



IAAAM NEWS

Volume 34, Number 3, August 2003

Rhonda A. Patterson, Editor

President's Message

submitted by Nina Young

Our 2003 Annual IAAAM meeting was a huge success with the Aloha spirit experienced by all! I want to take one last chance to thank our hosts, Dolphin Quest, Jay Sweeney, Rae Stone, Kurt Allen, Greg Levine, and the Dolphin Quest staff. I also want to thank all of the presenters who contributed to the outstanding scientific program. Now that we are in the dog days of summer, the annual meeting just wonderful memory, it is hard to think about preparing for the 2004 annual meeting in Galveston. But prepare we must as this year's meeting will be earlier--April 4th through the 10th in Galveston, Texas. See the call for papers in this newsletter and check the website for details.

This coming year will likely prove to be an interesting one with many opportunities for IAAAM members to provide their expertise in several policy arenas. First, discussions are ongoing to reauthorize the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA). At the forefront of the debate is the definition of harassment, which contains hotly contested language that will set the threshold for the types of activities (e.g. military training, oil and gas exploration, and other interactions with marine mammals) to be permitted and to what degree they can injure or modify the behaviors of marine mammals. IAAAM can play an important role in helping define the potential for certain interactions to injure marine mammals and what criteria the definition should include to conserve marine mammals and marine mammal populations.

In June, the Pew Commission published a report entitled: America's Living Oceans, Charting a Course for Sea Change. In it the Commission calls for the implementation of a "new national marine aquaculture policy based on sound conservation principles and standards". The report goes on to recommend that "Congress should enact legislation to regulate marine aquaculture pursuant to sound conservation and management principles. The legislation should establish national standards and comprehensive permitting authority for the siting, design, and operation of ecologically sustainable marine aquaculture facilities." Again, another area where the membership can lend their expertise, and this is the role that the Conservation Policy Committee will play. Committee members will look for opportunities when issues arise where the membership can contribute their knowledge and expertise to further the science and art of aquatic animal medicine. I hope you will join the Committee and me in this effort. Please feel free to contact me if you would like more information on either of these issues.

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 the spring and proceedings from that conference are mailed out in June or July 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, including dues payment, 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).

35th ANNUAL IAAAM CONFERENCE

Our annual conference will be held in Galveston, Texas at the San Luis Hotel. Be sure to note that the meeting dates are **EARLIER** than in years past. The conference will be **APRIL 4 - 10, 2004**.

SUBMISSION OF ABSTRACTS FOR THE GALVESTON CONFERENCE

Please go to the IAAAM website (www.iaaam.org) and download the instructions to authors and the abstract submission form. Fill this out and mail it with a copy on a disk (PC only and in WORD or RTF) to Dr. Laurie Gage 1131 Second Avenue, Napa, CA 94558 or email the completed abstract to Laurie.Gage@iaaam.org. The deadline for the abstracts this year will be **DECEMBER 15, 2003**. Due to the increased numbers of papers given, it is possible not all abstracts that are submitted will be accepted for oral presentation. If you are submitting an abstract for an oral presentation, please indicate if you would be willing (if necessary) to present this as a poster. If you submit more than one abstract, please state your preference of which paper you would rather present orally if you had to chose. Authors will be notified when their abstracts are received and a second notification, by January 15, 2004, if their abstracts have been selected.

A Big MAHALO to all for a successful auction!

submitted by Bill Van Bonn

We raised over \$2000 toward next year's student awards. Special thanks to our own board members Ilza Berzins for keeping things rolling during the silent bidding and Don Stremme for handling all the monies "behind the scenes", to the numerous student volunteers whose names I neglected to write down, and of course, a big thank you to the auctioneers team of Bill Wolden and Billy Hurley from Dolphin Quest for the comical and lucrative antics!

Suggestions and/or Volunteers?!

