



International Association for Aquatic Animal Medicine

IAAAM News

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MESSAGE FROM THE COMMUNICATIONS BOARD MEMBER

Here's hoping this newsletter finds you well. We have so much news to share with you, some exciting and some sad. We inducted two long time IAAAM members as Honorary Life Members at the 2022 virtual conference, and unfortunately said goodbye to two other long time members, including a founding member and very first IAAAM president. We have also confirmed an IN-PERSON conference in Salt Lake City, UT, USA for May 2023!! Please read on for the details on the above as well as how to join our new Communications Committee.

SEE YOU IN 2023!

Julie M Cavin, DVM
Board Member for Communications

2022 ANNUAL IAAAM CONFERENCE BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

Call to Order

- Parliamentarian: Dr Larry Dunn
- Quorum: 15% of Full, Life and Honorary Life Members present (47)
- Approval of Business Meeting Minutes from 2021

Current IAAAM Board

- President: Tonya Clauss
- President Elect: Hendrik Nollens
- Treasurer: Alexa Delaune
- Secretary: Cara Field
- Immediate Past-President: Michael Briggs
- Board Member (Education): Allison Tuttle
- Board Member (Communications): Julie Cavin
- Board Member (Membership): Gaby Hernandez

2022 Conference Highlights

Dr. Hendrik Nollens

- Thank you 2022 Sponsors!
 - Animal Necessity
 - Ardente Veterinary Nutrition LLC
 - Avian & Wildlife Laboratory, University of Miami
 - Chicago Zoological Society, Radiology Consulting Service
 - Georgia Aquarium
 - McRoberts Sales Co, Inc
 - Mystic Aquarium
 - Sea Tabs
 - Vet Rocket, LLC
 - Veterinary Information Network
 - Disney's Animals, Science & Environment
- Attendee Geography

- 32 Countries & 2 US Territories
 - Australia, Bahamas, Belgium, Canada, Cayman Islands, Costa Rica, France, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong (SAR China), India, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Lithuania, Maldives, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Panama, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland, Taiwan (Province of China), Turkey, U.S. Virgin Islands, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States
- Registration = 391 Participants
- Virtual Conference Scientific Program
 - 1 Keynote Address
 - 2 Workshops
 - 15 Poster Presentations
 - 76 Regular Presentations
 - CE Credits Available = 25.5 hrs
- IAAAM 2022 Taxonomy Breakdown
 - General/Multiple Taxa 8 (9%)
 - Marine Mammals 51 (55%)
 - General 1
 - Cetaceans 28
 - Pinnipeds 17
 - Manatees 2
 - Mustelids 3
 - Fish 12 (13%)
 - General 2
 - Teleosts 8
 - Elasmobranchs 2
 - Reptiles 6 (7%)
 - Birds 1 (1%)
 - Amphibians 3 (3%)
 - Inverts 6 (6%)

Treasurer’s Report

Dr. Alexa Delaune

- 2022 Income

Budget Category	Approved Budget FY '20 (12 mo)	Actual Income/ Expenses FY '20 (12 mo)	Approved Budget FY '21 (12 mo)	Actual Income/ Expenses FY '21 (12 mo)	Proposed Budget FY '22 (12 mo)	Actual Income/ Expenses FY '22 (Jan - May)	Proposed Budget FY '23 (12 mo)
INCOME							
Savings Account Interest	5	3	5	0	5	0	0
Auction Proceeds	7,000		7,000	7,460	7,000		7,000
2020 Conference	160,000	4,488					
2020 Virtual CE		27,200					
2021 Conference/Virtual CE			160,000	55,155			
2022 Conference/Virtual CE					160,000	78,330	
2023 Conference/Virtual CE							180,000
Non Conference Donations	500	750	500	1,000	1,000		1,000
Dues for 2020	25,000	24,465					
Dues for 2021		7,495	25,000	33,050			
Dues for 2022					25,000	25,610	12,000
Dues for 2023							25,000
Miscellaneous		0		0		0	
Investment Income (Medway)	5,000	15,288	2,500	2,018	5,000	0	2,000
Total Income	197,505	79,689	195,005	98,683	198,005	103,940	227,000

