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Take Full Advantage of Social Media from the IVMA!

Crank up your clinic's social media! Share, retweet or repost any of the content the IVMA posts on Facebook and Twitter or on www.invma.org on your clinics' social media.

All info shared on these sites is for our members to help in sharing news and gaining social media presence.

If you haven't already, "like" us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter—@IVMA1.

Dr. Andy Roark Headlines Annual Meeting

Plans for the IVMA Annual Meeting, set for February 4-7, 2016, are complete and program information will be in your mailboxes in mid-November. The IVMA General Session on Friday, February 5, 2016, will feature Dr. Andy Roark. His session is titled "Conflict and Comedy: Lessons from Improv for the Clinic". He will also deliver two sessions later on Friday that include "Improvising with the Angry Client". These sessions are generously sponsored by Merial. Other fun events include the Beer Garden Event which kicks off the Exhibit Hall activities on Thursday evening, February 4, 2016. This event is generously sponsored by Midwest Veterinary Supply. The popular Family Game and Casino Night will be held on Saturday night, February 6, 2016 and is brought to you by Elanco. The IVMA Continuing Education Committee has assembled a terrific program. See the full schedule of scientific speakers on Page 10.

IVMA Reps Attend Economic Summit

IVMA leadership was part of a handful of veterinary medical associations that attended the 3rd AVMA Economic Summit on October 20, 2015, in Chicago. The one-day summit showcased research conducted in 2015 by both the AVMA and outside economists.

The good news from the Summit is that the veterinary profession is improving, but it still has a ways to go. Specifically, veterinary salaries are at an average of \$70,000. Unemployment is about 4% - the number of applicants to available jobs has dropped to 1.5:1. And, the debt-to-income ratio of graduating veterinary students is hovering around 2:1.

Presenters throughout the day provided significant data on the following:

- *the market for veterinary medical education
- *the market for veterinarians
- *the market for veterinary services

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President's Message



Economics. The "dismal science," it's called. Veterinarians often look at economics as a part of our lives that we wish wasn't, but is, and seems to slow us down from what we would rather be doing. We'll learn enough about it to keep our practices afloat, but no more.

Increasingly, it seems, we look at our professional associations to help us understand the economic issues we face and fight for us collectively in the face of increasing economic challenges. And that's a good thing. When I've had the opportunity to speak to groups of veterinary students and my practitioner colleagues, I say that, if there was ever a time we need to speak with a unified voice, it's now. Our profession has weathered a lot of storms, but some of them seem fiercer these days.

To its credit, the American Veterinary Medical Association has now held three annual Economic Summits near Chicago. Along with our Executive Director, Lisa Perius, Dr. Jim Weisman and Purdue third-year student Shea Rolf, I was able to attend the meeting this October. There were more graphs than I think I've ever seen, and the lines (usually going in four different directions) seem to converge at a point that (aha!) tells us something.

Continued on the next page.....

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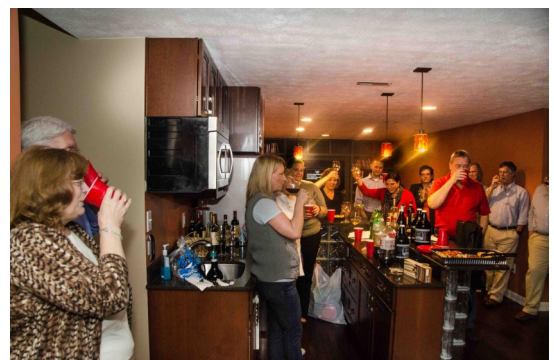
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District XV: Dr. Jason Huff

IVMA Recognizes Executive Director Lisa Perius for 20 Years of Service



President's Message—Continued.....

I couldn't always tell you what the "something" was, but issues like the market for veterinary students and the job market for new graduates, the current needs for veterinary services, and the mounting levels of student debt were addressed. The fact remains that economics always drive change, and our profession has shown great flexibility as we cope with evolving economic circumstances. It was good information, and will help IVMA and other associations partner with our members to help us all flourish.

