

## **REPORT OF THE AVMA VICE PRESIDENT**

As my term of AVMA Vice President comes to end, I am able to reflect back on an amazing two years, amazing students, and amazing faculty. I'd love to hit the rewind button because it has gone way too fast.

My goal for the year was to visit six schools in person and many more virtually. Each visit would include meetings with faculty, deans, and students. In October, I was able to visit Long Island University to deliver their Charter of Affiliation as a new SAVMA Chapter. This school just finished its second class and the students were in the process of forming Standard Operating Procedures, committees, and everything necessary to start a successful SAVMA chapter. It was amazing to finally visit a school in person, and I was so impressed with the students' and faculties' energy and enthusiasm.

Visits with the Universities of Illinois and Wisconsin were next on my schedule, also in person. With each visit, it became clear to me that student energy is strong everywhere. They have survived the worst of the pandemic and are focused on moving on and learning as much as possible. They are actively engaged in their educations, working closely with their administrations. At the University of Illinois, the students are deep in the process of planning the 2023 SAVMA Symposium.

In July, I was honored to visit the new college at the University of Arizona. Again, this school has only two classes so far and is in the process of developing all the necessary tools needed to be a success. Just like at Long Island University, the energy was amazing and so empowering. The amount of work to establish a SAVMA chapter, even with AVMA's support, seems insurmountable, but they were not deterred.

Sadly, some of my in-person visits were cancelled, not because of COVID, but due to good old Chicago weather. However, I was able to visit several schools virtually including LMU, Cornell, the Ohio State, and Tufts to name a few.

I am thrilled to report that in March, after a three-year hiatus, the University of Minnesota hosted an in person SAVMA Symposium. Due to the pandemic, most of the planners and attendees had never been to a Symposium. The challenges this presented to the host school were immense, but the Symposium was a huge success. It was a joy to finally meet in person and see students interact with each other from all over the world.

Like previous years, I attended several meetings throughout the year, including the SAVMA Chapter Summit in Schaumburg, the AAVMC Catalyst meeting in Washington, DC, and two joint AVMA/AAVMC Committee meetings. These were all great opportunities to meet with both students and faculty and to hear their concerns and needs from the AVMA.

On the faculty front, as I mentioned previously, at each school visit, we meet with faculty as well to continue to discuss their goals for the AVMA. Based on their feedback about wanting more connection with educators at other schools, we created the AVMA Online Educator Community last February. It continues to go strong with almost 500 members who actively engage with topics varying from graduation to education styles.

Our 2021-2022 Speaker Series has been very well attended and feedback has been excellent. Topics for these virtual lunch-hour sessions are chosen based on the needs faculty have expressed. Before each session, the registrants are asked for specific questions they may have for the presenters. These questions are then given to the speakers before the session so they can focus on the exact requests from the participants. Sessions have included: Economics in Academia: An Update from the AVMA Economics Division and a Public Service Loan Forgiveness Primer by Dr. Bridgette Bain and Dr. Tony Bartels; and A Faculty Wellbeing Series, Focusing on Systemic Wellbeing by Makenzie Peterson and Focusing on Individual Wellbeing by Dr. Jen Brandt. Our most recent summer series included a session given on Faculty and Federal Advocacy by Dr. Lindsey Hornickel from the AVMA Government Relations Division.

When discussing with faculty their desires, a common thread we continued to hear was their interest to interact with colleagues, not be lectured to. As a result, we created a half-day virtual summit called: Let's Talk: Your Wellbeing. This summit started with preliminary results from AAVMC's Faculty Wellbeing Survey presented by Makenzie Peterson, AAVMC Director for Wellbeing, followed by a breakout group to debrief on the survey results. Following a lunch provided via a voucher from the AVMA, systemic wellbeing round table discussions were held facilitated by trained facilitators from the Veterinary Leadership Institute (the organization that puts on the Veterinary Leadership Experience). The day continued with a medical professionals panel on wellbeing in their respective fields. Panel participants included Dr. Hana Alberti, Senior Director, Center for Dental Practice Policy at American Dental Association; Dr. Al'ai Alvarez, Director of Well-Being at Stanford Emergency Medicine; and Dr. Bern Melnyk, Chief Wellness Officer and Dean of the Ohio State University College of Nursing. The day closed with a brief conversation with Dr. Fern Tablin from the Council on Education. One hundred and fifty educators registered and 93 attended.

Special thanks to my amazing facilitators for the AVMA Online Educator Community, who have helped me through this year. I truly couldn't have done it without them.

Jim Brett - Mississippi State University  
Kim Carney - Lincoln Memorial University  
Alison Gardner - The Ohio State University  
Cheryl Greenacre – University of Tennessee  
Tamara Hancock – University of Missouri  
Ashley Mitek - University of Illinois  
William Sander - University of Illinois

Liesa Stone – Texas A&M University  
Lori Teller - Texas A&M University  
Jessica Ward – Iowa State University  
Jim Weisman – Purdue University  
Nicki Wise – St. George's University

The students I have worked with over the past two years have filled me with awe and inspiration. They are so much smarter than I was at their age! I have learned so much from all the faculty I have met. I am honored to have served as Vice President and connected with all these amazing individuals. Thank you for this opportunity. It truly has been an amazing and humbling experience.