AAVP Newsletter

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AAVP Mission Statement

The mission of the AAVP is to lead and partner with our members in advancing veterinary parasitology education, research, practice and service to improve human and animal health. AAVP members are practitioners, educators, and scientists from academia, industry, and government. We will accomplish this mission by providing:

- An annual conference for sharing research and educational advances
- Support to students interested in veterinary parasitology
- A bi-annual educators symposium
- Electronic discussion forums
- Veterinary publications
- Speakers and programs to veterinary professional meetings

From the President

Dear Colleagues,

Andy Moorhead
AAVP President

I was happy to see so many familiar faces and many new ones at our Annual Meeting held on June 21-24, 2025, in St. Louis, Missouri. We had 232 people registered and over 110 abstracts submitted. The science, as always, was spectacular as we attempted to answer the question “Resistance, Is it futile?” I would first like to thank our sponsors and exhibitors. They are a critical part of this meeting and without their generous support, we would not be able to have our social events or annual auction that benefits the Young Investigator Travel Grant (YITG). We are excited to continue this relationship with our sponsors at the 2026 meeting in Puerto Rico.

Our plenary sessions included talks by Drs. Tim Geary and Mostafa Zamanian (University of Wisconsin-Madison) who focused on the current state of anthelmintic resistance and the mechanisms of action of anthelmintics. The theme of “Resistance: Is it futile?” was addressed during the President’s Symposium by our invited speakers Drs. Mike Dryden (Kansas State University), Leonor Sicalo Gianechini (University of Georgia), and Ray Kaplan (St. George’s University). Dr. Dryden presented on ectoparasiticide resistance, Dr. Sicalo Gianechini presented on anthelmintic resistance in cattle, and finally Dr. Kaplan presented on the current knowledge on canine hookworm. All the speakers presented thought-provoking questions and emphasized the need for continuing research and collaborative efforts to address these issues.

For our well-being session, Dr. Timi Wu presented on setting boundaries as a professional, which definitely caused everyone to rethink their professional obligations. His presentation was talked about by everyone for the remainder of the conference. Dr. Wu’s presentation was followed immediately after by a panel presentation on building community in science. Dr. Tim Geary moderated the session during which Drs. Molly Savadelis, Mostafa Zamanian, and Timi Wu addressed how to build teams and community both in academia and industry.

Our AAVP Distinguished Parasitologist Award winner, Dr. Martin Nielsen, gave an excellent presentation on his career. Dr. Katy Martin, recipient of AAVP-Merck Animal Health Outstanding Graduate Student Award, presented about her research on trichomoniasis. Rachel Smith, recipient of AAVP-CAPC Graduate Student Award in Zoonotic Disease, presented her research tick-transmitted infections in domestic cats. All three presenters are extremely deserving of their awards and their research demonstrates why.

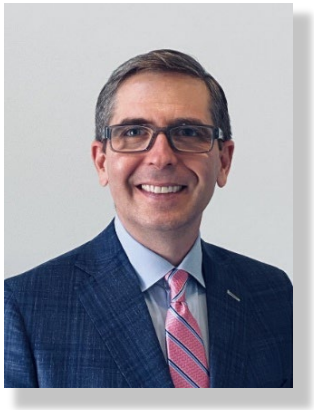
Our live auction was a success, raising over $9,000 for the Young Investigator Travel Grant. This year two pieces from Dr. William Campbell’s collection were auctioned off, along with other items generously donated by AAVP members. My thanks to the Auction Committee under the direction of Dr. Shelly Michalski for another great auction. This was the third year, and it only gets better each year.

I would like sincerely to thank the Program Committee, Dr. Jennifer Ketzis, Dr. Heather Walden, Dr. Dean Dailey, Dr. Lindsay Starkey, Dr. Elyssa Campbell, and Rachel Smith for all their help. I would also like to thank chairs and members of all the AAVP committees who volunteer their time. We are currently planning the 2026 meeting in Puerto Rico. Dr. Lindsay Starkey is planning an exciting program based around transboundary diseases. We hope to see you in person in June!

Submitted by Andy Moorhead, AAVP President

From the Secretary/Treasurer

2026 AAVP Membership Dues



Dean Dailey
Secretary-Treasurer

The renewal period for AAVP membership for calendar year 2026 has begun and extends through January 31, 2026.

Annual dues for regular members are $100.00 per year and $30.00 per year for students.

Dues Reminder
Deadline for payment: January 31, 2026
Pay online at: http://www.aavp.org

Dues should be paid online by logging into your membership profile (https://aavp.org/portal/) and clicking on “Make Payments” on the left side menu. Once you have made your payment, you should receive a receipt along with a confirmation email of your membership. 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 Membership Specialist, Abby Vuong, via email (info@aavp.org) or contact me.