Dan Cowan, our Galveston conference host, is looking for suggestions for wetlabs/workshops to be held prior to the conference. He is also looking for volunteers to help with the conference, especially since he is pulling this conference together basically on his own. Please contact Dan (dcowan@utmb.edu) if you have any suggestions and/or you can volunteer your help.

Thanks from Dolphin Quest and IAAAM

The 34th annual IAAAM conference would not have been nearly as enjoyable if it had not been for the sponsors that Dolphin Quest obtained. Conference sponsors not only help defray some of the cost of the conference for the host institution and the attendees, they also provide attendees with the opportunity to learn about the individual companies. The Dolphin Quest owners and staff as well as the members of IAAAM would like to thank the following companies for sponsoring some portion of this year's conference.

Abaxis vet analyzers
Aloka Ultrasound
Congaree Vet Pharm
CRC Press
Fjord-Pacific
Food Quality Analysts
Mazuri Vitamins
McRoberts Sales Co
Oceanit Labs
Pacific Research Lab
State Fish Co
Universal ultrasound
Veterinary Information Net

A Student's Perspective on IAAAM Waikoloa

submitted by Ashley Linton

The five hour plane ride to Hawaii passed quickly with Marina next to me. We reminisced about meeting as IAAAM student-members a year ago in Portugal. We swapped stories, shared goals, exchanged advice, and most importantly, chattered about the upcoming conference. A week in Waikoloa-soon to be remembered for a jam-packed schedule of wonderful presentations, the annual student workshop, and priceless memories of time spent with our friends and role-models.

This year, 6 students presented posters and 19 gave oral presentations. It was such a treat to listen, share, and learn from one another. Cara Field, a PhD/DVM student at UC Davis shared her thoughts on being a student presenter. "It was a privilege. The exposure is important and it was an honor to present before people I look up to-those who have been through the process before."

At the student workshop we divided into groups and rotated around the room drawing advice from professionals representing the diverse positions that exist within the field. The open-forum format allowed us to learn more about all facets of aquatic animal medicine. Tonya Clauss, a recent graduate from the University of Florida's vet school elaborated, emphasizing that "the workshop was very enlightening, especially for students trying to explore future career paths".

Though the week of the annual conference flies by every year, the memories always seem to linger. Perhaps it can be argued that the people are what make each conference truly memorable. As students, it seems that no matter where we are on our educational journey, we are surrounded by support and encouragement. The conference, as expected, was not only a highlight in our busy lives, but also a source of motivation; an event that will inspire us to seek out opportunities and take on any new challenges that should arise between now and when we pack our bags for Galveston.

Conference Update from the Student Liaison Committee

submitted by Tracy Romano

This year's IAAAM meeting held at the Hilton Waikoloa Village on Hawaii's Big Island, hosted by Dolphin Quest was a success. Approximately 33 students participated in the meeting including Masters and PhD students, veterinary students and interns, residents and postdocs. A total of 25 student presentations were given this year; 21 of which were given by IAAAM student members. This year a total of three awards were given for outstanding student presentations. Allison Tuttle, an intern at the Mystic Aquarium received an award for her presentation entitled: "Effects of Intramuscular Use of Medetomidine Alone and in Combination with Ketamine and Butorphenol as an Alternative to Tricaine Methanesulfonate for Sedation and Anesthesia in Elasmobranchs". Milton Levin, a PhD student at the University of Connecticut received an award for his presentation entitled: "Immunomodulatory Effects of In Vitro Exposure to Organochlorine Mixtures in Marine Mammals and Mice", and Tracey Goldstein, who recently completed her PhD received an award for the best overall poster entitled: "Molecular Identification of a Novel Gamma Herpesvirus in Hawaiian Monk Seals". Congratulations to all the winners and to all the students who gave presentations at this year's meeting.

