

*History*

## HISTORY AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF AVIAN PATHOLOGISTS

### The First Ten Years 1957-1967

An organization such as the American Association of Avian Pathologists is not the result of a spontaneous birth. To get near the roots from which we developed, one should consult the 1963 publication of Dr. Henry Van Roekel entitled "History of the Northeastern Conference on Avian Diseases." In this history, one reads of the first session being planned to improve communications between research workers interested in diseases of poultry and especially in the disease caused by Salmonella pullorum, an organism which had, but a short time before been isolated by Dr. Leo F. Rettger. Attending this first conference in 1928 we find the names of Hinshaw, Hitchner, Russell, Rettger, Lentz, Sanders, Pyle, Waite, Clarke, Gildow, Weldin and Lohman. The research progress over the years as reported by this pioneer organization became the incentive which led to the organization of similar conferences in the South, North Central and Western poultry producing areas of the United States.

During this same period we find evidence of the increased attention being given the diseases of poultry when we review the programs of the Poultry Sections of the annual meetings of the AVMA. The workers presenting the results of their research at these meetings realized the advantages of national conferences, the common interests of those in attendance and the growing need for a national organization through which they could gain greater recognition and play a more influential role in state and national policy making relative to the poultry industry.

A 1955 communication was received from R.F. Gordon, as provisional secretary of the group then attempting to form an international association of poultry pathologists, which urged the formation of national associations. This added stimulus to existing interest eventually resulted in circulation of a questionnaire by L.C. Grumbles, as chairman of the AVMA poultry section for 1957, to determine general interest in the formation of a national organization. The encouraging response resulted in a meeting of approximately 40 people at the 1957 AVMA meeting at Cleveland to discuss the formation of an American Association of Avian Pathologists. The group elected L.C. Grumbles as chairman and H.L. Chute as secretary. An organizational committee, composed of H. Van Roekel as chairman and B.S. Pomeroy, J.P. Delaplane, J.F. Sullivan, S.B. Hitchner, and A.S. Rosenwald, was appointed to finalize a Constitution and By-laws and work out other organizational details. (The untimely death of J.P. Delaplane, who had so strongly assisted and encouraged the development of an organization to this point, required the appointment of H.L. Chute as his successor on the committee.)

During the AVMA meeting at Philadelphia in 1958, B.S. Pomeroy was elected as the first president of the American Association of Avian Pathologists. E.L. Jungherr and M.S. Cover were elected as vice president and secretary-treasurer respectively.



A motion was passed to adopt the constitution as presented. The association was to be incorporated as a non-profit organization with the following objectives:

1. To provide an organization for the promotion of mutual interest of those persons engaged in the field of avian diseases.
2. To stimulate scientific progress in avian pathology.
3. To encourage adequate training in poultry diseases and management in schools of veterinary medicine.
4. To encourage graduate and other forms of advanced training in avian diseases.
5. To encourage publication of a scientific journal on avian diseases.

Three types of membership were defined -- charter members, members, and associate members. A procedure for handling applications for membership was agreed upon. There was apparent unanimity favoring the adoption of the journal Avian Diseases as the official publication of the association and the early assumption of the responsibility as publisher. Membership fees were set at five dollars for the year 1958-1959. Later, the annual dues were set at eight dollars -- two dollars membership fee and six dollars for Avian Diseases.

The minutes of the 1958 Philadelphia meeting indicated a paid-up membership of seventy, a bank balance of \$350 and no expenses.

During the year 1958-59, a questionnaire concerning possible changes in the constitution and by-laws had been sent to the members. Following discussions of the questions, it was decided by voice vote during the 1959 meeting in Kansas City that:

1. The AAAP should be only remotely associated with the AVMA.
2. The present name of the association should be retained.
3. Membership requirements as set forth in the present Constitution should be retained.
4. The present Constitution should be retained with such minor changes as are found necessary to expedite the activity of the group.
5. Permission be given to the secretary to do all that was necessary to incorporate the group, under the laws of the State of Delaware.

The following board of directors was elected for terms as indicated:

- 1 year -- Western District -- A.S. Rosenwald
- 2 years -- Eastern District -- P.P. Levine
- 3 years -- Southern District -- A.I. Flowers
- 4 years -- Central District -- M.S. Hofstad

It was not until 1961 that the membership of the Board of Directors was increased by the election of two Directors-at-Large\*.

