



NEWSLETTER

AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR VETERINARY CLINICAL PATHOLOGY

March 2009

Newsletter #1

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Important Dates

June 3-6, 2009	2009 ACVIM Forum, Montreal, Canada
Sept 22-24, 2009	ACVP Board Examination, Ames, IO
October 7-14, 2009	52nd Annual AAVLD/USAHA Meeting, San Diego, CA
December 5-9, 2009	Annual ASVCP/ACVP Meeting, Monterey, CA

President's Message

Dear ASVCP Colleagues,

The ASVCP Executive Board and Committee members have been busy working in a variety of areas pertaining to our Society this past winter. Some highlights include:

1. Quality Assurance and Standards guidelines created by the QAS committee have been approved by the Executive Board and are now posted on the ASVCP website.
2. ASVCP Strategic plan has been posted to the ASVCP website.
3. The Executive Board approved a proposal by the Rees Management group to redesign the ASVCP website. The Rees group has begun the redesign and will work with a new committee, the Web Editorial Board, chaired by Mark Johnson for ideas of content and oversight. We are very excited to have the opportunity to create a more modern web page.
3. Executive Board has approved the creation of an Audit and Financial Committee that will provide oversight of the financial records of ASVCP. The ASVCP's financial records were audited in January, and we are in the process of incorporating suggestions from the auditor.
4. Nominations for the Education Award are now open. See details in this issue.
5. The Veterinary Laboratory Professionals group is working on the pre-meeting workshop for the 2009 ASVCP in Monterey.
6. ASVCP members that are interested in chairing the Development Committee should contact an EB member.
7. ASVCP and ACVP will be working together to participate in a consortium with AAVMC to address issues affecting veterinary medical education.

It will be another exciting and productive year! We welcome comments and ideas from the members.

Best Regards,

Melinda J. Wilkerson
President

Call for Nominations 2009 ASVCP Election

The Nominations Committee is seeking nominations for two officers: First-Year Executive Board Member and President-elect. Nominees must be able to attend the ASVCP Executive Board meetings at the annual meeting for the next 5 years and participate in telephone conferences and e-mail discussions during each year. The nominees should be enthusiastic about contributing to Society growth and development.

The First Year Executive Board member participates in all decisions of the Executive Board, coordinates the annual Case Review Session, and serves as liaison to three standing committees. The term of service is two years, but traditionally the First Year Executive Board member continues on through to President-elect, President and Immediate Past-president. Thus this is a 5 year commitment to the ASVCP. The President-elect serves on the Executive Board, coordinates the Scientific Session at the annual meeting, acts as liaison to several standing committees, and becomes the President at the end of the President's term of office or if the President is unable to fulfill the duties of the office.

To make nominations please contact the chair of the Nominations Committee:

Dr. Holly Jordan
Director of Clinical Pathology
GlaxoSmithKline
Safety Assessment
Five Moore Dr. (Room 9.2007)
P.O. Box 13398
Research Triangle Park, NC 27709
Email: holly.l.jordan@gsk.com
Phone: 919-483-4909
Fax: 919-483-6858

ASVCP Lifetime Achievement Award

The Awards Nominating Committee is requesting nominations for the Lifetime Achievement Award to be presented at the annual ASVCP meeting in Monterey, CA, December 5-8, 2009. The ASVCP Lifetime Achievement Award program recognizes members of the ASVCP who have contributed to the advancement of the field of veterinary clinical pathology through their research and teaching, and through their work on behalf of the American Society for Clinical Pathology. Nominations should include at least 5 letters of support from ASVCP members and a rationale for why this particular member is worthy of this award.

To make a nomination, please contact Holly Jordan (please see above for contact information), the chair of the Awards Nominating Committee. The deadline for receipt of nomination materials is July 1, 2009:

First Call

2009 ASVCP/ACVP Meeting Abstracts Clinical Pathology Scientific Sessions

The Clinical Pathology Scientific Sessions were another resounding success in 2008 -- start planning now to submit your abstract for the 2009 meeting in Monterey, CA.

The annual concurrent meeting of the ASVCP and the ACVP will be held December 5-8, 2009 in Monterey, California. There will be a combined ASVCP/ACVP Clinical Pathology Scientific Session for everyone that has an interest in clinical pathology. This will be a great opportunity to present experimental or clinical research data to colleagues. Submissions from all aspects of the profession are encouraged, including academic, diagnostic, investigative, and toxicologic clinical pathology. The format will be similar to that of the 2008 annual meeting with both oral platform and poster presentations. The final decision regarding presentation format is at the discretion of the Program Committee. We encourage participation by a wide variety of individuals including faculty, senior scientists, diagnostic veterinary pathologists/clinical pathologists, and trainees. Presenters are required to attend the meeting.

