



# Fish Health Section



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

## FHS NEWS

### OUTGOING PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

My term as AFS Fish Health Section President, which began at the end of the International Symposium of Aquatic Animal Health held in Tampa, Florida in September 2010, has ended a little over 9 months later with the June 2011 FHS Annual Meeting held in conjunction with the 52<sup>nd</sup> Western Fish Disease Workshop (WFDW) in Nanaimo, B.C., Canada. During my short term, the FHS has registered a number of accomplishments, which can be attributed largely to the hard work of Section committee chairs and members.

A few of the Section highlights from the past year are as follows:

- For the first time, FHS elections were conducted online in 2011 by use of SurveyMonkey, which provided a simple, anonymous voting procedure and resulted in nearly 50% voter participation. (See separate report by outgoing Nominating and Balloting Committee Chair Ben LaFrentz.)
- Through the efforts of Continuing Education Chair Al Dove, the FHS was approved by the American Association of Veterinary State Boards as a RACE (Registry of Continuing Education) provider for veterinary professionals in 2009-10. The first CE courses submitted for RACE approval after the FHS became an official RACE provider were offered in 2011 at the Eastern Fish Health Workshop (Systematic Fish Histology and Histopathology, Part 2) and the Joint FHS-WFDW meeting (Practical Tools for Managing Bacterial Kidney Disease).
- An ad hoc committee chaired by Scott Foott, working in concert with members of the Continuing Education and Professional Standards committees, has focused on the development of pilot modules for web-based training on aquatic animal health laboratory topics to increase access to educational opportunities for fish health professionals. Pilot modules on fish histology and on PCR are under development, with a targeted release for a test histology module in fall 2011.
- An ad hoc quantitative PCR (qPCR) committee, formed in 2009 and chaired by Maureen Purcell, accomplished all of its goals by spring 2011 and was dissolved. Among the accomplishments of this committee were: revision of the PCR chapter for the 2010 FHS Blue Book, completion of a technical review paper on the use of qPCR for detecting aquatic animal pathogens (accepted for publication by the Journal of Aquatic Animal Health), and participation in a panel discussion on the use of molecular techniques in pathogen surveys and diagnostics at the 2010 WFDW. Materials generated by this committee will be used in development of web-based training module(s) on PCR methodology.
- The FHS Listserv, ably managed by Jerri Bartholomew, has continued to be a valuable communications tool providing up-to-date information to Section members. The FHS website managed by Luke Iwanowicz also has continued to provide useful information and links for FHS members, although a host server change may be necessary to alleviate some functionality issues.

- FHS Archives Committee member Drew Mitchell prepared a short biography of fish health pioneer Dr. Stanislas Snieszko for posting on the FHS website. Drew also presented a keynote talk on Dr. Snieszko at the joint FHS-WFDW meeting in Nanaimo. During the banquet at this meeting, Scott LaPatra presented a tribute talk celebrating the lives and work of three prominent fish health scientists, Drs. Pete Bullock, Frank Hetrick, and Lee Harrell, who all passed away in 2011.

- The FHS provided financial support for printing of the waterproof desk reference, "Approved Drugs for Use In Aquaculture," which was created by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Aquatic Animal Drug Approval Partnership Program (AADAP). The desk reference is available free upon request from AADAP and proved to be a popular item at the recent FHS-WFDW conference in Canada. The initial printing of 1,000 copies has been completely distributed and a second printing is planned.

- A number of deserving FHS members and students were presented with awards at the recent joint FHS-WFDW meeting. (See separate report by Awards Committee Chair Deborah Iwanowicz.) In addition, through diligent sleuthing, Deb managed to track down all of the surviving past recipients of the Snieszko Distinguished Service Award and update their contact information. Because the Section's highest honor is awarded on the basis of a vote of FHS Excom members and surviving Snieszko award winners, maintenance of current contact information of past winners is essential.

