the Corporation's mission, after receipt of the applicant's application and the current year's dues. Such membership shall be approved or rejected by the Board of Directors and the applicant immediately notified.
- F. The Secretary-Treasurer may confer Student Membership, for students in a graduate or professional veterinary curriculum, after receipt of the applicant's application and the current year's dues. Such membership shall be approved or rejected by the Board of Directors and the applicant immediately notified.

ARTICLE V GENERAL PROVISIONS

- A. Contracts, Etc., How Executed. Except as in these Bylaws otherwise provided or restricted, the Board of Directors may authorize any officer or officers, agent or agents to enter into any contract or execute and deliver any instrument in the name of and on behalf of the Corporation, and such authority may be general or confined to specific instances; and, unless so authorized, no officer, agent or employee shall have any power or authority to bind the Corporation by any contract or engagement or to pledge its credit or to render it liable pecuniarily for any purpose or in any amount unless in the ordinary course of business.
- B. Loans. Unless in the ordinary course of business, no loans shall be contracted on behalf of the Corporation and no negotiable paper shall be issued in its name, unless and except as authorized by the Board of Directors. To the extent so authorized, any officer or agent of the Corporation may effect loans and advances at any time for the Corporation from any bank, trust company, or other institution, or from any firm, corporation or individual, any for such loans and advances may make, execute and deliver promissory notes, bonds or other evidences of indebtedness of the Corporation, and when authorized as aforesaid, may pledge, hypothecate or transfer any and all stocks, securities and other personal property at any time held by the Corporation as security for the payment of any and all loans, advances, indebtedness and liabilities of the Corporation, and to that end may endorse, assign and deliver the same.
- C. Deposits. All funds of the Corporation shall be deposited from time to time to the credit of the Corporation with such banks, bankers, trust companies or other depositaries as the Board of Directors may select or as may be selected by any officer or officers, agent or agents of the Corporation to whom such power may be delegated from time to time by the Board of Directors.
- D. Checks, Drafts, etc. All checks, drafts or other orders for the payment of money, notes, acceptances or other evidence of indebtedness issued in the name of the Corporation, shall be signed by such officer or officers, agent or agents of the Corporation, and in such manner as shall be determined from time to time by resolution of the Board of Directors. Endorsements for deposit to the credit of the Corporation in any of its duly authorized depositaries may be made without countersignature, by any officer or agent of the Corporation to whom the Board of Directors, by resolution, shall have delegated such power.

ARTICLE VI DUES

Annual dues shall be payable yearly at the time of the annual meeting. All matters related to dues shall be proposed by the Board and submitted to the membership in the Fall Newsletter for comment. The Board shall have

the authority to adopt all such provisions. The Secretary-Treasurer shall notify any members who are late in paying their dues. Members two years in arrears on such dues shall terminate that member's membership immediately.

ARTICLE VII AMENDMENTS

These Bylaws may be adopted or amended solely by a majority vote of the Board of Directors after submission in the Newsletter to the membership for comment.

ARTICLE VIII INDEMNIFICATION

Each person who is or was a director or officer of the Corporation, including the heirs, executors, administrators, or estate of such person, shall be indemnified by the Corporation to the full extent permitted or authorized by the laws of the State of Missouri, as now in effect and as hereafter amended, against any liability, judgment, fine, amount paid in settlement, costs and expenses including attorney's fees, incurred as a result of any claim arising in connection with such person's conduct in his or her capacity, or in connection with his or her status, as a director or officer of the Corporation. The indemnification provided by this bylaw provision shall not be exclusive of any other rights to which he or she may be entitled under any other bylaws or agreement, vote of disinterested directors, or otherwise, and shall not limit in any way any right that the Corporation may have to make different or further indemnification with respect to the same of different person or classes of persons.

Adopted November 10, 2003.

