



IAAAM NEWS

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Craig Harms, Editor

www.iaaam.org

Mission: To advance the art and science of aquatic animal medicine and health, encourage the free exchange of knowledge in the interest of improving the health care and husbandry of domestic aquatic animals, and promote the proper conservation and management of wild aquatic animals.

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Message from the President

IAAAM is growing. Are we doing everything we can to keep up with it?
by Rhonda A. Patterson, IAAAM President

IAAAM is a dynamic and energetic organization. There is growth within the organization, both in the number of individuals involved as members and in the number of aquatic animals represented by those individuals. It is a great time to be a part of this organization! Our future is wide open!

It is our future though that we need to consider. Sometimes there can be great benefits associated with rapid growth within an organization, and sometimes there are difficulties. We are facing some of each. This year's conference proved to be quite challenging with the large number of presenters given the time constraints of the meeting and the organization's history of not having concurrent sessions. Discussion at our annual business meeting (minutes were provided in the last newsletter) showed some insight into the issues and/or concerns before the organization. However, the Executive Board has continued to work with our various committees to deal with these issues post-conference.

Inside this newsletter are two items on which the Executive Board would like the feedback of our membership. One item concerns various responses to the conference survey. We would like you to read through some of the representative comments and let us know how they impact your thought processes - even if you weren't at this particular conference. The second item is a proposal put forth

to the Executive Board from the Fish Practitioner Committee. The Executive Board has been working on these issues for the last two years with Roy Yanong and Hugh Mitchell (chairs of the committee) and there was a lot of discussion at the conference about some of the points that are brought out in this proposal. If the Executive Board was to adopt all of the points of the proposal this would mean a great deal of restructuring within the organization over the next few years and we need to be sure that the membership is supportive of the degree of change that this restructuring would entail.

I will be looking forward to hearing (email - Rhonda.Patterson@wku.edu or phone 270-745-2351) from everyone about how you are feeling about the organization and the direction we are headed. You should also feel free to share your thoughts with other members of the board (names and contact information for all of the board members is given in this newsletter and on our website).

2006 Conference Update ...

Greetings from the shores of Lake Michigan. Here we are, already only six months away from “**The Bahamas Meeting**”. Our hostess Kim Terrell of [Dolphin EncountersSM](http://www.dolphinencounters.com/about.html) (<http://www.dolphinencounters.com/about.html>) has been working very hard (in-between dodging hurricanes!) bringing together the plans for the spring, starting off with a spectacular beach-side icebreaker Sunday evening.

Dates for the meeting have been set as 6-10 May 2006. Mark your calendars now, put in those travel requests, start looking for flights, and don't forget to stash away an auction item. Plans are also developing for a **Fish Practitioners Workshop to follow on 11 May**. Lisa Murphy and the Student Committee have also been toiling away at putting together some exciting opportunities for student excursions. Keep an eye on the web site for up-to-date information.

The meeting hotel will be the Wyndham Nassau Resort & Crystal Palace Casino. Be sure to check out their web site [Wyndham Nassau](http://www.wyndhamnassauresort.com/) (<http://www.wyndhamnassauresort.com/>).

This year we will also be using a web-based abstract collection site hosted by Omni Press, publishers of our proceedings in print and on CD-ROM. The web site will be open and accessible to all authors soon and I will continue to send reminders to post abstracts early. Watch for more details on the abstract submission process. Have a great winter hibernation season. See you in the spring.

William Van Bonn, DVM
IAAAM President-Elect
Flossmoor IL

37th Annual IAAAM Conference Nassau, Bahamas May 6-10, 2006

Dolphin Encounters and the IAAAM Members of the Bahamas warmly invite you to beautiful Nassau, Bahamas for the 37th Annual IAAAM Conference.

With the incredible backdrop of the Bahamian turquoise sea we are planning an educational conference and meeting that will be infused with warm Bahamian hospitality and traditional entertainment.

A Few Details:

About The Bahamas

Located off the coast of Florida, the Islands of the Bahamas are an archipelago comprised of 700 islands. Surrounded by crystal clear turquoise seas, the country has long welcomed visitors from

around the world to enjoy its natural beauty, colorful traditions and unique cuisine. With many daily air and sea connections to countries around the globe getting to the islands is easy. English is the native language and Bahamian currency is on par with the US Dollar. – which means US currency is used and accepted everywhere. We hope that each IAAAM member will spend a few days exploring the country before and after the conference. To learn more about the Islands of the Bahamas visit www.Bahamas.com

A Beautiful Conference Site

The Wyndham Nassau Resort & Crystal Palace located on Cable Beach in Nassau has been chosen as the conference site. Located along the western seashore of Nassau, it will serve as the headquarters for all meetings and sessions. Cable Beach also provides a casino, entertainment, shopping and restaurants all within walking distance of the hotel. The Wyndham Nassau Beach is also a short taxi or bus ride to downtown Nassau and Bay Street as well as Paradise Island. Information about the hotel can be obtained by logging on to www.wyndhamnassauresort.com

Conference room rates per night are as follows (rates are in USD):

Single	\$139.00
Double	\$156.00
Triple	\$196.00
Suite	\$269.00

These rates will be honored 3 days pre-conference and 3 days post-conference.



About Your Host - Dolphin Encounters, Blue Lagoon Island

Dolphin Encounters is very pleased to be hosting the 37th Annual IAAAM Conference. As a Bahamian owned company we are especially excited to introduce attendees to the beauty of the Bahamas which includes our facility's natural marine habitat.

Home of 16 Atlantic Bottlenose Dolphins including the internationally famous “Flipper”, Dolphin Encounters is one of Nassau’s foremost tourist attractions. Located on beautiful Blue Lagoon Island, just one mile off Nassau, Dolphin Encounters offers guests the unique opportunity to interact one-on-one with these intelligent animals in either the “**Close Encounter**” or “**Swim- With-The-Dolphins**” program.

Our main objective is to take guests on interactive encounters to heighten their awareness of the needs of marine mammals and their environment. Dolphin Encounters has given thousands of people the chance to make their dreams come true by swimming and interacting with dolphins. We provide this rare opportunity in a safe environment with an emphasis on education and entertainment. We are especially looking forward to introducing IAAAM members and their families to our dolphin family. **Visit us at www.dolphinencounters.com**

Conference Activities:

Ice Breaker

In keeping with Bahamian tradition of warmly welcoming guests to your home, Robert Meister, Managing Director of Dolphin Encounters and his wife Kelly, will host the Ice Breaker. Everyone is invited on Saturday, May 6th to “Sea Star” their lovely home located on the eastern side of Nassau. Overlooking the sea with views of Nassau’s Harbour, Paradise Island, Athol Island and Blue Lagoon Island, each guest will be welcomed Bahamian style! Transportation to and from the hotel will be provided.

Host Visit/Beach Party

Dolphin Encounters will host the free afternoon on Tuesday, May 9th. We've planned a great day for the entire family. You will be taken by high-speed catamaran ferries on a 15-minute ride through Nassau's famous harbour over to the beautiful private Blue Lagoon Island, home of our friendly dolphins. There will be a beach BBQ with traditional Bahamian food, music, games and entertainment. You can also swim in the natural blue lagoon or relax on the beach and enjoy the beauty of the island.