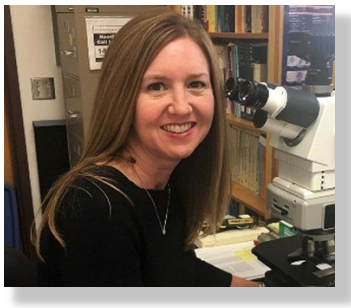
Members who are in good standing may purchase an online subscription to *Veterinary Parasitology* for an additional $50.00 per year. The subscription will be valid for the calendar year 2026, and you will be able to add this onto your membership renewal in the “Make Payments” section (click the blue button to add the subscription).

Thank you for continuing to support the AAVP!

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

Submitted by: Dean Dailey, Secretary/Treasurer, AAVP

2025 Past-President's Report



Heather Walden
Past President

Presidential Term, June 2024 – July 2025

Thank you to our members and sponsors for a wonderful year! It is the people that make this organization truly great, it is like a second family, and I'm sure many of you feel the same way. It was an honor to serve as President of AAVP, and I cannot wait to see you all again in Puerto Rico!

Dr. Andy Moorhead presenting Dr. Heather Walden with a special recognition of thanks for her great leadership as the AAVP President 2024 – 2025.

AAVP Leadership, Committee Chairs / Members

AAVP 2024 – 2025 Officers and Leadership

Andy Moorhead, President moorheadfr3@gmail.com
Heather D. S. Walden, Past President hdstockdale@ufl.edu
Lindsay Starkey, President Elect and Program Chair lindsay.starkey@okstate.edu
Adriano Vatta, Vice President avatta2@lsu.edu
Dean Dailey, Secretary Treasurer Dean.Dailey@boehringer-ingelheim.com
Rachel Smith, Student Representative rachel.c.smith@okstate.edu
Tiana Sanders, Student Representative tlsanders2415@tamu.edu

2025 – 2026 Committees

Elected Committee

Appeals Committee

Name	Rotate off	Email
Joe Camp, Chair	**2026**	jcamp@purdue.edu
Liz Kass	2026	elizabeth_kass@uri.edu
Yoko Nagamori	2026	yoko.nagamori@zoetis.com
Katie Reif	2026	Ker0088@auburn.edu
Araceli Lucio-Forster	2026	Al33@cornell.edu

Nominating

Name	Rotate off	Email
Kathryn Duncan, Chair	**2026**	kathryn.duncan@okstate.edu
Caroline Sobotyk, Co-Chair	**2027**	csobotyk@vet.upenn.edu
Grace VanHoy	2026	gvanhoy@ucdavis.edu
Mani Lejeune	2027	ml872@cornell.edu
Molly Savadelis	2028	Molly.savadelis@elancoah.com
Elyssa Campbell	2028	Ejacob7@uga.edu

Appointed Committees

Archives

Name	Rotate off	Email
Ann Donoghue		ardonoghue@gmail.com

Finance Committee

Name	Rotate off	Email
Grace VanHoy, Chair	**2026**	gvanhoy@ucdavis.edu
Molly Savadelis, Co-Chair	**2027**	Molly.savadelis@elancoah.com
Andy Moorhead	2026	moorheadFR3@gmail.com
JB Collins	2027	jcolli95@jh.edu
Rachel Smith	2027	rachel.c.smith@okstate.edu

Program Committee

Name	Rotate off	Email
Lindsay Starkey (Chair)	2026	lindsay.starkey@okstate.edu
Adriano Vatta (Vice chair)	2026	avatta2@lsu.edu
Andy Moorhead, President	2025	moorheadfr3@gmail.com
Dean Dailey, Secretary Treasurer	2026	Dean.Dailey@boehringer-ingelheim.com
Rachel Smith, Student Rep	2026	rachel.c.smith@okstate.edu
Tiana Sanders, Student Rep	2026	tlsanders2415@tamu.edu

Appointed Ad Hoc Committees

Auction Committee

Name	Rotate off	Email
Shelly Michalski, Chair	**2026**	michalsk@uwosh.edu
Ann Donoghue, Co-Chair	**2026**	ardonoghue@gmail.com
Maureen Kelly	2026	mkelly3456@tamu.edu
Shelia Mitchell	2026	shmitch2@gmail.com
Kaylee Kipp	2026	kkipp@tamu.edu

History Committee

Name	Rotate off	Email
Blaine Godley, Chair	**2026**	blaine.godley@hotmail.com
Ashley McGrew	2026	ashley.mcGrew@colostate.edu
Mani Lejune	2026	ml872@cornell.edu
Kathryn Duncan	2026	kathryn.ducncan@okstate.edu