- 2022 Expenses

Budget Category	Approved Budget FY '20 (12 mo)	Actual Income/ Expenses FY '20 (12 mo)	Approved Budget FY '21 (12 mo)	Actual Income/ Expenses FY '21 (12 mo)	Proposed Budget FY '22 (12 mo)	Actual Income/ Expenses FY '22 (Jan - May)	Proposed Budget FY '23 (12 mo)
EXPENSE							
Executive Board Expense	(750)	(157)	(500)		(500)	(3,000)	(3,000)
2023 Meeting Expense							(160,000)
2022 Meeting Expense					(140,000)	(34,036)	
2021 Meeting Expense			(140,000)	(20,136)			
2020 Virtual CE Expense		(3,667)					
2020 Meeting Expense	(150,000)	(16,531)					
Website & Maintenance	(2,500)	(992)	(2,500)	(532)	(5,500)		(5,500)
Awards Committee	(500)	0	(500)	0	(500)	(500)	(500)
Legal/Professional Fees	(3,500)	(2,612)	(3,500)	(50)	(3,500)	(3,500)	(3,500)
Investment Expenses/taxes (Medway)	(3,000)	(4,176)	(3,000)	(2,313)	(3,000)	(1,684)	(3,000)
Stripe/Square/Credit Card/Bank Fees	(1,500)	(830)	(1,500)	(1,150)	(1,500)	(457)	(1,500)
Insurance - Officers / Meeting	(4,000)	(1,232)	(4,000)	(1,232)	(4,000)	(1,257)	(4,000)
Student Awards and Expenses:							
Medway Scholarships	(6,000)	(3,000)	(6,000)	(9,000)	(9,000)	(6,000)	(9,000)
TRAVEL Awards	(3,000)	(2,000)	(3,000)	(400)	(3,000)	(1,400)	(3,000)
Presentation Awards	(1,000)	0	(1,000)		(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)
IAAAM/WDA Joint Paper Award	(750)	(1,658)	(750)	0	(1,700)	(1,700)	0
Miscellaneous		0		0		0	0
Total expenses	(175,750)	(35,197)	(165,500)	(34,813)	(171,500)	(52,834)	(194,000)
NET FOR FY	21,755	44,492	29,505	63,870	26,505	51,106	33,000

- 2022 Distribution of Funds

DISTRIBUTION OF IAAAM FUNDS	6/26/2020	5/20/2021	5/23/2022
Checking Account	75,028	86,597	163,752
Business Savings Account	10,769	10,771	10,771
Total liquid assets	85,797	109,708	174,523
Liabilities	(282)	(11,169)	(3,800)
Medway Fund (Fidelity)	163,884	179,762	162,380
TOTAL AVAILABLE ASSETS	249,399	278,301	336,903

- 2022 Medway
 - Current amount: \$162,380

MEDWAY FUND (Fidelity)	as of Dec 2021
Fund balance	180,603
Total Funds deposited since opening 7/1/09	114,580
Net Gain	2,018
Expenses YTD '21	
Transaction costs, fees & charges	(1,908)
Taxes withheld	(5,188)
paid from IAAAM checking account	
2012 to 2018 Scholarship Awards	(39,100)
2020 Scholarship Awards	(3,000)
2021 Scholarship Awards	(9,000)
2022 Scholarship Awards	(6,000)

- 2023 Dues and Finance Updates
 - No change in dues: \$85 full member, \$45 student
 - Changes proposed for 2024 after website enhancements & member benefits and CE opportunities in place

- Reminder: Dues must be paid by March 31 to qualify for member discounted conference registration rate for same calendar year
- Can pay dues for 2023 starting Nov 1
- Potential ways to raise additional funds
 - Donations
 - Fundraising initiatives
 - Mid-year CE opportunities
- Planning for development of a FINANCE COMMITTEE
 - Assist with fundraising, sponsorships
 - Oversee Medway Endowment
 - Advise/Assist the Treasurer

Membership

Dr. Gaby Hernandez

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Full member	229	199	227	235	278	322	302
Student	114	99	114	78	131	117	90
Honorary life member	14	14	14	14	15	15	6
Life member	7	9	9	9	9	9	9
	Virginia Beach	Cancun	Long Beach	Durban	Virtual	Virtual	Virtual