Our educational department will be hosting a Sea Lab for children at our Educational Center. The Sea Lab offers students a chance to explore the treasures of the marine environment by participating in a number of marine-related activities.

After lunch everyone is invited to meet our dolphin family face-to-face by participating in our educational and entertaining Close Encounter or Swim-With-the-Dolphins programs. We hope this once-in-a-lifetime experience will make your memories of the Bahamas very special.

Other Activities

Nassau offers many activities that visitors to the Bahamas will want to enjoy. We are teaming up with other vendors to offer special rates and/or opportunities to the following attractions:

Ardastra Gardens, Zoo and Conservation Center

Situated only minutes from the heart of downtown Nassau, Bahamas, there is no place quite like the Ardastra Gardens, Zoo and Conservation Center. The 5-½ acre park is part jungle, part gardens and home to hundreds of beautiful mammals, birds and reptiles from around the world, including many endangered species from the Bahamas and the Greater Caribbean. Ardastra offers a very intimate setting to mingle with amazing wildlife and is committed to the preservation and conservation of endangered species.

Atlantis

Atlantis, Paradise Island offers a resort experience amidst a 34-acre waterscape and marine habitat. Explore the ruins of Atlantis in The Dig, Mayan Temple's water slides, 11 swimming areas and endless action in the Atlantis Casino. Facilities include Discovery Channel Camp(tm) at Atlantis for kids, full service spa, sports center, haute couture shopping and golf. Atlantis also boasts the largest open air aquarium in the world.

The Pirates Museum - Located in downtown Nassau Pirates of Nassau is a true landmark nestled in three historical buildings: The Slave Kitchen, which is approximately 200 years old; the Loft house, which is approximately 150 years old and the Marlborough Arms, which is approximately 100 years old. The exhibit, which opened in 1998, is a world-class interactive experience that has been called "the Best Pirate Exhibit in the World," by Dr. David Cordingly, author of "Under The Black Flag," former head of exhibitions at the Greenwich Maritime Museum and renowned contemporary authority on pirates.

Power Boat Adventures and Island World

Both companies offer a one day trip to the beautiful Exumas – islands located just south of Nassau. The spectacular one hour trip includes lunch at their respective islands, snorkeling, swimming and relaxing on the incredible beaches of the Exumas, feeding iguanas, and more.

Stuart Cove's Dive Bahamas

Stuart Cove's Dive Bahamas is Nassau's leading full service dive resort. Located on the southwest side of New Providence Island, Stuart Cove's is in the ideal physical location to take advantage of the diverse underwater geological formations. As such, dive sites are available for divers with no experience all the way up to expert-level dives including four new shipwrecks that they have helped

place in the last two years. A wide spectrum of diving activities is available: night dives, over 13 diving locations including steep vertical walls that plummet to 6,000 feet of depth, shallow tropical reefs, ship or airplane wrecks, and numerous locations that were used as underwater movie sets for feature films. They also offer Shark Adventure and Wall Flying Adventure programs.

Bahamas Fast Ferries

Take a day trip to charming Harbour Island, in Eleuthera aboard the “Bohengy” a high-speed catamaran. Rent a golf cart and take a leisurely tour of this historic island filled with quaint shops, great restaurants and picturesque streets.

Side Trip to Abaco, Treasure Cay Hotel, Resort and Marina

Get a taste of the Out Islands of the Bahamas. Treasure Cay Hotel Resort and Marina will be offering special rates to attendees who wish to visit the beautiful Abaco Islands before or after the conference. More details to follow. Visit Treasure Cay at www.treasurecay.com

Shopping

Enjoy shopping on Bay Street in downtown Nassau. Enjoy the wide variety of local and world-class goods including bargains on jewelry, perfumes and other duty-free goods. Shop Paradise Island at Marina Village, or the shops of Hurricane Hole and the Paradise Island Shopping Center.

We are also collecting charter boat information for those who wish to fish the legendary waters of the Bahamas.

See you in the Bahamas!

2005 Conference Survey Results/Comments

The information given below is being directly quoted from conference survey sheets that were turned in to the Executive Board. No preference was given to positive comments over negative comments. A simple cross-section of the types of comments and topics were pulled and provided for you. Further input of the membership on our conference set-up and on abstract acceptance is kindly requested.

Please email your comments to me (Rhonda.Patterson@wku.edu) or call me (270-745-2351) to discuss them. You may also contact another member of the Executive Board if you would prefer.

1. Too many details on assay design and not enough medicine/cases.
2. Live auction during dinner time was too loud.
3. Didn't like the old theater venue.
4. Didn't like having children present during the presentations.
5. Would like to see a review process of some kind for the acceptance of the presentation.
6. A+ conference!
7. Loved the town and venue of this conference.
8. Overall best conference I've been to.
9. A very successful conference with many high quality presentations and a truly enjoyable meeting site.
10. I think we need to change the session format to reduce the number of speakers per session in order to 1) be more selective about the content, such that there is a conclusion, new methodology, or important question that needs to be brought to everyone's attention, 2) enable more time for each speaker, because a complete research project cannot be adequately or convincingly presented in 10-12 minutes (20 minutes more appropriate) - perhaps single case reports or the like can be 10-12 minutes, 3) to be CERTAIN that there is time for questions, because these generate important thoughts for everyone in the audience, for the speaker, and truly not many folks go to find a speaker after the presentation to talk about it. I think IAAAM

will only improve as a venue if we become more selective in choosing the presentations accepted.