Now is the time for you to start planning your presentations! **The deadline for abstract submission is June 1, 2009.** Online submission will be available through www.asvcp.org later this spring. For questions or further information contact Joanne Messick at jmessic@purdue.edu or (765) 496-1748.

ASVCP Young Investigator Award

The ASVCP will present a \$500 award to the resident or graduate student whose platform presentation is judged best among the competing presentations. Eligibility requirements include a degree in veterinary medicine and enrollment in a residency or graduate program in pathology/clinical pathology or a related discipline. The oral presentation must describe original work of the competitor involving clinical or experimental research that relates to clinical pathology. Presenters are required to attend the meeting. Award selection will be based on the scientific content, abstract composition, clarity of presentation and ability to answer questions. Each trainee may submit only one presentation in this competition.

ACVP Young Investigator Award

If you are a trainee and have a poster presentation, you can submit it for consideration in the ACVP Young Investigator Award. Any abstract submitted for the ACVP Young Investigator Award is ineligible for the ASVCP Young Investigator Award.

SUBMITTING YOUR ABSTRACTS FOR CONSIDERATION

Detailed instructions that explain how to submit an abstract and how to enroll in the ASVCP or ACVP Young Investigator Award competition will be posted on the ASVCP website (www.asvcp.org). Joanne Messick will coordinate the combined ASVCP/ ACVP Clinical Pathology Scientific Session of this meeting. Please direct your inquiries for this session to Joanne Messick, jmessic@purdue.edu or call (765) 496-1748.

First Call Annual ASVCP Case Review Session Submissions

Submissions are requested for the 2009 ASVCP Case Review Session. Materials that may be submitted include hematology, cytology or surgical pathology slides, electron photomicrographs and interesting clinical chemistry or hematology cases. This is a popular and interactive opportunity to share cases and experiences among attendees.

Type of Material Requested

Cases should be classic examples or unique or unusual representations of diseases, clinical cases, or research data with a clinical pathologic focus. Cases may represent any species. Stained, cover-slipped glass slides are preferred, but in certain cases, digital images will be considered. Surgical biopsies should be from lesions that would be examined cytologically and ideally the submission should include a cytologic preparation. Analytic problems that are associated with instrumentation, assay conditions, statistical analysis or specimen handling are also welcome; please consider the new ASVCP Clinical Chemistry Review Session for longer and/or more detailed presentations.

Case Submission: Materials Needed

Eighty (80) glass slides are needed for each case. The submitter must check all glass slides to assure their quality. Please do not attach adhesive labels to the glass slides. If digital images are submitted, send only one image. For surgical biopsy cases, submit one glass slide and if the case is accepted, the submitter will supply 80 copies of the stained specimen. For clinical chemistry or hematology cases, laboratory data including reference intervals for your laboratory should be submitted.

Electronic Submission and Printed Materials

Cases MUST be submitted using the online forms posted at the ASVCP website (<http://www.asvcp.org>). Two files will be submitted electronically:

- 1) The first file is the Case History to be distributed with data prior to the meeting and should include contributors, signalment, concise history and clinical findings. Please only include pertinent laboratory data and summarize this if possible. Reference intervals for the laboratory data must be provided. The submitter is encouraged to also

provide questions to be answered at the case review session. It is hoped that these questions will inspire participants to review and investigate the data before the meeting. 2) The second file is the Case Summary, which has information to be distributed at the meeting and should include the information on the first file, plus diagnosis, discussion (including answers to the questions that were provided) with images and references.

Digital Images

The submitter **MUST** also include 2-3 digital images as indicated on the Case Summary form. The images should be 1024 X 768 pixels in a JPEG format with compression set on high quality; images must clearly show cytologic features of the lesion. A figure legend should accompany the images. Inclusion of digital images is required as part of the submission process.

Digital Slides

A limited number of electronic slides/cases (likely up to two) may be considered. Please contact Leslie Sharkey if you are interested in submitting in this format.

The goal of this session is to stimulate discussion. Presentation of common laboratory abnormalities that are not related to the case is unnecessary as is a lecture or literature review with each case.

