



AAVPT Newsletter

Volume 27, Number 2 / Winter 2008/2009

AAVPT

Page 1

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Rick Vulliet

rvullier@ucdavis.edu

Colleagues,

As the year winds down, it is appropriate to ask what we have accomplished for the past year. And I think that the answer is a lot—it has been a very productive year. The Antimicrobial Labeling Workshop provided an exciting interaction featuring members from academics, industry and the FDA. It was well attended with some very creative ideas expressed, and I am sure that we will hear more about it in the future. More recently, we have seen the launch of the Veterinary Pharmacology Research Foundation directed by Jane Owens, Dan Gingerich, Anthony Lucas, Mark Papich and Joe Gloyd. This is the first organization that I am aware whose only mission is to support veterinary pharmacology research. Clearly, most of us have recognized we need more commitment in this area from all of the vested stake holders. Hopefully, with the current outstanding board of directors, the VPRF will be able to mobilize support for the research necessary for our discipline. The Executive Committee of the AAVPT has committed to support VPRF with significant contributions for the next five years. You will also notice that there is a box on your membership application for you to support the VPRF, as well as, the AAVPT awards funds. We also held an all day Executive Committee retreat and outlined the future direction for the AAVPT. And lastly, plans are well underway for the 15th Biennial meeting that will be held in the Washington DC area so that our colleagues from FDA will have ample opportunity to participate in our program.

One vexing problem that the EC was not able to solve was how to get more of our membership involved in AAVPT activities. Traditionally, our organization is made up of multiple committees, and we count on the membership to volunteer on committees. The alternative is to institute a “draft”—a politically unpopular choice. In the immediate past, the committee structure has been less active than I would like it to be. Thus we have a dilemma—if you don’t volunteer and we don’t draft, then our committee system will languish. AAVPT is your organization with the Executive Committee here to serve you. Contact myself, Carol or Anthony and volunteer to serve on a committee.

And lastly, best wishes for the holiday season. Enjoy your time with your family. I think we all look forward to a better and more productive 2009.

Rick

FROM THE PRESIDENT-ELECT

Carol A. Davis, Ph.D.

ca-davis@comcast.net

Program Activities

2008 AAVPT Workshop

I am pleased to report the AAVPT/USP joint workshop on antimicrobials in companion animals was a great success. We had very good attendance (over 100 registrants) and from comments we have received was well received by all attending the meeting. The USP facilities were excellent, and the activities during the meeting were skillfully managed by the USP staff. I was totally impressed with how effortlessly the staff handled all our requests even our last minute request to set up a remote presentation by one of our speakers. All we had to do was ask, and it was done.

Although the final budget report from Anthony is forthcoming, I believe we made out okay financially. We made a decision early on that we did not want to seek sponsorship to support the meeting, and we were successful in this. As I have been in on the planning for many of our programs over the years, this is the one thing that hangs heavy over every planning committee as we work on our meetings. We really never know how many people will, in the end, attend our meetings, and once we commit to speaker, food, lodging and facility costs, we are committed and just have to wait and trust people will want to attend. Thanks to all of you who attended. We hope you found the meeting worthwhile. Your participation is greatly appreciated.

So, where do we go from here? One of the objectives of the meeting was to produce a white paper on the workshop, and the program committee is currently working on this. It is anticipated the paper will be published sometime in 2009 in the JVPT.

If you would like to send me any comments on the meeting or suggestions on future workshops, please let me know. This is the first workshop we have done in several years

and was a great success. If there is interest, we would certainly like to organize more of them in the future.

Lastly, I want to thank all the members of the planning committee for all their hard work over the last year. Any workshop of this size requires an enormous amount of planning, and I want to thank all of them for their help with the workshop.

2009 AAVPT Symposium

The 16th Biennial Symposium program is in the final planning stages. It will be held at the Hilton Washington DC/Maryland Hotel and Executive Meeting Center, 1750 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland from June 14 – 17, 2009. The hotel was previously known as the Doubletree, and many of you will remember it from our symposium in 2005. It has undergone remodeling and is convenient to travelers since it is located close to the metro.

