

## Historical Committee Report 2020-2021

Our newly elected officers for 2020-21 were: President Kimberlee Wojick, DVM, DACZM, President-Elect Louisa M. Asseo, DVM, DABVP (Canine/Feline), Vice President James Bogan, DVM, DABVP (Canine/Feline), DABVP (Reptile/Amphibian), CertAqV, Secretary La'Toya Latney, DVM, DECZM (Zoo Health Management), DABVP (Reptile/Amphibian), Treasurer Stacey Leonatti Wilkinson, DVM, DABVP (Reptile/Amphibian), Immediate Past President Mike Corcoran, DVM, DABVP, (Reptile/Amphibian), CertAqV, one year Members-at-Large Kenneth Ford, DVM, and Sean Perry, DVM, PhD, two year Members-at-Large J. Jill Heatley, DVM, MS, DABVP (Avian, Reptile/Amphibian), DACZM, and Alexandra Riehl, DVM. Wendy Dox remained the ARAV Executive Director. Total membership as of 10/11/21 stood at 1,072, up from 952 total members on 11/10/20.

The big news was the Covid-19 viral pandemic which forced shut down of countries around the world and which cancelled attendance at the ARAV annual meeting at 2020 ExoticsCon, but we still managed to hold a virtual meeting. Veterinary hospitals were generally deemed essential, and thus stayed open but with major changes. Most veterinary hospitals didn't allow clients to come into their facilities and curb side concierge service became the new normal. Pets were dropped off outside the hospital, a staff member brought the pet inside, the doctor then examined the patient and called owner, which improved practice efficiency. Veterinary workers got used to wearing masks all the time, which went well as we were all familiar with them to begin with. An unexpected side effect of the pandemic was that veterinary service demand increased dramatically, often more than 20%.

Kimberlee Wojick's summarized her accomplishments as ARAV President, "2020-2021 was an extremely challenging year in so many ways! During my presidency I aided the transition of JHMS Editor-in-Chief (EIC) from Mark Mitchel, DVM, PhD, DECZM (Herpetology) to Rachel Marschang, PD, DMV, DECZM (Herpetology), FTÄ Mikrobiologie, ZB Reptilien, and continued forward motion on our strategic plan which began implementation in 2019. With the help of the Legislative and Animal Welfare committee, I requested that ARAV have official representation on the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) Animal Welfare Committee (we are currently awaiting a reply/decision from AVMA). The presidential service awards in 2021 were awarded to Mike Corcoran, Sean Perry, Wilbur Amand, Mark Mitchell, and Stephen Divers."

ExoticsCon 2021 was held at the Renaissance Nashville Hotel, TN, with the ARAV, Association of Avian Veterinarians (AAV) and the Association of Exotic Mammal Veterinarians (AEMV), all running concurrent sessions. Veterinary workers were easy to identify as among the few wearing masks in Nashville. We had a great conference involving three fields of exotic animal medicine. If you see exotics, ExoticsCon is one conference you do not want to miss!

Other big news for the ARAV is that Mark Mitchell, EIC of the JHMS, is stepping down. Dr Mitchell is currently training Rachel Marschang to take over as the third JHMS EIC, starting with volume 32, 2022. Dr Mitchell writes “From 2009-2021, I had the opportunity to serve one of the most rewarding professional endeavors of my career as EIC of the JHMS. Following in the giant footsteps of the EIC emeritus, Tom Boyer, was no small task, but my biggest accomplishment was that the JHMS continues to thrive and is published quarterly. I am also proud of the fact that the JHMS publishes 10 articles/issue, ensuring new clinical and research-based peer reviewed evidence for our members. This would not have been possible without the efforts of many people, including the authors, the associate editors, the managing editors, the scientific editor, the peer reviewers, the publisher, and the ARAV executive board. Thanks to you all, it has been a great ride!” Dr Mitchell indeed did an excellent job with the JHMS, providing rigorous scientific review that led a shift towards more scientific research and less empiricism. The JHMS returned to quarterly publication in 2020 and 2021, which led to an increase in publication costs, which necessitated an increase in membership dues. The Board of Directors considered assorted options to help defray production costs and decided that membership dues for 2022 for Associate online only would be \$155.00, whereas Associate online plus print would be \$285.00. Membership was not ready for the JHMS to go online exclusively.

Rachel Marschang won the 2021 Reptilian and Amphibian Excellence Award from Zoo Med Laboratories and the ARAV. Rachel has served extensively in the ARAV as President (2013-2014), Chair of the Editorial Advisory Board of the JHMS (2013-2021), and the Chair of the Infectious Diseases Committee (2014 to present). In addition, she has served as Associate Editor for the Journal of Zoo and Wildlife Medicine, was a member of the infectious disease working group of the European Association of Zoo and Wildlife Veterinarians (EAZWV), chaired the EAZWV herpetology specialty (2015-2019) and served as president of the EAZWV (2019 to present). In her spare time, Rachel worked with the German Herpetological Society (DGHT) and the working group on Amphibian and Reptilian Diseases of the DGHT. She is a member of the German Veterinary Medical Society, German Virological Society, Global Ranavirus Consortium (GRC), and was European Representative of the GRC (2013-2017). All of this while working as one of the top worldwide reptile virologists and publishing papers, chapters, and lectures too numerous to mention. Well done Rachel! The ARAV is so proud of you for earning the Reptilian and Amphibian Excellence Award and becoming the third EIC of the JHMS!

The ARAV Grant Advisory Committee, chaired by Byron de la Navarre, DVM, funded awards in 2020 for “Variation in the peptide profiles and the cutaneous microbiomes of Plethodontid salamanders” Mr. Benjamin Holt; “Effects of dietary protein source and quantity on postprandial plasma uric acid levels in inland bearded dragons (*Pogona vitticeps*)”, Dr. Christoph Mans; “Inhibitory effects of thrombocyte-leukocyte rich plasma on *Nannizziopsis guarroi*”, Dr. Krista Keller & Dr. Laura Adamovicz; “Effect of positioning on coelomic radiography and description of normal coelomic CT anatomy in lizards using the green iguana (*Iguana iguana*) as a model”

Dr. Laura A. B. Aguilar; “Toxicology study of ketoprofen on bearded dragons (*Pogona vitticeps*)”, Ms. Annabelle Vigneault; and in 2021 for “Pharmacokinetics of amikacin following multiple intramuscular injections in Kemp’s Ridley sea turtles (*Lepidochelys kempii*)”, Melissa J. Joblon and Charles J. Innis; “Prevalence of atypical *Brucella* species in captive amphibians: A pilot study” Olivia Petritz and Caitlin Hepps Keeney; “Evaluation of the diagnostic performance of inflammatory biomarkers in northwestern pond turtles (*Actinemys marmorata*) with fungal-associated shell disease” Richard R. Sim and Kelly Flaminio.

Christopher Leineweber and Anke Cordula Stohr were awarded the BioOne Ambassador Award for their article “Leineweber C, Stöhr AC, Öfner S, Mathes K, RE. Marschang RE. 2019. Changes in plasma biochemistry parameters in Hermann’s tortoises (*Testudo hermanni*) influenced by season and sex. JHMS 29 (3-4): 113–122.” This award spotlights rising scholars in their specialty to generate a wider interest in recent research from BioOne publishing partners. Congratulations to all the authors and well done, you made the JHMS and ARAV very proud!

Karen Smith, CVT is the new ARAV Technician Liaison. We look forward to seeing you at ExoticsCon, in the mile high city, Denver, CO, from Sunday, August 14 to Thursday, August 18, 2022, at the Sheraton Denver Downtown Hotel.