



Fish Health Section



FHS NEWS – April 2024

Fish Health Section website: <https://units.fisheries.org/fhs/>

Fish Health Section Facebook Site: <https://facebook.com/FishHealthSectionAFS>

Fish Health Section Twitter feed: @AFSFishHealth

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President’s Message

Dear AFS-FHS Members:

The annual FHS Meeting and Western Fish Disease Workshop in Boise, Idaho (July 30st – August 1st) is quickly approaching. All meeting information can now be found on the [FHS webpage](#), which has been updated to include the following registration and abstract submission link (<https://event.fourwaves.com/wfdw63/pages>). The continuing education agenda has also been finalized to cover “Disease Prevention - Finfish Brood and Production Strategies”. Total RACE credits for this session are currently in review and will be posted along with session details as final approval is received.

In other exciting news, the Blue Book Revision Project continues to move forward with our newly elected committee members listed below. These groups along with the Laboratory Quality Assurance/Quality Control Committee will soon take on the responsibility for revising and updating the Blue Book.

Testing Standards Committee

Jayde Ferguson
Nora Hickey
Amy Long
Mark Polinski
Janet Warg
Christopher Whipps

Inspection Standards Committee

Trista Becker
Myron Kebus
Thomas Loch
Nick Phelps
Esteban Soto

Inspection Standards Stakeholder Advisory Panel

<u>Industry Stakeholders</u>	<u>State Stakeholders</u>	<u>Federal Stakeholders</u>
Charles Conklin (Big Brown Hatchery)	Wade Cavender (Utah Wildlife Resources)	Lori Gustafson (USDA-APHIS)
Erin Ewald (Taylor Shellfish)	David Russell (Maine Inland Fisheries & Wildlife)	Ken Phillips (USFWS)
Jesse Trushenski (Riverence)	Brandon Taro (Idaho Fish & Game)	Janet Whaley (NOAA-NMFS)

We deeply appreciate the willingness of these individuals to apply their expertise to this important effort. In the coming months, committees will hold inaugural meetings to establish priorities and develop workplans. In the meantime, please send any questions, suggestions, or comments to the program coordinator Linda Rhodes (rhodes.afs.fhs@gmail.com).

Thank you all for your membership, committee participation and continued assistance in addressing this year's FHS priorities.

Best regards,



Wade Cavender

Best Student Presentation Award

Students presenting papers at the 2024 AFS Fish Health Section and 63rd Western Fish Disease Workshop in Boise, ID July 30 – August 1, 2024, have the opportunity to compete for the Best Student Presentation Award(s). The number and type of awards will be announced later. Recipients of the Best Student Presentation Award will receive up to \$400.



To compete, students must be current members of the AFS Fish Health Section and must state their interest in competing for the award when submitting their abstract and registering for the meeting.

Presentations will be judged on:

Presentation Content

1. Introduction: Provides broad conceptual framework and overview of previous work, and the hypothesis and/or objectives are clearly stated
2. Methods: Originality, appropriate use of methods/statistics, and effort required (short vs. long study)
3. Results and Discussion: Significance of contribution, conclusions well supported, relevance of findings to the field, placed in border context, and originality of the work

Presentation Style and Delivery

1. Ability to speak clearly
2. Organization of presentation
3. Quality of presentation graphics/images (meaningful, clearly labeled, etc.)
4. Quality of delivery: Minimal use of jargon, not reading slides, maintain eye contact with audience
5. Time management: met time limits
6. Effect on audience: generated lots of questions, excitement vs. silence

Feel free to contact members of the Awards Committee with questions.

Awards Committee

Ben LaFrentz, Chair benjamin.lafrentz@usda.gov

Heather Walsh hwalsh@usgs.gov

Danielle Van Vliet dvan@utah.gov

Archive Historic Fish Health Documents and Items

The Archive Committee is looking for historical documents and items that are important to the history of the Fish Health Section. This is a chance to preserve hard copies of past meetings, newsletters, publications, awards, books, and photos. There has also been a request for Business Meeting Minutes from past FHS Annual Meeting (prior to 2016), so we are actively looking for those. We will have to be more selective in accepting old equipment and preserved specimens, as space will not be infinite. All items will be sent to the DC Booth Historic National Fish Hatchery where the National Fish and Aquatic Conservation Archives are located. If anyone has an interest in donating items, please contact a member of the Archive Committee:

Matt Stinson, Chair mstinson@nwifc.org
Susan Marcquenski smarcquenski@yahoo.com
Beth Peterman aep9@msstate.edu

A golden example of what could be donated, please see the selected works by Edwin Linton, available online at [Internet Archive](#).