When and Where to Submit

The deadline for receipt of submission of ALL case materials is Tuesday, July 1, 2009. Slides with a cover letter indicating CONTRIBUTOR NAME(S), INSTITUTION, SPECIMEN, and E-MAIL ADDRESS must be sent to the address given below and received by this date. Submitters will be notified of the results of the selection process by August 15, 2009. It is anticipated that approximately 20 cases will be selected for presentation, depending on the complexity of the cases. Be sure to include your E-mail address with your submission.

Inquires and Case submission should be sent to:

Dr. Leslie Sharkey

Department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences

University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine

1352 Boyd Avenue

St Paul, MN 55108

612-624-6171

Shark009@umn.edu

First Call

3rd Annual ASVCP Clinical Chemistry Review Session Submissions

Type of Materials Requested

Submissions are requested for the third ASVCP Clinical Chemistry Review Session. Submitted materials should focus on the interpretation of chemistry data, including but not limited to the routine serum chemistry panel. Ancillary clinical pathology and other data as needed for the presentation of the case is appropriate. Cases may represent any species and an interactive presentation style is encouraged. The cases should be challenging and solvable based on information provided. Results of toxicology studies, cases involving the interpretation of quality control materials or validation studies as well as individual clinical case presentations will be considered for this session.

Case Submission

Cases MUST be submitted using the online forms posted at the ASVCP website (<http://www.asvcp.org>). Reference intervals for the laboratory data should be provided. Two files will be submitted. The first file is the Clinical Chemistry History to be distributed with data prior to the meeting and should include contributors, signalment, concise history and clinical findings. The submitter is also encouraged to provide questions to be answered at the case review session. It is hoped that these questions will inspire participants to review and investigate the data before the meeting. The second file is the Clinical Chemistry Summary to be distributed at the meeting and should include the information on the first file, plus diagnosis, discussion (including answers to the questions that were provided) and references.

When and Where to Submit

The deadline for submission of cases is Tuesday, July 1, 2009. Submitters will be notified of the results of the selection process by August 15, 2009. It is anticipated that 2-4 cases will be selected for presentation, depending on the complexity of the cases. Be sure to include your E-mail address with your submission.

Inquires and Case submission should be sent to

Dr. Leslie Sharkey
Department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences
University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine
1352 Boyd Avenue
St Paul, MN 55108
612-624-6171
Shark009@umn.edu

Call for 2010 ACVIM Forum Speakers

The ASVCP arranges speakers for the ACVIM meeting each year. The speakers provide 8 hours of talks reflecting current knowledge and/or in-depth reviews of topics in veterinary clinical pathology. The 2010 ACVIM Forum will be held June 9-12, 2010, Anaheim, CA.

Please send suggestions for ASVCP speakers and topics for the upcoming ACVIM meeting by August 3, 2009 to Kirstin Barnhart at kfbarnha@mdanderson.org. In addition to speakers and topics, we need input on the theme for the CP session. It could be 1 theme or 2 separate themes, one for the AM session and one for the PM session. It should be something that's of strong interest to the ACVIM "meeting-goers" and pull in a good crowd.

Thanks for your help and I'll be looking for your E-mails!

Kirstin

NEW!!! **Call for Nominations** **ASVCP Education Award 2009**

Participation by clinical pathologists and veterinary laboratory medical specialists in the education of veterinary students, residents, veterinary practitioners and technical staff is crucial for the vitality of the veterinary medical profession and our specialty college. Contributions to education vary greatly to include standard classroom and clinical teaching that primarily takes place in veterinary schools, continuing education of practitioners and technical staff, formal and informal mentoring of students by pathologists in the private sector, committee service to ASVCP and ACVP including board examination preparation, creation of teaching materials such as books and computer programs, and publishing articles relevant to any stage of veterinary medical education. Unfortunately, formal recognition of these contributions is given almost exclusively to pathologists working in academia.

In order to encourage and reward a wider range of ASVCP members contributing to the education of future veterinarians and pathologists, the ASVCP Education Committee and the Executive Board would like to invite our membership to submit nominations for the ASVCP Education Award.

Letters of nomination should describe the nominee's contributions to the education of veterinary medical students, clinical pathology residents, veterinarians, and laboratory professionals. In addition to a brief description (one page or less) of the nominee's

accomplishments, the letters should include the contact information for the nominee and a list of 2-3 individuals that can provide additional letters of support.

