



# Veterinary Science Newsletter

## News and events



### Innovative teaching in response to COVID-19

VETS1025 is a BVSc first year 4 unit course introducing the husbandry, management, behaviour welfare and handling of animals for vets. This course includes a safety-based competency assessment in animal handling to ensure our students are ready to commence their industry placements. COVID-19 teaching restrictions in 2020 have required us to restructure the entire course and condense all the live animal training into the 12 weeks of semester two, without

increasing our animal usage and while maintaining a maximum group size of 10-11 students for most pracs.

To do this we have implemented new online video resources and pre-practical, hands-on, face-to-face teaching, where students integrate field walks, yard/facility tours with using the equipment to learn critical skills, such as knot tying and small animal restraints, on life size models the week before working with the live animals. Course staff have worked together to create these new teaching scenarios, in new spaces, such as the 8114 foyer, to create the best possible learning experiences for our students. Staff and student feedback has been tremendously positive about the addition.

From their location behind the front reception desk, the SVS student admin team were able to watch a class taught by Rod Verall in the 8114 foyer:

*"It has been fascinating for us to listen in to the class, and to see how the amendments and variants for COVID-19 have been implemented. Those of us who work in administration aren't usually involved in the final presentation of teaching activities, so to see how the classes are taught was an added bonus. We have picked up quite a*

*few interesting facts about cattle handling and behaviour, but also the wider context of the situations that a student vet would find themselves in when approaching a client, and their animals, on their property. The experience has been more than beneficial for all of us."*



### Yifei Yang, PhD student from the Centre of Animal Welfare and Ethics (CAWE), secures an International Farm Animal Welfare Fellowship.

Congratulations to Yifei Yang, who was awarded the International Farm Animal Welfare Fellowship (IFAWF). This program unites individuals with a shared passion for improving the welfare of farm animals in China. Fellows will be given the unique opportunity to engage with leading figures in farm animal welfare, develop networks with like-minded peers, and explore varying concepts and approaches, from animal welfare research to the promotion of plant-based foods. This fellowship initially would take place in London, however, due to the COVID-19 pandemic and ongoing travel restrictions, the IFAWF will be moving to an online format.

This fellowship will be hugely beneficial for Yifei's research on determining the effects of live transportation on fish welfare in a Chinese context. In her study, Yifei aims to understand how transportation affects fish welfare and the attitude of aquaculture stakeholders on fish welfare during live transport, the research activities will be mainly conducted at a local fish farm in Hangzhou, China.



### Congratulations to Brianna

Dr. Brianna Clarke, resident in Equine Internal Medicine had two articles published in the August/September edition of "Hoofbeats" titled *Tying Up* and *Your Foal's Arrived*. Hoofbeats is read by 28,000 people and hence this is another way the Equine Specialist Hospital contributes to community engagement. The full article will also be linked to our hospital webpage in a few months time.

## Free on farm insulin testing for ponies

The medicine team at the UQ VETS Equine Specialist Hospital are investigating insulin dysregulation in ponies and are offering **free on-farm insulin testing**.

- **Aim of the study** – Changes in insulin concentrations are common in ponies, mainly in well conditioned ones and in specific families of ponies. If left undiagnosed and unmanaged, this problem can lead to laminitis. Thus, we are studying the prevalence and genetics of insulin dysregulation in our QLD ponies to better understand the problem.
- **Eligibility** – We would prefer to use purebred ponies of Shetland, Australian Riding Pony and Welsh breeds between 5-10 years of age in South-East QLD. Though, if you do have/ know of crossbreed or older ponies, we may also be able recruit them depending on availability.
- **Free testing** – After veterinary assessment we will perform two types of tests to evaluate insulin regulation. The first test will be to assess insulin sensitivity and the second test will be to examine insulin secretion. Both are very safe tests and do not induce laminitis. The tests need to be performed on separate days, at least a day apart.

If you have more questions or would like to sign up contact Dr Brianna Clark, Dr François-René Bertin or Dr Allison Stewart at UQ VETS ESH on 5460 1799 or email [uqvets.eq@uq.edu.au](mailto:uqvets.eq@uq.edu.au)

## Staffing news

### Resignations/Departures:

Carlos Medina-Torres, Equine Medicine Specialist  
Tina Maguire, Scientific Officer, VLS  
Brandon Fraser, Production Animal Clinician

### New Appointments:

Imtiaz Randhawa, Research Officer

## Teacher showcase



### Rachel Allavena – Pathology, Toxicology and Laboratory Animal Science

Qualifications: BVSc (hons), BVBiol, GCHEd, FHEA, GradDip (Anatomic pathology), MANZCVS (Pathobiology, Laboratory Animal Science), PhD, DACVP

Rachel is best known for her role in developing flexible delivery modes of teaching including developing the VETS2033 laboratory animal course which is a fully flexible mode course with Dr Fran Shapter, and moving toxicology to a case-based format and bring in extra teaching modes like videos with co-pilot and tech expert Fran.

