

**Emerging Diseases
Committee Report**

2008 Mid Year Report

September 2008



Chair: Dr. Lanny Pace, Mississippi State University, College of Veterinary Medicine

Vice Chair: Brian Smith, Association of American Veterinary Medicine Colleges

Issues of significance occurring in the industry (nationally or internationally) affecting your species/issue area that the board should be apprised of:

- Avian Influenza - Continued threat of Avian Influenza to the commercial poultry industry. National surveillance program as a cooperative effort between USDA and state/NAHLN diagnostic labs continues.
- NAHLN – Five review of NAHLN, including surveys of lab directors, state vets, AVIC's, and USDA has been conducted. Changes have been made in the NAHLN Steering Committee to avoid violation of Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) rules. A new AAVLD/USAHA NAHLN committee that will not be under FACA rules will be established so the two organizations will have the ability to make specific recommendations ("advise") the NAHLN. Continued pressure on congress is needed to get funding of the NAHLN to a level that fully supports the NAHLN.

Any activities of the committee since annual meeting:

Mr. Brian Smith, Director of Governmental Affairs, Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges has agreed to serve as Vice-Chair of the Emerging Diseases committee.

Plans of the committee in the coming months and/or for Annual meeting seminar topics/speakers:

- The Emerging Diseases Committee will meet at the USAHA/AAVLD Annual Meeting in Greensboro in October to discuss topics/speakers for the NIAA Annual Meeting.
- Potential speaker/topic – Animal Disease Modeling, Dr. Andres M. Perez, UC Davis is a potential speaker. Dr. Pace has a verbal commitment from Dr. Perez should the committee choose this topic.
- Other potential topics – continue sharing 1 hour with the Poultry Committee for Avian Influenza updates and/or share 1 hour with Swine Committee, updates on worldwide foot and mouth disease outbreaks, rabies, equine piroplasmiasis, equine herpes, eastern equine encephalitis, viral hemorrhagic septicemia (VHS) in fish.