



American
Registry of
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Scientists

December Newsletter

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DECEMBER 2007

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A Message from the ARPAS President [Darrell Johnson, PhD, PAS, Dipl. ACAN](#)

The Merriam-Webster Dictionary defines "professional" as follows:

1.a: of, relating to, or characteristic of a profession; b: engaged in one of the learned professions; c (1): characterized by or conforming to the technical or ethical standards of a profession; (2): exhibiting a courteous, conscientious, and generally businesslike manner in the workplace.

I think this does an excellent job of describing what ARPAS is all about. We are professionals engaged in a learned profession that seek to maintain high technical and ethical standards while behaving in a courteous, conscientious, and businesslike manner. We have grown to more than 1,500 members and have had many new applicants over the past few months. We need to be proud of who we are and promote being professionals at every opportunity. Anytime you submit an article for publication, write a letter, or print a business card, please use the PAS in your title. We need our clientele to realize that PAS confers the same degree of professionalism as CPA or other frequently recognized titles.

Dr. [Dick Frahm](#) will conclude his term as executive vice president at the end of December. Dick has served this society well and is the consummate professional. I am grateful for all he has done to help me and am sure this is shared by each of the six ARPAS presidents he has served with. Don't hesitate to drop Dick a line and thank him for all he has done to help this organization grow and improve.

Dr. [Kenneth Cummings](#) will be our new executive vice president as of January 1. I have known Kenneth for a number of years and look forward to serving with him. He is very dedicated to the promotion of ARPAS, and I am confident he will continue the fine tradition of our two previous executive vice presidents.

When you look at the December *Professional Animal Scientist*, please note that this year's volume will contain 260 more pages than the 2006 journal. Thank you to all who have contributed to our journal and to [Dr. Kellogg](#) for helping our journal grow.

We have had many questions about the new American College of Animal Sciences (ACAS). I believe the article concerning ACAS in this newsletter will answer many of these questions. The changes are meant to make this organization stronger and will ideally renew the interest in becoming board certified.

This newsletter highlights many activities that ARPAS members are involved with. Please enjoy the newsletter and leave it in a prominent place for non-ARPAS members to see, and perhaps it will stimulate their interest. Remember that any ARPAS member can administer the exams, and prospects do not have to wait to take exams at a regional or national meeting.

Again, thank you for letting me serve as your president, and please let me know of any suggestions or criticisms you may have. I can be reached by phone at 859-936-6304 or by e-mail at djohnson@burkmann.com.

From the Executive Vice President Richard R. Frahm, PhD, PAS, Dipl. Animal Genetics

AN ARPAS ASSESSMENT EXAM FOR GRADUATING ANIMAL SCIENCE STUDENTS?

During the past five years that I have served as the executive vice president of ARPAS, one of the most frequently asked questions, and the subject of many inquiries, has been regarding the possibility of using ARPAS exams to assess the academic achievement of graduating animal science students. Department heads have indicated that an increasing number of universities are requiring departments to have an assessment of how well-prepared their graduating students are for their intended profession.

Many department heads have considered the possibility of using ARPAS exams to assess the level of academic achievement of their students. Some have been doing so. However, there are some limitations to the value of the current ARPAS exams as a general assessment for graduating animal science students. A serious limitation is the narrow focus of a particular ARPAS exam. ARPAS offers 12 different exams. Each is designed to evaluate proficiency in one of the 12 areas of specialization for which ARPAS offers certification. Thus, a particular exam is not well suited to assess proficiency in the broad field of animal science. Another difficulty is the limited information ARPAS returns to the department. Each student is notified of whether he or she has passed, but the department is only notified of the number of students who have passed out of the total number of students taking an exam. The general pass rate for a particular exam has, in general, not been publicly disclosed. The best the department can do is compare the pass rate for students from year to year.

Should ARPAS develop a comprehensive general animal science exam designed specifically for use by animal science departments to assess the level of academic achievement of their graduating students? This question has frequently been raised in governing council meetings during the past few years. Currently, a committee is studying this issue.

Developing such an exam would most certainly be consistent with the mission of ARPAS to strengthen and promote excellence in the profession of animal science and to enhance the professional stature of animal science. Should not ARPAS be recognized as the organization that sets the academic standards for the profession of animal science?

