

A Forty Year History of the American College of Veterinary Microbiologists

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The American College of Veterinary Microbiologists (ACVM) is the specialty organization recognized by the American Veterinary Medical Association for Certification of veterinarians with special expertise in microbiology. An ACVM diplomate is a veterinarian of good moral character who has satisfactorily completed the examination and has been elected to membership by a majority vote of the College's Board of Governors.

VETERINARY MICROBIOLOGY includes the fields of bacteriology, mycology, immuno-serology, and virology as they apply to veterinary medical science.

I. Purpose and content of history

The purpose of this history is to document the activities and progress made during 40 years of existence of the American College of Veterinary Microbiologists.

The history includes the early genesis of the ACVM, the involvement of leading veterinary microbiologists who championed the concept of a specialty organization for this important sector in veterinary medicine, the purpose and goals of the ACVM, web addresses for the current constitution and by-laws, the mode and outcome of the certification process, meetings of the organization, traditions of the ACVM, continuing education programs, awards programs, communications regarding opportunities in the field, promotional activities, communications and reporting to the membership and reporting to the AVMA's Board on Veterinary Specialties. Appendices include; I. Chronological listing of membership of the Board of Governors: II. Charter Diplomates of the ACVM: III Chairs of Committees and Representatives: IV. Results of Parts I and II of Certification Examinations and V. Continuing Education Programs Organized by ACVM and Partner Organizations.

It is hoped that the information presented will provide diplomates the opportunity to celebrate the accomplishments of their specialty organization within veterinary medicine and to contemplate the future for individuals interested in the specialty and ways in which the organization and veterinary microbiologists can effectively serve society.

The archives of the ACVM were established in the Special Collections Department of the Library of Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa in 1991 through the initiative and guidance of H. G. Purchase, then Secretary Treasurer of the ACVM. The report is based upon materials in this important repository. During the course of preparation of this historical review, a number of missing documents, particularly during the past 15 years were collected from other key leaders, including R. L. Jones, J. A. Roth and C. S. Hayhow.

The five-year in-depth reports, required by the Advisory Board on Veterinary Specialties Secretary-Treasurer and the Chair of the Examinations Committee were also helpful.

II. Historical Information Leading to Formation of the ACVM

Beginning with the ancients, especially the Greeks, appreciation evolved for the thoughtful delineation of medical problems in both humans and animals. Hippocrates (460BC to 370BC) evolved a solid foundation for the separation of medicine from philosophy and religion. Over the centuries, many authors contributed to the evolution of the germ theory of disease until the first definitive understanding of the role of microbes in animal disease was provided by Louis Pasteur (1822-1895) and Robert Koch (1843-1910). The history of veterinary microbiology has been summarized by Dunlop and Williams in *Veterinary Medicine: An Illustrated History*, Mosby, (1996). As medicine advanced as a health profession, similar progress was made in provision of health care to animals. Leadership was provided throughout the 20th century in many countries with animal industries through the animal health research and control agencies of government, education, including textbooks and research from academic institutions and research and product availability from industry. Important contributions to the evolution of the knowledge base of the discipline were made also by the military and public health sectors. Several Charter Diplomates of the ACVM (D. W. Bruner, G. R. Carter, J. H. Gillespie, I. A. Merchant, R. A. Packer and E. L. Biberstein) were major contributors to the publication of textbooks or reviews on the topic of Veterinary Bacteriology or Veterinary Microbiology. Individuals authoring these publications and individuals involved in the teaching of veterinarians in the field of veterinary bacteriology and infectious diseases and in federal, industrial, military and university research in this field formed the foundation for collaboration to further progress in what had evolved as a specialty known as veterinary bacteriology.

A group of veterinary microbiologists, primarily from veterinary academic institutions in the United States and Canada, began discussions about the interest and importance of focusing on the sector of veterinary medicine concerned with microbiology in 1952. This effort resulted in the establishment of an organization known as the American Association of Veterinary Bacteriologists (AAVB). (Letter from C. H. Cunningham to Professor Goret, November 2, 1960 and Petition to the Advisory Board on Veterinary Specialties for development of program of certification in veterinary microbiology, January 15, 1964). The AAVB was actively concerned with improving the quality of education of veterinarians in microbiology, establishing standards of competency in veterinary microbiology, and; coordinating the special interests of veterinarians into what the association recognized as a specialty field of veterinary microbiology (Petition to the Advisory Board on Veterinary Specialties for development of program of certification in veterinary microbiology, January 15, 1964). Annual meetings of the AAVB were typically held at a College of Veterinary Medicine or Department of Veterinary Science at a location near that of the annual meeting of the American Veterinary Medical Association (Letter from C. H. Cunningham to Professor Goret, November 2, 1960). According to the constitution of the AAVB, the objective of meetings of the organization was to promote discussion and interchange of ideas in teaching, research and

development, diagnosis, epizootiology, nomenclature and other problems of common interest.

Discussion of a committee report (1962) on organizational structure and constitution of the AAVB prompted intense effort regarding the need for a certification process for veterinary microbiologists (AAVB, 11th Annual Meeting, August 14, 1962). A similar process had been underway in the United States in microbiology under the leadership of the American Academy of Microbiology (AAM). At the same time, the AAVB worked within the framework of evolving expectations for certification by the ABVS. Some consideration was given to establishing the veterinary certification process under the framework of the AAM; however, because of requirements established by the ABVS that only those with bona fide degrees in veterinary medicine be considered for certification and that the ACVM have total control of the certification process in the veterinary area, the ACVM opted not to work within the ABM. These particular requirements were incongruent with requirements of the ABM. While there was extensive correspondence relative to the evolution of the ACVM and its relationship to the ABM and the ABVS, the essential information can be found in the archives in a letter dated October 20, 1964 from A. L. Kleckner to W. E. Jennings, Secretary of the ABVS, and a memo dated July 20, 1965 from Kleckner to the Charter group, American College of Veterinary Microbiologists. The archives contains extensive correspondence from 1960-1964 between those involved in development of the ACVM and the certification process. Individuals providing crucial leadership through out the process of evolving the AAVB to the ACVM included A. L. Kleckner, C. H. Cunningham, G. C. Poppensiek, L. C. Grumbles, J. R. Collier and E. H. Bohl (Organizing Committee on Certification of Veterinary Microbiologists).

It is important to note that evolution of the certification process was influenced interactively between AAVB/ACVM and the ABM with respect to the philosophy and framework for establishing standards of competency, for evaluation and acceptance of applications, for preparation of examinations and evaluation of results of the examination of applicants and for determination of postdoctoral training and experience requirements. Evolution of expectations for stringent overall standards of competency within the ABM represented “the consensus opinion of outstanding and eminent professional microbiologists in the United States” (Letter A. L. Kleckner to W. E. Jennings, October 20, 1964). It is clear that ACVM Charter Fellows had similar expectations for certification of veterinary microbiologists.

The ABM was authorized by the American Academy of Microbiology in 1958 (American Academy of Microbiology, Inc. – progress summary for AVMA, July 1, 1960 prepared by G. C. Poppensiek). Further background regarding the evolution of the ABM and the potential for inclusion of a certification program in veterinary microbiology is included in correspondence in the ACVM archives (Letter from G. C. Poppensiek to C. H. Cunningham, June 29, 1960). As mentioned previously, the ACVM ultimately opted not to work within the framework of the ABM.

