



February 2009 {Vol 40:1}

International Association for Aquatic Animal Medicine

# *The IAAAM News*

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[www.iaaam.org](http://www.iaaam.org)

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## **WHAT'S INSIDE THIS ISSUE**

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### **A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT 2**

### **A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT-ELECT 2**

### **40th ANNUAL IAAAM MEETING AND CONFERENCE 3**

*Call for Abstracts and Workshops 3*

*Announcement for the CL Davis, DVM Foundation 4th Annual Marine Species*

*Histopathology Workshop 4*

*2009 ACZM Ultra-Short Course 5*

*2009 IAAAM Student Workshop 5*

*Call for Student Travel Award Applications 6*

*Conference Registration Form 7*

### **CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENTS 8**

*2009 International Sirenian Conservation Conference 8*

*2009 AAZV Conference 8*

*89th Annual Meeting of the American Society of Mammalogists 8*

### **EMPLOYMENT AND EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES 9**

*Aquatic Animal Health Specialist 9*

*Aquatic Animal, Wildlife & Zoological Medicine Combined Internship Program 10*

*Aquatic - Exotic Animal Medicine Internship 11*

*Summer Student Opportunities in Veterinary Pathology and Conservation 11*

*Postdoctoral Research Associate (PRA) in Ocean Health 12*

*Leader - Aquatic Animal Health and Welfare 13*

### **OTHER NEWS 13**

*Koi Dealer Best Health Practices Certification Program (BHP) 13*

### **RESEARCH NOTES 14**

*Shark Spine Study 14*

### **IAAAM MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION 15**

### **HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS 16**

### **IAAAM EXECUTIVE BOARD 16**

### **IAAAM COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND/OR REPRESENTATIVES 16**

**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.

## **A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT**

It's hard to believe the 40th annual IAAAM meeting in San Antonio is just around the bend. Drs. Craig Harms, Les Dalton, and Steve Osborn are working their magic to make this the best meeting ever but nothing is possible without great talks. Remember, the deadline for abstracts is February 25 and submission couldn't be easier by clicking on your website's abstract submission link.

Two board member positions are being vacated this year. Drs. Julius Tepper and Judy St. Leger are stepping down from the treasurer and membership positions, respectively. A world wide search is now underway to find their replacements, so if you've ever had an interest in serving on the board of the IAAAM, this is your opportunity. Please contact [Dr. Rhonda Patterson](#) who heads the nominations committee (comprised of the past 3 presidents including Drs. Don Stremme and Bill Van Bonn). I can't thank Julie and Judy enough for their outstanding work over their tenure and I, for one, will certainly miss their expertise and energy.

I look forward to seeing you in San Antonio and if I can help you in any way (other than a fool proof bailout plan) please don't hesitate to contact me.

Tom Reidarson, IAAAM President

## **A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT-ELECT**

IAAAM turns 40 in San Antonio, in the same city where IAAAM turned 20. In 1989, Michael Stoskopf presided and Les Dalton was in his second year at SeaWorld San Antonio. In 2009, Tom Reidarson will preside, and well, Les Dalton will be hosting again. Pencil San Antonio in for 2029.

Abstracts are pouring in (even molasses pours), and we've got a great balance so far, with 13% invertebrate, 25% fish, 25% sea turtle, and 37% marine mammal topics, with at least two aquatic bird abstracts waiting in the wings. I eagerly await the flood of abstracts all former program chairs promise will occur at the submission deadline of 25 February.

As of the distribution of this newsletter, meeting and hotel registration will all be accessible from our web site ([www.iaaam.org](http://www.iaaam.org)). The agenda is nearly finalized. The registration desk will open early on Saturday, 2 May, and the Board Meeting will be held throughout the day—members are welcome to attend. The Icebreaker will be Saturday evening. We are privileged to have our scientific sessions open on Sunday morning with a keynote address by Virginia Busch, President of SeaWorld & Busch Gardens Conservation Fund. Sessions will continue through 6 May. There will be extended poster viewing this year to highlight this presentation option. In addition to the formal poster session on Monday afternoon, posters will be displayed from Sunday mid-day through Wednesday mid-day, so you will have ample opportunity to read them at your leisure. We will have a variety of workshop opportunities, starting the day before, and concluding the day after the scientific sessions. These include the C.L. Davis Marine Species Histopathology Workshop organized by Judy St. Leger, and the ACZM Ultrashort Board Review Course organized by Greg Lewbart and Jodie Sherrill, both on Saturday the 2nd of May. Sunday evening there will be the Student Workshop (with pizza) organized by Sarah Poynton and Ashley Linton, the Conundrums Session organized by Mike Briggs (send your conundrums to [mbbriggs@ix.netcom.com](mailto:mbbriggs@ix.netcom.com)), and a Problem Solving workshop led by Mike Walsh. On Thursday 7 May, Carmen Colitz will lead an Aquatic Animal Ophthalmology Workshop. Registration for the ACZM Ultrashort Course and the Ophthalmology Workshop will be posted soon. Our hosts have scheduled ample relaxation time, with Monday late afternoon and evening at the San Antonio Riverwalk, Tuesday afternoon tours of SeaWorld followed by dinner and auction (be sure to bring auction items!), and Wednesday evening reception and Awards Banquet.

