



International Association for Aquatic Animal Medicine

IAAAM News

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT:

Greetings. As summer gives way to autumn, I hope everyone is doing well.

The IAAAM board is working hard getting ready for the 2019 conference in Durban, South Africa. We are also still working on South Africa travel packages and a link to those will be provided soon.

As you may have noticed, the call for abstracts was announced October 1st ... earlier this year to allow for the abstract review process that was initiated in 2018. The deadline for abstract submission is December 1st and final abstract decisions will be made by February 1st. Email blasts will be sent as reminders. I personally look forward to reviewing abstracts and feel confident that the review process will help create another excellent scientific program in 2019. So please get to work on those abstracts!

I am also happy to announce that we have a site for IAAAM 2020. The Florida Keys (host facility and conference 2020 details to come). The Florida Keys are a U.S. coral archipelago, the only contiguous barrier reef in the continental United States, and the third largest barrier reef system in the world. And that's just on the ocean side. On the gulf side, Florida bay collects water draining from the 'river of grass' to the north, otherwise known as The Everglades. Once considered a 'useless swamp' to be drained for agriculture and development, the Everglades is one of a kind ... a 1.5 million-acre aquatic ecosystem, the largest tropical wilderness in the United States, and home to thirty six protected species including the Florida panther, American crocodile, and west Indian manatee, along with 350 species of birds, 300 species of fish, 40 species of mammals, and 50 species of reptiles (yes, wikipedia). Everglades National Park was the first national park created to protect a fragile ecosystem, dedicated in 1947, and now the third-largest national park in the contiguous United States (yes, that's twice I used the word, contiguous) but still a political/environmental nightmare. We should have lots to talk about in 2020.

With that, I will close with an appropriate quote from Marjory Stoneman Douglas (1890-1998), an environmentalist, journalist, conservationist and vocal advocate for the Everglades (and whose name is now also unfortunately forever linked to the shooting at the high school in Parkland, Florida that bears her name). Too bad she is not still with us today to help with our endless conservation efforts.

"Don't think it is enough to attend meetings and sit like a lump. It is better to address envelopes than to attend foolish meetings. It is better to study than act too quickly; but it is best to be ready to act intelligently when the appropriate opportunity arises. Speak up. Learn to talk clearly and forcefully in public. Speak simply and not too long at a time, without over-emotion, always from sound preparation and knowledge. Be a nuisance where it counts, but don't be a bore at any time. Do your part to inform and stimulate the public to join your action. Be depressed, discouraged and disappointed at failure and the disheartening effects of ignorance, greed, corruption and bad politics – but never give up".

Regards.

Michael S. Renner DVM
IAAAM President

IAAAM CONFERENCE 2019:

On behalf of the International Association for Aquatic Animal Medicine (IAAAM), and the 2019 host, uShaka Sea World, we invite you to save the date for the 50th Annual Meeting & Conference. The 2019 event will be held May 18 - 22 at the Tsogo Sun Elangani Maharani. Hotel reservation and conference registration details are still being planned and will be posted to www.iaaam.org once finalized.

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

We are now collecting abstract submissions for presentations and posters. **The deadline for submission is December 1, 2018.** Complete details including formatting instructions, sample abstract, and online submission portal can be found at www.iaaam.org. **Please note that the deadline will NOT be extended.**

PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOP REQUEST

The Conference Planning Committee is now collecting requests for pre-conference workshops. If you would like to put on a workshop, please download the IAAAM Workshop Request Form from www.iaaam.org and send to the contact provided no later than **January 2, 2019**. Approved workshops will be announced at the end of January.

CALL FOR 2019 IAAAM MEDWAY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM APPLICATIONS:

The International Association for Aquatic Animal Medicine (IAAAM) recognizes a continuing need for the funding of research projects focused on aquatic animal medicine. IAAAM also recognizes the value and importance for students to gain solid scientific research training. To help fill these needs and to further promote involvement of students in aquatic animal medicine, the IAAAM has established the Medway Scholarship Program designed to support research experiences for students interested in pursuing careers in aquatic animal medicine.