Standing Committees

Awards Committee

Name	Rotate off	Email
Emily Curry, Chair	**2027**	emily.curry@zoetis.com
Hannah Loghry-Jansen, Co-Chair	**2028**	hannah.loghryjansen@zoetis.com
Kellee Sundstrom	2026	kellee.sundstrom@okstate.edu
Megan Lineberry	2026	megan.lineberry@zoetis.com
Jessica Kenealy	2026	jessica.kenealy@eku.edu
Jeff Gruntmeir	2026	jgruntmeir@ufl.edu
Doug Carithers	2026	doug.carithers@boehringer-ingelheim.com
Blaine Godley	2028	blaine.godley@hotmail.com
Janice Liotta	2028	jll55@cornell.edu

Constitution and Bylaws Committee

Name	Rotate off	Email
Wade Burton, Chair	**2026**	wade-burton@idexx.com
Antionette Marsh, Co-Chair	**2026**	marsh2061@osu.edu
Mason Reichard	2026	mason.reichard@zoetis.com
Elyssa Campbell	2027	ejacob7@uga.edu

Education Committee

Name	Rotate off	Email
Kathryn Duncan, Chair	**2027**	kathryn.duncan@okstate.edu
Sawsan Ammar, Co-Chair	**2028**	sawsan.ammar@ucalgary.ca
Andy Moorhead	2026	moorheadFR3@gmail.com
Lauren Camp	2026	lcamp2@uwyo.edu
Amira Ahmed	2026	aahmed@lsu.edu
Araceli Lucio-Forster	2026	al33@cornell.edu
Ashley McGrew	2026	ashley.mcgrew@colostate.edu
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Grace VanHoy	2027	gvanhoy@ucdavis.edu
Jennifer Ketzis	2027	jketzis@rossu.edu
Timi Wu	2028	tkw38@cornell.edu
Lindsay Starkey	2028	lindsay.starkey@okstate.edu
Laura Williams	2028	lartz@wsu.edu

Electronic Media Committee

Name	Rotate off	Email
Ann Donoghue, Chair	**2027**	ardonoghue@gmail.com
Maureen Kelly, Co-Chair	**2027**	mkelly3456@tamu.edu
Brian Herrin, Editor	**2026**	bhh@vet.k-state.edu
Jennifer Ketzis, Editor	**2027**	jketzis@rossu.edu
Tiana Sanders, Asst Editor	**2026**	tlsanders2415@tamu.edu
Lauren Camp, Asst Editor	**2027**	lcamp2@uwyo.edu
Elyssa Campbell	2027	ejacob7@uga.edu
Ian Daniel	2027	Ian.daniel@tu.edu
Matthew Kulpa	2026	kulpamat@gmail.com
Will Jensen	2026	willj02@vt.edu

Membership Representation Committee

Name	Rotate off	Email
Meriam Saleh, Chair	**2027**	msaleh@cvm.tamu.edu
Andrew Peregrine (Co-chair)	**2026**	aperegri@ovc.uoguelph.ca
Araceli Lucio-Forster (Co-Chair)	**2026**	al33@cornell.edu
Lauren Camp	2026	lcamp2@uwyo.edu
Michelle Carman	2027	carman.54@osu.edu
Malika Kachani	2027	mkachani@westernu.edu
Kathryn Duncan	2026	kathryn.duncan@okstate.edu
Tamara Hofstede	2028	tamara.hofstede@elancoah.com
Ashley McGrew	2026	ashley.mcgrew@colostate.edu
Andy Moorhead	206	moorheadFR3@gmail.com
Carol Sobotyk	2026	csobotyk@vet.upenn.edu
Kaori Sakamoto	2026	ksakamo2@ncsu.edu
Grace VanHoy	2026	gvanhoy@ucdavis.edu
Timi Wu	2026	timothywu912@gmail.com
Megan Wamback	2026	megan.wamback@zoetis.com
Camila Queiroz	2027	camila.queiroz@inspection.gc.ca
Kamilyah Miller	2027	kamilyah@vet.k-state.edu
Cameron Sutherland	2027	cameronjsuth@vet.k-state.edu
Sudhanva Kashyap	2028	sudhanvakashyap@creighton.edu

Outreach, Research & Publications Committee

Name	Rotate off	Email
Kathryn Reif, Chair	**2026**	ker0088@auburn.edu
Erica Burkman, Co-Chair	**2026**	ejburkman@gmail.com
Rachel Smith	2026	rachel.c.smith@okstate.edu
Timothy Geary	2026	timothy.g.geary@mcgill.ca
Trey Tomlinson	2027	tomlinsontrey@ufl.edu
Ray Kaplan	2027	rkaplan@sgu.edu
Leonor Sicalo Gianechini	2027	ls26901@uga.edu
Sheila Mitchell	2027	shmitch2@gmail.com
Gui Verocai	2027	gverocai@cvm.tamu.edu
Ruth Scimeca	2027	ruth.scimeca@okstate.edu
Dottie Normile	2027	dorothy.normile1@merck.com

