AAVP Newsletter

American Association of Veterinary Parasitologists

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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

Andy Moorhead
AAVP President

Hello everyone,

I hope that your semester is off to a productive start and that those in industry are surviving the gauntlet of VMX, WVC, and national sales meetings. Planning for our annual meeting in Puerto Rico is underway. Dr. Lindsay Starkey is in the process of putting together an excellent program! Everyone that I have talked to is very excited about this year's meeting and the location.

Thanks to the Nomination Committee, which has put together an excellent slate of candidates. Please take the time to vote. I would like to see at least 75% participation this year compared to roughly 30% last year. Your vote DOES matter and helps to shape AAVP moving forward.

The Hookworm Task Force is close to completing their charge of producing both a research and clinical manuscript. The research manuscript has been published, and the clinical manuscript, as of this writing, is close to being submitted to JAVMA. My thanks to Drs. Tim Geary and Ray Kaplan for their leadership on the writing of these manuscripts, and to Dr. Jeba Jesudoss Chelladurai for her leadership of the committee. Finally, thank you to the other committee members and co-authors on these manuscripts.

Under the direction of Dr. Erica Burkman, AAVP has launched its new mentoring initiative. Personally, I have enjoyed this experience, as it has allowed me to interact with and get to know other parasitologists in a one-on-one environment. Look for more information about this program and a potential designated time for mentors and mentees to interact at the annual meeting.

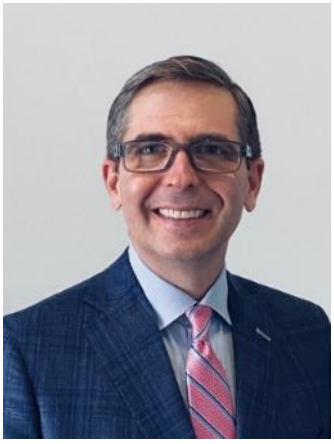
Finally, a sincere thank you to Dr. Brian Herrin who has been editor of the newsletter. Corralling committee chairs, the program chair, and (especially the) president is not easy. Brian has kept us honest, and we appreciate his effort over the years. Drs. Lauren Camp and Jennifer Ketzis have agreed to take over the reins as the editors. We are grateful to them for agreeing to do this.

See everyone in Puerto Rico!

Submitted by Andy Moorhead, AAVP President
Email: armoorh2@ncsu.edu

From the Secretary/Treasurer

2026 AAVP Membership Dues



Dean Dailey
Secretary - Treasurer

I would like to thank those of you who have paid your 2026 membership dues! The renewal period for membership was from **October 1, 2025, through January 31, 2026**. 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 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 Voung, 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
Email: dean.dailey@boehringer-ingelheim.com

71st Annual Meeting of the AAVP – Conference Information

Message from the Program Committee

Lindsay Starkey
President-elect and 2026 Program Chair

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

The 71st Annual Meeting of the AAVP will be in Rio Grande, Puerto Rico at the Wyndham Grand Rio Mar Rainforest Beach & Gold Resort. The theme of the meeting is **Emerging & re-emerging parasites: a global perspective**. Keynote speakers include folks bringing perspectives from Europe, Latin America, and the US, including an update from our colleagues at the USDA-APHIS NVSL. *We will also host a Spanish-English bilingual session during the meeting—look for opportunities to participate on the registration portal!*

This year there is also a pre-meeting workshop available to AAVP attendees. The optional Friday June 5 all day workshop is sponsored and organized by Boehringer Ingelheim Vetmedica GMBH: Optimizing Parasiticides in the Face of Drug Resistance. Make sure to select the registration option within the AAVP registration portal if you'd like to attend this unique opportunity.

Many activities are available on-site: whether you are into relaxing beside the waves, sunning or sliding at the pool, taking in a round of golf or quick tennis match, or living it up late night style, you'll find no shortage of options to indulge in before or after sessions. The resort is conveniently nestled near the only tropical rainforest in the US National Forest System, El Yunque Rainforest for those wanting to connect with nature.

Student members, please plan to stay Tuesday afternoon/evening to take part in the annual student trip following the close of the sessions.

Registration for the meeting and hotel, as well as abstract submission is open on the AAVP website at https://aavp.joynmeeting.com/v2/. The deadline for abstract submission is **March 10 (11:59pm Eastern)**. Information on the updated YITG applications and abstract submissions is posted on the AAVP website.