The program is primarily intended for undergraduate, veterinary, and graduate students without stipends or other sources of funding. The purpose of the scholarship is to partially support the student for research experiences beyond that which they might experience with normal undergraduate classwork or a graduate/veterinary curriculum.

Objectives

- Provide students with exposure to sound research practices in the field of aquatic animal medicine beyond what is normally included as part of the undergraduate or graduate/veterinary curriculum.
- Encourage students to pursue post-graduate careers incorporating research in aquatic animal medicine.
- Encourage student participation in the IAAAM.

Program Description:

The IAAAM Medway Scholarship Program provides scholarships of up to \$3,000 each to students who have been accepted to participate in a research project organized and funded by government, academic, private entities, a combination there of, or by private consulting veterinarians in the aquatic medicine field. The sponsoring entity or individual must provide the student with at least a 10 to 12-week working exposure to research focused on aquatic animal medicine and must involve direct interaction with a current IAAAM member in good standing. Funding for the research activity must be provided by the sponsoring entity or individual. Scholarship awards are intended to support the student's personal expenses while participating in the funded research. Scholarship recipients will be required to present their research findings at a future IAAAM conference, and will still be eligible for other IAAAM student awards.

Factors that are considered in selecting the scholarship recipient are briefly described below. They are not listed in any particular order of importance but are included to assist the applicant in preparing the application form and letter.

- Commitment of the applicant to a career in aquatic animal medicine as reflected in the applicant's letter of intent and curriculum vitae (CV).
- Applicant's grade point average/class rank.
- Quality, scientific merit, and duration of intended research. Applicants are encouraged to select research projects with established funding sources, clearly defined aims, and project timelines that will enable the student to complete the research during the allotted time period. Applicants are encouraged to pursue research activities at institutions with proven or established aquatic animal research programs. Project summaries detailing the planned research, aims, importance, methods, and funding sources will be judged for each applicant. Projects for which the budgeted work has already been completed are not eligible for consideration.
- Two (2) current letters of recommendation, one of which must come from a member in good standing of IAAAM.
- Financial needs of the student in addition to other available funding such as that provided by the institution providing the research opportunity.
- Previous recipients of the award are encouraged to apply, however priority will be given to those who have not previously received the scholarship.
- Application Submission Deadline: April 01, 2019. Please submit completed applications to:

Dr. Allison D. Tuttle, IAAAM Education Board Member
c/o Mystic Aquarium
55 Coogan Blvd
Mystic, CT 06355
Email: atuttle@mysticaquarium.org

- Submissions can be sent either by mail or electronically, though **electronic is preferred**. Electronic submissions should be in **pdf format**. All materials must be received by **April 01, 2019**.
- Winners will be notified by May 2019 and recognized during the 2019 IAAAM Conference.

Application requirements:

- Application form (download from IAAAM website: www.iaaam.org)
- Letter of intent detailing applicant's career goals and goals for the research activity.
- Two (2) letters of recommendation, one of which must come from a member in good standing of IAAAM
- Student's curriculum vitae (should include any other research experience with citations)
- Official school transcripts for currently enrolled institution only
- Letter of agreement from the principle investigator at the sponsoring institution, identifying the location and duration of the research project and its expected funding source(s)
- Student budget of estimated expenses (e.g. transportation, rent, meals) separate from direct research related expenses.

Project Summary completed by student applicant: (3-page limit; single spaced; ¼-inch margins; 11-point Times, Times New Roman or Arial font). Failure to adhere to these guidelines will result in disqualification.

Project Summary should include:

- Brief project abstract/overview
- Project aims/hypotheses
- Justification and literature review
- Materials and methods
- Significance to the field of aquatic animal medicine/health
- Research budget – including direct and indirect funding sources
- Research time table
- Student's role in the project
- Mentor's qualifications

If live animals (including client/private-owned animals) are used in any way in the project, the mentoring researcher must provide assurance that the planned research project has or will obtain full Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) approval.