11. Everything was OUTSTANDING!!!!
12. Good idea to separate the auction from the banquet.
13. Great to get a hotel at such an inexpensive price - more conferences should strive for this! Did not like the split sessions; had to miss nearly all the fish talks to get to see the mammal talks but would have liked to have seen them both. If split, should not be split fish vs mammal in the future. Requiring membership in order to get to do a talk in cases where there are too many talks to fit would be a good idea; will increase membership if someone feels strongly about getting to speak and may reduce the number of talks for those who aren't as serious and may help to decrease the need for concurrent sessions.
14. Concurrent sessions was an effective means of maximizing presentations in the proper length of time for a professional meeting. The length of presentation without associated time for question and answer was a major deficit. I would prefer less presentations to less interaction. The venue worked well - but was awkward. If concurrent sessions happen again, side-by-side rooms facilitates hopping. Kudos to whomever thought of holding sessions in the movie theater! The poster session could have benefited from happening one day sooner. Poster quality was excellent - extra time for visiting the posters would be appreciated.
15. It [Seward] was such a small place that you could find everyone easy, travel between hotel and meeting room easy, go to the SeaLife Center, and go out for dinner or bar, all by foot, that was wonderful! I thought the movie theater location gave charm to the conference, the seats were quite comfortable. The breaks were awesome, so much great food!! As for your organization, if you had some glitches, it surely did not show. When you don't realize the organization behind an event, it means it was very well planned! Congrats!! I am very pleased I went, it was a great conference.
16. Talks need time for questions afterward! Open discussion. The clinical conundrums really needed discussion.
17. While I understand the need to pack the talks tightly into the time available, I missed the usual lively question and answer periods after each talk.
18. A lot of issues and discussions were focused on US experiences, not that it is wrong, but being an international organization [we] should also tackle global concerns by "encouraging" more contributions from other regions. I am not saying that we did not tackle global issues for this conference, actually the issues that were discussed during the vet's role in exhibit design were all global.
19. More clinical cases needed. Too much detail on virology.
20. Too many presentations methinks, are incomplete or in an occasional situation, present no data whatsoever. To waste time we all recognize as precious, with a 12-minute presentation, about why an experiment did not work (which importantly is vastly different from negative results) is a debacle. One of my "IAAAM presentation warning signs" that may signal when I take a bathroom break, is when a presenter spends 8 minutes of a 12 minute talk going through their "Materials and Methods," leaving only one-third of the allotted time for presentation and interpretation of results. If presentations are sausages this type is the hot dog: Sure there may be some meat in there, but it's mostly filler. I find it difficult to believe that a room full of graduate veterinarians, immunologists and the like are in need of a primer in say, how routine diagnostic methods such as hemagglutinin inhibition, indirect ELISA, etc., work! Finally, I am growing quite tired of presenters stating they have collected and are analyzing (I tremble when I realize past-tense has not been employed - another "presentation warning sign") 30+ samples, then proceed to report that only 2/30 analyses have thus far been completed, wax poetic about the difficulty in determining if current results are statistically significant, then promise to present "additional data next year." So the audience gets to hear all the same information the following year, wasting more precious time. Quite frankly, show up when you've finished your analysis and let us know what you found. This is akin to me reporting gross necropsy findings one year, doing minimal interpretation, and promising to come back

next year with the histopathology results. Would anyone find that acceptable? If not, then why is the former situation?

Call for Student Travel Award Applications

The Student Liaison Committee has been appropriated the sum of \$2000.00 to award to students intending to deliver **oral** presentations at the annual IAAAM conference in May 2005. The awards are intended to defray the cost of travel to the May 6-10, 2006 conference in Nassau, the Bahamas in order to promote student participation in the professional program, and to further the commitment of the IAAAM to its students. Moneys will be awarded on a competitive basis, with the goal of supporting as many students as possible. Undergraduate students, Masters and PhD students, veterinary students, veterinary interns/residents, and postdocs are eligible. The requirements for all applicants include the following:

1. A cover letter that describes the future plans of the applicant with regard to aquatic animal medicine.
2. A copy of the abstract of the paper to be presented. This abstract must not exceed 500 words in length. Only abstracts will be considered.
3. Curriculum vitae and two (2) letters of recommendation, one of which must be from an active member of the IAAAM.
4. An itemized budget that details the travel expenditures (i.e. airfare, lodging, meals, etc) and indicates the funds available from student stipends and personal resources.
5. The student presenter must be a member (with dues paid up-to-date) of the IAAAM.

The Education Member of the IAAAM Executive Board and the Student Liaison Committee will review the applications. Applicants will be ranked according to judgment criteria that will include: the quality of the written abstract (500 words or less), 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. The intent of the Student Liaison Committee and the Executive Board is to fund as many students as possible, beginning with the highest ranked and continuing through the list of ranked applicants until the appropriated funds have been exhausted. Awards will not exceed \$500.00. The rankings will be determined from the entire pool of applicants; separate awards for different academic classes of applicants (i.e. undergraduate, graduate, veterinary) will not be offered.

The deadline for receipt of the original signed applications is January 15, 2006. Applications received after the deadline will not be considered. Recipients will be contacted by March 1, 2006. **Students submitting abstracts for the travel award competition must separately submit their presentation for acceptance into the conference proceedings.** The Secretary/Treasurer of the IAAAM will be notified and will send checks to the successful applicants. The Student Liaison Committee and the IAAAM Executive Board welcome this opportunity to assist deserving students. Candidates should send their application information to the following address:

Lisa A. Murphy, VMD, DABT
Assistant Professor of Toxicology
University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine
New Bolton Center – Toxicology Laboratory
382 W. Street Road
Kennett Square, PA 19348
Phone: 610-925-6217
Fax: 610-925-8117
Email: murphyLP@vet.upenn.edu

The following judgment criteria will be used to evaluate applications submitted for the 2006 IAAAM student travel awards:

<u>Category</u>	<u>Points</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>Abstract (500 words or less)</u>		50
Quality of the written abstract	20	
Definition of hypothesis and objectives	5	
Justification	5	
Design	5	
Results or observations	5	
Conclusions	5	
Complexity and academic achievement	5	
<u>Cover Letter</u>		15
Definition of long term goals	15	
<u>Curriculum Vitae</u>		15
Commitment to aquatic animal medicine	15	
<u>Letters of Recommendation</u>		15
<u>Budget</u>		5
Realistic and justified	5	
TOTAL POINTS		100

The Student Liaison Committee and the IAAAM Executive Board welcome this opportunity to assist deserving students.

AVMA Committee Reports

The AVMA Food Safety Advisory Committee (FSAC) met Tuesday October 18th, 2005 in Schaumburg, Illinois. *Kathleen Hughes Hartman*

Highlights related to Aquatic Animal Food Safety/Public Health topics:

In my report to the committee regarding current issues in seafood safety, I informed the committee of several recent issues related to public health and seafood products:

Highlighted minutes from the JSA Working Group on Quality Assurance in Aquaculture Production: 1) AVMA will update Guide to Judicious Antibiotic drug use; 2) MUMS indexing meeting (which took place on Sunday Oct. 2, 2005 in Schaumburg, IL).

Dispute over Vietnamese basa catfish in AL, LA, MA - imported fillets were found to be contaminated with prohibited drugs, namely fluoroquinolones.

On August 16, 2005 and FDA federal register rule went into effect to provide for the safe use of ionizing radiation for the control of *Vibrio* sp. and other food borne pathogens in fresh or frozen molluscs.

July 19, 2005 FDA released a quantitative risk assessment on the public health impact of *Vibrio parahaemolyticus* in raw oysters (for more info see <http://www.cfsan.fda.gov/~dms/vpraisum.html>)

Overall, the committee was quite interested in aquatic animal health and seafood safety and the status of the industry in the U.S.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns related to this report or the FSAC meeting.

The Committee on Environmental Issues (CEI) met in Schaumburg, IL in September 2005. *Cindy P. Driscoll*

Highlights of the recent CEI meeting are as follows:

1. The CEI approved a motion to recommend that the Executive Board approve "Active Pursuit of Passage" of HR 2323, the "Southern Sea Otter Recovery and Research Act" and possible amendments to include Endangered Species Act (ESA) listed populations of the northern sea otter.