Continuing Tom Reidarson's initiative to reduce paper consumption, proceedings will be supplied electronically to all members (CD and on line), with an option to purchase printed proceedings. The Veterinary Information

Network (VIN) will once again be hosting a Cybercafe, and promises to have the entire IAAAM Proceedings Archive mounted to their web site in searchable format (including volume year and page numbers) by the time of the meeting. This will allow us, if we choose, to make our abstracts available to internet search engines like Google Scholar, after a specified period of member-only access, thereby increasing the impact and relevance of IAAAM beyond our annual meeting.

**Important Deadlines:**

Abstract submission	25 February
Last day to join IAAAM for member registration rate	1 March
Last day for early registration	31 March

Craig Harms, IAAAM President-Elect

## **40th ANNUAL IAAAM MEETING AND CONFERENCE**

### **Call for Abstracts and Workshops**

The 40th Annual Conference of the IAAAM will be held in San Antonio Texas, 2 – 7 May 2009, with workshops and board meeting on the 2nd, icebreaker the evening of the 2nd, and scientific sessions starting on the 3rd. Our hosts, Dr. Les Dalton and Dr. Steve Osborn at SeaWorld San Antonio, have planning well in hand, and the conference hotel is ready to take reservations. The central location and favorable hotel rates that Les locked in last year will help stretch those pinched institutional and personal travel funds.

**The deadline for abstract submissions is 25 February 2009**, but there is no need to wait until then to submit your work. Board Member for Communications, Dr. John Jones, has set up an abstract submission form on our web site, and it is ready to receive your submissions now. Your presentations are the core of what makes this an excellent meeting year in and year out. Please submit your works on fish, marine mammals, aquatic invertebrates, aquatic reptiles and amphibians, and aquatic birds, and please carefully follow the formatting instructions that accompany the abstract submission form. Students take note of the travel award instructions elsewhere in this newsletter, and also that in addition to the travel and general oral and poster presentation awards, there is also a special category for best aquatic bird presentation. There are no taxonomic restrictions in the IAAAM! Poster presentations are as welcome as oral presentations.

Loading of archival editions of the IAAAM Proceedings in the Veterinary Information Network (VIN) is expected to be complete in time for this meeting, after which we will have the option to make our archived works available for searching through Google Scholar (after a time delay for the current year Proceedings when access is restricted to members). This has the potential to increase visibility of the organization, add value for individuals making presentations at the meeting, and ensure widespread access of some important information that may not have made it into the literature other than in our proceedings.

The always popular and informative C.L. Davis Pathology Workshop will be held on Saturday the 2nd of May, organized once again by Membership Chair Dr. Judy St. Leger. Past-President Dr. Greg Lewbart will lead an American College of Zoological Medicine Ultra-Short board preparation and review course, also on Saturday. Dr. Mike Briggs has agreed to coordinate a Conundrums Session again, so bring your most confounding cases to stump the chumps. And the Student Careers Workshop will be Sunday evening. There remains room for additional workshops. Please submit your workshop proposals as soon as possible so we can secure meeting room space.

I am looking forward to seeing you in San Antonio.  
Craig Harms, IAAAM President-Elect and Program Chair

## **Announcement for the CL Davis, DVM Foundation 4th Annual Marine Species Histopathology Workshop**

Hilton Hill Country Resort and Spa, San Antonio, TX  
May 2nd, 2009

The 4th Annual CL Davis DVM Foundation Marine Species Histopathology Workshop will be held at the Hilton Hill Country Resort and Spa, San Antonio, TX on Saturday, , May 2nd. The format for this year's conference will be very similar to that of previous years, with a keynote presentation on fungal infections by Dr. Mike Rinaldi on Saturday morning at 8:00am followed by case presentations by conference attendees throughout the rest of the day. Cases this year can consist of marine mammals, birds, reptiles, or fishes.

Dr. Michael G. Rinaldi is perhaps best known for his reverent love affair with the fungi. He is currently Professor of Pathology, Microbiology, Medicine, and Clinical Laboratory Sciences and Director, Fungus Testing Laboratory, Department of Pathology, University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio. He is a dynamic speaker with abundant experience with fungal diseases of marine species. Dr. Rinaldi is most noted for his presentations concerning opportunistic fungal infections. He is often termed "the international missionary for medical mycology".

