



# IAAAM NEWS

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Rhonda A. Patterson, Editor

## **Bringing the "Aloha" Spirit to The 2003 IAAAM Conference Dolphin Quest Hawaii**

We at Dolphin Quest Hawaii are making final preparations for the 34th annual conference of the IAAAM hosted at the incredible Hilton Waikoloa Village on the Kohala coast of Hawaii's Big Island. Please check out the conference website at [www.iaaam.org](http://www.iaaam.org) and click on "our next meeting" to find out more about the conference, registration, activities, and travel arrangements. If you have not registered for the conference and/or reserved your accommodations for the Hilton Waikoloa Village, please do so by April 10th to avoid incurring late charges. The Hilton is giving IAAAM an incredible deal on luxury accommodations at a very reasonable price. If you want to place your name on a list of folks looking for a roommate, please go to the conference website and check out the roommate bulletin board.

The conference begins with hands on learning opportunities at the pre-conference workshops and wet laboratories on May 9 and May 10. The opportunities include the following: Sea Turtle Necropsy and Hematology Laboratory, Immunology for Aquatic Animal Clinicians, Clinical Applications of Laparoscopy and Anesthesia for Fish, Practical Concepts and Techniques of Ultrasound for *Tursiops truncatus*, and Clinical Cytology Interpretation on Routine Sampling of *Tursiops truncatus*. Register soon as these labs are filling quickly.



### What's Inside This Edition?

Conference Host's Message.....	1- 2
Nominations for Election .....	3
Auction Announcement .....	4
Listserve Manager Needed .....	4
Grant Opportunities .....	4
Committee Reports .....	5
News Items .....	6 - 7
Position Announcements .....	7
Meeting Announcements .....	8
Board and Committee Members .....	9

The Newsletter of the International Association for Aquatic Animal Medicine is published four times a year (January, April, August, and November). An annual conference is held every year in early May, and proceedings from that conference are mailed out in June to those not in attendance. The International Association for Aquatic Animal Medicine is a nonprofit organization dedicated to advancing the art and science of aquatic animal medicine and health.

Newsletter submissions are welcomed, although the newsletter editor and the IAAAM board reserve the right to edit and/or refuse the publication of any submissions. The deadlines for submissions are December 1, March 1, July 1, and October 1. Submissions should be made in WORDPERFECT, RTF (Rich Text Format), or WORD format. For submissions contact Rhonda Patterson, Newsletter Editor, at USM Box 5018, Hattiesburg, MS 39406-5018; phone (601-266-5710); fax (601-266-5797); or email (Rhonda.Patterson@iaaam.org).

For Membership Information and address changes contact Ilze Berzins, Director of Animal Health, Conservation and Research, at The Florida Aquarium, 701 Channelside Drive, Tampa, FL 33602; phone (813-367-4010); fax (813-209-2067); or email (Ilze.Berzins@iaaam.org).

Please mail dues to Don Stremme, Secretary-Treasurer, at 1129 Pine Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107-6035; phone (215-928-9289); fax (215-925-1510) or email (Don.Stremme@iaaam.org).

Official conference registration will begin on Saturday afternoon, May 10 with an icebreaker reception that evening. Sunday and Monday will be full days of scientific sessions and presentations. Please contact Jim McBain at (james.mc Bain@anheuser-busch.com) to be placed on the list of those presenting a puzzling case at conundrums on Monday afternoon. Student workshops and a round table discussion on *Erysipelas* will also be available on Monday afternoon. A very special evening is planned for the presentation of posters on Monday evening.

