



SVME Newsletter

Newsletter of the Society for
Veterinary Medical Ethics

Fall 2014

President's Message

As I reflect over the past few years I have been involved with the SVME, I am very happy to see the progress that has been made. Our board is full of very talented and passionate people who have spent countless hours and energy to continually move forward with veterinary medical ethics.



The SVME listServe is alive and well and usually buzzing with topics current in our field. The listServe provides an opportunity for open and frank discussion of emerging as well as seasoned topics in a collegial format.

The Basic Veterinary Medical Ethics on-line Course went live in 2013 and offers RACE approved continuing education credit. The course is gaining in global importance as more veterinary colleges stop offering ethics courses. A big thanks goes out to the SVME committee members J. McCarthy, J. Peralta, A. Villalobos, L. Shapiro, D. Lawler, E. Danneman, D. Levitan, M.J. White, W. Koch, and B. Rollin for completing this enormous task.

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The SVME continues to honor the great contributions of our colleges in veterinary medical ethics by presenting the Shomer award to John B. McCarthy, DVM, MBA (posthumously) in 2013 and Franklin D. McMillan, DVM, DACVIM in 2014. Dr. Shomer was a co-founder and first President of the SVME.

We continue to bring our newest colleagues into the fold by offering the SVME WALTHAM Student Essay Contest sponsored by The Waltham Centre for Pet Nutrition, a division of Mars Petcare. The contest continues to grow in popularity with 112 veterinary medical students and veterinary technician students from 6 academic institutions represented. The essay winner earns the prestigious Alice Villalobos Student Essay Award. The award is named after the tireless and inspirational Alice Villalobos D.V.M., D.P.N.A.P who was also presented with the title of President Emeritus of the SVME in 2013.

The Ethics Plenary Sessions were held in July this year during the AVMA Convention in Denver. The very timely topics of Facing Veterinary Education and Post-Education Realistically and Ethical Issues with Oversupply of Veterinarians were some of the most well attended presentations in the history of the SVME with an over flow room needed for attendees.

I am fortunate to have served with so many fine people during my tenure and am excited about the addition of our President Elect William Ray (Bill) Folger and newest board members Kara Burns, Don DeForge, Beckie Mossor, Sara Shivapour and Rod Jouppi. We should also always remember and offer gratitude and thanks to Roni Miyashiro who keeps everything coordinated and operational as the SVME Administrative Assistant. With the new talent and existing exemplary board members you can rest assured the SVME is in great hands.

Sincerely,

Tom



Message from the President-Elect

From the Constitution and By-Laws of the Society For Veterinary Medical Ethics:

Article II, Sec 2(A): To encourage ethical practices and professional behavior of veterinarians and others in all aspects of the veterinary medical profession.

We do not get many of these days here in Houston, TX. It is 73 degrees outside, no rain with 40% humidity. Just a beautiful day. We get about 30 days like this a year. Mostly it is just hot and humid. It probably was not the best day to sit down and go through Dr. Mary Beth Leininger's written comments to the National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity (NACIQI)¹. The comments reflected her direct knowledge of the inner workings of the AVMA Council on Education and are an effort to expose the deception, generation of falsified documents, the silencing of dissent among our colleagues to the United States Department of Education. The allegations are made more disturbing by a laundry list of documentation reflecting the AVMA Executive Board's direct intrusion into the operation of Council on Education, the open hostility shown to deans of veterinary schools and other critics by the AVMA staff and the COE Executive committee.

Dr. Mary Beth Leininger, President of the AVMA 1996-1997, tireless volunteer to our national professional organization for 27 years, now joins the ranks of Dr. Bill Kay, who lead the Animal Medical Center for decades, as two veterinarians to be removed from the Council on Education for speaking out against the policies and politics of the AVMA interference with the Council on Education. Why has such democratic and civil dissent been met with ridicule by the AVMA Executive Board, Executive Director, and the administrative staff?

Dr. Al Dorn, one of the original founders of the SVME, was my surgery professor and eventually introduced me to the Society. Our profession seemed more civil then. Our national association is presenting a poor example of professional and ethical behavior in this agenda.

So how did we get from there to here?

See y'all in July 2015 at the SVME sessions held during the AVMA Convention in Boston!