Student Committee

Name	Rotate off	Email
Rachel Smith	2026	rachel.c.smith@okstate.edu
Tiana Sanders	2027	tlsanders2415@tamu.edu
Ian Daniel	2026	ian.daniel@tamu.edu
Matthew Kulpa	2026	kulpamat@gmail.com
Maureen Kelly	2026	mkelly3456@tamu.edu
Trey Tomlinson	2027	tomlinsontrey@ufl.edu
Will Jensen	2027	wilij02@vt.edu
Cameron Sutherland	2026	cameronjsuth@vet.k-state.edu
Kaylee Kipp	2027	kkipp@tamu.edu
Tiffany Pope	2027	tiffany.pope.tamuk.edu

Student Committee Report

Welcome to Our New Student Officer, Tiana Sanders

We warmly welcome Tiana Sanders as our new student officer (2025–2027).

Dr. Tiana Sanders is a PhD student and the Merck Animal Health Resident in Veterinary Parasitology at 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 surveillance of macrocyclic lactone-resistant isolates of *Dirofilaria immitis* and advancing current diagnostics. While *D. immitis* is dear to her heart, other research projects she's involved in include the molecular characterization of *Spirometra* species in the United States and the prevalence of *Angiostrongylus cantonensis* in zoos. During her time at Texas A&M University, she has mentored students from the Veterinary Medical Summer Research Training Program and educated veterinary students in veterinary parasitology.

Student Activities at AAVP 2025

The students had a great time at our Annual AAVP Meeting in St. Louis, MO! We had many returning student members and were joined by many first-time student attendees as well. Students enjoyed an excellent welcome luncheon, generously sponsored by Virbac, and had an opportunity to mix and mingle. More than 20 students joined for our annual field trip to the St. Louis Zoo and participated in a behind-the-scenes tour of the zoo's veterinary hospital (pictured). We are already looking forward to the next meeting and reuniting with old and new friends!

Upcoming Events

We are in the process of planning our student committee-hosted fall webinar. Detailed information regarding the speaker, date, and time will be distributed soon! All AAVP members, student members, and veterinary student chapters are invited to join and learn.

We are already looking ahead to our 2026 annual meeting in Puerto Rico, and it's shaping up to be a fantastic meeting! Details regarding the student luncheon, field trip, and assistance in finding roommates will be forthcoming.

We love serving as your student officers! If you have any questions, please let us know how we can help!

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

Tiana Sanders (tlsanders2415@tamu.edu)

Nominating Committee Report

The Nominating Committee is charged with developing the ballot for the annual election of officers and two new members of the committee itself. In the upcoming Spring 2026 election, we will have two positions to vote on: Vice President and Nominating Committee. Next year we will vote on the Secretary-Treasurer position. **We invite the AAVP members to submit names of colleagues to serve the organization well** in the Vice President and Nominating Committee roles. Prior to submission, **please first discuss the nomination with the potential nominee to be sure they are willing and able to serve in the position(s)**, which may entail a considerable time commitment. Please **submit nominations to the Nominating Chair by December 1st** and reach out if you have any questions. The committee will consider all recommendations and present the top-ranked candidates for the spring ballot. We thank you for your participation and look forward to your input!

Respectfully submitted by: Kathryn Duncan, Chair

Email: kathryn.duncan@okstate.edu

Education Committee Report

Education Committee Leadership Updates

The education committee is welcoming Dr. Kathryn Duncan as the new education committee chair and Dr. Sawsan Ammar as the committee co-chair. Dr. Duncan, who served as the committee co-chair with Dr. Grace VanHoy, is an assistant professor at Oklahoma State University, College of Veterinary Medicine. She obtained her DVM degree from the University of Tennessee, and her National Center for Veterinary Parasitology (NCVP) clinical residency in veterinary parasitology and PhD degree were conducted at Oklahoma State University. Currently, she teaches veterinary parasitology at Oklahoma State University, where she also has an active research laboratory.

Dr. Ammar is an assistant professor at the University of Calgary supervising the parasitology diagnostic section at the Diagnostic Services Unit and teaching parasitology. She joined the faculty of veterinary medicine at the University of Calgary in September 2024 after spending two years in Dr. John Gilleard's lab as a post-doctoral researcher and the National Center for Veterinary Parasitology (NCVP) clinical parasitology resident. She earned her PhD from the University of Tennessee in 2019 and her Masters and Veterinary degrees from University of Sadat City in Egypt. Her research interests include innovative diagnostic techniques such as the use of mass spectrometry in arthropod identification.