We are planning a three and half day meeting which will begin Sunday evening with a keynote speaker and reception. Topics will cover different areas and include education, scientific and regulatory sessions. There will be two education sessions - one on different approaches used to teach pharmacology today at some of our veterinary schools and a second session on sharing teaching resources. Scientific sessions will cover novel pain models, bioequivalence, animal models, gene therapy. We are planning a session to follow up on the antimicrobial workshop. Regulatory topics include an overview of the CVM with sessions on MUMS, ADUFALL/AGDFUA, ELU antimicrobial ban, and plenty of time for question and answer on these topics and others. We will again have a poster session, student presentations, awards banquet, AAVPT and ACVCP business meetings. Finally, we will offer a half day workshop on Good Clinical Practices which will follow on Wednesday and after the symposium is concluded.

The program is pretty complete, and we are currently working on contacting speakers for the various talks. The contract with the hotel is being finalized, and once the speaker list and hotel expenses have been worked out, we should be able to post the registration forms for the meeting. Once the speaker list is complete, we will post the full agenda on our website and notify everyone through the listserv. I anticipate the registration forms will be up on our site sometime around the end of December. The call for abstracts and nominees for awards will be sent around the same time.

We hope all of you will put this date on your calendars and plan on attending the meeting. I know we are in a difficult financial situation, and we are making every effort to keep the costs down. Our symposia are great meetings and an excellent time to meet up with old friends and to make

some new ones. I am looking forward to the meeting and hope to see all of you there.

SECRETARY/TREASURER REPORT

Anthony Lucas

January 2009 New Members

I am excited to announce that we have 12 new members since the Spring '08 newsletter. We have three new fellow (Jennifer Buur, Douglas Hutchens and Kamel Khazal), seven new regular (Dolores Beblo, Klaus Hellmann, Dinah Jordan, Jack Newkirk, Veronica Offiah, Michele Sharkey and Caryn Thompson) and two new student (Satyanarayana Achanta and Nipattra Debavalya) members. The contact details for these new members have been added to the AAVPT website membership directory, and I would encourage you to make these folks welcome to this great organization.

2009 AAVPT Dues

The Dues notice was meant to go out in November, but I have delayed sending it so that we can include the opportunity to donate to the VPRF on the Dues notice. In addition, due to the close proximity of this newsletter to the Dues notice, we will probably send the two together, which should save the AAVPT several hundred dollars in postage.

On your Dues notice, you will see your personal details, as they stand in the AAVPT Directory. As the Directory is our organization's only record of the membership, I would ask each of you to review the details, and let me know if your entry needs to be updated. Alternatively, you can always check your details on-line at www.aavpt.org/member/directory.asp (username = aavpt, password = acadmem).

Antimicrobial Workshop

The antimicrobial workshop in October 2008 was attended by 119 people with a total income of \$28,350. After costs of a little over \$24,600, the workshop therefore netted a profit of approximately \$3750.

AAVPT Checking Account

Our checking account stands at \$5,680.58; however, there is a \$700 check that has been written, but not yet cashed, and I still expect \$1200 in expense invoices from the Antimicrobial workshop to be submitted.

AAVPT Award Fund

The award fund contains \$3910. Many thanks to the loyal AAVPT members who gave to the fund in 2008.

JOURNAL OF VETERINARY PHARMACOLOGY AND THERAPEUTICS (JVPT)

Jim E. Riviere

Your journal continues to receive record numbers of submissions. As of the beginning of October, JVPT has processed more manuscripts than each of the last two years! Despite this increased flow of manuscripts, the average time from submission to first decision remains around 6 weeks. This actually surprises me since last year, due to the Wiley acquisition of Blackwell Press, significant staff changes occurred at all levels of JVPT processing. However, I am pleased to report that this seems to have settled down and our publisher is now focusing on insuring efficient manuscript processing and recently, journal promotion. Internet "snafus" are at a all time low!

