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UW PROFESSOR TO HEAD NATIONAL VETERINARY ASSOCIATION

University of Wyoming Professor Donal O'Toole, head of the Department of Veterinary Sciences and the Wyoming State Veterinary Laboratory, has been elected vice president and will become president in 2005 of the American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians (AAVLD).

The 1,256-person organization represents laboratories in the United States and Canada and has members in 34 countries. It accredits veterinary diagnostic labs on a five-year cycle and promotes the interests of state-based animal health labs to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Food and Drug Administration, the Environmental Protection Agency and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

O'Toole, who will serve as president-elect of the association in 2004, joined the faculty of the College of Agriculture in 1990. He received a bachelor of veterinary

medicine degree from Trinity College in Dublin, Ireland, in 1977 and a doctorate in veterinary pathology from Colorado State University in Fort Collins in 1982.

As leader of AAVLD, O'Toole will be in a position to help influence federal policy relating to the development of a national, linked diagnostic network based on the state-funded animal health laboratories and to funding for state centers that test for high-impact animal diseases such as foot and mouth disease. The association's leaders work with federal animal health officials in testing animals that are shipped internationally to ensure that diseases do not inadvertently cross national borders.

O'Toole is a diplomat of the European College of Veterinary Pathologists, a fellow of the Royal College of Pathologists, a listed specialist of veterinary pathology for the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, and a member of the Wyoming Veterinary Medical Association and the Royal College of Pathologists.