Life members		Honorary life members	
Brad Andrews	Tag Gornall	Don Abt	Deke Beusse*
Jim Antrim	Judy McBain	Greg Bossart*	Lanny Cornell
M.H. Beleau	Alvin Moreland	Larry Dunn	Joe Geraci*
Paul Bowser	Don Stremme	Jack Gratzek	Ted Hammond*
Leslie Dierauf		Dave Huff	Jay Hyman*
		Jim McBain	William Medway*
		Sam Ridgway	Jesse White*
		Bob Wright*	

*Deceased

Communications Report

Dr Julie Cavin

- Current Communications
 - Quarterly newsletters
 - Facebook
 - <https://www.facebook.com/IAAAM-International-Association-for-Aquatic-Animal-Medicine-103732858507020>
 - Open to Public
- Future Communication Options
 - Other Social Media platforms - Public vs Private
 - Member-only email list-serv
- Communications Committee
 - Sarah Wright - Committee Chair
 - Email iaaamcommunications@gmail.com if interested in being on the committee

Education Report

Dr. Allison Tuttle

- Medway Scholarship
 - To support research experiences for students interested in pursuing careers in aquatic animal medicine & engage students in IAAAM!
 - Students mentored by an IAAAM Member
 - Awards are \$3,000 and fund student expenses for a 10 to 12-week research project; research funding provided by mentor
 - Students required to present their findings at a future IAAAM!
- 2022 Medway Scholarship Recipients
 - Dr. Darbi Jones, veterinary student, Virginia Maryland
 - Mentored by Dr. Mike Hyatt, WCS
 - *Diet assessment of sand tiger sharks in the New York Bight based on fecal DNA metabarcoding*
 - Bastien Rubin, veterinary student, University of Montreal
 - Mentored by Dr. Claire Grosset, University of Montreal
 - *Relationship between marine habitat degradation and the prevalence of isopods in creolefish of the Caribbean Sea*
- 2023 Medway Awards
 - Call for 2023 Medway Awards will go out in the Newsletter and be on the IAAAM website in early 2023!
 - Start thinking of potential project ideas and collaborations now!
- Joint Award by IAAAM and WDA
 - Best student-authored aquatic animal paper in the prior year's Journal of Wildlife Diseases (JWD)
 - Student awardee must be a student when work was completed and a member of IAAAM or WDA
 - All candidate papers reviewed by 2 judges from WDA and 2 from IAAAM
 - \$1500 stipend and physical award
 - Acknowledgements to WDA, in particular Peri Wolf & Michelle Verant
- 2022 IAAAM-WDA Joint Award
 - Dr. Ana Towe, University of Tennessee

- *Batrachochyrtium salamandrivorans* can devour more than salamanders
- October 2022 JWD 57(4): 942-948
- Acknowledgements
 - Medway Scholarships Selection Committee and JWD Award Selection Team
 - Auction Item Donors, Greg Lewbart (auctioneer), and all who contributed to this year's virtual auction
 - Proceeds from the auction benefit IAAAM student programs
 - IAAAM Board, for support of student programs
 - Ashley McGrew, Chair of Student Liaison Committee
 - John Jones and Cindy Sherwood

Student Liaison Committee Report

Dr. Ashley McGrew

- Five awardees, given free registration to the 2022 virtual meeting, as well as a \$200 stipend
 - Ashlyn Henriff – Veterinary student, North Carolina State University, “Potassium chloride administered via four routes for euthanasia of anesthetized goldfish (*Carassius auratus*)”
 - Bailey McKenna – Undergraduate student, College of Wooster, “Furthering the usage of genetic material from blow samples for beluga health monitoring”
 - Pablo Morón-Elorza – PhD student, University of Madrid-Oceanogràfic of Valencia (Spain), “Increasing the dosage: Pharmacokinetics of meloxicam after single administration of 1.5mg/kg PO and IM in large-spotted catsharks (*Scyliorhinus stellaris*)”
 - Tatiana Weisbrod – MS student, University of Florida, “Molecular characterization of trematodes in Florida manatee (*Trichechus manatus latirostris*) calves with trematode-associated enterocolitis”
 - Sarah Wright – Veterinary Fellow – Vancouver Aquarium, “A retrospective review of neoplasia in fish at a public aquarium”
- 2022 Student Presentations
 - 5 judges volunteered to judge the student competition this year
 - 22 student projects, in the form of oral presentations, incorporated into the scientific program, as well as 8 poster presentations
 - 25 total students participating in the student competition
 - 20 oral presentations judged (1 undergraduate, 6 veterinary, 2 combined veterinary-graduate, 4 graduate, 2 resident, and 5 intern/ fellow/ post-doc student projects represented)
 - 5 poster presentations judged (1 veterinary, 1 veterinary-graduate, 1 resident, and 2 intern/ fellow student projects represented)
 - 3 students presented both poster and oral presentations
- Acknowledgements
 - Student Liaison Committee
 - Travel awards selection
 - Student competition judging
 - All members who participated in this year's virtual student workshop
 - IAAAM Board, for supporting student programs
 - John Jones
 - Cindy Sherwood
 - IAAAM's Students

