

5/2019

Welcome to the May 2019 edition of the SVS Newsletter.



Recent Events and News

Harmony Day 2019

"The highest education is that which does not merely give us information but makes our life in harmony with all existence." - Rabindranath Tagore (poet, musician, and artist from the Indian subcontinent; Nobel Prize laureate in Literature in 1913)

On March 21, 2019, The School of Veterinary Science celebrated Harmony Day, which truly resonated the essence of what Rabindranath Tagore had said in those words. Students and staff alike came together for an evening of good music, great camaraderie and mouth-watering delicacies from around the world. Cultural diversity with a multi-cuisine food festival was held at Morisson Hall, UQ Gatton campus. In spite of rain, over a 100 international students and staff members came along and joined in the celebrations.

Harmony day is all about celebrating the amazing diversity of cultures. *Chole and Naan* from Indian sub-continent, *Hot Pot* from China, *Bulgogi Ttokbokki*, the Korean beef rice cake delicacy, *kimchi fried rice*, *Tang yuan* (a dumpling dessert) and the classic pavlova filled the eventful evening with aroma of friendship, appreciation and fellowship.

Students expressed their delight with wonderful things that they had to say after the event.

"It was a great way to break the ice and make friends from different years."

"Its not everyday we get to chat to our teachers in a casual setting... and over great food too! I



hope we have more of these events on the future as well!"

"Being so far away from home can be tough, but having a support system in the International Student group has been really helpful."



Pavithra Ramesh & Joerg Henning

Beaming with joy, the President of International BVSc Student Association Ms Pavithra Ramesh said, *"I had hoped this evening would be magical, but I was truly touched by active & whole hearted participation of everyone, students and teachers who made this Harmony Day so very special. I hope we get to do this more often."*

The 2019 Harmony Day Food Festival was organized by the International BVSc Student Representative Association and the International student mentor & recruitment coordinator, Associate Professor Joerg Henning.

Visit from RBWH/IMB researchers

Building on collaborative translational research efforts in the past the School was excited to host Profs Jeff Lipman (RBH) and Mark Blaskovich (IBM) recently. After a tour of the SVS facilities Prof Blaskovich gave a very interesting and thought provoking presentation on "Antimicrobial research at IBM". A range of SVS staff and HDR students attended and some interesting discussion of AMR in general and potential future collaborative research occurred. Profs Lipman and Blaskovich were impressed by the School's research facilities and expressed enthusiasm for future collaborative research efforts. If you wish to engage with either researcher regarding collaborative efforts please keep the HOS office informed to help spot mutually beneficial opportunities in the future.



Sydney University Collaboration

The UQ SVS Student Clinical Skills Hub staff and Clinical Studies Centre staff have been collaborating with the University of Sydney Skills Hub for the past 18 months to increase our mutual in-house capacity for developing veterinary teaching models and simulators. Sam Kempster and Fran Shapter visited USyd. in May last year and have been working with Katrina Walker and Alyssa Matthews to create BravoDog, a multifunctional canine model, with the ability to be intubated, have a jugular blood draw, an eye and ear examination. BravoDog arrived in the Hub in time for the 4th year BVSc surgical skills exam last week and was very popular with the students.

This week Alyssa came to help train our staff and students in making multi-layered silicon skins for suture practice. Silicon suture skins are readily available for purchase online however like BravoDog, making them in-house is far more cost effective and allows our teaching staff to design the suture pads to suit a range of techniques and applications so they are tailor made for our curriculum and new, Science Faculty funded, blended learning initiatives in the school. The



opportunity to work with other veterinary schools has been tremendously beneficial and work shopping different projects has allowed both schools to enhance their skills training capacity.