Please send the letters of nomination to the Education Committee Chair, Sharon Dial; electronic documents are preferred (sdial@u.arizona.edu). Hard copies of letters of nomination can also be sent to the Arizona Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, 2831 N. Freeway, Tucson, AZ 85705. Please feel free to contact Sharon Dial by e-mail or phone (520-621-2356, ex 15) if additional information is needed.

Letters of nomination will be accepted through **April 1, 2009**. Ten finalists chosen by the Education Committee will be contacted and asked to submit a short CV, personal statement and a list of references for letters of support. The nominee packets will be accepted through June 1, 2009 and the Education Committee Chair will announce the Awardee at the 2009 business meeting in Monterey, CA. The award includes a plaque and a monetary award of \$1,000.00. Current members of the ASVCP Education Committee and Executive Board will be excluded from nomination for the duration of their service on these committees.

In Memoriam



It is with great sadness to announce that Dr. Tracy Warren French of Freeville, NY passed away at home, surrounded by family, on Tuesday, March 3rd, after an extended battle with cancer. Tracy was born in Indianapolis, IN. He completed his undergraduate degree in Biological Sciences at Indiana University in 1973, and obtained his DVM from Purdue University in 1977. He followed his calling into Clinical Pathology with a residency at the University of Florida, under the mentorship of Dr. John Harvey. Tracy joined the College of Veterinary Medicine at Cornell University as an assistant professor in Clinical Pathology in 1982 and dedicated his professional life to the college. He was a wonderful teacher, a patient and caring mentor to residents and students alike, and brought moral and professional integrity to everything he did. Tracy spent many hours developing teaching materials and was a stickler for obtaining that perfect clinical pathology image. He was the ultimate quiet achiever – President of the ASVCP in 1990-1991, member of the ASVCP World Wide Web Committee, book chapter contributor and a pioneer in the use of the web for teaching clinical pathology. His love of teaching and clinical pathology has left Cornell and the world wide community with an enduring legacy – eClinPath – an on-line Clin Path text book and atlas that Tracy helped develop. This wonderful teaching resource will be used by students for many years to come. For Tracy, family always came first and his love of family was almost, but not quite, surpassed by his love for sailing and his beamers (BMW's). He reveled in high winds and fast speeds. He counted down the long Ithaca winters until summer, looking forward to sailing season and Florida beach vacations with the catamaran. He also enjoyed many windy days on Cayuga Lake and

many not-so windy ones at home playing his guitar, tinkering with his cars and spending time with his loved ones. He was liked and respected by all of those who knew him, personally and professionally. Tracy will be remembered for his incredible courage, strength, and his quiet, compassionate, gentle nature, positive outlook on life and dry sense of humor. He was a valued friend, mentor and colleague and will be sorely missed.

He is survived by his wife, Mica French; two children, Trevor and Hannah; their mother, Rita; four stepchildren, James, Wesley, Joshua, and William Sanders; his parents, Robert and Elda French (Indianapolis); and his brother, Alan French (Karen). Our thoughts and prayers are with his family, and we all will miss him immensely.

In honor of Tracy's memory, Cornell University is hoping to award a prize in Clinical Pathology to a veterinary student. Anyone who would like to contribute towards this cause, please submit donations to:

In memory of Dr. Tracy French
C/O The Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine
Office of Alumni Affairs and Development
Box 39
Ithaca, NY, 14853

Checks can be made out to Cornell University.

News Releases and Updates

The ACVP/STP Coalition Responds to the Continued Shortage of Veterinary Pathologists

Gary Cockerell (Director, ACVP/STP Coalition), Donald Meuten (President, ACVP),
Ricardo Ochoa (President, STP)

Recently released results of a supply and demand survey of veterinary pathologists conducted in 2007 by the American College of Veterinary Pathologists (ACVP), the American Society of Veterinary Clinical Pathology (ASVCP) and the Society of Toxicologic Pathology (STP) (http://www.toxpath.org/acvp_workforce.asp) confirm the results of a similar survey conducted in 2002 (<http://www.acvp.org/news/2002SupplyDemand/2002Supply.pdf>) – there is a continued shortage of veterinary pathologists to fill a growing number of critical positions in academia, industry and government. Comparison of the results of the two surveys, however, indicates that considerable progress has been made in the last five years, particularly on the supply (training) side. Specifically, it has become easier to recruit candidates for post-DVM pathology training, the quality of the candidate pool has

improved, and there are an increased number of positions and trainees in veterinary anatomic pathology and clinical pathology training programs.