We would like to take this opportunity to **thank Dr. Grace VanHoy for her efforts as the past education committee chair** and hope to follow in her footsteps to advance this committee.

Upcoming 2026 AAVP-CAPC Educators' Symposium Announcement

The proposed 2026 AAVP-CAPC Educators' Symposium will be held at Oklahoma State University in Stillwater, OK. Based on feedback from educators and the committee members, we propose a change in the timing of the symposium to happen on **August 1–3, 2026**. We are hoping to gather parasitology educators across North America and, if funding allows, invite educators from veterinary technician schools. The symposium will focus on the use of generative AI (artificial intelligence) in veterinary medical education to improve efficiency in teaching and the considerations that must be addressed with its use for both faculty and students.

Educators' Corner—Are you aware of the AI policy at your Institution?

It may surprise you that much of veterinary medicine has not addressed the use of AI in their colleges and practices. The Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges (AAVMC) is actively working to generate an organizational policy that can be adopted by universities. Until then, we recommend you consider this article: https://todaysveterinarybusiness.com/veterinary-ai-governance-policy/.

Submitted by

Kathryn Duncan, Chair

Sawsan Ammar, Co-Chair

2024 AAVP Awards Committee Report

Nominated AAVP Awards

A huge thank you to those who nominated and provided letters of support for all the nominees. Also, thank you to the members of the 2025 AAVP awards committee for the time and effort devoted toward reviewing and selecting the award winners. The committee members were the following: Megan Lineberry and Emily Curry (Co-Chairs), Lauren Camp, Ashraful Bhuiya, Elliott Zieman, Peter Thompson, Doug Carithers, Kellee Sundstrom, Jeff Gruntmeir, and Jessica Kenealy.

AAVP-Boehringer Ingelheim Distinguished Veterinary Parasitologist Award

Dr. Martin K. Nielsen of Aarhus University was selected as the recipient of the 2025 AAVP-Boehringer Ingelheim Distinguished Veterinary Parasitologist Award. This award recognizes and honors the outstanding contributions of an AAVP member to the advancement of veterinary parasitology. Dr. Nielsen's full biography was featured in the annual meeting's proceedings. His presentation entitled, "My random journey into equine parasitology" was enjoyed by many on Saturday during the opening session at the meeting in St. Louis, MO. In addition to the honor this award brings, Dr. Nielsen received an engraved plaque and a monetary award of $1500 generously provided by Boehringer Ingelheim.

Congratulations to **Dr. Nielsen** on receiving this award!

AAVP-Merck Outstanding Graduate Student Award

Dr. Katy Martin and Dr. Christian Epe of Merck Animal Health

Dr. Katy Martin, from the Iowa State University College of Veterinary Medicine, was selected as the recipient of the 2025 AAVP-Merck Outstanding Graduate Student Award. Under the supervision of Dr. Matt Brewer, her research focuses on *Tritrichomonas foetus* in the bovine host and includes development of prepubescent natural host models, *in vivo* parasite transcriptomic analysis, and *T. foetus* vaccine and diagnostic test development. Katy's presentation took place Tuesday during the Graduate Student Award Winners session at the annual meeting in St. Louis and was entitled, "Trichs of the Trade". She received contributions toward travel expenses by the AAVP, an engraved plaque, and a monetary award of $1,000 provided by Merck Animal Health, presented by Christian Epe.

Congratulations to **Dr. Martin**!

AAVP-CAPC Graduate Student Award in Zoonotic Disease

Rachel Smith, from the Oklahoma State University College of Veterinary Medicine, was selected as the recipient of the 2025 AAVP-CAPC Graduate Student Award in Zoonotic Disease. Under the supervision of Dr. Lindsay Starkey, her research focuses on the epidemiology of vector-borne infections in domestic cats in the United States. Rachel's presentation took place Tuesday during the Graduate Student Award Winners session at the annual meeting in St. Louis and was entitled, "Filling the feline gap: An update on the epidemiology of tick-transmitted infections in domestic cats and their ticks". She received a Young Investigator Travel Grant, an engraved plaque and a monetary award of $1,000 provided by CAPC, presented by Brian Herrin.

Congratulations to **Rachel**!

Rachel Smith and Dr. Brian Herrin of CAPC

Young Investigator Travel Grant Recipients

Thank you to the AAVP for providing travel funding for the following students to attend the meeting in Saint Louis, MO. In total, there were **30** students who applied for travel grants.