Tuesday will be a day of action packed tours of the Big Island of Hawaii. A sampling of the tours awaiting you include: world class snorkeling and scuba diving, fishing adventures out to the famous waters of the Kona Coast, hiking into the depths of Volcano National Park, horseback riding over the alpine tundra, or flying in a helicopter over the active volcano of Kilauea. KCMI will be organizing special tours and outings throughout the conference for you and your family to help you explore and enjoy the Big Island of Hawaii. Please check out the link to KCMI Hawaii on the conference website to sign up for your selected activities. We recommend signing up for these activities prior to your arrival in Hawaii to ensure you get a spot in the activity of your choice. However, you will have the opportunity to sign up for activities after you arrive in Hawaii if they are not filled.

After your day of adventuring you will return to the Hilton Waikoloa for a Beach Party hosted by Dolphin Quest. The final day of the conference (Wednesday) will see another full day of presentations followed by the closing banquet and award festival.

Some important notes for conference participants wishing to participate in pre-conference wet labs or workshops and post conference facility tours:

\*If you will be attending the Immunology workshop on May 9, you will want to arrive on the evening of May 8.

\*If you will be attending any of the wet labs and workshops on May 10, you will want to arrive the evening of May 9.

\*The sea turtle necropsy wet lab (May 10) will be held on the island of Oahu. Travel arrangements will be coordinated by KCMI Hawaii. Travel costs will be included in the cost of the wet lab.

If you plan on visiting other islands while here in our beautiful state, please contact KCMI Hawaii for the best travel advice and packages. Up-to-date information on the conference-associated activities will be accessible on this web site as soon as information is available.

For more information please contact Dolphin Quest Hawaii:

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## **Elections to be Held at the 34th Annual Conference**

The following individuals have accepted nominations for the positions of President-Elect, Secretary-Treasurer, and Board Member (1 position). Full members will be voting at the business meeting to be conducted during the conference. Other nominations will be accepted from the floor prior to the vote.

### **Candidate for President-Elect: Laurie Gage**

Laurie Gage joined IAAAM in 1980 and over the years has participated on a number of committees. She was elected to the Executive Board in 2000 as the communications officer. She has been the Chief Veterinarian for Six Flags Marine World since 1980, and served as the Director of Veterinary Services at the Marine Mammal Center from 1981 to 1994.

### **Candidate for Secretary-Treasurer: Don Stremme**

Donald Stremme has nearly 30 years experience in small animal and exotics practice, including 25 years managing his own practice. He has also been the veterinarian for the New Jersey State Aquarium and the Philadelphia Academy of Natural Sciences for over 10 years. He graduated from Pennsylvania State University with a B.S. in Zoology and received his V.M.D. from the University of Pennsylvania. During undergraduate school he spent a semester at the University of Cologne in Germany. During veterinary school he worked summers at the University of Hohenheim near Stuttgart Germany, where he was responsible for water quality and the care of the many research animals from fish to raptors. He worked under Dr. Gottfried Schubert, a pioneer in fish husbandry and medicine. During his senior year at Penn, he spent two months at the Wilhelma Zoo in Stuttgart. He recently translated a German book on the husbandry of venomous snakes into English for Krieger Publishing Company. He completed AquaVet II in 2000. He has been an active member of IAAAM since 1996 and been the IAAAM Secretary/Treasurer for the past two years.

### **Candidate for Board Member: Tom Reidarson**

Tom earned his veterinary degree from the University of California at Davis in 1985. Following graduation he completed a small animal medicine and surgery internship from the University of Minnesota. Tom presently holds the position of Senior Staff Veterinarian and Director of Veterinary Services for SeaWorld of California where he has practiced since 1991. Prior to this, he worked in several small animal practices and consulted for a pinniped rehabilitation center in Southern California. Tom has been an active member of the IAAAM since 1992, presenting many scientific papers on clinical medicine and marine animal health, and serving as the Chairman of the IAAAM Awards Committee for the past 6 years. He is a member of the American College of Zoological Medicine and has recently stepped away from chairing the aquatic section of the examination.