IAAAM supported student participation for the Hawaii meeting by continuing the competitive Student Travel Award. Awards were based on the quality of the written abstract, the justification/significance of the work, the complexity of the work relative to the student's academic achievements, and the commitment of the student to aquatic animal medicine. Recipients of this year's travel awards were: Allison Tuttle for "Effects of Intramuscular Use of Medetomidine Alone and in Combination with Ketamine and Butorphenol as an Alternative to Tricaine Methanesulfonate for Sedation and Anesthesia in Elasmobranchs"; Kathleen Colegrove for "Leptospirosis in Northern Elephant Seals Stranded Along the California Coast: Clinical and Pathologic Features"; Stacey Gore for "The Effects of Copper Sulfate on the Purple Sea Urchin, *Arbacia punctulata*" and Milton Levin for "Immunomodulatory Effects of In Vitro Exposure to Organochlorine Mixtures in Marine Mammals and Mice." The Student Liaison Committee would like to thank the IAAAM Executive Board for continuing this valuable program for the conference in Hawaii. The call for travel award applications for the upcoming meeting in Galveston will be in the November newsletter and on the student page of the IAAAM website. Please note that in order to be eligible for the student awards that student membership is required with dues paid up-to-date.

The student career workshop was well attended by both students and IAAAM members. This year the workshop consisted of three small group discussions focusing on Clinical Medicine, Research and Government/Policy/Conservation.. Students were given the opportunity to rotate through each of the group focus areas. The Student Liaison Committee would like to thank the IAAAM members that volunteered to participate in the discussion groups and all those that participated to help make the workshop a valuable learning experience for the students.

Students are encouraged to volunteer and to get involved with IAAAM student issues. An IAAAM student representative will work closely with the Student Liaison Committee Chair over the next year. Ashley Linton, IAAAM's first student representative, has already initiated putting together a list of career opportunities in Aquatic Animal Medicine to post on the student web page. In addition, Ashley is designing an IAAAM student brochure in order to advertise IAAAM to students and help recruit new student members to IAAAM. We invite all students interested to help with organizing the student workshop for the Galveston meeting, putting on the student auction, as well as assistance with the IAAAM student web page. Please contact Tracy Romano if you are willing to help and participate. Also, if you have certain ideas/recommendations for student activities for the Galveston meeting please contact Tracy or Dan Cowan. Dr. Cowan is working hard to ensure a "student friendly" meeting.

Finally, the Student Liaison Committee would like to acknowledge those members who evaluated presentations and participated in the student travel award judging. Moreover, we would like to thank all those that contributed to the student auction, and a special thanks to Rebecca Poet, Jay Sweeney, Rae Stone and the staff of Dolphin Quest for a wonderful conference. Congratulations to all the students who presented and participated in the meeting and we look forward to seeing you all at the upcoming meeting in Galveston!

DUES ARE PAST DUE!

Submitted by Laurie Gage

Thank you very much to all of you who have paid your dues on time. For the rest of you, if you have not paid your 2003-04 dues, they were due on July 1. Please pay them now. Go to iaaam.org and download the membership form. Please fill out the **entire** form, even if nothing has changed in your address and/or contact profile. The form and your check or credit card information should be sent to:

Dr. Ilze Berzins
The Florida Aquarium
701 Channelside Drive
Tampa, Florida 33602

Dues remain at an unbelievable value of \$40.00 for full members and \$25.00 for student members. If you are selecting student status, please explain your program and estimated year of completion on the membership form. You will also need the signature of your advisor on the membership form (fax is OK) and to attach a note on letterhead from your advisor, school administrator or director of your program.

AN EXCITING ANNOUNCEMENT!

Send us scanned copies of your favorite pictures of IAAAM members at large or at past meetings! Help us celebrate 35 years of wonderful memories in a slide show to be presented at this year's meeting in Galveston!

Send pictures, negatives, or jpeg files to:

Nina Young
C/O The Ocean Conservancy
1725 De Sales St. NW
Suite 600
Washington DC 20036
nyoung@oceanconservancy.org

Best picture/submission will win a prize!

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

6th International Symposium on Fish Parasites

Date: 22-26 Sept 2003

Venue: Dept of Zoology & Entomology, Univ of the Free State

The final circular, including registration information and latest conference updates, is now available online (<http://kiewiet.uovs.ac.za/faculties/agrinat/zent/6isfp/Final.php>).

