



4/2019

Welcome to the April 2019 edition of the SVS Newsletter.

Recent Events and News

Clinical pathology in the Hub

Over the past 30 years, clinical pathology for veterinarians has grown to include in-clinic sample processing and result generation. Veterinarians are now being asked to perform laboratory techniques and use complex laboratory equipment on a daily basis. With this in mind, UQ and IDEXX partnered to help educate our veterinary professional students about in-house clinical pathology.



We are now fortunate to have access in the HUB to commonly used bench-top clinical pathology analysers. These are being used in the 3rd and 5th years of the veterinary science course, in 3rd year of the veterinary technology course, and in the Masters program with the aim to have our students comfortable and competent in the use of these machines by graduation.

Dr Graham Swinney and Scott Ciantar from IDEXX visited on March 13th 2019 to participate in the guidance of some 3rd and 5th year veterinary students in their use of the machines in the HUB, to talk to the 4th year veterinary science students about in-house clinical pathology in general, and Dr Graham Swinney also gave a lunchtime lecture on “Early Disease Detection” through commonly used clinical pathology diagnostics. This lecture was well attended by both staff and students with approximately 120 attendees. ([View the video of IDEXX's visit to UQ](#))

SVS staff and alumni attend the VNCA conference

The Veterinary Nurses Council of Australia (VNCA) national conference was held earlier this month in Brisbane. Trish Farry, Alex Young, Albert Sole, Bob Doneley, Tinika Gillespie, Gary Fitzgerald, Bec de Gier, Mark Haworth and Fran Shapter represented UQVETS and SVS and presented lectures and posters at the event. It was attended by over 500 nurses, technicians and

industry representatives.

This 2019 conference saw the introduction of case reports and poster presentations which were coordinated by Trish Farry. Both sessions were well attended and represented by SVS staff and alumni. The SVS sponsored the Case Report session which was introduced to encourage up-and-coming young speakers to develop presentation skills. We are extremely pleased to announce that the winners of both of the sessions were SVS vet tech alumni.

Best Case Report – Sarah Duncan (2018 BVetTech)

Best Poster Presentation – Megan Mifsud (2018 Hons)



Welcome 'Bella'

Welcome to Bella, our brand new immunohistochemical autostainer!

Funded through the UQMEI 2019, Bella arrived two weeks ago and she is currently “living” in the histology lab (building 8106). She allows for the quick and reproducible detection of proteins, cellular populations and pathogens in tissue sections, thus complementing molecular techniques and resulting in efficiency gains in research and diagnostics. It is expected that this equipment will support diverse research at Gatton campus and broadly within UQ, as well as specialists and practitioner veterinarians working at UQ veterinary teaching hospital and externally to undertake accurate diagnoses and clinical research.



An informative session on immunohistochemistry (basics and practical applications) will be scheduled shortly. Meanwhile for further information, please contact Chiara (c.palmieri@uq.edu.au).

Tamsin Barnes organises symposium in Vietnam

Together with colleagues from the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), Tamsin Barnes organised the “Regional Symposium on Research into Smallholder Pig Production, Health and Pork Safety” held in Hanoi, Vietnam from 27th-29th March. It was funded by the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) Launch Funding and ILRI, and attended by about 100 participants from 16 countries spanning Asia, the Pacific, Australia and Africa. Six themes were covered, including developing a sustainable, affordable, welfare-friendly and safe smallholder pig value chain, and social science, gender and equity in the pig value chain.



A field visit was originally proposed for the third day, but plans were scuppered by the African swine fever outbreaks in northern Vietnam. However, plan B, a visit to traditional markets followed by a bus stop/interactive session covering topics such as possible future research topics and/or collaborations and ideas for translation of research finding into practice and policy held at the Vietnam National University of Agriculture turned out to be an excellent alternative.

RECOVER veterinary CPR training at the CSC

We had a world class teaching and learning event at the CSC on Saturday, April 6th, 2019. Trish Farry and Gary Fitzgerald organised to have Kenichiro Yagi and Harold Davis, a US based training team for the RECOVER (Reassessment Campaign on Veterinary Resuscitation) initiative, attend the CSC for a day long training course in CPR. The RECOVER initiative began in 2010, and the first veterinary guidelines on CPR were published in 2012. The goals of the RECOVER initiative are to develop and update evidence-based, consensus veterinary CPR guidelines through exhaustive review of the primary CPR literature, provide **the only** standardized CPR training to veterinary professionals and pet owners offering CPR certification through the [American College of Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care](#) (ACVECC) and endorsed by the [Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care Society](#) (VECCS) and inform and support scientific research to improve our approach to CPR in animals.



The day was long, 7:30am – 7pm, and very worthwhile. By the close of the day twenty (20) UQVETS technicians, nurses and veterinarians were extremely fortunate to have experienced the highest quality training in CPR that is currently on offer around the globe in veterinary medicine, and all became certified in Basic Life Support (BLS) and Advanced Life Support (ALS). Together with this a group of six (6) UQVETS veterinarians and technicians are now certified RECOVER instructors, which has increased the number of certified instructors in Australia by 300%! So, the majority of people qualified to teach this course in Australia are now UQ based.