### **Candidate for Board Member: Christine L. Densmore**

Christine received her B.A. with a major in biology and minor in history from Gettysburg College in 1986. She received her D.V.M. from the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine at Virginia Tech in 1990. Following three years of clinical practice in small animal/exotic animal medicine, Christine returned to Virginia Tech and received her Ph.D. in aquatic animal pathobiology in 1997. As part of her doctoral program, Christine also worked as a student biologist at the National Fish Health Research Laboratory (U.S. Geological Survey, Leetown Science Center) in Kearneysville, WV. After receiving her Ph.D., Christine accepted a permanent position at the National Fish Health Research Laboratory where she is currently employed as a research fisheries biologist and serves as the Leetown Science Center's staff veterinarian. Her research involves a number of disciplines including histopathology, clinical pathology, immunology, parasitology, virology and cell culture. Currently, her major research interests include salmonid whirling disease, infectious salmon anemia virus, health issues pertaining to populations of fishes in the Chesapeake Bay watershed, and the development of diagnostic methodologies for tropical marine invertebrates. Christine also serves as the chairperson of the Leetown Science Center's Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee, and is listed as an emergency disease eradication veterinarian for special temporary assignments through the U.S. Department of Agriculture. On occasion, Christine also conducts and participates in teaching/training programs ranging from local elementary schools to Aquavet. Christine has been a member of the IAAAM since she was a graduate student in 1993, and she has served as a member of the Student Liaison Committee for the past two years. She is also a member of the AVMA and Fish Health Section of the American Fisheries Society.

Submitted by the Nominations Committee (Kristen Arkush, Suzanne Kennedy-Stoskopf, Frances Gulland)

## **Annual Auction to Help Our Students**

As our organization grows there are more and more student members who would like to attend the conference. In order to help support our students, we are asking anyone that can to submit items for the auction to be held during the conference in Hawaii. If you are not able to attend the conference, but you and/or your organization has materials that they would like to donate for the auction you can send them to Kurt Allen (c/o Dolphin Quest Hawaii, 69-425 Waikola Beach Dr., Waikoloa HI. 96738) or perhaps convince someone else who is attending to take the items along for you. If you are attending the conference then you be able to drop off your auction items when you register at the meeting.

Students that are attending the conference are encouraged to volunteer to help out with the auction. If you are willing to help, please contact either Bill Van Bonn (vanbonn@spawar.navy.mil) or Tracy Romano (romano@spawar.navy.mil). You can contact Bill or Tracy either at the meeting or prior to the meeting - whichever is more convenient for you.

## **Listserve Manager Wanted**

The Executive Board is looking for someone with listserve capabilities to take over the association's listserve Aquacare. This listserve is presently run by Kristen Arkush on a UC Davis listserve system. Ideally we need someone with a university affiliation, so that managing the listserve will take minimal time. However we will take anyone willing to oversee the listserve. It will likely take more work to oversee if it is not run through a university system. Please contact Laurie Gage (wetwildvet@aol.com) if you are interested in helping out.

## **Grant Opportunity**

The National Whale Conservation Fund seeks to foster the conservation and recovery of large whales by supporting innovative research, management and education projects of high quality and promise. NWCF actively seeks to form new partnerships with corporations, organizations, and individuals to leverage NWCF's resources sufficiently to meet its aggressive conservation goals.

Who is eligible to apply? Any U.S. citizen is eligible to receive assistance for an idea or method that has a strong likelihood of reducing death and/or serious injury to whales caused by entanglements. For those ideas or methods that involve at-sea time, the applicant must have all necessary local, state, and federal permits to conduct their fishing practices.

What kinds of gear proposals will be accepted? While this grant program focuses on two areas of emphasis, the overarching goal of the program is to address large whale death and/or serious injury from gear entanglement, with priority given to those projects that work with the industry toward useable solutions. Proposals for the following grant-types may be submitted:

Idea Grants: Grants that enable a person(s) to develop an idea into a process or object.

Pilot Grants: Grants that enable a person(s) to construct a prototype from their idea or concept and carry out field-testing at sea on individual or multiple participating fishing vessels.