Developing a comprehensive animal science exam would not be difficult.

The appropriate questions already exist in the database. The challenge will be to pull together an appropriate mix of questions to constitute an appropriate comprehensive animal science exam. A small group of animal science department heads could provide valuable input.

For departments choosing to use the ARPAS exam, which includes an examination fee, ARPAS would be able to provide more relevant information. This is not a certification exam, and the ARPAS standard for passing or failing need not apply. If ARPAS chose to do so, the actual grade could be reported. Students would be notified of their actual score, and departments would be notified of the average score (and perhaps the range) for their students. Furthermore, a reference base could be identified and reported to the departments. For example, the average score for all students taking the exam the preceding year (or any other defined time frame) could be provided. This would provide departments with relevant quantitative data to meet university requirements.

Animal science departments are looking for an appropriate assessment exam. If an ARPAS comprehensive exam becomes widely accepted and used for this purpose, the potential volume is very high. This will definitely require increased administrative support at ARPAS headquarters. Serious consideration should be given to computerizing the administration of this exam.

There is a clearly defined need for a comprehensive animal science exam appropriate for assessing academic achievement. By developing and administering such an exam, ARPAS will be taking a major step toward strengthening and promoting excellence for the profession of animal science.

Should ARPAS develop and administer a comprehensive animal science exam? ARPAS should seriously consider doing so, and should take steps to make this available as soon as possible.

This will be my last newsletter article as the executive vice president of ARPAS. It has truly been a privilege to serve as the executive vice president of ARPAS for the past five years. Thank you for the opportunity to serve. The future of ARPAS is very bright.

News & Updates

NEW ARPAS LOGO CONTEST

William D. Price, PhD, PAS, Dipl. ACAN

ARPAS is embarking on a mission to develop a new, unique, and distinguished logo. It is our intent for the logo to be a symbol of who we are—professional animal scientists. We would like the logo to be such that it can be screen printed or embroidered on caps, jackets, and shirts. To generate enthusiasm, the ARPAS executive committee is sponsoring a contest among its members to design the logo. The contest will be for a five-month period starting January 1, 2008, and ending June 1, 2008. The entries will be judged by a committee set up by the executive committee to research a new logo. The top three entries will be put before the governing board at the annual meeting in Indianapolis for a selection of the

winning logo. The winner of the logo contest will receive a personalized shirt displaying the new logo.

ARPAS members wanting to submit potential logos should send an electronic copy to [Susie Rahn](#) at association headquarters on or before June 1, 2008. However, you are encouraged to get your entries in as the spirit moves you to design a logo. So when you are sitting in a meeting with nothing to do, think about a nifty design.

The logo committee consists of [Bill Price](#) (chair), [Bill Braman](#), [Stephen Emanuele](#), [Warren Gill](#), and [Bill Sanchez](#). Anytime you want to share your ideas with one of the committee members, feel free to do so.

ARPAS MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

If you have not paid your 2008 ARPAS membership dues, you may do so quickly and easily at <https://secure.fass.org>. If you need login information, contact [Susie Rahn](#), ARPAS administrative assistant.

And don't forget to update your continuing education credits (CEUs). The CEUs are a vital component in ARPAS membership to keep abreast of rapidly changing technology. Information is available on the ARPAS Web site (http://www.arpas.org/member.asp?view=ceu_meetings) about many educational and training opportunities, each with assigned CEUs. You may also check your CEUs each time you log onto the ARPAS Web site. Your CEUs may be entered online at the ARPAS Web site, and there is also a downloadable reporting form.

Reports on upcoming and recent conferences and training sessions are given below. Each is an opportunity for education, training, and earning CEUs.

ARPAS Members: Don't Miss an Opportunity to Attend the 14th ADSA Discover Conference— "Lipids for Dairy Cattle" Stephen Emanuele, PhD, PAS

Are you a dairy consultant, dairy nutritionist, extension specialist, or person involved in the research and teaching of lipid metabolism of dairy cows? Then you need to attend the **14th ADSA Discover Conference** on **"Lipids for Dairy Cattle: Today's Issues, Tomorrow's Challenges."** This is going to be a great opportunity to get together with some of the leading scientists in the world and discuss lipid metabolism in dairy cattle. The conference is going to be held May 18 to 21, 2008, at the Brown County Inn located in Nashville, Indiana. The conference will include a discussion of our current knowledge of lipids in dairy cattle nutrition, industry perspectives on the future direction of lipid nutrition and research, and solutions to practical problems. Having attended a previous ADSA Discover Conference, I can assure you the information presented at this conference will be practical and the discussion will be lively and informative. The ADSA Discover Conferences are designed to promote and encourage in-depth discussion of cutting-edge science.