Yes, there's a lot of science to digest--albeit "dismal!"--and ours is a scientific profession. But the things that weren't in the graphs sparked my interest more. These were the reports of what our colleagues are doing in their practices, *novel* things, throughout the profession, to make themselves stand out. Some are brilliant in the creative details they have implemented. I scribbled down many fresh and insightful ideas. These veterinarians are real artists. And we all know that, at its heart, veterinary medicine is as much an art as a science. Really, we're *all* artists. We are "in practice" because our careers are spent honing the art of veterinary medicine as we continually apply new empirical science. Veterinarians do our science in the context of relationship with living, breathing beings, two- and four-legged, and relationships are inherently artistic endeavors.

I've now gotten the opportunity to visit several of our local districts in Indiana, from Fort Wayne to Evansville to Columbus to Terre Haute, Lafayette, and Kokomo, and am impressed with the vibrancy of these communities of professionals. It's inspiring to hear how others are performing the art of veterinary medicine in their own ways. And it will be wonderful to have us all come back together in Indianapolis this February for the Annual Meeting. Thanks to a hard-driving team of our colleagues on the Continuing Education and Annual Meeting committees, we have one of the best scientific programs I can remember. As a special bonus, our General Session speaker is Dr. Andrew Roark, who will address the art of practice, to include dealing with the living beings that may be breathing more fire than air. Dr. Roark is bi-vocational, both a veterinarian and a professional stand-up comic (two entirely complementary professions, in my opinion). We've gotten him to agree to do an afternoon of CE on perfecting the art of dealing with angry clients, so don't miss out.

Veterinary medicine is an art. But I would be derelict if I failed to mention the contributions of an artist who has served our profession in Indiana without a veterinary degree. In fact, she even graduated from that "artsy school" in Bloomington. Lisa Perius celebrates twenty years as the Executive Director of IVMA this year. Under her leadership, we have seen the association blossom into the creative engine for development of new leaders, for a strong voice legislatively, and for increased public awareness of the vital role of veterinarians in Indiana. As I've traveled to meetings across the country, when recommendations from speakers are made for "new ways of doing things," we always seem to be able to say that Indiana is *already doing* them. Lisa keeps Indiana on the leading edge, and veterinarians, clients and patients here have benefited because of her efforts over the past twenty years. She is gifted at her job and, like most great artists, makes it look easy.

We had a chance to throw a little celebration together on October 24th, with past presidents and current board and committee members in attendance, to honor Lisa. It was a surprise (that was no mean feat to pull off, by the way), and everyone, ranging from members of the original committee that hired her twenty years ago to young veterinarians who have been brought into IVMA leadership by her work, could share memories and gratitude for her service. Lourdes Syndram, who faithfully assists Lisa in the IVMA office, played a great role in the planning of the event, as did IVMA Vice President, Maria Cooper. (My wife, Rebecca, should get a special commendation as well...she was an integral part of it all, decorating and hosting in addition to all the ways she just generally puts up with me.) We had an Italian theme, since Lisa will travel with her husband and sons to Italy next summer, and many cheerfully offered contributions to help defray expenses for the trip. It was conditional...she has to return to work afterwards! If you have a chance and haven't done so, do offer your own thanks to Lisa for what she has accomplished for us and with us these last twenty years.

As much as Lisa does, she will be the first to say that she is part of a team, and that's true. I marvel at the number of dedicated veterinarians that serve in some way with IVMA. Pretty regular people (to the degree that anyone with a DVM can be considered "regular"), with some desire to leave the veterinary professional little better than they found it. In the process, these doctors have grown in some way, and often had a lot of fun, making life-long friendships with colleagues. But there is always a need to have new practitioners of the art of veterinary medicine get involved, wither "micro-involvement" or in a more extensive way. Most of us don't just volunteer, so I encourage you to personally invite someone to join you in some increased involvement in IVMA. I only hope you will find it half as fulfilling as I have.

Dr. Jerry Risser, IVMA President

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IVMA “One Welfare” Initiative



The Unwanted Horse

Animal Welfare Committee

These articles are written and provided as an education resource by members of the IVMA Animal Welfare Committee. The collective body of articles can be found at www.invma.org.

Horses and their owners come in all shapes and sizes. For example, there are professionals who make their livings with horses. Their horses are usually specifically bred for the discipline of interest and they are capable of dealing with the idiosyncrasies of the breed. Also, there are horse-crazy little girls who dream of owning a magnificent horse like the black stallion. They typically do not have the skills required to deal with the horse of their dreams. Additionally, there are people who just like to see a horse in the pasture when they look out the back window. While these horses might have fairly low expectations for performance, their personalities will determine if they are a good fit for the low-involvement owner.