Conservation Committee

- Current Committee Chair: Joe Gaydos
- New Committee Chair: David Krucik
- David will be analyzing Survey results from last year
- Additional Committee meetings forthcoming
- Anyone interested in joining the Committee or with ideas/suggestions, please contact David: wkrucik@ucsc.edu

International Committee

- Committee Chair: Sarah Churgin
- Working toward routine member spotlights
- Future website content
- Social event at 2023 meeting
- For any comments/suggestions or interest in getting involved, please contact Sarah [vetadventurer@gmail.com](mailto:vetaadventurer@gmail.com)

Meeting Planning Committee

- Encompasses the Site Selection (Sam Dover) & Meeting Organization (Delaney)
- Coordinates with President Elect & Scientific Program Review
- 2023: The 54th Annual Conference.... Loveland Aquarium - <https://thelivingplanet.com/conservation/>
- 2024 - 2026 Options:
 - Toronto
 - Kansas City
 - Tampa
 - Ireland
 - Abu Dhabi

IAAAM Website

- Thank you, John!
- ~13,000 visits to <https://iaaam.org> in last year with ~9100 unique visitors.
- Geography
 - 73% United States
 - 4% Canada
 - 2% United Kingdom
 - 2% Brazil
 - 1% Spain, Japan, Mexico
 - 18% other countries
- ~\$26,000 generated by website

Additional Board Member Kudos

- Cara Field
 - Takes notes for all meetings
 - Updates and Maintains IAAAM Google Drive
 - In coordination with Julie Cavin, has evaluated Bylaws & Constitution in prep for Board Review
- Julie Cavin
 - Maintains social media pages & posts

- Member newsletter
- Scanning in past paper documents for archiving & organizing w/ Cara Field's assistance

Strategic Planning Overview

- Three Facilitator led sessions since late 2021 using Zoom & Mural
 - Linda Penfold & Lara Metrione of SEZARC
- Participants
 - Current Board
 - John Jones
 - Katie Colegrove
 - Cindy Sherwood
- Identified Strengths, Opportunities, Weaknesses & Threats for the organization
- Strengths
 - Diversity of members; wide range of skills, expertise; passionate, credible people
 - Close-knit international community/family; promotes collaboration, networking, sharing of ideas/techniques
 - Strong board leadership
 - Commitment to students & early career individuals; strong mentorship from members
 - Annual meeting provides opportunity to reconnect that is fun, professional, educational
- Opportunities
 - Expand/Increase International Membership
 - Explore communications in other languages (currently only English)
 - Additional Member Benefits
 - Member List Serve
 - Additional CE opportunities (workshops, on-demand training)
 - Provision of resources for grant funding, specialized journal or focused edition in existing journal
 - Communication
 - Enhanced Website
 - Increased professional social media presence
 - Partnership/Involvement with other organizations
 - AZA, AAZV, AAFV, IMATA, AVMA, WDA, other
 - Enhanced leadership & consistency with Executive Director &/or permanent organizational staff
- Weaknesses
 - Very limited member benefits outside of annual conference
 - Membership & participation for some international individuals
 - Language barrier
 - Travel expense, visas, restrictions
 - IAAAM is currently very US-centric
 - Heavy cetacean & other marine mammals
 - promoting broader scope would broaden expertise & increase membership
 - No current forum/platform for case/data sharing or inquiry
 - Improved scientific content of presentations
 - Resistance to virtual platform
 - Heavy reliance on all volunteer board, committee chairs
 - Financial management needs more direction, growth
 - Increased physical conference costs

