



Veterinary Science Newsletter

News and events



Student partnership success story

The collaboration between the RSPCA Hospital and SVS for fifth year BVSc clinical placements has been featured on the RSPCA website. The article "[A Student Partnership Success Story](#)" features Irene Jeumin Kong, Allen Chang and Shirley Ngan from the 2020 graduating cohort, and Dr John Mallyon. Also on the website is a short video featuring the students and Dr Mallyon.

[Read more](#)



UQ VETS third annual equine conference

The 2021 Equine Practitioners Conference was resurrected at the last moment when the University lifted its restrictions on non-student related events. The attendees were mostly Queensland and Northern NSW veterinarians. The conference was supported by nine industry sponsors.

Over two days 12 x 30minute lectures and 3 x 90minute practical labs were repeated three times. Student volunteers helped prepare horses the day before and assisted during the conference. It was a great opportunity for these junior students interested in horse practice.

Positive feedback was received from the attendees:

"Interesting and well worth attending. Enjoy the local crowd and opportunity to connect with UQ specialists."

"the wet labs are a particularly nice way of spending one on one time with specialists and learn their little tricks and advice"

"Definitely recommend to others. Great content which can be applied to general equine practice. Also allows practitioners to build a relationship with specialists whom we often refer animals to. Gained a lot from pracs with fewer numbers in groups. Food was 10/10!"

"Definitely. Good length, great wet labs, lectures all relevant. Good chance to ask questions of UQ vets. Keep them (conferences) coming"

"Very applicable to most equine and mixed practices. Broad scope of topics, everyone can get something out of it. Affordable. Great to have some hands on labs to cement knowledge."

"the small groups especially for the wet labs was fantastic. The opportunity to discuss with each other and the staff and students was amazing."

"Practical, affordable. Short lectures- kept focus throughout morning. Hands on prac classes small so able to spend time on technique"



SVS Academic mentors 2021 for the BVSc program

Academic mentoring is an important service role in the School of Veterinary Science. The mentors are the first point of contact for students to discuss any concerns, provide solutions (if possible) or raise issues, in particular regarding well-being and work life balance. All academic mentors are members of the SVS Students and Admissions Committee.

Here are our 2021 academic mentors for the BVSc program:

BVSc 1st & 2nd year mentor 2021: Swaid Abdullah

Swaid (swaid.abdullah@uq.edu.au) hails from Kashmir, India. He completed his bachelors in SKUAST, Kashmir and his Masters in Vet. Parasitology from GB Pant University of Agriculture & Technology, India. After completing his Masters, he worked as a vet in Kashmir for a year and later moved to the United Kingdom to pursue his PhD at the University of Bristol. After his PhD, Swaid worked as a postdoc in the UK and Northern Ireland for a year and later moved to Australia to join UQ in Sept 2018.

Swaid is a friendly, open-minded person who loves listening and talking to people. He is a sports enthusiast, and likes being active and playing sports. He has a passion for animals and likes photographing them.

Swaid is available for chats in person in Gatton or through Zoom on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

BVSc 3rd year mentor 2021: Mainity Batista Linhares

Mainity (m.batistalinhaires@uq.edu.au) is Brazilian-Portuguese. She graduated from vet school at the Vetsuisse Faculty (2011) in the University of Bern, completed her doctorate at the Center for Fish and Wildlife Health in the pathology department of the University of Bern, specialized as a Swiss federal (public health) veterinarian, and worked for the Swiss Federal Food Safety and Veterinary Office. She then moved to the United States for her residency in anatomic pathology (2015-2018) at the Zoological Pathology Program of the UofL and then worked at Tufts Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine (2018-2019) before moving to Brisbane in October 2019.

She is married to an American and fellow pathologist. They were blessed with their first child in May 2020!

Mainity is available for chats in person in Gatton on Wednesdays and Thursdays and in St Lucia for the other days of the weeks. As you can image she loves traveling, speaking multiple languages, learning about different cultures and protecting the environment, animals and our common sustainable future.