Our rejection rate continues to hover around 40%, a metric that will insure that only quality manuscripts are published in our journal. Despite a run of five years of increasing impact factors, this year saw a decline to 1.221 which ranks us 33 of 133 in the veterinary medicine category. This is about the level of 2-3 years ago. The good news is that we now have a number of review articles in the pipeline that should help to increase this metric. If you have ideas for reviews, please contact Dr. Mark Papich, our review editor.

JVPT remains the only truly international journal dedicated to veterinary pharmacology and toxicology. It is also the endeavor that fosters close collaboration between researchers across the globe. To continue this growth, we need excellent manuscripts. Please consider JVPT as your first choice. Only by publishing quality material will JVPT's reputation hold its ground.

AWARDS COMMITTEE REPORT

Anthony Lucas

January 2009

The 2008 Resident/Graduate Student Pharmacology Research Award was awarded to Dana Levine for her oral presentation "Ronidazole Pharmacokinetics in Cats after IV Administration and Oral Administrations of an Intermediate Release Capsule and a Colon-targeted Delayed Release Tablet". Dana received \$500 from the AAVPT and \$500 from the ACVCP. Congratulations to Dana and thanks to Lauren Trepanier and Jane Owens, who judged the award.

With the 16th Biennial Symposia only 6 months away, we will soon call for nominations for the five AAVPT awards. The awards are the Lloyd E. Davis Award, the AAVPT Service Award, the AAVPT Teaching Award, the AAVPT Research Award and the Resident/Graduate Student Pharmacology Research Award. Information on each of these awards can be found on the AAVPT website

(www.aavpt.org). We look forward to your thoughtful responses to this opportunity to publicly acknowledge the outstanding contributions of a wide range of members of the veterinary pharmacology community.

LIAISON REPORTS

AVMA Animal Agriculture Liaison Committee (AALC)

Dan Gingerich

The focus of AALC is to study and advise AVMA on issues that involve the interface between animal agriculture and public health, food safety, the environment, wildlife, etc. Two recent issues regarding drug availability may be of particular interest to AAVPT as follows.

Food Animal Residue Avoidance Databank (FARAD)

For several years AALC has been doing all it can to secure continuation of funding of FARAD. Most recently, we helped draft a letter from AVMA to secretaries of Agriculture (Ed Schafer) and HHS (Mike Leavitt) requesting their attention to securing interim funding (If you would like a copy of the letter, please let me know dgingerich@imulan.com). Whether this helped or not, FARAD did again get a last minute mini rescue as described in the following article. "Nov 13, 2008 DVM NEWS MAGAZINE Washington -- The always-in-danger-of-closing Food Animal Residue Avoidance Databank (FARAD) garnered a few extra months of operation, but with drastic cutbacks. FARAD was scheduled to shut down in October, but received \$75,000 from the U.S. Department of Agriculture and \$50,000 from the Food and Drug Administration, which will keep operations running through the spring.... The AVMA has worked to secure funding for FARAD for several years lobbying Congress, the USDA and the FDA to support the databank, which is used by veterinarians, livestock producers and others in the food production business to ensure that drug, environmental and pesticide contaminants don't end up in meat, milk and eggs. The infusion of funds means FARAD will be able to continue manning the phones for those who call with questions, but several layoffs were made and the group is now operating with a skeletal crew...."

Proposal to ban extralabel use of cephalosporins in food animals

AALC vigorously opposes the recent FDA's proposed Order of Prohibition of Extralabel Animal Drug Use [of cephalosporin antimicrobial drugs in food-producing animals] dated July 3, 2008. On October 30, 2008, AVMA submitted an 18 page letter to FDA, strongly opposing the ban on both scientific and practical grounds. The scientific side is a treatise on the evidence of an alleged link between

antimicrobial use in veterinary medicine and antimicrobial resistance in humans. On the practical side, we fail to be persuaded that extralabel use, under current definitions and constraints, constitutes misuse, and that such limited use of cephalosporins by veterinarians would contribute to the antimicrobial resistance problem.

If you would like a copy of the letter, please let me know (dgingerich@imulan.com).