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\* For a complete list of officers and directors to date see appendix.

The officers elected for the year 1959-60 were:

President -- H. Van Roekel  
Vice President -- S.B. Hitchner  
Secretary-Treasurer -- M.S. Cover

#### COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES: FIELD OF EDUCATION

A committee appointed in 1959 and chaired by H.E. Adler was charged with conducting a survey of instruction in veterinary subjects important to poultry practice, the survey to include details as to the adequacy and breadth of both course work and applied teaching: that such disciplines as nutrition, physiology, anatomy, pharmacology, microbiology, gross and microscopic pathology, epizootiology, and public health be considered. The survey included teaching in veterinary colleges and post-graduate or refresher courses offered by the colleges or departments of veterinary medicine and agricultural extension services.

The results of this survey were presented in two parts. One dealt with instruction given in veterinary schools by H.E. Adler and the second with instruction given in land-grant colleges by H.I. Chute.

A committee (C.I. Angstrom, L.C. Raggi, W. Henderson, and A.L. Kleckner) was requested to devise ways and means of encouraging the preparation of regional and national mortality and morbidity reports based on specific diagnoses from veterinary laboratories. The committee's efforts have borne some fruit as evidenced by the regional reports of diagnoses published in Avian Diseases starting in 1963.

#### COMMITTEE ON INDUSTRIAL LIAISON

Under the guidance of E.L. Jungherr, this committee studied the methods by which we could improve communications between the AAAP and allied associations and federations having major interests in poultry production, feeding and biologics. The initial phase was concerned with the need for making existing diagnostic facilities more serviceable to industry. Respondents in the New Jersey, Delaware area complained of too few laboratories, delayed replies, unfounded reflections, and limited staffs. Laboratory diagnosticians were thought to have a lack of current field experience. There appeared to be a need for more recommendations on management.

From the Rocky Mountain area, the report indicated quite general satisfaction with the service rendered although emergency and weekend service was needed. It was felt that at least a tentative diagnosis should be made within 24 hours. Reports from California and the Midwest emphasized the great need for improvement in communications. Little on how this could be accomplished was suggested.

During the year 1960-61, the committee concentrated its efforts on means of improving diagnostic service. Short courses or refresher courses

that were conducted tended to be "closed" or "too professional" with a paucity of applicable information. Often, those most in need were not reached by these courses.

Preparation of an authoritative diagnostic guide book was suggested as a worthwhile project for AAAP. It was recommended to include:

1. List of diagnostic laboratories.
2. Means for getting tentative diagnoses out within 24 hours with emergency recommendations -- to be followed by final diagnoses.
3. Recommendations of therapy based on regulations and economic principles.
4. Plans for field investigations.

In 1962 a number of avian pathologists were contacted in an attempt to find contributors to the proposed handbook. During the several discussions that followed there appeared to be differences of opinion as to (1) who would be using the book -- laymen or diagnosticians, (2) detail with which each disease would be covered -- descriptions of clinical nature or necropsy findings or recommended diagnostic methods which might be adopted. In 1964 the absence of agreement on the scope of the project and a general failure to agree on the need led to the dissolution of the committee with the expression of thanks from the association members for their labors.

#### AVIAN DISEASES

The first number of Avian Diseases is dated May, 1957. The editor was P.P. Levine of the New York State Veterinary College, Cornell University. D.W. Bruner, H.L. Chute, R.F. Gentry, M.S. Cover, E.L. Jungherr and H. Van Roekel were the associate editors. The first three volumes (11 numbers) were published by the Cornell Veterinarian, Inc., Ithaca, New York. J.H. Whitlock and later G.E. Morse served as Business Managers. Our debt to the Cornell Veterinarian for mothering our journal should never be forgotten.

Undoubtedly many avian pathologists had considered the advantages of a journal devoted to the diseases of poultry. However, it is well known that P.P. Levine was dreaming, discussing, and planning such a publication during the late thirties and the early forties. That we all considered him to be the father of Avian Diseases seems to be evidenced by our unanimous choice of him as Editor. His earlier experience as editor of the Cornell Veterinarian showed itself in the excellence of the early issues.