BVSc 4th & 5th year mentor 2021: Aaron Herndon

Aaron (a.herndon@uq.edu.au) is just a boring American who only speaks one language (poorly). He was born in Oklahoma, and grew up in Kansas and Texas. After graduating with his DVM in 1998 he spent three years as a veterinarian in the US Army stationed in Connecticut. He stayed on in Connecticut for a bit, and then lived in Texas before moving to Oklahoma where he completed his PhD and Small Animal Internal Medicine Residency at Oklahoma State University. Over his career, Aaron has practiced in the military, general small animal practice, full-time emergency medicine and surgery, he was the vet for a herd of dairy goats and their cow and donkey friends, and he's done a bit of avian/exotics practice. Aaron came to Queensland with his family in 2015. They LOVE living in Queensland, even though his family isn't a fan of the ants and spiders and tick and snakes. In his free time, Aaron loves to cook, run, watch good movies with his family, and work in his yard.

Since Aaron is a clinician, you never know exactly where he will be. Email is always the best place to start, but you can also look for him in the small animal hospital or in his office on level zero (046) in 8114.

International Student Mentor 2021: Joerg Henning

Approximately 24% of students in each year of the BVSc program are international students. Modern veterinary practice must have a global perspective, and the UQ BVSc curriculum has been designed to offer internationally aligned content preparing students for professional roles in whichever region they choose to work. In each year of the BVSc program, international year representatives are elected, providing a collective voice for international students.

Joerg (j.henning@uq.edu.au) is the academic international student mentor and the recruitment coordinator for the BVSc program. He is also the Gatton campus representative of the UQ Cultural Inclusion Council and the SVS Director of Students and Admissions. Born in East Germany and graduating with a BVSc in 1996, he has worked and lived in many places around the world and has learned a number of odd languages (Esperanto, Swahili and Russian). He loves hiking, running, chain-sawing and exciting movies.

Joerg meets regularly with the international year representatives to discuss international student issues and to organise international students' events, such as the Harmony Day food festival, internal sports days and cultural diversity and exchange events.



Congratulations Chiara Palmieri

Congratulations to Chiara Palmieri on receiving a UQ Award for Excellence in Higher Degree Research as an emerging advisor. The award was given at a ceremony on 4 March at the Queensland Brain Institute Auditorium.

Congratulations Fran Shapter



Congratulations to Fran Shapter who was awarded the 2020 Teaching Excellence Award at the UQ Awards for Teaching and Learning ceremony on 15 March.

See the link here to Fran's video
<https://vimeo.com/524058399>



Rachel Allavena speaks at UQTEDx

A/Prof Rachel Allavena was one of the speakers at UQTEDx an independently run TED affiliated event. In the spirit of ideas worth spreading, TEDx is a program of local, self-organised events that bring people together to share a TED-like experience.

At a TEDx event, TED Talks video and live speakers combine to spark deep discussion and connection. TEDxUQ is an annual independently organised TEDx event that first started in 2013. Run entirely by a team of passionate volunteers, including undergraduate and post-graduate UQ students, TEDxUQ brings a TED-like experience to the UQ and wider Brisbane communities.

A/Prof Allavena presented a talk on why dogs are our best friends and also our greatest allies in curing cancer.

<https://www.tedxuq.com/speakers/>

SVS SharePoint site (or intranet)

Not all SVS staff are aware that the School has a SharePoint site, or intranet. There is a link to this site on the bottom of the SVS homepage under the label "School Intranet". The url is: <https://intranet.sharepoint.uq.edu.au/sites/svs/SitePages/Home.aspx>

The site has some useful information for staff including:

- minutes and terms of reference for School committees
- research grant deadlines
- teaching and learning documents

All School staff should automatically have access. Please contact [Claire Girvin](#) with suggestions of additional resources and information that might be included.

Teacher showcase



Aaron Herndon, Dr - Small Animal Medicine

DVM - 1998 Texas A&M

DIP ACVIM (Small Animal Internal Med) 2014

PhD 2015

SFHEA 2020

Aaron is known in the School for his passion for everything assessment and leadership through his role as the Chair of the Assessment Subcommittee. In addition, he makes significant clinical contributions through the Small Animal

Medicine Service. He is an active teaching innovator with many initiatives and projects under his belt including reinventing several aspects of VETS3070.

Aaron teaches into the Bachelor of Veterinary Science and Veterinary Technology programmes in addition to advisor duties for Higher Degree Research students (DVClinSci, PhD).