Few laws dictate the specifics of minimum care for horses, but general principles can apply. There are laws regarding neglect of animals that may apply if minimal care is not provided. Basic nutrition needs must be met. This means providing water and access to hay or pasture. Shelter needs vary widely by climate and season. Ideally, in cold weather, horses need to be dry and out of the wind. This does not mean they have to be in a barn and, in fact, some horses cannot tolerate being in a barn where the air quality is inferior to being outside. In hot weather, shade is important. Besides meeting housing and nutritional needs, the well-cared for horse has farrier and veterinary care on a regular basis.

The cost of providing care for a horse can range from monthly board at a full-care facility to kicking the horse out into an unused pasture for the summer. While the latter can mean minimal out-of-pocket dollars day-to-day, the cost of purchasing the land, building the fence, maintaining the fence, paying taxes on the land, and maintaining the pasture are not insignificant.

Horses are commonly living into their thirties. Some of these geriatric horses are still quite active and healthy enough to be ridden. Others are enjoying retirement. Others are getting by with minimal care.

Many of us are excited to have a horse to pursue trail riding or showing or other activities. Few of us think about arranging for the horse's life-long care. If our horse becomes unable to perform our chosen activities, what is the next step? If your activity is eventing and your horse won't stay sound going over grueling cross-country courses, he may still be able to do flat work for a person just learning to ride. But what if your horse isn't sound. What if he has a personality that makes him difficult to get along with? Or, what if he is a stallion with special housing and handling requirements? Are you prepared to provide for his needs until he dies of old age?

Rescues and shelters exist, but they are usually over capacity and underfunded. Should the responsibility of caring for a retired horse lay with strangers who have a soft spot in their heart for horses or with the people who shared a time with the horse in his prime? Few of us have the resources to keep every horse we have ever owned and many of those horses go on to a series of homes where they lead varying but nonetheless productive lives. Ultimately, however, end-of-life choices and care are inevitable.

As a horse owner or as someone who is in a position to advise horse owners, we should promote a life- plan for horses. This starts with responsible breeding. Do not indiscriminately breed horses. If you breed horses, prepare the foals for productive lives. Train them to be caught, led, and tied. Train them to stand for the farrier and veterinarian. Schedule appointments with those professionals for timely foot and health care. Preventative care can keep the horse healthy and comfortable. This eliminates, or at least delays, the need for special care or treatment which can be very costly. Castrating males is the responsible choice for almost every colt. Ovariectomizing females is becoming more common and is a very appropriate option for mares with estrus-cycle-related behavior issues. Training the horse at an appropriate age to be ridden, or driven, or whatever it is you want to do with the horse is important.

Continued on Next Page

"One Welfare" - Continued

Understandably, this sequence of events in the life of a horse might seem obvious to many, and yet many horses do not get these opportunities and privileges. It is very difficult to find a home for a 13-year-old "project" horse with no training and a mean spirit. If a good-hearted, novice horse-owner takes a chance on this particular train wreck, it will not be a positive experience for the horse or the owner. This horse needs a salesman to convince sequential owners to provide adequate life-long care. Some of them get lucky, others don't. Doing our part to prepare the horse to be easily marketed makes it more likely that this horse will get adequate care.

As advocates for animals, we should promote preparing horses for a successful life, supporting them through their productive years, transitioning them into retirement, and assisting owners with end-of-life decisions. Castrating males and preventing inappropriate matings are critical to reducing the numbers of unwanted horses. Educating owners and potential owners is an important piece. Being an advocate for the horse is vital.

Are you eligible for Life Membership?

IVMA Life Membership status is granted to:

- A veterinarian who has maintained membership for 40 years. Up to 15 years membership may be granted for membership in associations of other States provided that the most recent 25 years was in the IVMA.
- A veterinarian who has completed 35 years as a member of the Association and has retired. Up to 10 years credit may be granted for membership in associations of other States, provided that the most recent 25 years was in the IVMA.
- A veterinarian who has reached 65 years of age, has retired, and has been a member of the Association continuously since graduation from veterinary college. Credit may be granted for membership in associations of other States, provided that the most recent one half of the period of membership was in the IVMA.
- A member who has retired due to disability.

If you believe you qualify for Life Membership in the next calendar year, send a written request to the IVMA by December 31, 2015. **Upon application to and approval by the Board of Directors, the member will be excused from payment of dues and continue to receive the rights and privileges of membership.** IVMA Life Members will be recognized at the Membership Luncheon on February 6, 2016.