Registration will cover food and beverages during breaks. Registration is \$75/ participant. (That's a bargain for a full day of entertainment and education!). Please send your registration materials and checks for payment to:

Dr. Judy St. Leger  
SeaWorld  
500 SeaWorld Dr.  
San Diego, CA 92109  
Fax: (619) 226-3951

If paying by check, please make the check payable to "CL Davis DVM Foundation". If paying with a credit card, please fill out the appropriate information on your registration form.

This year we will again be distributing virtual, rather than glass slides for the participant case presentation portion of the conference. All conference participants will receive a DVD containing digital images of representative areas from scanned glass slides of each participant case presentation prior to the conference. Presenters should send in two glass slides from their cases, along with an electronic case summary by February 27th. Electronic case summaries should follow the format from last year. If you are a new presenter or need further clarification on the electronic case submission format, please e-mail [judy.st.leger@seaworld.com](mailto:judy.st.leger@seaworld.com). Presenters at the conference can prepare a PowerPoint presentation of the case or can use the digital slide to present important points of the case.

Two glass microscopic slides and electronic case summaries using the case summary from last year as a template should be submitted NO LATER THAN February 27th, 2009 to the address listed above.

For further information, please contact Dr. Judy St. Leger at (619) 225-4259 or at [judy.st.leger@seaworld.com](mailto:judy.st.leger@seaworld.com). For general information about the IAAAM 2009 conference, you can visit the website at <http://www.iaaam.org/displaycommon.cfm?an=1&subarticlenbr=15>.

**Weblinks:** [Workshop Registration Form](#)

## 2009 ACZM Ultra-Short Course

So you're coming to IAAAM 2009 in San Antonio, Texas...great! Now you've got to figure out just what to do when you're there that is all about mind-blowing, fin-filled learning excitement! Wait! Look no further- Drs. Jodie Sherrill, Greg Lewbart and fellow Diplomates of the American College of Zoological Medicine (ACZM) are thrilled to invite you to the 2009 ACZM Ultra-Short Course on Saturday, May 2, 2009 from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM. Maybe you aren't so sure if you really want to prepare for or eventually take the ACZM Board Exam...fair enough. But, don't chance missing a great day of short lectures on some interesting aquatic subjects taught by some favorite and even funny "wet n' wild" folks (that was a hint). Pinniped eye problems, clinical pathology in marine mammals, invertebrate medicine, as well as, updated aquatic references pertaining to boards study and the mechanics of preparing for the ACZM boards are ALL part of the deal. We'll include a notebook of all the mini-lectures and boards info just for you. Early birds pay \$175, or pay \$195 at the door (what else will you do with your tax return IOU?!). Sign up now either the long way (fill out and mail the registration form in this issue with your payment) or try the NEW short way by going online: [iaaam.org](http://iaaam.org) OR [aczm.org](http://aczm.org) and follow the links for the 2009 Ultra-Short course registration and payment online. See you there!

## 2009 IAAAM Student Workshop

Sunday, May 3, 2009 – 6:30-8:00 PM

At this year's IAAAM student workshop, students will have an opportunity to work through mock veterinary cases. To solve a hypothetical case in which the health of a marine mammal or other aquatic organism is at stake, students will be required to work together as teams to devise a plan that would most likely lead to an optimal outcome.

To prepare for this workshop this year's coordinators, Ashley Linton and Sarah Poynton, need input and ideas. Members are encouraged to submit material which could be used in a mock case. The following are examples of the types of information which would be helpful, however members in all areas of aquatic animal medicine are invited to send in suggestions. Please submit case materials to Lisa Murphy at [murphyjp@vet.upenn.edu](mailto:murphyjp@vet.upenn.edu) no later than Monday, March 9, 2009.

Information a clinician could submit: A case in which a captive or rehabilitating animal is in need of extensive veterinary care. Any information which can be provided will be helpful (diagnostic images, blood parameters, cytology, water quality, diet, patient history/presentation, etc.), along with any knowledge of husbandry/training or management decisions that were made relating to the case.

Information a researcher could submit: A real-life problem that an independent investigator might face. This problem could relate to limited funding, availability of samples, problems encountered with obtaining proper permits, etc. Please explain the obstacles that created the "road-block" for the research and how they were overcome.

Information a pathologist could submit: A case in which the cause of death was difficult to determine. Hopefully teamwork, cooperation, and the input of multiple people contributed to a well-supported diagnosis. Details about the necropsy and how cause of death was ultimately determined will be essential.

The workshop will end with a debriefing session to emphasize the following key points:

- Teamwork and communication skills are essential in the field of aquatic animal medicine. Whether at an aquarium, in a stranding network, performing research in academia, or making legislative decisions, the need to collaborate, exchange ideas, and make cooperative decisions for the good of the animal is essential.
- In aquatic animal medicine, feasibility and practical limitations are critical considerations in both clinical and research endeavors (availability of funds, availability of pharmaceuticals and other materials, availability of time, etc.).
- Flexibility, creativity, and willingness to compromise are essential qualities for success in aquatic animal medicine.

