1999

IICAB: A Little Known International Resource at ISU

Julie Schneider
Iowa State University

Follow this and additional works at: https://lib.dr.iastate.edu/iowastate_veterinarian

Part of the Higher Education Commons, International and Comparative Education Commons, and the Veterinary Medicine Commons

Recommended Citation
Available at: https://lib.dr.iastate.edu/iowastate_veterinarian/vol61/iss1/13

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Journals at Iowa State University Digital Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in Iowa State University Veterinarian by an authorized editor of Iowa State University Digital Repository. For more information, please contact digirep@iastate.edu.
It may not surprise you to hear that Ames, Iowa, is well known across the United States as a center of veterinary knowledge. It may surprise you, however, to learn that Ames, Iowa, is even better known outside the United States for its animal health expertise. This is due, in part, to the work of the Institute for International Cooperation in Animal Biologics (IICAB). What, you may ask, is IICAB?

IICAB was established in October, 1995, to coordinate the efforts of the animal health institutions of Ames to better serve the animal health needs of the international community. The Ames animal health institutions include (1) the USDA-APHIS Veterinary Services Center for Veterinary Biologics (CVB), (2) the USDA-APHIS Veterinary Services National Veterinary Services Laboratories (NVSL), (3) the USDA-ARS National Animal Disease Center (NADC), and (4) the ISU College of Veterinary Medicine (CVM). The Institute is jointly funded by Iowa State University and USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), and is working to obtain grant support for future initiatives.

The objectives of the Institute include facilitating international exchange of information to veterinary biologics (vaccines) regulatory authorities, producers and users, and serving as an international resource center for veterinary biologics. The Institute is also working towards the establishment of international standards in animal biologics and harmonization of those standards. Lastly, the Institute assists countries in obtaining veterinary biologics for specific unmet needs.

In June of 1998, IICAB received designation as a component of the Office International des Epizooties (OIE) Collaborating Center for the Diagnosis of Animal Diseases and Vaccine Evaluation in the Americas. The OIE is based in Paris, France, and is the world organization for animal health with 151 member countries. The mission of the OIE is to inform governments of the occurrence and course of animal diseases throughout the world and of ways to control these diseases. Iowa State University is the only College of Veterinary Medicine in the United States to be part of an OIE Collaborating Center. IICAB's designation as a Collaborating Center has expanded its role as an international resource center and resulted in its recognition around the world as a resource for vaccine information.

In the furtherance of its objectives, IICAB developed the Veterinary Biologics Training Program. This program has been held annually since 1996 at the College of Veterinary Medicine. In 1998, a total of 21 government officials from Argentina, Australia, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Hungary, Laos, Mali, Mexico, Mongolia, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Romania, Switzerland, Uganda, Venezuela, and Zambia attended the program. The program is also open to the biologics industry representatives from around the world, and tuition paid by industry helps to provide scholarships for government representatives from developing countries.

The 1999 training program consists of one week focusing on Basic Immunology, Principles of Vaccination, and Molecular Biology (June 7-11). This is followed by one week of classes focusing on the USDA and its regulatory procedures (June 14-18). Simultaneous
Attending trainees from all over the world at the Veterinary Biologics Training Program held at ISU CVM during June, 1998 (Above). As part of the training, technicians demonstrate virus isolation in chick embryos to international visitors (Below).

Translation will be offered the week of June 14-18 to accommodate the needs of the Latin American countries. The program is concluded with a tour of a large manufacturing facility (Fort Dodge Laboratories) and a small manufacturing facility (ARKO Laboratories), both operating under USDA regulations.

The goal of the training program is to enhance harmonization of international veterinary biologics standards. The program is offered free to Iowa State veterinary students and faculty, and provides a rare opportunity for students and faculty to meet prominent government officials from a wide variety of countries. The 1999 Training Program will be held June 7-June 22. Any student or faculty member interested in participating should contact the IICAB office.

Based on their proximity to the United States and thus, the opportunity for disease transmission to the United States, IICAB focuses most of its efforts on the countries of Central and South America. The IICAB assists in organizing annual seminars in South America which concentrate on harmonization of veterinary biologics regulations in the Americas. As a result of these seminars, most South American countries are adopting Title 9 of the United States Code of Federal Regulations as the “gold standard” for biologics regulations.

IICAB also coordinates projects in several other countries. IICAB is currently administering a project entitled Field Trial of RB51 Vaccination for Control of Brucella melitensis in Sheep and Goats in Macedonia. Dr. John Thompson (ISU Department of Veterinary Diagnostics and Production Animal Medicine) is the Principal Investigator on the project. In addition, IICAB assisted Dr. Mamadou Niang (who received his Ph.D. training at Iowa State University) in obtaining a grant to study local immune responses of cattle vaccinated with Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia Live Vaccine (T1 Strain Vaccine). Yet another example of an IICAB project is the effort to find funding for equipment and supplies to help increase the production of Strain 19 vaccine for Brucella abortus and Rev 1 vaccine for Brucella melitensis in Mongolia.

The Executive Director of IICAB is James A. Roth, DVM, Ph.D. Jane Galyon is the Program Coordinator and Dawne Buhrow is the Secretary. The Board of Directors is composed of Dr. Richard Ross (Dean, ISU CVM), Mr. Steve Karli (Director CVB Inspection and Compliance), Dr. Keith Murray (Director, NADC), and Dr. James Pearson (Director, NVSL). For more information on the Institute for International Cooperation in Animal Biologics, contact the IICAB staff in room 2160 Vet Med, (515-294-8259 phone; 515-294-1850 toll free; iicab@iastate.edu e-mail) or look at the home page at http://www.vetmed.iastate.edu/iicab/iicab.htm.