2. Member Services Committee (MSC) Memo- Externship Program Referral-In March 2004, the Committee on Environmental Issues encouraged the MSC to review a document providing information on environmental externships and educational program opportunities available for veterinarians and veterinary students. The CEI encouraged the funding of such externships. The CEI was informed that at its March 2005 meeting, the MSC evaluated 27 qualified applications for the AVMA Student Externship Stipend Program. Five recipients were selected to receive the awards as well as one alternate. The student externship subcommittee reported that the externships were diverse and included many aspects of public, corporate and institutional veterinary career opportunities. The MSC greatly appreciated the input on potential externship opportunities from the CEI. All of the externship opportunities received could not be included on the application, but the MSC did provide ideas as to what type of externship would be acceptable. The database of environmental externships was distributed to the Student AVMA delegates, SCAVMA and faculty advisors.

3. After review and discussion of the March 2005 memorandum, the CEI approved a motion to form an ad hoc working group with the AVMC for the purpose of modifying and finalizing the Aquatic Ecosystems Position Statement in the next 12 months. It was noted that CEI and AVMC meetings will

be back-to-back in September 2006, and that might be a good opportunity for the ad hoc working group to meet face-to-face. The CEI formed a subcommittee, consisting of Drs. Rob Armstrong, Murl Bailey, Cindy Driscoll, and David Jessup, to work with the AVMC.

4. Foreign Diseases and Vector Control Position Statement- As part of a 5-year review directive, the CEI reviewed the AVMA position statement on Foreign Diseases and Vector Control, which was approved by the AVMA Executive Board in November 2001. The CEI has oversight responsibility for this position statement.

AVMA Animal Agriculture Liaison Committee (AALC)

September 1-2, 2005, Roy Yanong

The following is a summary, taken from draft minutes, of issues most relevant to aquatic animal medicine, and especially with regard to aquaculture. Please feel free to contact me if you are interested in discussing these issues, or would like more information on the minutes. Some issues discussed were the purview of committees with IAAAM representation, and were not included. I have provided some, minimal commentary, through “(representative’s notes).”

NAA Representation

Based on critical interactions over the past few years between the AVMA and the National Aquaculture Association (NAA), and the fact that aquacultured products make up a significant portion of food in the U.S., the NAA was invited to send a representative to the AALC. Dr. Myron Kebus, state aquaculture veterinarian for Wisconsin attended the meeting as the NAA representative, and Dr. Kathleen Hartman, USDA-APHIS-Veterinary Medical Officer for aquaculture in Florida was selected as the NAA alternate.

Animal Health at the Crossroads – Preventing, Detecting, and Diagnosing Animal Diseases – Recommendations of the National Research Council Committee

- The Committee received a copy of the National Research Council Committee Report in Brief and summary portion of the full report “Animal Health at the Crossroads: Preventing, Detecting, and Diagnosing Animal Diseases” and its recommendations. In recognition of the changing influences on animal health, The National Academies developed a concept for a three-phase analysis of the U.S. system for dealing with animal diseases. This report, which embodies the first phase of the study, presents an overview of the animal health framework and examines its overall role in the prevention, detection, and diagnosis of animal diseases. This report also examines how well the current framework has responded to different animal disease scenarios and how the framework could be improved. A proposed second phase of the study will focus on surveillance and monitoring capabilities, and a third phase will focus on response and recovery from an animal disease epidemic. Several colleagues of ours, including Dr. Suzanne Kennedy-Stoskopf, were members of the group that developed this document. Public health and zoonoses are highlighted, but the document also reminds us of the economic impact to the U.S. for any food animal industry that is faced with a significant disease problem.
- (representative’s note: For a more detailed overview of this report, please visit the following website: <http://www.nap.edu/reportbrief/11365/11365rb.pdf>)
- After review and discussion of the report’s eleven recommendations, the AALC approved a motion for the Chair to appoint an AALC subcommittee, of not more than 12 members, to study the report “Animal Health at the Crossroads: Preventing, Detecting, and Diagnosing Animals Diseases” and to provide a report to the AALC at its next meeting. The AALC believed that the report and its recommendations would potentially affect all veterinarians and the future of veterinary medicine. The AALC subcommittee will review the report from the perspective of food animal veterinarians and their allied industries, and provide relevant comments and suggestions to the AVMA. Dr. Lehenbauer requested that I serve on this subcommittee.

Council on Research (COR) Memorandum on the Creation and Use of Genetically Modified Domestic Animals Position Statement

- The AALC was one of a number of groups within the AVMA to provide guidance for the final position statement on the creation and use of genetically modified animals (below). At its June 13-14, 2005 meeting the Executive Board approved the COR recommendation that the AVMA Executive Board adopt the Position Statement on the Creation and Use of Genetically Modified Domestic Animals, as stated below:

AVMA Position Statement on the Creation and Use of Genetically Modified Animals

It is the position of the American Veterinary Medical Association that the creation of new genetic-based knowledge through basic genetic research and the practical application of that knowledge should not be

needlessly restricted so long as it does not impact the integrity of the environment and the general health and well being of the genetically modified animal remains preferential to human values and needs.

Since the time when animals were first domesticated, humans have been actively involved in the selection of preferred traits that enhance the functional value and aesthetic appeal of specific animal breeds, while at the same time working to preserve and improve animal health and well being. The ability to select for a specific genetic trait through controlled breeding has resulted in a remarkable variety of animal breeds that are both physically and functionally unique.

Advancements made in sequencing the genomes of animals and improved technologies in functional genomics and biotechnology now present the opportunity to accelerate ongoing genetic improvements in animals at a pace and with a precision that is not possible by traditional selective breeding programs.

In this regard, having the DNA sequences for animals presents both a remarkable opportunity as well as a profound responsibility to utilize this knowledge and technology in a fashion that will preserve, if not improve, the health and well being of animals, while at the same time enhancing their appeal and value to humans.

Animal Welfare Issues Update

(representative's note: Animal Welfare has become an increasingly important issue internationally, as well as nationally, for all forms of agriculture/aquaculture)

- The AALC was informed that at its April 7-9, 2005 meeting the AVMA Executive Board approved the establishment of an Animal Welfare Governance Task Force (AWGTF). The purpose of the AWGTF is to review approved animal welfare goals and advise on the ideal governance structure and oversight for successful accomplishment of the goals. The AWGTF is charged to work collaboratively to: 1) Review the charges of all existing AVMA entities and evaluate their relevance to animal welfare; 2) Formulate the mission and scope of the Animal Welfare Division; 3) Review any mission statements and scope for new and existing entities affecting animal welfare; and, 4) Advise the Executive Board on what governance structure will most effectively address the AVMA's goals for animal welfare. The AWGTF asked a number of groups within the AVMA for initial input, specifically, central or most important philosophical approaches that the Task Force should consider.
- After discussion, the AALC **approved a motion** to forward the following comments to the AWGTF:
- The AALC thanks the AVMA Executive Board for reevaluating the structure of managing welfare issues within the AVMA. The AALC desires the opportunity to participate in the drafting of the AVMA position statements and guiding principles. We believe our Committee has representation from concerned species groups and can provide input that reflects current production and husbandry practices. We look forward to active communication with the Task Force and the future AVMA Animal Welfare Advisory Committee.