Minutes from the General Business Meeting at the 34th Annual IAAAM Conference

submitted by Don Stremme (Secretary/Treasurer)

IAAAM President, Stephen A. Smith, called the General Business Meeting to order at 5:30 pm. A motion was made and seconded to skip reading of the minutes from last year's meeting, since they were published last year in the newsletter after the conference.

Committee and Board Reports

Website: After thanking Rob Bakal again for all his work on the web site, Stephen read the report for the computer/web site committee from John Jones (who could not attend). John wanted it to be noted that the website content was virtually the same. He has added email aliases for the board members, information on this year's conference and links to Dolphin Quest, and a members-only page that currently contains 2 issues of the newsletter. He is also working on assigning user names and passwords to members, a student page, a page to include job and education opportunities, and a page for the membership directory.

The membership voiced concerns about the strict nature of assigning passwords. Nina pointed out it is new, so he doesn't feel comfortable assigning passwords on line. Michael Stoskopf recommended that John make it easier for members to obtain initial passwords. Eventually it should be easy to sign on and make membership information changes, although we may decide instead to direct any corrections and changes to the membership board member, so s/he can be sure the membership list is kept up to date. Stephen said the student page would not be a members-only page.

Communications: Laurie Gage spoke about the Communications Committee. She reminded everyone to keep his or her email addresses up-to-date.

Treasurer: Don Stremme gave the treasurer's report next. This included the financial report for the first 9 months (July through March) and the budget for the next fiscal year. The final information will be available after the end of the fiscal year 6-30-03, once the final bank statement has arrived. The information will be published in the newsletter. This information will be published in the November issue.

Don proposed we maintain the same dues structure for the coming fiscal year (\$40 for full members and \$25 for students). Brad Andrews made the motion to support this and Don Abt seconded it and the vote was unanimous.

Membership: Ilze then gave her membership committee report. She explained new rules for the payment of membership dues that will be instituted this coming year. Don will send out the dues reminders, these will be returned to Ilze with payment. She will keep the membership list and send the payments on to Don.

New members must send in a new member application and a résumé. Ilze, with input from the board when necessary, will determine whether the applicant qualifies for membership. She will then send a payment form to the new member and welcome letter-the payment will be forwarded to Don. NOTE: Members who allow their membership to lapse will be required to reapply for membership and must send in a completed application as well as a résumé.

Ilze also pointed out students (new and renewing) must have an official note on letter head from a professor or advisor indicating the person is a student or in a program (such as an internship), that meets the requirements of the student classification for IAAAM membership.

Student Liaison Committee: Tracy Romano gave the Student Liaison Committee report. She thanked the members of this committee: Christine Densmore, Larry Dunn, Sal Frasca, Carrie Goertz, Elsa Haubold, Charlie Manire, Lisa Mazzaro, Lisa Murphy, Steve Poet, Joe Scimecca, Jody Sherill, Bill Van Bonn, Scott Weber and honorary member, Rebecca Poet. She explained that the committee revised the guidelines for who is eligible for student awards (which was printed in the newsletter). She reported on the number of student presentations at this conference, previewed the upcoming student workshop, and discussed student programs that are available. She said she would like to see new IAAAM brochures, which are specifically aimed at student members. Finally, Tracy announced the student member of the committee: Ashley Linton.

AVMA Committees

Stephen next discussed the importance of the AVMA committees and announced IAAAM's representatives on each committee including the newest representative on the AVMA Food Safety Committee. The representatives are:

1. AVMA Environmental Issues Liaison - Val Beasley
2. AVMA Food Safety Liaison - Kathleen Hughes
3. AVMA Bacterial Resistance Liaison - Marty Greenwell
4. AVMA Animal/ Agricultural Liaison - Stephen Smith

Newsletter Editor: Rhonda will now have a committee to help her with the newsletter. She will look for 3 members, one of which will hopefully be an international member.