The AAVB was officially dissolved and disbanded at the annual business meeting of the AAVB in Urbana, Illinois, July 18, 1964. Following this action, the Organizing Charter Fellows of the American College of Veterinary Microbiologists (ACVM) met on July 20, 1964 and formally organized the college. The Board of Governors at the inception of the ACVM included A. L. Kleckner, Chairman, L. C. Grumbles, Vice Chairman, C. H. Cunningham, Secretary Treasurer, G. C. Poppensiek, E. H. Bohl, J. R. Collier, L. C. Ferguson (replaced by R. A. Bankowski), J. H. Gillespie, and W. R. Hinshaw. A chronologic listing of membership and officers of the Board of Governors is presented in appendix I.

The Organizing Charter Fellows considered that the ACVM is constituted by specialists working in the discipline of microbiology. The Organizing Committee of the AAVB had considered veterinary microbiology as a specialty for the reason that the practice of a discipline requires a great deal of specialization or concentration in order to acquire or attain proficiency in the area. At the time the ACVM was established, recognition of the specialization in the discipline of veterinary microbiology was already evident in programs of the National Institutes of Health (specialty training programs sponsored by the NIH), various other governmental laboratories, industrial laboratories, recognition by the AAM, AVMA and, the various colleges of veterinary medicine that had departments of microbiology which included postdoctoral training programs in veterinary microbiology.

At the July 1967 meeting of the College, action was taken on the provision in its constitution which allowed for the election of additional Charter Diplomates within one year following adoption of the constitution and by-laws. The College endorsed the principle that a strong and broadly representative membership of Charter Diplomates was essential to the successful launching of the College's program; that the College should encourage the older established veterinary microbiologists to apply for Charter Diplomate status; and that Charter Diplomates by example and encouragement could stimulate younger veterinarians to pursue a course of excellence and when eligible, seek certification by examination.

The complete list of Charter Diplomates of the ACVM initiating the College in 1966 and with those added in 1967 is presented in appendix II. Information regarding the process utilized for election of Charter Diplomates is presented in the 1974-1980 5-year in-depth report on development and activities of the ACVM prepared for the ABVS. Ninety applications were received, of these 55 veterinarians possessed the qualifications of competency as outlined in the Constitution. Seven additional veterinary microbiologists were also elected as emeritus Diplomates. Each Charter Diplomate was elected by a 2/3 or greater majority of Organizing Charter Members. Organizing Charter Members totaled 26; and 62 were added as additional Charter or Emeritus Members.

III. Initial Meetings of the American College of Veterinary Microbiologists

The first meeting of the Board of Governors of the ACVM was held in Louisville, Kentucky on July 10, 1966 (BOG minutes, July 10, 1966). The organization was chartered under a certificate of incorporation with the Secretary of State of the State of Illinois on January 6, 1966. A certificate (no. 2167) was filed in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds of Cook County, Illinois as Document No. 19705081 on January 10, 1966. At the July 10 meeting, drafts of a Constitution and By-Laws were adopted. Other business transacted included adoption of a corporate seal, establishment of a bank account with the East Lansing State Bank in East Lansing, MI and election of officers of the Board of Governors.

On July 12, 1966 (BOG minutes, July 12, 1966), the first annual meeting of the Board of Governors approved an Examinations Committee, a Committee to review Diplomates under the “grandfather “ clause, an auditing committee, and actions pertaining to dues and certification fees for Diplomates. In addition, “the Secretary-Treasurer was instructed to prepare the system for receipt of applications for membership in the College and the orderly distribution through the appropriate channels for acceptance”. Finally, actions relating to public release of information about the ACVM were stated.

Subsequently, the first annual meeting of the ACVM with 14 Charter Fellows in attendance was held, also in Louisville (BOG minutes, July 12, 1966). Key action included: the announcement of probationary approval of the ACVM by the ABVS of the AVMA and by the House of Delegates meeting in Louisville July 10, 1966 thanks to the Organizing Committee of the AAVB that had been working since 1962 to form the College; a charge to the Charter Fellows to provide leadership for the new college, further solicitation of appropriate “new grandfathers” with a committee established to review Diplomates under the “grandfather” clause; urging the establishment of laboratories certified for training “to set standards for adequate preparation of trainees in veterinary microbiology”; commendation of the 1966 Program Committee for a session on microbiology at the annual meeting of the AVMA; election of a Board of Governors; election of officers of the Board of Governors; distribution of copies of the Constitution which was unanimously accepted; announcement of the Examinations Committee and the Nominating Committee; and, adoption of a fees structure for Certification of Diplomates and for dues for Charter Fellows.

IV. Goals, Vision, Long Range Planning in the ACVM

Initial goals were established by the organizing committee and adopted in 1966 as part of the Constitution and By-Laws (BOG minutes, July 10, 1966). Subsequently, committees were appointed periodically to elaborate the vision of the ACVM, to do strategic planning and to develop plans for implementation of recommendations generated through these processes. The BOG requested committee input to ensure that goals were appropriate, that all possible initiatives for meeting those goals were being pursued and that drafts or documents provided were given thorough consideration by the College. Detail regarding the Board of Governors perspectives and action pertaining to implementation of goals and recommendations is presented as part of the minutes of Board of Governors Meetings for several years following submission of each of these reports.

Goals of the ACVM: 1966

These goals are identified in Article III of the Constitution of the ACVM
<http://www.acvm.us>.

1. To further educational and scientific progress in the specialty of veterinary microbiology.
2. To strengthen and improve instruction at the pre- and postdoctoral level in veterinary microbiology.
3. To promote the highest professional standing of veterinary microbiologists.
4. To establish standards of postdoctoral training and experience for qualification of specialists in veterinary microbiology.
5. To further the recognition of such qualified specialists by the issuance of certificates of competence and special knowledge in veterinary microbiology. Changed to “To certify qualified and competent veterinary microbiologists in specialty areas of bacteriology and mycology, virology and immunology” in 1986.

Additional Goals of the ACVM – 1979-1980.

This additional set of goals was developed in order to further advance the ACVM and presented to the BOG in 1979 by a committee chaired by R. A. Dommert. More detail can be found in the minutes of the BOG (July 23, 1979 and November 25, 1979).

1. To insure that all veterinarians graduate with adequate knowledge and understanding of the discipline of veterinary microbiology; including the fields of veterinary bacteriology, mycology and virology.
2. To encourage veterinarians to earn research degrees and/or ACVM certification through advanced studies in veterinary microbiology.
3. To provide continuing education programs in veterinary microbiology.
4. To promote ACVM Diplomates’ involvement in other organizations.