- Limited connection to other professional organizations
- Threats
 - Governance - volunteer board; lack of leadership consistency or focus
 - Disunion/Divide in membership possibly due to different expertise
 - Virtual vs In Person meetings - loss of connectivity
 - Animal activists & generational shift in attitude toward zoos/aquariums poses threats to longevity of the profession
 - Funding - few income opportunities hinders growth opportunities
- Strategic Goals
 - Develop strategies to ensure consistency & continuity of operations & ease of transition from old to new board members
 - Ensure inclusiveness in aquatic animal health, recognizing a common purpose for both in situ & ex situ conservation, research & education
 - Investigate & create opportunities & platforms to communicate & connect with IAAAM members & the public throughout the year
 - Explore additional member benefits not identified under other goals
- Action Items
 - 18 of them!!
 - We will be busy
 - Some action items already underway
 - Working on establishing a List Serve
 - Estimates obtained for enhancing the Website
 - Participating in quarterly meetings that include leaders from AAZV, AAWV, AZA, WDA, EAZWV, others
 - Additional &/or expanded committees
 - Exploring opportunities for “mid year” virtual CE opportunities
 - Propose employing administrative support for the organization starting in June 2023 - need a member vote!
 - Immediate Past President will carry the Strategic Planning process forward at this time

Proposed Paid Organization Administrator

- **Dr. John Jones**
- **Job Description Highlights**
 - Maintains website, including member only section
 - Receives/manages organizational emails/communications
 - Receives/manages dues payments & member info
 - Schedules/moderates routine virtual board meetings
 - Provides consistency, support & advice

Changing of the Guard

- Thank you Dr. Mike Briggs!!
- 2022 IAAAM Board Nominations
 - President Elect - Allison Tuttle
 - Board Member for Education - Ashley McGrew
 - Secretary - Cara Field (second term)

- Board Member for Communication - Julie Cavin (second term)
- Any nominations from the “floor”?

Induction of Incoming President

- Dr. Hendrik Nollens

Adjourned

2022 IAAAM CONFERENCE STUDENT COMPETITION WINNERS

Student Poster Presentation Competition

- First Place:
 - Alissa Mones, North Carolina State University – (*Evaluation of Intracardiac Administration of Potassium Chloride, Ivermectin, and Lidocaine Hydrochloride for Euthanasia of Anesthetized Blue Crabs (Callinectes sapidus)*)

Student Oral Presentation Competition

Undergraduate, Vet Student, and Graduate Student Category

- First Place:
 - Megan Moriarty, University of California Davis (*Exploration of Serum Cardiac Troponin I as a Biomarker of Cardiomyopathy in Southern Sea Otters (Enhydra lutris nereis)*)
- Second Place:
 - Ashlyn Heniff, North Carolina State University (*Potassium Chloride Administered via Four Routes for Euthanasia of Anesthetized Goldfish (Carassius auratus)*)

Intern/Resident/Post-Doc Category

- First Place:
 - Samantha Shinder, Pacific Marine Mammal Center (*Use of qPCR to Detect Herpesvirus in Blood of California Sea Lions (Zalophus californianus) as a Marker of Metastatic Urogenital Carcinoma*)
- Second Place: [A TIE!]
 - Tatiana Weisbrod, University of Florida (*Molecular Characterization of Trematodes in Florida Manatee (Trichechus manatus latirostris) Calves with Trematode-Associated Enterocolitis*)
 - Sarah Wright, Vancouver Aquarium (*A Retrospective Review of Neoplasia in Fish at a Public Aquarium*)

2023 IAAAM CONFERENCE INFORMATION

MARK YOUR CALENDARS! IAAAM is excited to announce the 2023 Annual Conference will be held **in person** May 21st – 24th in Salt Lake City, Utah, and will be hosted by The Loveland Living Planet Aquarium. Lodging details are still being finalized and will be announced soon along with the call for abstracts.

