



## ANNUAL COMMITTEE REPORT – 2015

Committee Name: DISEASES OF PUBLIC HEALTH SIGNIFICANCE (DPHS)

Date: Saturday, July 11, 2015, 2:00 to 3:00 PM, Boston Park Plaza Hotel, Charles River Room (4<sup>th</sup> floor)

Committee Chair and Term: F. William (Bill) Pierson (2014-willing to serve through 2016 Symposium)

Committee Vice Chair and Term: Jarra Jagne (2015-2018)

Board Liaison: Ian Rubinoff

Committee Members:

- In attendance: Agnes Agunos (*meeting chair/designate*), Patty Dunn, Sue Trock, Celina Buscaglia, Eric Gonder, Don Waldrip, Fidelis Hegngi, Nathaniel Tablante, Elena Behnke, Denise Brinson, Bwalya Lungu, Elizabeth Krushinskie, Jarra Jagne, Francene Van Sambeek (*Board Liaison, 2015*).
- Not in attendance per 2014: Christina Lindsey, Emily Aston, Bruce Stewart-Brown, Erica Spackman
- Regrets: Sandra Aehle

Minutes and Record of Decisions:

1. Approval of the 2014 Committee Meeting Report – A motion to approve the 2014 report (Dr. N.Tablante and record of decision was made, seconded (Dr. P. Dunn), and unanimously approved.
2. Update from Dr. N.Tablante: 2016 AAAP Symposium (the symposium is a collaborative effort of the 3 committees – Education/Epidemiology/DPHS)
  - a. The tentative program was presented by Dr. Tablante to the committee. There were seven topics/speakers listed in the symposium program: “Emerging and Re-emerging Zoonotic Diseases”. Dr. Patty Dunn was originally scheduled to speak on “Poultry Diseases of Public Health Significance” but she requested the program committee to select another speaker for this topic. Dr. Agunos presented an update on the 2016 symposium to the AAAP Board during their meeting on July 10.
  - b. Instead of finding another speaker to replace Patty Dunn, the AAAP Board recommended that Dr. David Swayne’s talk on Avian Influenza be extended. However, the majority of DPHS Committee members were not in favor of this recommendation because they believed that AI is only one of the poultry diseases that have zoonotic

implications and there are other venues that AI can be discussed in more detail. The committee members suggested that the topic “Poultry diseases of public health significance” be retained in the program. Potential speakers were suggested but there was no final decision made. Dr. Tablante agreed to consult the Epidemiology and Education committees for their recommendations. Budget restriction has also been identified as another factor to consider in identifying potential speakers; vast majority of the speakers are AAAP members therefore requiring no travel support.

- c. **ACTION ITEM:** The 3 committees will be further consulted to finalize the program.
- d. **ACTION ITEM:** The 3 committees will reconvene to plan for the 2016 Symposium.

**Please note:** On July 21, 2015, Dr. Tablante queried the DPHS members and the 3 committee chairs (DPHS, Epidemiology and Education) on potential topic/speaker; the committee members/chairs unanimously supported Dr. Tablante’s proposed speaker/topic that Dr. Jack A. Shere (USDA) will present “**Recent avian influenza outbreaks in poultry and humans: an epidemiologic perspective**” in keeping with the AAAP Board of Director’s recommendation and more importantly, the public health focus of the symposium. Dr. Shere agreed to speak on that topic.

- 3. Draft article/abstract “Review of zoonotic and potentially zoonotic diseases” a white paper to be submitted to the Avian Diseases for potential publication was presented to the committee.
  - a. Data was analyzed using routine systematic review (SR) and meta-analysis. *Systematic review is a transparent and replicable methodology to identify, critically appraise and synthesize the literature on a clearly formulated question (i.e., What are the poultry diseases/agents detected in humans?). Meta-analysis (MA) is a statistical method to combine results from similar studies identified in a SR, that measure the same outcome, into an overall average estimate of effect.*
  - b. Few suggestions from the committee to improve the quality of the review article, e.g., to further assess the testing methods used by the authors to establish diseases status and describe limitations of the testing methods.
  - c. Members volunteered as co-authors: (Drs. P.Dunn, N.Tablante, B.Lungu and B.Pierson);
  - d. **ACTION ITEM:** to validate the data (Dr. B.Lungu) and review key findings and conclusions.
  - e. Timeline is to be determined (aiming for December 2015).
- 4. Vice-chair nomination
  - a. Dr. Jarra Jagne was nominated and elected as DPHS committee vice-chair.
  - b. Dr. Bill Pierson will remain as DPHS committee chair from 2015 leading to the 2016 Symposium in San Antonio, Texas.
- 5. A motion from the committee to recommend to AAAP & AVMA to consider:
  - a. Developing recommendations for fast and efficient alternative mass depopulation guidelines (i.e., the committee supports the proposed recommendations of the Animal Welfare & Management Committee);
  - b. “Media lines” that could be used by members that highlight industry approaches for depopulation and disease containment in the event of an outbreak;
  - c. Recommendations to protect the health of poultry workers (e.g., seasonal flu vaccination); these are general recommendations applicable for various commodity groups, e.g., National Pork Board, National Turkey Federation and the National Chicken Council.