In Memoriam

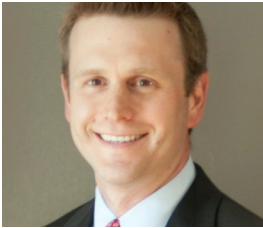
Dr. Max Lowe, '48 A&M
Died September 18, 2015
IVMA Retired Member
Plainfield, IN

Certificate of Excellence in Education Seeking Applications

Did you earn 40 hours of CE during calendar year 2015? If so, complete the application and be recognized! The form can be found at www.invma.org. Return to the IVMA office by 12/31/15. If approved, you will receive a certificate for your accomplishment and a press release sent to your local newspaper. **Just another benefit of belonging to IVMA.....**

Know Your 2016 Candidates for IVMA Office

Your candidates for officers in the Indiana Veterinary Medical Association are listed for your review. Candidates will be elected by voice vote at the IVMA Membership Luncheon on February 6, 2016.



PRESIDENT—2016 Dr. James R. Stepusin (AU '02) received his BS in Animal Science from the University of Kentucky in 1998. During veterinary school at Auburn University, Dr. Stepusin was highly involved with the Student AVMA, serving as President of the student chapter at Auburn as well as Delegate to the Student AVMA House of Delegates. Additionally, prior to his junior year, Dr. Stepusin was selected for an externship with the AVMA Governmental Relations Division, spending 4 weeks in Washington, D.C. working with Congress.

After graduation in 2002, Dr. Stepusin returned to Kentucky to practice small animal medicine in Louisville, KY. One year later, he answered the family call, and moved to Pittsburgh, PA to help run a veterinary clinic with his father, Dr. John R. Stepusin (IL '79). However, in the fall of 2005, with a desire to try something different in veterinary medicine, Dr. Stepusin accepted a position with Merial in Duluth, GA. In early 2007, Merial moved him to Indianapolis, IN to serve as a Technical Service Veterinarian, working with clinics in Indiana, Illinois, and Iowa. Recently, Dr. Stepusin was promoted to Midwest Regional Director of Field Veterinary Services for Merial and now manages 7 Technical Service Veterinarians in the Midwest. As a benefit of his job with Merial, Dr. Stepusin has had the pleasure of working with the Purdue University College of Veterinary Medicine, the best veterinary school outside of the Loveliest Village on the Plains – Auburn, AL. In this capacity, he has worked with many departments, including the Community Practice, Surgery Department, and the Veterinary Technology Program.

Since the organized veterinary medicine bug was planted early on, Dr. Stepusin has remained highly involved. With the IVMA, he is currently the chair of the Animal Welfare Committee, and is also a member of the Annual Meeting Committee and the Legislative Committee. In addition to his work with the IVMA, Dr. Stepusin recently completed a 5-year term as the Industrial Veterinary Medicine representative on the AVMA Committee on Veterinary Technician Education and Activities. This committee accredits veterinary technician programs across the country.

Dr. Stepusin has been married to his wife, Gina, a 1st grade school teacher in Indianapolis, IN, since 2009. They live in the Broad Ripple neighborhood of Indianapolis with their son, daughter, dog, and cat – all living happily under one roof.



PRESIDENT-elect—2016 Dr. Maria E. Cooper (PU '11) is the Director of Biodefense, Food Protection, and High-Consequence Disease Preparedness at the Indiana State Board of Animal Health. She completed both her undergraduate work and veterinary degree at Purdue University. During veterinary school, she concurrently pursued nine additional courses through Purdue's Veterinary Homeland Security Graduate Certificate Program to expand her knowledge of natural and intentional high-consequence threats to animal health. Despite a love for the clinical side of veterinary medicine, Dr. Cooper identified her true passion in public health and regulatory medicine early in her professional curriculum, and immediately joined the BOAH team after graduation. Dr. Cooper became

involved with the IVMA shortly thereafter, attending the Heartland Veterinary Conference as Indiana's Emerging Leader. She now serves on the IVMA Health and Wellness Committee, Annual Meeting Committee, and Continuing Education Committee, and completed the IVMA Power of Ten Leadership Program in 2013. She received the IVMA Achievement Award in 2014. Dr. Cooper is a current class member of Indiana's Agriculture Leadership Program, a two-year, highly acclaimed, competitive professional development program which expands the leadership capacity of participants to serve Indiana agriculture and rural communities in public affairs at the local, state, national, and international levels. In 2012, Dr. Cooper joined the ranks of many of her fellow colleagues and became a USDA certified Foreign Animal Disease Diagnostician after attending the rigorous training on New York's Plum Island studying the world's most globally devastating animal diseases. She serves on the Indiana Department of Agriculture's Certified Livestock Producer Program Advisory Board, the State Department of Health's Foodborne Illness Committee, and the Indiana State Fair's Public Safety Committee.