New Business

*Stephen announced the new Policy and Government Affairs committee, which will be headed by Nina Young. Nina asked for volunteers to help her with this committee.

*Stephen announced the board's decision to discontinue student travel awards (while continuing the student presentation awards), so the money can be used to allow all the students to attend the banquet and any other functions. Greg Lewbart voiced his disagreement with this decision. Frances Gulland pointed out student award winners wouldn't have been able to attend this conference without the additional \$500 student travel award. Stephen Smith and Tracy Romano pointed out it was difficult to give away the awards this year, since only 9 students applied and then award winners either declined or were unable to attend. In the meantime many other students were upset they couldn't attend the awards banquet due to the additional expense. Tracy said they ran into the same problems last year for the Algarve conference; only 8-9 students applied for the travel awards.

Nina Young and several other people voiced concern that the student registration fee plus the cost of the banquet and beach party added up to a higher fee than the full registration fee. It was also pointed out this location was difficult for students, since they didn't have an option to get food other places other than in the hotel, where it is very expensive. Greg Lewbart pointed out that since the conference was so expensive this year, he felt the \$500 wasn't much of a help to students. Brad Andrews recommended that board reconsider this decision.

Stephen Smith asked for more input on this matter to the board by Frances Gulland, Greg Lewbart, Robert Bakal, and other concerned members. Rhonda pointed out that the \$2000 for four travel awards only benefitted four students whereas, 40-50 other students could benefit by covering the banquet and other costs. Geraldine Lacave said she feels we should still have two separate awards (travel and presentation). Nina proposed the board reconsider this decision and that Tracy Romano get input from the students on these matters. Michael Stoskopf asked why the board didn't ask for input from the general membership. Tracy Romano said she would talk to the student committee.

Don Abt pointed out the IAAAM has been promoting student issues and membership for the past 10 years and that in Knoxville, TN the IAAAM made a commitment to support students. He suggested we get input from all interested parties and write a report for the newsletter. Then give the members time to react to this before making a final decision.

Todd Robeck suggested we raise the dues an additional \$10 for full members to cover student expenses. Stephen Smith suggested we spend more money on students from the savings.

Suzanne Kennedy - Stoskopf explained how the student awards started. She said there were no awards prior to the Napa conference. She said there was a windfall for the first time at the conference, which donated \$7500 back to the organization. That allowed the IAAAM to provide these awards. She pointed out this windfall is not a stable source since we sometimes don't receive profits from each conference and even worry the IAAAM may have to make up for a loss suffered by the host of a conference. She pointed out it was never the intention of the board to use dues from the general membership to support students awards. She pointed out that the auction was instituted as a means to obtain funds for students, but that isn't quite working, since we received only \$900 last year from the student auction.

Sylvain DeGuisse noted that the student awards promote healthy competition. Rhonda Patterson pointed out even if we get rid of the travel awards the student presentation awards are still available. One student pointed out that this year one \$500 travel award was given out to a wealthy student who didn't even need the money. Rob Bakal

proposed a dues increase to cover student registration fees. He estimated we would need \$4000 to cover this for students. Fiona Brooks stated that a student award, may not be important financially, but could be important for a student résumé.

Michael Stoskopf made a motion to undertake the action Don Abt suggested (get more information and then present this again to the members for consideration). It was seconded.

Aquacare listserv

Kristen Arkush discussed the Aquacare listserv. She is retiring from this job and asked if anyone was interested, but no one volunteered. She said if anyone wants to reestablish this listserv in the future, she'd be happy to help. She reviewed the purpose of the listserv, explained the listserv hasn't been very active, and her job is mostly housekeeping. Rhonda Patterson pointed out that the majority of users are non-US members. Kristen also pointed out it would be helpful, if we keep the list, to post answers for all to read and not merely respond to the person posting the question. She said if someone is interested, s/he must be from a large institution so that institution can host the listserv.