- Notes on Entozoa of Marine Fishes of New England, with Descriptions of Several New Species. Part II. 1890.
- On Two Species of Larval Dibothria from the Yellowstone National Park. 1889.
- A Contribution to the Life History of Dibothrium Cordyceps leidy, a Parasite Infesting the Trout of Yellowstone Lake. 1889.
- Parasites of Fishes at Woods Hole in 1898. 1900.
- Parasites of Fishes of the Woods Hole Region. 1901.
- Information Concerning Parasitic Worms in Fish. 1916.

Snieszko Student Travel Award Announcement

The FHS Awards Committee is soliciting applications for Snieszko Student Travel Awards, which will award money to student members of the AFS-FHS to attend the 2024 Annual Meeting of the FHS and Western Fish Disease Workshop July 30th – August 1st in Boise, Idaho. The amount of money to be awarded and the number of travel awards will be announced later. Previous recipients of the Snieszko Student Travel Awards can be found [here](#).



Students must be members of the AFS-FHS to be eligible and must submit the following information in their application packet:

1. Letter of application and statement of any special financial circumstances (i.e. not supported by a stipend, etc.)
2. Curriculum vitae
3. Three letters of recommendation
4. Itemized budget on how money is to be spent, i.e. travel, meals, lodging and registration
5. Copy of abstract of paper to be presented

Applications will be judged on:

1. Quality of abstract

2. Significance of the research
3. Academic achievement
4. Professional achievement
5. Financial need

Completed applications need to be emailed to the Awards Committee Chair (Benjamin LaFrentz, benjamin.lafrentz@usda.gov) by **May 3, 2024**.

Feel free to contact members of the Awards Committee with questions.

Awards Committee

Ben LaFrentz, Chair benjamin.lafrentz@usda.gov
Heather Walsh hwalsh@usgs.gov
Danielle Van Vliet dvan@utah.gov

MEETINGS, WORKSHOPS & COURSES

The AFS-FHS Summer Seminar Series is back for 2024!

Since 2020, graduate students and early career professionals have used this virtual seminar series to network and share their important work. This series provides a tremendous opportunity for young AFS-FHS scientists to showcase their efforts.

Previous year's presentations have been archived here: <http://z.umn.edu/fishhealthseminar>.

We will be awarding Best Student Presentation Awards to support student travel, made possible by our generous sponsors!

Thanks to generous contributions from our sponsors, we will again be awarding Best Student Presentation Travel Awards!

Want to present?

In a slight change from past summers, this year each week will feature an individual lab that supports graduate student research. We hope PIs will take advantage of this opportunity to showcase their lab and help us highlight a diverse mix of lab groups from across the country. The seminar format will consist of the following:

1. A brief introduction from the PI (Max. 10 min), followed by
2. Up to three students or early career professionals from each lab presenting.
 - a. Student presentations will consist of the standard 12-minute research talk followed by a 3-minute Q&A.

Seminars will take place on zoom on **Thursday afternoons (12-1 pm Central Time)** and run from May 9th - Aug 22nd. Eligibility for the best presentation awards will be limited to **active AFS-FHS student members** so make sure your membership is up-to-date!

Slots are limited and will be allotted in a first come, first serve basis. **Students, tell your PIs to sign up your lab now!** Preference will be granted to PIs that are **active AFS-FHS members** so update your membership today!

Want to be notified of upcoming seminars?

Join the AFS Summer Student Seminar Listserv to receive announcements regarding upcoming seminars and abstracts.

The seminars are free and open to the public - please forward these announcements to your networks. The seminar calendar and Zoom access information will be available mid-April.