Programs Rachel is involved with include BVSc, BVTech, BSc, MVSc, DVClinSci and the HDR students.

*"I always put current affairs, news articles, funny stories, and recent cases I have seen into my lectures and tutorials. Because of my teaching fields this is nearly always something fascinatingly gory or horridly shocking. It helps keep the students awake and reinforces the relevance of the material. For example, why you don't eat random mushrooms from under oak trees."*

My major emphasis is on developing curriculum in teaching modes to decrease the burden on staff and students. I really like videos, online modules, simulators, and aligning multiple activities to reinforce learning and provide an integrated feedback cycle. My favourite examples is the tutorial cases we use in VETS3050 toxicology which inform the student video group assignments. One of these scenarios is tested in the ESE so the students can watch each other's videos for study material. The videos are also incredibly fun to grade because the students are so creative. Another example is when I realised the 20 minute safety intros to the postmortem room I was doing for postmortem were sucking literally an entire working day out of a year. Now it is a video and I don't even have to show up!

Rachel has made considerable contributions to the teaching and learning fabric of the SVS with membership of the Teaching and Learning Committee, Students and Admissions Subcommittee and as the Deputy Head of School.

She has led a range of SoTL grants projects:

2019 FoS Blended learning funds grant \$5000 Develop blended learning materials for

VETS3050 toxicology. Rachel Allavena, Paul Mills, Frances Shapter.

2018 Faculty of Science Teaching Equipment Grant "Enhanced blended learning, flexible delivery and clinical teaching at the Gatton Campus using digital microscopy" \$147,250.16

2018 Faculty of Science Teaching Equipment Grant "Digital interface for students using the multipurpose laboratory (MPL)" \$66,842 Justine Gibson, Rachel Allavena, Lynn Knott

2018 SoTL Grant: Conversion of module 2 in VETS2033 into Smart Sparrow lessons submitted by SVS donation by Hilary Huey and the Webb-Jenkins endowment \$1045.40 Rachel Allavena, Frances Shapter, Samantha Kempster

2015 Faculty of Science T&L grant. \$22,550. CIA. Innovative technology based course delivery promoting self-directed learning of laboratory animal science.

013 Faculty of Science T&L grant. \$39,219. CIB. Purchase of a new multiheader microscope with camera and projection capabilities for undergraduate and postgraduate veterinary pathology teaching.

### **Vital statistics:**

#### **Years of teaching:**

Nearly 10 years!

#### **Discipline areas:**

Pathology, Toxicology, Laboratory Animal Science

#### **Course coordination:**

VETS2033, VETS7709 and VETS3040

#### **Teaching courses:**

VETS2007, VETS2033, VETS3017, VETS3040, VETS3050, VETS3060, VETS5017, VETS5016, VETS5020, VETS7608, VETS7609, VETS7709.

#### **Residential schools:**

VETS3040

#### **Current RHD students:**

Emily Jones, Annika Oksa, Matthew Weston, Lisa Craig, Mirrim Kelly Bosma.

#### **Clinical contribution:**

Director of the Anatomic pathology service with a 40% load.

Here is a selection of student quotes:

*"Rachel is hands down the most incredible lecturer/tutor I have ever had at UQ. I really want her to write a toxicology textbook just because it would be incredible and I could take it to work EVERYDAY when I'm a vet."*

*"WE LOVE DR ALLAVENA!!!! Her lectures are SO entertaining and she is an absolutely fabulous lecturer! Thank you so much for teaching us toxicology, you provided us with many laughs which helps to make the 8 hour days of lectures more bearable!"*

*"VERY passionate about the field of study- when someone is so excited it is hard not to get excited too."*

## Upcoming events and opportunities



### Library Training Events for September

#### **Find me the money**

Tuesday 8 September, 12:00pm to 12:30pm via Zoom

Online via Zoom - link will be sent out to registered attendees prior to the session

Need money for your research? This workshop will give you hands-on guidance to find funding opportunities using the

Research Professional database.

To book, visit <https://studenthub.uq.edu.au/students/events/detail/2852184>

#### **Strategic Scholarly Publishing: Principles**

Wednesday 9 September, 11:00am to 12:30pm via Zoom

Delivered online via Zoom: <https://uqz.zoom.us/j/93402270744>

This training will introduce you to the principles of strategic publishing to help you make informed decisions about where and how to publish your research for a rewarding academic publishing experience and growing research career. This is an hour and a half presentation complemented by on-line modules which you may complete at your own pace after the session.

To book, visit <https://studenthub.uq.edu.au/students/events/detail/2829191>

#### **PubMed for literature searching**

Wednesday 9 September, 1:00pm to 2:00pm

PubMed is a broad biomedical database, free to access on the internet or via the UQ Library database search. It holds over 30 million citations from publications around the world, in English and non-English languages.

Please come to this session with a research topic and list of terms/synonyms to search with.