Young Investigator Travel Grant Recipients		
Oluwaseun Ajileye *Texas A&M University*	**Sakuni Amarasingha** *University of Calgary*	**Daniel Felipe Barrantes Murillo** *Oklahoma State University*
Natalia Betancourt Rodriguez *University of Wisconsin-Madison*	**Ian Daniel** *Texas A&M University*	**Real Datta** *Iowa State University*
Andre Duarte *Texas A&M University*	**Shruti Gupta** *Creighton University*	**Collin Hayes** *Louisiana State University*
William Jensen *Virginia Tech*	**Maureen Kelly** *Texas A&M University*	**Brigette King** *Kansas State University*
Kaylee Kipp *Texas A&M University*	**Matthew Kulpa** *Texas A&M University*	**Dongjie Liu** *Iowa State University*
Vishnu Manikantan *Purdue University*	**Md Mukthar Mia** *University of Illinois*	**Sarah Myers** *Oklahoma State University*
Mary Neff *Oklahoma State University*	**Grace Perrin** *University of Tennessee*	**Isel Pollock** *University of Pennsylvania*
Theresa Quintana *Auburn University*	**Briana Raya** *Kansas State University*	**Kaetlyn Ryan** *University of Wisconsin-Madison*
Tiana Sanders *Texas A&M University*	**Rachel Smith** *Oklahoma State University*	**Cameron Sutherland** *Kansas State University*
Trey D. Tomlinson *University of Florida*	**Pabasara Weerarathne** *Texas A&M University*	**Zachary Wiggins** *University of Georgia*

Young Investigator Travel Grant Recipients

Best Student Paper and Poster Competitions

The student competition involved 40 students: 31 in the paper competition and 9 in the poster competition! The Best Student Paper competition and the Best Student Poster competition were sponsored by Zoetis. There were 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place awards given in each category with $500, $300, and $150 honoraria, respectively.

	Best Student Paper Sponsored by Zoetis	Best Student Poster Sponsored by Zoetis
1st Place	**Kaetlyn Ryan** *University of Wisconsin*	**Cameron Sutherland** *Kansas State University*
2nd Place	**Mackenzie Smith** *University of Kentucky*	**Mary Neff** *Oklahoma State University*
3rd Place	**Brigette King** *Kansas State University*	**Trey Tomlinson** *University of Florida*

Student Paper and Poster Competition Winners (Left to Right): Cameron Sutherland (Poster – 1st), Bridgette King (Oral – 3rd), Kaetlyn Ryan (Oral – 1st), Trey Tomlinson (Poster – 3rd). Absent: Mackenzie Smith (Oral – 2nd) and Mary Neff (Poster – 2nd).

The AAVP sends thanks to all the judges who took valuable time from their schedules to attend student presentations and provide written feedback to the students: Alan Robertson, Amira Ahmed, Ann Donoghue, Brian Herrin, Caroline Sobotyk, Christian Epe, Christopher Lee, Daniel Kulke, Elliott Zieman, Grace Van Hoy, Hannah Loghry-Jansen, Janice Liotta, JB Collins, Jeba Jesudoss Chelladurai, Jeff Gruntmeir, Jessie Masquelier, John Gilleard, Kathryn Duncan, Kathryn Reif, Katrin Blazejak, Kellee Sundstrom, Kevin Burton, Kyle Hoffman, Lauren Camp, Megan Lineberry, Molly Savadelis, Mostafa Zamanian, Olufemi Akinkuotu, Ranju Manoj, Roberto Cortinas, Ryan Grunert, Sudhanva Kashyap, Tamara Hofstede, Tim Geary, Timi Wu, Wade Burton, and Yoko Nagamori.

Looking Ahead to 2026 AAVP Awards

Nominations for the named AAVP awards will open in early 2026. Check your listserv emails for the official opening announcement, reminders, and deadlines. If you have any questions, you can contact Awards Committee co-chairs: Emily Curry (emily.curry@zoetis.com) or Hannah Loghry-Jansen (hannah.loghryjansen@zoetis.com).

If you missed the opportunity to sign up to join the awards committee, please contact the co-chair(s) to join on for the next three years.

Respectfully submitted by: **Drs. Emily Curry** and **Hannah Loghry-Jansen**, Co-Chairs, AAVP Awards Committee

Emily Curry

Hannah Loghry-Jansen

History Committee Report

Our group has been tasked with reporting on the passing of members from the Parasitology community. We also contribute to an ongoing resource bank of historically relevant information, and work to promote an appreciation for the history of the field of Veterinary Parasitology.

If you know of any parasitologists who have passed away, please contact Blaine.godley@hotmail.com to have that information dispersed to our membership.

The history committee was informed of the passing of **Dr. Carol Robertson-Plouch**, a long-time project and medical lead for both Merck/Merial and Eli Lilly/Elanco. Below is the full obituary provided by the family.