Please contact Lisa Murphy at [murphyjp@vet.upenn.edu](mailto:murphyjp@vet.upenn.edu) no later than Monday, April 20, 2009 if either:

You are a student and would like to participate in this workshop

You are a member who is planning to attend the conference and would like to help the students work through the cases during the workshop

*Food will be provided for all attendees, so please be sure to let us know if you'd like to attend!!*

### **Call for Student Travel Award Applications**

IAAAM Student Travel Awards are intended to defray the cost of travel to the May 2-6, 2009 conference in San Antonio, Texas in order to promote student participation in the professional program, and to further the commitment of the IAAAM to its students. Monies 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. All applications must include the following:

- A cover letter that describes the future plans of the applicant with regard to aquatic animal medicine.
- An abstract of the paper to be presented. This abstract must not exceed 500 words in length. Only abstracts will be considered.
- Curriculum vitae and two (2) letters of recommendation, one of which must be from a current IAAAM member.
- 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.

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 criteria that 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. No awards will 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 complete applications is February 25, 2009.\*\*** Applications received after the deadline will not be considered. Recipients will be contacted by March 25, 2009. Students submitting abstracts for the travel award competition must still separately submit their presentation for inclusion in the conference proceedings. The Secretary/Treasurer of the IAAAM will send checks to the successful applicants.

**\*\*Emailed applications are encouraged though portions, such as letters of recommendation, may still be submitted to Dr. Murphy by regular mail.\*\*** Emailed applications should be sent to: [studenttravel@iaaam.org](mailto:studenttravel@iaaam.org)

Candidates mailing their travel award application materials should send them 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 (for questions only): [murphyjp@vet.upenn.edu](mailto:murphyjp@vet.upenn.edu)

**\*\*Regardless of how they are sent, all application materials are due by February 25, 2009\*\***



**Conference Registration Form**  
**40th Annual IAAAM Conference**  
**SeaWorld San Antonio, Texas**  
**May 2 to May 6, 2009**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Preferred Name for Nametag: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Affiliation/Institution: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Spouse/Significant Other: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Country: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Conference Registration Fees (in USD \$)**

<input type="checkbox"/>	Member (full registration)	\$325.00	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Member's Spouse/Guest	\$215.00	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-Member (full registration)	\$375.00	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-Member Spouse/Guest	\$270.00	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Student (includes proceedings CD, no banquet)	\$140.00	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Student Banquet	\$35.00	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	One Day Fee (conference only)	\$150.00	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Late Fee ( <b>postmarked after 4/1/2009</b> )	\$50.00	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Printed Proceedings	\$35.00	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Conference T-shirt (price –TBD)		_____
	specify T-shirt size (child's L, adult S, M, L, XL) and number		_____
	<b>TOTAL</b>		_____

**Full registration includes:**

Conference proceedings CD (except for spouse/guest)  
 Admittance to all scientific sessions  
 Continental breakfast and coffee breaks  
 Icebreaker reception  
 Afternoon/evening at SeaWorld San Antonio including shows and dinner/auction  
 Buses to San Antonio Riverwalk one evening  
 Awards banquet (a separate ticket is required for students)

**Return completed form by April 1st, 2009 to:**

SeaWorld San Antonio	Phone: 210-523-3633
Attn: Dr. Steve Osborn	Fax: 210-523-3299
10500 SeaWorld Drive	Email: Steve.Osborn@SeaWorld.com
San Antonio, TX 78251-3002	

**Payment:**

Please include either check (payable to IAAAM-SWSA) or pay with credit card through the IAAAM website. All attendees must fill out individual registration forms. **All forms are due by April 1st, 2009. All forms postmarked after April 1st will be assessed a \$50 late fee. No refunds after April 10th, 2009.**

## **CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **2009 International Sirenian Conservation Conference**

The Georgia Aquarium in collaboration with the Harbor Branch Marine Mammal Research and Conservation Program are pleased to announce the 2009 International Sirenian Conservation Conference Call for Abstracts and Registration. This conference will be held in Atlanta, Georgia March 23-24, 2009.

Highlights include:

- Current Field and Laboratory Research, Management Perspectives and Veterinary Aspects of Rehabilitation and Release
- Two student travel awards
- Open to anyone interested in the biology, management and medicine of sirenians

Please refer to the following website for details, forms and registration <http://www.georgiaaquarium.org/sirenian.aspx>

### **2009 AAZV Conference**

The Annual Conference of the American Association of Zoo Veterinarians will be held jointly with the Association of Reptile and Amphibian Veterinarians in Los Angeles, California, USA from October 11-17, 2008. This is the AAZV's 40th Annual Conference.