Nos vemos en Puerto Rico!

Meeting Location

Rio Grande, Puerto Rico

The American Association of Veterinary Parasitologists 71st Annual Meeting will be held June 6 – 9, 2026 in Rio Grande, Puerto Rico.

Address

Wyndham Grand Rio Mar Rainforest Beach and Golf Resort
6000 Blvd. Río Mar
Río Grande, 00745, Puerto Rico

Telephone

(787) 888-6000

Website

Wyndham Grand Rio Mar Rainforest Beach and Golf Resort

Early arrival, staying after – links for local attractions can be found here: Discover Puerto Rico

Conference Registration

It is **highly recommended** you pre-register for the 2026 meeting. **If you are submitting abstract(s), we require that you register for the meeting by the March 10th deadline.** You can register online: https://aavp.joynmeeting.com/v2/. Online payments can be completed by credit card (Visa, MasterCard, American Express, etc.).

2026 Registration Fees

Members

- Early bird registration (deadline: April 3, 2026): US $350 (general) / US $150 (student)
- Late registration (after April 3, 2026) or on-site: US $675 (general) / US $375 (student)

Non-Members

- Early bird registration (deadline: April 3, 2026): US $675
- Late registration (after April 3, 2026) or on-site: US $775

Guest Social Events Only

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

Printed proceedings books are NOT included with conference registration. Attendees will receive a digital PDF of the proceedings. A printed copy may be purchased separately for $45. Be sure to choose that selection when registering. There will be a **limited** stock available on site for first come first serve.

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 2026 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, 2026. A proceedings book will be available digitally. Print proceedings are available for purchase for US $45. 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 5, 2026

The negotiated room rate for attendees is $269/night plus waived resort fee, government tax, housekeeping gratuity and porterage fee. All reservations must be guaranteed with a major credit card. Credit cards will not be charged a deposit but charged at the actual meeting.

Hotel

To make your hotel reservation you can:

1. Access the AAVP hotel link via the American Association of Veterinary Parasitologists (AAVP) 2026 Meeting website (https://aavp.joynmeeting.com/v2/) and then follow the instructions.
2. Or click on the following hyperlink: Hotel Reservations
3. 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 1-10, 2026. If you wish to book additional stays outside these dates, please call the hotel (see below).
4. Or you can call 1-787-888-6000. 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 to satisfy our room block commitment.

Make your room reservations by May 5, 2026. After that date, the unreserved room block will be released, and the special conference reduced rates will expire.

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 5, 2026** deadline.

Travel

Airport

The airport for the meeting is Luis Muñoz Marín International Airport. (airport code: SJU).

Airport Transportation

Travel between the airport and the hotel can be done by Uber or city taxi, and an average fare will be around $65 one-way. Please note that Uber is currently the only ride-share company operating on the island. Private car service is also available. Interested in renting a car? There are many car rental companies available at SJU. https://aeropuertosju.com/alquiler-de-autos/

Parking

For guests staying at the resort, our self-parking is $18.00 per day, and the valet parking option is $25.00 per day (taxes included). For all other visitors, our self-parking is $30 per day, and valet options will charge $5 for the first hour with an additional $3 charged per hour (taxes included)

Students

Roommates for Puerto Rico: Students looking for room share should contact Student Officers Drs. Rachel Smith and Tiana Sanders (aavpstudentcommittee@gmail.com) and we will send the Google Sheet for roommate matching.

Annual Meeting 2026 Important Dates

Abstract submission website closes March 10, 2026

Registration deadline for authors: March 10, 2026

Early bird registration deadline: April 3, 2026

Hotel special room rate deadline: May 5, 2026

Scientific Program

General

The 2026 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 midday local time on Saturday June 6th, 2026, and end by noon local time on Tuesday June 9th, 2026.

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 commence 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 will include scientific sessions, the AAVP Business Meeting and Awards Ceremony and the NCVP clicker case session. A sponsored lunch will be provided. 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 **"Emerging and re-emerging parasites: a global perspective"**.

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 mid-level 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.

This year there is a unique opportunity for attendees to verbally deliver their oral presentation in Spanish (slide content must be in English). Moderators for this hybrid session will be fluent in both Spanish and English to facilitate Q&A.