The AALC offered the following comments as pertinent starting points:

1. The keeping of animals for production of food and fiber and other human uses and the consumption of meat, milk and eggs is moral and ethical.
2. Veterinarians directly engaged in animal agriculture, including those employed by production companies, are knowledgeable about welfare practices and are advocates for animal welfare within those industries. Their participation should be encouraged and their advice and input should be solicited and not excluded from AVMA deliberations on animal welfare.
3. U.S. animal production systems and societal norms require unique solutions for animal welfare issues.
4. The AWGTF should review other welfare documents, such as the OIE Guiding Principles for Animal Welfare.

Other Agenda Items of Note

- At the request of the AALC, the USDA APHIS member provided a briefing on topics including: Disposal of Animal Carcasses and Tissues, National Animal Identification System, Strategic Partnership Program Agroterrorism (SPPA), and National Animal Health Surveillance System.
- The AALC was asked by the Executive Board to review the proposed Committee on Environmental Issues' position statement on Animal Agriculture Waste Management.
- *Supply Veterinary Medicine Coalition Update*—The AALC was provided with an update on the Food Supply Veterinary Medicine Coalition (FSVMC). Estimating the Demand for, and Maintaining the Availability of, Veterinarians for Careers in Food Supply Related Disciplines in the United States and Canada, is a research project sponsored by the Food Supply Veterinary Medical Coalition (FSVMC). This research study consists of two major comprehensive research programs, one addressing the *demand* for food supply veterinarians and one addressing the *supply* of veterinarians in the United States and Canada, and is nearing completion. (representative's note: as mentioned previously, I believe, by Steve Smith, minimal input with regard to aquaculture was mentioned or provided.)
- *AVMA Position on Food Production Biotechnology*: The AALC provided recommendations to the AVMA to update to this statement, and also recommended that, with input from the AALC, more specific and detailed position statements and guidance be provided on biotechnology in vaccine and GMO development and use.

Report Provided to the AALC by IAAAM Representative

(representative's note: each member is asked to provide the AALC with a report of relevant issues; the following was the report I provided)

- IAAAM Fish (Veterinary) Practitioner Committee—The IAAAM has developed an ad hoc Fish Practitioner Committee to help provide guidance to the organization in development of fish and lower invertebrate veterinary medicine program areas, to include aquaculture, natural resources, clinical fish practice, and other relevant fields. The Fish Practitioner Committee is currently working with a group of IAAAM members and the Executive Board, to examine the future roles and potential programs of IAAAM in fish and invertebrate medicine, including aquaculture medicine. A proposal for this to the IAAAM Executive Board is currently in development.
- Meetings and Programs
 - The IAAAM had its 36th Annual Conference in Seward, Alaska, May 14-18, 2005. The meeting was very well attended, with a 33% increase in the number of presentations. Sponsored fish medicine sessions, developed by the co-chairs of the Fish Practitioner Committee, covered topics highlighting the veterinarian's role in clinical fish practice, natural resources, and in aquatic environmental and food safety issues with regard to aquaculture. The 37th Annual Conference of the IAAAM is scheduled for the Bahamas in May 2006.
 - The 2005 Eastern Fish Health Workshop was held in Shepherdstown, WV, June 13-17, and the Annual Meeting of the Fish Health Section of the American Fisheries Society was held July 26-29, 2005 in Minneapolis, Minnesota.
 - The AVMA co-sponsored aquatic medicine CE presented by the American Fisheries Society, Fish Health Section, in June 2005, at the Eastern Fish Health Workshop meeting, and in July, 2005, to help veterinarians working in the aquatic medicine field to meet their CE requirements with relevant issues. Sessions sponsored covered the following topics: "spring viremia of carp," "applying risk assessment principles to fish health situations," and "current topics in aquatic toxicology." The importance of maintaining partnerships and collaboration with the AFS-Fish Health Section, which has a number of veterinarians as members, and with other non-veterinary aquatic animal health professionals is critical to the harmonious and efficient advancement of the field.
 - The 11th Annual Drug Approval Coordination Workshop (for approval of aquaculture chemotherapeutants), sponsored by the USFWS Aquatic Animal Drug Approval Partnership Program (AADAPP) was held August 2-3, 2005. Two additional special sessions were held in conjunction with this meeting. The first of these, on "ImmunoBiologics in Aquaculture," sponsored by the Joint Sub-Committee on Aquaculture, Working Group on Quality Assurance in Aquaculture Production, Biologics Sub Group was held on August 1, 2005. The second, on "Advancing Aquaculture Drug Approvals by Strategic Coordinated Research," was held on August 4, 2005. All three sessions provided information and coordinated strategies for improving aquaculture production through FDA approvals of therapeutants or through prevention (via vaccines). The USFWS-AADAPP program has been highly successful and is assisting both natural resource and commercial aquaculture with working through the drug approval process. Updates of the current status of numerous INADs and New Animal Drug Application approvals for aquaculture, as well as regulations and current advances in biologics (especially vaccines) were given.
 - The 5th International Symposium on Aquatic Animal Health will be held on September 2-6, 2006 in San Francisco, California USA.
- Current Fish Health and Aquaculture Issues of Concern—Over the past several years, aquaculture as an agricultural industry has received a significant amount of negative press, including environment and food safety issues. In British Columbia, the relationship between sea lice on wild salmonids and aquaculture salmonids, the levels of environmental toxins in salmon flesh (including PCBs), the use of carotenoids in diets, and the "environmental foot print" of aquaculture as a whole (inland, off shore, coastal) have been put in the public spot light by special interest groups who are against aquaculture, often with incorrect, non-science based assumptions and information. The AAVBC (Association of Aquaculture Veterinarians of British Columbia) had approached the AVMA for quick response, assistance and guidance with regard to unscientific sea lice claims, but ended up providing a science-based rebuttal, in conjunction with members of EAVA (the Eastern Aquaculture Veterinary Association), because a very rapid response was needed. This was one issue of concern for a number of IAAAM members, who approached IAAAM via the Fish Practitioner Committee, as an example of where professional support and guidance, provided rapidly, would be most useful. Aquaculture is a rapidly growing area within agriculture, and is supported by a growing number of veterinarians' worldwide. International aquaculture is growing more rapidly than U.S. aquaculture, for many reasons, but both the U.S. and the international community both benefit from veterinary services. Can the AALC help provide guidance and input for fast response, scientifically based discussions to these and related issues? Perhaps working with the AVMC, IAAAM, NAA, and other relevant groups? Current, parallel issues of concern in aquaculture (e.g., housing and husbandry, welfare, slaughter/euthanasia, use of drugs and chemicals) have been, or are being addressed for terrestrial food animals (e.g., recent position statement on pregnant sow housing), and so the AALC does have the expertise in these areas already. How can this be done in a reasonable, scientific, and timely manner?
(representative's note: During the meeting and in discussion with members of the AVMA staff and the AALC, it became clear that mechanisms for committee to committee feedback and guidance were currently in place and input from other committees were often part of underlying protocol)

PROPOSAL TO ENHANCE THE ROLE OF IAAAM IN CONTEMPORARY CLINICAL FISH AND AQUATIC INVERTEBRATE MEDICINE

Submitted by Roy Yanong and Hugh Mitchell

The input of the membership on this proposal is kindly requested. Please email your comments to me (Rhonda.Patterson@wku.edu) or call me (270-745-2351) to discuss them. You may also contact another member of the Executive Board if you would prefer.