Carol Robertson-Plouch DVM

Carol Robertson-Plouch, 64, of Greenfield, Indiana, passed away peacefully Feb. 26, 2025. Born in Ann Arbor, Michigan, to John and Jeannette Robertson, Carol lived a life of love, generosity, faith, family and friendship.
A University of Missouri Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine graduate, Carol began her career in farm and ranch veterinary practice before transitioning to biopharmaceutical research. She rose to be a director of veterinary research at Merck/ Merial, then transitioned to Eli Lilly/Elanco, where she drove the development of multiple life-changing medications, both in animal and human health.

A pioneer in biomedical research and ethics, she co-authored many scientific papers and worked passionately to lower drug development costs, earning the 2017 Lilly Bioethics Excellence Award.

In retirement, Carol founded Convergence BioScience, collaborating with a global network of medical researchers. She was active in VisionTech Partners, supporting science and tech startups, and served on the Indiana University Institutional Review Board, promoting patient safety in clinical trials.

Despite her countless professional achievements and challenging work, Carol was humble and prioritized her family, on whom she showered endless love, attention and care.

Carol loved nature, travel and immersing herself in different cultures, often sharing her experiences with her children and husband, with whom she frequently traveled.

She cherished time with her many dear friends, enjoying laughter and meaningful conversations and mentoring many young people, particularly women, helping them grow both personally and professionally.

Carol's deep and abiding faith was a guiding force throughout her life. She was active at Cross of Grace Lutheran Church, participating in music and other ministries. A lifelong musician, she played cello with the Indianapolis Philharmonic Symphony.

She adored her animals and volunteered with the Canines-N-Kids Foundation and American Heartworm Society as an executive board member.

Carol is survived by her husband, V. David Plouch; children Eleda Plouch and Isaac Plouch; son-in-law Ethan Heyboer; and brothers Kirk and Leigh Robertson. She was preceded in death by her parents, John and Jeannette Robertson; and her sister, Kristin Robertson.

A memorial service was held on Saturday, March 15, 2025, at Cross of Grace Lutheran Church, 3519 S. County Road 600W, New Palestine, IN 46163, with visitation from 9 a.m. to noon. Pastors Mark Havel and Cogan Blackmon will officiate, and a luncheon will follow. In lieu of flowers, donations in Carol's honor can be made to Cross of Grace Lutheran Church (https://give.tithe.ly/) or the Kidney Cancer Association (https://secure. kidneycancer.org/forms/ donatetokidneycancer), or to a charity of your choosing.

Membership Representation Committee Report

In addition to meeting at the AAVP conference in St. Louis, members of the committee also met in September 2025. Araceli Lucio-Foster has kindly agreed to take over as co-chair of the committee from Andrew Peregrine. However, Andrew will stay on until Meriam Saleh is able to return from maternity leave. In reflection on the panel discussion at the St. Louis meeting entitled “Building Community in Veterinary Parasitology”, much positive feedback has been received. People were happy to see the session at a prominent time. However, for some, it may have been too short an amount of time to have meaningful discussion about hot button topics. For future sessions, folk suggested it would help if members could (i) send anonymous questions ahead of time for the presenters, and (ii) ask questions anonymously in real time during the session. It is hoped that such sessions will be a catalyst for ongoing discussion throughout future conferences.

Suggestions for the next annual AAVP meeting in Puerto Rico:

(i) Include a session in Spanish with talks in Spanish, slides in English. Such sessions have recently been incorporated into ACVP and ACVIM conferences and would be a great way to attract members of the veterinary community in Puerto Rico.

(ii) Include a session on cultural literacy for client-based research; how to make oneself accessible, and how to make the information from the research accessible to others, particularly clients. Such a session would be particularly useful for graduate students.

(iii) Create a welcome video to place on the front page of the AAVP and AAVP conference web sites.

(iv) Create a welcome letter to send to first-time registrants at the time of registration by members of this committee, i.e. a personal welcome.

(v) Continue to involve members of the committee at the welcome desk for the first day of the conference.

(vi) Provide more assistance to first-time attendees **throughout** the conference by having “visible ambassador” members of this committee that are willing to answer questions and provide assistance.

Updating AAVP policies:

As it has been 3 years since the AAVP’s Anti-Harassment and Discrimination Policy, Code of Conduct, and Code of Professional Ethics were first drafted, these will be updated over the coming weeks as directed by the SOP.

Educational resources?

If you are interested in educational content concerning topics of relevance to Member Representation, please contact Andrew Peregrine (aperegri@uoguelph.ca).

HELP NEEDED!

If you are interested in providing a greeting for the Welcome video, please contact Dr. Tamara Hofstede (tamara.hofstede@alumni.uoguelph.ca).