Continued on next page.....

Dr. Cooper—Continued—

She is active on Indiana's Homeland Security Team, the State's Agricultural Risk Committee, the Indiana Food Safety and Defense Task Force, the Purdue Extension Agrosecurity Team, and the Multistate Partnership for Security in Agriculture. Hands down, Dr. Cooper's favorite part of her career is the scope and diversity. She says BOAH's "clients" are the citizens of Indiana, and their "patients" include every type and size of animal living here from mouse to cow to elephant. Dr. Cooper considers it a great fortune to work with a team that serves pet owners, livestock producers, dog breeders, fish farmers, food processors, law enforcement agents, human health care workers, and of course, private practicing veterinarians, just to name a handful. She looks forward to further serving Indiana's veterinary industry as IVMA's President-elect.

VICE PRESIDENT—2016 **Dr. Nathan Rich** is a 2006 graduate of Purdue University's School of Veterinary Medicine.

During his time at Purdue he was an active member of both Purdue's Trap and Skeet Club and Student Chapter of the American



Veterinary Medical Association. After graduation in 2006, Dr. Rich joined his father, Dr. Robert Rich, and Dr. Kent Wisecup in their mixed animal practice in New Castle, Indiana. He worked for four years as an associate, practicing small animal medicine exclusively. In January of 2010, Dr. Rich purchased Dr. Wisecup's shares of the practice and achieved his lifelong dream of being a partner with his father in his hometown veterinary practice. Shortly after graduation from Purdue, Dr. Rich decided to become involved in organized veterinary medicine. He began attending his local 10th district meetings. After about a year of planning and scheduling meetings, Dr. Rich was appointed to the IVMA Board of Directors representing the 10th district. He has served in that capacity since 2008. Through the encouragement of Dr. Steve Sunbury, Dr. Rich became active in multiple IVMA committees. He was

asked to chair the IVMA Membership Committee in 2010 and still does today. In his free time, Dr. Rich enjoys outdoor sports and spending time with his family. He met his wife Katie while studying biology at Purdue. She is a dentist practicing general dentistry in both New Castle and Hagerstown. They have 2 young boys, Ben (5) and Sean (2). Their family pets include a Doberman and 5 cats. (Dr. Rich didn't realize cat collecting was his wife's hobby before they got married!)

TREASURER —2016-2018 **Dr. Aaron Smiley** (IL '07) is a small animal practitioner at Devonshire Veterinary Clinic in Anderson and was promoted to Chief of Staff in 2013. After graduation in 2007, he worked at Fox Valley Equine located in the far western suburbs of Chicago. He then moved to north central Indiana to practice at Dr. Weldy's Veterinary Clinic in Wakarusa, IN.,



before moving to Devonshire Veterinary Clinic. In addition to Devonshire, he works at Hoosier Part as a veterinary racing official and is an adjunct lecturer at Harrison College.

Dr. Smiley was a member of the IVMA Power 10 Leadership program in 2012 and is a member of the Anderson Animal Protection League. He is looking forward to continuing to serve as IVMA Treasurer and as a member of the IVMA Board of Directors, a role he has held since February, 2014.

Dr. Smiley has been married to Kristen for 13 years and has 4 beautiful daughters. Aaron is active in his church and loves being with his family.