### **89th Annual Meeting of the American Society of Mammalogists**

The 89th Annual Meeting of the American Society of Mammalogists will be held 24-28 June, 2009 at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. In addition to contributed oral and poster presentations covering all aspects of mammalian biology, this year's program will feature one symposium. "Diverse perspectives on home ranges of mammals" will be convened by Drs. Roger Powell and Michael Mitchell. Special addresses will be offered by the recipients of the Joseph Grinnell (Dr. R. Mark Brigham) and C. Hart Merriam (Dr. Christopher Dickman) awards, as well as by student honorees. Our capstone speaker will be announced at a later date. Also included are the usual ASM socials, ideal for professional interaction. Non-members who are interested in attending the meetings and/or presenting papers should request materials from the Chairpersons of the Local Program Committee, Link Olson ([link.olson@uaf.edu](mailto:link.olson@uaf.edu)) or Kris Hundertmark ([ffkh@uaf.edu](mailto:ffkh@uaf.edu)). For additional information, please visit the ASM website at <http://www.mammalsociety.org>.



## **EMPLOYMENT AND EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES**

### **Aquatic Animal Health Specialist**

The Department of Marine Biology and the Center for Economic and Environmental Development at Roger Williams University's Feinstein College of Arts and Sciences invite applications for the position of Aquatic Animal Health Specialist. This position is as a full-time Visiting Assistant Professor and entails developing a Center for Aquatic Animal Health at Roger Williams University.

The Aquatic Animal Health Center will join an existing shellfish hatchery in a new addition to the Marine and Natural Sciences Building on the Bristol (RI) campus, (expected completion in autumn 2009). The Aquatic Animal Health Center, consisting of this position and a research technician, will provide support services to the university's aquatic animal research groups; will establish an externally funded program of research in the Specialist's area of interest and will provide animal health services to the aquatic animal industry within the region. In addition, the Aquatic Animal Health Specialist will be expected to develop courses at the undergraduate level in support of the biology and aquarium sciences programs. It is expected that the Center will provide opportunities for undergraduate research in the field of aquatic animal health. Other responsibilities will include management of the operations of the Center and supervision of the Research Technician.

#### Qualifications:

A DVM/VMD degree from an accredited veterinary college is required with competency in aquatic animal medicine. Candidates must be qualified to become board certified in Rhode Island. The successful candidate also should have demonstrated research competence with an ability to compete for extramural funding. Preference will be given to candidates with either a MS or Ph.D. in aquatic animal disease research. Evidence of successful teaching experience is preferred. The candidate must possess strong interpersonal skills and have the ability to work with a variety of individuals including faculty, staff, students, producers, regulators, and the general public.

#### Contact Person:

Dr. Dale Leavitt, search committee chair  
[dleavitt@rwu.edu](mailto:dleavitt@rwu.edu)

#### To Apply:

Qualified applicants should submit:

1. a letter of intent including statements of teaching philosophy and research interests;
2. a current vita;
3. names and contact information of at least three references.

All applications should be submitted electronically via email to the chair of the search committee ([dleavitt@rwu.edu](mailto:dleavitt@rwu.edu)) with the following text in the subject line:

**"Aquatic Animal Health Position # FAC09-017; Applicant's Last Name, First Name".**

Review of applications will begin January 15, 2009 and will continue until the position is filled.

#### About Roger Williams University:



Roger Williams University offers an outstanding benefits package and salary commensurate with qualifications, as well as a superb quality of life in a scenic setting. Please visit <http://www.rwu.edu> for more information.

Roger Williams University  
One Old Ferry Road  
Bristol, Rhode Island 02809-2921

Roger Williams University is an Equal Opportunity Employer committed to inclusive excellence and encourages applications from underrepresented populations.

## Aquatic Animal, Wildlife & Zoological Medicine Combined Internship Program

St. Matthew's University, School of Veterinary Medicine and Boatswain's Beach/Cayman Turtle Farm, Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands invites applications for an internship beginning May 4, 2009.

The intern will work under the supervision of faculty members at SMU and will be responsible for working with a wide variety of marine and terrestrial species (30% captive turtles and other reptiles, 30% fish, eels, and elasmobranchs, 30% avian and small mammal, and 10% wildlife). The intern position is a non-degree graduate student program leading to an official University Certificate of Internship in Zoologic Medicine from SMU. Interns are encouraged to attend a veterinary conference, as well as college or university seminars or special lectures throughout the year. They are further encouraged to publish case reports or research papers in veterinary medical journals.