Long Range Planning Committee of 1984:

The committee was formed for the purpose of strengthening the viability of ACVM and increasing the College’s recognition and influence. This committee was chaired by D. P. Anderson (BOG minutes, July 15, 1984). Issues reviewed were methods for recruiting qualified veterinary microbiologists; the appropriateness of collecting information on the role of veterinary microbiologists in veterinary teaching programs; review of microbiology questions used by the National Board Examinations in Veterinary Medicine; and the promotion of ACVM Diplomates for service on study section panels and review panels. An interim report was presented at the July 15, 1984 BOG meeting. Additional input was provided to the Committee by Diplomates attending the July 16, 1984 annual

meeting of the ACVM. The Committee made the following recommendations to the Board at the November 11, 1984 meeting:

1. Creation of a survey questionnaire to determine future need for veterinary microbiologists and the number of individuals in training programs.
2. Reduction of the microbiology experience prerequisite to three years.
3. Permitting candidates to select options in Part II Examination.
4. Encouragement and support of an association for the study of infectious diseases in animals.
5. Awards for “best CRWAD research presentations” by graduate students in various areas of microbiology.
6. Rescheduling the annual membership meeting from the AVMA to CRWAD meeting, perhaps to include the reception for new diplomates and a dinner.

The Board, November 11, 1984 and July 23, 1985, immediately pursued the recommendations made by the Long Range Planning Committee (see Board minutes and subsequent actions by the Board and College). The input of this committee was enormously beneficial to the College and helped the Board set direction for exciting new initiatives to strengthen the College and to, more broadly, enrich all of veterinary microbiology. It is noteworthy that eventually; all six recommendations were effected, providing significant new vigor and tradition in the College.

Committee on the Role of ACVM in Veterinary Microbiology 1985:

This committee, chaired by H. G. Purchase, worked diligently to address some of the issues raised by the Long Range Planning Committee (BOG minutes, November 10, 1985). In their study, they queried administrators at veterinary institutions in the US about the present staffing and open positions in the field of veterinary microbiology. They developed a listing of ACVM activities (continuing education, advisory functions, advocacy, certification and fostering recognition of excellence in microbiology graduate study) and projected additional activities for the ACVM (development of a recruitment brochure, assuming a greater role in setting and maintaining standards, exploring ways to increase graduate training opportunities, recognizing excellence in graduate microbiology research presentations and publicizing high professional standards of the ACVM Diplomates among employers. The committee also recommended modification of the Part II examination to enable certification in areas of specialization (e.g. bacteriology/biochemistry/mycology, immunology or virology) without the requirement to pass all components of Part II.

Long Range Planning Committee of 1994:

A motion was passed in 1994 (BOG minutes, November 13) to establish a long range planning committee to identify current problems, particularly the low candidate numbers, and address future strategies. This need was reiterated in

discussion at the BOG meeting July 10, 1995. A motion was passed to “look into the role of the College and re-focus its mission”. The Committee reported (BOG minutes, November 10, 1996), that a survey of membership was completed and returned by 68 of 255 Diplomates. The outcome of the survey was reviewed by the committee. The text of this committee report follows:

“The results indicate that most of the responding diplomats are satisfied with the operation of the ACVM. Diplomates attended an average of 2.1 annual symposia within the past 5 years (27 did not attend once). Other meetings frequently attended or organizations that were ranked as more important than ACVM included AVMA, AAVLD, and AAAP/ACPV. Diplomat certification and the diplomat directory were ranked as the most important activities. Prestige among peers was the highest ranked benefit. Benefits such as job opportunities and compensation were ranked below the midpoint of the scale. All activities listed in the survey for possible increased ACVM emphasis were ranked below the midpoint of the rating scale. The two highest rated activities were more research methods workshops and meet in association with a group other than CRWAD. Lower ranked activities included more extended symposia, newsletters or a journal. Current criteria and methods for certifying new diplomats were affirmed by the responses. To the question “Do you favor a re-certification process?” 52 answered no, 7 yes every 10 years, 7 yes every 5 years, and 1 yes every 2 years. Only 16 respondents felt an annual business meeting of the full membership would be of value (35 no, and 14 no opinion). The average rating for every one of the characteristics of planning, decision making and operations of ACVM was above the midpoint of the rating scale. In fact, less than 10% of the respondents rated items below the midpoint of the very dissatisfied/very satisfied scale. The two lowest rated (yet positive) aspects were the time and location of meetings. Further analysis of the meeting time and location issues was performed by comparing the responses of diplomats who attended the annual symposia <3 times versus those attending >3 times within the last 5 years. These two groups rated their levels of satisfaction with time and place almost the same and indicated the same level of importance for considering a different meeting arrangement. Although meeting time and location appears to be an issue with a large majority of the college, there is not a mandate to make change and these issues do not appear to be of more concern among those who do not attend than those who regularly attend ACVM symposia.

Following presentation of its report, the committee indicated that it would continue to review the results of the survey and other issues “to see if there were any changes in organizational emphasis that should be considered to maintain and enhance the ACVM”.

Vision Statement of 2003:

A new vision statement was prepared in 2003. This statement reiterated previous goals stated in 1967, with one modification to goal 5 (change of certification from

microbiology to subspecialty areas of bacteriology and mycology, virology and immunology). The new statement contained a paragraph as follows:

The degree of success of the ACVM in completing these objectives will have a direct and positive impact on Veterinary Medicine and the health and well being of our human and animal clientele. To increase the effectiveness of the College in fulfilling these objectives, it is necessary to identify additional opportunities for ACVM diplomates to interact with professional colleagues and the veterinary public, present and publish scientific work and participate in professional, graduate and public education. Increased opportunity should result in greater visibility of the ACVM and public and institutional recognition of the value of ACVM diplomacy and certification. Increased visibility and recognized value will in turn increase the quality and quantity of the certified membership of the College. In addition, ACVM affiliation should add value to our partners, the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA), Conference of Research Workers in Animal Diseases (CRWAD) and possibly the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine. Other partnerships may have considerable value and should not be excluded from consideration. The statement included a list of potential activities and partnerships and invited active discussion of this list (see ACVM Newsletter, April 1, 2003). Proposed activities are summarized as follows:

1. Establish parallel meetings in conjunction with our partners (annual AVMA meeting and others) to focus on infectious diseases of animals.
2. Create a special section on infectious diseases in a current peer-reviewed journal.
3. Participate in CE programs for veterinarians and animal technicians at the AVMA meeting.

The 2003 ACVM vision statement was reviewed extensively by Board members. As stated (BOG minutes, November 9, 2003), "The ACVM has opportunities for growth based upon recognizing and rewarding graduate students for research achievements, mentor recognition of excellence among peers, veterinary infectious disease expertise, and facilitating scientific meetings." The Board determined to continue strategic planning.

Recruitment Committee of 2005:

The Examinations Committee continued to express concern about the low numbers of candidates taking the examination and the low number passing (BOG minutes, November 8, 1998). Discussion at that meeting raised issues such as credentialing requirements, public relations, visibility and economic issues that might influence the number of potential candidates. BOG Chair C. S. Hayhow appointed an ad hoc committee on Recruitment and Training to evaluate this issue. Chair of this committee was A. R. Woolums. BOG chair B. W. Fenwick

reported (BOG minutes, November 7, 1999) that discussion on the issues raised had taken place with members of the AVMA Council on Research.

Initial recommendations from the recruitment committee were delivered at the Board of Governors meeting July 18, 2005. On the basis of strong encouragement from the BOG and a request to prioritize and determine proposed costs for implementing their recommendations, the Committee gave an updated report (BOG minutes, December 4, 2005).