- The joint FHS-WFDW meeting in Nanaimo was well attended, with an interesting and highly informative program. Much of the credit for the success of the meeting goes to co-organizers Mark Higgins and Eva Jakob, program chair Simon Jones, continuing education session organizers Sonja Saksida and Paula Galloway, and many others who worked on various aspects of the meeting.

- My predecessor as FHS President, Trish Barbash, began communications with then-American Fisheries Society President Don Jackson to increase our Section's involvement in the parent society's annual meetings. I continued discussions with incoming AFS President Wayne Hubert, and volunteered to spearhead an effort for the FHS to sponsor a half-day symposium at the AFS annual meeting in Seattle in September 2011. Paul Hershberger agreed to serve as co-chair, and a proposal was accepted for a symposium titled "Ecology of Infectious and Parasitic Diseases in Populations of Wild Fish." The symposium will highlight some of the recent advancements in disease ecology of wild fishes from an international perspective, with 14 scientists scheduled to give invited presentations. Incoming FHS President Andy Goodwin plans to continue FHS sponsorship of at least one symposium at the 2012 AFS annual meeting, and it is hoped that this effort will continue in the future for the mutual benefit of the Society and the Section. At the Nanaimo meeting, incoming Fish Culture Section President Jim Bowker, Andy and I discussed the possibility of joint FHS and FCS sponsorship of at least one symposium at a future AFS meeting, in addition to the symposia sponsored by the individual sections.

A number of efforts were begun or continued during my tenure as President and will continue into Andy Goodwin's term. For example, the FHS is seeking to have

a Section representative appointed as a co-chair of the FCS Working Group on Aquaculture Drugs, Chemicals and Biologics, to tap into FHS expertise in this area and increase the FHS presence in support of the development and safe and legal use of these products. An effort is underway to make changes to the Inspection Handbook section of the Blue Book to help ensure its continued relevance following implementation of the National Aquatic Animal Health Plan. We are also developing a template for a memorandum of understanding, based on the AFS model, to be used to better define the roles and responsibilities of the FHS and local organizers involved in planning our meetings, particularly the International Symposium of Aquatic Animal Health (ISAHA). Luke Iwanowicz has proposed some changes to improve the FHS website, but due to increased career and fatherhood responsibilities, he needs a replacement as website manager to implement the changes. A long-term goal of the FHS has been to find a permanent home for its archives, and “feelers” have been put out to determine the feasibility of housing the FHS archives in the D.C. Booth Historic National Fish Hatchery and Archives in Spearfish, SD. Although the FHS Procedures Manual was revised in 2010, additional revisions are needed to reflect current procedures (e.g. online voting). Other ongoing issues include increasing FHS membership and student membership and involvement, and some strategies are being developed to accomplish these tasks. A related issue is the standardization of affiliate memberships offered by different units (including the FHS) within the AFS; this topic will be discussed at the AFS meeting retreat in September.

As my term as FHS President has ended, I wish to thank my fellow Excom members, other committee chairs and committee members, and everyone else who helped to make the past year a successful one for the FHS. I welcome the newly elected officer and committee members and wish them success in their FHS service. As I step into my new position as Past President, I am looking forward to working with new and continuing Excom members, and in particular with incoming FHS President Andy Goodwin, who is returning for his second term in this office. Collectively, with a bit of effort, the FHS membership can help the Section to enjoy an even stronger year in 2011-12.

Best wishes to all,  
Diane Elliott  
AFS-FHS Immediate Past President

### **2011 FHS ELECTION RESULTS**

This year the FHS elections were conducted online through Survey Monkey in an attempt to increase member participation in elections. The use of Survey Monkey was quite effective. A total of 135 ballots were casted (47.5 % return), in comparison to 52, 48, and 82 ballots in 2010, 2009, and 2008, respectively.

The new officer and committee members are as follows:

**Vice-President:** Paul Hershberger  
**Professional Standards Committee:** Hui-Min Hsu  
**Technical Standards Committee:** Maureen Purcell  
**Nominating and Balloting Committee:** Attila Karsi  
**Policy/Position Development Committee:** Christine Moffitt

Congratulations to the newly elected officer and committee members! The Nominating and Balloting Committee would like to thank the other exceptional candidates who ran for the above positions as well as members who participated in the voting. Hopefully we can build upon this next year.