INTERNET RESOURCES

FAO VPH Home Page

From: "Eddi, Carlos (AGAH)" <Carlos.Eddi@fao.org>

Dear Colleagues,
It would be very much appreciated if you could visit our VPH home page. It will be find at:

<http://www.fao.org/ag/againfo/programmes/en/A6.html>

We will do our best to improve the page in regular basis. All the information/suggestions you could provide to us, will be very much appreciated.

Dr. Carlos Eddi, DVM, MS, PhD
Senior Officer, Parasitology
Animal Health Service
Animal Production and Health Division
FAO

Epivet-L

Epivet-L is an electronic listserv designed to enhance communication among veterinary epidemiologists around the world. Participation is open to anyone with an interest in veterinary epidemiology and/or economics.

If you are not already subscribed to the list and would like to subscribe, visit the Epivet-L website:

<http://lists.upei.ca/mailman/listinfo/epivet>

This web site can also be used to modify your subscription settings (eg. to select digest mode).

The list is not moderated, so participants are reminded of the need to use appropriate etiquette when posting or replying to messages.

Best wishes
Ian Dohoo

NEWS & COMMENTARY

Cornell Receives \$6.6 million for NIH Funded Research On Food And Waterborne Diseases

October 3, 2003

Rapid Microbiology

<http://www.rapidmicrobiology.com/news/0310030.php>

Food- and waterborne diseases are focus of new NIH-funded research unit at Cornell's colleges of Veterinary Medicine and Agriculture and Life Sciences

A \$6.6 million contract with the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), part of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), will establish a new program at Cornell University's colleges of Veterinary Medicine and Agriculture and Life Sciences to study food- and waterborne diseases common to animals and humans. The new program is called the Zoonoses Research Unit.

Scientists in the Cornell veterinary college's Population Medicine and Diagnostic Sciences department and the Cornell-based New York State Animal Health Diagnostic Laboratory will collaborate with researchers in several agriculture college sections, including the departments of Food Science and Biological and Environmental Engineering.

Alfonso Torres, principal investigator and director of the new program, also serves as the veterinary college's associate dean for veterinary public policy and director of the diagnostic laboratory. Co-principal investigator in the new unit is Yrjo Gröhn, chair of the veterinary college's population medicine department. Torres says the Zoonoses Research Unit expects to: develop and adapt on-farm diagnostic methods for food- and waterborne pathogens and create an Internet database for exchange of "sub-typing" data about unusual and emerging variations of disease-causing organisms; conduct field studies to better understand the ecology, transmission and epidemiology of food- and waterborne zoonotic diseases, and implement cost-effective intervention strategies and develop an emergency response team.

Three years ago, Gröhn joined forces with Cornell College of Agriculture and Life Sciences faculty members Martin Wiedmann and Antje Baeumner to initiate an interdepartmental study focused on the rapid detection and prevention of zoonotic diseases. Their initiative gained momentum in 2002 when the veterinary college recruited Torres, who at the time was

the deputy administrator of veterinary services for the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). Veterinary Medicine Dean Donald F. Smith describes this multidisciplinary teamwork as "reflecting the best efforts of Cornell's scientific community, using collaborative research in the College of Veterinary Medicine and the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences to meet pragmatic needs."

Additional investigators from the veterinary college include Edward Dubovi, Hussni Mohammed, Daryl Nydam, Ynte Schukken and Susan Wade. The unit will include D.V.M./Ph.D. and Ph.D.-level investigators from Cornell's Institute of Food Science, Nanobiotechnology Center, Center for the Environment and the Cornell-based New York State Water Resources Institute. Collaborating institutions include the New York State Department of Health/Wadsworth Center, Task Force on Zoonotic and Emerging Disease Surveillance, Department of Agriculture and Markets, and the Center for Agricultural Medicine and Health at Bassett Healthcare, as well as the USDA's Foreign Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory at the Plum Island Animal Disease Center.

One hundred percent of project costs will be financed with the \$6,624,145 NIAID contract.