Recommendations accepted for action by the Board in 2005 were as follows:

1. Prepare to award an “Outstanding Veterinary Microbiologist Award.
2. Update the ACVM certification requirements.
3. Encourage Diplomates to join the ACVM Biosecurity Task Force.
4. Improve interactions with AVMA, AAVLD and AAVC.
5. Write and distribute a white paper on the importance of veterinary microbiology to society and the hurdles of keeping veterinarians from pursuing this training.

The committee continued its work and reported the following recommendations (BOG minutes of Conf. Call, August 1, 2006):

1. Preparation of an accurate and detailed description of what ACVM Board Certification represents.
2. Identify representatives to ensure that ACVM interacts more effectively with AAVLD, AAVMC and AVMA.
3. Write a white paper on the importance of Veterinary Microbiology to Society;
4. Appoint ACVM Diplomates as “Student Liaison” at each US and Canadian college of veterinary medicine.
5. Fund speakers at national meetings.

Responsibility for carrying out these five recommendations, which were all approved by the BOG, was assigned.

V. Annual Meetings and Meetings of the Board of Governors

Generally, meetings of the Board of Governors have been held twice per year; once in conjunction with the Annual Meeting of the American Veterinary Medical Association and once in conjunction with the Conference of Research Workers in Animal Diseases. An annual meeting of the membership of the College was also held in conjunction with the AVMA until 1984. At the Board of Governors meeting November 11, 1984, a motion was passed to schedule the ACVM’s annual meeting during the CRWAD. However, minutes of the meetings held in conjunction with CRWAD beginning in 1985 are Board of Governors minutes not annual meeting minutes. All Diplomates have been notified of, and welcomed at BOG meetings. The frequent and active participation of Diplomates other than Board members in these meetings is reflected in comments or

recommendations noted in the minutes. In the membership survey of 1994, only a small number of Diplomates favored an annual meeting of the membership. Renewing the all college meeting was not felt to be of interest (BOG minutes, July 22, 1997).

Items for the Board of Governors annual meetings held with the AVMA included election of Board Officers, from a slate of new Governors elected by the College; approval of minutes of previous meeting(s), review and approval of the financial report of the Secretary-Treasurer, standing and ad-hoc committee reports, old business, and new business. Standing committees include the nominating committee, the examinations committee, the continuing education and program committee, the continuing education funding committee, the graduate student awards committee, the honorary diplomate selection committee and the budget committee. Further information regarding these committees can be found in Article II, Section 1 of the ACVM By Laws.

<http://www.acvm.us>. As mentioned previously, a list of all committees and chairs of committees and representatives to various organizations is presented in Appendix III. Committees and representatives to various organizations have carried out by far most of the College's business. These efforts have been carried out by chairs as well as other committee members, many of whom were involved for many years.

A major agenda item for the Board of Governors meetings held in conjunction with the CRWAD was to receive a report and recommendations from the Examinations Committee. Action was taken by the BOG to approve applications for Part I, for approval to certify individuals attaining appropriate scores in the Part II sections and for any major changes in policy regarding the certification process (See section on Examinations Committee).

In 1977 (BOG minutes, November 27, 1977), considerable discussion ensued relative to the issues of continuing education, recertification and self-assessment. This topic was addressed initially by the Examinations Committee at the request of Chair A. C. Pier. Perspectives varied among those involved in the discussion. C. H. Cunningham informed the group that the ABMM was also discussing CE-Recertification. Several individuals expressed support for high quality continuing education as a means to ensure continued competence. The view was expressed that Diplomates should be motivated to remain competent and current. Some individuals expressed support for a "closed shop" CE program. Some wanted examination of participants following CE programs, or at least a registration process to keep track of participation. Board Chair W. L. Mengeling appointed J. Storz and J. A. House to continue to explore the subject and asked that they report at the annual meeting in Dallas. Drs. Storz and House presented a position paper on continuing education within the ranks of the ACVM at the BOG meeting July 17, 1978. The paper presented excellent background on the commitment of the ACVM and its Diplomates and based a series of approaches to maintain and improve individual and collective competence in veterinary microbiology through a process of Continuing Education and Self-Evaluation. The concepts presented were generally accepted. Subsequently, the College dedicated to a continuous process of offering high quality CE programs. Storz and House further recommended that a time frame for documentation of evaluations should be established and recognition should be given to efforts made by

members to maintain competence. In order to provide strong financial support for the CE program, a committee was appointed to raise funds from industrial firms.

During the early years, an auditing committee (J. R. Collier and A. B. Hoerlein) and a financial planning committee (ch. J. B. Gratzek) provided advice to the Board of Governors. No mention of the involvement of a committee was made for a number of years. Beginning in 1992, the Board regularized the policy of utilizing advice provided by a Budget Committee for purposes of financial planning. Additionally, in 1991, a motion was passed “that the Chairman appoint a committee to (a) develop a budget process for future years and (b) propose wording to that effect to be included in the Constitution (BOG minutes, July 29, 1991). This constitutional change was effected at the BOG meeting August 3, 1992. Reports from the Budget Committee appear or are referenced in the BOG minutes from meetings held at the time of the July meeting through 2001. Minutes from 2002-2003 contain no reference to the involvement of a budget or audit committee. Beginning in 2004, BOG minutes again mention the Budget Committee and, in 2005 (BOG minutes, July 18, 2005) there is mention of a need for both a budget committee and having an audit done. C. C. L. Chase served as chair of the committee. At the BOG meetings December 4, 2005 and December 3, 2006 Chase reported that he had audited the books and found them to be in order. On another note, the BOG determined in 1991 that certain committee or officer appointments would be remunerated on an annual basis; Secretary-Treasurer - \$1500; Chair of Examinations Committee - \$500 and Chair of Continuing Education Committee - \$500.

Constitutional and By-Laws changes were considered and enacted as needed many times by the BOG or at Annual Meetings of the ACVM. Many of the changes were put into place because experience dictated they were needed, others were brought to the College by other entities, particularly, the ABVS. Members of the BOG, particularly Secretary-Treasurer H. G. Purchase, non members of the BOG and committee chairs and members were all involved in bringing needed changes to the attention of the College. The current Constitution and By-Laws can be viewed at <http://www.acvm.us>. Changes brought about over the years are elaborated in minutes of the Board of Governors meetings (see Archives).

A proposal to ensure better long-term leadership of the ACVM was brought to the BOG (minutes November 12, 2000). In effect, this constitutional and by-laws change resulted in the Board being lead by a President instead of a chair and a Vice-President instead of a vice chair – these individuals to be elected to no more than two two-year terms. This change was approved by the BOG.

Emeritus Membership Status. Upon request and presentation of evidence of retirement from professional responsibilities, Charter as well as Diplomates by Certification have been granted Emeritus Diplomat Status in the College. Emeritus Diplomates are identified as such in the Directory. <http://www.acvm.us>.

Necrology Reports. The chair of the BOG called for a moment of silence in remembrance of Diplomates who died during the preceding year. <http://www.acvm.us>.