In response to the workforce shortage originally documented in the 2002 survey, the ACVP/STP Coalition for Veterinary Pathology Fellows was established to provide a unified mechanism to solicit and allocate funds to train additional much needed veterinary pathologists. After approximately four years of operations, this unique educational initiative has established partnerships between academia and the biopharmaceutical industry to create 22 new training positions, including 15 anatomic pathology residencies, 3 clinical pathology residencies and 4 post-residency PhD pathology research positions. These positions were funded by Bristol-Myers Squibb, Charles River Laboratories, Eli Lilly, Genentech, GlaxoSmithKline, Merck, Pfizer, Sanofi-aventis, Schering-Plough and Wyeth. Importantly, sponsors who funded the initial 3 year training positions have since renewed funding for another set of positions.

“The visionary participation of these world-class biopharmaceutical companies and contract research organizations, and their commitment to the training of future veterinary pathologists attests to their recognition that data submitted by these companies to regulatory agencies must always be of the highest quality,” noted Dr. Ricardo Ochoa, President of the STP. “By assuring the supply of well trained veterinary pathologists, some of whom will likely become employed in private industry, these organizations are planning for the continued accuracy of decisions on the safety and efficacy of new chemical entities in the future.”

Sponsors provide support for stipend, tuition and fees, benefits, travel and educational supplies for three years. In addition to support for the training positions themselves, other sponsors have supplied unrestricted contributions for important enabling activities of the Coalition. Companies that have offered this form of support include Allergan, Aperio, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Burroughs-Wellcome Fund, Elsevier, Experimental Pathology Laboratories, GEMpath, Histo-Research Scientific Labs, Integrated Lab Systems, Millennium-Takeda, The Leyden Group and Wyeth. Taken together, \$5.2M in commitments has been raised over the past 4 years. At the conclusion of their training, Fellows have no pay-back obligation or commitment to sponsors other than to complete the ACVP certification examination and pursue a career in veterinary pathology.

The new positions were awarded on a competitive application basis to 14 different North American training institutions including Colorado State University, Iowa State University, The Ohio State University, Michigan State University, North Carolina State University, Purdue University, Texas A&M University, University of California-Davis, University of Georgia, University of Guelph, University of Illinois-Urbana, University of Minnesota, University of Pennsylvania and Washington State University.

The Coalition has also established mechanisms to ensure active interchange between Fellows, their training institutions and sponsoring companies. Fellows remain at their home university during the period of training, but perform externships at their sponsor's site to enhance their academic training and to experience the role of contemporary

veterinary pathologists in the modern biopharmaceutical environment. A pathologist from each sponsoring company is appointed as a mentor and the respective academic institutions provide special faculty appointments for these mentors, which allow them to more fully participate in the Fellows' training program and to interact with other trainees. A Coalition Scientific Conference, held in association with either the ACVP or the STP annual meetings, provides a forum for Fellows to present results of their training and receive feedback from their peers and mentors, and also for members of academia and industry to present issues of mutual interest. Additional information is available on the Coalition web site <http://www.vetpathcoalition.org/index.cfm>, including all presentations from the 2008 Coalition Scientific Conference.

"From the ACVP perspective, this is one of those win-win programs in which we are fortunate to participate," commented Dr. Donald Meuten, President of the ACVP. "These fellowships provide opportunities for pathologists in training to explore multiple career options before they commit to a specific job or career path. The more carefully trainees look at opportunities, the more likely they will be to choose the one that best matches their professional and personal goals. The program is so successful among current Fellows that many candidates for residencies now specify they would like to be considered for a Coalition position. For employers this means job satisfaction and stable employment. Our most valuable resource at universities, industry or any other sector is our personnel. I do not believe there is a comparable program associated with any of the other specialty colleges in the AVMA. This program makes the ACVP unique, stronger and sets an example for the other specialty colleges to follow."