MORE ON PAGE 8 –IVMA CANDIDATE FOR AVMA DELEGATE

IVMA Candidates for Office- Continued

AVMA DELEGATE - 2016—2020



Dr. Jim Weisman (PU '97) is a small animal practitioner, Purdue University College of Veterinary Medicine faculty member and administrator. Dr. Weisman is from Evansville where he was born, raised, and returned to practice veterinary medicine for 11 years. He completed his undergraduate degree as well as his DVM degree at Purdue. While at Purdue, both in his undergraduate and Veterinary School years, he was very active in student organizations and organized veterinary medicine. Dr. Weisman was a Delegate to the Student AVMA House for 2 years, and then he was elected to the national office of SAVMA Treasurer. In addition to these activities on

the national level, Dr. Weisman was very involved at the Veterinary School where he was a student leader in several clubs and school committees as well as the chair of the Annual Vet School Open House. With these responsibilities he gained a great deal of experience with organized veterinary medicine which gave him an excellent foundation for his upcoming leadership roles in the IVMA. Dr. Weisman has been a very involved and effective leader within the IVMA over the past 18 years. He first served on the Board of Directors as a District Representative and then held the leadership positions of the IVMA leading to his year as the IVMA President in 2006. Dr. Weisman has continued to be very active since his presidency as he has chaired the Annual Meeting Planning Committee and continues to chair the Indiana Vet Med PAC.

Over the past 6 years, he has served the veterinarians of Indiana as their Alternate Delegate to the AVMA. In this role, he has been an active House of Delegate member participating in many discussions surrounding the necessary AVMA changes which affect our profession. He has taken additional responsibilities within the AVMA as a member of the Early Career Development Committee which is focused on establishing programming to meet the needs of our colleagues just entering and early in their professional careers.

Further, for the past 2 years, Dr. Weisman has served on the 6 member Strategic Management Process Core Team. He was one of three members of the House of Delegates which were asked to serve on this important team which has the responsibility to lead the AVMA's strategic planning and implementation for the next 5-7 years.

In addition to his services to the profession, Dr. Weisman continues to be involved in his community through his involvement with 4-H and other civic organizations. He currently serves as a Director of the Indiana State Fair which allows the veterinary profession to be continuously represented and integrated into decisions which impact animal wellness and care at the Indiana State Fair. In the Purdue University College of Veterinary Medicine, Dr. Weisman is a Clinical Assistant Professor and is the Director of Student Services. In addition to these responsibilities, he also works as an Emergency Clinician in Purdue's Veterinary Teaching Hospital. His practice and organized veterinary medicine experiences bring a welcomed perspective to the veterinary students of the College. Dr. Weisman believes that involvement within one's professional society is an essential commitment to their profession. He embraces his commitment and welcomes the opportunity to further serve you, the veterinarians of Indiana, and our profession as a whole.



You have helped many throughout the years. You even put off retiring a couple more years just to be sure.

Now it's time.

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From Your Executive Director—Celebrating 20 Years Together

Well, in almost 20 years of writing and producing the *Hoosier Veterinarian* newsletter, I have never take the liberty of writing an ED “column”. I’ve had the philosophy that the newsletter is by and for and about the members and the profession. I guess after 20 years, I can take exception to my rule.

So a few Saturdays ago, I get this lovely text from Dr. Risser’s wife, Rebecca, that said essentially, hey why don’t you and Steve (my husband) come over for a glass of wine and a visit.

Now, my hubby and I live very near the Risser’s, so I thought what a fun idea. Unbeknownst to me, waiting at their house were over 50 IVMA members and spouses, all gathered to throw me a party. It was one of those moments that I won’t forget ~ and yes, I was speechless. The warmth, love and friendship captured in that room was special. The visits I had with each of you, and those that sent me cards and notes, are such treasures. I love coming to work every day. Who can say that? I am blessed.

I have spoken and worked with many of you over the last 20 years. We have chatted by phone and email, tried to solve issues, get answers to your questions, help you log into the website, discussed politics and legislative issues, and collaborated on how to make veterinary medicine better. It has been a great journey.

The only thing I know to say is **thank you** – thank you for the lovely party at the Risser’s, the wonderful sentiments and well-wishes, and the tremendous friendships I have gained by working for the IVMA for 20 years. I have no idea where the time has gone, but along the way I hope we, together, have made a difference for our members and for Indiana’s animals. As I said on that Saturday night, you all have enriched the fabric of my life more than you know.

Thank you for sharing your wonderful profession with me.

Warmly, Lisa Perius

IVMA 132nd Annual Meeting Offers Something for Everyone

The IVMA Annual Meeting will be just around the corner! Planning for the annual meeting is complete and is set for February 4-7, 2016, at the Indianapolis Marriott East. Over 21.5 hours of continuing education will be offered. Registration materials should be in your mailboxes within the next two weeks.

