AAVP Newsletter

American Association of Veterinary Parasitologists

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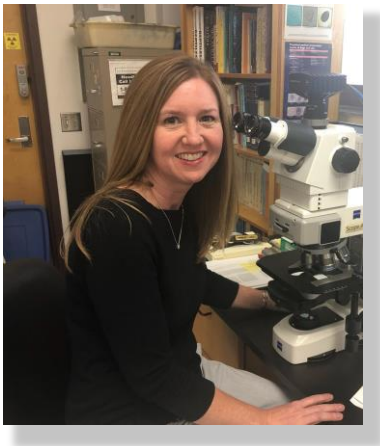
From the President



Heather Walden
AAVP President

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

As I am now several months into my term as President of AAVP, I cannot help but think about my first AAVP meeting as a graduate student in Dr. Byron Blagburn's lab. We went to Hawaii and Dr. Dwight Bowman had the idea of getting graduate students to present their mentor's work. That would have been great if I had felt comfortable with the task of presenting Dr. Blagburn's current study, one I was not very familiar with. I managed to get through it, never more thankful to be finished with a presentation in all my life, only to be greeted with the raised hand of Dr. Ellis Greiner. I proceeded to get a lesson on 'ascarids' versus 'roundworms' that I have never forgotten and the look on Dr. Blagburn's face, along with his laugh, told me he knew it was coming. Now at the University of Florida, no longer a graduate student, but a parasitologist trying to humbly fill the shoes of Dr. Greiner and maintain the legacy of veterinary parasitology he and many others created here, I look back and feel so grateful to have had so many incredible influences in my life and my career. All the result of my membership in AAVP.

These past few months have been busy for the Executive Committee and AAVP. We continue to work with The Rees Group, expanding our partnership, making everything more efficient and establishing continuity that will remain, even as Executive Committee members come and go. We are working with Joyn to do a much-needed update of our website. As we go through the year, you will see more changes in the site that will make navigating all aspects more efficient. This should improve things such as managing membership, navigating the members-only area, and meeting registration.

The Hookworm Taskforce is also nearing completion of timely and needed resources for management of hookworm resistance in dogs. Drs. Jeba Jesudoss Chelladurai, Antoinette Marsh, Tim Geary and Ray Kaplan, along with the Publications, Outreach and Research Committee have been working hard to finalize this work. We hope to have those publications soon.

Dr. Grace VanHoy hosted the Educator's Meeting at UC Davis in December. Thanks to Dr. VanHoy for a wonderful meeting and AAVP and CAPC for funding this long-standing AAVP tradition that has become such an asset to our parasitology educators.

In 2025, we will have another auction to raise funds for the YITG. The past 2 years have been a huge success! These funds will help supplement those set aside by the Executive Committee and meet the needs of our growing student members and the increasing cost of travel. Some very special items, including several by Dr. William C. Campbell, have been donated for the auction. If you would like to donate items, please reach out to Dr. Shelly Michalski (michalsk@uwosh.edu).

The Executive Committee has been meeting monthly virtually. The Program Chair, Dr. Andy Moorhead, is planning an exciting meeting in St. Louis and Dr. Lindsay Starkey, our Vice President, is currently looking at sites for 2026.

Award nominations are soon approaching, remember to nominate worthy colleagues for the appropriate AAVP Achievement Awards: Distinguished Veterinary Parasitologist Award, Distinguished Service Award, One Health Award, Outstanding Graduate Student Research Award, and Graduate Student Award in Zoonotic Disease.

Be sure to register for our upcoming meeting and share your latest research in St.Louis, MO. I look forward to seeing you all there!

Submitted by Heather Walden, AAVP President
Email: hdstockdale@ufl.edu

From the Secretary/Treasurer

2025 AAVP Membership Dues

Dean Dailey
Secretary - Treasurer

I would like to thank those of you who have paid your 2024 membership dues! The renewal period for membership was from **October 1, 2024, through January 31, 2025**. If you have not renewed your membership at this time, then you will have lost your membership privileges. The good news is that you can easily regain those privileges by renewing online!
Annual dues for regular members are $100.00 per year and $30.00 per year for students. Dues should be paid online by clicking on the "Membership" tab at the top of the AAVP web page (http://www.aavp.org) and then clicking "**Join / Renew Online**". If you login to the site before clicking "Join / Renew Online", your personal information will be prepopulated on the renewal form. Once you have made your payment, you should receive an e-mail from the AAVP confirming that your account has been updated. If you require a formal receipt for payment, or if you are experiencing any problems with the payment of your dues online, please contact the AAVP Office via email info@aavp.org) or contact me. Working with the Rees Group professional association management company, we have implemented a few updates that we hope you find helpful, such as membership renewal reminder emails and an updated renewal process on the AAVP website.

Thank you for continuing to support the AAVP!

Dean Dailey
Secretary/Treasurer, AAVP
Phone: (706) 247-5194
Email: dean.dailey@boehringer-ingelheim.com

70th Annual Meeting of the AAVP – Conference Information

Message from the Program Committee

Make plans to attend the 70th AAVP Annual Meeting, June 21 – 24, 2025, in St. Louis, MO!

Andy Moorhead
President-Elect and
Programming Chair

The 70th Annual Meeting of the AAVP will be in the downtown area of St. Louis, MO at the Marriott, St. Louis Grand Hotel. The theme of the meeting is **Resistance: Is it futile?** Make plans to arrive early on the 20th to catch up with colleagues and friends. We are also excited that the annual auction to benefit the Young Investigator Travel Grant (YITG) will take place on June 23rd. We will be only a few blocks from the famed Arch and near Busch Stadium, which is home to the St. Louis Cardinals. Student members, plan to stay until the 25th to attend the conference student tour on Tuesday, June 24th for a behind-the-scenes tour of the St. Louis Zoo veterinary and research facilities.

Registration for the meeting and hotel, as well as abstract submission will open **February 17, 2025** at aavp.org. The deadline for abstract submission is **April 11, 2025**. Information on submission of YITG applications and abstract submissions will be posted on the AAVP website.