Rob Bakal recommended we get rid of it. He pointed out there was a link for it when he took care of the website, but he didn't see a link on the new website. If we keep the listserv or reestablish it later, it would be helpful to have this link on the website. Hugh Mitchell noted there is a similar listserv for the Eastern Aquaculture Veterinary Association, which is more active.

Proposed Changes to the Constitution and By-Laws

Stephen Smith addressed the proposed changes to the IAAAM Constitution and By-Laws, including splitting the secretary/treasurer position and making changes to membership issues. He said there will be a special meeting of the board to vote on these changes, which will then be passed on to the general membership for consideration and later a vote.

Bill Van Bonn stated that the board decided to count any non-response to a postal vote on the constitutional changes as a vote in the affirmative. Don Abt pointed out that a non-response could merely be counted with the majority of the responses.

Rob Bakal highlighted that the current language in the constitution regarding benefits to the membership, may be construed to prohibit student awards and should be looked at by the board.

Site Selection Committee

Sam Dover gave the site selection committee report. He thanked Jay Sweeney and Rae Stone for hosting this conference. He announced that the next conference would be in May 2004 in Galveston. Dan Cowan has agreed to take responsibility for organizing and hosting the conference. Dan presented a slide show highlighting the barrier island of Galveston, its industry, tourism, and natural resources. Dan said he foresees discussions on environmental issues during the conference.

Sam introduced discussion on the 2005 site. An Alaskan cruise had been proposed in the past, but has since been deemed too costly and logistically difficult. Don Abt pointed out another problem with a cruise; it would be difficult for members to arrive late and leave early. Natalie Noll made a presentation for Alaska SeaLife Center, and brought along a video that showed the proposed site--the Alyeska Prince Resort in Gerwood. Members can fly into Anchorage and take a train to Gerwood. The hotel rates are \$100-115/night. Natalie noted there is lots to do in the area such as watching wildlife, hiking, fishing, boating, golf and helitours. There were no other bids.

Judy McBain said it might be possible to go to Las Vegas instead in 2005. She and Jim feel we need to go some place more affordable. Natalie said prices to Alaska are fairly inexpensive compared with most cities in the US.

Frances Gulland mentioned that the WDA (Wildlife Diseases Association) is interested in a joint conference with the IAAAM, perhaps as early as next year. She said they have a similar size conference usually with about 100-150 attendees, which lasts for 3-4 days. She feels the WDA would be happy to have a joint meeting in Alaska. Natalie Noll had pointed out there is a maximum of 450 attendees at that venue, which may be a problem for a combined conference. Someone mentioned the WDA conference is usually held in August. Having the joint conference in June or July was discussed; however, it was noted that June through August is the peak tourist season and this would raise the costs considerably.

Deke Beusse made a motion we chose Alaska for the conference. Before there was a second, Jay Sweeney recommended we consider whether we are more interested in the meeting or the destination. Michael Stoskopf then made a motion that the board members further investigate Alaska as a venue and also the possibility of including the WDA in that conference. This motion was seconded and the majority voted in favor.

Nominations Committee

Finally, Stephen Smith introduced the Nominations Committee (Kristen Arkush, Frances Gulland and Suzanne Kennedy-Stoskopf). Kristen discussed how the nominations committee functions. Typically they produce a slate of names for open positions and present this to the board. Next they asked the person if s/he is interested. Then a short biography is printed at least 30 days prior to the election (usually the newsletter prior to the conference). Kristen said the committee would like members to make recommendations to the committee for open positions. She also discussed the option of nominating from the floor with a description of the nominee from another members. President Elect - The nomination from the committee was Laurie Gage. There were no nominations from the floor and the membership voted to make Laurie the President Elect.

Secretary/Treasurer - The nomination from the committee was Don Stremme. There were no nominations from the floor and the membership voted to make Don the Secretary/ Treasurer again for the third (and final) term.