Dr. Gary Cockerell, Director of the Coalition, attributes its initial success to (1) a well-documented need for veterinary pathologists, (2) the willingness of academia and industry to partner for the betterment of the discipline, (3) the endorsement of the ACVP and STP, two of the foremost pathology organizations in the world, (4) training focused on core disciplines of veterinary pathology, and (5) mutual benefits for participating trainees, their training institutions and sponsoring organizations. There remains an on-going shortage of veterinary pathologists, largely due to the retirement of a large segment of the current workforce, and employers continue to indicate not enough pathologists are being trained. However, it is clear that in the absence of more traditional government-funded programs, private industry is willing to channel financial resources to the ACVP/STP Coalition for Veterinary Pathology Fellows to address this national need.

European Updates

**European College of Veterinary Clinical Pathology (ECVCP)
European Society of Veterinary Clinical Pathologists (ESVCP)**

In 2008, the ECVCP increased its membership from 69 to 79 with the addition of 8 members who were successful in the certifying examination in September 2008, 1 member who gained membership by equivalency, and 1 honorary member. This year

the credentials committee has been recertifying those members who have been diplomates for 5 years. This is a requirement of the EBVS (European board of veterinary specialties). The education committee continues to approve training programmes and the laboratory standards committee to approve training laboratories.

The ESVCP (European Society of Veterinary Clinical Pathologists) held its annual scientific meeting in Barcelona (Spain) in conjunction with the ISACP (International Society for Animal Clinical Pathology) from 30 September to 3 October 2008. It also held a 1 day meeting on Liver disease during the ECVIM-CA (European College of Veterinary Internal Medicine Companion Animals) annual meeting in Ghent, Belgium in September 2009.

In 2009 the ESVCP/ECVP annual scientific meeting will be held in Thessaloniki, Greece from 7 – 9 October. The deadline for submission of abstracts for scientific oral presentations, posters, and case presentations is 30 June. Preliminary information is available on the website www.esvcp.org

A one day session during the annual ECVIM_CA meeting will be held in Porto, Portugal on 13 September 2009, with a theme about platelet evaluation.

ESVCP and ECVCP have collaborative programs in an annual self-assessment /mock exam held in IDEXX (Wetherby, UK) each year. In 2008, it was held on 6-7 December. Both groups share a collaborative new website, and are looking forward to participating in the new reference intervals /ranges initiative of the ASVCP.

Provided by J. Archer and A. Provencher Bolliger

ASVCP Treasurer's report

The beginning of 2009 finds the ASVCP in good financial health. Our total assets are approximately \$300K. Last year the Executive Board made some investment decisions which give us a balanced portfolio including cash in money market funds (\$120K), short term investments in low risk insured CDs (\$90K), and long term investments in balanced growth funds (\$45K) and a socially responsible fund (\$45K). Our biggest expenditures continue to be in the Veterinary Clinical Pathology Journal, the annual meeting and administration. We also continue to increase our funds for awards, including the new education award, student travels and research, and updating our website. Ongoing work to implement the Strategic plan will result in creative and directed use of our assets as well as generating more lines of revenue.

Submitted by Dori Borjesson
ASVCP Treasurer

Veterinary Clinical Pathology

Format change for What Is Your Diagnosis? articles

WYD articles have been a popular feature of the journal for years. Beginning in 2009, WYD articles will be published using a new format. The purpose of the new format is to focus solely on the 'diagnostic challenge' and clearly distinguish it from a Case Report, which requires more extensive documentation and investigation. WYD articles will be limited to 2 published pages, the first of which, as usual, will include the Case Presentation (maximum 200 words) and unknown image(s) or dataset. The Interpretation, Additional Results, and Discussion must all fit on the second page (maximum 400 words), including up to 2 additional images and a maximum of 5 references (no abstract). If you are unsure whether your case is more appropriate as a WYD or Case Report, please contact one of the Editors. For more information on formats for submitting articles to *Veterinary Clinical Pathology*, click on Author Guidelines on the journal website (<http://www.blackwellpublishing.com/vcp>).

Affiliation with the Australian Society of Veterinary Pathology

Thanks to an agreement between Wiley-Blackwell and the Australian Society of Veterinary Pathology, *Veterinary Clinical Pathology* is now an affiliate journal of that organization. This means that members of the ASVP can opt to receive *Veterinary Clinical Pathology* at a reduced subscription rate. We are pleased to welcome our "down under" colleagues as affiliates, and look forward to strengthening ties through the journal.

Back issues of VCP soon to be available online!

Thanks in part to the generous donation of old journals by ASVCP members, back issues and articles will soon be available online in PDF format. Keep an eye on the journal website and be sure to ask your library to purchase this valuable legacy archive so everyone at your institution can access all of the articles in *Veterinary Clinical Pathology*.