AVMA Council on Biologic and Therapeutic Agents (COBTA)

Cory Langston

The AVMA sent a letter to the FDA strongly recommending that it postpone the rule banning extra-label use of cephalosporins in food animals until a risk assessment can be performed. The 17-page letter argues for this postponement on the basis that a) a misinterpretation of federal code exists, b) there is a lack of scientific evidence to support a human health risk, and c) the rule may have undesirable unintended consequences on animal health and welfare and food safety.

The AVMA web site will be a portal for electronic reporting of pesticide-related adverse events through the National Pesticide Information Center (NPIC). After logging in as an AVMA member at <http://www.avma.org/noah/members/memlog.asp>, you can then enter the address http://www.avma.org/animal_health/reporting_adverse_events_pesticide.asp that will link you to the NPIC site. The use of the AVMA site as a portal is to restrict reports to submissions by veterinarians and not the lay public. Advice and links for reporting adverse reactions for other products, including drugs, biologics, and pet foods can be found at http://www.avma.org/animal_health/reporting_adverse_events.asp#vets.

Information of interest from agencies and organizations attending COBTA

- ADUFA II passed and was signed by the president. As with ADUFA I, the main purpose of the bill is to provide user fees to expedite drug review. The bill was however amended to include a requirement for companies to report the amount of antimicrobial sold for food animals in each previous calendar year. This reporting requirement begins in 2010.
- The Animal Generic Drug User Fee Act (AGDUFA) was approved. It is similar to ADUFA but addresses user fees for generic animal drugs.
- The U.S. 5th District Circuit Court of Appeals issued a ruling that compounded drugs for animals are not uniformly exempt from the provisions required of “new animal drugs”; thereby affirming FDA’s authority

regarding the compounding of animal drugs and its associated regulatory discretion. This is in conflict with a ruling made by the 9th District Circuit Court of Appeals. How this disparity will be resolved remains to be seen. More information, though from a pro-compounding view, can be found at

http://www.fdalawblog.net/fda_law_blog_hyman_phelps/2008/07/fifth-circuit-m.html

- Construction at the USDA facilities at Ames, Iowa is proceeding well. Congress however has not allocated money to move equipment and personnel.
- USDA CVB budgetary issues remain a concern. The CVB handles 800-1100 submission per year with expenses continuing to exceed appropriations. User-fees were proposed as part of the budget last year to address the continued funding problems; however, the approach met resistance and was not instituted.

American College of Veterinary Clinical Pharmacology (ACVCP) President Report

Mike Apley

The ACVCP annual meeting was held on June 5, 2008 in conjunction with the annual ACVIM meeting in San Antonio, TX. The 2009 annual meeting and examinations will be held in conjunction with the AAVPT meeting. There are currently 8 training programs for the college with more under review; many thanks to the diplomates establishing programs and supporting the growth of the college.

Our college is small in number, requiring a large proportion of our diplomates to serve on committees. I would like to take this opportunity to thank our committee members, especially our current committee chairs: Drs. Virginia Fajt (credentials), Lauren Trepanier (scientific programs), and Deborah Kochevar (education). There is one committee chair who deserves a special note of appreciation. Dr. Mark Heit has served as examination committee chair for the majority of this century and has done an outstanding job of herding cats to get the exam in and administered each year. The college appreciates Dr. Tomas Martin-Jimenez stepping up to take the helm of the examination committee. Also deserving recognition are our tireless secretary Dr. Albert Boeckh and our web-master and test question archivist, Dr. Jeff Wilcke.

It is inspiring to see the continued work of our diplomates in professional, graduate, and continuing education as well as drug development, informatics, and regulatory arenas. Our college is not without challenges, but we are financially solvent, adding new diplomates, and building the basis for continued growth. I believe one of our biggest opportunities is to link the unique expertise and experience of our diplomates in a way that will allow sharing with all of our training programs. Thanks to all those who continue to bounce around at the ragged edges of veterinary

pharmacology, answering questions, creating more questions, and preparing the next generation to do the same.