VI. Summaries of Major Committee Activities:

A. Examinations Committee

In 1971, representative to the ABVS A. L. Kleckner reported that ACVM might need to revise its requirements for graduates of foreign veterinary schools. This was prompted by the fact that the AVMA no longer published a list of accredited or recognized foreign veterinary schools. During discussion (BOG minutes, July 17, 1978), Chair W. L. Mengeling indicated that the current Board was of the view “that the College should maintain a strict requirement for acceptance of foreign veterinary graduates as candidates”. Following additional discussion, Chair Mengeling appointed a committee (R. A. Packer, A. H. Hamdy and T. T. Kramer) to study the issue further and to report their recommendation at the November 1978 BOG meeting. The committee provided the benefit of their consideration at the November 26, 1978 meeting, brought a resolution before the membership (mailing June 22, 1979) and reviewed it again at the July 23, 1979 meeting of the BOG. This action, which was approved by the BOG, specified that applicants must either possess the DVM or equivalent degree accredited by the AVMA or present an ECFVG certificate. More detail is presented in the July 23, 1979 BOG minutes.

Discussion began in 1981 to develop a computer based system for managing examination questions (BOG minutes, July 20, 1981). Through the leadership of H. G. Purchase, the College entered into an agreement with the instructional support services at the University of Georgia to maintain a computer bank of ACVM questions for Part I and to prepare an exam book annually. Because of the excellent services of the Instructional Resources Center of the University of Georgia in maintaining files of the Part I examination, the BOG determined to agree to utilize their services as well for archiving of Part II questions and slides in 1991 (BOG minutes, November 10, 1991).

Periodically, the Examinations Committee met apart from other meetings or in conjunction with either the AVMA or CRWAD meeting to consider the objectives, policies and procedures of the program. In addition, considerable effort was made during these meetings to update items and materials (slides, etc.) used in the Part I and Part II examinations. In 1985, a “Manual for Development of Certification Examinations” was adopted as the official set of guidelines for the College (BOG minutes, November 11, 1985 and updated BOG minutes July 23, 1990). A study guide for candidates was prepared by J. A. Roth and as directed by the BOG (minutes July 18, 1988) distributed to candidates in 1988.

Enhanced security of the Part I examinations process, taken at the urging of the ABVS, was instituted in 1986; only members of the Examinations Committee and the Board of Governors were henceforth approved to serve as Examination Monitors (BOG minutes, July 23, 1986).

The Part II examination was changed from 2 parts to 3 (bacteriology, virology and immunology) in 1980 (BOG minutes, November 9, 1980). In 1986 the College

determined to allow candidates to become certified in subspecialties, taking subspecialty examinations in bacteriology/mycology, virology and immunology beginning in 1987 (BOG minutes, July 23, 1986). Terminology for diplomats certified through 1986 continued as “Diplomate, American College of Veterinary Microbiologists” for diplomats certified beginning in 1987 “Diplomate, American College of Veterinary Microbiologists” “Certified in (Bacteriology, Immunology, and/or Virology)” (BOG minutes, July 21, 1987).

A major change in the timing and relationship of Part I and Part II examinations was implemented in 2001 (BOG minutes, November 11, 2001). The Part I examination was redesignated as the “General Veterinary Microbiology” exam. Part II examinations would henceforth be identified as “sub-specialty” examinations. “The requirement to pass the General Veterinary Microbiology exam before sitting for any sub-specialty exam” was eliminated. However, “each candidate will be required to pass BOTH the General Veterinary Microbiology exam and at least one sub-specialty exam (in any order) to become certified”. A rationale for the changes was presented (BOG minutes, November 11, 2001) and the recommendation of the committee was approved by the BOG for implementation in the 2002 examination cycle (BOG minutes, November 11, 2002).

In 1986, based upon an inquiry from the ABVS and Board discussion (BOG minutes, November 16, 1986), a committee chaired by P. S. Paul was appointed to evaluate the desirability and feasibility of recognizing molecular genetics as a subspecialty. The report from this committee was presented to the Board July 21, 1987. This comprehensive report provided a basis for initial changes to accommodate interest in this area and additional options for organization of examinations for a fourth subspecialty in the area of molecular genetics. These major recommendations were approved by the BOG, July 1987. The initial changes were as follows:

1. Add questions in Part II examinations on molecular techniques and approaches as soon as possible to reflect scientific advances of molecular genetics as a new subspecialty.
2. Progress slowly toward initiating molecular genetics as a new subspecialty and poll ACVM membership opinion about the addition of molecular genetics as a new subspecialty.

The potential of offering a subspecialty in the area of infectious diseases was considered. By an ad hoc committee appointed (BOG minutes, November 9, 1997) with continued discussion (BOG minutes, July 26, 1998). An initial report (BOG minutes, November 8, 1998) encouraged “greater flexibility in credentialing requirements for the graduate degree, publications and experience. Consideration was emphasized with a special symposium with the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine. Co-chairs of the committee, S. A. Dee and B. W. Fenwick, proposed that the qualifying examination follow two tracks, that of the ACVM or ACVIM; and that the certifying examination has a problem-solving format including oral, essay and/or clinical competency. B. W. Fenwick provided an interim report after continued interaction with the ACVIM (BOG

minutes, July 11, 1999). It was reported further that ACVIM, while strongly interested in cooperating with the ACVM, there was resistance to a subspecialty in the area of infectious diseases. Considerable discussion with the ACVIM, lead by Fenwick, resulted in a concept for a new veterinary infectious disease society. This concept was supported by the Board of Governors of the ACVM (BOG minutes November 7, 1999). Discussion at the next two meetings (BOG minutes, July 23, 2000 and BOG, November 12, 2000) focused on the possibility of joint symposia between the ACVIM and ACVM. B. W. Fenwick continued this effort (BOG minutes, November 11, 2001). At this writing, it seems that the College is of the mind that sufficient emphasis is placed on infectious diseases under the coverage provided in the General Examination and by current subspecialty examinations in bacteriology, virology and immunology.

The ACVM encouraged preparation of candidates largely through the graduate programs available in Colleges of Veterinary Medicine and Departments of Veterinary Science. The position of the College was also that postdoctoral experience in veterinary microbiology could be gained in veterinary colleges, federal or state laboratories or in certain industrial research or diagnostic laboratories. It was recommended that training programs should provide veterinary microbiologists with a broad understanding of the principles and procedures in veterinary microbiology, mycology, virology, immunology and the role of infectious agents in disease, epidemiology and control methods. It has been recognized that candidate's competence may be stronger in one particular field, but that he/she must be well informed in the entire discipline. Residency programs specifically noted as leading to qualifications for the ACVM Board examinations were established at the University of Illinois, University of Tennessee, University of Georgia, and the University of Missouri.

A summary of the work of the Examinations Committee can best be appreciated by reviewing the five-year-in-depth reports to the ABVS. The information provided in the most recent report (November, 2005, prepared by ACVM Secretary-Treasurer, C. S. Hayhow), will serve to illustrate the comprehensive nature of the committees responsibilities. The report is prepared according to the standard format for AVMA's specialty organizations. Section B of the 2005 report contains: 1) description of critical standards for admission to membership; 2) educational programs available to potential candidates; 3) examination procedures and policies; and, 4) appeal procedures. A separate section entitled "Candidate Guide for Examination" (Procedures for Certification) contains the following: 1) Requirements for Examination – includes standard route as well as alternate routes 1 and 2 mechanisms; 2) Examination Process; 3) Fees and Application Procedure; 4) Study Guide (includes nature of examination, development of a study plan and subject areas covered); 5) Examination Study Methods (includes a list of review textbooks, scientific literature, seminars, lectures and courses, AVMA tutorials and publications sections); and , 6) Information Sources (mechanisms for obtaining additional information about the certification process).