Survey: U.S. Short of Trained Epidemiologists

ATLANTA (Reuters) - Almost half of the epidemiologists working in state health departments in the United States have no training in their area of specialty, according to a survey that raises questions about the nation's ability to face a range of public health threats.

Epidemiology, the branch of medicine that focuses on outbreaks of disease, has attracted considerable attention and funding in the United States since the Sept. 11 attacks and the spread of anthrax-contaminated mail in 2001.

Increasing the number of state, local and tribal health departments that have the staff and resources to properly investigate public health problems is one of the federal government's national health objectives for 2010.

But a national survey conducted over a six-month period in 2001 and 2002 by the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists indicates that the nation has a long way to go before this goal is attained.

A total of 787 health department epidemiologists, or 42 percent of those surveyed in 41 states and three U.S. territories, said they had never completed coursework or other formal training in the field, according to the survey.

Only a few states and territories reported having full or near-full capacity to maintain surveillance of emerging health crises, such as a bioterrorism attacks or environmental disasters.

'STARTLING' FINDINGS

"I think it's fairly startling," said Dr. Matthew Boulton, a clinical associate professor of epidemiology at the University of Michigan and one of the researchers responsible for the survey.

"There's been a sense in the public health community that we have some real issues around workforce development, and I think it reinforces those concerns," Boulton said.

Researchers believe that difficulties attracting highly qualified candidates to the public health field in the 1990s had contributed to a decline in the number of trained epidemiologists at the state level in the past decade.

Boulton noted, however, that a renewed interest and increase in funding for public health during the past two years made him optimistic that the nation was addressing the training gap in epidemiology.

The survey's questionnaires were sent out shortly after the Sept. 11 and anthrax attacks, but before states began receiving an estimated \$1 billion in federal funds to shore up bioterrorism and emergency preparedness services.

In a related report released by the CDC on Thursday, researchers from the Iowa Department of Public Health (<http://us.rd.yahoo.com/DailyNews/manual/*http://search.news.yahoo.com/search/news?p=%22Department%20of%20Public%20Health%22&c=&n=20&yn=c&c=news&cs=nw>news - <http://us.rd.yahoo.com/DailyNews/manual/*http://search.yahoo.com/bin/search?cs=nw&p=Department%20of%20Public%20Health>web sites) and Iowa State University said the number of state epidemiologists assigned to the infectious diseases area rose 132 percent between 2001 and 2003.

"I think we're definitely moving in the right direction and with sustained support there is a reasonable prospect for building a lot of epidemiological capacity in this country," Boulton said.

ARS Celebrates 50 Years

ARS News Service
Agricultural Research Service, USDA
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WASHINGTON, Nov. 3--The Agricultural Research Service, chief scientific research agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, marks its 50th anniversary today. ARS' accomplishments during the past half century include development of the leading mosquito repellent, development of vaccines to protect chickens against economically devastating diseases, creation of a key equation to reduce soil erosion, and the discovery of two new forms of life-viroids and spiroplasmas. Viroids are strands of ribonucleic acid (RNA) that can cause disease in plants and crops; spiroplasmas, which also are responsible for many plant diseases, are life forms with no cell wall and one of the smallest genomes of any living organism.

Today, ARS is the largest agricultural science agency of its kind in the world, with more than 2,100 scientists conducting research at about 100 locations across the country and overseas. ARS scientists constructed the first gene maps of cattle, discovered that boron is an essential trace nutrient for humans, helped triple milk production per cow, and eliminated the screwworm from the United States and other countries. "ARS has had many specific accomplishments that have been critical to the continued vitality of American agriculture," said Edward B. Knipling, acting ARS administrator. "But the agency's work as a whole is an essential part of the long research continuum that allows us to improve our stewardship of the environment, while making our food and agricultural products more affordable, safer and more abundant."

