

Summary of 20th Animal Health Accreditation Advisory Committee meeting

The meeting was held 28th August 2019.

Committee Membership

The Committee welcomed the newly appointed Chair Dr Susan Jaensch of Vetnostics.

Dr Kevin Doyle was reappointed to the Committee for a period of three years from September 2019.

Dr David Paynter of Regional Laboratory Services announced his resignation from the Committee.

The term of appointment of Dr Nick Moody of AAHL will conclude in May 2020.

NATA will seek expressions of interest for members with expertise in biochemistry and molecular testing in Q4 2019.

The Committee discussed the following issues:

Aquatic animal health

- QLD prawn farms have resumed production following the 2016 outbreak of White Spot Syndrome Virus (WSSV). The source of the viral strain has not been identified. Pond side WSSV kits have been developed; distribution is controlled by Biosecurity QLD.
- The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) have instigated an education program for the aquaculture industry as part of global efforts to stem the rise of antimicrobial resistance.
- ANQAP PT program has secured free funding and will be administered by AAHL.

Parasitology

- The faecal worm count PT program ParaBoss is to resume. This will be added to the EPTIS PT database.
- PCR and LAMP technologies being developed to test for liver fluke.

Microbiology

- Facilities should be encouraged to categorise the results of antimicrobial testing in line with the ASTAG Guidelines.
<https://www.amr.gov.au>

Molecular Testing

- Problems seen with high profile promotion of gene testing which is then withdrawn by manufacturer on the basis of doubts cast by further research.

Specific Accreditation Criteria (SAC)

- The Animal Health SAC document has been reviewed and will be circulated for stakeholder review and comment in Q1 2020.