Meeting Location

St. Louis, Missouri

The **American Association of Veterinary Parasitologists 70th Annual Meeting** will be held June 21 – 24, 2025 in **St. Louis, MO, USA**.

Address

The Marriot, St. Louis Grand Hotel

800 Washington Ave,

St. Louis, MO 63101

USA

Telephone

(314) 621-9600

Website

Marriott St. Louis Grand Hotel

Early arrival, staying after – links for local attractions

Explore St. Louis

Conference Registration

It is highly recommended you pre-register for the 2025 meeting. **If you are submitting abstract(s), we require that you register for the meeting by the May 1st deadline.** You can register by clicking online at www.aavp.org. Online payments can be completed by credit card (Visa, MasterCard, American Express, etc.).

2025 Registration Fees

Members

- Early bird registration (deadline: May 1, 2025): US $350 (general) / US $150 (student)
- Late registration (after May 1, 2025) or on-site: US $675 (general) / US $375 (student)

Non-Members

- Early bird registration (deadline: May 1, 2025): US $675 (general) / US $375 (student)
- Late registration (after May 1, 2025) or on-site: US $775 (general) / US $ 475 (student)

Guest Social Events Only

- Guest registration (1 per standard scientific meeting registrant) are available (guest will not be allowed into the scientific session) US $250

Printed Proceedings Book will need to be purchased this year. All attendees will receive a digital "flip-book" of the Proceedings and a standard pdf copy. If you would like a printed copy of the Proceedings Book, please make sure you choose that selection when registering for US $40.

The AAVP meeting registration fee supports the costs of running the meeting. Hotel reservations are separate and need to be booked directly with the hotel either online or by phone as outlined below in the “Hotel Reservations” section. Only members of the AAVP and fully-registered non-members will be allowed to attend the scientific sessions (guests can only attend sponsored sessions). Membership dues for 2025 must be paid in full to register at the “member” rate. AAVP annual membership dues are not included in the meeting registration fee but can be paid separately

during the registration process; however, membership will only be good through the calendar year, 2025. A proceedings book will be available digitally. Print proceedings are available for purchase for US $40. Please make sure you choose this optional "ticket" if you would like a print proceedings when you register. Your meeting badge and other information will be available for you onsite. These items will not be mailed in advance of the meeting even if you pre-register. Students must be AAVP members to apply for an AAVP student travel grant (Young Investigator Travel Grant) and compete in the AAVP student award competitions.

Hotel Reservations

*Reduced Rate until **May 23, 2025***

The negotiated room rate for attendees is $176/night plus local and state taxes. All reservations must be guaranteed with a major credit card. Credit cards will not be charged a deposit but held and charged at the actual meeting. Any guaranteed reservations canceled less than 48 hours prior to arrival will be charged a non-refundable fee equal to one night room and tax.

Hotel

To make your hotel reservation you can:

1. Access the AAVP hotel link via the American Association of Veterinary Parasitologists (AAVP) website (www.aavp.org) and then follow the instructions.
2. Or, click on the following hyperlink: Hotel Reservations

   You will be able to book and hold your reservation with a credit card. Note that bookings may only be done online for the period June 19-24, 2025. If you wish to book additional stays outside these dates, please call the hotel (see below).
3. Or, you can call 1-314-621-9600. Guests must identify themselves as members of the group and ask for the American Association of Veterinary Parasitologists Annual Meeting.

It is important for all meeting attendees to stay at this hotel in order to satisfy our room block commitment.

Make your room reservations by May 23, 2025 . After that date, the unreserved room block will be released, and the special conference reduced rates will expire.

Of note: Book early, as the "Early Bird" rates are based upon availability only. A finite number of rooms have been contracted at the discounted rate and are likely to be taken before the **May 23, 2025** deadline.

Travel

Airport

The airport for the meeting is St. Louis Lambert International Airport. (airport code: STL).

Airport Transportation

Travel between the airport and the hotel can be done by Uber, Lyft or city taxi. Additionally, the local transportation (MetroLink – Red Line) starts at the airport and has a stop at the **Convention Center,** which is two blocks from the hotel.

Parking

Self-parking is available for $40 per day.

Students

Roommates for St. Louis: Students looking for room share should contact Student Officers Dr. Elyssa Campbell and Rachel Smith (aavpstudentcommittee@gmail.com) and we will send the Google Sheet for roommate matching.

Scientific Program

General

The 2025 program continues with many of the previous approaches, which we believe will enhance an already fun and informative veterinary parasitology meeting. Special sessions on invasive species, zoonotic parasites, novel cases and anthelmintic resistance are planned, dependent on abstract submissions. The meeting will begin at 2:00 PM local time on Saturday June 21st, 2025, and end by noon local time on Tuesday June 24th, 2025.

Saturday afternoon starts with the President's opening remarks immediately followed by the plenary session.

Following the plenary session and ensuing coffee break, presentations will be made by this year's AAVP award recipients. The day's activities will culminate with the Elanco Symposium and Social.

Sunday morning begins with meetings of the AAVP committees; breakfast will be provided. The scientific sessions will begin mid-morning at the completion of the committee meetings. Lunch will be provided by IDEXX during their noontime Symposium. The day will conclude with poster sessions and a Boehringer Ingelheim Symposium and Social.

Monday morning will begin with scientific presentations followed by the AAVP Business Meeting and Awards Ceremony in the second half of the morning. Lunch will be provided for afternoon AAVP-NCVP Parasite Case Discussions. Thereafter, scientific presentations will continue for the rest of the day. The day concludes with the Antech Symposium and Social and the YITG live auction.

Tuesday morning starts with a special session followed by the President's Symposium which has the theme of **"Resistance: Is it futile?"**.

Throughout the meeting there will be plenty of opportunities for you to share and to learn about results of research from a variety of veterinary parasitology laboratories.

Oral Presentation Guidelines

All oral presentations will be given a 15-minute time slot. Plan to deliver your presentation in 12-13 minutes to allow time for questions. Please remember to summarize and repeat questions before responding so that the audience can clearly hear and understand.

A speaker-ready room will not be available. Use good judgment in the selection of colors, fonts and image size. If you must preface a slide with "…You probably can't see this…" or "…This may be hard to see …" then it should not be in your presentation. Expect that room lights will be on at least midway in the meeting room.