United States Pharmacopeia (USP) Report

Mark G. Papich, Chair USP Veterinary Drugs Expert Committee

Unfortunately, the country's financial situation has affected the standing of the United States Pharmacopeia (USP). Consequently, the USP is reducing staff, expert committees, and some of its programs. This will directly affect the two veterinary expert committees, the Veterinary Information Expert Committee, and the Veterinary Drugs Expert Committee. USP Veterinary Group will be eliminated on December 1, 2008. After this date, there will no longer be staff support to the Veterinary Medicine Expert Committees. The development of new information monographs and the revision of current authorized monographs will end. The Veterinary Information Expert Committee will become inactive for the remainder of the 2005-2010 cycle and will not continue in the 2010-2015 cycle. At this time, the fate of the USP drug information monographs is uncertain. For the present time, they are still available from the USP website at www.usp.org. Some monographs were published in previous JVPT supplements (antibiotics vol. 26 [suppl 2], 2003 and NSAIDs vol. 27 [suppl. 1], 2004). These monographs have been developed over the course of 25 years, primarily with AAVPT members serving on the expert committee to help create them. The committee was started under the direction of Dr. Lloyd E. Davis in 1982, which he continued through three five-year cycles. After Lloyd's retirement, Dr. Cory Langston chaired the committee for two cycles (1995-2005), and the most recent chair was Dr. Trisha Dowling (2005-2010). AAVPT members have put in many hours of volunteer work to develop this valuable information and the loss of this program is unfortunate. The committee thanks all the AAVPT members who have contributed to this effort over the years, and in particular Dr. Amy Neal (AAVPT Fellow) who was the USP staff member most responsible for producing many of the excellent monographs that are currently available.

The Veterinary Drugs Expert Committee has created valuable quality monographs for veterinary medicines and their ingredients in this and prior cycles. This Expert Committee also will be terminated at the end of the 2005-2010 cycle and there will be no staff liaison with direct responsibility for this committee or veterinary drug standards after December 1st. The standard-setting activities of this committee will continue through several other Expert Committees, probably the Small Molecules Expert Committee. Veterinary drug standard monographs will continue to be published in the USP-NF. Among other activities, the Veterinary Drug Expert Committee had produced more veterinary drug standard

monographs in the past cycle than at any other time. A significant amount of veterinary drug information also appeared in the last edition (2nd edition) of the USP Pharmacists' Pharmacopeia, which provided valuable veterinary prescribing information to pharmacists and other health care providers.

The Veterinary Drug Expert Committee also has sponsored a new initiative — veterinary compounding monographs. These monographs provide stability and compounding information, as well as, therapeutic use guidelines for compounded preparations for veterinary administration. Some of these monographs are now published on the website cited above, and are scheduled for the USP-NF. On-going work on veterinary compounded preparations may continue through the Compounding Expert Committee. The on-going work of the *ad hoc* Advisory Panel on Veterinary Biopharmaceutics Classification System (v-BCS) will continue its work independently, rather than as a USP panel.

This committee is especially grateful for the many years of work and support by Dr. Ian DeVeau (AAVPT Fellow), Director of the USP Veterinary Group who was the staff member most instrumental for the success of this committee's work.

NEWS

AAVPT Funds Veterinary Pharmacology Research Foundation

On December 8, 2008, the Executive Council of the AAVPT approved the initial funding for the newly formed Veterinary Pharmacology Research Foundation.

This key investment will support one of AAVPT's core missions: *To promote education and research in veterinary pharmacology.*

The idea for a Veterinary Pharmacology Research Foundation (VPRF) was proposed by the governing bodies of AAVPT and the American College of Veterinary Clinical Pharmacology (ACVCP) in June of 2006. These organizations recognized the lack of funding for basic pharmacology research was limiting both growth and innovation in the development of new veterinary therapeutics and the number of trained researchers in the field. As such, they sought to invest their collective resources in the growth of veterinary pharmacology through research grants and training programs.

The foundation will focus on two areas:

- Veterinary pharmacological research that is designed to evaluate safe and effective therapies for veterinary species, develop and validate models

of animal diseases or conditions and ensure the safety of the food supply.

- Development of trained veterinary pharmacology researchers through support of summer internships for students with interests in veterinary pharmacology and through the support of ACVCP residency programs.