A chronological listing of overall outcome of Part I and Part II Examinations beginning with the initial class in 1967 to 2006 is presented in Appendix IV. Details are not provided regarding the total numbers of applicants approved and denied for the

examination, repeat examinees for Parts I and II or for the exact numbers successfully completing sub sections of Part II (individuals may take or pass sub specialty examinations in different years). Actual numbers taking the Part I exam and passing it for the years 1991-1994 were not found in the archives. More detail regarding year by year results may be obtained in archived minutes of Board of Governors and in the 5 year in-depth reports to the ABVS and AVMA.

The work of the Examinations Committee has always been a core effort for the ACVM. Many Diplomates have provided effective and dedicated service while members of the Examinations Committee. Significant changes in examination procedure and policies have been systematically reported by dedicated committee chairs (see Appendix III. List of Committee Chairs and Representatives of the ACVM). These changes have been brought before the BOG and when appropriate, changes effected in the Constitution and By-Laws. The current ACVM Constitution and By-Laws presents the culmination of forty years' effort by the Examinations Committees, their chairs and the Diplomate members of the BOG.

B. Continuing Education

From the beginning, the ACVM has had as a goal the maintenance of a high quality continuing education program. This major goal was intended to help Diplomates maintain their competency as specialists.

Initially, an education committee chaired by J. P. Newman was established (BOG minutes, December 1, 1968 and BOG minutes, November 30, 1969) with the intent to provide educational resources in the area of veterinary microbiology. In BOG discussion (BOG minutes, June 23, 1970), "it was urged that the ACVM direct attention to strengthening and improving instruction at the pre- and postdoctoral level in veterinary microbiology. As noted in the BOG minutes (November 29, 1970), the thrust of Education Committee activities integrated with the Continuing Education (and Program) committees in development of programs at the time of or during the AVMA meetings. This focus was particularly enhanced by programs on education with the Educational Symposia sponsored by the American Association of Veterinary Medical Colleges and by programs sponsored explicitly by the ACVM (e.g., Education at the Pre- and Postdoctoral Level in Veterinary Microbiology, East Lansing, July 17, 1971; The Microbiology Programs in Schools and Colleges of Veterinary Medicine, Chicago, December 1, 1974). The Committee also solicited the opinions of Diplomates regarding preferred in-depth workshops.

Programs have been planned with leadership by a program committee and Diplomates with interest and expertise in topical areas either as self-standing or cooperative ventures with other organizations (including AAVI, American College of Veterinary Toxicologists). The College gave substantial consideration to a mechanism for recertification-self assessment (BOG minutes, November 27, 1977). Consideration of this issue ultimately was to utilize continuing education and self assessment as a means for maintaining professional competence (BOG minutes, July 17, 1978) A very cogent

and thoroughly reasoned position paper was developed by J. Storz and J. A. House entitled Standards and Means for Maintaining Professional Competence (appended to BOG minutes, July 17, 1978). The major tenants of this report were accepted by the BOG.

See Appendix V for a list of Continuing Education Programs sponsored or co-sponsored by the ACVM from 1965 to 2006.

Partnership for successful continuing education programs has been dependent upon generous financial support provided by corporate parties for many years. Beginning in 1978, diplomates of the ACVM, many affiliated with veterinary corporate entities, served effectively in eliciting this support. Beginning in 1994, membership of the committee included a representative of the AAVI.

C. Honorary Diplomat (Affiliate) Recognition and Distinguished Veterinary Microbiologist Award Committee

From the inception, the ACVM had espoused the desire to recognize outstanding microbiologists who had not been made Diplomates either through the Charter or grandfather process or through certification by examination. Periodically, discussion ensued regarding the intent of this category of membership. In the minutes of the Board of Governors meeting held July 13, 1967, “it was re-emphasized that 1) candidates for “affiliate members” are invited only, and (2) the purpose in having affiliates is to honor meritorious people”. Periodically, discussion at BOG meetings emphasized that this category of membership was to be restricted to only a very few outstanding meritorious people.

At the November 8, 1981 meeting of the Board, it was deemed of sufficient importance to review this issue with the goal of improving understanding of its meaning. Originally, the affiliate status was designated for non DVM microbiologists who had made significant contributions to the discipline. Action was taken to change this designation at the 1981 meeting to change the designation from Affiliate Status to Honorary Diplomat.

Guidelines and a schedule were subsequently developed for nomination and election of honorary members (BOG minutes, November 15, 1987). In 1995, the BOG (minutes July 10, 1995) recommended that the Honorary Diplomat Nominating Committee “consider only candidates who had achieved unquestioned eminence and who were in advanced stages of their careers”. New Honorary Diplomates were recognized at the ACVM Banquet held in conjunction with the CRWAD. In 1998, the policy was established to elect no more than one Honorary Diplomat per year (BOG minutes, November 8, 1998).

Beginning in 2005, the College established an awards program for recognition of Distinguished Veterinary Microbiologists (BOG minutes, December 4, 2005). The first award recipient, granted in 2006, was I. R. Tizard of Texas A & M University (BOG Conf. call minutes, August 1, 2006).

In 2006, the responsibilities for both the Honorary Diplomate and Distinguished Veterinary Microbiologist nominations were delegated to the Nominating Committee (BOG Conf. call, August 1, 2006).

D. Graduate Student Awards Committee

Based upon recommendations from two committees, the Board initiated an award to be given for the “Best Graduate Student Research Presentation at CRWAD” in 1985 (BOG minutes, July 23, 1985). The program was initiated at the 1986 CRWAD meeting. The Distinction Award was renamed the “Donald Kahn Memorial Award” to honor deceased Diplomate Donald Kahn in 1987 (BOG minutes, November 15, 1987). Second and third place awards were also presented. In 1992 a proposal to award 5 awards was approved (BOG minutes, August 3, 1992). The awards were 1) Donald Kahn Award for Best Paper, 2) Best Paper in Virology, 3) Best Paper in Immunology, 4) Best Paper in Bacteriology/Mycology and 5) Best Poster Presentation. In 2004, the format for three of the oral presentations was changed to offer three awards; 1) in vitro; 2) in vivo; and 3) molecular (BOG minutes, November 14, 2004); in addition, the College continued presentation of the distinction award known as the Donald Kahn Memorial Award for best oral presentation and the poster award (ACVM Newsletter, Winter 2007). Typically, these awards were presented along with awards granted by other organizations during the CRWAD awards ceremony. The committee responsible for graduate student awards was enlarged over time because of the increased number of presentations and posters under consideration. Standardized criteria were developed for review of presentations; the committee also determined that awards should be restricted to those actually enrolled in graduate programs. This awards program has served to promote excellence in veterinary microbiology and to promote recognition of ACVM leadership in veterinary microbiology for 20 years! It has resulted in not only, the excellence in effort of graduate students, but also, has engaged serious deliberative effort on the part of diplomates participating in judging of the presentations. Surely, just as with any review process, these diplomates have benefited significantly as a consequence of their effort to consider the quality of presentations.