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE CALL FOR MEMBERS

As mentioned above, we have a new Communications Committee!! Sarah Wright is excited to put her talents to work as the Committee Chair and liaison to the Board Member for Communications. We are looking forward to increasing IAAAM's presence on social media, and starting the IAAAM member-only listserv. If you are interested in helping with these endeavors, please contact Sarah or Julie Cavin at iaaamcommunications@gmail.com.

Also make sure to follow our Facebook page and look for listserv and social media announcements within the next several weeks!

HONORARY LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Drs. Michael Stoskopf and Suzanne Kennedy-Stoskopf were inducted as Honorary Life Members at the 2022 IAAAM Virtual Conference. The following is the nomination letter written by Craig Harms and several current and past colleagues and students.

We are writing to nominate two highly deserving longstanding IAAAM members for Honorary Life Membership: Michael K. Stoskopf (MKS) and Suzanne Kennedy-Stoskopf (SKS). This dynamic pair has been at the forefront of education, research, and organizational service in zoological medicine including aquatics for over 40 years. They are long time members of IAAAM, both served on multiple committees and on the board, including as President of the organization – MKS 1988-1989, SKS 2000-2001. They are both veterinarians boarded by the American College of Zoological Medicine, and in 1991 co-founded the first Zoological Medicine Residency with an Aquatics Focus.

They are widely published in aquatic animal medicine, including aquatic invertebrates, amphibians, sea turtles, aquatic birds, fish and marine mammals. *Fish Medicine*, by MKS, was for years the definitive fish medicine textbook, and includes the Immunology chapter by SKS. They each have book chapters on aquatic animal medicine in multiple editions of *Fowler's Zoo Animal and Wild Animal Medicine* and in the *CRC Handbook of Marine Mammal Medicine*. They are similarly accomplished on the terrestrial side of Zoological Medicine, excelling in but not limited to topics in immunology/virology (SKS) and toxicology (MKS).

Their accolades include the IAAAM Christensen Award for Excellence in Fish Health (MKS) the AAZV Dolensek Award (both), the ACZM Murray Fowler Lifetime Achievement Award (SKS), among others. They were developing the foundations of One Health from the perspective of zoological medicine before the term One Health was coined. Their labors in curriculum development and training programs have benefitted hundreds of veterinary students and residents. Their multiple advisory board activities (e.g., Working Group on Marine Mammal Unusual Mortality Events – SKS, ILAR Council National Academy of Sciences – MKS) have influenced institutional and governmental policy.

While both are individually deserving of IAAAM Honorary Life Membership, the synergy of their combined efforts advancing the mission of IAAAM is especially so. It is therefore with great pleasure that we submit this joint nomination for consideration by the IAAAM Executive Board.

Craig A. Harms, DVM, PhD, DACZM, DECZM
Gregory A. Lewbart, MS, VMD, DACZM, DECZM (ZHM)
M. Andrew Stamper, DVM, DACZM

Elizabeth Chittick Nolan, DVM, MS, DACZM
Pamela D. Govett, DVM, DACZM
Allison D. Tuttle, DVM, DACZM
Eric T. Anderson, DVM, DACZM
Elsburgh O. "Tres" Clarke, III, DVM, DACZM
Emily F. Christiansen, DVM, MPH, DACZM
Brianna E. Phillips, DVM, DACZM
Lori S.H. Westmoreland, DVM, DACZM
Gregory N Scott, MA, DVM



HONORING DR DON ABT

Dr. Don Abt

We share the sad and heartbreaking news that Dr. Don Abt passed away on Wednesday 27 July. Many IAAAM members owe much, if not their entire career to Don, and few would argue that no one has made a stronger impact on aquatic animal medicine. A native New Englander Don obtained a BS in Zoology from the University of Massachusetts and is a 1961 graduate of the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine. For 3 years Don taught anatomy at Penn and worked on bovine lymphosarcoma. After doing graduate work in biostatistics and epidemiology Don taught both of these subjects to Penn veterinary students before becoming the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs where he was instrumental in implementing the novel core-elective curriculum. For the next 19 years Don continued to teach and serve in the Associate Dean's role. In the fall of 1989 Don and his loving wife Sandy moved to Falmouth, MA (his adopted hometown) and Don became the Director of the University of Pennsylvania's Laboratory of Aquatic Animal Medicine and Pathology at the Marine Biological Laboratory in Woods Hole, MA. Don served in this role until 1999. Certainly all of this would make for a full academic career and then some. But Don had another job, and for many reading this posting, a most important one. Don was the founding Director of the AQUAVET® program that began in 1976 and has helped train many of the current and future leaders in our field. Don held the role of AQUAVET® Director for 25 years and