IAAAM Student Travel Award Call 2019:

The IAAAM Executive Board will again be granting monetary awards to students planning to deliver **ORAL** presentations at the annual IAAAM conference in May 2019. The awards are intended to defray the cost of travel to the May 18-22 conference in Durban, South Africa 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/fellows, and postdocs are eligible. The requirements for all applicants include the following:

A cover letter that describes the future plans of the applicant with regard to aquatic animal medicine.

1. An abstract of the paper to be presented. This abstract must not exceed 500 words in length. Only abstracts will be considered. Abstracts must follow guidelines available on the IAAAM website: www.iaaam.org.
2. Curriculum vitae and two (2) letters of recommendation, one of which must be from an active member of the IAAAM.
3. 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.
4. Student presenters must be an active member (with dues paid up-to-date) of the IAAAM, **OR** the student must provide a third, separate letter from the student's institution verifying student, intern/resident/fellow, or postdoc status. Students are highly encouraged to become active members of the IAAAM prior to submitting application. Student members are entitled to a lower conference registration rate than non-members.

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. 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 residents) will not be offered. There is one travel award designated for a deserving international applicant.

****The deadline for receipt of complete application packets will be December 01, 2018.****

Applications received after the deadline will not be considered. Recipients will be contacted by January 15, 2019. **Students submitting abstracts for the travel award competition must still separately submit their presentation abstract for acceptance into the conference proceedings.** The IAAAM Treasurer will be notified and will send checks to the successful applicants.

****Emailed applications will be accepted and are highly encouraged, though portions, such as letters of recommendation, may still be submitted by regular mail.****

Emailed applications should be sent to: studenttravel@iaaam.org

Mailed travel award application materials should be sent to the following address:

Ashley K. McGrew, DVM, PhD, Diplomate ACVM (Parasitology)
 Colorado State University
 1644 Campus Delivery
 Fort Collins, CO 80523-1644
 (970) 297-5416 for telephone inquiries related to travel awards
 Email (for questions not application materials): ashley.mcgrew@colostate.edu

****Regardless of how they are sent, all application materials are due by December 01, 2018!**

The following judgment criteria will be used to evaluate applications submitted for the 2019 IAAAM student awards:

Category	Points	Total
Abstract (500 words or less)		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	
Cover Letter		15
Definition of long term goals	15	
Curriculum Vitae		15
Commitment to aquatic animal medicine	15	
Letters of Recommendation		15
Budget		5
Realistic and justified	5	
TOTAL POINTS		100

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

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 available on line at www.iaaam.org to all current members. 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 WORD, without complex formatting. For submissions contact Michael Briggs, Newsletter Editor, at mbbriggs@ix.netcom.com.

For membership information, including address changes, contact Hendrik Nollens
Hendrik.Nollens@SeaWorld.com

For dues information, contact Tonya Clauss, tclauss@georgiaaquarium.org

IAAAM EXECUTIVE BOARD

President: Michael Renner
(rennervet@gmail.com)

President-Elect: Katie Colegrove
(katie.colegrove@gmail.com)

Past-President Martin Haulena
(martin.haulena@vanaqua.org)

Treasurer: Tonya Clauss
(tclauss@georgiaaquarium.org)

Secretary: Todd Robeck
(todd.robeck@seaworld.com)

Board – Membership: Hendrik Nollens
(Hendrik.Nollens@SeaWorld.com)

Board – Communications: Michael Briggs
(mbbriggs@ix.netcom.com)

Board – Education: Allison Tuttle
(atuttle@mysticaquarium.org)

IAAAM COMMITTEE CHAIRS

IAAAM Nominations and Awards:
Pam Tuomi (pamt@alaskasealife.org)

IAAAM Site Selection:
Sam Dover (sdoverdvm@cox.net)

IAAAM Student Liaison:
Ashley McGrew (ashley.mcgreg@colostate.edu)

IAAAM Conservation Committee
Nina Young (orcasconsulting@msn.com)

HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS

Don Abt	Deke Beusse*	Lanny Cornell
Lawrence Dunn	Joe Geraci*	Jack Gratzek
Ted Hammond*	Dave Huff	James McBain
Sam Ridgway	Jesse White*	Bob Wright*
Jay Hyman	William Medway*	

* deceased