

January 2017

## VOHC Scoring Project Update

Hi All:

I heard from many of you, and there is strong interest in pursuing development of a QLF scoring system in a collegial manner under VOHC sponsorship. There are now 88 names on my VOHC Digital Scoring Project contact list, representing industry, commercial lab animal facilities, individuals with past or current interest in veterinary dental scoring techniques, current and past VOHC Council members and the AVDC leadership.

Only one person on my initial list requested deletion from the list!

Only two of you requested not being included in the public list (i.e. inclusion in the To: line in email messages). I have placed all the names in the list in the blind copy line to this message – this is the final opportunity to let me know if you wish to remain anonymous to others involved in this project.

There were no responses describing something already available or well along in development that would be a practical alternative to a QLF-based objective plaque and calculus scoring system. **Any last-minute comments or news on that front?**

I am moving on to the next steps!

Given their agreement to participate in this project, I am currently in discussion with Corrin Wallis and colleagues at the Waltham Centre for Pet Nutrition (hereafter Waltham) with respect to drafting a legal agreement that will permit VOHC to make use of aspects of work done at Waltham relating to the patent that Waltham has applied for. The patent application file is available via this link:

<https://patentscope.wipo.int/search/en/detail.jsf?docId=WO2016075492&recNum=1&maxRec=&office=&prevFilter=&sortOption=&queryString=&tab=PCT+Biblio>.

Separately, I have contacted Inspektor Research Systems directly to determine interest within Inspektor in working with the VOHC group collaboratively, and at what cost.

Meanwhile, here is a link to a study on computer modeling of plaque on teeth of dogs using QLF-derived images, provided by Dr. Dale Scherl, of Hill's Pet Nutrition:

<http://proxy.library.upenn.edu:2367/stamp/stamp.jsp?arnumber=6758338>

My expectation is that, even if work at this level is required to be done during the development stages, the final product will not require individuals conducting studies for VOHC or for in-house product development projects to have this level of knowledge of computer modeling! A VOHC-approved system will need to be user-friendly to ensure consistency in its use.

It would be helpful for me to know who is currently doing what, **to avoid reinventing the wheel**. I am aware that there are companies other than Waltham who are or have worked with QLF or similar digital scoring systems. If you are already working with QLF in some way, please send me a summary of what you are doing. Brief comments on your company's

experience to date would be helpful in developing and testing a plaque and calculus scoring system that could be adopted by VOHC. If you need this information to remain **confidential**, please state this when you send me the information.

To facilitate communication among us on this project, I have set up a VOHC Digital Scoring Project webpage within the VOHC website. The direct URL to this page is [http://vohc.org/digital\\_scoring.html#](http://vohc.org/digital_scoring.html#). If you wish to add anything to this page as a resource to be made available to everyone, please send it to me as an email attachment or as a web address, so that I can upload it. If you lose track of the direct web address for the Digital Scoring page, you can locate it by browsing to the VOHC website ([www.VOHC.org](http://www.VOHC.org)), then opening the Protocols & Submissions page from the left-side navigation list, then open the Detailed Protocol Requirements page and scroll down to the VOHC Digital Scoring Project link at the end of the link list under Items Available on this Page, Scoring section.

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