To book, visit <https://studenthub.uq.edu.au/students/events/detail/2832401>

#### **UQRDM for Higher Degree Research Students - how to use it to help with your research**

Thursday 10 September, 2:00pm to 3:00pm via Zoom

The session will take HDR students step by step on how to use UQRDM to store, organise and share their research data and documents.

Attend online: [Login to Zoom event at above times.](#)

Please book in to receive session reminders and updates.

To book, visit <https://studenthub.uq.edu.au/students/events/detail/2845235>

### **Metrics for grant applications**

Tuesday 15 September, 10:00am to 12:00pm

This hands-on session will provide information about key publication metrics that will strengthen your grant applications. Find out how to demonstrate the extent of your collaboration and make claims of impact using metrics from indexed (Web of Science, Scopus and Scival) publications. We will also touch on alternative impact measures you might use.

To book, visit <https://studenthub.uq.edu.au/students/events/detail/2836199>

### **EndNote: getting started**

Tuesday 15 September, 11:00am to 12:30pm via Zoom

View our [Using EndNote](#) guide

#### **Class Essentials**

- Online via Zoom - please be on time
- The Zoom link will be sent out before the class to the email address used in your booking
- This class uses EndNote in the Windows environment

To book, visit <https://studenthub.uq.edu.au/students/events/detail/2835713>

### **Introduction to Digital Research Notebook (LabArchives)**

Thursday 17 September, 2:00pm to 3:30pm via Zoom

Attend online: [Login here to Zoom event at above times](#)

Please book in to receive session reminders and updates.

To book, visit <https://studenthub.uq.edu.au/students/events/detail/2845234>

### **EndNote: getting started**

Wednesday 23 September, 1:00pm to 2:30pm

NOTE: Our face to face training room can accommodate 6 attendees only due to COVID-19 restrictions. We'll contact attendees in order of registration and allocate places to the first 6 who wish to attend face to face. All other attendees will be able to attend online via Zoom (we'll send out the required link prior to the session).

View our [Using EndNote](#) guide

#### **Class Essentials**

- Please be on time
- This class uses Windows, but will be valuable for Mac users

To book, visit <https://studenthub.uq.edu.au/students/events/detail/2824656>

### **EndNote for thesis and publications writing**

Wednesday 23 September, 1:30pm to 3:30pm via Zoom

Online via Zoom. The Zoom link will be sent out before the class to the email address used in your booking .

Prior knowledge of EndNote is essential. Tips and tricks for using EndNote when writing a thesis or a publication. This class uses pre-prepared materials which will be sent to you before the class.

To book, visit <https://studenthub.uq.edu.au/students/events/detail/2835729>

### **Word: Creating a Structured Thesis (CaST)**

Monday 28 September, 9:30am to 12:30pm via Zoom

This session is very similar to the Word Advanced session. It has been customised to focus on UQ's thesis submission requirements using formal documentation rather than generic skills based training.

This session will use Microsoft Word. Please install the software before joining this session: <https://my.uq.edu.au/information-and-services/info...>

Attend online: Zoom link to be sent before session

As part of [UQ Sustainability](#) this class has no paper handouts. You may download manuals and exercises for this class on the [training resources](#) page.

To book, visit <https://studenthub.uq.edu.au/students/events/detail/2854490>

### **Introduction to Scholarly Publishing**

Monday 28 September, 2:00pm to 3:00pm via Zoom

Delivered online via Zoom: <https://uqz.zoom.us/j/99848303532>

This session is for you if you want to understand and learn everything about the scholarly publishing workflow. Designed to break stereotypes and show that publishing is feasible and can be adventurous, the training will help you uncover some useful publishing tricks of the trade. Please join us to explore why publish, what to publish and how to make informed decisions about your publishing choices.

Highly recommended for HDRs and ECRs

To book, visit <https://studenthub.uq.edu.au/students/events/detail/2829190>

### **PubMed for literature searching**

Tuesday 29 September, 1:00pm to 2:00pm

NOTE: Our face to face training room can accommodate 6 attendees only due to COVID-19 restrictions. We'll contact attendees in order of registration and allocate places to the first 6 who wish to attend face to face. All other attendees will be able to attend online via Zoom (we'll send out the required link prior to the session).

Please come to this session with a research topic and list of terms/synonyms to search with.

To book, visit <https://studenthub.uq.edu.au/students/events/detail/2824820>

### **EndNote for thesis and publications writing**

Wednesday 30 September, 1:00pm to 3:00pm

NOTE: Our face to face training room can accommodate 6 attendees only due to COVID-19 restrictions. We'll contact attendees in order of registration and allocate places to the first 6 who wish to attend face to face. All other attendees will be able to attend online via Zoom (we'll send out the required link prior to the session).

To book, visit <https://studenthub.uq.edu.au/students/events/detail/2824727>

Library staff offer classes (workshops) in software, research skills, and publishing and research management. Classes are added often, so check <https://web.library.uq.edu.au/library-services/training> regularly.

## 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, Phone: (07) 5460 1834

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