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. Slides (2 X 2) and overhead projectors will NOT be available.

The conference program is still in development. The final program will be posted on the AAVP website (www.aavp.org) **at or around May 8.**

Abstract Submission

Abstract submission closes March 10, 2026

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 March 10, 2026**, 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 17, 2026,** whether their abstracts have been accepted.

If you have any questions regarding the program, please do not hesitate to contact the Program Chair, Dr. Lindsay Starkey at lindsay.starkey@okstate.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 **April 3, 2026**.

Submission of an abstract

When submitting your abstract, you will need to select whether you prefer an oral presentation or a poster presentation. We will do our best to accommodate your preference.

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 "2026 Abstract submissions."

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 2026 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 Rachel Smith (rachel.c.smith@okstate.edu) or Tiana Sanders (tlsanders2415@tamu.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 service and a 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 based on veterinary parasitology research carried out during a student's graduate (MS or PhD) program.
- AAVP-David Young Graduate Student Leadership Excellence Award based on leadership roles carried out during a student's graduate veterinary parasitology (MS or PhD) program.

The guidelines for application and nomination can be found on the https://aavp.org/aavp-annual-awards/.

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 competitions 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.

All students should submit the Verification of Student Status form available on the Annual Meeting web site or during abstract submission. Judges at the meeting will use checklists (linked here https://aavp.org/aavp-student-chapter-information/) to evaluate the presentations.

AAVP Young Investigator Travel Grants (YITG)

The YITGs 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 postdoctoral 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 to 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 students who receive the AAVP-Merck Outstanding Graduate Student Award, the AAVP-CAPC Graduate Student Award in Zoonotic Disease, or the AAVP-David Young Graduate Student Leadership Excellence Award will automatically receive a Young Investigator Travel Grant. Full guidelines for awarding YITGs may be viewed on the website https://aavp.org/aavp-student-chapter-information/.

Summary of Important Dates

March 10:	Deadline for submission of abstracts and registration for authors
April 3:	Deadline for payment for early bird registration
May 5:	Deadline for payment of early bird hotel room rate
May 8:	Conference program posted on AAVP web site
June 6 - 9:	Conference in Rio Grande, Puerto Rico

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 are 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 will 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 that 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 are 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

Membership Representation Committee (MRC)

Since the last newsletter, the MRC has been involved in a number of activities:

a) Three years have passed since the AAVP's Anti-Harassment and Discrimination Policy, Code of Conduct, and Code of Professional Ethics were first drafted. These have therefore been updated as directed by the SOP. The revised versions have been posted on the AAVP web site and are available at: https://aavp.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/AAVP-Anti-Harassment-Discrimination-Policy.pdf.

b) At recent meetings of the MRC, members suggested that it would be good to include a Spanish session in the AAVP's 2026 conference program. A meeting was therefore held with Drs. Pablo Jimenez Castro (who took part in a similar session at the most recent ACVIM conference), Leonor Sicalo Gianechini, and Roger Ramirez Barrios to determine their thoughts about this idea. In summary:

- Everyone was very positive about the suggestion, particularly since the meeting is taking place in Puerto Rico. Talks would be given in Spanish, using slides in English.
- Everyone thought that having review talks on current hot topics (e.g. Drug resistance in hookworms, New World screwworm, Control of gastrointestinal nematodes in small ruminants) would likely attract more local folk than the usual research abstracts.
- If additional time is available, regular research abstracts could also be included in the Spanish session.
- Offering daily registration for the conference would likely attract more local folk.
- These suggestions have been passed on to the AAVP's Executive Committee.

c) A welcome letter has been drafted that will be sent to first-time attendees at the time of registration for the conference. This includes information on accommodation (e.g. hotel cost, sharing accommodation with other students), travel logistics (visa requirements, local transport, things to always carry), planning finances (e.g. typical expenses, tips on taxis and restaurant meals, food-delivery and ride-hailing apps), getting connected with other AAVP members, and both AAVP student and AAVP main social media links. The letter will also be available to members through the conference web site.