Important links:

[Lab Signup – Reserve your spot](#)

[AFS-FHS Student Seminar Series Listserv](#)

[Seminar calendar and Zoom access information](#)

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us. See you this summer!

Matt Griffin (matt.griffin@msstate.edu)

Megan Shavaliier (shavali1@msu.edu)

Nick Phelps (phelp083@umn.edu)

American Fisheries Society, Fish Health Section Meeting and 63rd Western Fish Disease Workshop



July 30th – August 1st, 2024

The 2024 American Fisheries Society, Fish Health Section meeting and 63rd Western Fish Disease Workshop will be held at the Riverside Hotel in Boise, Idaho from Tuesday July 30 – August 1, 2024. A full day continuing education session will be held on Tuesday July 30th and will be followed by a welcoming social, with light appetizers, cash bar and a casual session of interesting case studies. The general session will start the morning of Wednesday July 31st and will continue through the afternoon of Thursday August 1. A poster session on Wednesday afternoon will be followed by the meeting banquet.

CONTINUING EDUCATION SUMMARY:

- The continuing education program will cover “Disease Prevention - Finfish Brood and Production Strategies”. This educational session is intended to provide a practical applied approach for disease prevention with the focus being biosecurity, risk management, vertical pathogen

transmission, feeding and gut health, general brood management strategies, genetic selection, vaccination strategies, research and practical case studies.

- Total RACE credits for this session are currently in review and will be posted as final approval is received.

MEETING VENUE AND ROOM RESERVATIONS:

- Venue: Riverside Hotel in Boise, Idaho (<https://www.riversideboise.com/>)
- Room reservations: [63rd Western Fish Disease Workshop](#)

REGISTRATION AND ABSTRACT SUBMISSION:

- Continuing education registration: \$75 (U.S. dollars)
- FHS/WFDW registration: \$350 (U.S. dollars)
- Registration and abstract submission: <https://event.fourwaves.com/wfdw63/pages>

JOBS/GRADUATE ASSISTANTSHIPS

We have two contractual positions for which recruitment has started. I have attached the links below. The first is a six-month short-term contract with Maryland DNR's Marine Mammal and Sea Turtle Stranding Response program. This position's closing date is April 29. The second is a 3-month short-term contract with Maryland DNR's Aquatic Animal Health Laboratory, which will work with oysters as part of the Chesapeake Bay Fall oyster survey. The closing date for this position is April 30.

Here are the position links:

<https://jobapscloud.com/MD/sup/BulPreview.asp?R1=24&R2=003092&R3=0003&Viewer=Admin&Test=Y>

<https://jobapscloud.com/MD/sup/BulPreview.asp?R1=24&R2=002293&R3=0020&Viewer=Admin&Test=Y>

PhD Position in Multi-species Landscape Epigenomics **University of Alberta**

See attached .pdf for information

Clinical Instructor

Global Center for Aquatic Health and Food Security

Gulfport, MS

Link: <https://explore.msujobs.msstate.edu/en-us/job/507555/clinical-instructor-i-ii-or-iii>

The College of Veterinary Medicine at Mississippi State University is seeking to hire a Clinical Instructor in marine animal health. The position will be supported by and will serve the Global Center for Aquatic Health and Food Security. The position will be based in or near Gulfport, Mississippi with periodic trips to Starkville, Mississippi. Reappointment will occur on an annual basis and will be dependent on funding.

Funding Opportunity: Fish Innovation Lab Request for Applications

<https://www.fishinnovationlab.msstate.edu/newsroom/2024/04/funding-opportunity-fish-innovation-lab-request-applications>

The Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Fish, managed by the Global Center for Aquatic Health and Food Security, requests concept notes due by 5:00 p.m. Eastern U.S. time on May 15, 2024, showcasing proposed research to alleviate poverty and improve nutrition, especially for marginalized populations, through the reliable and inclusive provision of nutrient-rich fish and other aquatic foods. Funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), the Fish Innovation Lab supports Feed the Future's mission to break the vicious cycle of poverty and hunger in partner countries.