From inside the front cover of Avian Diseases, Volume 1, number 1, we read, "In October 1956 when I (Dr. Levine) last spoke to Dr. Beaudette, he recalled that some years ago he and Dr. Hinshaw had seriously considered starting a journal of avian pathology. Then World War II intervened and the matter was dropped. Dr. Beaudette was enthusiastic about our plans to start Avian Diseases, agreed to serve on the editorial board and offered to assist in any way he could. His illness and untimely death came shortly afterward. It is fitting, then, that the first number of the new journal, Avian Diseases, be dedicated to his memory. It is also appropriate that Dr. Hinshaw, the partner in the projected journal years ago, should write the first and feature article on Dr. Beaudette's life and accomplishments."

In a resolution adopted by the AAFP membership meeting in 1959, the acquisition of Avian Diseases by the Association as rapidly as possible was recommended. P.P. Levine and his able wife, Mrs. Selma Levine, were requested to handle the business affairs of the Association in effecting this acquisition. This transfer, which occurred early in 1960, included \$9,000 cash surplus, a substantial stock of back numbers and a subscription list of over 1000.

P.P. Levine continued as editor through 1960 when he was succeeded by his assistant, A.S. ("Rosy") Rosenwald (Editor, 1961-67). L.C. Grumbles accepted the responsibilities of associate editor and in 1967 became editor. P.P. Levine was made Honorary Lifetime Editor.

The need for and success of Avian Diseases is indicated by the steady increase in subscriptions to the current approximate 1500 and by the fact that operations continue in the black.

Members of the editorial board were selected from each of our four geographical areas in the United States. R.F. Gordon of England was then added to the staff. As the work-load increased, additional pathologists agreed to serve.

MEMBERS OF THE EDITORIAL BOARD -- Past and Present

H. Van Roekel	1960-1965
R.F. Gentry	1960-
B.S. Pomeroy	1960-1961
M.S. Hofstad	1960-
L.C. Grumbles	1960-
A.L. Kleckner	1960-
L.G. Raggi	1960-
H.E. Adler	1960-
R.F. Gordon	1960-1966
J. Fabricant	1961-
E.L. Jungherr	1961-1965
S.B. Hitchner	1961-
R.P. Hanson	1961-
W.M. Reid	1961-
W.B. Gross	1961-
R.R. Chalquest	1961-
A.C. Jerstad	1961-
K. Schaaf	1961-
B.R. Burmester	1965-
W. Henderson	1963-

In 1965-66 the increase in costs of publication and the increase in the number of pages printed, threatened the future status of our previously satisfactory annual budget. The business manager brought this to the attention of the board of directors and asked for remedial ideas. Subscription prices were increased from \$6.00 to \$9.00 domestic and from \$9.00 to \$11.00 foreign. Following considerable correspondence, it was agreed to adopt the plan for "sponsors" suggested and initiated by C.A. Bottorff. In the February 1966 issue of Avian Diseases, there were listed opposite page 1, the names of six companies, which, through their direct cash contributions, financed the publication of 19 papers in the volume of that year.

Subsequently, additional companies' names were added to the list of contributors. These changes relieved the tight financial situation which faced our Journal and has earned our sincere thanks.

Our growing stature was evidenced when a committee of AAAP members was asked to serve with the Conference of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians and the Transmissible Diseases of Poultry Committee of the USLSA in the revision of Animal Disease Eradication Memorandum 512.2. Emergency Disease Investigations.

This was followed by a request that we investigate the feasibility and desirability of our association assuming the responsibility of preparing and publishing the 3rd edition of Methods for the Examination of Poultry Biologics, more popularly known as the Manual of Methods. The committee worked with the revitalized avian disease subcommittee of the Committee on Animal Health of NAS, NRC which is now (1967) revising the Manual.

A new challenge to the editorial skills of our members developed when the AAAP was given the responsibility of preparing the 5th edition of Biester and Schwarte's "Diseases of Poultry". Under the leadership of M.S. Hofstad and a capable committee, it is anticipated that the job will be well done by those most qualified to carry-on.

#### RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS AWARD

In an effort to stimulate, recognize and reward excellence in manuscripts accepted for publication by Avian Diseases, P.P. Levine proposed that the AAAP consider making a yearly award to the author of the most outstanding research paper appearing in each volume. In New York, July 29, 1963, a Board recommendation was passed by the AAAP members, "That a sum of \$100 may be annually awarded for an Avian Diseases research paper. The award to be made on a basis, among others, of the following criteria: originality, excellence of experimental design, and significance of results with respect to future developments in the field of avian diseases. That the president appoint a committee to determine the method of selecting the award winner, and to report back to the Board of Directors in time to allow making the award at the 1964 meeting."