Conference Topics

Historical Perspective of Feeding Fat
Fat Effects on Feed Intake
Exploring the Links Between Fat and Reproduction
Controlling Lipid Biohydrogenation
Milk Fat Depression—Feeding Solutions
Our Best Estimates of Fatty Acid Digestibility
Mammary Metabolism and the Biology of Fat Synthesis
Dairy Products, Nutrition, and Health

Registration for this conference is \$395.00 and includes the conference sessions and most meals. To guarantee a place for you at the conference, please register for the conference by April 18, 2008. To optimize interaction among participants, registration will be limited to the first 120 applications received. Don't miss this opportunity—get your registration materials in early. The conference site is about one hour south of the Indianapolis International Airport and is accessible from Interstate 65.

For complete conference information and registration materials, go to <http://www.adsa.org/discover/>

ARPAS Members Get Valuable Training in Feed Management at the Penn State University Feed Management Workshop

Stephen Emanuele, PhD, PAS

Nutrient management is going to have a significant impact on how we feed and manage dairy cattle. To comply with environmental regulations, we are going to have to feed dairy cows with greater efficiency. The challenge facing dairy nutritionists and agriculture professionals is how to maintain current levels of production while feeding less nitrogen and phosphorus. ARPAS members are at the forefront in preparing to lead the dairy industry into the era of nutrient management. On November 12, 2007, ARPAS members participated in a Feed Management Planner Workshop. At this workshop, they were given many tools to help them guide their customers in the preparation of nutrient management plans. ARPAS members gained a greater understanding of all the factors that contribute to feed management and nutrient management. The program was approved for 4 CEU ARPAS credits, and 52 people took the feed management exam and became certified in feed management planning. Congratulations to ARPAS member Virginia Ishler, nutrient management specialist at Penn State University, and the Penn State University extension staff for an excellent program. I encourage all ARPAS members to attend Feed Management Planner Workshops if offered in your region.

2007 Penn State University Dairy Cattle Nutrition Workshop Provides Training for ARPAS Members to Help Facilitate Change in the Dairy Industry

Stephen Emanuele, PhD, PAS

The 2007 Penn State University Dairy Cattle Nutrition Workshop was a huge success. The workshop was attended by more than 400 nutritionists and agricultural industry professionals. The program began with an excellent preconference symposium. Dr. Mike Hutjens took the lead and gave an excellent presentation on practical approaches to feed efficiency.

We can help our clients be more profitable if we focus on feed efficiency. As expected, there were plenty of jokes and comments about Big Ten football. Adam Lock, from the University of Vermont, and Tom Overton, from Cornell University, educated all of us on milk fat depression and practical approaches in preventing milk fat depression. You can obtain a copy of their presentations at the following Web site:
<http://www.das.psu.edu/dairynutrition/education/workshop2007/>.

One paper that you are going to need this summer is "The Effects of Heat Stress on Production and Its Nutritional Implications" by Lance Baumgard, University of Arizona. This paper is available on the Web site mentioned above, and Lance does an excellent job of summarizing the latest research on heat stress and nutrition.

As an ARPAS member, many times you have to encourage and motivate your clients to change their management practices and behaviors. This is never an easy process. One paper that will help you work more effectively with your clients in managing change is "Helping People and Organizations to Change" by Richard Stup, from Penn State University, and Robert Milligan, from Dairy Strategies, LLC. You can download their presentations from the previously listed Web site. A key point from their paper was, "Success in agriculture depends on adapting to change. Those who adapt quickly often profit, whereas those who cannot adapt suffer." Another tip from their paper: "We need to help our clients view change as an opportunity and work with our clients in a collaborative effort to manage change." The authors also provided two examples of mistakes consultants can make when faced with the need to make changes on the farm.