In celebration of its anniversary, ARS will host numerous special events over the coming year, including a recognition ceremony at USDA headquarters in Washington, D.C., on Dec. 11, a National Scientific Leadership Meeting in New Orleans in January 2004, and open houses and field days at its various locations. ARS has conducted research in every facet of agriculture, responding quickly to new problems as they arise, carrying out long-term research beyond the scope of commercial businesses, providing research support to USDA action and regulatory agencies, and helping to improve the quality of life for rural communities.

While ARS was officially created in 1953, the agency has deep roots that go back more than a century. When Abraham Lincoln created USDA in 1862, the founding legislation called for the new department to acquire "useful information connected with agriculture in the

most general and comprehensive sense." Within four years, a Division of Botany was created, soon followed by the Division of Microscopy and, in 1873, the Bureau of Animal Industry and other scientific units. Many of these were merged in 1953 to form the core of today's ARS.

For the modern ARS, the mission goes beyond improving agricultural production. ARS research also helps develop agricultural commodities into new biobased products such as biodiesel fuel made from soybeans that can power cars, buses, planes and heating plants. Such advances benefit the farmer, the consumer and the environment.

More information about ARS's research milestones can be found in the November issue of Agricultural Research magazine, available on the World Wide Web at:

<http://www.ars.usda.gov/is/AR/archive/nov03/ars1103.htm>

Did Crohn's Disease Evolve with the Advent of Refrigerators?

December 11, 2003
Lancet

Authors of a hypothesis article in this week's issue of THE LANCET propose that the emergence of Crohn's disease in the second half of the 20th century—the same time that domestic refrigerators became widely available—is no coincidence. The authors suggest that certain types of bacteria that can survive in refrigerated food may be implicated in Crohn's disease.

Crohn's disease is thought to be caused by environmental factors (diet, lifestyle, smoking) among genetically susceptible individuals. Mutations in CARD15, a gene involved in innate immunity, are known to predispose people to the disease.

Jean-Pierre Hugot from Hopital Robert Debre, Paris, France, and colleagues discuss the cold-chain hypothesis (the production and storage of food in low temperatures) as a potential major risk factor for Crohn's disease. Jean-Pierre Hugot comments: "All findings point to refrigeration as a potential risk factor for Crohn's disease. Furthermore, cold-chain development paralleled the outbreak of Crohn's disease during the 20th century. The cold chain hypothesis suggests that psychrotrophic bacteria such as Yersinia and Listeria—commonly found in beef, pork, chicken, sausages, hamburgers, cheese, and lettuce—contribute to the disease.

These bacteria have been identified in Crohn's disease lesions. From a molecular perspective, we suggest that the disease is a result of a defect in host recognition by pathogenic bacterial components that usually escape the

immune response, which results in an excessive host response to these bacteria."

Common Sense on Mad Cow

December 27, 2003
National Post
A23

Last May, a single case of Mad Cow disease was, according to this editorial, discovered in northern Alberta. Though there was no evidence of a wider epidemic, international buyers immediately shut their doors to our meat and the Canadian beef industry was decimated. The loss of the American market alone, it is estimated, cost Canada \$11-million per day, as well as 5,000 jobs. With the discovery of a Mad Cow case in Washington State this week, Canadian beef producers can be forgiven if they felt a slight jolt of schadenfreude: The shoe is now on the other hoof.

The editorial says this as an excellent opportunity for the world to adopt a more rational attitude to the risks associated with Mad Cow disease. Like other beef-producing countries, Canada will likely see occasional, isolated outbreaks of Mad Cow in future years, and it would benefit our ranchers if the world community did not greet the news in the absurdly phobic fashion that is currently on display in regard to the United States.

The editorial says that as hysteria builds in the United States, it is important to remember that such a large outbreak could never occur again in any Western country. Firstly, the practice of using "ruminant feed" has been banned for years. Thus, even when a cow gets BSE through a natural mutation or by eating diseased wildlife, passing it on to other animals is impossible. Secondly, meat producers are typically no longer permitted to harvest the brain and spinal chord of cows for human consumption.