A "green…yellow…red" light system will be placed on each podium to provide speakers with notices of the time remaining for their talk. When the light turns red, the microphone and slides **will be turned off**. This may seem cruel, but it has been a remarkable asset to keeping the sessions on time.

Audiovisual Support

Electronic presentations on commonly used portable media (memory stick) must be used and PC based programs (PowerPoint) are strongly encouraged. Apple based software or files will not be supported and may not be compatible with the AV equipment. AAVP will provide equipment in each meeting room for projected computer presentations; personal laptops are not to be used.

Files must be labelled by presentation number and last name of presenter. An audiovisual technician will be onsite during the first hour before the day's sessions begin to check uploads. If last minute changes are required, new files can only be uploaded during the first hour of the day. To lessen the expenses of the meeting, we are not paying for a technician to sit throughout the day to load presentations. You will not be permitted to load your talk later or when you reach the podium to present. PC-based PowerPoint is the only software supported for electronic presentations. Other programs or the use of personal computers are at the discretion of the Program Chair. Slides (2 X 2) and overhead projectors will NOT be available.

Please note: the conference program is still in development. The final program will be posted on the AAVP website (www.aavp.org) **at or around June 1.**

Abstract Submission

*Abstract submission closes **April 11, 2025***

General

As in previous years, the word limit for abstract text (excluding author names and addresses) is **300**. Abstracts should be one paragraph and may not contain tables. Abstracts should not be hypothetical in nature and should contain references to real data. The submission portal allows you to submit an abstract and make changes until **11:59 PM EST on April 11, 2025**, so no need to wait until the last second to upload your abstract! You will likely find it easiest to compose your abstract in a Word file then, once finalized, transfer (cut-and-paste) the title and abstract to the appropriate text boxes. Presenters will be notified by **April 28, 2025,** whether their abstracts have been accepted.

If you have any questions regarding program, please do not hesitate to contact the Program Chair, Dr. Andy Moorhead at armoorh2@ncsu.edu. Likewise, for technical issues regarding abstract submission please email info@aavp.org, for assistance.

Please remember, final acceptance of your abstract is contingent upon confirmation of receipt of the registration fee by **May 1, 2025**.

SUBMISSION OF AN ABSTRACT

We will be using a new system for abstract submission this year!

Instructions for creating a submission:

1. Click on the following link to navigate to the AAVP Annual Meeting website: https://aavp.joynmeeting.com/v2/
2. Click on the tile that says “Abstracts.”
3. Login, using your AAVP member login (if this is your first time logging into the new site, choose forgot your password to reset it).
4. On the next screen, click on the 2025 Abstract Submission button. (This is also your Dashboard where you will see abstracts or awards submissions that are in progress or submitted.)
5. Since you are already a member, the system already has your demographic information. Complete the form for submission.
6. There are three pages to complete. If you need to stop and come back, make sure to click the save button at the top.
7. When finished, make sure to hit the yellow button at the top that says “submit abstract.”

If you have any technical issues, please contact the AAVP Office at info@aavp.org and write Abstracts in the subject line.

Students

If you wish to apply for a “Young Investigator Travel Grant”, more information and the application are on the ‘Awards’ tile on the AAVP Annual Meeting website: https://aavp.joynmeeting.com/v2/. If you wish to participate in the student paper competition, you must also identify that the presenting author is a student. Final submission of your abstract will require that you have uploaded the necessary forms on the abstract submission web site. If you have any questions, please contact Elyssa Campbell (ejacob7@uga.edu) or Rachel Smith (rachel.c.smith@okstate.edu)

Awards and Travel Grants

AAVP Achievement Awards

The awards committee is soliciting nominations for the following awards:

- AAVP-Boehringer Ingelheim Distinguished Veterinary Parasitologist Award honoring contributions of a current or former member of the AAVP to veterinary parasitology that are widely recognized internationally as significant and important to the understanding and control of parasitic diseases of animals.

- AAVP-William C. Campbell One-Health Award to recognize and celebrate remarkable veterinary parasitologists who have made extraordinary contributions to One Health, which is defined as the collaborative effort of multiple disciplines—working locally, nationally, and globally—to attain optimal health for people, animals, AND our environment.

- AAVP Distinguished Service Award to recognize an AAVP member who has demonstrated extraordinary services and long-term commitment to the Association.

- AAVP-Merck Outstanding Graduate Student Award based on veterinary parasitology research carried out during a student's graduate (MS or PhD) program.

- AAVP-CAPC Graduate Student Award in Zoonotic Disease - The award is made based on veterinary parasitology research carried out during a student's graduate (MS or PhD) program.

The guidelines for application and nomination can be found on the AAVP Annual Awards Page

AAVP Best Student Oral Presentation Award / AAVP-Zoetis Poster Presentation Award

The awards are given to undergraduate/graduate students who compete successfully in the Student Presentation competition. Both presentations award three places. All students who submit applications for the AAVP Young Investigator Travel Grants should indicate on the Annual Meeting web site if they wish to be part of the Student Presentation competition. Students who do not apply for a Young Investigator Travel Grant but wish to compete for the Best Student Presentation Awards should do likewise. At the time of abstract submission, all students should submit the Verification of Student Status form available on the Annual Meeting web site or during abstract submission.