The National Whale Conservation Fund - Fishing Gear Mini-Grants program is a collaborative effort between the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and the NOAA Fisheries. For further information, please contact: Michelle Pico (NFWF, 1120 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Suite 900, Washington, DC 20036, Phone: (202) 857-0166, and Email: pico@nfwf.org) or Sal Testeverde (NOAA Fisheries, 1 Blackburn Dr., Gloucester, MA, 01930, Phone: 978-281-9328 ext. 6502, and Email: salvatore.testaverde@noaa.gov)

## **Report from the Animal Agriculture Liaison Committee of the AVMA**

At the February 11-12, 2003 meeting of the Animal Agriculture Liaison Committee (AALC) of the AVMA in Schaumburg, IL, some of the aquatic medicine issues that were discussed or noted included the following:

- \* The Minor Use/Minor Species (MUMS) amendment will be reintroduced early in the 108th Congress by Senators Sessions and Bingaman, and Congressman Pickering. The version to be introduced will be the one agreed upon following extensive technical assistance from the FDA but without the tax provisions. The current strategy is to include the MUMS legislation with the Animal Drug User Fee Act (ADUFA). This bill is still strongly supported by the Joint Subcommittee on Aquaculture (JSA) and the Aquaculture and Seafood Advisory Committee (ASAC) of the AVMA, and the aquatic and aquaculture community.
- \* The USDA APHIS continues to monitor for Infectious Salmon Anemia (ISA) of salmonids and Spring Viremia of Carp (SVC). Both are considered foreign animal diseases in the United States. At present, no new outbreaks of ISA or SVC have been reported in U.S. aquaculture facilities. In addition, two other OIE notifiable diseases have been identified in the U.S. this past year: Mikrocytosis in wild oysters; and Infectious Hematopoietic Necrosis virus in a federal fish hatchery.
- \* A special session on aquatic animal medicine will be presented at the 2003 AVMA Annual Convention, July 19-23 in Denver, Colorado. Speakers will include John Clifford, Otis Miller, Ruth Fancis-Floyd, Roy Yanong, Ilze Berzins, Michael Walsh and Allen Riggs with topics ranging from sea turtles to marine mammals to pet fish.
- \* The Aquaculture and Seafood Advisory Committee (ASAC) of the AVMA will hold their next meeting March 7-8, 2003 in Schaumburg, IL. Major items to be discussed will include an update on the MUMS legislation, judicious use of antibiotics and medications in aquaculture, the National Veterinary Accreditation Program, official certificates of veterinary inspection, and the standardization and validation of veterinary diagnostic technologies used in the certification of aquatic species health.
- \* The 28th Annual Eastern Fish Health Workshop will be held April 21-25, 2003 in Gettysburg, Pa. Those desiring more information should contact the program organizer, Dr. Rocco Cipriano (rocco\_cipriano@usgs.gov).
- \* IAAAM members wishing to submit items for discussion or other pertinent information for the AALC should send comments or information directly to Stephen A. Smith (stsmith7@vt.edu).

Respectfully submitted by Stephen A. Smith, IAAAM representative to the AALC.

### **Where to Next?!**

We are extremely fortunate this year to have our meeting sponsored by Dolphin Quest on the big island of Hawaii. The location and facilities are incredible and I'm sure we'll be talking about this one for years. If this is your first trip to Hawaii, make sure you spend some extra time (you don't want to miss the talks!) exploring the many different faces of the island. There are beautiful beaches, mountains to explore, the active volcano to visit and don't forget the Kona coffee.