STATEMENT OF NEEDS AND JUSTIFICATION:

There are recent activities and concerns among clinical veterinarians working with pet fish, natural resources, regulatory medicine, public aquaria, and aquaculture (production fish and invertebrates) that are significantly influencing the development, direction and unity of the practice of fish and aquatic invertebrate medicine. Currently, there is a movement toward the formation of a separate, non-IAAAM-related professional organization to meet the needs of this segment of the aquatic animal medicine specialty. This movement implies that the IAAAM is not meeting the needs of an important and ever-growing segment of aquatic animal medicine.

Because of the great influence that IAAAM has had in the careers of many members, both with regard to professional development and camaraderie, long-time IAAAM members are encouraging the participation in IAAAM as an alternative to the development of a new, separate organization. However, IAAAM membership itself and maintenance of the status quo within the organization do not seem to be meeting the needs of these and other potential fish and aquatic invertebrate veterinarian members. Some of these veterinarians are attracted to the idea of the formation of a separate and independent organization.

Examples of areas and needs relevant to this segment of aquatic veterinary medicine include:

1. Have IAAAM initiate and serve as a guide for the aquatic veterinary community in health related issues pertaining to fish and aquatic invertebrates, including:
 - a. Provide support and guidance for the role of clinical aquatic veterinarians in health certification and other regulatory issues
 - b. Provide support for veterinarians whose ability to practice is challenged or threatened
 - c. Support and foster the role and value of the aquatic veterinarian in public and private practice
2. Increase and improve access, availability and quality of timely CE for clinical fish and invertebrate veterinarians
3. Create an atmosphere that will continue to foster development of fellowship and collegiality between aquatic veterinarians from different geographic regions with preliminary emphasis on North America
4. Provide a forum for discussion of concerns (including diagnostics and treatment therapies, economics, professional ethics, and other veterinary professional issues) relevant to aquatic veterinarians
5. Provide a forum for discussion of and position statements regarding controversial or difficult issues faced by members of aquarium, aquaculture, and natural resource communities, both veterinary and non-veterinary
6. Promote the efficient economical and ecological production of aquatic organisms

Long-time IAAAM members who are active in fish and aquatic invertebrate medicine feel strongly that IAAAM should strive to grow and mature to fulfill this professional void. In an attempt to help IAAAM become more relevant to this segment of aquatic medicine, Drs. Yanong and Mitchell have been appointed by the IAAAM Executive Board as Co-Chairs of an *ad hoc* Fish Practitioners

Committee and have invested a significant amount of time and effort in this direction. Specifically at the annual conferences in 2004 and 2005 they organized a special Fish Practitioner's Workshop session and established concurrent Fish Medicine sessions, respectively.

There are two different but complementary issues that the Fish Practitioners Committee would like to help IAAAM address:

- 1) Increase IAAAM's relevance, and thus, participation by those professionals including veterinarians and other allied professionals, working in the field of fish and aquatic invertebrate health, in order to give them a strong sense of ownership
- 2) Provide "a home" for fish and aquatic invertebrate veterinary practitioners - in particular those working in private, public, or institutional clinical practice. Currently, it is this group that is truly without a united venue that adequately serves their needs.

The following draft proposal addresses these complementary issues, with greater emphasis on the formation of unified "home," because this was perceived as a more pressing need by a majority of those who have provided feedback at a fish practitioner's meeting in Seward, AK and in subsequent email correspondence.

DRAFT PROPOSAL

BACKGROUND:

IAAAM is a unique group with a treasured spirit of unity and camaraderie. As the field of aquatic animal medicine grows and diversifies, the International Association for Aquatic Animal Medicine (IAAAM) must decide whether it will maintain its traditional focus or if it will expand to meet the current needs of its growing and diversifying target membership. Expansion will help IAAAM remain more relevant to the diverse field that is aquatic animal medicine, and foster increased closeness and value among sub-groups of aquatic animal specialties, thus, helping to keep the IAAAM and its members in a leadership role.

Some members of IAAAM are concerned about the potential isolation (both real and perceived) or fragmentation of the overall organization. The intent of this proposal is to capitalize on the established strengths of a combined membership. The goal is to assist and respond to the needs of many who have been long-term IAAAM members but feel that the association is losing relevance to and perspective of their aquatic animal health professional needs. Other informal "subgroups" exist (i.e., immunology, virology, microbiology) within the IAAAM; however, these subgroups exist only to the extent that people with those interests, who also have an interest in aquatic animals, come to the meeting and make presentations and occasionally have affiliated workshops. For these members in these areas, this appears sufficient. Of course, professionals working in these specific disciplines already have their own, separate meetings.

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this proposal is to provide a more structured approach and forum to assist those members whose needs are not being met. Specific goals, objectives, and issues (e.g., concurrent sessions, perception) can and should be addressed in a framework and timeline, and with prioritization that is amenable to the overall membership as well as to fish and aquatic invertebrate clinicians.

PROPOSED TIME FRAME FOR IMPLEMENTATION: 3 YEARS

GOAL: More fully address concerns and needs of clinical veterinarians working with fish and aquatic invertebrates in private, public, and institutional sectors, as they pertain to professional development and service to their client industries.

OBJECTIVES:

1. Have IAAAM initiate and serve as a guide for the aquatic veterinary community in health related issues pertaining to fish and aquatic invertebrates, including:

- a. Provide support and guidance for the role of clinical aquatic veterinarians in health certification and other regulatory issues
- b. Provide support for aquatic veterinarians whose ability to practice is challenged or threatened
- c. Support and foster the role and value of the veterinarian in public and private practice

This can be accomplished concretely through development of position statements regarding the practice of veterinary medicine (Year 1).

2. Provide quality and timely CE to clinical fish and aquatic invertebrate veterinarians. Although there are good lectures and CE that are relevant at IAAAM conferences, much of this CE, specific to fish and aquatic invertebrate clinical practice, is patchy. One approach we have been trying over the past two years is having more structured sessions with both members and invited speakers to discuss specific, timely topics. For aquaculture, pet fish medicine, and natural resources, the talks have been relatively sparse and undirected (until the last two years). Perhaps use the ACZM approach for some of the fish sessions (as we have tried)—to target specific topics. Also, if paying speakers is a problem, then we may have to continue to have invited speakers at “other” times, i.e., before the meeting, or in “special sessions” during the general meeting (although concurrent sessions also do not seem to be popular)

- Year 1, continue with hybrid ACZM/IAAAM approach
 - Consider (through organization discussions) joint meetings—discuss with relevant organizations), determine session topics and workshops of interest to fish and invertebrate clinicians
 - Consider working collaboratively with AVMA and the AVMA fish veterinary data base to help determine interest and needs
- Year 2-3, have additional, more targeted sessions, based on these interests;

3. Create an atmosphere that will foster development of fellowship and collegiality between these aquatic veterinarians from different geographic regions with preliminary emphasis on North America.

