

Historical Committee Report 2021-2022

Our officers for 2021-2022 were: President Louisa M. Asseo, DVM, DABVP (Canine/Feline), President-Elect James Bogan, DVM, DABVP (Canine/Feline), DABVP (Reptile/Amphibian), CertAqV, Vice President La'Toya Latney, DVM, DECZM (Zoo Health Management), DABVP (Reptile/Amphibian), Secretary Sean Perry, DVM, PhD, Treasurer Stacey Leonatti Wilkinson, DVM, DABVP (Reptile/Amphibian), Immediate Past President, Kimberlee Wojick, DVM, DACZM, CertAqV, one year Members-at-Large Kenneth Ford, DVM, and J. Jill Heatley, DVM, MS, DABVP (Reptile/Amphibian), DACZM, two year Members-at-Large, Anna-Marie Ruoff, DVM and Kelly Rockwell, DVM. Annie Trout assumed the ARAV Executive Director position, October 1, 2022.

The goals of the 2022 Strategic Planning Session were to increase ARAV value to members by creating vital resources and facilitating knowledge sharing, diversify and expand membership and public outreach, and build ARAV brand awareness in the exotics community. Membership is currently at 835 members, membership renewal continues through March 31, 2023, so should rise slightly.

The Journal of Herpetological Medicine and Surgery published all 4 issues on time in 2022, a first, and a sure sign that the Editor-in-Chief, Rachel Marschang, PD Dr Med Vet, DECZM (Herpetology), FTA Mikrobiologie, Scientific Editor, James Bogan, DVM, DABVP (Canine/Feline), DABVP (Reptile/Amphibian), CertAqV, Managing Editor, Dana Varble, DVM, CAE, the Editorial Advisory Board and Associate Editors are doing a great job. The JHMS continues on the cutting edge of veterinary medicine for reptiles and amphibians.

ExoticsCon 2022 was held at the Sheraton Denver Downtown Hotel, in the mile high city, Denver, CO, from August 14th to 18th, 2022, with the ARAV, Association of Avian Veterinarians (AAV) and the Association of Exotic Mammal Veterinarians (AEMV), all running concurrent sessions. A good conference was had by all in hand on workshops, scientific sessions, masterclasses, and, of course, the bar. ExoticsCon Virtual was held November 11-13, 2023, and was well attended (458 registrants!), and if you missed both of those, or missed sessions while attending reptile sessions, you can still register and attend ExoticsCon 2022, at your own pace, on line, between February 13, 2023 and May 17, 2023 (be sure to register before February 13, 5:00 pm EST). ExoticsCon abstracts jumped from 57 in 2022 to 91 for 2023. If you see exotics, ExoticsCon is one conference you do not want to miss!

The 5th International Conference on Avian, Herpetological and Exotic Mammal Medicine, sponsored by the ARAV, AEMV, European AAV, European Association of Zoo and Wildlife Veterinarians, and European College of Zoological Medicine was to be held March 27th to 30th, 2022, in Budapest, Hungary, but the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic forced it from in person to online. None-the-less another great conference.

Elliott Jacobson, DVM, PhD, DACZM, Professor Emeritus of Zoological Medicine, world-renowned expert in diseases of reptiles and amphibians, was awarded the 2022 Reptilian and Amphibian Excellence Award from Zoo Med Laboratories and popular ARAV vote. Dr. Jacobson was a University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine faculty member since 1979, training and teaching zoological medicine to thousands of veterinary students, interns and residents while publishing hundreds of research papers. Elliott retired in 2012, but remains very much active in research and publication, publishing, in 2021, the second edition of the two volume lavishly illustrated comprehensive text “Infectious and Noninfectious Diseases and Pathology of Reptiles” (edited with Michael Garner, DVM, DACVP). Jacobson was previously awarded the UF Research Foundation Professorship Award, in 1997, the Golden Tortoise Award from the Desert Tortoise Preserve Committee in 2002, the Fredric L. Frye Lifetime Achievement Award from the ARAV in 2004, the UF College of Veterinary Medicine, Clinical Investigator Award in 2006, and the Emil Dolensek Conservation Award from the American Association of Zoo Veterinarians in 2011. We honor Dr. Jacobson for his outstanding accomplishments and service in herpetological medicine.



The man, the myth, the legend... Elliott Jacobson, winner of the 2022 Reptilian and Amphibian Excellence Award.

The ARAV Conservation and Research Committee, chaired by Byron de la Navarre, DVM, and Curtis Eng, DVM, awarded grants 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, and, in 2022, for “Characterizing ovarian dynamics and plasma hormone concentrations in two rock iguana species, rhinoceros iguanas (*Cyclura cornuta*) and Grand Cayman blue iguana hybrids (*Cyclura lewisi x nubila*)”, Sean Perry, DVM, Mark A. Mitchell, DVM, MS, PhD, DACZM; “Comparison of shell mineral content between captive and wild bred eastern indigo snakes (*Drymarchon couperi*)”, Alex Mason, DVM, and James Bogan, DVM, DABVP (R&A); “What hatchling turtles see: A matter of survival”; Robert Gammariello, DVM and Stephen Dunbar, DVM; “Seasonal dynamics of *Ophidiomyces ophiodiicola* in free-ranging eastern copperheads”, Morgan Mark, DVM, and Robert Kwait; “Pre-release health screening of elongated tortoise (*Indotestudo elongata*) in Cambodia” Paul P. Calle, DVM, Christel Griffioen and Pau Puigcerver, and, a new Conservation of Reptiles and Amphibians Grant, “Identify landscape and land use characteristics that influence gene flow and dispersal of Blanchard’s cricket frog (*Acris blanchardi*), as well examine population structure of the species, for Michigan populations”, Travis Rainey. That’s over \$16,000 for 2021, and over \$18,000 for 2022, from the ARAV for research funding!

ExoticsCon, Building Exotics Excellence, will be held at the Westin Boston Seaport District, in Boston, Massachusetts, from August 20th to August 24th, 2023, we look forward to seeing you.