It is also important to remember that, even under the unsanitary conditions employed in 1980s-era Britain, catching CJD from BSE-infected meat was difficult: The tens of thousands of infected cows that passed through Britain's food supply -- brain-stem and all -- caused only about 150 human deaths. The odds of contracting CJD in a country whose beef supply contains just one or two diseased animals are thus infinitesimally small.

The editorial concludes that no one disputes that trade should take a back seat to human health. But where Mad Cow is concerned, it is taking a back seat to hysteria.

Mad Cow and the Media

December 31, 2003

Washington Post

A19

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A43184-2003Dec30.html>

David Ropeik with the Harvard Center for Risk Analysis writes that the coverage of mad cow disease is demonstrating the tendency for reporters and editors to play up the dramatic, the frightening and the controversial aspects of risk stories, and to play down or omit altogether information that puts the risk in perspective. This fans public fears and drives demands that the government spend time and money protecting us from risks that aren't as big as such coverage leads us to believe.

Consider Monday's newspapers. The front pages of the New York Times, The Washington Post and many other newspapers reported that "Cow's Meat Reached Retailers in Eight States"[The Post, Dec. 29]. Why is this front-page news, given that the overwhelming scientific evidence, developed from years of rigorous testing in Britain at the height of the epidemic there, shows that meat is not infectious?

The Post story, in paragraph two, reports: "In the strongest indication so far that significant amounts of meat have been eaten, about 100 consumers have called U.S. Department of Agriculture hotlines to say they have consumed the recalled meat and are worried about their health." In the sixth paragraph, The Post finally reports that there is no known risk from eating the meat. The New York Times waits three paragraphs before offering this reassurance.

A Monday story in the Wall Street Journal, "Scientific Data Offer No Proof of Beef Safety," says that "the scientific evidence behind those claims [that beef is not a risk material] isn't as certain." In the first 18 paragraphs, the story raises doubts based on initial findings that infectious prions, the misshapen protein believed to spread the disease, have been found in muscle meat in hamsters and mice, before describing the extensive and careful scientific testing in Britain that failed to show any evidence that meat from cows can spread the disease.

Finally, consider that in 2001 a study by our center at Harvard found that if mad cow disease occurred in the American cattle herd, the chance that it would spread to other animals or pose a threat to human health is extraordinarily low. This is because of the feed ban. Even with incomplete compliance, this ban keeps the disease from expanding through the herd, all but eliminating the chance that infected material will reach our tables. An isolated case, or several, is possible. But

a large-scale threat to animals or humans is highly unlikely.

Yet this important perspective has barely been mentioned by the major news outlets in America. Of more than 40 stories in the Wall Street Journal as of Dec. 29, only one mentioned the study, in the fourth paragraph from the bottom. In 38 stories in The Post, the results were cited in the last three paragraphs of a single story. USA Today has run 40 stories on this case of mad cow disease and mentioned these results just once. The Associated Press, Reuters and network television have all given similarly scant notice to this important part of the mad cow story. And the New York Times has not described these results once.

But the coverage has been rich with quotes from critics, who are given much more space and more prominent locations within the stories, hypothesizing that this is "the tip of the iceberg" (almost certainly not), that "we should test every animal before its meat is sent to market" (although meat is almost certainly not a risk), and that "the actual regulations themselves are not protecting the American consumer." (They are, though perhaps not as much as they could.) These are important voices to include. But so is careful, peer-reviewed science.

The news media frequently play up elements of risk stories that evoke fear and controversy, and play down or leave out information that ameliorates that fear or controversy. I was a television journalist for 25 years. I did this myself. I plead guilty.

Critics who say this is done to "sell papers" are only half right. Certainly newspaper editors and TV news directors want a dramatic story that will sell tomorrow's product. But reporters are after something else. They want their story on the front page, or to lead the newscast. But whether for profit or for professional ego, controversy and fear get public attention, so editors and reporters play them up. And the public is left more afraid of some risks than the science suggests is justified. That fear can cause us to divert public resources from risks that pose a greater threat but that get less coverage.