AAVP Young Investigator Travel Grants (YITG)

The travel grants are competitive grants awarded to full-time DVM or undergraduate / graduate students enrolled in an accredited institution of higher learning and pursuing studies in veterinary parasitology, as well as post-doctoral associates in the first 3 years following their PhD. Students must be an AAVP member in good standing as of the abstract submission deadline. To receive a YITG award, recipients must be registered as an AAVP member, have an abstract accepted for presentation, provide a mentor letter verify student status at the time of application, and present at the AAVP meeting. Students applying for the travel grant are also eligible to compete for the Student Presentation Awards. However, the student who receives the AAVP-Merck Outstanding Graduate Student Award will receive reimbursement of travel expenses and therefore will not receive a Young Investigator Travel Grant. **The full guidelines for awarding YITGs may be viewed in this newsletter and on the 'Awards' tile of the AAVP Annual Meeting website: https://aavp.joynmeeting.com/v2/**

Summary of Important Dates

April 11: Deadline for submission of abstracts and registration for authors
May 1: Deadline for payment for early bird registration
May 23: Deadline for payment of early bird hotel room rate
June 1: Conference program posted on AAVP web site
June 21-24: Conference in St. Louis, MO

Annual Meeting 2025 Important Dates

Abstract submission website closes April 11, 2025

Conference registration deadline for authors: May 1, 2025

Early bird meeting registration deadline is May 1, 2025

Hotel special room rate deadline is May 23, 2025

Guidelines for the Administration of Young Investigator Travel Grants (YITGs)

Guidelines for the Awarding of YITGs

1. *Eligibility for AAVP YITG funding*. Only AAVP members who are graduate students (MS or PhD), post-doctoral associates in the first 3 years of their training program, veterinary students, or undergraduate students should be eligible for a YITG award. Priority for awards should be graduate students and post-doctoral associates first, and veterinary students and undergraduate students second. To receive a YITG award, recipients must be registered as an AAVP member, have an abstract accepted for presentation, provide a mentor letter at the time of application (see #4 below), and present at the AAVP meeting.
2. *Not eligible for AAVP YITG funding*. Although everyone with relevant interest is encouraged to participate in the annual AAVP meeting, YITGs will **not** be awarded to post-doctoral associates more than 3 years out from their PhD, or any other individuals (faculty, post-DVM trainees not enrolled in a MS or PhD program (interns, residents), research scientists, MPH students, etc.) regardless of when they completed their graduate or professional degree.
3. *Addressing budget shortfalls*. If sufficient funds are not available to support all individuals in a given category in a particular year, then YITGs should be awarded first based on the quality of the abstract, and then by PI/mentor (each mentor only receives funding for 1–2 students depending on availability of funds) and by order of seniority (students in training longer receive priority). For example, if 5 veterinary students apply and funds are only available for 2, then the 5 will be ranked by quality of abstract and the two best abstracts will be awarded. If budget shortfalls continue or escalate, additional limitations to the program should be revisited in the future.
4. *YITG application process*. To verify student status (MS, PhD, veterinary, post-doc in first 3 years after receiving PhD, or undergraduate) and ensure eligibility for the YITG, a mentor (PI, principal investigator) letter should be included with each application. The letter should specifically state (1) student status at the time of presentation; (2) start date of student in current training program; (3) if a post-doctoral associate, the month and year the PhD was awarded; and (4) if matching funds will be provided by the mentor/PI or the home institution.
5. *Review of YITG applications*. The Executive Committee delegates the responsibility for the allocation of awards in accordance with these guidelines to the awards committee, with the student representatives of the Executive Committee designated as advisors to the awards committee chair. In the case that the review of abstracts is required, the Program Chair will be responsible for assigning reviewers. Prior to awarding any funds, the awards committee chair or their designee should evaluate the applications and confirm each student: (1) is an AAVP member in good standing; (2) has an accepted abstract at the upcoming AAVP meeting; and (3) is eligible to receive a YITG based on their trainee status at presentation. Incomplete applications that do not include a mentor/PI letter validating student status should be considered invalid and funds not awarded. It is not the responsibility of the awards committee chair, the student representatives, or the AAVP Secretary/Treasurer to solicit letters or request dues payments be made to ensure applications are complete.
6. *Amount to be awarded*. The maximum spend on AAVP YITGs each year is $20,000, but this figure will be reviewed from time to time and may be increased or decreased at the discretion of the AAVP Executive Committee. Further, the maximum amount to be paid each student will be $700 in matching funds. In years when more students apply than funds are available to support; the AAVP will prioritize students who are funded rather than reducing the amount awarded to each individual student (see #3 above).
7. *Process for receiving funds*. To be reimbursed, each student must submit scanned receipts for all usual, customary, and reasonable (UCR) travel expenses to the AAVP Secretary/Treasurer within 2 weeks following the meeting. Travel expenses include transportation, hotel, meals, taxi or ride share, airport parking, registration, and similar expenditures associated with attending the meeting. *Per diem* will not be considered; actual receipts (scanned) for food purchased while in transit or while attending the meeting are required. To avoid confusion, each receipt should be explained in brief,

e.g. “lunch in transit 20 June 2025”. Each student may receive up to $700 matching funds so long as receipts are provided for UCR travel expenses justifying that amount (i.e. at least $1,400 in total expenses must be documented to receive the maximum $700).

8. *Matching funds*. Matching funds from the mentor or home institution should be expected but not required. If matching funds are not available, the mentor must provide a letter certifying that matching funds are not available (see mentor/PI letter above). So long as otherwise qualified, students without matching funds would still be eligible for the lesser amount of 50% the cost of attending the meeting or $700. However, no YITG recipient will receive more than the maximum amount allowed (50% expenses up to $700).
9. *Cap on the amount of money spent or the number of grants awarded each year*. No more than $20,000 will be spent on the YITG program each year, unless this amount is modified by the Executive Committee, and each recipient will receive only up to $700 per year in matching funds. If all students request the maximum, then only ~ 28 awards could be made each year. However, usually ~50% of students request the maximum amount. Accordingly, up to 32 YITGs may be approved to qualified applicants. In addition, the YITG program will be re-evaluated on a yearly basis by the Executive Committee prior to the annual meeting to ensure the aims of the grants are met by the $20,000 budget cap while also ensuring that the funding fits within the overall budget or the AAVP.

Committee Reports

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee

The AAVP Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Committee has met three times throughout the fall and winter months to continue working on several objectives. Working groups were formed to continue development of:

(1) Student Support

(2) DEI Content at the Annual Meeting

(3) Newsletter Content

(4) Member Support at the Annual Meeting

For this month's DEI Corner, we are exploring the topic of implicit bias in veterinary medicine – its definition, how it may show up in our everyday interactions, and how implicit bias may affect patient care and client communications. For a more in-depth look at this topic, we are linking a September 2024 article from Vet Clinics of North America – Small Animal Practice. **Understanding Implicit Bias and Its Impact in Veterinary Medicine**

We have also included a link to Project Implicit (https://implicit.harvard.edu/implicit/takeatest.html.) and their various implicit bias quizzes called Implicit Association Tests (IAT) and administered online via Harvard University, covering a variety of topics. We encourage interested folks to take advantage of this free resource. But we suggest you read the article first, and we want to remind you of the IAT disclaimer on the website "If you are unprepared to encounter interpretations you might find objectionable, please do not proceed further."

