

Emerging Diseases Council Report

2013 NIAA Annual Conference

Wednesday, April 17, 2013



The Emerging Diseases Council met on Wednesday, April 17, 2013 from 8:00 a.m. to 11:30 p.m. during the 2013 NIAA Annual Conference in Louisville, Kentucky with about 40 people present. Dr. Lanny Pace and Dr. Hailu Kinde served as Co-Chairs.

The council session focused on Biotechnology and its Applications in Veterinary Diagnostics. The following speakers presented relevant information pertaining to the global application of biotechnology in the detection of animal pathogens and diseases.

Dr. Bart Weimer, Professor – School of Veterinary Medicine, University of California, Davis, presented “The 100K Genome Project and Food Safety.”

Dr. Weimer described the BGI 100 K collaborative research project with Industry, FDA, NIH, CDC, USDA and others in academia both nationally and internationally. The goal of the 100 K project is to sequence the genome of 100 K pathogens that could be used in foodborne illness outbreak investigations which will eventually replace the currently used PulseNet (CDC).

Dr. Alison L. Van Eenennaam, Cooperative Extension Specialist, Animal Genomics and Biotechnology, Department of Animal Science, University of California, Davis, presented “Potential of Biotechnology to Manage Animal Disease.”

Dr. Van Eenennaam presented various examples of the use of Biotechnology on the control of high impact diseases around the world with emphasis on: Trypanosomiasis/sleeping sickness and screw worm.

Dr. Carla Huston, Associate Professor, Mississippi State University College of Veterinary Medicine, presented “FMD in Vietnam: What Can We Learn?”

Dr. Huston described her experience in the FMD outbreak in Vietnam and epidemiological studies in buffalos, dairy cattle, and beef cattle. She also highlighted the lessons learned, cultural interactions and the knowledge gap in dealing with the disease.

Dr. Hailu Kinde, Professor, California Animal Health and Food Safety Laboratory System, San Bernardino Branch School of Veterinary Medicine, University of California, Davis, presented “The Role of the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory in Supporting Animal Health and the Food Safety System.”

Dr. Kinde highlighted the role of a diagnostic laboratory in supporting animal health, food safety, and public health. He also described the functions of the laboratory as an early warning system for FAD, data capturing and dissemination, the quality program, and laboratory networking.

Old Business:

Dr. Carla Huston was nominated as a co-chair for the Emerging Diseases Council.

New Business:

- Consensus Points for NIAA White Paper Development
 - 1) Genomics/biotechnology is here to stay and will change the way animal diseases are diagnosed and monitored.
 - 2) Controversies in the use of genomics exist and have to be dealt with: Ex.: Public acceptance of use of genomics in microbes but not in disease management
 - 3) The presentations fit the overall theme of this year's meeting very well.
 - 4) More

General Discussion: None

Council Session adjourned at 11:15.