HELP NEEDED FOR AN AAVP WELCOME VIDEO! WE NEED VOLUNTEERS!
Please consider contributing a greeting (15-20 seconds!) to an AAVP Welcome video. For more information, contact Dr. Tamara Hofstede, tamara.hofstede@alumni.uoguelph.ca.

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

Submitted by Co-Chairs: Andrew Peregrine and Araceli Lucio-Foster

Electronic Media Committee

As we all prepare for our trip to a tropical paradise filled with beautiful parasites, please make sure you are following us on all social media accounts!

Facebook Instagram LinkedIn
Blue Sky X (Twitter)

We are also still offering to post job openings regularly. Please contact Maureen Kelly (mkelly3456@tamu.edu) and Ann Donoghue (ardonoghue@gmail.com) with the job title, job description, the university or company logo, and the contact for applications.

Is there 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).

See you all in Puerto Rico!

Submitted by Maureen Kelly (mkelly3456@tamu.edu)

Education Committee

Work has begun for the upcoming **2026 AAVP-CAPC Educators' Symposium at Oklahoma State University**! This year's symposium will take place in the Summer due to feedback from other members of the committee and the membership.

Symposium Details:

"Using Generative AI in Veterinary Medicine: Considerations and Optimizations"

Saturday, August 1st — evening social and group dinner
Sunday, August 2nd — full day of seminars, workshops, and meals with the group
Monday, August 3rd — travel day; no symposium events planned

Registration: Be on the lookout for an email from AAVP in early May for registration. At that time, additional details will be shared regarding airports, hotel accommodations, provided meals, and meeting schedules.

In 2026, the second major task for this committee is compiling the results of an active survey regarding the efforts to update the AAVP Core Competency Standards which were first published by Snowden, et al. in 2016. **If you are an educator in veterinary parasitology, please search for a reminder email with the survey link in your inbox** from kathryn.duncan@okstate.edu. We greatly appreciate your participation!

Respectfully submitted by Dr. Kathryn Duncan
Chair, Education Committee
kathryn.duncan@okstate.edu

Student Committee

2026 Student Activities in Puerto Rico

Saturday, June 6th

Student Meet and Greet: The student committee invites all current students (undergraduate, graduate, and DVM) and post-docs to gather for lunch to kick off AAVP 2026! This free lunch is a great opportunity to mingle with friends and colleagues, get to know new faces, and learn more about opportunities with the AAVP student committee. Student registrants for the meeting may also pick up their registration packet at the student lunch (and skip the main registration line!). Be on the lookout for more information to RSVP for this event. We hope to see you there!

Tuesday, June 9th

Student Trip: Students attending the AAVP meeting are invited to attend our annual student field trip following the conclusion of the meeting at noon on Tuesday June 9th. Students interested in attending this fun opportunity should plan to schedule their return flight late Tuesday night or Wednesday (June 10th). Shared hotel arrangements will be covered for the night of the field trip, but spaces are limited. Be on the lookout for more details about the field trip and information to reserve your spot soon!

Young Investigator Travel Grants: The Young Investigator Travel Grant application will be available with your abstract submission. Don't forget to apply for this funding opportunity to support your meeting attendance!

Roommates for Puerto Rico: We know hotels can be expensive for student budgets! Anyone looking for room share should contact your student officers to assist with finding roommates: aavpstudentcommittee@gmail.com

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

Rachel Smith, '24-'26
(rachel.c.smith@okstate.edu)

Tiana Sanders, '25-'27
(tisanders2415@tamu.edu)

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

Nominating Committee

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

Committee Members	Term Ends
Grace VanHoy Kathryn Duncan	2026
Manigandan Lejeune Caroline Sobotyk	2027
Elyssa Campbell Molly Savadelis	2028

This Committee is charged with developing the annual ballot for election of officers (Vice President, Secretary/Treasurer, and Student Officer), members of the Nominating Committee, and members of the Appeals Committee. Each year, a new Vice President, 2 new Nominating Committee members, 2 new Appeals Committee members, and 1 new Student Officer are elected. Every 2 years a new Secretary/Treasurer is elected.

This year there are 2 nominees for Vice President, 5 nominees for the Nominating Committee (the minimum number required by the by-laws), 2 nominees for the Appeals Committee, and 1 nominee for Student Officer. No nominees are necessary for Secretary/Treasurer this year. Please review their biographies below and be on the lookout for the emailed ballot soon.