VPRF was incorporated by the State of Illinois as a non-profit corporation in April 2007. ACVCP and AAVPT appointed a board of directors in June 2007 which included members of both ACVCP and AAVPT. Foundation bylaws were drafted and finalized in June 2008. VPRF applied for 501 c (3) status with the IRS and received confirmation of this tax exempt status in September 2008.

VPRF funds will be used to support research and training in veterinary pharmacology through competitive grants. In addition to the initial funds from AAVPT, VPRF will seek donations from private individuals with veterinary pharmacology interests, pharmaceutical companies and contract research organizations, ACVCP and AAVPT members and through collaboration with established veterinary foundations. It is anticipated that the first call for research grants will go out in late 2009.

A call for donations from AAVPT members/fellows was included in the latest AAVPT dues notice. Please help the foundation support research and training in veterinary pharmacology by including your donation with your 2009 AAVPT dues payment. You may also send donations to VPRF Secretary/Treasurer:

Dan Gingerich
2219 Wilmington Road
Lebanon, OH 45036.

Please contact any board member for more information:
Jane Owens (President), Dan Gingerich
(Secretary/Treasurer), Anthony Lucas, Joe Gloyd or Mark Papich.

Peter Eyre Receives AVMA President's Award, 2008

Peter Eyre, an AAVPT Fellow since 1977, was presented with the AVMA President's Award for exceptional service to the veterinary profession at the opening ceremonies of the American Veterinary Medical Association's annual convention in New Orleans in July 2008.

After completing grammar school in England, Dr. Eyre attended the University of Edinburgh, Scotland, where he obtained a BVMS-MRCVS in veterinary medicine, and BSc and PhD degrees in pharmacology. He was a lecturer in pharmacology at Edinburgh for seven years, followed by 17 years as associate professor and professor of pharmacology at the Ontario Veterinary College, University of Guelph—becoming chairman of the

Department of Biomedical Sciences and associate director of the Canadian Centre for Toxicology. In 1985, Dr. Eyre was appointed second dean of the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine; a position he held for more than 18 years.

Dr. Eyre has taught pharmacology to undergraduate, masters, doctoral, and veterinary medical students for 49 years. He has published 204 articles in refereed journals, 122 conference papers, and 32 text book chapters or monographs, and has directed the thesis research of 24 master's and PhD students.

Dr. Eyre has received a number of honors, including the Carl Norden Distinguished Teacher Award, the Sigma Psi Excellence in Research Award, and the Compass Award of the Public Relations Society of America. He was recognized as distinguished veterinarian by the Virginia and Maryland Veterinary Medical Associations on five separate occasions, and received the Joint Commendation of the House of Delegates and Senate of Virginia for "meritorious service to the Commonwealth". In 2006, the Alumni Society of the VA-MD veterinary college created the Peter Eyre Student Leadership Award to recognize a senior veterinary student who has a vision of service and concern for the well-being of the profession. And in 2008, the University of Guelph established the Peter Eyre Prize in Pharmacology, to reward exceptional undergraduate achievement in the discipline.

Dr. Eyre has served on numerous local and national boards, committees and commissions, including the AAVPT Board, and the AVMA's Legislative Advisory Committee. He was elected President of the Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges in 2003 and was recently appointed (October 2008) to AAVMC's planning committee for the implementation of the Foresight Report: Envisioning the Future of Veterinary Medical Education.

Currently, Dr. Eyre is Professor and Dean Emeritus of veterinary medicine at Virginia Tech, where he continues to teach two undergraduate courses in pharmacology.

AAVPT supports AVMA Congressional Fellowship

The AVMA Congressional Fellowship gives veterinarians the unique opportunity to see democracy up close and personal. Two veterinarians were chosen as AVMA Congressional Fellows for this year: Gail Hansen and Whitney Miller. Although they come from different backgrounds, they both have a desire to be a scientific resource for Congress and to improve public policymaking through the infusion of science. They believe that broad scientific and medical knowledge is exactly what is needed to help guide decisions in the halls of power. The AVMA Fellowship is a call to experience a different side of the veterinary profession and make a difference on issues

important to our nation and profession. The fellows have the chance to use science-based decision making in public policy development, experience and influence major public policy debates, and network with government professionals. These opportunities resounded with both Dr. Hansen and Dr. Miller, and both relocated to Washington, DC to seize the fellowship experience.

