

1969-1970 REPORT
LEUKOSIS COMMITTEE
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF AVIAN PATHOLOGISTS

The committee convened a workshop conference on Methods in Marek's Disease Research which was held June 21-23, 1970, at the International Hotel, Las Vegas, Nevada. Ten committee members and 14 invited guests participated in this workshop. We were particularly fortunate to have Dr. Peter Biggs, Houghton, England and Dr. Vicco von Bulow, Tubingen, Germany as participants. Dr. Allan Granoff, Memphis, Tennessee, served as our discussant in virology and immunology and in addition presented interesting comparative information on his recent work with herpes viruses associated with the Lucke' renal adenocarcinoma in frogs. A report of this workshop was prepared and submitted to Avian Diseases for publication. Specific topics discussed in the report were: detection of Marek's disease virus and its antibody, biological markers for distinguishing among virus strains, preparation of virus stocks and sources of infection-free chicks and embryos. Other topics discussed but not included in the report were: priorities for future research in Marek's disease methodology and prospects for standardizing reference reagents. The need for standardized test reagents was recognized, but no specific action was taken to encourage their development or increase their availability. Dr. Saul Wilson, Animal Health Division, reported that his agency would consider requests for production of Marek's disease precipitin antigen but at present was not planning production of this reagent.

The second major function of the committee was to prepare a resolution delineating the problem of indiscriminate Marek's disease vaccination in the field and recommending that all concerned parties work together to hasten the availability of a standardized, safe and effective vaccine. This resolution was passed at the business meeting of the AAAP and was forwarded to the Secretary of Agriculture and to poultry industry media.

Respectfully submitted.

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