In 1964, we had the pleasure of seeing the first AAAP Research Publication Award presented by President Chute to W.F. Hughes, the senior author of "The Development of a Chicken Flock Apparently Free of Leukosis Virus". Financial support for the award of \$100 from Vineland Poultry Laboratories and from DeKalb Agricultural Association, Inc., was gratefully acknowledged.

The following year, 1965, award honors went to H.W. Yoder, senior author of "Characterization of Avian Mycoplasma". The sponsors for this award were Vineland Laboratories and the AAAP. In 1966, B.W. Calnek was the recipient of the award sponsored by the AAAP for his paper titled "Studies on the RIF Test for the Detection of an Avian Leukosis Virus".

#### AAAP SYMPOSIA

A symposium on "Newcastle disease virus as an evolving pathogen", was held in Madison, Wisconsin, in July 1963. The idea for such a symposium was conceived by R.P. Hanson. The AAAP assisted with a financial contribution, participated in the planning and co-sponsored the endeavor through the

efforts of a committee made up of R.A. Bankowski, M.S. Hofstad, H. Van Roekel, and S.B. Hitchner.

In an attempt to up-date interested veterinarians on timely, specific disease problems, there have been presented by the AAAP during the annual meetings of the AVMA since 1963, a series of symposia. Chosen for discussion were coccidiosis, salmonellosis, leukosis and mycoplasmosis in successive years. These symposia under AAAP leadership have attracted large audiences and have enhanced the benefits of the AVMA meetings for our membership.

#### ACTIVITIES ON A FEDERAL LEVEL

President H. Van Roekel, in 1959, appointed a committee to study the impact of the Poultry Inspection Act. A report was presented by H.E. Adler during our 1960 meeting.

To prepare for their 1961 report, the committee reviewed current and recently completed state and federal research projects as to their direct or indirect relationship to poultry condemnations. They recommended (1) research projects to evaluate husbandry practices and vaccination and therapy regimes in the light of all criteria of freedom from gross tissue lesions, (2) increased research on the CRD complex and leukosis complex, (3) promotion of greater cooperation and coordination in research.

J.M. Dixon, the 1962 committee chairman, reported survey results indicating industry complacency to the 28 million dollar annual loss due to condemnations. Coordinated regional research on condemnations, wholesomeness, inspector fatigue and disease eradication were recommended.

In 1962 an AAAP resolution requesting that federal fowl leukosis research be transferred to the Animal Disease and Parasites Research Division of ARS was not followed by action. Another request that the poultry disease control portions of NPIP and NTIP be placed under the jurisdiction of the Animal Disease Eradication Division of the ARS resulted in no action.

A committee chaired by J.E. Williams was directed to study the feasibility of a national pullorum disease eradication program. An excellent report was presented in 1960 in which we note that industry wished to keep pullorum disease control on a voluntary basis. The previous year 63.8 per cent of U.S. hatcheries were cooperating under the NPIP. They represented 75.8 per cent of the hatchery capacity.

Several members of this Committee were assigned to a special committee appointed by the Diagnostic Service, ARS, USDA, to discuss and advise relative to a "Standard Procedure for the Isolation of Salmonella Organisms from Animal Feeds and Meat By-Products Including Poultry Carcasses". Copies of this procedure may be obtained from E.M. Ellis, Diagnostic Services, National Animal Disease Laboratory, Box 70, Ames, Iowa.

The following recommendations have been repeated in several annual reports:

1. There be 100 per cent participation of all chicken and turkey breeding flocks and hatcheries under an official pullorum-typhoid control program.

2. Pullorum disease and fowl typhoid be made reportable diseases.
3. Infected flocks be quarantined and the marketing of such flocks be under supervision of the disease control agency.
4. A federal regulation be adopted to control the interstate movement of poultry from the standpoint of pullorum disease and fowl typhoid.
5. Poultry consigned to public exhibition should originate from a flock under an official pullorum-typhoid control program.

The committees recommended continuing efforts in counselling, educating and advising industrial, disease research, control and eradication groups--local, state, regional and national. The Committee further recommended that a greater effort be made by this organization to encourage state livestock disease control agencies to develop programs for the eradication of pullorum disease and fowl typhoid.