Mad cow disease offers a warning to America: We need more balanced journalistic coverage of this, and all risks, in the name of public health.

Mad Cow Reaches Absurd Level of Hysteria: Billions of Dollars at Stake Over Infinitesimal Threat

January 17, 2004
National Post
RB01 / Front
Jonathan Kay

Science is very clear about how to live a long, healthy life: Don't smoke, drive without a seat belt, get fat or have unprotected sex with a stranger. But instead of focusing on these common killers, Kay says in this column that we go around fretting about one-in-a-million longshots like shark attacks and plane crashes. Such is the irrational character of the human brain.

Even so, the mad cow scare that has swept cattle markets brings risk-assessment innumeracy to a new low: The risk to human health from a single infected cow, or even a whole herd, is so minuscule it makes the flu look like the Bubonic plague.

Kay says that the British had good reason to be frightened when the mad cow scare first hit. Because it was then common for one cow to be fed the remains of

another, BSE spread quickly. About a million infected cattle entered the food supply, and some experts predicted as many as 100,000 cases of vCJD would hit the country.

But the real number, so far, has been about 140 -- or about one infected human per 7,000 cows. It turns out that BSE-type prions have a lot of difficulty jumping the "species barrier" that separates cow and human.

Kay goes on to say that he is not arguing the United States, Canada and other nations shouldn't be doing everything in their power to prevent BSE. But it is absurd that many North American ranchers are facing bankruptcy and billions of dollars of trade are being shut down because of a limited outbreak that poses only an infinitesimal threat to human life.

It is especially ironic when one considers that the timing of the U.S. mad cow scare was such that it knocked the flu outbreak off the front pages. Influenza will cause up to 30,000 deaths in the United States this year. For mad cow to kill that many, the U.S. population would have to eat about two billion BSE-infected cows -- or about 10 entire mad cows (sans brain) per U.S. adult.

MEETINGS, WORKSHOPS & COURSES

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

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

Veterinary Public Health Literature from FAO

Dear Colleagues,
We have available for distribution through regular mail, the following material:

1. *Taenia solium*, a common parasite affecting global health (CD in English and Spanish)
2. Guidelines for coordinated human and animal brucellosis surveillance (English version; soon in Arabic)
3. Resistencia a los antiparasitarios (Spanish).

4. Acta Tropica, Special Issue: International planning workshop on Taenia solium Cysticercosis/Taeniosis.
5. Diseases of domestic animals caused by Flukes.

Any who wish to receive these materials, please answer my e-mail with your complete name, title, institute and complete mail address.

We are trying to do our best to update our VPH home page. Please, visit it at:

<http://www.fao.org/ag/againfo/programmes/en/A6.html>

Comments and suggestions are very welcome...!!!

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Salmonella on Pig Carcasses: Positive Pigs and Cross Contamination in the Slaughterhouse

November 2003
 Journal of Applied Microbiology
 Volume 95: Issue 5 Pp: 891 ^ 903
 N. Botteldoorn, M. Heyndrickx, N. Rijpens, K. Grijspeerd, L. Herman Abstract

Aims:

The purpose of this study was to investigate the prevalence of Salmonella in pigs at the moment of slaughter and in the slaughterhouse environment.

Methods and Results:

In total, five different commercial slaughterhouses were sampled during eight slaughterhouse visits. Carcass swabs, colon content and mesenteric lymph nodes were taken to reflect the animal status and from the slaughterhouse environmental samples were taken.