Aaron is passionate about his teaching. In his own words, Aaron is 'all-in' - assuming he doesn't know enough about how to teach well, so constantly reading and learning. Through this reflective practice, Aaron has made considerable impacts on teaching and learning in the School – mostly but not limited to the assessment space (eg. enhancing marking consistency, fifth year VIVA standardisation and marking platform, student feedback and OSCE development and marking. He co-founded the EMS Happy Hour, an online community of practice, utilising a cloud-based conference platform for informal student case discussions, reflective practice and pastoral care. He is passionate about curriculum and assessment mapping.

Aaron has contributed to the T&L Committee and Assessment Subcommittee since 2017. He is a member of the SVS Vet Ed Network and was on the local organising committee for the recent successful international "Vet Ed Down Under" Conference hosted by the School. He is also a member of the Students and Admissions Committee and provides further service contributions through his roles as Year Advisor for fourth and fifth year of the BVSc programme.

Aaron has led a range of SoTL grants and projects:

Faculty TIG: High-resolution Curriculum Mapping

- UQ TIG: Assessment Ideas Factory
- UQ TIG: Feedback in Assessment Network (FAN)
- Use of models for assessment of technical skills
- Use of an assessment instrument based on AAVMC CBVE Entrustable Professional Activities
- ITaLI Professional Learning Pathways advisor

In 2020, Aaron was recognised as a national leader in Teaching and Learning by attaining Senior Fellowship Status in the international "Higher Education Academy". He has previously been awarded the School's "Helen Keates Developing Teacher Award" in recognition of his grassroots teaching initiatives and outcomes.

Vital statistics:

Years of teaching:

9

Discipline areas:

small animal medicine, clinical skills, clinical reasoning

Course coordination:

VETS3070

Teaching courses:

VETS3060, VETS3009, VETS3017, VETS3024, VETS3040, VETS4010, VETS5030

Current RHD students:

Caitlin Mack
Sergio Erdal Irac
Louise Rae

Clinical contribution:

Small Animal Medicine

Student quote:

"He's always upbeat and definitely loves his job. Makes me enjoy going to his lectures."

Here is what Aaron's students have said about his teaching approach:

"More Interpretive Dance"

"Loved how you started simple and built up to clearly and comprehensively explain concepts"

"The only person to keep students awake from 3-5 on a Monday after 8 hours of lectures!"

"He made me understand endocrine diseases when I have seriously struggled with it in previous years".

"Was very engaging and casual ... did the lectures at a pace which suited the students and was very interesting and inspired me to learn"

"The passion he brings to every lecture gets me really interested in his topics"

Brought to you by the SVS Vet Ed Network

Upcoming events and opportunities



Library workshops April 2021

Word: Styles and Structure

Mon 19 Apr 2021, 9:30 am - 11:30 am

Infographics: Data Visualisation

Tue 20 Apr 2021, 9:30 am - 11:30 am

UQRDM Q&A session

Thu 29 Apr 2021, 9:00 am - 10:00 am

Nvivo: Getting started

Fri 30 Apr 2021, 9:30 am - 12:30 pm



Harmony Day Food Festival

16 April, 5-8pm, Morrison Hall

The [SVS Harmony Day International Food Festival](#) will be held on 16 April 2021 on the Gatton Campus. The festival allows international students enrolled in the BVSc and BVetTech programs to celebrate their cultural diversity while indulging in delicious dishes from around the world. All international BVSc and BVetTech students and SVS staff are welcome.

Veterinary Technology Clinical Year Ceremony



20 April, 4:45pm-6pm, Dining Hall

Please join the School in acknowledging the significant milestone of the commencement of clinical rotations and the achievements of our third year Veterinary Technicians.

Canapés will be served at the Central Walkway (outside Dining Hall) from 4.45pm. The official ceremony will commence promptly at 5.30pm and conclude at 6.00pm. A cash bar is available throughout the event.

Following the ceremony the students will celebrate with a **cohort-only dinner**.

You are warmly invited to join the students and fellow staff from 4.45pm to 6.00pm to recognise this milestone in their journey. Please [RSVP](#) by Friday 16 April and help us acknowledge their success.

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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