Bill Folger

¹ Please see Dr. Leininger's letter copied on the SVME website:

<http://www.svme.org/page-524964>



2014 SVME Meeting

The Ethics plenary sessions held at AMVA Convention, Denver, Co. July 25-29, 2014:

This year's ethics plenary sessions generated a great deal of interest and were very well attended! Dr. Carin Smith gave a great presentation on recognizing and managing conflict of interest in veterinary practice. Dr. Franklin McMillan gave three excellent presentations starting with a discussion of the complexity of aligning the understanding of what constitutes animal abuse in the four domains of science, ethics, the legal system and society. In his second presentation Dr. McMillan raised ethical issues stemming from large-scale pet animal production. He presented scientific evidence that these breeding facilities cause harm to the behavioral and psychological well-being of puppies and breeding dogs. In his final session, titled "The ethics of end-of-life care decision-making", Dr. McMillan discussed the complexity of determining the "right" thing to do in defining and balancing quality and quantity in the final stages of a pet's life. For more information on the content of these sessions, please see the proceedings of the AVMA convention.

Report on the Oversupply of Veterinarians Forum held at AVMA Ethics Plenary Sessions

By Alice Villalobos, DVM, SVME President-Emeritus and
National Academies of Practice Fellow-Emeritus

Is our profession heading into a bubble market?

The Society for Veterinary Medical Ethics hosted a Panel Discussion titled Oversupply: Issues & Ethics during the AVMA Convention in Denver.

The esteemed members of the panel were: Dr. Dennis McCurnin, Dr. James Wilson, of Priority Consulting, Mr. Mark Cushing, JD, of Animal Advocacy Group, Dr. Dennis



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Lawler and Dr. Paul Pion, co founder of Veterinary Information Network (VIN). As organizer and facilitator of this controversial forum topic it was a delight to learn that our moderator, Dr. Lide Doffermyre arranged for an overflow room to handle interested attendees.

Dr. McCurnin described how we got into this situation. Most veterinary schools have increased class size and 2 new veterinary schools are opening and 2 more are in planning stages. Foreign veterinary schools are being accredited by AVMA's Council on Education, or COE. The 28 U.S. colleges and schools of veterinary medicine are continuing to slowly increase numbers (up 23 percent) between 2002 and 2013, not counting the 200 students per year entering Midwestern and Lincoln Memorial or the Caribbean schools (JAVMA, 242:9, May 1, 2013).

The new total of veterinary students to graduate annually from the accredited schools in the U.S. is now about 3,986, up from the AAVMC estimate of 2,500 in 2005.

Dr. Wilson presented information and statistics that show the potential bubble.

Medical students buy their core education from medical schools. Then they work as interns for one year and then seek their specialty education in 3 year residency programs that prepares them for their board exams. Residency wages are lower than the value that residents contribute to their mentor hospitals but in return they receive advanced specialty instruction from experts.

The debt ratio for all graduates is calculated upon their debt over their first year wages. So if they owe \$150,000 and they make \$100,000 in the first year, the debt ratio is 1.5. The debt ratio for all veterinary students is 2.4, which is the highest of all the medical professions and increasing yearly.

Both experts are concerned that increasing the numbers of students graduating in future years with growing debt loads ranging from \$160,000.00 to \$260,000.00 will result in veterinary oversupply.

Our panelists ask the question. Does this model serve the rising number of



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veterinary students, interns and residents who will be entering the job market in the next 20-25 years? Is it ethical to continue on this path? Looking at the slow recovery from the great recession of 2008 and looking at the 13% reported fall in annual visits to private practice veterinary facilities, one can ask if there will be enough demand and employment for more veterinarians?

Mark Cushing presented a rosy prognosis for future demand of veterinarians and their services based upon the predicted expansion of the USA's population growth over the next 25 years. He is in favor of accrediting more schools to meet the demands of America's future and the global market.

Dr. Lawler asked difficult questions: Is veterinary medical education preparing students to handle a more diverse and global future? Is our profession and are our educators heading in the right direction or do we need to take action steps to offset bursting the bubble? Are we preparing veterinary students for more diverse careers than simply filling the 56% that go into small animal practice?

Should veterinary educators consider reducing the number of years in pre-vet and vet school as human medicine is considering? In the training of MDs the concern is to get them through the program faster (i.e., three years of medical school), not to cut costs.

Dr. Pion eloquently summarized the major points presented during the 3 hour forum. The problem is multi factorial and the solutions are tough. He is worried and he indicated that the decision makers need to listen to all aspects of the complex problem. He said that there is a great need to pull diverse viewpoints together for strategic planning to offset the fallout from bursting the oversupply bubble.

A very lively question and answer session followed that sparked audience interest and interchange into the lunch hour.