ANZCVS abstracts presentations

The Australian and New Zealand College of Veterinary Scientists (ANZCVS) is having their annual Science Week conference at the Gold Coast on July 4-6. UQ VETS Equine Specialist Hospital is a co-sponsor of the Research Abstract session and Research prize for the Equine Chapter. Fifth year veterinary student Ka Yuen, known to many as Nicholas, has had two abstracts accepted and is eligible for the Best Junior Researcher Award. He will be presenting abstracts "Cytology and microbiology of equine synovial infections" and "Antibiogram and multidrug resistant organisms from a referral equine hospital" with co-authors Sophia Hinrichsen (a fellow 5th year student), their mentor Allison Stewart and collaborators Justine Gibson, Lisa Kidd, Steve Zedler, Carlos Medina-Torres and Francois-Rene Bertin. Nicholas and Sophia were recipients of 2017/2018 Summer Research Scholarships. Nicholas was awarded a valuable Morris Animal Foundation Veterinary Student Scholarship under the mentorship of Dr. Stewart. Nicholas hopes to obtain a UQ International Scholarship to complete a PhD with Dr. Stewart.

UQ VETS veterinarians and students were selected to give 5 of the 9 abstracts (out of 17 abstract submissions received by the equine chapter), showcasing the great work being done by the Equine Section at SVS. Carlos Medina Torres will present "Clinical Trial of a Herbal Spray to Treat Equine Insect Bite Hypersensitivity"; Allison Stewart: "Sample handling effects on ACTH concentrations following thyrotropin-releasing hormone stimulation"; Albert Sole: "Wound healing effect of a commercial formulation of lidocaine, bupivacaine, adrenaline and cetrimide applied on experimentally induced wounds in horses". Natalie Fraser will also present a lecture "Endometrial biofilm and management of endometritis in mares" and Allison Stewart: "Endocrinological management of premature and or septic foals".

We wish to congratulate all our UQ VETS for being invited to speak at the most prestigious Veterinary Specialist Conference in Australia.

Puppy preschool update

May saw the second round of puppies graduate from UQ VETS Puppy Preschool, with a third round starting this week. Interest is continuing to build in our Puppy Preschool program and the puppies, owners and staff members involved are all thoroughly enjoying the experience.

Veterinary Technician Donna Marchiori runs the classes and shares her great depth of knowledge on canine behaviour whilst promoting the importance of positive reinforcement in training. The puppies are given the opportunity to play and learn lifelong skills in a safe and fun environment. It has been greatly rewarding for all staff involved to witness the puppies developing into the well behaved dogs their owners want.



UQ Bovine Veterinary Special Interest Reproductive Workshop

On Tuesday 30 April, The UQ Bovine Veterinary Special Interest Group hosted a bovine artificial insemination, ultrasound and embryo transfer workshop. We had Dr Peter Atkinson who is an



embryo transfer and artificial insemination specialist give a presentation in the Hub about Bovine ultrasound and artificial insemination techniques. BAG had a great attendance with 25 3rd and 4th year students participating in the workshop. This was a great learning opportunity for students and the Veterinary Skills Hub has great facilities including the reproductive models and the projector screen, which allowed Peter to display videos and images of foetal sexing, pregnancy diagnosis, and reproductive evaluations. The anatomy labs were then used for students to practice ultrasounding, AI and flushing embryos on reproductive tract specimens. Both Dr Peter Atkinson and Dr

Gry Boe-Hansen assisted students with these procedures and with examining embryos and bull semen under microscopes. This was a great event with a lot of positive feedback from the students. The BAG SIG would like to thank everyone involved particularly Dr Frances Shapter, Dr Peter Atkinson, Rod Verrall and Dr Gry Boe-Hansen and we hope to continue these events in the future.



Alana Rosenblatt visits China

Earlier this month Alana Rosenblatt travelled with a veterinary radiologist colleague to Chengdu, China, to teach an abdominal ultrasound workshop to general practice veterinarians. They then spent a couple of days at the [AnimalsAsia](#) China Bear Sanctuary in Chengdu, an incredible charitable foundation established to rescue and rehabilitate bears - predominantly moon bears that are tragically farmed for their bile.

Alana had the honour of working with the on-

site veterinary team during a routine health check on one of the bears, helping with ultrasonography and interpretation of radiographs, and performing the toughest nail (claw) trim ever!

