**NE1834 Annual Business Meeting**

**October 14, 2020**

**Rami’s notes**

The technical committee of the NE1834 multi-state project held its 2020 meeting virtually on Wednesday October 14, 2020. Attending this meeting were representatives of member institutions as well as other regular guest members from the USDA and poultry breeding industry.

**Attending members:**

Yvonne Drechsler, Robert Taylor, Rami Dalloul, Ramesh Selvaraj, Gisela Erf, Sue Lamont, Janet Fulton, Mark Parcells, Ryan Arsenault, Calving Keeler, Jiuzhou Song, Matt Koci, Robert Beckstead, Chris Ashwell, Lisa Bielke, Keith Jarosinski, Tina S. Dalgaard, Hank Parmentier, Kirk Klasing, Huaijun Zhou, Rodrigo Gallardo, Juan Rodriguez-Lecompte, Christi Swaggerty, Marcia Miller, in addition to other non-member scientists including Muquarrab Qureshi, Theros Ng, Kaylin Chasser.

**2021 meeting:**

Y. Drechsler summarized the meeting presentation format and a discussion followed re. the 2021 annual meeting. Jiuzhou (John) Song will host the 2021 meeting around September-October. USDA members/attendees noted that a meeting overlapping the end of the federal fiscal year (i.e. Sep. 30th – Oct. 1st) would prohibit their attendance of an in-person meeting. The format will depend on how the COVID pandemic evolves, so it may be in-person, hybrid or all virtual; a decision would be made in the 2021 summer.

**AIRG meeting:**

As several members of the NE1834 project are also member and regularly attend the Avian Immunology Research Group (AIRG) meeting, questions re. the next AIRG were raised. The 2020 AIRG was originally planned to be held in conjunction or right after the NE1834 this past June 2020. Again, the situation with the COVID pandemic will be a factor in determining the format as well as the date of the meeting but it’s possible to take place in September 2021 prior to NE1834.

**Group Officers:**

Ryan Arsenault was nominated to be the next secretary as Rami Dalloul moves to be chair in 2021. The motion was seconded and a unanimous YES vote ensued (N.B. Ryan agreed to serve prior to the vote).

**Genetic Stocks:**

Preservation of the current poultry genetic stocks was discussed in detail. There was a general agreement that USDA support is needed to secure funding for maintaining those stocks that are currently housed at various institutions across the US. Several members indicated that a concerted effort among the group needs to be made with congressional representatives to advocate the urgency of this issue.

**Membership:**

The technical committee also discussed recruiting new members to the group particularly those sharing common research interests and goals as well as those who are already collaborating with current members. Several potential candidates were proposed including Justin Brown (Penn State), Maricarmen Garcia (UGA), Elizabeth Bobeck (Iowa State), Ana Paula (UC Davis), and potentially others; current members will extend those invitations.