Zebrafish Related Job Announcements

<https://wiki.zfin.org/display/jobs/Zebrafish-Related+Job+Announcements>

RESOURCES/NEWS

Aquatic Animal Drug Approval Partnership (AADAP) Updates are available by request:

The AADAP Updates feature news on aquaculture drugs currently in the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approval process, AADAP programmatic updates, and aquaculture drug use guidance information. If you would like to sign up to receive the AADAP Update, please email to be paige_maskill@fws.gov added to our email listserv.

April 2024 AADAP Update (part two)

Join us at the 2024 National AFS Meeting in Hawaii

USFWS Aquatic Animal Drug Approval Partnership Program, AFS Fish Culture Section, and AFS Fish Health Section are co-sponsoring a symposium at the 154th AFS Annual Meeting in Honolulu, HI titled **Husbandry, Health, and Happy Fish: Advances and Innovations in Aquaculture**. We hope this session will invigorate aquaculture and fish health professionals' involvement and collaboration with the greater AFS community. We are accepting abstracts focusing on all aspects of fish husbandry and especially on advancements in fish health and welfare. Abstract [submissions](#) are currently open and are due by April 26, 2024. If you feel your research fits this topic, please select this symposium during the submission process, or reach out to Pam Sponholtz (pamela_sponholtz@fws.gov) if you have any questions.

Registration for the 30th Annual Aquaculture Drug Approval Coordination Workshop is now OPEN!

We are excited to announce that the 30th Annual Aquaculture Drug Approval Coordination Workshop hosted by the USFWS Aquatic Animal Drug Approval Partnership (AADAP) Program, will take place in Bozeman, MT from July 22nd- 25th, 2024. Unfortunately, we will not be able to provide a virtual option this year. Topics to be discussed include aquaculture drug approval research and the progress of associated efforts. Please visit our [registration page](#) to get signed up. The deadline for registration is July 15th, 2024.

For more information including a tentative Workshop schedule, lodging, and deadlines for potential Workshop presenters please visit our [Workshop website](#).

Considering giving a presentation at this year's Workshop? We're looking for folks to present on any of the following (or related) topics: aquaculture drugs research (antimicrobials, parasiticides, anesthetics, spawning aids, and marking agents), indexing, vaccines, disease models, and new, up-and-coming drugs. If you're interested in presenting, please contact [Shane Ramee](#) by July 8th, 2024.



PhD position in Multi-species Landscape Epigenomics (Venney lab)

I am seeking a highly motivated student for a PhD project on multi-species landscape epigenomics. This is a funded PhD position in the Department of Biological Sciences at the University of Alberta (**minimum guaranteed salary of \$25,917/year for 5 years**). The start date is anticipated to be January or September 2025 but is negotiable. Previous experience with genomic data or bioinformatics (Linux and R) is an asset.

DNA methylation is a potential underlying mechanism for phenotypic plasticity and can respond to environmental fluctuations such as climate change. Due to the potential for epigenetic inheritance, populations living in different environments could accumulate epigenetic differences over many generations. These methylation differences could slowly lead to genetic divergence over long evolutionary periods due to the mutagenic nature of DNA methylation.

We will assess variation in DNA methylation due to climatic variation and its associations with genetic variation. We have performed ~16X coverage whole genome methylation sequencing for 80 lake whitefish (*Coregonus clupeaformis*) and 80 brook charr (*Salvelinus fontinalis*): 10 fish per species from eight sampling locations across a latitudinal climatic gradient in Hudson Bay and James Bay. We will combine these data with environmental data and ~20X whole genome sequencing data for the same fish to answer diverse questions on interactions among DNA methylation, the genome, and environmental variation in a natural system.

The successful candidate will be co-supervised by Dr. Clare Venney (<https://clarevenney.weebly.com/>) and Dr. Jean-Sébastien Moore (Université Laval, <https://jean-sebastienmoore.weebly.com/>). The successful candidate can also contribute to upcoming fieldwork in the lab as desired (e.g., potential work in and around Banff and Jasper National Park). Interested candidates should send a CV, unofficial transcripts, and one page cover letter detailing their interest in the position to **venney@ualberta.ca** on or before **July 1st, 2024**.

Please feel free to reach out with any questions at the email address listed above.

Clare Venney
Incoming Assistant Professor
Department of Biological Sciences
University of Alberta