Vice President	Nominating Committee	Appeals Committee	Student Officer
Chris Adolph	JB Collins	Tamara Hofstede	Trey Tomlinson
Kathryn Reif	Ruth Scimeca	Leonor Sicalo Gianechini	
	Leonor Sicalo Gianechini		
	Kellee Sundstrom		
	Cameron Sutherland		

Respectfully submitted by Dr. Kathryn Duncan
Chair, Nominating Committee
kathryn.duncan@okstate.edu

Nominee Biographies

Nominees for Vice President

Chris Adolph DVM, MS, DACVM (Parasitology)

Dr. Adolph received his D.V.M. 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.

Kathryn Reif PhD, MSPH

Dr. Kathryn Reif is the Bailey-Goodwin Endowed Professor in Parasitology and an Associate Professor in the Department of Pathobiology at Auburn University. She also serves as a board member for the Companion Animal Parasite Council and is an active member of the American Association for Veterinary Parasitologists, serving as a co-chair for the Outreach, Publication, and Research Committee for the past 4 years. Her research program integrates vector biology, veterinary parasitology, and applied disease control, with a particular focus on tick feeding biology, pathogen transmission dynamics, and the comparative efficacy of ectoparasiticides—including studies on tick speed of kill and its role in disease prevention.

Dr. Reif's laboratory has pioneered innovative techniques to study vector–host interactions and evaluate parasite transmission dynamics. Collectively, Dr. Reif's work bridges fundamental vector biology with clinical applications that inform evidence-based parasite management. She is a frequently invited speaker at national and international conferences and is passionate about translating parasitology research into practical solutions for veterinarians, pet owners, and public health professionals.

Candidates for the Nominating Committee (continues next page)

JB Collins PhD

My name is Dr. JB Collins, a soon-to-be assistant professor at Utah State University. Initially growing up in rural Georgia, I had a considerable amount of hands-on experience working with livestock and animals, which eventually led me to do my PhD work in parasitology with Dr. Ray Kaplan at the University of Georgia. After graduating, I have now been doing a post-doc with Dr. Erik Andersen, first at Northwestern University and now at Johns Hopkins, focusing on learning how to apply quantitative genetics to solve parasitology-related questions. And now, as of April 2026, I will be starting my own research lab at the new College of Veterinary Medicine at Utah State. As I reflect on my time in the field, I realize how important AAVP and its members have been to my development as a scientist. The gathering of so many experts, each with their own unique perspectives and backgrounds, has been essential to the development of new ideas and collaborations. Additionally, I also see how these connections and relationships will be even more key as I start my own research program and progress with both my research and career. As part of the nominating committee, I will work with other members to identify and put forth the best nominees possible to continue the forward momentum of AAVP, enabling future scientists to share in those same experiences and growth that have been essential in my scientific life.

Ruth C. Scimeca VMD, MS, PhD, DACVM-Parasitology

Dr. Scimeca is an Assistant Professor at the College of Veterinary Parasitology Oklahoma State University (OSU) and Parasitology Diagnostics Section Head at the Oklahoma Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory (OADDL). Dr. Scimeca is also a Co-director at the National Center for Veterinary Parasitology (NCVP). Dr. Scimeca dedicates her time to teach clinical parasitology to fourth year DVM students during the diagnostics rotation; provides diagnostic and consultation services at OADDL and works in diverse research projects focusing on vector borne pathogens, protozoan parasites, host-parasite interactions, and development of parasitology diagnostic tests.

Leonor Sicalo Gianechini DVM, PhD, DACVM-Parasitology

Dr. Leonor Sicalo Gianechini is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Infectious Diseases at the University of Georgia. Originally from Uruguay, she earned her DVM there before moving to Argentina to complete a residency in Animal Health, where she also worked in a diagnostic laboratory supporting large-animal veterinarians and producers. These early roles strengthened her interest in applied parasitology and the practical challenges of parasite control. She completed her PhD at UGA under the mentorship of Dr. Ray Kaplan, focusing on the dynamics and evolution of benzimidazole resistance in gastrointestinal nematodes and the screening of novel anthelmintic compounds. During her graduate training, she served as the AAVP Student Representative (2021–2023). She remained at UGA as a Postdoctoral Associate before earning Diplomate status with the American College of Veterinary Microbiologists (Parasitology) in 2025 and joined the AAVP Publications, Outreach, and Research Committee the same year. As a faculty member, Dr. Sicalo Gianechini is developing a research program focused on sustainable parasite control and anthelmintic resistance in livestock, with particular interest in improving how we diagnose, monitor, and understand resistance in cattle and small ruminants, and in creating approaches that can be applied in real-world production settings.