Board Member at Large (3 year position) - The nomination from the committee was Tom Reidarson. Christine Densmore was nominated from the floor. Jim McBain spoke on behalf of Tom, and Stephen Smith spoke on behalf of Christine. The majority vote was for Tom Reidarson.

Don Abt made a motion to adjourn the business meeting. Larry Dunn seconded it. It was adjourned at almost 7:00 p.m.

PUBLICATION ANNOUNCEMENTS

* The Proceedings of the 8th Marine Mammal Medical Workshop "Pinnipeds medicine and medical training" (under video form) are now available for order. You can find all relevant information and the order form on the workshop website at: <http://rosmarus.com/workshop/>

* Members of the National Committee for Clinical Laboratory Standards (NCCLS) Subcommittee on Veterinary Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing - Aquaculture Working Group (VAST-AWG) are pleased to announce the publication of a new NCCLS Report in May 2003 entitled, Methods for Antimicrobial Disk Susceptibility Testing of Bacteria Isolated from Aquatic Animals; A Report. This document provides the most up-to-date techniques for disk diffusion susceptibility testing of aquatic isolates, as well as quality control ranges used for monitoring the performance of study conditions. The report can be purchased directly from the NCCLS website at <http://subservice.nccls.org/edds/webstore.htm>, for a cost of \$35 by NCCLS members and \$65 for non-members.

POSITION ANNOUNCEMENTS

VIRGINIA TECH AQUACULTURE CENTER

As a key component of Virginia Tech's expanding research activities, the Aquaculture Center of the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife Sciences seeks to enhance understanding of the complex issues that face the future development of sustainable aquaculture both domestically and internationally. The Aquaculture Center houses research groups involved in physiology, nutrition, immunology, genetics, and final product quality of finfish, freshwater mussel conservation, endangered species culture and horseshoe crab biology. The Center has recently added two new research buildings and has been fully refurbished with over 180 new experimental units complete with contemporary filtration and water treatment technologies. Research at the Center can be undertaken in a wide range of species from fresh to full-strength seawater between 17 and 28 C. In addition, the Center retains a complete analytical laboratory, conference room and graduate office space. Research undertaken at the facility is fully supported by the Aquatic Medicine Laboratory of the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine as well as members of the Virginia Tech CFAST group. CFAST encompasses over 20 faculty in 9 departments spanning 5 colleges providing a truly unique multidisciplinary approach to aquaculture research. The Aquaculture Center is seeking to further expand its research activities with the addition of three new positions in immunology, nutrition, and digestive physiology. For further information please contact: Dr. Ewen McLean, Director, Aquaculture Center, 100 Cheatham Hall, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA 24061-0321, USA e-mail: emclean@vt.edu and telephone: (540) 231-4625

Post-Doctoral Position in Fish Immunology

Virginia Tech Aquaculture Center seeks a post-doctoral candidate, initially for a one year appointment with the potential to be renewed annually, to work with the CFAST group investigating the interface between nutrition and the neuroendocrine/immune axis in cultured fish. The candidate must possess a broad range of analytical skills, grant and publication writing ability, experience in working with live animals and the ability to develop and validate novel immune assays. The selected individual will be provided with significant academic freedom within the broad ranges of the funded research.

Doctoral Positions in Nutrition, Health and Welfare of Cultured Fish

1) This position, which is funded with industrial support, will center attention upon dietary immunostimulants and their effects upon the growth, immune function, health and final product quality of a variety of cultured species. The individual will be expected to undertake periods of time at international laboratories of the collaborating industrial partner. This is a fully funded, 100% research position and will require a candidate who is experienced in the husbandry and management of cultured fish, possesses good analytical and writing skills and a demonstrated interest in fish nutrition and/or immunology.

2) This position will concentrate upon fish digestive physiology. Opportunities will be available to study digestive morphology and function in a wide range of cultured fish in marine and fresh water. The individual must have demonstrated analytical skills, experience in fish husbandry and good writing and communication skills.

BOARD MEMBERS

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Jesse White

Ted Hammond
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