There were many excellent papers at this workshop, and I encourage you to visit the Web site. Another "must have" paper from this conference is "Formulating Lactating Cow Diets for Carbohydrates" by Mike Allen, from Michigan State. Take-home messages from this paper were

1. The goal of formulating diets for carbohydrates is to provide low-fill, highly fermentable diets that result in consistent ruminal fermentation over time.
2. Two mechanisms regulating dry matter intake are the filling effects of diets and the ruminal fermentability of diets.
3. Rapidly fermented starch sources can decrease feed intake and the efficiency of microbial protein production.
4. Forages with highly digestible neutral detergent fiber with a high ruminal turnover rate are most valuable for high-producing dairy cows.
5. High propionate production from highly fermentable diets can limit dry matter intake.

Dr. Allen did a very thorough job of explaining the complex interactions among diet fermentability, passage rate, ruminal fill, and ruminal propionate production on dry matter intake. Another paper that challenged thinking and facilitated change in our industry was "Why Use Metabolizable Protein in Ration Formulation?" by Dr. Gabriella Varga, from Penn State University.

ARPAS members can claim up to 12 CEUs for attending this conference. The program committee for this conference meets in January 2008, so ARPAS members, send your ideas and suggestions to Dr. Jud Heinrichs at Penn State University.

***ARPAS-California Chapter Continuing Education
Conference October 2007***

Barbara Barton, PhD, PAS, Dipl. ACAN

The 2007 ARPAS-California Chapter Continuing Education Conference was held at The Inn at Harris Ranch, Coalinga, California, on October 25 and 26, 2007. It was an outstanding program from an educational standpoint. The conference theme was "Antibiotic Resistance—Facts and Fallacies." Speakers from both the agricultural and human sides of the issue presented an insightful look at this subject. Discussion topics included the following:

Ruminal Ionophores

Mechanism of Action

Resistance and the Future (James Russell)

Gene Transfer and Antibiotic Resistance (Margie Lee)

Antibiotic Resistance—Selection Mechanisms in Bacteria

Antibiotic Resistance—Darwinian and neo-Darwinian Selection
Mechanisms in Bacteria (Todd Callaway)

Impact on Antibiotic Resistance in Human Pathogens Due to Agriculture
Use of Antibiotics (Abigail Sayers)

The Impact of the European Ban on Subtherapeutic Use of Antibiotics in
Animal Production (Elinor McCartney)

Nine CEUs are available for attendance at the ARPAS-California Chapter meeting.

Scholarship Awardees from the 2007 ARPAS-California Meeting

The Scholarship Committee (Marit Arana, Bill Choppe, and Lawson Spicer) announced the winners of the 2007 scholarship awards at the October ARPAS-California meeting.

Undergraduate Scholarship L A Grain Exchange Award

Andrea Greisler, from Cal Poly Pomona—Animal Sci/Vet Sci

Kim DeLaPeza, from Cal Poly Pomona—Animal Sci/Vet Sci

ARPAS Memorial Scholarship Award

Kimberly Livingston, from the University of California, Davis, presented her research on "The Effects of Vitamin A Deficiency on B Cells"

Alex Kuthches Memorial Scholarship Award

Scott Hamilton, from the University of California, Davis, presented his research on "The Effects of Dietary Rumensin on Greenhouse Gas and Volatile Emissions on Lactating Dairy Cows"

The Topic of Unwanted Horses— Useful Resources Available Online

Karin D. Bump, MS, PAS

The issue of horse slaughter has now reached a point where there are no currently operating equine slaughter plants in the United States, and the potential of federal legislation to ensure that this remains the case continues to move forward. Even while the debate on horse slaughter rages on, with proponents vigilant on both sides, the issue of unwanted horses remains of primary importance to the equine industry. In that vein, the American Horse Council has continued its work with the Unwanted Horse Coalition subcommittee, whose mission is "to reduce the number of unwanted horses and to improve their welfare through education and the efforts of organizations committed to the health, safety, and responsible care and disposition of these horses." The Unwanted Horse Coalition has developed a very user-friendly and resource-packed Web site at www.unwantedhorsecoalition.org that also includes brochures and two short public service announcement clips. The information at the site is broad-ranging and covers the basics, such as what to know before you buy a horse, information for the horse owner about owner responsibility, and donations and charitable contributions, as well as information on the topic of euthanasia. Included on the Web site are also guidelines for rescue and retirement facilities and information for those interested in starting up such a facility. This is a site filled with worthwhile information to read and share with others. Although it addresses the issues of horses after they become unwanted, it also addresses some of the issues at the starting point—owner education before purchasing, and owner responsibility after purchasing. This is a critical time for the horse industry as we all work together with the myriad issues surrounding unwanted horses. The American Horse Council and the Unwanted Horse Coalition have developed a solid resource for all to use and share.