We also wanted to let you all know about an exciting wellbeing activity taking place at the annual meeting this year. Because the wellbeing of our community remains a priority for this committee, we are excited to announce the addition of a Monday morning **yoga session for the attendees of the 2025 AAVP annual meeting**. We are grateful to Dr. Kaori Sakamoto, an experienced yoga instructor and DEI committee member, who has volunteered to lead a class which will be open to all levels and provide all necessary equipment. **Sign-ups will be available at the registration desk** and space is limited to 20 participants. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Kathryn at kathryn.duncan@okstate.edu.

Submitted by Grace VanHoy, Araceli Lucio-Forester, and Kathryn Duncan, DEI Committee members

Electronic Media Committee

Ann Donoghue, **Co-Chair**
Maureen Kelly, **Co-Chair**
Brian Herrin, **Newsletter Editor**
Tiana Sanders, **Assistant Editor**
Ian Daniel
Elyssa Campbell
Elizabeth Kass
Matthew Kulpa

The Electronic Media Committee has gained access to all the AAVP social media accounts. We've established a calendar of responsibilities for posting to the various accounts and have updated the "about us" information on all of them to ensure consistency. AAVP is on Facebook, X/Twitter, Instagram, and LinkedIn. We are considering a BlueSky account. Your thoughts on this would be appreciated.

We've initiated a campaign to introduce our Executive Committee members on our socials and have received a great response so far. Be sure to follow AAVP and like the posts!

We have reviewed and are updating our Social Media Strategy document (originally developed by Elyssa Campbell). This document will help guide our committee and the long-term plans for social interaction.

We have not tackled the website, but that is in the future!

Submitted by Ann Donoghue (ardonoghue@gmail.com)

Education Committee

In December, the 2024 Educator's Symposium was held at the University of California-Davis. **We thank AAVP and CAPC for their continued generosity in supporting this meeting!** About 25 AAVP members were in attendance, and we heard from a few wonderful speakers: (1) Dr. Jen Brandt, the AVMA Director of Wellbeing and Diversity Initiatives, provided an enlightening talk on creating boundaries and prioritizing self-care, (2) Dr. Erik Olstad, Assistant Clinical Professor in Communications, Professional Skills, and Primary Care, provided data on the effectiveness of problem-based learning in developing clinical reasoning, and (3) Dr. Sarah Depenbrock, Assistant Clinical Professor in Large Animal Medicine, presented ideas on developing clinical reasoning within the veterinary student curriculum. **We look forward to the next symposium in 2026 at Oklahoma State University!**

For 2025, the Committee expects to make significant progress on updating the AAVP Core Competency Standards that were first published by Snowden, et al. in 2016. **If you are an educator in veterinary parasitology, please be on the lookout for a survey asking for input.** We greatly appreciate your participation.

Submitted by Grace VanHoy, Education Committee Chair, and Kathryn Duncan, Education Committee Co-Chair

Students

Spring Webinar - March 19th @ 6pm EST (Zoom Meeting ID: 968 5018 2984)
Our spring webinar will feature AAVP Program Chair and Associate Professor at NC State College of Veterinary Medicine, **Dr. Andy Moorhead**. Dr. Moorhead will share his journey to becoming a parasitologist and his work with canine heartworm.

2025 Student Activities in St. Louis
Saturday, June 21st
Student Meet and Greet: The student committee welcomes you to the annual meeting with a meet and greet lunch! It's a great way to meet other student members, learn about the student committee, and chat with our industry sponsor.

Tuesday, June 24th
Student Trip: Students are welcome to attend the student trip, which takes place after the end of the meeting! This year, we will be doing a behind-the-scenes tour of the St. Louis Zoo's Veterinary Center and chatting with their veterinarians about their care of the animals. **We only have 25 spots reserved for this trip**. If you are interested, please email aavpstudentcommittee@gmail.com. We expect the spots to fill quickly!

We will make hotel arrangements for that night for all student trip attendees who need it. Departures for those attending the student trip should be planned for late Tuesday evening or Wednesday, June 25th. Final trip details and enrollment instructions will be emailed after the deadline for abstract submissions.

Young Investigator Travel Grants: The Young Investigator Travel Grant application will be available with your abstract submission. Details to come.

Roommates for St. Louis: We know hotels can be expensive for student budgets! Anyone looking for room share should contact your student officers: aavpstudentcommittee@gmail.com We will share a Google Doc to facilitate roommate matching!

As you prepare for this year's meeting, please let us know if there is anything we can help you with.

Elyssa Campbell (ejacob7@uga.edu)

Rachel Smith (rachel.c.smith@okstate.edu)

X: @AAVPstudents | IG: @aavpstudents | FB group: AAVP Students

Nominating Committee

Pablo Jimenez Castro,
Chair of Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee is made up of 6 members with 3-year staggered memberships. The current committee consists of:

Term Ends	
2025	Pablo Jimenez Castro
	Meriam Saleh
2026	Grace VanHoy
	Kathryn Duncan
2027	Manigandan Lejeune
	Caroline Sobotyk

The committee is charged with developing the ballot for election of officers and members of the Nominating Committee.

Each year a new Vice President and 2 new Nominating Committee members are elected, and every 2 years a new Secretary/Treasurer is elected.

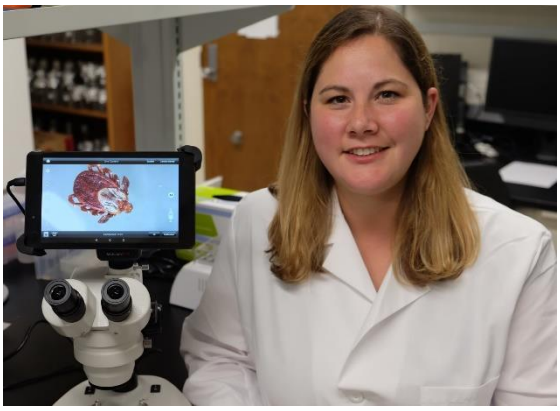
Committee members proposed several people for each position, and then the list was ranked by the committee. The top ranked nominees for each position were contacted and asked to serve. This year there are 2 nominees for Vice President and, as required by the by-laws, at least 5 nominees for the Nominating Committee, this year we have 7.
Their biographies are in this issue of the Newsletter.

