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Remarks

**Remarks as Prepared for Acting Associate Administrator
Dr. Jere Dick
APHIS Administrator's Award
United States Animal Health Association (USAHA)/American Association of
Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians (AAVLD) Annual Meeting**

SAN DIEGO, CA, Oct. 20, 2013—Good evening. It is an honor to represent APHIS Administrator Kevin Shea this evening in presenting this year's APHIS Administrator's Award. Kevin sends his regrets and also his regards. After the last couple weeks of ongoing tumult in Washington, I'm particularly appreciative of the opportunity to be with you all in this beautiful, serene city.

No one is honored for what he or she has received in life, but rather for what they have given back to society.

APHIS bestows the Administrator's Award at this annual meeting to recognize and honor one individual for lifetime accomplishments in the field of animal health. Although the award is conferred upon one individual, it represents the deep appreciation we at APHIS have for the outstanding work done by USAHA and AAVLD members collectively every day as our partners in protecting animal health in our Nation.

This evening we honor Dr. James A. Roth, who is, among many other things, a Distinguished Professor in the College of Veterinary Medicine at Iowa State University (ISU).

ISU has been and remains central in Jim's life, first as a student and now as a distinguished professor. Of course, ISU's appeal has held sway over so many notable veterinarians in our Nation's history. In fact, more USDA buildings and structures are named after prominent ISU alumni than those from any other university [e.g., Seaman Knapp arch between Whitten and South building].

Some of you may know that ISU was also where the first cooperative agricultural extension program was launched. And the university can also lay claim to being where the first electronic digital computing device, the Atanasoff-Berry Computer (ABC), was invented [between 1937 and 1942].

Jim received his D.V.M. from ISU in 1975, and then went into private veterinary practice for a few years.

However, in 1977, the gravitational pull of academia drew Jim back to ISU as a faculty member, while he worked to complete his M.S. degree. In 1981, Professor Roth achieved his Ph.D. in Veterinary Microbiology/Immunology at ISU.

Perhaps Jim's affection for Iowa stems from the State's agricultural vitality. Jim grew up on a grain-livestock farm; his family had a cow-calf-feedlot, farrow-to-finish swine, and layers and broilers.

He and his wife Jeanne still have a small acreage just outside of Ames, where he enjoys mowing the large lawn and playing with the grandchildren, and where they also maintain an extensive garden. I understand they enjoy sharing its abundance with both ISU colleagues and the local "Plant a Row for the Hungry" program.

Rumor has it that Jim still putts around on the two-cylinder John Deere tractor that his grandfather bought back in 1959, which Jim began driving when he was 8 years old. That gives some indication of just how remarkable Jim is.

In addition to his professorial cap, Jim wears many other hats. Among his accomplishments:

- He has ably served as a member on a number of national bio-security advisory panels;
- He has testified before Congress on numerous important bio-defense, zoonotic disease issues;
- He has published more than 200 peer-reviewed articles; and
- Jim served as President of the American College of Veterinary Microbiologists from 2004 to 2008.

Jim is currently President of Transboundary Animal Biologics, Inc., a not-for-profit corporation that works to enhance the availability of veterinary biologics for transboundary diseases.

But among Jim's countless contributions to the animal health profession, from our perspective at APHIS, his work as Executive Director of the Institute for International Cooperation in Animal Biologics (IICAB) and Director of the Center for Food Security and Public Health really stands out. These two grant-funded organizations are internationally recognized for their development and delivery of animal health and emergency response information.

The IICAB, founded in 1995 as a joint collaboration of USDA and ISU, concentrates on educational efforts and facilitating international communication and harmonization related to the availability, safety, and efficacy of veterinary biologics.

The IICAB, together with APHIS' Center for Veterinary Biologics (CVB) and National Veterinary Services Laboratories (NVSL), serves as the OIE Collaborating Center for the Diagnosis of Animal Disease and Vaccine Evaluation in the Americas.

For 13 years, Jim has collaborated with CVB to host the joint CVB/IICAB Veterinary Biologics Training Program. The effort had humble beginnings: Jim and the CVB Directors brought folding chairs to a potluck event at his farm to help welcome the international attendees to Iowa and the training program. Since then, the Veterinary Biologics Training Program has grown considerably and has now hosted more than 2,100

attendees from 89 different countries and is recognized as and significant OIE Training Program.

IICAB's Web site is also an excellent source of information on specific animal diseases. The Compendium of Veterinary Vaccines for Transboundary Animal Diseases produced by IICAB contains roughly 830 vaccine entries for 150 manufacturers, covering 95 countries and 41 transboundary diseases.

I would be remiss if I didn't also highlight Jim's work as the Director of the Center for Food Security and Public Health (CFSPH), which was founded in 2002 as a collaboration of Federal and State officials, academia, and industry.

The Center, in conjunction with industry and academic partners, has developed Secure Food Supply Plans for eggs, turkeys, milk, and pork, which are designed to help provide business continuity in the face of a foreign animal disease outbreak. The Safe Food Supply Plans are funded by APHIS' National Center for Animal Health Emergency Management.

CFSPH also develops all the educational material and modules for the APHIS National Veterinary Accreditation Program, and produces a range of materials for use of those who respond in an animal health emergency.

Jim, we recognize your many past accomplishments, and we thank you for all the work you continue to do. Please come up now and receive your well-deserved award.

I would ask all of you to now join me in congratulating Dr. James Roth: winner of the 2013 APHIS Administrator Award.

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