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.

Cameron Sutherland DVM, PhD

Dr. Cameron Sutherland is a veterinarian and parasitologist with research experience focusing on ectoparasites and ectoparasiticide studies. As a graduate from Kansas State University, he has experience in reading and reporting on veterinary diagnostic samples, teaching parasitology to veterinary students, and collaborating with industry professionals to execute projects. His primary research interests include novel parasiticide discovery and novel drug delivery with the ultimate goal of improving owner and patient parasiticide compliance. He has been a member of AAVP since 2022 and a member of the Member Representation Committee since 2023. He has had the pleasure of networking with numerous academic and industry professionals within AAVP and is looking forward to the many years to come.

Candidate for the Appeals Committee

Tamara Hofstede DVM, DACVM-Parasitology

Dr. Tamara Hofstede is a Senior Scientist in Clinical Development at Elanco Animal Health, focused in parasiticides. Prior to Elanco, Tamara held roles in technical services at Vita-tech (now part of IDEXX) and lead technical and regulatory teams at Bayer Animal Health. Beyond her research and clinical work, she remains active in the clinical practice as a small animal practitioner and serves as a director for the OVC Alumni Association.

Leonor Sicalo Gianechini DVM, PhD, DACVM-Parasitology

Dr. Leonor Sicalo Gianechini is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Infectious Diseases at the University of Georgia. Originally from Uruguay, she earned her DVM there before moving to Argentina to complete a residency in Animal Health, where she also worked in a diagnostic laboratory supporting large-animal veterinarians and producers. These early roles strengthened her interest in applied parasitology and the practical challenges of parasite control. She completed her PhD at UGA, focusing on the dynamics and evolution of benzimidazole resistance in gastrointestinal nematodes and the screening of novel anthelmintic compounds. She remained at UGA as a Postdoctoral Associate before earning Diplomate status with the ACVM (Parasitology) in 2025. During her graduate training, she served as the AAVP Student Representative (2021–2023) and in 2025 joined the AAVP Publications, Outreach, and Research Committee. As a faculty member, she is developing a research program focused on sustainable parasite control and anthelmintic resistance in livestock, with particular interest in improving how we diagnose, monitor, and understand resistance in cattle and small ruminants, and in creating approaches that can be applied in real-world production settings.

Candidate for the 2-year Student Officer

Trey Tomlinson DVM

Dr. Trey Tomlinson is currently a doctoral student at the University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine in Dr. Heather Walden's lab. He earned his BS in biomedicine at Wichita State University in 2020 and his DVM at Kansas State University in 2024. Trey's dissertation research focuses on evaluating the prevalence of parasites found in invasive wild pigs in Florida, as well as assessing their role as a sentinel species for detecting emerging parasitic diseases through serological and molecular detection methods. At UF, Trey serves as a teaching assistant for the three parasitology courses offered to the veterinary students. He enjoys giving lectures and assisting the students in lab. Trey has been a member of AAVP since 2024 and the American Heartworm Society since 2025 and has given presentations at meetings for both organizations. Outside of academia, Trey enjoys running, paddleboarding, cooking, baking, and spending time with his three dogs.

Constitution and Bylaws Committee

The Constitution and Bylaws committee is providing this information in the Spring Newsletter so we can vote on these proposed changes at the annual meeting. The Executive committee and C&B approved these proposed changes:

1. Move the History committee from an Ad-Hoc committee to a standing committee:

Proposal to amend the by-laws redesignating the existing History Committee from its current ad hoc status to Standing Committees status in item 1(c) of the current by-laws (https://aavp.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/aavp-bylaws-approved-July-2025.pdf

2. Change the Finance committee from 3 members to a minimum of 3 members. This allows the committee to have more than 3 members if needed or desired by future Presidents.