### Responsibilities of this role:

- Participate in the daily activities of the medical service of the park, including primary case responsibility and case rounds with park staff and SMU faculty.
- Report to the Park's Chief Scientific Officer, the Manager of the Turtle Farming unit, the Curator of the Terrestrial and Education Exhibits Unit, and the Curator of the Marine Exhibits Unit, to establish and implement protocols for the proper husbandry and care of the animals.
- Work with the Water Chemist to establish and maintain optimal water quality parameters for the health of the fish and guests.
- Assist in determining research priorities and become involved as necessary in any research projects supported by the facility.
- Determine medication regimes and treatment methods as necessary.
- Establish industry standard record keeping.
- Plan/participate in research and conservation programs related to the goals of the facility.
- Prepare monthly reports for distribution to all relevant managers.
- Train and update husbandry staff in areas of basic medical care to ensure staff comprehension in cases of care for minor incidents.



- Provide assistance in instruction and

- supervision of veterinary students
- Provide emergency care for the animals in the park.

### Requirements/Qualifications:

Veterinary licensure in North America or the United Kingdom. Preference will be given to candidates with experience in a zoo, aquarium or exotic animal medicine OR who have served an academic internship in large or small animal medicine.

### Salary:

\$36,000 CI/yr plus benefits. Intern must register as a graduate student with SMU and pay \$725 US in tuition per semester. Student housing available.

### Application procedure:

A curriculum vitae and 3 letters of reference should be sent to Heather W. Barron, DVM, Dipl. ABVP-avian at [hbarron@smu.ky](mailto:hbarron@smu.ky) by March 1, 2009. Applicants will be informed of decisions by March 4. Position starts May 4, 2009.

## **Aquatic - Exotic Animal Medicine Internship**

The National Aquarium in Baltimore is offering a one year veterinary internship. The collection is approximately 16,000 animals (700 species): invertebrates, fresh and salt water fishes, amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals, including bottlenose dolphins. The intern is integral to all aspects of animal medicine and surgery including daily interaction with husbandry personnel, physical examination and sample collection, diagnosis, routine and emergency medical treatment, radiology, anesthesia, surgery, and clinical pathology. In addition, interns have primary responsibility for daily case management of Marine Animal Rescue Program stranded animals (generally 2-5 seals and 1-3 sea turtles annually). Exceptional communication skills are essential.

### Qualifications/Basic Job Requirements:

Required: Veterinary Degree (DVM, VMD)] from accredited university;

Desired: 1-year clinical veterinary internship in small animal or large animal medicine, demonstrated proficiency in aquatic animal medicine, ability to obtain Maryland veterinary license.

### Job Time Frame:

June 22, 2009 to June 18, 2010

### Application:

Interested applicants should submit a letter of intent, curriculum vitae, school transcript, and three letters of reference to: Dr. Leigh Clayton, Director of Animal Health, National Aquarium in Baltimore, 501 E. Pratt St., Baltimore, MD 21202; phone (410) 576-3853; e-mail [mmartin@aqua.org](mailto:mmartin@aqua.org).

### Deadline:

February 16, 2009

## **Summer Student Opportunities in Veterinary Pathology and Conservation**

SeaWorld has 5 externship openings for the 2009 summer season for self-motivated, energetic, and qualified veterinary and undergraduate college students. These are 10-week positions in San Diego California. Three of these positions are reserved for veterinary students with an interest in pathology. Two positions are open to undergraduates and these focus on topics related to conservation.

The program consists of opportunities in research and conservation with the goal of each student producing a presentation or poster for a major meeting and contributing significantly to a peer-reviewed manuscript.

The program offers opportunities of observing or assisting in gross necropsies of marine mammals, birds, and fish, developing gross descriptive skills, tissue trimming, studying histologic sections, weekly case review, journal club, and research in an individual student project. Students will spend the majority of their time developing and completing a research project. Externs are expected to respond to questions pertaining to assigned readings, lectures, and field experiences. Informal lectures and PowerPoint sessions are presented as time permits.

The externships focus on pathology and conservation; there is no scheduled contact time with the clinical veterinary staff. Unfortunately, we are unable to offer financial support or housing. SeaWorld has a diverse collection focused on marine mammal, bird, and fish species with a strong developing program in conservation. San Diego is a dynamic learning environment with numerous regular lectures in various topics in science, conservation, and medicine.

Applications are accepted up to 15 December. Successful applicants will be notified by 10 January, 2009.

To apply: submit curriculum vitae with current GPA and a letter stating why you wish to participate in this program, career goals and how this externship fits in with future plans along with the names and addresses of 2 references to: Dr. Judy St. Leger; [judy.st.leger@seaworld.com](mailto:judy.st.leger@seaworld.com)

(Internet submissions or inquiries are preferred)

## **Postdoctoral Research Associate (PRA) in Ocean Health**

Hubbs-SeaWorld Research Institute is accepting applications for a Postdoctoral Research Associate in its Ocean Health research program in Melbourne Beach, FL.