Nong Lam University trip

This month staff and students from the School of Veterinary Science travelled to Nong Lam University, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam to help NLU establish a Student Clinical Skills Hub and introduce the teaching of clinical skills through simulation, models and self-directed learning into their veterinary teaching program.



This was undertaken as the final component of the OIE Veterinary Education Twinning Project led by Prof Jenny Seddon. The visit was the culmination of six months of project development by Dr Fran Shapter, Sam Kempster and our Student Clinical Skills Hub, to attain models and put together a start-up kit and digital resources. UQ SVS sent a team of four: Samantha Kempster and Vithaya Chakitdee from the Clinical Studies Centre and two BVSc students, who have been peer supervisors for our own Hub for the past two years, Katherine Munce and Alex del Bianco.

The trip was very successful with the NLU Hub being established and training workshops run for

NLU staff and students. Samantha was also invited to officiate the NLU graduating ceremony and present the 2019 advanced program graduates with their certificates.



Lee McMichael speaks at Bioinformatics Workshop in Indonesia

In late April Dr Lee McMichael attended the Workshop on Bioinformatics for Animal Disease Detection hosted by the Indonesian Research Centre for Veterinary Science (Balai Besar Penelitian Veteriner) in Bogor, Indonesia. Lee was one of two guest international speakers, the other being Dr Stanley Pang from Murdoch University. The attendees came from a diverse range of government institutions and universities

across Indonesia with a wide range of research focuses from veterinary medicine to human health. Lee gave two conference presentations, "Application of Bioinformatics to the study of viruses in Australian native wildlife" and "An Introduction to Molecular Testing and Phylogenetics" and conducted a one-day hands on workshop on the use of phylogenetic software packages. Lee was able to offer assistance to delegates' current research projects, and for some attendees, gave them their first insight into the world of phylogenetics. Many new friends were made and much conversation was had around potential collaborative research projects particularly in the area of veterinary virology.

First WHO Tricycle EpiX Workshop in Jakarta

On 7-9 May 2019, UQ Spatial Epidemiology Laboratory - SVS team, led by Associate Professor Ricardo J. Soares Magalhaes, visited Jakarta, Indonesia to deliver a 3 day workshop as part of the The Global Survey on ESBL producing *E. coli* (ESBL-Ec) Project (entitled "The WHO Tricycle Project"). The workshop was

attended by 20 participants representing different institutions including the National Institute of Health Research and Development (NIHRD), Ministry of Health Indonesia, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Environment, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and World Health Organization (WHO). The workshop consisted of three modules including spatial analysis and spatial modeling (delivered by Associate Professor Ricardo J. Soares Magalhaes), structural equation modeling (presented by SVS PhD candidate, Pandji Wibawa Dhewantara) and DNA sequencing and phylogenetic analysis (presented by SVS postdoctoral fellow Dr. Nicholas J. Clark).



The Tricycle Project was designed by WHO to implement a simplified, integrated trans-sectorial surveillance system for bacterial resistance to antibiotics on a global basis. The aim of this project is to measure the rate of Extended-spectrum beta-lactamase producing *Escherichia coli* (ESBL-Ec) in humans, animals (food chain) and the environment in order to characterize the determinants of the emergence and transmission of ESBL-Ec within a One Health framework. The UQ Spatial Epidemiology Laboratory is involved in extending this project to develop a platform for integrated study design and statistical analyses (EpiX study design), the results of which will include ESBL-Ec prevalence maps, identification of the social and environmental drivers of transmission, risk estimates of ESBL-Ec across three sectors, and the identification of the evolutionary drivers of ESBL-Ec. This project will provide better understanding of the epidemiology of ESBL-Ec in three study sites [Jakarta (Indonesia), Kolkata (India) and Kathmandu (Nepal)]. In Indonesia WHO Tricycle EpiX project is forming the basis for designing the National Antimicrobial Resistance Action Plan to support integrated AMR surveillance in Indonesia.