VII. Communication with Diplomates and the Public

A directory of diplomates was published for many years. In the 1970’s consideration was given to publication of a pictorial directory of diplomates. However, ultimately, this effort was abandoned (BOG minutes, July 20, 1981), but the print only directory was continued. It is now presented on the ACVM website. <http://www.acvm.us>.

A logo was designed under the leadership of R. J. Hidalgo and T. T. Kramer and displayed for the first time at the ELISA Workshop and the Symposium on Genetic Engineering and other ACVM functions during the CRWAD-associated meetings in Chicago in 1981 (BOG minutes, July 20, 1981 and BOG minutes, November 8, 1981). A new logo was developed and effort was made to update registration of the ACVM

name and logo was reported (BOG minutes, July 15, 2001 and finalized December 4, 2005).

The idea of establishing a web page for the ACVM that would present the directory, the constitution and other information was presented in 1996 (BOG minutes, November 10, 1996). This initiative was given further impetus (BOG minutes, July 22, 1997) when the Board “concurred that the ACVM should consider printing and mailing the directory only to those who do not have web access and to place some of the newsletters only on the web”. The effectiveness of this initiative was perhaps illustrated by the fact that “a large number of candidates this year and everyone downloaded the information and application materials from the Web” (BOG minutes, July 22, 1997). Members were reminded periodically at meetings and in periodic newsletters of the ACVM website. The website was established successively at the University of Tennessee (1997-2002), Auburn University (2003-2004) and Iowa State University (2005-).

The ACVM website was linked to the AVMA, Microbiology Network (BOG minutes, July 26, 1998), the American Academy of Veterinary Pharmacology and Therapeutics website, and the Controlled Release Society website (BOG minutes, November 7, 1999).

In 2005, the BOG determined that, based upon the cost and time required for mail delivery of newsletters, all newsletters and ballots would be sent by e-mail, unless a specific request for mail delivery was received by the Secretary-Treasurer (BOG minutes, July 18, 2005).

Public relations activities were carried out mainly by the Secretary-Treasurer for many years. Over the course of time, newsletters provided by this office included notices of position vacancies for veterinary microbiologists and, when the Graduate Student Awards Program became well established, a poster was developed for promotion of the ACVM and the Awards competition (BOG minutes, November 7, 1993) and updated (BOG minutes, November 10, 1996).

VIII. Biosecurity Task Force.

A Biosecurity Task Force was established in 2004 (BOG minutes, November 14, 2004). “The mission of the task force is to assist local, state, and federal officials in prevention of, response to, and recovery from infectious diseases which threaten food security or public health”. The intent was to link this activity to AVMA and USAHA/AAVLD websites. A full statement of the mission of the task force, the membership, the proposed activities of the task force members, linkages between the task force and the Center for Food Security and Public Health at Iowa State University. Requirements of ACVM Diplomates for eligibility on the Task force are presented as well. (see ACVM Newsletter, Late Summer, 2005). <http://www.acvm.us>.

In order to be named to the ACVM Biosecurity Task Force, Diplomates were required to meet the following specifications:

- 1) Complete level 100 and 200 training in the Incident Command System through a self-study course on CD-ROM prepared by the USDA.
- 2) Be willing to have their name and contact information on a publicly available database, and strive to be available when contacted by local, state, or federal officials to lend their expertise to assist in preventing, responding to, or recovering from an infectious disease emergency.
- 3) Become familiar with the training materials available for their use.

At the time this history was prepared, 17 ACVM Diplomates have completed the requirements to join the Task Force. These individuals have indicated their willingness to share their expertise in microbiology, infectious diseases, and biosecurity in the event of an animal disease or zoonotic disease emergency.

IX. Liaisons, Advisory Functions and Other Miscellaneous Functions

A. Liaison and Reports to the ABVS

Beginning with initial discussions regarding development of a certification process, the ACVM has been represented on the American Board on Veterinary Specialties of the AVMA. Appointed representatives have carried facilitated exchange of information and brought recommendations and requirements from the ABVS to the attention of the College at Board of Governors and Annual Meetings as well as periodically needed at various ad hoc times. The AVMA or the ABVS periodically sought input from specialty organizations such as the ACVM on establishment or changes in policies regarding new specialty organizations, internships and residencies, etc.

The ACVM was represented to the AVMA ABVS either by appointed individuals or the Secretary-Treasurer. Early, during the formation of the ABVS and the ACVM, a committee was appointed by then Chair R. A. Bankowski (1970) to consider “the problems and interests of the ACVM relative to maintaining the status of the future of the specialty groups”. One of the chief interests of the ABVS with specialty groups was about “progress in continuing education by specialty organizations and what the Diplomates are doing individually to maintain their specialty status” (BOG minutes, November 29, 1970).

Every five years, the ACVM has prepared a comprehensive report of activities to the ABVS. Components of this report have included the history and progress of the organization, candidate education, qualifications and evaluation, statements of incorporation and professional group liability procedures, current employment distribution of diplomates, major changes in concepts or policies during the previous 5 years, perceived problems and their solutions, activities outside the scope of the stated objectives, future plans, reactions of the profession and the public to the ACVM, financial report, current constitution and bylaws, tabulated membership and results of examinations and various supporting appendices. Following submission of the reports, representatives of the ACVM attending the ABVS review session, communicated

comments and suggestions made by the ABVS to the Board. The ACVM also submits an annual report to the ABVS.

B. Liaison with the ABMM

As mentioned previously, the formation of the ACVM was influenced by the ABMM. An AVMA representative to the ABMM was chosen from among nominees submitted to the AVMA. Representatives provided information of interest to the BOG (BOG minutes, June 23, 1970). Representatives over the years facilitated exchange of information and strategies. The exact date for elimination of this liaison was not found during preparation of this history.

C. Liaison with the Food and Drug Administration and the AVMA COBTA

The ACVM has provided liaison between the Food and Drug Administration, the Biological Advisory Committee and more recently through the Council on Biologic and Therapeutic Agents of the AVMA. As the technologies of bio-engineering were applied to the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of infectious diseases of animals, regulatory issues have arisen that were not adequately addressed in existing legislation. The ACVM has expressed support for modernization of the federal regulations controlling licensure and sale of biological products. Some of the initiatives or issues that the ACVM has provided input on, through its designated representatives, include the following:

1. Consideration of changes in the Serum, Virus and Toxin Act
2. Proposed Veterinary Biological Product Act
3. Biotechnology Committee (USDA, FDA and NIH)
4. Series of guidelines for vaccination of various animal species
5. Colloquia on various topics
6. Extra-label use of drugs
7. Illegal drug residues in food animals
8. AVMA Advisory Committee on Drug Availability
9. Importation of endangered animal species
10. Urged the USDA to fund programs to create improved diagnostic tests to facilitate the importation process.
11. Regulations for autogenous vaccines
12. Compounding of drugs
13. Extralabel use of drugs
14. Concern over use of aminoglycosides in food animals
15. Flexible labeling of antimicrobials
16. Legislative initiative to correct conflict between the Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act and the Veterinarians Oath and the practice of modern veterinary medicine.
17. Input on directorship of CVM/FDA: ACVM BOG strongly supported the recommendation that the director of the CVM/FDA should be a veterinarian.