Salary Range: \$32,000 – 42,000 (commensurate with qualifications)

**Program Description:** The HSWRI ocean health and marine vertebrate ecology programs are addressing potential impacts of environmental change and human development on marine and coastal wildlife along the eastern central Florida coast and Indian River Lagoon. Species of interest include marine mammals, sea turtles, seabirds and fish, with an eye toward understanding potential links between human health and the state of marine and coastal ecosystems. We seek a veterinarian with an interest in wildlife ecology or ecosystem health and with training or experience in epidemiology, disease ecology or a related discipline.

**Job Summary:** The successful candidate will work under the direct supervision of two HSWRI senior scientists, one of which is an aquatic animal veterinarian. The position will involve interdisciplinary research in wildlife ecology and epidemiology of infectious and non-infectious diseases, including the evaluation of multi-decadal and multi-disciplinary databases on the ecology and health of marine and coastal animal populations along the eastern central Florida coast and Indian River Lagoon. The Postdoctoral Research Associate is encouraged to work with HSWRI collaborators to identify and obtain funding for the continuation and growth of the program through extramural grant or contract awards and philanthropic donations. Therefore the candidate must be able to work effectively with HSWRI senior science staff, administrative officers (including development directors) and funding agencies. Production of at least one collaborative manuscript suitable for peer-reviewed publication, related to work done at HSWRI, and presentation of findings in an HSWRI seminar are expected. Limited clinical oversight of experimental animals (fish) is expected, and the candidate will become a member of the HSWRI Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee.

### **Required Skills/Experience:**

- DVM or equivalent degree.
- Demonstrated research experience is required.

- An MS or PhD in epidemiology, disease ecology or related discipline is desired.
- A demonstrated track record in publication of research results will be viewed favorably.
- The position is highly collaborative, and the ability to work cooperatively is required.
- Excellent written and spoken English and communication skills are required.

Working conditions are highly variable and include: working at a computer conducting detailed data entry and analysis, literature review and writing; working at a laboratory bench processing and analyzing samples; field work involving some heavy lifting (up to 50 pounds) and other hard physical work outdoors in all types of weather and terrain; some travel (e.g., among office and field sites within Florida); work aboard small vessels and fixed-wing aircraft; interaction with the public; some work on holidays, weekends and after business hours.

### **Application Materials and Contact Information:**

Please send curriculum vitae, the names and telephone numbers of three references, a description of research and clinical experience and interests and a brief comment on research that you would like to pursue at HSWRI (one or two short paragraphs). Proposed research should take the form of participating in and contributing to an existing multidisciplinary HSWRI project, or developing a new project that connects HSWRI expertise in new ways.

Send application materials to:

***Postdoctoral Research Associate – Ocean Health,  
Hubbs-SeaWorld Research Institute,  
2595 Ingraham Street, San Diego, CA 92109.***

Application materials may be submitted electronically to: [hr@hswri.org](mailto:hr@hswri.org) (please type 'Postdoctoral Research Associate – Ocean Health' in the subject line).

Appointments are initially for one year; one-year extensions will be considered on a case-by-case basis. The successful candidate will receive full employee benefits from HSWRI and the salary is subject to tax. The comprehensive benefits package at HSWRI includes medical, dental and vision coverage; FSA account (medical and dependent care reimbursements); 403B program; paid vacation and holidays.

**Hubbs-SeaWorld Research Institute is an Equal  
Opportunity Employer.**

## Leader - Aquatic Animal Health and Welfare



**Leader – Aquatic Animal Health and Welfare**

- **Exciting New Role**
- **PhD in Veterinary Science or Equivalent**

Our client, SARDI as a division of Primary Industries and Resources South Australia working in conjunction with its partners the University of Adelaide, Flinders University, SA Museum and the SA Seafood Industry comprising Marine Innovation SA (MISA), has established an exciting new position in the field of Aquatic Animal Health and Welfare. This key role provides an opportunity to establish further association with the new Veterinary Sciences School (VSS) of the University of Adelaide.

This position carries responsibility for developing, coordinating, conducting and leading research projects, acting as a role model to research scientists, other staff and students, and in establishing close working relationships with Aquaculture industries, relevant Government agencies, research providers and other SARDI science program areas. The successful candidate will be involved in the development of a new biocontainment facility and the role requires a mix of high-level specialist science/research capability, management and communication skills and expert knowledge of matters relating to Aquatic Animal Health and Welfare.

*Please forward your application as a Microsoft Word document to [111-3421@stillwellmanagement.com.au](mailto:111-3421@stillwellmanagement.com.au) quoting your name and the position title in the subject heading. Telephone enquiries to Beth Clise are welcome.*

**SARDI**  
SOUTH AUSTRALIAN  
RESEARCH AND  
DEVELOPMENT  
INSTITUTE

**MISA**  
marine innovation SA

**GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA**

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## OTHER NEWS

### Koi Dealer Best Health Practices Certification Program (BHP)

Spike Cover, Associated Koi Clubs of America, Mission Viejo, CA,

BHP is the acronym given to a new initiative aimed at helping control the spread of Koi herpesvirus (KHV) within the US. The sponsoring and managing organization for this effort is Project KHV, a charitable committee formed in 2004 by the Associated Koi Clubs of America, a nation-wide umbrella group of over 100 Koi clubs.

