

Emerging Diseases Committee

Mid-Year Report

September 9, 2003

During the 2003 NIAA Leaders Forum, the following report was given:

The emerging disease committee reports on the following relative to recent resolutions:

- The committee chair served on the USDA APHIS Vesicular Disease review panel in August. Both Plum Island and Ames were visited. The Ames modernization project is well into the construction phase and close to \$300M are in hand for the approximately \$450M project. Increased security and renovation activities were also evident at Plum Island. The review team took opportunity to encourage completion of these vital projects and also make recommendations for programmatic support.
- The National Animal Health Lab Network was in the President's budget with an estimated \$7.5 M for the animal side. However the NAHLN was marked into the USDA budget but with no dollars attached. The senate also did not mark funds for this project. There are active efforts to keep the project moving forward with both maintenance dollars and enough dollars to expand beyond the 12 pilot labs. NAHLN leaders are in full agreement that the final goal is to include at least all AAVLD accredited laboratories to cover the entire U.S.
- There is considerable healthy discussion regarding the nation's need to bolster our BSL3 and BSL3 Ag laboratory infrastructure across the nation. Several states are strategizing how to accomplish this with a combination of federal and state funds.

The Emerging Disease Committee will meet (as many as can attend) in San Diego during the AAVLD/USAHA annual meetings on Sunday October 12, 2003, at 9 pm in the Hotel lobby.

Dr. David H. Zeman, Chair

Dr. Alex Ardans, Vice Chair