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Future plans are for our panelists to generate an official SVME white paper on this topic with the help of Dr. Lance Roasa, who attended the OverSupply Panel Discussion and is also studying law. Further plans are to present this program to the profession at various meetings around the nation to inform our future and current colleagues. The goal is to help students enter veterinary college with more financial finesse and accurate information and the understanding that they need to modify, streamline and properly handle the payback of their student loans. Students need to understand what the debt ratio implies for them. Educators need to examine and realize that there is a problem and they need to help students succeed not just in veterinary school but in their future livelihood and career satisfaction.

2015 SVME Board of Directors

President:	Bill Folger DVM, MS, ABVP
C/E course co-chair:	Alice Villalobos DVM, FNAP (President Emeritus)
C/E course co-chair:	Diane Levitan DVM, ACVIM
Secretary:	Lide Doffermyre DVM
Treasurer:	John S. Wright DVM
List serve Co-Moderators:	Sylvie Cloutier PhD Dennis Lawler DVM, FNAP
Parliamentarian/Historian:	Suann Hosie DVM
Assistant editor, Newsletter:	Virginia (Wendy) Koch, DVM
Chair, Student Essay Contest:	Erik Clary, DVM, MS, ACVS
Student Board Members:	Sara Shivapour
Newsletter editor-in-chief:	Barb Horney DVM, PhD, DACVP



Intro for SVME Online Basic Ethics Course

by Alice Villalobos, DVM, FNAP

The SVME has developed an ONLINE Basic Ethics Course, which is available year round.

The course may provide guidelines for ethics instructors in veterinary colleges and it may serve as an ethics course for veterinary students and general practitioners. This course focuses on bioethical issues and does not cover the legal aspects of local and state VMA's.

The course consists of seven modules and offers its attendees 17 hours of RACE (registry of approved continuing education) approved credits. The format is text, which can be downloaded per module as completed. After completion of the course and submission of the final essay, a Certificate of Completion is awarded to the graduate from the SVME.

Those eligible to register for the course may be: ethics instructors, veterinarians, veterinary students, veterinary technicians and individuals involved in the veterinary profession. Other animal service industry workers who are involved in handling animals may also take the SVME Online Basic Ethics Course. This would include people who work in businesses such as: pet stores, grooming salons, training schools, boarding kennels, pet day care facilities, and would include those individuals who provide services for animals at home such as: hospice care, massage, acupuncture, Rieke, T-touch services, pet sitters, dog walkers, animal communicators, etc.

The SVME Ethics Course may be modified and targeted specifically for people who work with animals without direct veterinary supervision. The SVME Basic Ethics Certification may be instrumental in helping the pet owning society of consumers feel more confident that their pets are with people who should behave properly toward their pets when they are not being watched. This certification may offer the consumer more confidence in the people that they hire to work with their animals when they are at work or on vacation, etc.

The SVME Basic Ethics Course Objectives are:

1) To provide those enrolled with an introduction and understanding of the subject and definitions of animal ethics and bioethics in a non-threatening environment. The course focuses on the issues and dilemmas as they pertain to veterinary medicine and the treatment and handling of animals in related service industries.

2) To help those enrolled to develop an ethics decision making framework which will help them make difficult decisions that are in the best interests of the animals they work with.

3) To provide those enrolled with a working bibliography of resources which will guide their approach and analysis of future dilemmas that are of ethical importance.

In the future, some organizations may institute the SVME Basic Ethics Course as part of their qualification requirements or certifications for membership. Other agencies such as State VMA's and State Boards (Regulatory Endorsers) and local VMA Ethics Committees may require the SVME Basic Ethics Course as part of a defendant's rehabilitation and continuing education instead of suspending or prior to reinstatement of their license. Publishers such as Veterinary Practice News, DVM News Magazine and DVM 360 may be willing to create links to this course.

Go to www.svme.org to register for the course.

SVME Student Essay Contest

Sponsored by The Waltham Centre for Pet Nutrition, a division of Mars Petcare

2013-2014 results:

Topic: "IS TRANSGENIC ANIMAL PRODUCTION AN ETHICAL ENTERPRISE?"

Award Winners:

Alice Villalobos Award:

Sara K. Shivapour (Iowa State University CVM)

website link to complete essay:

<http://www.svme.org/page-528502> - click on student essay link

VTs Award:

Juliana Marcie (Carrington College)

Student Essay Contest Topic for 2014-2015:

How Should the Veterinary Community Respond to the Issue of Economic Euthanasia?"