Australasian Society for Infectious Diseases (ASID) Annual Meeting

Rowland Cobbold attended the ASID Annual Meeting in Darwin mid-May. ASID is the premier society for those interested in infectious diseases. Although membership primarily comprises human ID specialist physicians and trainees, there are a smattering of vets, pharmacists, nurses and other professions represented. The meeting offered a very interesting array of talks and poster presentations, including a dedicated zoonoses session and plenaries of relevance to both the medical and veterinary professions. Of particular interest this year was the invited speaker Prof. Sharon Peacock from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and Honorary Senior Research Fellow in the Department of Medicine at the University of Cambridge, who presented her recent work exploring relationships between veterinary and medical sources of antimicrobial resistant (AMR) pathogens.



ASID is hoping to diversify its membership, and welcomes further veterinary input. This has recently been boosted through the establishment of the Zoonoses Special Interest Group (ZooSIG), of which Rowland is a co-convenor. There are other sub-groups (e.g. infection control, AMR) of potential interest to vets. Associate membership is very reasonably priced – feel free to catch up with Rowland if you'd like to discuss potentially being involved with ASID.

Project gathers information on intestinal parasites in pet dogs

Dr Swaid Abdullah and Tu Nguyen, with help from student volunteers, have been conducting surveys for a project on "Geographical variation in the prevalence, associated risk factors and resistance patterns of intestinal parasitism in pet dogs in Southeast Queensland." The project involves visiting dog parks in and around Brisbane and collecting dog poo samples, asking the dog owners to do an online survey, and asking about their awareness about dog parasites and possible zoonoses. Tu Nguyen is working on this project for his Honours degree with assistance from volunteer third and fourth year BVSc and BVet Tech students Keryn Tighe, Lily Betzien, Shirley Bao, Rachel Burrow, Miranda Evans, Peter Wood, Casey Miles, Tianle Chen, Alexander Del Bianco, Geoffrey Xu, Lily Betzien, Keryn Tighe, Timothy Chong.



3D printing for education and engagement; connecting to different audiences

A collaboration between SVS and the UQ library has used 3D printing to connect to school children at the World Science Festival Brisbane Cool jobs. Rachel Allavena used models of a greyhound and brachycephalic dog to illustrate brachycephalic airway syndrome to the young audience.

The models have also featured in UQ news and a TV piece for QUT news. The models are relatively cheap, tough and durable. They suit illustrating 3D structures that are normal or abnormal in teaching contexts.

The models were developed from CT scans by Nick Wiggins at UQ library. The models can be developed from medical imaging scans like CT or MRI, or digital photographs. Nick is very keen for further veterinary collaborations. If you would like further information on model development please email Nick on n.wiggins@library.uq.edu.au



Teacher Showcase

Jon Hill Professor of Veterinary Reproduction

BVSc PhD MANZCVS Dipl ACT MAICD

Jonathan's experience began with 10 years in private veterinary practice in Queensland and New South Wales; 7 years in faculty positions in the USA at Texas A&M and Cornell Universities; 6 years in research management with CSIRO Livestock Industries; and 4 years as Head of School & Dean at UQ SVS.

At Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine, Jon's clinical work was focused on mare and stallion fertility evaluations, artificial breeding, and cattle herd health. Jonathan's PhD was in the field of cattle cloning and this research resulted in identification of the major causes of abnormalities in cloned animals and production of the first calf cloned from an adult bull. At Cornell University Jon taught animal reproduction to senior veterinary students. He was one of five Theriogenologists who provided specialist equine and food animal reproduction services to clients of the Cornell University Hospital for Animals.

The past 6 years since stepping back from an intensive administrative role has enabled Jon to enjoy much closer interaction with the students through lectures, tutorials and practical training. Through this new role, Jon has a more insightful appreciation of how Schools can better accommodate diversity in learning expectations, styles and cultural backgrounds.

Vital Statistics

Years of Tertiary Teaching: 24

Discipline Areas:

Clinical theriogenology; assisted reproductive technologies (cloning, IVF, stem cells), veterinary surgeons legislation

Course Coordination:

VETS2008

Teaching Courses:

VETS2008, VETS 3041, VETS3024, VETS4034, VETS5029, ANIM3019

Current RHD students:

Tim Sladden

Clinical contribution:

Advice to external practitioners on reproduction and artificial breeding cases.