New ASVCP/VCP corporate sales liaison

Paula Krimer has graciously volunteered to serve as the new ASVCP corporate sales liaison with Wiley-Blackwell. Paula will identify potential advertisers whose products and services fit the profile of the journal and bring these advertising opportunities to the attention of marketing staff at Wiley-Blackwell. Thank you, Paula, for accepting this important role on behalf of *Veterinary Clinical Pathology*.

ASVCP Committee Updates

Development Committee

The Development Committee is seeking a person to chair this committee. If you have an interest, please contact an EB member.

Outreach Committee

\$250 ASVCP Color Poster Contest

The Membership Committee is sponsoring a \$250 color poster contest. The goal of this new poster is to showcase the ASVCP and encourage membership as well as promote interest in veterinary clinical pathology. The poster should have interesting visual appeal, provide useful information, and be suitable for wide distribution/display (hallways, offices, billboards, meetings). The only requirements for this 14 x 17 inch color poster are inclusion of the ASVCP logo, web address (www.asvcp.org), and *creativity*. Additional information about the ASVCP and Membership Benefits that could appear on the poster may be found on the website link "How to Join" and in our brochure (also available online). The winning entry, selected by the Membership Committee and Executive Board, will be available for Veterinary Colleges, Pathology Clubs, groups requesting copies, and meetings. The new poster also will be printed along with a brief profile about the winning submitter(s) in Veterinary Clinical Pathology. Students, residents, graduate students, and faculty are all encouraged to submit a poster as individuals or teams/groups (e.g. Pathology Club). The deadline for submissions is **May 15, 2009**. Please create the poster as a 14 x 17 inch PowerPoint, convert to a PDF file and email to:

Cheryl Swenson at swenson@cvm.msu.edu

Quality Assurance and Standards (QA&S) Committee

In 1996, Quality Assurance Guidelines were established as a basic benchmark for quality laboratory medicine by the Quality Assurance and Standards Committee. There were separate sections dedicated to disciplines within the clinical pathology laboratory (clinical chemistry, hematology, etc.). Each section contained general preanalytical, analytical, and postanalytical guidelines specific to each discipline.

In 2006, the Quality Assurance and Standards Committee embarked on a revision of the 1996 Quality Assurance Guidelines. Though this initial mission was targeted at reformatting the Guidelines to eliminate redundancy, it soon became clear that revisions and up-dates to content also were needed. Despite combining the preanalytical and postanalytical sections, this document has almost tripled in size due to the addition of content. This revision represents hundreds of hours of work from more than 20 individuals who made contributions through new content, revisions and editing. Each section of this document has been reviewed by at least three members of the QAS

committee. Voluntary adherence to these Quality Assurance Guidelines is recommended by the ASVCP's QAS Committee.

At this time, we would like to submit the revised Quality Assurance Guidelines to the membership for review and formal acceptance. We believe that all members should have input in the creation of high quality standards within the laboratory. Additionally, because these guidelines may impact academic, diagnostic, and industrial clinical pathology laboratories, the membership has the right and responsibility to review this content.

Submitted by:

Kristen Friedrichs, DVM, PhD (2008 Co-chair, 2009 chair)

Kendal Harr, DVM, MS (2008 Co-chair)

Veterinary Laboratory Professionals Committee

ASVCP Veterinary Laboratories Professionals Session VLP Roundtable Discussion

Tuesday, November 18, 2008

Moderator: Elaine Nicholds, Supervisor,

Clinical Pathology Laboratory, Texas A&M University

A roundtable discussion was held in order to address the issues of after-hour laboratory services. The topic of this discussion was Clinical Pathology Laboratory versus Stat Lab. The consensus was, more laboratories favored the use of a Stat Lab instead of student workers and medical technologist's covering emergency call backs.

By using the Clinical Pathology Laboratory, Clinicians have trained student workers and/or Medical Technologists performing laboratory testing. These trained workers are also proficient in Quality Control and perform routine maintenance prior to giving out test results. At this time, it has been difficult to retain these employees due to excessive call backs and employment interfering with classes for veterinary students. Also, it appears the interest of employment in the Clinical Pathology Lab has decreased. On average, call back fees can vary from \$49-\$200 per client. Some labs also incorporate after hour fees and surcharges in addition to the call back fee.