Current language:

Appointed Committees:

Finance Committee: The Finance Committee shall audit the Association's financial records at the annual meeting. The Finance Committee shall consist of three (3) members appointed by the President for three-year, staggered terms.

Proposed new language:

Appointed Committees:

Finance Committee: The Finance Committee shall audit the Association's financial records at the annual meeting. The Finance Committee shall consist of a minimum of three (3) members appointed by the President for three-year, staggered terms.

Submitted by: Dr. Wade Burton (wade-burton@idexx.com)

Outreach Committee

Attention AAVP members! The Outreach, Program, and Research Committee (OPR) is excited to launch a new initiative called ***Timely Topics***.

The goal of *Timely Topics* is to showcase short, engaging reviews on subjects of interest to the broader public. Each piece will be authored by one or two contributors and peer reviewed by two AAVP members with expertise in the topic, with the OPR serving in an editorial role. Articles will be approximately **750–1,500 words** and may include images, tables, or figures to help make them informative, accessible, and enjoyable to read.

Published pieces will be featured on the **AAVP website** and shared across our **social media platforms**, helping extend the reach and impact of your work.

We are now inviting members to **submit ideas for potential topics** they would be interested in contributing, and we especially encourage **participation from our student members**. This is a great opportunity to highlight your research, share your expertise, and engage a wider audience.

So don't wait, send your ideas to Dr. Burkman or Dr. Reif (ker0088@auburn.edu) and help make *Timely Topics* a success!

Submitted by Dr. Erica Burkman (erica.burkman@boehringer-ingelheim.com)

Auction Committee

What's better than a live auction in a tropical paradise? The Auction Committee is soliciting donations from AAVP membership for the 2026 live auction. Please contact Shelly Michalski (michalsk@uwosh.edu) if you have items to donate. We plan on bringing smaller items to the venue in Puerto Rico so the membership can see them in person. Pictures of larger items will be shown as a slideshow before and during the auction. Leave a little extra room in your suitcase so you can take home your new treasures! Shipping of larger items within the continental US will be arranged by the donors and auction winners.

Submitted by: Dr. Shelly Michalski (michalsk@uwosh.edu)

Announcements

AAVP Mentoring Program

Are you passionate about veterinary parasitology and looking to grow your network, gain insights, or share your expertise? The American Association of Veterinary Parasitology (AAVP) launched its Mentoring Program in December 2025 to connect members across all career stages. This initiative provides a platform for seasoned professionals to guide others and for students or early-to-late career members to gain valuable mentorship and support.

As part of the program, we are excited to announce a face-to-face meeting at the 2026 AAVP Annual Meeting in Rio Grande, Puerto Rico. Mentors, mentees, and anyone interested in learning more about the program will have the opportunity to connect in person and strengthen these valuable relationships.

While the 2025–2026 session is currently closed, the enrollment process for the next session will reopen in October 2026. Stay tuned for updates and don’t miss your chance to participate in this rewarding program!

Submitted by Dr. Erica Burkman (erica.burkman@boehringer-ingelheim.com)

Future Parasitology Meetings

For more information on these and other upcoming parasitology conferences, please visit the AAVP website and stay connected for future updates.

Future meetings of the AAVP

72nd Annual Meeting: June 5 – 8, 2027 in Louisville, KY

AITVM-STVM, 2026

The Association of Institutions for Tropical Veterinary Medicine (AITVM) and The Society for Tropical Medicine (STVM) will hold their 4th joint international conference at the University Inn and Conference Centre, St. Augustine Campus, Trinidad 23-26 June 2026

Entomology Summer Course 6th edition 2026

The Entomology Summer Course 6th edition will be held at the National Veterinary School, Toulouse, France, 6 – 10 July 2026

American Society of Parasitologists (ASP) 2026

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

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.

World Association for the Advancement of Veterinary Parasitology (WAAVP) 2027

The 31st International Conference of the World Association for the Advancement of Veterinary Parasitology will be held in Berlin, Germany, 21–25 August 2027.

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

Editors: Lauren Camp and Jennifer Ketzis
lcamp2@uwyo.edu; jketzis@rossu.edu

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

AAVP Newsletter Deadlines for Submissions

Newsletter	Deadline
February 2026	February 1, 2026
May 2026	May 1, 2026
October 2026	September 15, 2026

Please contact the editors with questions regarding these dates.