Vice President	Secretary-Treasurer	Nominating Committee	Student Officer
Kathryn Reif	Dean Dailey	Chris Adolph	Tiana Sanders
Adriano Vatta		Elyssa Campbell	Amanda Shaver
		JB Collins	
		Camila Queiroz	
		Roger Ramirez-Barrios	
		Molly Savadelis	
		Kellee Sundstrom	

Nominee Biographies

Nominees for Vice President

Kathryn Reif PhD, MSPH



Dr. Kathryn Reif is an associate professor and the inaugural holder of the Bailey-Goodwin Endowed Professorship in Parasitology in the Department of Pathobiology in the College of Veterinary Medicine at Auburn University. She is also a board member of the Companion Animal Parasite Council. Dr. Reif's research interests broadly revolve around vectors and vector-borne diseases of veterinary, public health and agricultural importance, with a primary focus on ticks and tick-borne pathogens. Some of Dr. Reif's on-going research projects include: i) developing new approaches for real-time monitoring of tick and mosquito salivation and feeding behaviors, ii) evaluating antimicrobial efficacy to control tick-borne pathogens, iii) evaluating efficacy of ectoparasitcide products, iv) investigating transmission dynamics and control strategies for bovine anaplasmosis and theileriosis; v) examining tick-borne pathogen prevalence; and, vi) tick-borne pathogen vaccine development. Dr. Reif enjoys engaging veterinarians and clients/producers in research projects and developing and delivering presentations on the importance of ticks and tick-borne pathogens to clinicians and the general public.

Adriano Vatta, BVSc, MSc, PhD, DACVM (Parasitology)

I am putting forward my candidacy for Vice President of the American Association of Veterinary Parasitologists because I am passionate about veterinary parasitology, and I am an ardent supporter of all the association's members and of the numerous and widespread activities of the association. Since 1956, the AAVP has sought to further its mission "to lead and partner with our members in advancing veterinary parasitology education, research, practice and service to improve human and animal health." I am proud to say that our membership derives its strength not only from those in the United States, but also from many members in Canada, and a few, but very active, members from Latin America. In that sense, we are closer to being a truly American society, and we should also not forget our valued members from outside the Americas. We have a strong and very active student membership and the introspection we have shown in recent years to ensure that our society embraces diversity and equity, and is inclusive, is commendable and another testimony to the strength of our association. I would be proud to be part of the leadership of the AAVP.

My qualifications for the position include that I hold a veterinary degree (University of Pretoria, 1998), a master's (University of Pretoria, 2001), and a PhD (University of KwaZulu-Natal, 2008). I taught veterinary parasitology at Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine, Saint Kitts, for seven semesters. I then undertook post-doctoral studies at the University of Georgia, before accepting a position in pharmaceutical clinical development at Zoetis, in Kalamazoo, Michigan. I became a diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Microbiologists (parasitology specialty) in 2017. After 8 years of working in industry, I returned to academia at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, where I work as an associate professor

of parasitology. I served as secretary-treasurer of the AAVP from 2018-2022 and was instrumental, with the executive committee, in successfully holding two conferences (one virtual, one hybrid) during the COVID-19 pandemic. During my term as secretary-treasurer, I advocated for and supported the transition of the day-to-day management activities of the society to an external company.

I am a strong advocate for veterinary parasitology within the development of new curricula at veterinary schools, for inclusion of parasitology in the continuing education of veterinarians, for increased parasitology research funding, and for the development of new, sustainable approaches to manage parasites in our domestic animals and wildlife. I am a strong supporter not only of companion animal parasitology and the ever-growing field of wildlife parasitology, but also for continued research into managing the parasites of farm animals and non-domestic hoof stock.

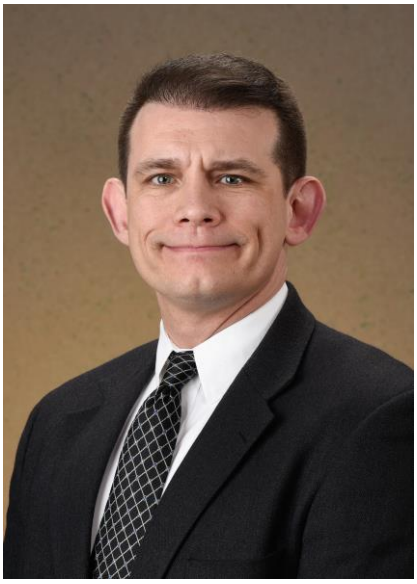
Candidates for Secretary-Treasurer

Dean Dailey DVM

Dr. Dailey earned his DVM from the University of Georgia in 2001. He started his career working in general practice for 6 years before joining Merial (now Boehringer Ingelheim) as a Technical Services Veterinarian. His interest in parasitology began during his time at UGA, and he understands the importance of supporting students as they are introduced to the complex field. During his time at BI, he has worked on various projects in product development and product support, including brands such as FRONTLINE®, HEARTGARD®, and NexGard®. He is currently Senior Associate Director of the BI Pet Veterinary Technical Marketing team. In this role, he has supported research related to some of the significant parasites of pets and led various projects focused on parasitology education in service of the veterinary healthcare team and pet owners. Dean has been an AAVP member since 2013 and has served on the AAVP Awards Committee and the Electronic Media Committee. Currently, Dean serves as AAVP Secretary Treasurer, completing one 2-years term, and running for another term.

