The American Association of Veterinary Parasitologists (AAVP) 60th Annual Meeting
A Joint Meeting with LIWC and ISEP
July 11-14, 2015, Boston, Massachusetts, USA

Message from the Program Committee

The American Association of Veterinary Parasitologists (AAVP) will be holding its 60th Annual Meeting as a joint meeting with the Livestock Insect Workers’ Conference (LIWC) and the International Symposium on Ectoparasites of Pets (ISEP) on July 11-14, 2015 at the Revere Hotel in Boston, Massachusetts. The AAVP annual meeting continues to be the most important opportunity for the dissemination of the latest data and views on the biology and control of internal and external parasites of veterinary importance. Once again, the annual meeting promises to deliver a varied and exciting program that will bring together a broad-based group of scientists from academia, industry, government, and veterinarians from private practice. Being a joint meeting with LIWC and ISEP, this year’s meeting will have further diversity in content, and allow for meaningful interactions with colleagues who often don’t attend the same meetings. With the ever-growing concerns of anthelmintic and insecticide resistance, the re-emergence and spread of new vectors and vector-borne diseases, the changing regulatory environment, and the launch of new products for the control of parasites, there has never been a better time to attend this meeting.

The 2015 Program Chair, Ray Kaplan, and the AAVP Program Committee, Andrew Peregrine, Doug Carithers, Tim Geary, Al Marchiondo, Meriam Saleh and Javier Garza along with the LIWC and ISEP representatives Beto Perez de Leon and Bill Donahue, are currently assembling an excellent scientific program. The theme of this year’s meeting is “Parasitic Evolution – Scientific Revolution”. Plenary sessions on Saturday and Tuesday are being planned that will highlight some of the best and exciting new science that is leading the way toward a deeper understanding of parasite biology and improvements in the control of parasitic and vector-borne disease. We have lined up five excellent speakers for these sessions that will speak on a broad variety of interesting topics.

Following the opening plenary session Saturday, the program will include the presentation of the LIWC Lifetime Achievement Award and the LIWC Industry Appreciation Award, followed by presentations by recipients of the AAVP-Merial Distinguished Veterinary Parasitologist Award, and the AAVP-Merck Outstanding Graduate Student Award. Beginning on Sunday morning and continuing through Monday, there will be concurrent scientific sessions, where papers on a diversity of interesting topics will be presented. On Tuesday morning we will have the second plenary session, followed by a session sponsored by the National Center for Veterinary Parasitology (NCVP).
As always, the meeting will include student presentations and a student competition, but this year, rather than having separate student sessions as in the past, all student papers will be integrated into the topical session that is most appropriate for their talk. Also, for the first time, we will be having a poster session (see below for details). When submitting abstracts (see below for details), individuals will be able to choose whether they prefer an oral or poster presentation. We should be able to accommodate the preferences of most, but if more oral papers are submitted than can be accommodated in the program, some who request oral papers may be assigned to a poster. This will not affect the student paper competition, as we plan to have awards for both oral and poster presentations.

As in recent years, students will have a series of excellent social and professional opportunities designed specifically for their benefit. All students are encouraged to arrive early and attend a special student lunch “meet and greet” on Saturday prior to the opening session, where students will play “Parasite Jeopardy”. This fun activity will provide the opportunity for students to get to get to know each other before the meeting starts, so those student relationships can be strengthened throughout the remainder of the conference. This will be followed by a student lunch on Sunday, where AAVP colleagues from many different career paths in parasitology will meet with students in a “speed-interaction” to share their insights and advice. On Monday there will be a third student lunch meeting where elections will take place for the new student representative to the Executive Board.

There will again be a time set aside on Sunday morning for meetings of the AAVP committees. The purpose of these meetings is to provide a dedicated time slot for those committees to go over the past year’s accomplishments, develop new proposals for the coming year, and prepare for committee reports to the AAVP membership at the business meeting on Monday. You do not need to be a 2015 committee member to attend; showing up will allow you to become a 2015 member of that committee, and we encourage all to serve on a committee. We are especially encouraging students to join committees this year. As a bonus, breakfast will be provided to all who attend. As a reminder, the committee chairs are: Archives, Tom Nolan; Awards, Tom McTier; Constitution and Bylaws, Tom Kennedy; Education, Tammi Krecek; Finance, Andy Moorhead; Historian, Raffaele Roncali; Newsletter, Jenifer Edmonds; Program, Ray Kaplan; Publications-Internet, Tariq Qureshi; Outreach, Lora Ballweber; Nominations, Tom Craig.

The Revere Hotel has several great venues for evening socials. As usual socials will be held Saturday, Sunday and Monday evenings; sponsored by Bayer on Saturday night, Merial on Sunday night, and Elanco on Monday night. In addition, plans are now in progress for sponsored lunches. Details will be shared as plans develop.

Updates to the program, as it continues to develop, can be found at the AAVP web site: www.aavp.org. Please note that the final program for the conference will be posted on the AAVP web site, and not in the June Newsletter, by June 26th, 2015.

The Program Committee now invites abstracts for oral and poster presentations with a submission start date of March 2nd and a deadline of April 24th, 2015. The meeting of the AAVP is a very successful vehicle for the dissemination of the latest data and views.
on the biology and control of parasites of veterinary importance. It is also an excellent networking opportunity. We hope you will consider presenting your work, or simply joining us in Boston this summer.

Sincerely,

Ray M. Kaplan, Program Chair and President-Elect