Although this exists among current members of the IAAAM, we are interested in attracting additional members from other groups and areas. This would involve a variety of means, including potential collaboration on position statements, continuing education opportunities, joint sessions and meetings, and more specific targeted sessions and workshops (Year 1, contact representatives from complementary organizations, and discuss potential collaborations as described above; develop a prioritized list; Year 2-3, develop and mechanisms for addressing highest priority items).

4. Provide a forum for discussion of concerns (including diagnostics and treatment therapies, economics, professional ethics, and other veterinary professional issues) relevant to these veterinarians
5. Provide a forum for discussion of and position statements regarding controversial or difficult issues by members of the aquarium, aquaculture, and natural resource community, both veterinary and non-veterinary

METHODS:

1. Organizational mechanisms:

- a. Continue to focus the direction of the *ad hoc* Fish Practitioners Committee and increase communication with the Board (Year 1)

- b. Determine status of IAAAM representation on AVMA-AVMC and other committees in AVMA and identify and highlight relevant issues, to determine what additional needs and representation may be necessary (if any) (Year 1)
 - c. Constitutional changes to reflect a mission that has clauses aligned with the needs of these sub-disciplines (e.g.: adding “to foster improved aquatic animal production efficiency and sustainability”) (Year 1-2)
- 2. Conference related mechanisms:
 - a. Continue to provide one or two day sessions and wet labs on specific topics of interest to fish and aquatic invertebrate clinical veterinarians and related professionals at IAAAM’s annual conference (Year 1-3)
 - b. Consider allowing the committee to organize a social function for fish and aquatic invertebrate clinical practitioners at the 2006 meeting (anyone can attend, but strive to increase participation and fellowship of aquatic veterinarians) (Year 1-3)
 - c. Consider continuing to “cluster” general meeting fish and invertebrate sessions and pre-meeting sessions and workshops, to make the meeting more user friendly for clinical practitioners (Year 1-3)
 - d. Consider accessibility and cost when determining meeting locations (Year 3)
 - e. Consider joint meetings with the American Fisheries Society-Fish Health Section or the Eastern Fish Health Workshop (active discussions, Year 1)
 - f. Consider feasibility of speaker payments and reimbursements in accordance with the practices of other professional organizations (Year 1); this may not be possible due to the structure of the organization and limited budgets
- 3. Additional mechanisms to increase exposure and accessibility:
 - a. Host veterinary wet labs at other veterinary conferences (NAVC, Western States, AVMA) by providing organization supported expertise (i.e., personnel, travel or other fund support); this would be both for straight public relations, but also to demonstrate the expertise that is found within the membership of the IAAAM; Year 1 — determine IAAAM’s ability to support this (funding) and which other veterinary conferences would be amenable to such wet labs.
 - b. Increase interaction with veterinary students who may be considering working with fish as only a portion of their future employment (such as in private practice) (ongoing, and through website)
 - c. Provide mechanism for mentorship program for clinical practitioners interested in increasing their expertise (Year 1, determine what level of interest within the IAAAM exists for such a program, and what level of interest exists for such a program, through surveys or other collaborative means with AVMA. Look at capacity for website to assist with this endeavor. Year 2, develop active lists of mentors and mentees,
- 4. Media related mechanisms:
 - a. Provide guidance into use of newsletter and internet/website for communication of information pertinent to clinical fish and invertebrate practitioners (ongoing)
 - b. Promote use of list serve by membership, and encourage additional membership through use of this as a “carrot” (ongoing)

ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES:

- 1. Increased relevance, satisfaction, and camaraderie for a rapidly growing segment of the clinical aquatic animal medicine specialty — fish and aquatic invertebrate medicine
- 2. Increased relevance for IAAAM in a rapidly growing field of veterinary medicine, with a model of how IAAAM charts a course through expanded membership (this refers to the actions based on this proposal; how does IAAAM respond to current needs?)
- 3. Increased relevance and knowledge exchange for all professionals working with fish and aquatic invertebrate health issues

4. Increased impact by the IAAAM with regard to important issues that impact the aquatic veterinary profession
5. Increase in appreciation for the aquatic veterinarian's role in fish and aquatic invertebrate health matters
6. Increased availability of veterinary expertise for relevant client groups (general public and aquarium fish, aquaculture community, natural resources, legislative and regulatory agencies)

Publications Available

Members of the **Clinical Laboratory Standards Institute** (CLSI, formerly NCCLS) Subcommittee on Veterinary Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing - Aquaculture Working Group (VAST-AWG) are pleased to announce the publication of 2 new CLSI Proposed guidelines entitled:

M42-P Methods for Antimicrobial Disk Susceptibility Testing of Bacteria Isolated from Aquatic Animals; Proposed Guideline and

M49-P Methods for Broth Dilution Susceptibility Testing of Bacteria Isolated From Aquatic Animals; Proposed Guideline

These documents provides the most up-to-date techniques for disk diffusion and broth dilution susceptibility testing of aquatic isolates, as well as quality control ranges used for monitoring the performance of study conditions.

The proposed guidelines can be purchased directly from the CLSI website at <http://www.nccls.org/> for a cost of \$60 by CLSI members and \$120 for non-members.

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A Survey of the Environments of Cetaceans in Human Care

By Laurence Couquiaud

Pre-publication Special Price (offer good through 15 September 2005):

Hard copy \$34 USD plus shipping; CD copy \$19 plus shipping.

This special issue of the *Aquatic Mammals* (volume 31, issue 3) presents the latest trends in the architectural and aquatic environments of captive dolphins and whales, and an overview of their husbandry and care. The issue resulted from a survey of international oceanaria. Forty-four facilities from 22 countries shared their methods, techniques, and suggestions for improvements. The objectives of this research project were to identify the various aspects of the management and environments of cetaceans in human care, and assist professionals involved in the design of facilities by pointing-out recurrent mistakes and by sharing good design ideas and suggestions for the improving the animals' welfare, the comfort of work of their caretaker, and the enrichment of the visitors' experience.

To order, please contact Gina Colley (GR-Colley@wiu.edu) at WIU Document Publication Services, telephone 309-298-1917.

Ground Breaking and Grand Opening

The Marine Mammal Center, a Sausalito, California-based, nonprofit rehabilitation and research hospital for seals, sea lions and other marine mammals, broke ground on an \$18 million project to rebuild its 30-year old facility this November. (www.marinemammalcenter.org).

The Georgia Aquarium, a \$200 million 8 million gallon facility in Atlanta opened 23 November (<http://www.georgiaaquarium.org/>).