Currently, Clinical Pathology Laboratories are initiating the use of Stat Labs. These labs are intended to provide services after-hours for emergency services performed by Vet Techs, Clinicians, Residents, Interns and Vet Students. It will be helpful to have duplicate instruments, once correlated, can be used as teaching devices. Orientation of 4th year vet students, residents, interns, and new techs would be necessary. It was also discussed to have a central location for Stat Lab instruments near the Clinical Pathology Laboratory. It was recommended for the Clinical Pathology Laboratory to oversee the QC, QA, routine maintenance, data entry and billing for these instruments. Due to the lack of time, it was mentioned to resume this topic at the next annual meeting.

Submitted by Lisa Shipp and Elaine Nicholds

Executive Board News

Greetings to all.

The new year has started, and the EB has been busy this year with 3 teleconferences and lots of e-mails. An external audit was conducted in January, and a report is currently in review. Our budget has been finalized for 2009 and despite the current economics, our Society remains financially sound.

Our Strategic Plan is in full force. Most recently, the EB, the Rees Group, and Mark Johnson and the Web Advisory Group are working to give our web home page a new and updated look. A draft has been approved, and we are moving forward.

As you can see from the contents of this issue, it is not too early to start thinking about next Fall's meeting in Monterey, CA. Please consider submitting abstracts for any of the following: scientific sessions, the case review session and the 3rd Annual Chemistry review session. I'm sure there are some well qualified residents and graduate students who are eligible for the awards that are available.

On a final note, our committees are always looking for new people. It's a great way to meet ASVCP members, learn more about the ASVCP, and contribute to your organization. Plus, it can be a lot of fun. Please consider contacting a committee chair or member if you are interested.

General Information

ASVCP NATIONAL OFFICE: Members can contact the ASVCP National Office at 2810 Crossroads Drive, Suite 3800, Madison, WI 53718; Phone 608-443-2479; Fax 608-443-2474 or 608-443-2478; E-mail: info@asvcp.org.

Electronic Newsletters: Members who have provided the Society with an e-mail address will receive an e-mail containing a link to the newsletter as soon as each issue is posted to the ASVCP website. The newsletters are posted in PDF format. If you have any problems accessing the newsletter electronically, please contact the ASVCP National Office (info@asvcp.org) or Secretary Karen Russell, krussell@cvm.tamu.edu. Members that do not have an e-mail access will receive paper copies.

Change of Address: Please send any changes in mailing address or electronic mail address to the ASVCP National Office at 2810 Crossroads Drive, Suite 3800, Madison, WI 53718; Email: info@asvcp.org; FAX 608-443-2474 or 608-443-2478.

ASVCP Newsletter and/ or Website Submissions: If you have material of interest to post in the newsletter or on the ASVCP website (www.asvcp.org), please contact the ASVCP Secretary, Karen Russell, Dept of Veterinary Pathobiology, Mail Stop 4467, College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843-4467; krussell@cvm.tamu.edu, or contact the ASVCP National Office at 2810 Crossroads Drive, Suite 3800, Madison, WI 53718; info@asvcp.org.

ASVCP Membership Application: Member application forms are available at the ASVCP website (www.asvcp.org), by contacting ASVCP Secretary Karen Russell at krussell@cvm.tamu.edu, or by contacting the ASVCP National office at 2810 Crossroads Drive, Suite 3800, Madison, WI 53718; phone 608-443-2479; Email: info@asvcp.org.

Upcoming Meetings

2009 ACVIM Forum with the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association, June 3-6, 2009, Montreal, Canada. For more information, go to www.acvim.org.

International Symposium of the World Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians, June 17-20, 2009, Madrid, Spain. Some information can be found at www.aavld.org.

146th AVMA Annual Convention, July 11-14, 2009, Seattle, Washington. For more information, go to www.avmaconvention.org.

The 19th Congress of the European College of Veterinary Internal Medicine - Companion Animal, September 10-12, 2009, Porto, Portugal. For more information, go to www.ecvimcongress.org. Abstracts for posters and scientific presentations are welcome.

The XIVth Congress of the International Society for Animal Clinical Pathology, July 2010, Corvallis, Oregon, USA. For information, go to www.isacp.org.

52nd Annual AAVLC/USAHA Meeting, October 7-14, 2009 in San Diego, California. For more information, go to www.aavld.org.

29th Annual Veterinary Cancer Society Conference, October 16-19, 2009, Austin, Texas. For information go to <http://www.vetcancersociety.org>.