This was truly a world-class experience.

SVS staff complete the Graduate Teaching Associates program

Congratulations to Sergio Erdal, Emily Jones (the two in the centre of the photo) and Navin Prakash (not pictured) who recently graduated from the Graduate Teaching Associate program in St Lucia.



The GTA program is the first program in the Higher Education Academy's program. The program provides participants with the knowledge and practical skills to build a successful teaching career in higher education.

Staff News

Welcomes:

Catriona Croton
Kristin Descovich
Dhewantara, Pandji
Ranjbar, Shahab
Seyda Akter
Tony Lam
Lea Indjein
Kate Batson

Research Officer – Statistician
Postdoctoral Researcher
Research Officer – One Health AMR
Lecturer in Production Animal Medicine
Research Assistant
Project Manager – Dispensary
Associate Lecturer
Veterinary Nurse

Deanna Thorpe
Javier Cortes Ramirez
Shar-Ara Edwards

Veterinary Nurse
Research Officer Spatial Epidemiologist
Trainee Animal Attendant

Expected Arrivals:

Ben Wood Associate Professor in Production Animal Medicine

Resignations/Departures:

Bridgette Brown Small Animal Emergency & Critical Care Clinician
Jacqui Ewing Veterinary Nurse – Equine
Lauren Byrne General Practitioner

Congratulations to:

- AProf Rachel Allavena - SVS Deputy Head of School commencing as soon as possible;
- AProf Joerg Henning - Director of Students and Admissions commencing Semester 2 2019;
- Prof Jon Hill - Director of Advancement Committee (formerly a subcommittee within Engagement);
- Aaron Herndon selected to serve on the NVE Board of Examiners for AVBC.

Expressions of Interest will be sought for:

- Director of Engagement Committee;
- Director of Research Committee.



Teacher Showcase

Vithaya Chakitdee

Veterinary Technician, Clinical Studies Centre

Vithaya (Vit) is a second-generation employee for the UQ Veterinary Teaching Hospital, with his father, Mr Phaysouk Noinala, a staff member previously employed by the Small Animal Clinic and Hospital in St Lucia, Brisbane. Vit began his career in the UQ vet school back in 2000, moving into a clinical teaching role in 2003.

In addition to his wealth of experience, Vit possesses a range of qualifications including a Diploma Animal Technology and Certificate IV in Veterinary Nursing. Vit assists with the clinical teaching by scheduling daily classes, setting up for the different classes, organisation and allocation of resources for practical teaching and the sourcing and servicing of clinical teaching equipment. His expertise spans a number of disciplines including anaesthesia, surgical nursing and clinical examination.

Vital Statistics

Qualifications:

Diploma Animal Technology, Cert IV Vet Nursing

Years of Tertiary Teaching:

15 years

Discipline Areas:

Veterinary anaesthesia, surgical nursing, clinical examination and various others.

Teaching Courses:

VETS1025, VETS2008, VETS3009, VETS3043, VETS3044, VETS3070, VETS4010, VETS4012, VETS5030

Residential Schools:

Clinical contribution:

Teaching into a range of clinical subjects.

Student Quote:

'Vit is one of the most remarkable and capable technicians I have had the pleasure to work alongside. His enthusiasm, passion and dedication to teaching are just the surface of the innumerable personal attributes that make him one of the most valuable teaching staff members in the School.'

Vit is a well-respected colleague and teacher in the Clinical Studies Centre; always enthusiastic, passionate and willing to help students and staff alike.

The following quote from a colleague highlights just how valued he is as a staff member and teacher:

'Can you please clone him?'

The following testimony comes from a long serving clinical teacher in the School:

'When I started at the Vet School in at St Lucia, there was a remarkable animal attendant named Souk. He was always great to work with and no request from the teaching/vet staff was too much. We are all very sad when Souk retired. Who would have thought these characteristics were heritable? Souk's replacement was his son, Vit.'

In my 30 years at the Vet School, I have worked with many exceptional people, none better than Vit. Vit is always smiling, always willing and able to assist in whatever is going on. He has developed extraordinary levels of skill and knowledge in many fields of clinical anaesthesia, surgical nursing, teaching and animal management.

He is instrumental in keeping the Clinical Studies Centre functional, enabling and taking part in teaching classes on a daily basis. He is highly respected by all who work in the CSC.'

