

The official link to the FHS website is: <http://www.fisheries.org/units/fhs>

Reminder: An archive of these updates is posted on the website with the password: fhs

## **FHS NEWS**

**2008 ANNUAL FHS MEETING – see attached agenda FHSschedule\_final.pdf**

### **STUDENTS: AFS-FHS ANNUAL MEETING**

With the annual meeting fast approaching, you may be wondering what there is for you to do - besides just presenting. Don't worry, here are a couple things to keep you busy:

1. We will be having a student mixer on the Monday evening (June 8th)! It will give us students a chance to connect again and also sit down with a few FHS veterans to hear "How I got to where I am". Their experiences and advice may really help us as we move from students into the real fish health world. If you have suggestions of anyone in particular you would like to hear from, let me know and I'll see what I can do.
2. The organizing committee is looking for 5 volunteers to work AV for the meeting. I'm guessing it won't be that hard and a good chance to help them out. If you are interested, please let me know asap so we can get that information passed along!

\*If you know anyone else attending that is not on this list, please pass this information on to them! Thanks!!

Good luck finishing up your presentations and see you in Park City!

Nick Phelps  
AFS-FHS Student Committee

### **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE FOR LATE MAY 2009**

Greetings to all Fish Health Section members, and I hope to see many of you at the SECTION MEETING IN PARK CITY, UTAH IN TWO WEEKS! Chris Wilson and his gang have been working hard to prepare for a wonderful gathering, and I know that FHS business meeting is right up there on your list of exciting events to anticipate! As my presidential year draws to a close it seems many efforts that have been percolating along over the months are moving forward nicely. Among them are two that I am most happy to present here - we will be discussing these and other issues at the meeting. Here's a preview for your consideration:

Draft Proposal for an Aquatic Animal Health Specialist Certificate

The Professional Certifications committee has begun the process of revising and updating the FHS Fish Pathologist certificate. This is an issue that has been ready for consideration for some time now, and Kevin Amos has started the ball rolling by preparing a draft proposal for modifying the existing certificate to a new designation, the "Aquatic Animal Health Specialist". The draft proposal will be discussed at the section EXCOM and business meetings during the annual meeting in Utah in June, so come contribute your thoughts.

#### New Fish Health Section Q-PCR Work Group

Over the last several months I have considered how to make some novel contribution to the Fish Health Section during my tenure as president. Since my experience is in basic research, I wanted to do something toward maintaining the high quality of research in the fish health field, and its translation into high quality diagnostics and management of aquatic animal diseases. I realized that at this time, the emergence of quantitative PCR (Q-PCR) is probably the most significant current development in the general fish health field. This is a truly marvelous technology with great potential in basic research, diagnostics, and surveillance. However, like all technologies, it has advantages and limitations, and must be set up carefully and integrated appropriately into existing systems. Several fish health research and diagnostic labs now have Q-PCR capability, and many others are interested in developing Q-PCR technology. To assist with this process, I have recently established a Q-PCR Work Group that will coordinate with the Technical Standards Committee and the Section Communications Committee, with the goal of providing sound, critical scientific information that will be useful in development and application of Q-PCR in the Aquatic Animal Health field. The current members of the work group are Maureen Purcell (Western Fisheries Research Center, Seattle, Washington) and Kyle Garver (Pacific Biological Station, Nanaimo, British Columbia), both of whom have extensive experience with setting up Q-PCR assays for various fish pathogens and fish immune-related genes. This is just the beginning of the work group activities, and we look forward to their progress as they work to assure that Q-PCR is developed, applied, and interpreted appropriately, to the benefit of fish health.

These are nice signs of progress. I look forward to talking about them and seeing everyone at the meeting!

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**SIXTH INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON AQUATIC ANIMAL HEALTH  
(ISAAH-6)**

Tampa, FL

September 5–9, 2010

Greetings to all of you who will be meeting in Utah; I trust this finds you well! I am writing to you with a progress report on preparations for the Sixth International Symposium on Aquatic Animal Health (ISAAH-6) which will take place in Tampa, FL, September 5–9, 2010.

Symposium progress report

You will be pleased to know that Sarah Poynton and I are on schedule for the major symposium tasks, and we are beginning to roll up our sleeves to engage in greater depth and detail.

(a) Hotel: We have a room block and conference space allocated at the Marriott Waterside Hotel in Tampa. This is a beautiful and luxurious venue, set amidst the many great offerings that Tampa boasts. We have negotiated a base room night of \$129/night (a mere \$4 more than registrants paid in Baltimore in 1998)!

(b) Program: Monday thru Thursday we will have early morning plenary sessions, followed by three parallel sessions in the late mornings and afternoons. A breakfast poster social will be a highlighted, dedicated session on Wednesday morning. The remaining program has been firmed up with an icebreaker reception on Sunday evening, a gathering at the Florida Aquarium on Monday evening (6 blocks from the hotel), educational and recreational tours on Tuesday afternoon, and a grand gathering/banquet on Wednesday evening.

(c) Local organizing team: We had our first local organizers meeting in February, with some 15 wonderful, talented, energetic folks from UF and around the state. We are beginning to delegate many tasks to these most capable hands.

(d) Publicity and announcements: We are preparing a first announcement about the meeting. We will ask that this be e-mailed to all AFS-FHS members, and we will also post it on the symposium website, so that it can be accessed by other colleagues and potential attendees.

In the meantime, please do not hesitate to call or email me or Sarah if you have questions.

Best regards!  
Andy

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**MEETINGS AND WORKSHOPS - FOR INFORMATION ON THESE AND OTHER  
UPCOMING MEETINGS GO TO THE WEBSITE:**

<http://www.fisheries.org/fhs/meeting.htm>

**JOBS**

**MSC POSITION, LOBSTER SCIENCE CENTRE**

The AVC Lobster Science Centre ( <http://www.lobsterscience.ca/> ) at the University of Prince Edward Island, Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, Canada, is looking for motivated and enthusiastic students to conduct MSc research in the area of lobster health.

This project will examine the role of hemolymph biochemistry panels to evaluate nutritional status, moult recovery, and ovary maturation in the American lobster (*Homarus americanus*) .

Familiarity with field sampling techniques, lobster biology, and basic laboratory skills are assets but not required. An ability to work in collaboration with others is essential.

Students are expected to develop a thesis, take graduate courses, present their results at regional, national and international meetings and publish results in high quality journals.

Positions to begin as early as September 2009 and funding is for 2 years.

Interested students are expected to have a BSc or DVM degree. Students possessing a DVM degree are strongly encouraged to apply. All applicants must submit: (i) a letter profiling their research interests and outlining practical experience, course work in marine biology, molecular biology, biochemistry, aquaculture, aquatic biology and related subjects; (ii) university transcripts; and,

(iii) an updated curriculum vitae (cv). The cv should include the names and contact information for three (3) professional references.

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## RESOURCES

**AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES NEWS** - see attached **NUTSHELL NEWSLETTER #24.pdf**