



International Association for Aquatic Animal Medicine

IAAAM News

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MESSAGE FROM THE COMMUNICATIONS BOARD MEMBER

Just a quick note to say Happy 2021! I hope this year brings you many positive happenings after such a difficult 2020. Despite the very tough decision to continue with a virtual conference this year, the Board is working on several new ideas to help make it more exciting and engaging than it already was in 2020. We are also working to improve our social media presence, so be on the look out for details regarding new Facebook and Instagram pages! Please also continue to send me any news that you would like shared in the newsletter, or any members that you think we should highlight.

Julie M Cavin, DVM
Communications Board Member

STUDENT SECTION ON IAAAM WEBSITE

The Student Liaison Committee of IAAAM is excited to announce that the student section of the website is soon to be refreshed. An updated version of the 'How do I get into aquatic animal medicine' page and a list of the educational programs (courses, externships, internships, residencies) pertaining to aquatic animal medicine that are available will be included. Any IAAAM members who have aquatic animal medicine or research programs for students that are not listed on the website are encouraged to reach out to Dr. Tuttle (atuttle@mysticaquarium.org) so these programs can be included. Student feedback on the new pages is also welcome at any time and can be directed to Dr. Tuttle as well.

2021 ANNUAL IAAAM CONFERENCE INFORMATION

To All IAAAM Members, Partners and Friends – Due to the ongoing impacts of the COVID 19 pandemic, the IAAAM board has made the difficult decision to shift the 2021 IAAAM Conference to a virtual experience. The event will still be planned for a time frame of May 22-26. Please watch for further information including draft agenda, registration, and sponsorship opportunities via email blasts, the IAAAM website and newsletter, and social media platforms!

2021 UPDATE ON STUDENT TRAVEL AWARDS

This year, twelve applications were received for the IAAAM Student Travel Awards. Despite the conference moving online, the Student Travel Award applications submitted by the deadline will be still be evaluated. In lieu of the traditional travel award, chosen students will receive complimentary registration for the upcoming conference and a small stipend.

We would like to extend our gratitude and appreciation to the members of the Student Liaison Committee for their time and dedication to this student-opportunity, and to all the members of IAAAM for their ongoing support of our students!

CALL FOR 2021 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 thereof, 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 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, 2021.** 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, 2021**.
- Winners will be notified by May 2021 and recognized during the 2021 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/privately-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.

MEMBERSHIP DUES REMINDER

The IAAAM is now accepting dues for the 2021 membership year. Dues remain the same as last year (\$85 for full members, \$45 for student members) and include membership through December 31, 2021. Don't forget that being a member of IAAAM includes a discount for conference registration as well as access to other member services. Membership renewal by March 31, 2021 is required for discounted conference registration.

EDUCATION AND CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

See IAAAM Website for complete details and updated list of opportunities

1. **VETERINARIAN – DOLPHIN CONNECTION**

Dolphin Connection is a dolphin encounter facility located in the Hawk's Cay Resort in Duck Key, Florida. Dolphin Connection was established in 1990 and became a member of the Dolphin Company in September 2018 which also includes Gulf World in Panama City Beach, FL and Marineland in St. Augustine, FL.

SUMMARY:

The veterinarian is responsible for the daily health management of the bottlenose dolphins at Dolphin Connection at Hawks Cay Resort, Duck Key, Florida. As with many very small businesses, the veterinarian will also be requested to assist with other tasks requested by the on-site Manager during times when no health management duties are required. This may include reservations, guest check-in, general maintenance or photography.

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 online at www.iaaam.org. 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 Julie Cavin, Newsletter Editor, at drcavin@gulfworldmarinepark.com

For membership information, including address changes, contact Hendrik Nollens at hnollens@pacificmmc.org

For dues information, contact Alexa Delaune (adelaune@msaquarium.org)

IAAAM EXECUTIVE BOARD

President: Michael Briggs (mbbriggs@ix.netcom.com)

President-Elect: Tonya Clauss (tcclauss@georgiaaquarium.org)

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

Treasurer: Alexa Delaune (adelaune@msaquarium.org)

Secretary: Cara Field (cara.field@gmail.com)

Board – Membership: Hendrik Nollens (hnollens@pacificmmc.org)

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

Board – Communications: Julie Cavin (drcavin@gulfworldmarinepark.com)

IAAAM COMMITTEE CHAIRS

IAAAM Student Liaison:

Ashley McGrew (Ashley.mcgreg@colostate.edu)

Medway Endowment Committee:

Allison Tuttle (mysticaaquarium.org)

Site Selection Committee:

Sam Dover (sdoverdvm@cox.net)

Nominations & Awards Committee:

Marty Haulena (martin.haulena@vanaqua.org)

International Relations Committee:

Sarah Churgin (international_relations@iaaam.org)

Conservation Committee:

Joe Gaydos (conservation@iaaam.org)

HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS

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Deke Beusse*

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Jack Gratzek

Ted Hammond*

Dave Huff

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