officially retired in 2001 as Professor Emeritus of Aquatic Animal Medicine and Pathology. But retirement didn't slow Don down and he continued teaching in the AQUAVET® program and having a positive and lasting impact on the hundreds of students that were lucky enough to learn from and spend time with him (especially at the famous end of course clambakes he hosted every year!). Don was also an IAAAM President, lifetime IAAAM member, and the first recipient of the William Medway Award for Teaching Excellence.

Don was much more than a veterinarian, teacher, mentor, administrator, and amazing father. For almost five decades he was a member of the Coast Guard Auxiliary (Falmouth) Flotilla 11-02 and served many capacities in this role including Flotilla Commander. He received many awards and accolades including an auxiliary operational excellence ribbon, two operations service awards, 23 public education awards, a vessel examiner award, a Coast Guard bi-centennial ribbon, five Coast Guard meritorious team commendations, a Coast Guard meritorious unit commendation, four Coast Guard unit commendations, the Department of Transportation Secretary's outstanding service ribbon, a flotilla meritorious achievement ribbon, a special operations service ribbon, 10 sustained auxiliary service awards, and the 911 Department of Transportation Award. Don was also active in his church, the First Congregational Church of Falmouth, where he diligently served as the parliamentarian for many years.

Don leaves a strong and lasting legacy was so proud of everyone in our field and how far aquatic animal medicine has come. Rest in peace Dr. Abt.

Don is survived by his wife Sandy, son David and wife Debby, daughter Debbie (also a veterinarian) and husband Bill.

**Written by Dr. Greg Lewbart



HONORING DR SAM RIDGWAY

Dr. Sam Houston Ridgway

IAAAM joins NMMF and the entire marine mammal medicine community in honoring the distinguished life and career of our founding President, Dr Sam Ridgway.

Dr. Sam Ridgway, distinguished marine mammal veterinarian and scientist, passed away peacefully at home on Point Loma in San Diego, surrounded by beloved family and friends. Sam was a humble man of heroic accomplishment, with a quick wit, kind heart, and gentle soul. He will be greatly missed by all that knew him. Sam was born in Bigfoot, Texas, son to Morris Shepard and Florence Lipscomb Ridgway. In 1960, he married his sweetheart, Dr. Jeanette Fuller Ridgway, PhD, of Richards, Texas. They enjoyed almost 60 years of marriage before she passed in 2020. Sam is survived by his brother Don Ridgway (wife Jo Layne), brother Sid Ridgway (wife Mary Jay), and their families.

He earned his undergraduate and veterinary degrees from Texas A&M University and was a loyal fan of the Aggies' football team. Sam was commissioned in the Air Force as a veterinary officer for military service animals. Upon moving to California, he became the attending veterinarian for the US Navy's marine mammals, which launched his career in marine mammal medicine and science. In 1970, he received a Navy fellowship to study under Sir Richard Harrison at Cambridge University, where he earned a PhD in neuroscience. He applied this knowledge to understanding the behavior and physiology of marine mammals, especially bottlenose dolphins. Sam was a founder of the US Navy's Marine Mammal Program, which he served for more than 60 years. He was the founding President and CEO of the National Marine Mammal Foundation, a nonprofit he helped establish in 2007. Sam was widely known for establishing novel methods to partner with marine mammals in the open ocean, which allowed humans to observe and interact with animals in their natural environment. This led to great advancements in marine mammal behavior, physiology, and acoustics.

He was one of the largest contributors to marine mammal science, publishing more than 350 peer-reviewed papers, book chapters, and books. Early in his career, he published a book called *Dolphin Doctor*, a name that became synonymous with Sam himself. A large volume of his work focused on cetacean neuroscience, anatomy, and physiology. His book *Mammals of the Sea*, published 50 years ago, remains one of the most comprehensive textbooks on marine mammal physiology.