During the year, 1963-1964, the Committee attempted to stimulate further interest in pullorum-typhoid eradication. In several regions of this country, progress in eradication of these two *Salmonella* infections is encouraging. On the west coast, California, Washington, and Oregon have adopted and implemented programs making salmonellosis reportable and tightening control measures designed to eliminate the sources of infection. Washington has a regulation which prohibits the sale of pullorum-infected poultry. Oregon is hopeful of adopting more effective regulations for the eradication of pullorum disease. This group of three states could well consider an area eradication program that would lead to a pullorum-typhoid-clean area.

In the Midwest, a cluster of states (Iowa, Minnesota, South Dakota, and Wisconsin) have developed plans for area eradication for these two diseases. Certain states have advanced further than others in setting up adequate regulations and competent personnel to expedite eradication. The active AAAP leadership and good regulatory agency and industry relationships have been responsible for the achievements made. Minnesota has subscribed to an all-out effort to eliminate pullorum disease. Among 12 states in the North Central Region, all but one are investigating all pullorum outbreaks, but only two are imposing a quarantine on infected flocks.

In the area represented by the Northeastern Conference on Avian Diseases, the incidence of pullorum diseases and fowl typhoid is gradually being reduced. Eight states have reported no pullorum infection detected in tested flocks, and four states reported no pullorum detected among diagnostic cases. It is encouraging that the infection detected in tested flocks has been eliminated in various ways; whereas, with the infection detected among the regular diagnostic cases, the follow-up and eradication was not as complete. It should also be emphasized that it is essential to identify and eliminate the source of the infection.

During the past year, the New England states and one or two adjoining states have been in the process of developing an area eradication program for pullorum disease and fowl typhoid. It is hopeful that the relationship which exists between the livestock disease regulatory officials and industry members will lead to the successful adoption and implementation of an area eradication program.



In the South and Southwest, pullorum eradication is also progressing. Whether the approach of area eradication in the South is timely and feasible may be questioned. However, during recent years, the pullorum-typhoid situation has improved even in a rapidly expanding industry.

#### POSTDOCTORAL TRAINING IN AVIAN MEDICINE

After a year of careful study the committee presented a comprehensive report July 29, 1963, in which they noted " ... an urgent need for a training program at the postdoctoral level whereby veterinarians who wish to increase their competence and experience in the area of poultry practice may, through formal and special training, develop a professional career and render a service to the poultry industry."

"The committee further recognizes that unless the veterinary profession raises its standards of excellence and competence in concert with the highly efficient poultry industry and develops a sufficient number of specialists to direct and supervise the poultry health programs, there will be no significant reason to include poultry in the area of animal health and economy of the veterinary profession."

"The committee recognizes that even under the optimum curricula existing in schools of veterinary medicine it is neither possible, nor is it feasible or desirable to provide an adequate training in poultry practice. The degree of training and specialized knowledge required of the poultry practitioner today can only be acquired through specialized study of the problems of the poultry industry. This is becoming increasingly true in other so-called specialized areas of veterinary practice."

It was recommended that such training programs be initiated where formal teaching staff and adequate supervision were available. The AAAP was to sponsor and direct the programs which would be included with the other veterinary specialties of the AVMA. Chairman A.L. Kleckner and his committee recommended that a Specialty Board Organizing Committee be appointed to implement the plan. President H.L. Chute appointed M.S. Hofstad chairman and J.O. Alberts, W.F. Hughes, J.L. Rountree, and J.T. Tumlin to this committee.

M.S. Hofstad's committee reports in 1964 and 1965 brought to light a number of difficulties -- the relationship of the future American Board of Avian Medicine to the AAAP; the possible conversion of the AAAP to the American Board of Avian Medicine; the need for the new specialty board to dissociate itself from the AAAP to gain AVMA recognition. Our membership was not ready to take such drastic actions and agreed with the committee's recommendation that consideration of a Specialty board in Avian Medicine be delayed.

The President was authorized to appoint a committee to investigate a continuing education program in avian diseases. Specialized education and training are most essential if the poultry industry is to receive the competent employees that are so badly needed. This training must be designed and made available to all levels of employees -- from the serviceman in the field to the avian pathologist in charge. The committee, chaired by J.T. Tumlin, is developing a suggested curriculum for post-graduate clinical training and such training is being offered at the University of Georgia.