Submitted by Co-Chairs: Andrew Peregrine and Araceli Lucio-Foster, October 8, 2025

Auction Committee Report

The 3rd AAVP Auction was a grand success! Twenty-three items were auctioned, for a total of $9,264.61 raised for the Young Investigator Travel Grants. Items included 11 original ceramic pieces from Dr. Tammi Krecek and Eddy Krecek, 3 watercolors by Dr. Janice Liotta, 2 original photographs by Dr. Mike Dryden and 2 original paintings by Dr. Bill Campbell. Dr. Craig Reinemeyer provided a little history with his original Ivomec bolus, and Dr. Shelly Michalski contributed her crocheting talent with a matching pawprint blanket, tote, and floor mat!

Dr. Ann Donoghue was this year's auctioneer, assisted by Drs. Sheila Mitchell and Dean Dailey, while graduate students, Tiana Sanders, Kaylee Kipp, Ian Daniel, and Matt Kulpa, displayed the items to the cheering crowd.

Next year the meeting in Puerto Rico will limit what items can be displayed "in person". The Committee will gladly accept any item, and those that can easily be carried or fit into a small suitcase can be brought to the meeting. For larger items, we ask that high-quality photos from several views be provided. We will have them displayed on a screen for the audience to view before and during the auction. The winners of those items will then arrange for shipment from the donor when they are stateside.

Start thinking about what you might be able to donate! It can be anything…even an old Ivomec bolus!

Submitted by: Shelly Michalski and Ann Donoghue

Electronic Media Committee Report

We have the following accounts. To follow us, click the link!

Facebook
Instagram
LinkedIn
Blue Sky
X (Twitter)

We would like to post job offerings on a regular basis. Please contact Maureen Kelly (mkelly3456@tamu.edu) and Ann Donoghue (ardonoghue@gmail.com) with the job title, the job description, university or company logo and who to contact to apply.

Do you have a guest speaker coming to present at your institution? Will it be livestreamed or recorded? Let us know, and we'll post the information on all our social accounts!

Contact Maureen (mkelly3456@tamu.edu) or Ann (ardonoghue@gmail.com).

AAVP 71st Annual Meeting 2026 – June 6 – 9

Make plans to attend the 71st AAVP Annual Meeting, June 6 – 9, 2026, in Rio Grande, Puerto Rico!

Deadlines for registration, young investigators travel grant applications and abstract submissions will be posted on the AAVP website and shared via emails in January and listed in the Spring newsletter.

Announcements

Parasitology Provenance

At the AAVP meeting in Snowbird 2022, Dr. Pat Conrad encouraged the membership to share their "Origin Story." Each are unique, fascinating, and often involve a mentor who profoundly changed the trajectory of one's career. With that, we would like to start up a place for AAVP to share that story! If you feel compelled, please send your "origin story" to the AAVP Newsletter (aavpnewsletter@gmail.com) to be included in future newsletters.

Future Parasitology Meetings

Future meetings of the AAVP

71st Annual Meeting: June 6 – 9, 2026 in Rio Grande, Puerto Rico

Conference of Research Workers in Animal Diseases (CRWAD) 2026

The 2026 CRWAD meeting will be 17 – 20 January 2026, at the Chicago Marriott, Downtown Magnificent Mile, Chicago, Illinois, USA. AAVP continues to support the best student competition in the parasitology section of the CRWAD meeting. CRWAD

American Society of Parasitologists 2026

The 101st Annual Meeting of the American Society of Parasitologists will be held in Orlando, FL, USA, 26 – 29, July 2026. ASP

American Society of Tropical Medicine & Hygiene (ASTMH) 2026

The 74th annual meeting of ASTMH will be held at the Gaylord National Harbor in National Harbor, MD, USA, 18 – 22 November 2026. ASTMH.

World Association for the Advancement of Veterinary Parasitology 2026

The 31st International Conference of the World Association for the Advancement of Veterinary Parasitology will be held in Berlin, Germany. More information to come. WAAVP

Receiving AAVP Listserv Messages

The AAVP listserv is our primary means of contacting the membership. These emails are sent from " info@aavp.ccsend.com". To ensure you receive these messages, please whitelist "info@aavp.ccsend.com" 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 info@aavp.ccsend.com at all, contact the AAVP Office at info@aavp.org and/or 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 the winter, prior to the annual meeting and the fall. Contributions to the Newsletter are highly encouraged and should be submitted by the dates listed below.

AAVP Newsletter Deadlines for Submissions

Newsletter	**Deadline**
February 20256	January 15, 2026
May 2026	April 15, 2026
October 2026	September 15, 2026

Please contact the editor with questions regarding these dates.