In addition to your enthusiasm, there is one other thing we need you to bring to this conference. Proposal's for future meeting sites!! We rely on our members to suggest sites for future meetings and, of course, sponsoring organizations that can help plan to make sure the meeting is a success. We would like to challenge those of you in the universities to speak with your administration regarding sponsorship of future meetings. As the membership has grown and changed over the years, the university environments have become more involved in aquatic animal medicine. We would like to see a broader representation of opportunities for an educational and exciting conference. While we try to stay with a location near the oceans, we have also had great meetings near freshwater as well, so don't let the distance from the saltwater stop you.

Bring your mask, fins, snorkels and Proposal's and we'll see you in Hawaii!!

Sam Dover, Chair of the Site Selection Committee

## **Send Us Your Tumors!**

The Registry of Tumors in Lower Animals (RTLA) is an archived collection of pathologic specimens from cold-blooded vertebrates and invertebrates (no mammals or birds). Sponsored by The National Cancer Institute since 1965, the RTLA contains more than 7,000 accessions comprised of wet tissues, paraffin blocks, histologic slides, gross and microscopic images, historical data, and bibliographic references. Continuing its longstanding tradition of providing diagnostic services and support to scientists, the recently updated and expanded RTLA will feature a re-engineered electronic database and an integrated interactive website ([www.pathology-registry.org](http://www.pathology-registry.org)), designed in cooperation with GMA Industries, Inc. Visitors to the website will be able to mine the database, actively participate in case diagnosis, and view histologic specimens using advanced montage imaging technology. Scientists who contribute specimens to the RTLA will receive a histologic slide set of pertinent lesions in addition to digitized photographic images and a diagnostic case report. As in the past, the RTLA will pursue partnerships in collaborative research, sponsor seminars and workshops concerning the diagnosis of lower animal diseases, and serve as an information center for epidemiologic studies involving carcinogens and carcinogenesis. Previous RTLA sites have included the Smithsonian Institution and George Washington University; the soon-to-be-completed new home of the RTLA will be a dedicated facility situated close to Washington Dulles Airport in Sterling, Virginia. Lodging is available in the immediate vicinity for scientists visiting the RTLA by appointment. Currently, specimen submission forms and instructions can be obtained by contacting Phyllis Spero by e-mail at [pspero@pathology-registry.org](mailto:pspero@pathology-registry.org) or by telephone at 703-471-7060 ext. 231. Submissions should be mailed to The Registry of Tumors in Lower Animals, 22866 Shaw Road, Sterling, Virginia 20166.

We know that you have lumps and bumps sitting on shelves somewhere looking for a home, so please consider sending them to us!

## **Active Disease Surveillance Systems - Getting Started**

If you would like help setting up an electronic, active disease surveillance system at your institution, Dr. Stephanie Wong (U.S. Navy Marine Mammal Program) will be available at the IAAAM conference in Hawaii to help you. Bring your laptop, datasets, ideas, and questions. Download CDC's EpiInfo2000, a free epidemiology software package, onto your laptop before the conference (located at <http://www.cdc.gov/epiinfo/ei2002.htm>). Stephanie will also have a few extra copies of the software on hand. Contact information: [skwong@spawar.navy.mil](mailto:skwong@spawar.navy.mil). Consulting cost: One Mai Tai/hour.

## **Zoological Medicine Short Course June 7 - 12, 2003**

The American College of Zoological Medicine and University of Wisconsin will hold the annual zoological medicine short course at the University of Wisconsin School of Veterinary Medicine, Madison, Wisconsin. The week long didactic course provides intensive in-depth information on important current issues in zoological medicine. This years topics include amphibian, avian, marsupial, monotreme and marine mammal medicine and surgery. The course is designed to help prepare participants to take ACZM boards and includes discussions on study and test strategies as well as a limited number of practice exams (essay, multiple choice, practical, and slide identifications). For further information, contact: Joanne Paul-Murphy, DVM, Diplomate ACZM (University of Wisconsin, School of Veterinary Medicine, Special Species Health, 2015 Linden Drive Madison, WI 53706, Phone (608) 265- 02608, FAX (608) 263-7930, Email [jpmurphy@svm.vetmed.wisc.edu](mailto:jpmurphy@svm.vetmed.wisc.edu)).