Candidates for the Nominating Committee

Chris Adolph DVM, MS, DACVM (Parasitology)



Dr. Adolph received his DVM degree in 1996 from Oklahoma State University. After a year and a half as an associate veterinarian, Dr. Adolph moved to Southpark Veterinary Hospital as a partner for 4 years and full owner for 13 years. During his time as a practice owner, He developed a special interest in parasitology and practice management. In blending these two areas of focus, Dr. Adolph attended advanced parasitology and practice management continuing education events, became informed of the most current information available, and developed practice protocols based in sound science that were readily accepted by pet owners.

In 2011, Dr. Adolph began a master's degree program under the guidance of Dr. Susan Little at Oklahoma State University. For the next 2 and a half years, Dr. Adolph simultaneously worked toward his graduate degree while practicing and managing his veterinary hospital full time. While enrolled in the graduate program, Dr. Adolph was inducted into the Phi Kappa Phi honor society, which recognizes academic excellence in fields of higher education. Dr. Adolph graduated with a master's degree in 2013.

Dr. Adolph serves as Vice President of The American Heartworm Society, Zoetis industry representative to the Companion Animal Parasite Council, the American College of Veterinary Microbiologists parasitology exam committee, and Oklahoma Veterinary Medical Association district 1 director. He has authored numerous, peer-reviewed scientific papers, textbook chapters, and conducted research in canine and feline parasitic diseases. In 2015, Dr. Adolph passed the parasitology board exams and is now a diplomate of the American College of Vet. Microbiologists. In addition, Dr. Adolph continues to practice a few days a month in the Tulsa, Oklahoma area.

Elyssa Campbell BS, PhD

Dr. Campbell is an Assistant Research Scientist at the University of Georgia, where she earned her PhD under the advisement of Dr. Andy Moorhead in 2024. Dr. Campbell also serves as the Director of the NIH-funded Filariasis Research Reagent Resource Center, which produces and provides filarial reagents to researchers in North America and other global regions. Her research interests focus on host-parasite interactions and the mechanisms of the host that determine the establishment of *Dirofilaria immitis, Brugia spp.,* and *Ancylostoma caninum*. As a faculty member of UGA's College of Veterinary Medicine, Dr. Campbell will continue to mentor undergraduate and graduate students and work with the next generation of parasitologists. Dr. Campbell has been an active member of AAVP since 2020 and has served on the Electronic Media Committee (2022-current) and the Executive Committee as Student Officer (2023-2025).

JB Collins BS, PhD

My name is JB Collins, and I have been a member of AAVP since 2017, first as a student in Dr. Ray Kaplan's lab, and now as a Post-Doc in Dr. Erik Andersen's lab. My primary research interest is investigating benzimidazole resistance in ascarid parasites, and how it differs from resistance as we normally see in strongylids. I've come to know many wonderful people in my time as part of AAVP, and as many can attest to, I'm always ready to dive in and geek out over parasites, regardless of the area of focus. I am grateful for the nomination to the Nominating Committee, and I am committed to doing my part to ensure the success of the organization as a whole, as well as bringing younger perspectives to the table. Thank you all for your time and consideration.

Camila Queiroz DVM, MS, PhD

Dr. Camila Queiroz is a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine, passionate about Parasitology, Public Health, and Food safety. She completed a master's degree in Medical Sciences before joining her dream job at the Inspection Agency of Fortaleza (Brazil) as a Food Safety Veterinarian. She was responsible for making sure places that produce, transport and sell food of animal origin were in compliance with the regulations. It was also part of her job to educate people on food safety, adapting the technical knowledge to different audiences. She was the author of the first regulation in sushi production in Brazil, currently in effect city-wide. She then had the opportunity in 2016 to pursue a PhD in Veterinary Medicine at University of Calgary, under the supervision of Dr John Gilleard. She applied DNA metabarcoding and molecular epidemiology to diagnose and investigate the arise and spread of anthelmintic resistance in sheep GI nematodes. She has presented her results at AAVP every year since 2016, being awarded four times for her presentations, including the best poster presentation in 2018. She was part of the Publications, Outreach and Research committee of AAVP from 2018-2023. After defending her PhD in 2020, she worked as a Post-doctoral fellow at Saint George's University, in partnership with University of Calgary. Currently, Dr. Queiroz is a Research Scientist at the Canadian Food Inspection Agency in Saskatoon, serving as Adjunct Professor at University of Saskatchewan and University of Calgary. She enjoys working with and for people, feeling that her job is having a positive impact in society.

Roger Ramirez-Barrios DVM, MS, PhD, DACVM (Parasitology)

Dr. Roger Ramirez-Barrios is a Clinical Associate Professor in the Department of Biomedical Sciences at the Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine (VMCVM), Virginia Tech, and the Parasitology Section Head at the Virginia Tech Animal Laboratory Services. Originally from Venezuela, he received his DVM from the University of Zulia and his MS in Teaching from the University Simon Rodriguez, both in Venezuela, and his PhD in Veterinary Parasitology from the University of Cordoba, Spain. Recently, Dr. Ramirez became a diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Microbiologists, certified in Parasitology (2023). Dr. Ramirez' duties at the VMCVM include teaching parasitology in the veterinary curriculum and parasitology to undergraduate students. Previously to his current appointment, Dr. Ramirez taught veterinary parasitology in the veterinary school at the Universidad del Zulia, Venezuela for 18 years. His research focuses on vector-borne pathogens (especially *Trypanosoma cruzi*) and echinococcosis.

Molly Savadelis BS, PhD

Molly received her BS in Biology from the University of Georgia in 2009 and then her PhD in Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences from the University of Georgia College of Veterinary Medicine in 2018. During her time at UGA she worked at the filariasis research reagent resource center maintaining human filariasis and heartworm lifecycles while also conducting her dissertation research. Molly's dissertation focused on refining the current heartworm adulticidal treatment regimens through the evaluation of combination macrocyclic lactone and doxycycline treatments as well as the efficacy of various doses of doxycycline and minocycline during melarsomine treatment. After completing her PhD, Molly worked at Zoetis on the parasitology team in Veterinary Medicine Research and Development in Kalamazoo, MI. During her time at Zoetis Molly conducted parasitology *in vivo* studies for companion animal lead seeking projects and led various parasitology project teams as a project team leader. In 2024 Molly accepted a Pet Health Clinical Development Scientist position at Elanco. In her current position, Molly serves as a Global Clinical Lead on parasitology project teams, designing and executing clinical development programs for product registration, and is relocating to Nashville, TN with her family.