Salmonella was isolated from 37% of the carcass samples as a mean value. High variations were noticed between different slaughterhouses (between 0 and 70%) and sampling days in the same abattoir (between 3 and 52%). A correlation was found between the carcass contamination and the status of the delivered animals (P = 0.01675). Cross contamination was estimated to account for 29% of the positive carcasses. The slaughterhouse environment was highly contaminated;

before starting the slaughtering activities 25% of the samples were positive on average. The most prevalent serotypes isolated at the slaughterhouse environment and from the colon content were S. Typhimurium, S. Livingstone and S. Derby. On carcasses S. Typhimurium was predominately isolated (71%). The biggest variability of serotypes was found in the mesenteric lymph nodes.

Serologically 56.3% of the pigs were found positive for Salmonella using a cut-off level of the optical density percentage higher than 10 (O.D.% >= 10). While on individual pig level the correlation between the bacteriological and serological data was poor, because of recent Salmonella infections, a better correlation was found at the herd level on the moment of slaughtering.

Conclusion:

A high degree of carcass contamination is noticed after slaughtering. This contamination resulted from the delivery of Salmonella-positive pigs and cross-contamination from the slaughterhouse environment.

Significance and Impact of the Study:

In pigs, Salmonella carriage is high, but it is obvious that slaughterhouse hygiene is a determinative factor for managing carcass contamination.

The "Emperor's New Clothes": Listeria, Organic Acids and the USDA

November 1, 2003
 Least Cost Formulations, Ltd.
 R. A. LaBudde

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INTRODUCTION

Overall the last 10 years, the United States has seen an increased visibility with respect to food safety and observed foodborne outbreaks, initiated by the Jack-in-the-Box E. coli O157 incident of 1993. Since that time, USDA's Food Safety Inspection Service (FSIS) has instituted routine surveillance for Listeria in ready-to-eat (RTE) meat products and for E. coli O157:H7 in ground beef.

In the decade of surveillance experienced, FSIS has consistently shown results that indicate several percent of the RTE samples tested are positive for Listeria monocytogenes, and E. coli O157:H7 routinely occurs with low incidence in ground beef. Over the 10 years, there have been three outbreaks of listeriosis from RTE meat products [1], including the large one associated with Sara Lee's Bil Mar Foods (120+ cases, 20+ deaths). There have been numerous outbreaks of E. coli

O157:H7 from ground beef and other meats, including the Hudson Foods and ConAgra incidents.

FSIS proudly promotes its diligence in finding samples positive for pathogens and forcing frequent recalls (*Listeria monocytogenes* is the leading cause of recalls in meat products). It purportedly increased its sample sizes from 25g to 325g in October 1997 in order to triple the number of recalls generated after the embarrassment of a high administration official at a news conference.

In the children's tale, "The Emperor's New Clothes", the Emperor walks naked, but all the courtiers and citizens ignore this and politically tell him how attractive his new "clothes" are. It is left for the innocent youngling to announce to all the absurdity of the charade.

In modern terms, the "Emperor" is USDA's FSIS, and its "new clothes" are its regulations for *Listeria monocytogenes* and other pathogen control. In what follows, we will examine FSIS, policies through the eyes of the "youngling" (and not the "courtier") to see what "clothes" FSIS is really wearing. Mostly the focus will be on FSIS, new *Listeria* control regulations (9 CFR 430 and Directive 10,240.4), but occasionally other issues will be drawn on in order to establish a clear pattern of behavior.

Complete article available in pdf format at <http://www.lcfltd.com/downloads/tr198%20emperors%20new%20clothes.pdf>

Animal Disease Surveillance and Survey Systems: Methods and Applications

Author: MD Salman
Publication Date: 2003
Size: 128 pages; 6 x 9
Binding: Hardback
Publisher: Blackwell Publishing

Iowa State Press is now Blackwell Publishing Professional!
<http://store.blackwell-professional.com/0813810310.html>

Summary

Addressing a growing need in veterinary epidemiology and regulatory medicine, international scientists contribute 13 chapters on monitoring, surveillance, control, and eradication of animal diseases. In addition to techniques for conducting an animal disease outbreak investigation

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