Ben LaFrentz  
Chair, AFS/FHS Nominating and Balloting Committee

### **JOINT ANNUAL FHS MEETING AND 52<sup>ND</sup> WESTERN FISH DISEASE WORKSHOP REPORT**

Greetings from Nanaimo, I would personally like to thank everyone who attended the 52nd WFDW/AFS FHS Annual meeting in Nanaimo, British Columbia. Despite all of my worries that through travel restrictions, budget cuts and general tight times that we would be struggling to even break 100 delegates, the reverse was true such that we had a full (and I mean full) 2 days of fantastic oral presentations for all to enjoy.

The meeting started out with a very successful CE session on “Practical Tools for Managing BKD” hosted by the Centre for Aquatic Health Sciences with 106 attending this always interesting topic of discussion. Participants represented government, not for profit and academic research bodies, enhancement and commercial aquaculture facilities, and pharmaceutical manufacturers. The overall goal of this workshop was to provide lecture-format, state-of-knowledge presentations on BKD diagnosis and tools for its management including husbandry, therapeutic treatment, vaccination and broodstock selection.

A full 144 attended the 2 days of presentations with 160 attending the Banquet. I am sure you will all agree that the food was fantastic despite so many of us lamenting the collapse of the Vancouver Canucks (There is always next year!!). Thanks again to all who helped out and to all who attended making the conference a huge success!

Mark Higgins  
Sonja Saksida

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

<http://www.fisheries.org/units/fhs/meeting.php>

## **"HEALTH AND COLONY MANAGEMENT OF LABORATORY FISH"**

[http://www.mdibl.org/courses/Health\\_and\\_Colony\\_Management\\_of\\_Laboratory\\_Fish/182/](http://www.mdibl.org/courses/Health_and_Colony_Management_of_Laboratory_Fish/182/)

Mount Desert Island Biological Laboratory Bar Harbor, Maine  
15 – 19 August 2011

Applications are being accepted for this 1-week educational opportunity for individuals with maintenance, management or research responsibilities in which fish are used as laboratory animals.

**Significant tuition fellowships** are available to graduate students and trainees including residents in veterinary medicine or laboratory animal medicine, and postdoctoral fellows.

The course is offered at the Mount Desert Island Biological Laboratory, Salisbury Cove, Maine during the period of 15 - 19 August 2011. Topics to be discussed will include general system design and water quality management, anatomy and histology of fish, general fish diseases and disease management strategies. Infectious and non-infectious diseases common to all fish as well as specific diseases of importance to laboratory-maintained zebrafish will be discussed. The course will consist of lecture, laboratory exercises and discussions. During the course there will be an opportunity for students to discuss unusual and/or unsolved diagnostic case experiences from their home laboratories as problem-solving exercises. The course should be particularly valuable to technical staff, graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, junior faculty and investigators needing skills to monitor the health of a colony of aquatic organisms.

For more information on the course, please see the course web site at:

## **JOBS**

**READER OR CHAIR OF VIROLOGY – see attached**  
[SNS\\_IOA\\_VIROLOGY\\_17222.doc](#)

University of Sterling

## **RESOURCES**

**INVASIVE SPECIES NUTSHELL – see attached Nutshell Final 32.pdf**

## **AADAP NEWSLETTER**

The latest issue of the AADAP Newsletter (Vol 7-2) is now available to view or download for printing. To view click on the following link and click on the pdf version link to download.

<http://www.fws.gov/fisheries/aadap/newsletter.htm>

As always, please contact us if you have any questions or comments on recent changes, or anything else related to the Newsletter or AADAP's website. Don't forget to pass this on to others that you feel may benefit from the information within the Newsletter.

Please accept our apologies if by chance you receive more than one notice of availability from AADAP.

Cheers.

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