With easy access from much of Indiana, the IVMA meeting is a great place to meet up with old friends and make new friends. Again this year, the Exhibit Hall activities will kick off on Thursday evening, February 4, 2016, with its Beer Garden event, generously sponsored by Midwest Veterinary Supply.

The General Session speaker on Friday afternoon is Dr. Andy Roark. Dr. Roark is an experienced improv comedian as well as a nationally recognized veterinary practice management speaker. In his hilarious and engaging improv Sessions, Dr. Roark uses the learning power of role-play exercises in a way people not only tolerate, but love. With the help of Ms. Meg Pierson, a talented improvisational actress, Dr. Roark presents solid research on handling angry clients effectively, regardless of one's role in the clinic. This workshop is extremely entertaining, and unlike anything else being done in veterinary medicine today. His sessions are generously sponsored by Merial.

Registration materials will be mailed out in mid-November. Registration for veterinarians for the 4-day meeting is \$315 and \$165 for RVT/Veterinary Assistants. This is a great value for 21.5 hours of CE, Exhibit Hall activities, 3 meals, and online proceedings. Find out more at www.invma.org.

Confirmed speakers include:

Thursday, February 4, 2016

Small Animal—Dr. Joerg Steiner

Equine—Dr. Nicholas Frank

Vet Technicians/Assistants—Alicia Harris, sponsored by Merial

Small Animal—Dr. Philip Bushby

Friday, February 5, 2016

Oncology—Dr. Michael Lucroy

SA Pharmacology—Dr. Sue Duran

General—Buying and/or selling a practice

Vet Technicians/Assistants—Dr. Olivia Petritz

Public Health—Accreditation Modules/BOAH info

Equine—Dr. Shannon Reed

Food Animal—Dr. Lowell Midla

Saturday, February 6, 2016

SA Internal Medicine—Dr. Annette Litster

Behavior Medicine—Dr. Sara Bennett, sponsored by Elanco

SA Urinary Tract Disease—Dr. India Lane

Vet Technicians/Assistants—Dr. Todd Duffy

Food Animal—Dr. Lynn Locatelli

Equine—Dr. Susan Holcomb

Exotics—Dr. Olivia Petritz

Rehab Medicine—Debbie Gross

Sunday, February 7, 2016

Cardiology—Dr. Henry Green

Dermatology—Dr. Keith Hnilica

Small Animal Medicine—Dr. Todd Duffy

Practice Management—Karyn Gavzer

The Veterinary Feed Directive Final Rule: What Veterinarians Need To Know

By *Bret Marsh*

Indiana State Veterinarian

Preventing antibiotic resistance and the evolution of “super bugs” have become a high priority for the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). To reduce opportunities for resistance to develop from the use of certain drugs in live-stock production, FDA changed some of the rules. The first phase of the new Veterinary Feed Directive (VFD) Final Rule took effect last month, so practitioners need to be sure they are compliant.

VFDs are the mechanism the FDA is using to apply veterinary oversight to medically important antibiotics in animal feed. The FDA is moving all medically important antibiotics used in feed and water from over-the-counter status to VFD status.

Veterinarians will assume a greater role and increased responsibility for use of drugs in animal feed. The goal of the FDA is to have the VFD Final Rule fully implemented by December 12, 2016.

Issuing VFDs

Veterinarians who issue VFDs will have to do so within the context of a veterinarian-client-patient-relationship (VCPR). The VFD rule specifies that the veterinarian must work with the client and assumes responsibility for making clinical judgments about animal health, has sufficient knowledge of the animal(s) by virtue of examinations and/or visits to the farm where the animals are located, and provides for any necessary follow-up evaluation or care. The final rule also requires veterinarians to follow state-defined VCPR requirements. Indiana’s VCPR is defined under IC 25-38.1-1-14.5, and is available online at: www.invma.org/?page=382. A VCPR must be in place for a veterinarian to provide treatment, prescribe medications or administer vaccines to an animal legally. VFD orders may be obtained from the drug sponsor or a veterinarian may write a VFD order themselves for VFD drugs.

VFD orders may be issued in paper form or electronically and the veterinarian must retain a copy of the VFD in its original format.

For more information on the Veterinarian’s responsibilities go to the FDA’s website at: <http://www.fda.gov/AnimalVeterinary/DevelopmentApprovalProcess/ucm455416.htm>.