Student Quote:

'Jon honestly got me through this course, very approachable and explained things in a way that made me want to study them. John is engaging and very enjoyable to be around. He motivates us and keeps us feeling on top of things. Cannot fault him'.

Jon's contribution to teaching and coordinating into BVSc, BSci and BApp Sci courses from second through to final year included deployment of new teaching modalities. Examples include the introduction of online open book MCQ's and online group assignment video submissions into the VETS2008 course. To expand online learning in VETS2008 he was very fortunate to have access to technical assistance from Dr Debbie Tsui and ITS T&L Support. The video assignment encourages creativity from the students in developing their presentation skills whilst accomplishing the task of working as a clinical team to evaluate the contribution of a published paper to current best practice. Student feedback has been very positive with SECaT personal

and course scores above average (4.6 - 4.8/5 for 2nd year teaching; 4.7 to 4.8/5 for 5th year teaching).

In Jon's final year teaching and coordinating VETS5024 in 2013 & 2014, he has had success in encouraging deeper learning and motivating students which was exemplified by statements from final year students such as *'Jon is an excellent teacher, I always enjoy being taught by him. He makes you want to think and learn and to have input into discussions'* and *'I have always enjoyed Prof. Hill's approach to teaching and this was no exception.'*

From 2015 Jon coordinated VETS2008, each year he clearly states a prime goal for students is to expand their capacity to apply knowledge to solve problems and hence to work through clinical scenarios. In VETS2008 Jon's lecturing style is relaxed, caring yet professional. The lecture, practical and tutorial style is designed to encourage student participation, to develop critical thinking and promote interactions. That approach has resonated with students over the past few years with comments such as:

'I really enjoyed this course. The content was interesting and all relevant with the applied learning at the end of the semester helping a great amount to improve understanding. I loved that the quizzes were open book. That helped so much with my learning and understanding.'

'It was really interesting and even though I found it personally quite challenging I loved it!!!'

'Best course of vet school thus far! Absolutely loved the pracs, the quizzes were tremendously helpful in remaining up to date with the content. Thank you Professor Hill for running my favourite course!'

Brought to you by the SVS Vet Ed Network

Upcoming Events

Courses, workshops, conferences & seminars

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](#).

UQ VETS Equine Practitioners Conference 2020

The Second Annual UQ VETS Equine Practitioners Conference will be held on Wednesday 6 and Thursday 7 February 2020 with themes of colic, lameness, cardiology and reproduction. There will be eleven 30 minute lectures from our equine specialists, residents and farrier and then six 90 minute laboratories. Hands-on practical skills will be taught with 23.5 hours of CPD. Meals will be included in the registration fee which is very affordable due to the generosity of our sponsors. Registration will be open June 1 2019. Please let your colleagues in equine and mixed practice know about the conference as the limited places will fill fast. We hope to accommodate our alumni, referring vets and EMS providers prior to the nationwide announcement. Early bird registrations will attract a 10% discount. Access to the 2019 lectures is also available online for a small fee. Please contact Claire Girvin c.girvin@uq.edu.au to be added to the brochure mailing list or for registration questions. Regards, UQ VETS Equine Conference Convenor: Dr. Allison Stewart BVSc(hons), MS, DACVIM, DACVECC, MANZCVS, PhD.

Testimonials from 2019 attendees

"Great conference!"

"Relevant and useful labs and lectures for practicing vets."

"I found it a great 2 days. I learnt so much in each lecture and workshop. Thank you."

"Very affordable and felt I gained a lot of finer techniques for every day skills. Great lectures aimed at general practice."

"Everyone was very friendly and accommodating."

"You know it was a great CPD investment when you are still talking with colleagues about skills learnt a month after the conference!"

Vet Ed Down Under Symposium

11-13 February 2020, 'Sharing practice *growing together*'. The 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. [More information](#)

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)

School of Veterinary Science
The University of Queensland Gatton Campus
Tel: 07 5460 1834
Fax: 07 5460 1922
Email: vetenquiries@uq.edu.au
CRICOS Provider No:00025B