Kellee Sundstrom BS, MS

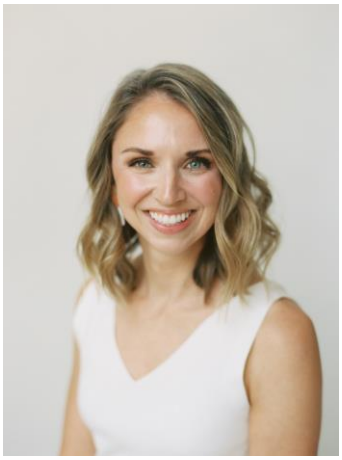
Kellee Sundstrom, MS is currently the Parasitology Research Project Manager at Oklahoma State University and the Project Manager for the National Center of Veterinary Parasitology (NCVP). Kellee got her Bachelor of Science in Animal and Veterinary Sciences from the University of Wyoming and her Master's degree from Oklahoma State University under the supervision of Dr. Susan Little. Her research focused on ticks—particularly those infesting horses—and tick-borne diseases. She has been a member of AAVP since 2019 where she has served on the awards committee and ensured the NCVP Case Session and Swag Table run smoothly.

Candidate for the 2-year Student Officer

Tiana Sanders BS, DVM, PhD student

Tiana Sanders is currently a PhD student and Merck Animal Health Resident in Veterinary Parasitology in the College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences at Texas A&M University. Tiana earned her BS in 2019 and DVM in 2023 from Oklahoma State University. She joined Dr. Guilherme G. Verocai's lab in July of 2023 to begin her PhD/Residency program in Veterinary Parasitology. Tiana's dissertation research involves characterizing novel biomarkers for early detection of *Dirofilaria immitis.* While *D. immitis* is dear to her heart, she also works on challenging diagnostic cases that require both morphological and molecular analysis. During her time at Texas A&M University, she mentors students from the Veterinary Medical Summer Research Training Program and educates veterinary students in veterinary parasitology. Tiana has been a member of AAVP since 2020, where she has participated in multiple platform presentations, scientific research posters, and presenting in the NCVP clicker case series. Tiana's extracurricular interests include spending time with her cats, Tuffy, Ellie, and Winnie, visiting museums, and kayaking.

Amanda Shaver BS, PhD



Shaver is an NIH F32 postdoctoral fellow at Johns Hopkins University. She received her Bachelor of Science in biology from the University of Kansas in 2011, and a doctoral degree in genetics from the University of Georgia in 2022. Under the graduate mentorship of Arthur Edison, Ph.D., Shaver developed methods for identifying unknown metabolites in the model organism *Caenorhabditis elegans*. Now working under Erik Andersen, Ph.D., in the Department of Biology, she studies the genetic causes of resistance to anthelmintic drugs in nematodes. Globally, parasitic nematodes are one of the most destructive parasites of humans, infecting an estimated two billion people annually. She uses the natural diversity of *C. elegans* to identify resistance mechanisms conserved with parasitic roundworms to ultimately identify better treatments for people in developing countries. Shaver's long-term career goal is to establish an academic lab building on her postdoctoral work to continue investigating the genetic causes of anthelmintic resistance. She is a passionate advocate for women and first-generation college students in STEM. In the past, she has served on several committees, including the National Postdoc Association Postdoc Council (chair & co-chair), Early Career Scientist Career Development Subcommittee (co-chair) for the Genetics Society of America and the Genetics Graduate Student Association (co-president) at the University of Georgia, among others.

Announcements

Teaching Opportunities at Cornell's MPS in Veterinary Parasitology

The Master of Professional Studies (MPS) in Veterinary Parasitology at Cornell University's College of Veterinary Medicine is seeking PhD students, postdocs and residents interested in gaining experience in online teaching, education and course development. The type of experience and level of commitment depends on individual interests. There are opportunities to assist Cornell faculty in developing courses, record TED Talk-style lectures as a guest speaker, integrate interaction in online learning, oversee assessments and gain experience in many other aspects of online teaching. Trainees should consult their supervisor to determine if this opportunity is appropriate for their program. If you are interested in becoming a course assistant or would like to learn more, please contact Jennifer Ketzis at jkk5@cornell.edu.

Future Parasitology Meetings

Future meetings of the AAVP

70th Annual Meeting: June 21 – 24, 2025 in St. Louis, MO

American Society of Parasitologists 2025

The 100th Annual Meeting of the American Society of Parasitologists will be held at in Winston-Salem, NC, USA, 6 – 9, July, 2025. ASP

American Society of Tropical Medicine & Hygiene (ASTMH) 2025

The 74th annual meeting of ASTMH will be held at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre in Toronto, Ontario, Canada, 9 – 13 November, 2025. ASTMH.

World Association for the Advancement of Veterinary Parasitology 2025

The 30th International Conference of the World Association for the Advancement of Veterinary Parasitology will be held in Curtiba, Paraná, Brazil 17 – 21 August, 2025. WAAVP

Receiving AAVP Listserv Messages

The AAVP listserv is our primary means of contacting the membership. These emails are sent from "support@aavp.org." To ensure you receive these messages, please whitelist "support@aavp.org" by adding it to your approved senders list. All you need to do is open an email message and verify the sender can be trusted. However, the exact procedure to whitelist a sender will depend on your email client. In addition to adding the AAVP address to your "Approved Senders List", other commonly used options among email clients are "Add Contact, Add to VIPs, Add Sender to Safe Senders List, or add to Primary," among others. If you are not receiving messages from support@aavp.org at all, contact your IT department for assistance.

The American Association of Veterinary Parasitologists

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The American Association of Veterinary Parasitologists Newsletter is published three times each year with issues in February, June and October. Contributions to the Newsletter are highly encouraged and should be submitted by the dates listed below.
aavpnewsletter@gmail.com

AAVP Newsletter Deadlines for Submissions

Newsletter	Deadline
February 2025	February 1, 2025
June 2025	May 15, 2025
October 2025	September 15, 2025

Please contact the editor with questions regarding these dates.