For more information, visit the website at <http://www.akcaprojectkhv.org/>. The program will also be highlighted in a presentation at the upcoming 40th Annual Meeting of the IAAAM.



## RESEARCH NOTES

### Shark Spine Study

Ilze Berzins and Paul Anderson, The Florida Aquarium Center for Conservation

As you know, spinal deformities have long been a prevalent problem among captive sandtiger sharks (*Carcharias taurus*). Long term studies conducted by The Florida Aquarium and colleagues have estimated that a minimum of 33% of sharks in captivity are affected. To date, we still don't know the causative factor(s) behind this disease.

The Florida Aquarium's Center for Conservation and collaborators are expanding on previous preliminary work. The Shark Spine Study has the generous support of the AZA's Conservation Endowment Fund, the Disney Worldwide Conservation Fund, the Spurlino Foundation, and the Bernice Barbour Foundation. We are asking for your participation in the study by sharing data and samples from your collection of sandtiger sharks, both healthy and affected. Additionally, if time and resources permit, we are requesting information from any/all of the following species, healthy or affected:

Blacktip Reef Shark	( <i>Carcharhinus melonopterus</i> )
Sandbar Shark	( <i>Carcharhinus plumbeus</i> )
Whitetip Reef Shark	( <i>Triaenodon obesus</i> )
Chain Dogfish	( <i>Scyliorhinus retifer</i> )
Bonnethead	( <i>Sphyrna tiburo</i> )
Leopard Shark	( <i>Triakis semifasciata</i> )
Nurse Shark	( <i>Ginglymostoma cirratum</i> )
Bambooshark	( <i>Chiloscyllium plagiosum</i> )

In addition to making statistical comparisons among healthy and affected sandtiger sharks, we believe that making statistical comparisons among species will also elucidate potential etiologies.

The Shark Spine Study has been developed in three stages that occur across the clinical timeline of resident sharks.

**Stage I**, the survey, can be completed at any time by husbandry personnel. It includes only observational data collection.

**Stage II** can be completed when annual health exams of sharks are scheduled, or otherwise at any time, but prior to euthanasia. Stage II requires veterinary coordination as radiography, phlebotomy, and hematological processing are requested.

**Stage III** should be completed when a shark is scheduled for euthanasia, or otherwise immediately upon the death of a resident shark. Stage III requests tissue and data samples that can be completed during the course of necropsy. Any animal submitted to Stage II and/or III protocols should have ideally completed all the stages prior.

Your participation will be acknowledged in all publications and presentations that arise from your contributed data, and will help the international aquarium community improve husbandry practices that, in turn, may eliminate this condition among captive sandtiger sharks in the future.

If you'd like to participate, or if you have any questions, please reply directly to Paul Anderson, Conservation and Research Coordinator of The Florida Aquarium Center for Conservation, at [panderson@flaquarium.org](mailto:panderson@flaquarium.org). Thanks so much for your consideration.



## **IAAAM MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION**

Complete membership information is available <http://www.iaaam.org> under the membership link, which includes online or 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 SUBSCRIPTION** - Libraries and institutions wishing to receive our meeting proceedings.

*\$70.00/year, discounted to 60.00/year if paid by 1 July.*

**LIFE MEMBER** - Upon professional retirement, full members in good standing for a minimum of 10 consecutive years of active membership may be afforded life membership by the Executive Committee upon petition by the member.

**HONORARY LIFE MEMBER** - Individuals who have made an outstanding contribution to the promotion of aquatic animal medical science and the objectives of the Association.

Payment is due by July 1st, each year. March 1st is the last day to pay and still get the member conference registration rate. If paying by check, be sure to make your check payable to "IAAAM."

Please send your completed membership form and payment to:

Judy St. Leger, DVM  
SeaWorld of California  
500 SeaWorld Drive  
San Diego, California 92109

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 John C. Jones, Newsletter Editor, at admin@iaaam.org.

For membership information, including dues payment, and address changes contact Judy St. Leger at judy.st.leger@seaworld.com.

## **IAAAM EXECUTIVE BOARD**

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Ted Hammond  
Sam Ridgway  
William Medway\*

\*deceased

## **IAAAM COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND/OR REPRESENTATIVES**

### **IAAAM Nominations and Awards**

Don Stremme (IAAAMdws@aol.com)

### **IAAAM Site Selection**

Sam Dover (sdoverdvm@cox.net)

### **IAAAM Student Liaison**

Lisa Murphy (murphylp@vet.upenn.edu)

### **Student Endowment Oversight Committee**

Tracy Romano (tromano@MysticAquarium.org)