Online Continuing Education

IVMA members have an opportunity to earn continuing education (CE) credit while learning about the VFD Final Rule. The one-hour CE course provides an overview of veterinarian’s changing roles, focusing on new aspects related to the VFD Final Rule. This free course is available through IVMA at www.invma.org—once you access your member log-in, you will see the box for “Surveys and Quizzes” on the bottom of the page. Click on that link to review the self-study information and answer the quiz questions. If you obtain a 75% or better, you will receive a certificate in the mail from the IVMA for one hour of continuing education. **This is another tremendous benefit of your IVMA membership.**



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Important Grants Issued by the IN Animal Health Foundation

The Indiana Animal Health Foundation (IAHF) has been active recently in issuing grants through the Service Animal Support (SAS) program, administered by the Foundation. The mission of the SAS program is to ensure a source of funding for veterinary care and treatment. This care is for active and retired service animals and police departments animals who are treated by IVMA members. The SAS program highlights the partnership between veterinarians, their clients and other pet owners who understand the benefit and power of a service animal in our society.

To date, the SAS program has issued over \$5000 in grants since 2012 to IVMA members who care for service animals in communities all throughout Indiana. All donations made to the SAS program, which is how these grants are funded, are used to reimburse veterinarians for care given to these deserving animals. This can include wellness care, disease treatment, or emergency care if the animal is injured in the line of duty.

The IAHF is pleased to award grants to these deserving animals in 2015:



This is Vasco who works for the Tippecanoe County Corrections Department. His veterinary care was provided by Dr. Jennifer Keenan at Creekside Animal Hospital in Lafayette.



If you wish to donate to this important project, call the IVMA office at 800/270-0747. All donations are tax deductible and 100% of your donations go directly to issuing grants.

This is Dorian who is a 6 year old Labrador Retriever service dog. He was treated by Dr. John Culbertson at Thorntown Veterinary Clinic and by Dr. Nicholas Rancilio at the Purdue Veterinary Teaching Hospital in West Lafayette.



Also receiving grants:

Zionsville Veterinary Clinic for the care and treatment of "Louie" by Dr. Loren Noblitt

North Madison Veterinary Clinic for the care and treatment of "Poker" by Dr. Jaman Geyman

This is Golden, a five year old Lab service animal. Golden was treated by Dr. Jon Culbertson at Thorntown Veterinary Clinic in Thorntown.

Veterinary Economic Summit Update—Continued

Some interesting information was released related to the applicant pool for veterinary school in 2014. They include the following:

- There were 6600 VMCAS applicants to veterinary school - about one half of these applicants are accepted to veterinary school
- Purdue is the 5th smallest veterinary college class (84)
- The Ohio State University is the largest class (162 seats) and Oregon is the smallest (56 seats)
- The average pre-vet GPA is 3.56
- The average applicant is a 24 year old female with a 3.56 average GPA from suburbia who has applied 1.2 times to veterinary school
- Over 58.7% of applicants are from the south or midwest US
- 85.8% of applicants are white, 6.8% are Asian, 5.5% are Hispanic
- 65.9% indicate a career path interest of private veterinary practice
- Over 57.4% applicants indicated that they know by the age of 10 that they want to be a veterinarian; another 20.4% realize they want to be a veterinarian between the ages of 11-16
- 73.6% of applicants attended a public undergraduate university
- More than 1 out of 5 respondents are first generation college students
- 69.2% of applicants indicate that they will be bringing their pet(s) with them to school - this is an additional expense while in veterinary school

Additionally, some general observations from this report from AAVMC indicate that applicants are willing to pay A LOT of money to become a veterinarian. This is partly due to a lack of financial literacy and knowledge about the cost of veterinary education. This also reflects the passion these students have for the profession.

Conversation during the day concluded that more information does need to be obtained regarding how consumer income and the price of veterinary care affect the consumers' demand for veterinary services. The AVMA reports that once there is data on how and why consumers make decisions, the better off we will all be in improving pet health and addressing economic challenges.



IVMA Golf Outing Another Fun Success

The Indiana Animal Health Foundation's Annual Golf Outing was held on Friday, September 11, 2015, at the Purdue golf course in West Lafayette. Over 50 golfers participated in the outing—even playing in the rain! Over \$5000 was netted at the outing to be used for scholarships for Purdue veterinary students and for Boiler Vet Camp scholarships.

The event isn't a success without both golfers and our terrific hole sponsors. IAHF is very grateful to the sponsors for their support!

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