
AAAP Press Release - EVP Announcement

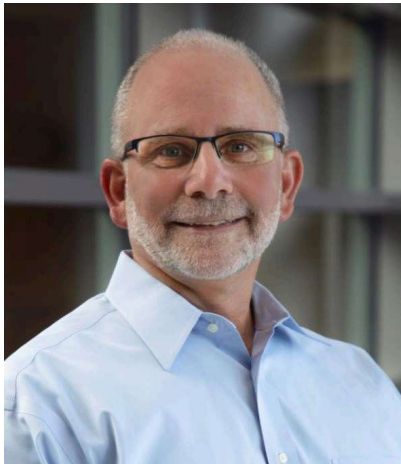
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AAAP Press Release - EVP Announcement

For Immediate Release
May 7th, 2026

American Association of Avian Pathologists Inc.
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AAAP Announces the nomination of Dr. Ken Opengart as the 7th Executive Vice President

Following a search process that opened on February 13, 2026, and closed on March 15, 2026, the AAAP Board of Directors interviewed two qualified candidates for the position of Executive Vice President. After careful deliberation, the Board voted to nominate Dr. Ken Opengart to serve as the AAAP's 7th EVP, effective August 1, 2026.

Pending membership affirmation of the Board's selection, Dr. Opengart will serve as EVP of the AAAP Inc., the AAAP Foundation, and the ACPV. In this role, he will work alongside Executive Director Bob Bevans-Kerr and the AAAP Business Office to oversee the affairs of each organization, including the Annual Meeting and Scientific Program, publication of educational materials, the journal Avian Diseases, and organizational finances.

Coming Soon: An electronic ballot will be sent to membership to affirm the board's decision in selecting Dr. Opengart as AAAP's next EVP. The EVP position is for 5 years and is renewable if the person holding

the position would like to serve longer. The Executive Vice President is reaffirmed by the membership each year. Please be on the lookout for this email in your inboxes within the next week.

Biography:

Dr. Opengart's personal mission throughout his professional career has been to actively contribute to an agricultural system that provides safe and sustainable, high quality, affordable protein to millions of global consumers. As a veterinarian, this includes embracing the core tenets of the veterinary oath - protection of animal health and welfare, the prevention and relief of animal suffering, the conservation of animal resources, the promotion of public health and the advancement of medical knowledge. Working within animal agriculture for over 25 years, Dr. Opengart has held a variety of leadership roles including Vice President, Live Operations/Processing and Commodity Risk Management; Vice President, Global Sustainability and Welfare; and Vice President, Animal Welfare and International Sustainability. Over the last half of his career, he has provided thought leadership and focus in the areas of animal welfare, antimicrobial stewardship, and sustainability in the food animal sector. Today, he owns 3 Birds Consulting which focuses on assisting those in the food animal sector to drive continuous improvement throughout their organization by mitigating risks and capturing opportunities in the critical areas of animal welfare, antimicrobial stewardship, and sustainability.

As someone who has been committed to improving poultry health and welfare through research, education, communication, and leadership, he has authored/co-authored or presented over 100 invited talks, scientific presentations or publications on poultry health, welfare, and sustainability. Dr. Opengart has served as past-president of the American College of Poultry Veterinarians, is a past-chair of the American Association of Avian Pathologists' Animal Welfare Committee, a founding board member and past chair of the International Poultry Welfare Alliance, a founding board member of the US Roundtable for Sustainable Poultry and Eggs, and a past-chair of the Poultry and Egg Welfare and Sustainability Foundation. In 2023, Dr. Opengart was recognized by the Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine as its Lifetime Achievement Alumni Award recipient and in 2024 by the U.S. Poultry and Egg Association as a Lamplighter Award recipient for sustained and exemplary service to the poultry industry and by McDonald's Corporation as a Lifetime Award recipient.

Dr. Opengart received his B.S. from the University of Richmond, his master's degree in Poultry Science from Virginia Tech, his DVM and Ph.D. degrees from the Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine and is a Diplomate of the American College of Poultry Veterinarians.

American Association of Avian Pathologists

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