## Two Pacific White-Sided Dolphins Pregnant Through Artificial Insemination

Two of Shedd Aquarium's Pacific white-sided dolphins (*Lagenorhynchus obliquidens*) are pregnant as a successful result of an artificial insemination procedure that was a collaborative effort between Shedd, the National Zoo's Conservation and Research Center, and SeaWorld, which pioneered this procedure in cetaceans. "This is one of the first successful artificial insemination procedures in a Pacific white-sided dolphin and the very first for Shedd Aquarium," said Ken Ramirez, Director of Marine Mammals for Shedd. Artificial insemination, or AI, is a technology that still is new in marine mammals, though it has been successful in many terrestrial animals. In the last five years, SeaWorld developed and advanced the AI procedure in dolphins and whales.

"Artificial insemination offers promise in the conservation and study of endangered species," SeaWorld's Dr. Todd R. Robeck said. "Through a successful artificial insemination program, zoos and aquariums can continue to gain important knowledge about reproduction of dolphins, while enhancing breeding programs."

Robeck along with other SeaWorld animal-care, training and veterinary staff, achieved a true veterinary medicine milestone in February 2001 when a killer whale at SeaWorld in San Diego became pregnant through artificial insemination. This successful birth was the result of 15 years of groundbreaking research. Shedd Aquarium, in partnership with SeaWorld, used this new technique to artificially inseminate two of its female dolphins. SeaWorld imported the semen, collected from a male dolphin in an international aquarium, used to impregnate them. Pacific white-sided dolphin pregnancies last approximately 12 months. Shedd anticipates the birth of these two calves in mid-October, although the delivery could occur earlier or later.

### Position Announcements

**Position #1:** Ocean Park Corporation invites applications from suitable candidates to fill the position of veterinarian. Ocean Park is the premier theme park of Hong Kong and the owner of one of the largest aquariums in Southeast Asia. We are a public body with a mandate to provide a balance of recreation, education and conservation for the enjoyment of the local citizens of Hong Kong and overseas tourists. We entertain around three million visitors each year who come to experience our fantastic rides, shows, and animal attractions. We invite qualified candidates to fill this new position.

The incumbent will provide veterinary service for over 500 species of marine mammals, fish, birds including dolphins, sea lions, sharks, flamingos, parrots, rare butterflies and other exotic animals in the park. He/She will carry out veterinary medicine program and perform routine clinical procedures, diagnostic/therapeutic procedures, and medicine/surgery. He/She will also conduct scientific research in areas which are applicable to improving the health and care of our animals. Other duties include review and implement preventative care programs for the collection, insure proper animal records are current and maintain animal collection plans.

Requirements include: (1) Registered Veterinarian in Hong Kong; (2) At least 5 years' practical experience in veterinary medicine, preferably with experience in marine mammal, avian, fish or zoological medicine; (3) Proficiency in verbal and written English. Cantonese speaking is a definite advantage; and (4) Excellent interpersonal skills and ability to work effectively with other departments under stressful conditions. Applications giving details of qualifications, working experience, present and expected salary, contact telephone number and address should be sent to the Human Resources Division, Ocean Park Corporation, Aberdeen, Hong Kong or via email: [hrd@oceanpark.com.hk](mailto:hrd@oceanpark.com.hk) Applicants not contacted within six weeks may consider their applications unsuccessful. Personal data collected will be used for recruitment-related purpose only.