Meetings & Events

1. AVMA Convention

July 10-14, 2015, Boston, MA

The SVME Ethics Plenary Sessions will be held in Boston, MA during the
AVMA Convention

Preliminary program:

Hour 1- Linda Lord- Ethical and Legal Dilemmas associated with Microchips and Lost Pets

Hour 2- Bob Larsen-Ethical Considerations when screening healthy populations

Hour 3- Bob Larsen- Ethical Imperative to use Scientific Literature in Clinical Practice

Hour 4- Sid Gustafson- The principles of Competition Horse Medication Ethics

Hour 5- Jon Geller-Drug Testing in the Veterinary Workplace: It's time for a conversation

Hour 6- Jon Geller- The Indigent Client

Hour 7-8 - Mary Ann VanDeLinde- Ethical Opportunities for Veterinarians in Private Practice

<http://www.avmaconvention.org/avma14/public/mainhall.aspx>

2. All Things Great and Small: Interdisciplinary Interspecies Community

Keynote Speaker: Frans de Waal

Date: November 15-18, 2014

Location: UC Davis campus and special off site locations

<http://nonhumans.org/november-2014-conference/>

3. Scientists Center for Animal Welfare (SCAW) Annual Winter Conference

December 8-9, 2014, San Antonio, Texas

<http://www.scaw.com/conferences--workshops/2014-winter-conference/>

4. North American Veterinary Community (NAVC) Conference

Jan 17-21, 2015 Orlando Florida

<http://navc.com/conference/>

5. PRIM&R's 2015 Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee Conference

March 17-20, 2015, Boston, MA

<http://www.primr.org/iacuc15/>



APPLICATION FORM

SOCIETY FOR VETERINARY MEDICAL ETHICS

NAME: _____

BUSINESS _____

ADDRESS: _____

HOME (optional) _____

ADDRESS: _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

PLEASE SEND MAIL TO: ___Office ___Home

Business Phone: _____

Fax: _____

Home Phone: _____

OCCUPATIONAL AND PRESENT POSITION:

PROFESSIONAL DEGREES:

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS:

INTERESTS IN VETERINARY ETHICS:

MAJOR OBJECTIVES OF THE SOCIETY ARE:

To encourage ethical practices and professional behavior of veterinarians in all aspects of the profession.

To increase the understanding of the philosophical, social, moral and ethical values encountered by the veterinary profession.

To sponsor seminars and other presentations on ethics and values at local, state, regional and national meetings of veterinarians and other interested individuals.

To promote the teaching of ethical and value issues at colleges of veterinary medicine and to identify speakers on these subjects.

To encourage persons from other professions and disciplines, such as biomedical research, discussions and studies of these issues.

To exchange information about veterinary ethical issues via bulletins, periodicals, and newsletters.

To maintain archives of appropriate documents and materials related to these disciplines.

I hereby make application to the Society for Veterinary Medical Ethics

(Signature of Applicant)

(Date)

Dues are \$40 for Regular Membership & Free for students per year.

Please mail this completed & signed application to: John S. Wright, DVM, SVME Treasurer, Dept. of Veterinary Clinical Sciences, University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine, 1352 Boyd Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55108 (email: wright008@umn.edu)



SVME Mission Statement

c/o

John S. Wright, DVM, SVME Treasurer
Dept. of Veterinary Clinical Sciences
University of Minnesota College of
Veterinary Medicine
1352 Boyd Ave.
S. Paul, MN 55108



The Society for Veterinary Medical Ethics was founded in 1994 by a group of veterinarians, biomedical researchers and academics to promote discussion and debate about ethical issues arising in and relevant to veterinary practice. The SVME publishes a newsletter, provides a listserv, holds an annual meeting at the AVMA convention, sponsors an annual student essay contest and honors an individual annually with the Shomer Award for outstanding contributions to veterinary medical ethics.

Individuals interested in information or in joining the SVME can visit the SVME website below to learn more about the organization.

www.svme.org/

SVME Board of Directors member list:

President:	Thomas M. Edling DVM, MSpVM, MPH	
C/E course co-chair:	Alice Villalobos DVM, FNAP (past president SVME)	
C/E course co-chair:	Diane Levitan DVM, ACVIM	
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	Dennis Lawler DVM, FNAP	
Parliamentarian/Historian:	Suann Hosie DVM	
Assistant editor, Newsletter:	Virginia (Wendy) Koch, DVM	
Chair, Student Essay Contest:	Erik Clary, DVM, MS, ACVS	
Members:	Leland Shapiro PhD	Marthina Greer DVM, JD
	Peggy Dannerman DVM, ACLAM	Karyl Hurly DVM, ACVIM
	Barry Kipperman DVM, ACVIM	Annie Forslund DVM
	Louise Dunn CVC	
Student Board Members:	Michael J. White	Caitlin Dooley
Newsletter editor-in-chief:	Barb Horney DVM, PhD, DACVP	