**Summary of Minutes of 2015 NC-1202 Annual Meeting**

1. The meeting was called to order by the Chair of NC-1202, Dr. Gireesh Rajashekara at 8:30 am on Dec 5, 2015. All members and guests were introduced.
2. Administrative Advisor, Dr. Frank Blecha, gave a warm seasonal greeting to all NC 1202 members and then provided a short presentation showing the favorable Midterm Review of the NC-1202 multistate project from Christina Hamilton, the NCRA Assistant Director and NIMSS System Administrator .
3. From 8:45 am to 9:40 am on Dec 5, Drs. Peter Johnson and Margo Holland provided an update on NIFA budget and funding with following specific highlights:
	* Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is a focus in new fiscal year and corresponding budget may have slight increase.
	* US-UK Collaborative Animal Health and Disease and Veterinary Immune Reagents program awarded four projects on Animal Health & Disease in 2014. In terms of Veterinary Immune Reagents awards, previous award were given to the development of reagents for certain animal species, such as swine and equine. In 2016, award priority will be given to the veterinary immune reagents for bovine and poultry species.
	* USDA and BBSRC held a workshop in June 2015 to discuss future US-UK partnership. The high impact collaboration on the areas of food safety, AMR, and emerging & re-emerging diseases is needed. The US-UK Collaborative research opportunities may be available again in 2017.
	* A new US-Ireland Collaborative NIFA program via AFRI will be available in 2016.
	* Dual Purpose with Dual Benefit funding opportunity is likely to be renewed (3-year renew) from 2016.
	* Fellowship program. In addition to previous predoctoral and postdoctoral program, a new Undergraduate Research Fellowship program will be available in 2016. For this undergraduate fellowship program, grant application is directly submitted by faculty.
	* Regarding the concern about lack of funding on animal microbiome research, which was raised by Drs. Linda Saif and Richard Isaacson, Peter Johnson and Margo Holland indicated that they cannot lobby congress for new initiative. NIFA has been looking for partnership from other federal agencies to address this issue. Perter Johnson strongly suggested that NC1202 committee draft and send a recommendation for funding animal microbiome research to Dr. Sonny Ramaswamy (NIFA Director).
	* NIFA will first provide stakeholder workshop via Webinar in 2016 during the last two weeks in April and the first two weeks in May, which will cover various areas such as animal health, microbiome, AMR, and animal well-being.
	* Finally Peter Johnson introduced the five guests from five 1890 Institutions, who are supported by USDA to attend the annual meeting.
4. Fourteen (14) Progress Reports were presented from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm on Dec 5 and from 9:00 am to 9:30 am on Dec 6.
5. From 9:30 am to 12:00 pm on Dec 6, NC-1202 group members had vivid discussion on the following issues:
* Election of new Chair and Secretary. Current Secretary Jun Lin (The University of Tennessee) was elected as new Chair of NC 1202 group from year 2016. Dr. Devendra Shah (Washington State University) was elected as new Secretary of NC 1202 group.
* Student awards. NC-1202 offers awards for students to compete in the Pathobiology of Enteric and Foodborne Pathogens Section of CRWAD. Drs. Weiping Zhang (Chair) and Joy Scaria (Co-Chair) are in charge of the student award selection committee. The student awards were funded by the annual registration fee. This year, 21 abstracts (16 oral presentations and 5 poster presentations) were submitted to the Pathobiology of Enteric and Foodborne Pathogens Section. Of these, 6 oral and 3 poster presentations are for graduate students competition. This year three awards were offered, two for oral presentation ($200 1st place and $150 2nd place) and one for poster presentation ($200).
* Update of CRWAD Council Meeting. Dr. Qijing Zhang (CRWAD Council member) provided update of the CRWAD council meeting held on Dec 5, 2015 and led discussion on several issues. First, CRWAD is developing new management to attract more people, particularly young people, to CRWAD. For example, a program committee containing section leaders and chairs of satellite meeting may consolidate time for scientific program and better incorporate various satellite meetings/symposium into official CRWAD program. NC 1202 members support the approaches, such as establishment of program committee, for better cooperation without losing identity of NC 1202 group. Second, to enhance CRWAD membership, NC 1202 members support removal of certain restrictions for membership (e.g. publication requirement). NC 1202 members also agree that CRWAD is a great place for graduate students to present their research. Dr. Zhang mentioned that CRWAD council is planning to provide travel support for students in the future. Finally, CRWAD is considering changing the timing for annual meeting in Chicago. The meeting may be held earlier if costs for hotel reservation and travel will not change significantly.
* Mini symposium. NC 1202 organized a Mini-Symposium focused on Microbiome and Animal Health on Dec 7, 2015. The symposium abstracts were all submitted through CRWAD. Seven keynote speakers were invited to present their research work. NC 1202 members discussed the theme for 2016 symposium and unanimously selected the topic of antimicrobial resistance. Dr. Linda Saif suggested at least one talk should address antiviral resistance. To select Keynote Speakers for this new symposium, a three member committee (Qijing Zhang, Jun Lin, and Devendra Shah) was established.
* Richard Isaacson will lead and draft recommendations for animal microbiome initiative and Linda Saif will help review. The final recommendation document will be sent to NIFA on behalf of NC 1202 group.
* Collaboration among NC 1202 members and funding opportunities. In spring 2015, Dr. Gireesh Rajashekara (PD) submitted a CAP grant to NIFA Food Security program. The application, entitled ‘The swine gut microbiome in health and disease’, is a collaborative project with NC 1202 members from six institutions (The Ohio State University, University of Minnesota, University of Florida, The University of Tennessee, South Dakota State University, and Kansas State University). This grant application was ranked as “High Priority” although it was not awarded. Upon release of new RFA in early 2016, NC 1202 members will discuss the feasibility of resubmission of this CAP project.