Upcoming Meetings and Education Opportunities

- | | |
|-----------------------|--|
| 6-10 May 2006 | IAAAM , Dolphin Encounters, Nassau, The Bahamas
(http://www.wyndhamnassauresort.com/).
Fish practitioner workshop on the 11th. |
| 2007 | IAAAM , The Mirage Hotel, Las Vegas, Nevada. |
| 2008 | IAAAM , Rome, Italy. |
| 5 – 7 December 2005 | Seafood and Health 2005 Conference, Seafood Health Alliance,
Washington, DC (http://www.seafoodandhealth.org/). |
| 9 – 10 December 2005 | Crissey Zoological Nutrition Symposium, Raleigh, North Carolina
(http://www.cvm.ncsu.edu/conted/zoonutrition/). Keynote Speaker: Dr.
Ruth Francis Floyd "Lifestyles of Famous Fishes: Better Living through
Natural History" |
| 12 – 16 December 2005 | Society for Marine Mammalogy's 16th Biennial Conference on the
Biology of Marine Mammals. San Diego, California
(http://www.marinemammalogy.org/conference2005/). |
| 17 – 20 March 2006 | European Association of Aquatic Mammals, Oltremare, Riccione, Italy
(see invitation from EAAM, below, www.oltremare.org). |
| 27 -31 March 2006 | Eastern Fish Health Workshop, Charleston, South Carolina
(http://www.lsc.usgs.gov/FHB/workshops/). |
| 14 May – 10 June 2005 | Aquavet I —An Introduction to Aquatic Veterinary Medicine. Woods
Hole, Massachusetts (http://www.aquavet.info). A limited number of
summer research opportunities may be available after the course.
Application deadline 15 January 2006. |
| 14 – 27 May 2005 | Aquavet II —Comparative Pathology of Aquatic Animals. Woods
Hole, Massachusetts (http://www.aquavet.info). A limited number of
summer research opportunities may be available after the course.
Application deadline 15 January 2006. |

Invitation from EAAM

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

The 34th annual conference of the European Association of Aquatic Mammals (EAAM) is scheduled from 17th until 20th of March 2006. Oltremare will host the conference on its premises in Riccione, Italy.

The EAAM is an organization of people interested in marine mammals in human care, in a zoological environment or in the wild, and includes veterinarians, biologists, zoo and marine park directors and managers, trainers (husbandry professionals), researchers, students and other persons who devote a significant amount of time to the welfare of marine mammals through research, medical care, training, education, conservation, management and related activities.

During the conference you can present the results of your work with marine mammals during a fifteen minute presentation or by a poster presentation. All topics related to marine mammal science and husbandry will be acceptable: conservation, education, medicine, practical aspects of husbandry, et cetera. However, for the 34th Symposium, EAAM specially encourages presentations that highlight the benefits science has from the possibility to research marine mammal populations under human care. The deadline for abstract submission is the 23rd of December 2005. An electronic abstract submission form is available on the conference website.

Details on the conference program, the location, the workshop, guest speakers (Dr Sam Ridgway, Dr Joseph Geraci and Professor Guido Dehnhard), hotel reservations, registration and transportation are available on the conference website <http://www.parcoltremare.it/commonfiles/eaam/eaam.php>.

For all your further questions please contact:

Mrs. Rita Tornari
Oltremare Srl
Via Ascoli Piceno 6
47838 Riccione (RN)
Tel. ++ 39 0541-4271
Fax.++ 39 0541-427101

Looking very much forward to meeting you next spring in Riccione!

Niels van Elk
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American College of Zoological Medicine (ACZM) Ultra-short Course

The ACZM Education Committee will sponsor a 1-day ultra-short course in conjunction with the IAAAM Conference in The Bahamas. The ultra-short course is divided into two main sections. The first section is meant to introduce to the attendee to the ACZM, reasons for becoming a Diplomate of the ACZM, how to become eligible to take the ACZM examination, and provide study and test-taking strategy, including a short mock exam. The second section consists of lectures intended to cover specific topics in-depth. Topics will include **“How a fish person can pass the ACZM exam”** by a fish person who has, terrestrial counterparts of familiar aquatic animal diseases, and selected areas of invertebrate, fish, and marine mammal medicine. Instructors will be Ruth Francis-Floyd, Craig Harms, Greg Lewbart, Tom Reidarson, and Andy Stamper. The cost of this course will be approximately \$120 and will include a binder of ACZM information handouts, lecture materials and refreshments. The course will be limited to 25 attendees (minimum 6). Further details on registration and schedule will be posted on the IAAAM and the ACZM web sites. The Ultra short-course is held approximately once per year in conjunction with AAZV, WDA, IAAAM or related organizations.

Congratulations to New ACZM Diplomates!

The American College of Zoological Medicine held its certifying examination 24 – 26 October at White Oak Plantation, Yulee, Florida. New diplomates are Chris Dutton, Lisa Harrenstein*, Kelly Helmick*, Lauren Howard, Terra Kelly, Don Neiffer*, Johanna Sherrill*, Kurt Sladky*, Meg Sutherland-Smith, and Jim Wellehan.

*current or recent IAAAM members

IAAAM Membership Information

<http://www.iaaam.org/memberinfo.htm>

Complete membership information is available at the link above, which includes downloadable new membership/renewal forms to accompany payment.

Membership is available in the following categories:

FULL MEMBER – Persons contributing to the advancement of, or devoting a portion of their professional activities to, aquatic animal medicine practice, research, teaching or management. \$50.00/year, discounted to 40.00/year if paid by 1 July.

STUDENT MEMBER – Students having an interest in veterinary practice, research, husbandry, management or conservation of aquatic animals. Student membership is open to all full-time undergraduate, graduate, veterinary and postdoctoral students enrolled in formal programs at academic and comparable institutions as well as individuals enrolled in full time internships and residencies. \$30.00/year, discounted to 25.00/year if paid by 1 July.

SUSTAINING MEMBER/ ASSOCIATION – Individuals, institutions or associations which make significant financial contributions (\$250 or more) to sustain the IAAAM. (Contact Treasurer for additional information).

LIBRARY/INSTITUTION MEMBER - Libraries and institutions wishing to receive our newsletters and meeting proceedings. \$70.00/year, discounted to 60.00/year if paid by 1 July.

Payment is due by July 1st, each year. If paying by check, be sure to make your check payable to “**IAAAM.**” Please send your completed membership form and payment to:

Tom Reidarson, DVM
SeaWorld of California
500 SeaWorld Drive
San Diego, California 92109
Tom.Reidarson@iaaam.org

The Newsletter of the International Association for Aquatic Animal Medicine is published four times a year (usually in January, April, August, and November). An annual conference is held every year in the spring and electronic 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 RTF (Rich Text Format), or WORD, without complex formatting. For submissions contact Craig Harms, Newsletter Editor, at NCSU CMAST, 303 College Circle, Morehead City, NC 28557, or by phone at 252.222.6339 (office), or by email (Craig.Harms@iaaam.org).

For membership information, including dues payment, and address changes contact Tom Reidarson, 500 SeaWorld Drive, San Diego, CA 92109 7904 or by phone at 619.226.3962 (office) or by email (Tom.Reidarson@iaaam.org).

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