**Position #2:** A graduate student position leading to a Ph.D. degree in the area of fish health is available August 2003 in the Aquatic Medicine Program of the Virginia - Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA. Current areas of research include mycobacteriosis, pharmacokinetics, immunology and pathology of cultured food and aquarium fish. The incumbent will be involved in aquatic animal cases presented to the Aquatic Medicine Laboratory for diagnostic evaluation. Minimum qualifications preferred are a D.V.M. or equivalent degree. Additionally, a M.S. degree or documented experience in aquaculture, fisheries or related field desired. Admission requirements and application information for the Virginia Tech Graduate School is available on the web at "<http://www.grads.vt.edu/>" or from the VMRCVM Office of Research and Graduate Studies at "<http://www.vetmed.vt.edu/grads.asp>". Position will remain open until a suitable candidate has been selected. For more information contact: Dr. Stephen A. Smith, Department of Biomedical Sciences and Pathobiology, VA/MD Regional College of Veterinary Medicine, Phase II, Duck Pond Drive, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA 24061, or e-mail: [stsmith7@vt.edu](mailto:stsmith7@vt.edu), telephone 540-231-5131.

## **Meeting Announcements**

### **The 26<sup>th</sup> Annual AFS/FHS Meeting and the 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Western Fish Disease Workshop July 15 - 17, 2003: Seattle, Washington, USA**

The combined meeting of the AFS Fish Health Section and the Western Fish Disease Workshop will be held in Seattle, Washington, on July 15-17, 2003. The USFWS Olympia Fish Health Center and the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission (NWIFC) will be co-hosting the event. The meeting will focus on a wide range of topics involving diseases of wild and cultured fish and shellfish. A continuing education workshop on Fish Virology will be held on Monday, July 14, 2003. For more information and registration information please visit our website at: [www.nwifc.org/fhs2003](http://www.nwifc.org/fhs2003) Contact People: Ray Brunson (USFWS): Phone (360-753-9046) or email at [Ray\\_Brunson@r1.fws.gov](mailto:Ray_Brunson@r1.fws.gov) and Bruce Stewart (NWIFC): Phone (360-438-1181 ext 338) or email at [bstewart@nwifc.org](mailto:bstewart@nwifc.org)

### **52<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference of The Wildlife Disease Association August 11 - 14, 2003: Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada**

The conference will consist of presentations and posters on all aspects of wild animal diseases world-wide. In addition to the WDA conference itself, the American College of Zoological Medicine will offer a one-day training course on the preceding Sunday (August 10<sup>th</sup>), and an International Workshop on Chronic Wasting Disease will be held on the following Friday (August 15<sup>th</sup>). The conference venue is the Delta Bessborough Hotel at riverside in downtown Saskatoon. Dormitory-style housing also will be available at the University of Saskatchewan, a 20 minute walk away. The conference is being hosted by the Canadian Cooperative Wildlife Health Centre. For full information on registration, housing, costs and vacation opportunities for the conference and the associated events, visit the 52<sup>nd</sup> WDA Conference Web Site (<http://wildlife1.usask.ca/WDA2003>).

### **Sixth International Symposium on Fish Parasites September 22 - 26, 2003: Bloemfontein, South Africa**

The Sixth International Symposium on Fish Parasites will be hosted by the University of the Free State ([www.uovs.ac.za](http://www.uovs.ac.za)) in Bloemfontein, South Africa from 22 - 26 September 2003. The International Steering Committee for the Sixth International Symposium On Fish Parasites selected this venue based on a bid submitted by the Aquatic Parasitology Research Group of the Department of Zoology and Entomology of the Free State University after the Aberdeen Group withdrew their offer to host the meeting in 2003. Bloemfontein is a friendly small city and the capital of the Free State. It is also the judicial capital of South Africa and the seat of the Appeal Court. Bloemfontein Airport has daily flights in and out to Johannesburg and Cape Town as well as to other major centres (See tourist information: [www.linx.co.za/bloemfontein/](http://www.linx.co.za/bloemfontein/)). The organizing committee of the Sixth International Symposium on Fish Parasites request that anyone interested in attending to contact us by e-mail ([61sfp@rs.uovs.ac.za](mailto:61sfp@rs.uovs.ac.za)) so that we can place you on our mailing list.



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