Gail Hansen is currently working on health care and agricultural issues in the office of Senator Bernard Sanders (I-VT). Before the Fellowship program, she was the state epidemiologist and the state public health veterinarian for the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) for 12 years. Dr. Hansen has an adjunct faculty position at the Kansas State University, College of Veterinary Medicine, Department of Pathobiology and just finished terms as the infectious disease chair of the Executive Board of Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE) and eight years on the Executive Committee of the National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians (NASPHV). Before moving to Kansas, Gail was an epidemiologist at the Seattle-King County Health Department involved in a longitudinal cohort study of blood-borne pathogens among injection drug users. She worked for 14 years as a veterinary clinician in predominately companion animal private practices in Seattle, New York City, and Greensboro, North Carolina, and as a pathologist at Pennsylvania State University. She received her master's degree in public health from the University of Washington in 1993 and her DVM from the University of Minnesota in 1982. Her policy interests while in Washington are infectious diseases (including HIV, hepatitis, foreign animal, zoonotic), health disparities, public health, international relations, animal welfare, and promoting "One Medicine". Her answer to the question she gets most often: "Why don't you want to be a veterinarian anymore?" is that she still is a veterinarian doing what veterinarians are uniquely trained to do!

Whitney Miller is on the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee and is working on biosecurity and medical emergency preparedness issues. Dr. Miller received her DVM from Colorado State University in May 2008. She was enrolled in a combined program where she also received a Master's of Business Administration in 2006. She completed programs with the USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA's Smith-Kilborne program, and the FDA's Center for Veterinary Medicine while in veterinary school. Through these programs she gained experience in food safety, foreign animal disease diagnosis and control, the drug approval process, and various aspects of creating, implementing and interpreting policy. She grew up in the Washington, DC area so has come back home. Her interests are wide ranging and include foreign animal diseases, biosecurity, food safety, animal welfare, zoonotic/infectious diseases, the student debt problem, foreign relations, international food supply sustainability,

and the interface of human and animal health on a global basis. She looks forward to representing veterinary medicine on the hill and influencing policy in a positive manner.

The AVMA Fellowship Program gives veterinarians the opportunity to spend a year in Washington, D.C. and develop a better understanding of the governmental process, gain insight into the future of science and the veterinary profession, while assisting in creating legislation and regulations that affect our nation and profession.

For more information on the AVMA Congressional Fellowship program go to http://www.avma.org/advocacy/get_involved/fellowships.asp

ECVPT Workshop

The European College of Veterinary Pharmacology and Toxicology will organize a workshop on February 22-27, 2009 in Toulouse, France.

The focus of this workshop is to provide attendees a comprehensive review of pharmacology and toxicology applied to veterinary medicine. A goal of the course will be to integrate basic concepts into practical applications. Topics to be covered include regulatory toxicology, cardiovascular and renal pharmacology, pharmacokinetic/pharmacodynamic and population kinetics.

Main instructors of this course are : J. Fink-Gremmels, P. Richez, H. Lefebvre, J. Elliott, PL Toutain, A. Bousquet-Melou, D. Concordet.

The venue for this course will be the National Veterinary College of Toulouse, France.

Registration form and complete course details are available at: <http://www.ecvpt.org/>

Drug and Biologic Approvals

Cefovecin (Convenia)

Convenia (cefovecin sodium) Injectable by Pfizer, Inc. is approved for the treatment of skin infections in cats and dogs.

AAVPT Newsletter

Editor: Maya M. Scott

The Newsletter is published twice yearly by the American Academy of Veterinary Pharmacology and Therapeutics. Please kindly address all correspondence to:

Dr. Maya M. Scott
College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences
Dept VTPP
4466 TAMU
College Station, TX 77843-4466
USA
E-mail: mScott@cvm.tamu.edu