NEW ARPAS CHAPTER— SOUTHERN GREAT PLAINS CHAPTER

Barbara Barton, PhD, PAS, Dipl. ACAN

Two years ago at the annual meeting of the Plains Nutrition Conference (PNC), the membership voted to start a local chapter of ARPAS. In November 2006, an organizing committee submitted the formal paperwork to the ARPAS board of directors and received approval to start the Southern Great Plains Chapter of ARPAS. The first meeting was held in conjunction with the PNC meeting in San Antonio on March 30, 2007, to elect a slate of officers. The objectives for the new officers were to survey the members and to develop plans for future meetings of the chapter. Although this chapter started with the PNC, our intention is for the chapter to represent and include all members of ARPAS in the Southern Great Plains area. The officers are also recruiting members. To join the chapter, you must meet only three simple requirements:

1. Be a member in good standing of ARPAS.
2. Reside or work in the Texas-New Mexico-Oklahoma area or in a nearby state that does not have a local ARPAS chapter you can attend.
3. Pay an annual membership fee of \$20. (*Note: this is a tentative*

amount set by the organizing committee and may be modified when the bylaws are officially approved or amended.)

At the joint ASAS-ADSA meeting in San Antonio, 23 members and guests attended a breakfast meeting sponsored by BioMin. Dr. Ger Schatzmayr, director of research and development for BioMin in Tulln, Austria, gave an excellent review of current mycotoxin research related to the feeding of by-product feeds.

If you wish to join the Southern Great Plains Chapter of ARPAS, contact Dr. Natham Elam (secretary-treasurer) at New Mexico State University, Clayton Livestock Research Center, 15 NMSU Lane, Clayton, NM 88415 (nelam@nmsu.edu).

If you have any questions regarding the Southern Great Plains Chapter of ARPAS, feel free to contact any officer or director—president: Mike Brown, PhD, PAS, West Texas A&M University, Canyon, TX, phone 806-651-2559, msbrown@mail.wtamu.edu; president-elect: Andy Cole, PhD, PAS, ACAN, USDA-ARS, Bushland, TX, phone 806-356-5748, nacole@cprl.ars.usda.gov; director: Clint Krehbiel, PhD, PAS., Department of Animal Science, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, OK 74078, phone 405-744-8857, kclinto@okstate.edu; director: Lionel Lane, PAS, Lane Resources Limited, Weatherford, TX, phone 817-599-3905, Irlionel@charter.net.

Report on the American College of Animal Sciences (ACAS) **Kenneth Cummings, PhD, Dipl. ACAN, and Mich Etchebarne, ACAS President**

The American College of Animal Sciences (ACAS) is now operational. The constitution and bylaws have been ratified by board-certified ARPAS members, and leadership is in place to accept qualified applicants for certification as diplomates.

As many of you are aware, board certification of ARPAS members has been the responsibility of independent-discipline colleges. Each had a separate constitution with accompanying bylaws for operation and officers responsible for leadership, membership acquisition, and organizational maintenance. Under this system, the colleges were not growing. In fact, four of the five colleges were in a failure mode because of the organizational maintenance burden imposed on their small size.

Recognizing this situation, ARPAS leadership appointed a small committee of board-certified members to study the problem and propose a structure for revitalization. The proposed structure, with draft constitution and bylaws, was approved by the ARPAS governing council in July 2007 and recently ratified by board-certified members.

Mich Etchebarne and the officers of ACAN (the only functional college) have agreed to lead ACAS until elections are held in spring 2008. Each discipline area will have a representative on the board of directors, and that individual will head the examination committee for his or her discipline.

