

2025 AAVLD President-Elect and Program Chair Message

It's almost time! In a little over a month, we will be in Aurora, CO, for the 2025 AAVLD/USAHA Annual Meeting! Please join us for a week of collaboration, innovation, and networking at the forefront of animal health and diagnostics. Finalize your plans now so that you don't miss what promises to be a fantastic meeting. The AAVLD room block at the Gaylord closes on October 7, and early bird registration closes on October 16.

This year's meeting spans Halloween, so we have many treats in store for you (pun intended!). This year's Foundation Banquet & Auction falls on Halloween and will be a festive and spooktacular event with a costume contest and other fun. The Keynote Session at the President's Dinner will feature six of our favorite AAVLD and USAHA veterans with tales straight from the trenches. Our Plenary Session will bring you up to speed on topics including AI-based image analysis, electron microscopy, value-added usage of LIMS data, synergy between classical and modern virology, new surprises from avian influenza, and more – all under the theme “What's old is new again”.

The program committee has put together an outstanding program. Two emerging issues seminars are scheduled: one on new world screwworm (EEK!), and another on highly pathogenic avian influenza. We have symposia on accreditation and quality assurance; best practices for submitting, reviewing, and publishing manuscripts in JVDI; international experiences with high-consequence animal disease outbreaks; navigating change through uncertainty; and technological solutions for microbiology nightmares. Pathology symposia will cover cytology for anatomic pathologists, diseases of horses, and poisons & pathology. You can also test your pathology skills at our Interpretative Pathology Mock Exam.

AAVLD exists to support our members by providing the latest in scientific information, training and networking opportunities, and laboratory accreditation. The BEST place to find all of the people and information is at the annual meeting. And, the best way to meet other members and learn about the work they're doing is in our committee meetings, where everyone is welcome to attend. If you are new to AAVLD and the Annual Meeting, sign up for a Meeting Buddy to help you navigate the sessions and determine where to go based on your interest. And reach out to your Executive Board Members if you have any questions – we are here to help you! I look forward to seeing you all in Aurora!!

Ashley Hill, DVM MVPM PhD

AAVLD President Elect and Program Chair