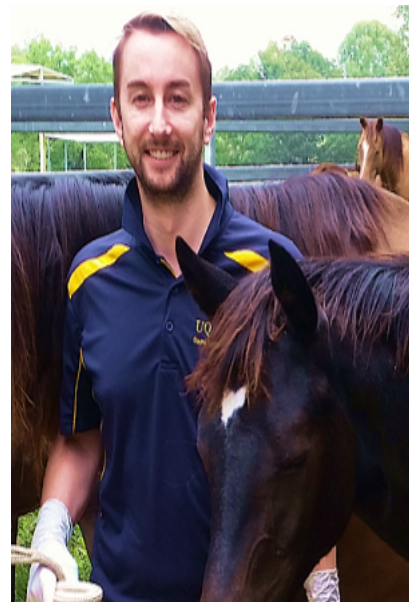
Brought to you by the SVS Vet Ed Network

Meet our Researchers

Dr. François-René Bertin is a Senior Lecturer in Equine Internal Medicine at the School of Veterinary Science at The University of Queensland and a Senior Clinician at the Equine Specialist Hospital at UQ VETS. He is a member of the international Equine Endocrinology Group as well as the Australasian Equine Endocrinology Focus Group. He is also Assistant Chair of the Education and Research Committee of the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine (ACVIM).

François-René received his doctorate in veterinary medicine in 2008 from the University of Nantes in France, where he studied how endotoxins alter vasoconstriction in equine laminitis. He then moved to the United States to complete a residency in Large Animal Internal Medicine and a Master of Science at Purdue University where his research focused on the early detection of equine endocrine disorders associated with laminitis such as insulin dysregulation and pituitary pars intermedia dysfunction. After becoming an ACVIM diplomate, François-René moved to Canada in 2012 to complete his PhD in physiology at the Lady Davis Institute for Medical Research at McGill University. There, he investigated the links between inflammation and vascular biology.

At The University of Queensland since 2016, François-René investigates the factors associated with insulin dysregulation and hypothalamo-pituitary-adrenal axis disorders to improve diagnostic tools and therapeutic options for laminitic horses. His research is currently focusing on the cross-talks between inflammation and endocrine disorders. By using spontaneous models of equine endocrinopathy, François-René has developed innovative testing protocols readily available to



veterinary practitioners to help them manage laminitic horses in the field.

François-René is currently accepting HDR students to work on equine endocrinology projects.

Upcoming Events

Courses, workshops, conferences & seminars

UQ VETS Veterinary Nurses and Technicians CE Seminar

2 May 2019, Gatton Campus. "X-Ray Vision: Imaging our equine patients". [Further information here.](#)

13th International Veterinary Congress

2-3 May 2019, London, UK. The theme of the conference is "Emphasizing Contemporary and Emerging Issues in Veterinary Research". [Further information here.](#)

2019 AVA Conference

5-10 May 2019, Perth, Australia. [Further information here.](#)

2019 UQ VETS Veterinary Nurse & Technicians Conference

13-14 July 2019, St Lucia Campus, Brisbane. Join us at the Veterinary Nurses and Technicians Conference for a weekend of educational sessions that will provide you with practical information across a range of topics. Veterinary nurses and technicians of all experience levels will find something of interest at this continuing education (CE) event. [Further information here.](#)

Vet Ed Down Under Symposium

11-13 February 2020, 'Sharing practice *growing together*'. The UQ School of Veterinary Science would like to extend a warm welcome to all veterinary educators, clinicians, nurses, technicians and technologists who teach, researchers and veterinary students wishing to attend the second biennial Australasian Veterinary Educators Symposium, 'Vet Ed Down Under'. The symposium is a two day event (Tuesday 11 - Wednesday 12 February, 2020) promoting veterinary education in the Australia/New Zealand region through the sharing of innovations, ideas and best practice in teaching and learning in an open and friendly atmosphere. Post-conference workshops will be scheduled on Thursday 13 February 2020.

The symposium will include keynote speakers, interactive poster presentations, and workshops. The Symposium Dinner will be held at a location in the picturesque Lockyer Valley on the evening of 11 February.

Abstracts will be welcomed on a range of topics, including:

- Collaborations and cross- disciplinary pollination;
- Interprofessional learning;
- Students as partners;
- Supporting and mentoring;
- Grassroots learning and teaching skills;
- Professional development, employability, entrepreneurship;
- Nurturing relationships, caring;
- Internationalisation;
- Cultural awareness training;
- Cross-cultural experiences;
- Entry pathways for equity students;
- Inspiring others, leading change;
- Visions for our future.

For further information please contact Dan Schull (d.schull@uq.edu.au)

In case of an emergency

In case of confirmed emergencies such as gas explosions, life threats, confirmed fire, please contact **000** - remember to call out of UQ first by dialling another 0 first, i.e. **0-000**.

For medical emergencies, UQ still mandates UQ Security be contacted first, all hours, on ext **53333** or **3365 3333**.

In both cases, remember to let them know you are calling from UQ GATTON campus and in the latter case, your building number.

8114 (Veterinary Science Building)

8106 (Veterinary Teaching Building including Anatomy, Post-mortem, MPL and Histo labs)

8156 (Veterinary Medical Centre)

8179 (Clinical Studies Centre)

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