Current ACAS Officers

Mich Etchebarne, president
Dale Hill, past-president
Al Kertz, secretary-treasurer

Board of Directors

Ken Ferrell
Jack Garrett
Bill Sanchez
Jeff Pendergraf

As provided for in the bylaws, an election is to be held in spring 2008 for a president-elect and a board member for each of the five discipline colleges (who will also chair the exam committee for each discipline college). Because no president-elect was included in the above group, these officers will continue for 2008–2009. We urge ARPAS board-certified members from each of the disciplines (animal behavior, genetics, food science, and physiology) to volunteer to serve on their respective exam committees and to be willing to be nominated for board of director positions for ACAS. The primary objectives of ACAS are to advance the level of professionalism in the fields of animal nutrition, animal physiology, animal genetics, animal food science, and applied animal behavior science and to increase the competence of those practicing in these fields. Many of you are eligible for board certification, and we encourage you to review the process.

To encourage qualified individuals to seek certification in a discipline college of ACAS, two additional processes have been included in the bylaws. New graduates with advanced degrees may enter the certification process as Diplomates in Training, and highly qualified faculty members may waive the examination process. As stated in the bylaws, "faculty members of approved institutions who have been recognized by having gained tenure appointments, have been teaching undergraduate and/or graduate courses in their species and discipline annually, and are the principal researcher on at least five refereed journal publications in the last five years, not including their thesis- or dissertation-related publications," may obtain this waiver.

Current board-certified members of any of the previous colleges will use the same certification designation they used previously. The bylaws clearly state that the discipline colleges still exist, and a member may be certified in one or more of them as a diplomate. The following descriptive titles may be used by board-certified members of ACAS:

- Diplomate American College of Applied Animal Behavior Science, or Diplomate ACAABS
- Diplomate American College of Animal Food Sciences, or Diplomate ACAFS
- Diplomate American College of Animal Genetics, or Diplomate ACAG
- Diplomate American College of Animal Nutrition, or Diplomate ACAN
- Diplomate American College of Animal Physiology, or Diplomate ACAP

Your title will still reflect that you are a member of a discipline college under this system, and titles previously used may be retained. If you use the acronym outside our organization, it may give you the opportunity to explain what the designation represents.

Update on the *Professional Animal Scientist Journal*

D. Wayne Kellogg, PhD, PAS, Dipl. ACAN

Volume 23 of the *Professional Animal Scientist* was completed with 742 pages. The previous three issues averaged 507 pages. There was some catch-up because of the transition of editors during the summer of 2006, but the increased size of issues has been sustained for several months.

Authors should be credited, because they submitted the manuscripts for publication that generated the increased size of volume 23 compared with previous years. Additionally, more than 100 reviewers and FASS technical staff had critical roles in the process. I believe that the conversion from paper submissions to the on-line process using Manuscript Central has been the major positive incentive that increased submissions. It has certainly helped keep us organized and aided timely acceptance of manuscripts. We currently average 68 days to make a final decision regarding acceptance or rejection of manuscripts. Again, the reviewers have generally responded promptly with a 21-day average for the first review.

A new section, "Commentary," was created in response to the submission of a manuscript titled "Performance Indicates Animal State of Being: A Cinderella Axiom?" by Dr. Stan Curtis. The initial feedback to this thought-provoking paper has been enthusiastic. It did not really fit our existing sections, "Reviews" and "Letters to the Editor," yet this manuscript was deemed appropriate for the journal by the editor and reviewers.

Finally, I want to express appreciation to the editorial board members. The following board members, whose three-year terms expire in 2007, are cited for special thanks for their service: Drs. L. D. Bunting, G. H. Carpenter, K. P. Coffee, R. L. Coleman, D. H. Crews, L. V. Cundiff, M. A. Elzo, T. Johnson, M. D. Lindemann, B. D. Nielson, E. A. Ott, N. D. Paton, E. van Heugten, D. N. Waldner, J. C. Whittier, and G. L. Williams. Some are retiring, but perhaps others will consider additional terms of service after a break.

Report of the Historian

William D. Price, PhD, PAS, Dipl. ACAN

Being historian is new to me, so I am trying to get organized. Dick Frahm has informed me that the ARPAS History is located in the last section of the ARPAS Handbook, which is posted on the ARPAS Web site, so those of you who are interested, please visit the Web site. As Dick has suggested, my intent is to move it to an easier-to-find place on the Web site for starters. In addition, I would appreciate it if interested members would read the history and tell me what is missing. It is my intent to keep the history up to date. Please contact me at bill.price@fda.hhs.gov with suggestions.