AVMA names 2016-2017 congressional fellows

The American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) is pleased to announce the three veterinarians who will serve in the 2016-2017 AVMA Fellowship Program, providing Congress with scientific counsel on animal and public health policy.

Beginning in August, Drs. Jenifer Chatfield from Dade City, Fla., Chelsey Shivley from Fort Collins, Colo., and Taylor Winkleman from Soquel, Calif., will serve for one year in Washington, D.C., as scientific advisors to members of Congress where they will use their scientific expertise to shape federal policy on issues that impact animal and public health.

The fellows will serve as full-time staff in a congressional office or on a congressional committee, advising policymakers on a wide range of pressing issues, such as food safety, public health, animal welfare, research and small business issues. This September, the fellows will interview with congressional offices and/or committee staff to receive their year-long placements and, once placed, will support the activities of that office full-time. The fellows are not AVMA employees or lobbyists.

The 2016-2017 fellows were selected out of 13 applicants for the program which included a three-phased, competitive selection process. AVMA’s Fellowship Selection Committee was chaired by AVMA Immediate Past President Dr. Ted Cohn and included former AVMA congressional fellow Dr. Donald Hoenig and AVMA Animal Welfare Division Director Dr. Cia Johnson.

The 2016-2017 AVMA fellows are:

Dr. Jenifer Chatfield: A board-certified zoo veterinarian, Dr. Chatfield is the staff veterinarian at 4J Conservation Center and an instructor for FEMA and the Department of Homeland Security’s agroterrorism courses. Originally from Texas, she graduated with a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree from Texas A&M University's College of Veterinary Medicine. Dr. Chatfield has pursued both emergency medicine and zoo medicine throughout her career. She has completed fieldwork in Madagascar and South America and has served as an Associate Editor for the Journal of Zoo and Wildlife Medicine for the last 10 years. Dr. Chatfield was the Florida Department of Health’s zoonotic and vector-borne disease program veterinary and agricultural liaison for several years and continues to be heavily involved in public health efforts as a Medical Reserve Corps member. Dr. Chatfield currently serves as the Chair of the Florida Veterinary Medical Association’s (FVMA) Public Health Committee and Co-Chair of the FVMA’s Disaster Response Committee. She has published many peer-
reviewed articles on varied topics including pharmacokinetics, clinical medicine, and infectious disease and speaks frequently at national veterinary continuing education conferences.

**Dr. Chelsey Shivley:** Originally from Battle Creek, Mich., Dr. Shivley is a 2012 graduate of Michigan State University’s College of Veterinary Medicine. She is passionate about animal welfare, including the science and ethics of animal use. She recently completed her PhD in Animal Behavior and Welfare at Colorado State University, working with Dr. Temple Grandin, on veterinary education regarding animal welfare and the welfare of dairy cattle. Part of her PhD work has been with the USDA National Animal Health Monitoring System Dairy 2014 Study. She is also working toward board certification in the American College of Animal Welfare. As a veterinary student, she served as an extern at the AVMA’s Governmental Relations Division and the Animal Welfare Division. She has been involved with the Animal Welfare Judging and Assessment Contest for ten years, as a competitor, volunteer, and most recently founder and coach of the CSU team.

**Dr. Taylor Winkleman:** Originally from Soquel, Calif., is a member of the University of Georgia College of Veterinary Medicine Class of 2015. She recently completed the dual degree program, earning both her Doctor of Veterinary Medicine and Masters of Public Health with an emphasis in policy. She has recently returned from Uganda, where she worked on zoonotic disease surveillance with Veterinarians Without Borders, and New Zealand, where she worked on E. coli research with the mEpi Lab at the Hopkirk Research Institute. She is an active member of the Next Generation Global Health Security Leaders and a member of the Global Health Security Agenda Steering Committee. Her professional interests include international development, zoonotic disease prevention, economics and One Health.

The fellowship program is sponsored through the American Association for the Advancement of Science, which works to place qualified scientific experts in congressional offices where they are needed. To date, more than 60 veterinarians have participated in the **AVMA Fellowship Program**.

The AVMA Fellowship Program is made possible in part by a generous donation from the **American Veterinary Medical Foundation (AVMF)**.

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The AVMA, founded in 1863, is one of the oldest and largest veterinary medical organizations in the world, with more than 88,000 member veterinarians worldwide engaged in a wide variety of professional activities and dedicated to the art and science of veterinary medicine.