D. Other Ad hoc Liaisons

ACVM Diplomates with appropriate expertise were charged to represent the organization to various agencies providing ACVM perspective on important contemporary issues, regulations or legislation. These functions were carried out diligently for many years. A list of these liaisons, initiatives and relationships includes the following:

1. In 1978, the College was contacted by the National Board of Veterinary Examiners (NBVE) to assist in reviewing current questions in the bank, and in providing new questions for the NBVE. A committee was appointed to lead effort in this area. ACVM Diplomates diligently participated in the review of microbiology and infectious disease questions in the NBE bank for a number of years. The effort was lead by R. M. Hogle initially and then by J. N. Berg to the Professional Examination Service.
2. Liaison during establishment of the American College of Veterinary Clinical Practitioners.
3. Special Committees or projects of the AVMA (e.g., workshop on continuing education and self assessment).
4. The Civil Service Commission for the establishment of GS ratings of certified veterinary microbiologists.
5. Advisory Committee on Subtherapeutic Use of Antibiotics in Animal Feeds.
6. In 1991, the ACVM participated in the USA Registry of Culture Collections sponsored by the United States Federation of Culture Collections and the American Society for Microbiology.
7. NOAH. ACVM specialists were encouraged to participate as moderators in NOAH Discussion groups (BOG minutes, July 26, 1998).

X. Ancillary Issues

1. Periodically, the BOG expressed support for nominations of ACVM Diplomates for various AVMA Councils, such as the Council on Research.
2. Monetary support for the Student Chapter of the AVMA Educational Symposium in some years. The organizing committee for the SCAVMA Symposia required to utilize support for a lecture or workshop on microbiology and infectious diseases and to consider ACVM Diplomates as speakers.
3. History of Veterinary Microbiology. J. L. Bittle led an effort to develop a history of Veterinary Microbiology. Unfortunately, his efforts were not

supported with sufficient interest on the part of the Diplomates of the ACVM.

4. Preparation of a white paper on isolation facilities for accreditation of colleges of veterinary medicine. This effort, while very laudable, seems not to have been sustained. The fluid situation regarding animal care and use during the time frame probably contributed to this document not being developed by the ACVM.
5. Beginning in 1992, the ACVM provided support along with the AVMA for the Saving Lives Coalition.
6. American Society for Veterinary Microbiology. Discussion began at the 1967 meeting regarding the feasibility of establishing an organization perhaps to be called the American Society for Veterinary Microbiology. An ad-hoc committee was established to investigate this issue. A. L. Kleckner provided much of the initiative and lead discussion over the course of BOG meetings in 1968 -1970. Discussion was about revitalizing a group for the continuation of professional education and interest different from that of the ACVM, in which the sole and primary objective is certification of competency in veterinary microbiology. Subsequently, ACVM encompassed many of the objectives beyond certification and competency, albeit without enabling full non veterinary and non Diplomate veterinary microbiologist participation. An invitation was sent to approximately 50 non-members of the ACVM but who were on the then defunct AAVB. Kleckner reported (BOG minutes, July 19, 1971) that while some interest had been expressed there had not been a major response. Again in 1984 (BOG minutes, July 15, 1984), an ad hoc committee on an Association of Microbiologists was established. The committee reviewed ACVM's interest in creation of an interest group concerned with infectious diseases of animals. The BOG approved the principle of encouraging and supporting individuals interested in forming a group interested in infectious diseases of animals (BOG minutes, November 11, 1984).
7. Completely independent of ACVM, a regional organization known as the Association of Veterinary Microbiologists was established in the southeastern states in about 1977.
8. The ACVM was contacted several times during the early years regarding affiliation of the World Association of Veterinary Microbiologists, Immunologists and Specialists in Infectious Diseases. Similarly, the organization was contacted to form a US Veterinary Branch of the International Union of Immunological Societies. The consensus position of the Board, reiterated periodically (BOG minutes, December 1, 1974), was to point out that the ACVM was a certifying agency and should not be

considered a national organization representing all veterinary microbiologists in the USA.

9. ACVM members were encouraged to become involved in a new division in ASM on animal health microbiology (BOG minutes, July 26, 1998).
10. Elements of Veterinary Microbiology Curricula. Based upon the recommendation of the 1979 Updated Goals Report, a committee report on elements considered essential for inclusion in curricula for veterinary students was developed. Considerable College input was generated during the process of preparing the report. The report was circulated to the ACVM membership for input (BOG minutes, July 15, 1984 and BOG minutes, November 11, 1984; July 23, 1985; November 10, 1985; July 23, 1986; and November 16, 1986). The final report was sent in 1987 to the AVMA Council on Education, Deans of Colleges of Veterinary Medicine, and Chairs of Veterinary Science Departments and Chairs/Heads of Departments of Veterinary Microbiology. The Committee was chaired initially by R. A. Dommert and then by J. J. Kowalski. The curriculum was revised and submitted to peer-review in 1994 (BOG minutes, July 11, 1994).
11. Journal in the area of Veterinary Microbiology. Consideration was given (BOG minutes, July 17, 1978) to establishment of a periodical journal for research publications in the field of veterinary microbiology in 1978. This effort was prompted by contact from the ASM publications board. A committee chaired by W. L. Mengeling gave thorough consideration to the possibility of cooperating with the ASM publications board. However, ultimately, the BOG determined that sufficient interest did not exist to warrant this effort. The recent establishment of several other new journals which encompassed veterinary microbiology or portions of the field possibly influenced thinking about the possibility. Subsequently in 1990, Board members P. S. Paul and H. G. Purchase met with K. S. Plaxton of Elsevier regarding reduced subscriptions for the journal Veterinary Microbiology for members of the ACVM. Very little interest was expressed in this possibility on the part of Diplomates. Consideration was again given to initiating an electronic journal in cooperation with the American Association of Veterinary Immunologists (BOG minutes, November 7, 1993). Continued emphasis was placed upon this initiative, by the AAVI. The BOG was kept aware of developments by G. K. Allen and expressed continued interest (BOG minutes, November 10, 1996). A proposal was received from Elsevier Science Publishing that there be a special discount rate for ACVM members, special issues based on ACVM meetings and announcements of ACVM activities (BOG minutes, July 23, 2000).

XI. Traditions of the American College of Veterinary Microbiologists

1. The College initiated a philosophy of collegiality with a get-together-breakfast for ACVM Diplomates and their families at the AVMA meeting in 1969.
2. Beginning in 1967, a reception was held for new Diplomates.
3. Based upon the recommendation of the Long Range Planning Committee, the annual reception was expanded to include a dinner to honor newly certified diplomats in 1985. For many years, the venue for this enjoyable event was the Berghoff Restaurant in Chicago; subsequent to the closure of Berghoffs, the reception and dinner have been held at various restaurants in Chicago and St. Louis; and,
4. New Affiliate or Honorary Diplomates and the Recipient of the Outstanding Veterinary Microbiologist Award were recognized at the reception and dinner.