Sam was affectionately known among his colleagues as the 'father of marine mammal medicine' due to his pioneering spirit and ground-breaking discoveries that advanced the health and welfare of dolphins, porpoises, whales, sea lions, and seals. Sam embraced conservation biology and medicine, and he was eager to apply his knowledge and expertise to marine mammals in the wild. His scientific discoveries served as a foundation for the protection and conservation of marine mammals globally.

Throughout his career, Sam mentored hundreds of veterinary and graduate students, post-doctoral fellows, marine mammal veterinarians, conservationists, and scientists. He cherished his mentor-mentee relationships and dedicated countless hours to his students. He traveled the world to share his discoveries through lectures and meetings, reaching students and colleagues on every continent. He continued to contribute in his final days, enjoying time spent with members of his Early Scientist Program as they discussed results and finalized publications.

Sam was revered as a leader in the marine mammal community. He was founding President of the International Association of Aquatic Animal Medicine (IAAAM). He served on the Scientific Advisory Committee to the Marine Mammal Commission, on committees of the National Research Council and National Academy of

Sciences, and was elected a fellow of the Acoustical Society of America and American College of Zoological Medicine. He was awarded the Distinguished Alumnus Award by Texas A&M University, College of Veterinary Medicine; the Lifetime and Clinical Medicine Awards from IAAAM; the Kenneth S. Norris Lifetime Achievement Award of the Society for Marine Mammalogy; and, two Navy awards, the Gilbert H. Curl Award, and the Lauritsen Bennett Award.

Despite his impressive accolades, Sam navigated his life with humility and grace. He touched the minds and hearts of his colleagues with his curiosity and light-hearted nature. When Sam showed his strength, it was always in regard to the animals. He was globally respected and admired for his unwavering commitment to the animals in his care and in the wild. During his lifetime, he inspired students and colleagues all over the world to dedicate their careers to protecting, conserving, and caring for marine mammals.

In 2020, a StoryFile was created of Sam, inspired by long-time friend and colleague Carolyn E. Schlundt Melka. The StoryFile serves as a living memorial that allows present and future generations to interact with Sam about his personal and professional life.

**Shared by National Marine Mammal Foundation

Please see the link below for information regarding a memorial service as well as how to support the NMMF Ridgway Fund in his memory.

<https://www.nmmf.org/ridgway/>



EDUCATION AND CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

See IAAAM Website for complete details and updated list of opportunities

2023 AQUAVET® I & II Courses

The College of Veterinary Medicine at Cornell University is pleased to announce the 2023 AQUAVET® I, II course offerings. They are aquatic veterinary medicine education programs that currently consist of two courses that will be presented at Roger Williams University in Bristol, RI in June 2023.

AQUAVET® I: **An Introduction to Aquatic Veterinary Medicine** is a 4-week course (28 May - 24 June 2023) intended primarily for veterinary students.

AQUAVET® II: **Comparative Pathology of Aquatic Animals** is a 2-week course (28 May - 10 June 2023) that is oriented toward the pathology of diseases of aquatic invertebrates and fish that are used in biomedical research, encountered in display aquaria and are of importance in commercial aquaculture.

AQUAVET® **Summer Research Fellow** (one offered) is an 8 week research program, usually studying fish disease at a lab at Cornell University. There is no tuition and this student will receive a stipend of \$3,800 after completing the 8 weeks.

Veterinary students can receive credits for the courses and graduate veterinarians can receive CE credits.

More detailed information and applications for admission (due by January 15, 2023) are available on the web site www.aquavet.org.

The Newsletter of the International Association for Aquatic Animal Medicine is published four times a year (usually in January, April, August, and November). An annual conference is held every year in the spring and electronic proceedings from that conference are available online at www.iaaam.org. The International Association for Aquatic Animal Medicine is a nonprofit organization dedicated to advancing the art and science of aquatic animal medicine and health.

Newsletter submissions are welcomed, although the newsletter editor and the IAAAM board reserve the right to edit and/or refuse the publication of any submissions. The deadlines for submissions are December 1, March 1, July 1, and October 1. Submissions should be made in WORD, without complex formatting. For submissions contact Julie Cavin, Newsletter Editor, at fishdoc07@gmail.com

For membership information, including address changes, contact Gabby Hernández at gabbytica@gmail.com

For dues information, contact Alexa Delaune at treasurer@iaaam.org

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*deceased