



Veterinary Science Newsletter

News and events



Chiara Palmieri receives Order of Merit of the Italian Republic

Professor Chiara Palmieri was awarded the Order of Merit of the Italian Republic at a ceremony that was held at Customs House in Brisbane – organised by the Italian Consulate in Brisbane.

The Order of Merit of the Italian Republic (Italian: Ordine al Merito della Repubblica Italiana) is the senior Italian order of merit: the highest ranking honour for the Republic; established in 1951 by the second President of the Italian Republic, Luigi Einaudi; and is awarded for "merit acquired by the nation" in the fields of literature, the arts, economy, public service, and social, philanthropic and humanitarian activities and for long and conspicuous service in civilian and military careers. The post-nominal letters for the order are OMRI. The order is bestowed by decree of the President of the Italian Republic, as head of the orders of knighthood, on the recommendation of the President of the Council of Ministers.

This is a wonderful recognition of Chiara's contribution to science and community and reflects the global importance and impact of her achievements.

[Read more](#)

Professor Francisco Uzal visits SVS

Dr. Francisco Uzal, CEO of the Davis-Thompson Foundation, Professor and Branch Chief of the California Animal Health and Food Safety laboratory, UC Davis, visited The



University of Queensland School of Veterinary Science Gatton campus on June 28th 2022 for a day filled with very interesting practical, conceptual and assessment Veterinary Pathology activities. Invitations to online sessions were circulated via the membership of the Australian Society for Veterinary Pathology – ASVP resulting in a day filled with dynamic discussions from veterinary clostridial diseases to equine gastrointestinal biopsies. We are deeply thankful with Dr. Uzal for accepting our invitation during his family holidays to Australia, and hope to have him over again

soon.

(Photo: Concluding the day with high enthusiasm about all-things pathology!)



UQ Vets community blood donor program makes the ABC Radio

Rebecca de Gier was interviewed by ABC Radio about the UQ Vets community blood donor program. She discussed the increased need for canine blood donors in order to continue to offer gold standard transfusion medicine.

[Read more](#)



2022 American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine (ACVIM) Forum

SVS staff attended the 2022 ACVIM Forum, a prestigious veterinary internal medicine conference, that was held June 21-23 in Austin Texas. Equine internal medicine resident Brianna Clark gave an oral abstract and PhD student Kate Kemp presented a research poster.

(Pictured left to right: Brianna Clark, Francois-Rene Bertin, Nicholas Bamford, and Kate Kemp.)



Bain Fallon Memorial Lectures 2022

UQ was well represented in the oral abstracts at the 2022 Bain Fallon Memorial Lectures. Equine internal medicine resident Brianna Clark (*pictured*), 2021 graduate Jordan Flood, and Allison Stewart's Honours student from CSU Naomi Kirkwood all presented. Congratulations to Jordan for winning the Norman Larkin Prize for best oral presentation by a non-specialist.



Agricultural leadership course cultivates Australian-Mongolian networks

An Australia Awards training program aimed at bolstering women's leadership in agriculture in Mongolia was recently hosted across The University of Queensland's St Lucia and Gatton campuses.

The program brought together 20 female agricultural professionals working across government, private, and

non-government organisations in the Mongolian agricultural sector.

[Associate Professor Joerg Henning](#) organised and delivered many of the teaching activities for the Gatton campus component of the course, and said the program gave participants the opportunity to gain an understanding of the advancements made in agricultural research, development, and business management.

“With access to Gatton’s state-of-the-art farming facilities and laboratories, as well as visits to key agricultural sites in the Darling Downs, participants were able to observe hands-on agriculture research at The University of Queensland,” Dr Henning said.

“They had a chance to visit laboratory and field facilities at UQ’s Gatton Campus and learned from several of our leading researchers and academics from the Faculty of Science and the industry.

“The visits to the Toowoomba Cattle Sale Yard, local integrated livestock and crop producers, and the Awassi cheesery gave participants a glimpse into how the region’s highly productive agricultural sector works as a whole.”

The training program was funded by the Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), managed by [UQ’s International Development](#) team, and led by the [UQ Centre for Communication and Social Change](#).

Teaching was conducted across five themes: Sustainable Rural Development, Women in Rural Development, Critical Skills and Entrepreneurship, One Health, and Agricultural Value Chains.

The Australian course leader, [Associate Professor Elske van de Fliert](#), said the program is underpinned by the foundational theme of women’s leadership, and builds participants’ capacities through a combination of lectures, guest presentations, panel discussions, mentoring, site visits, and workshops.

“One of the important elements of the program is that it provides opportunities to build valuable people-to-people links between Australia and Mongolia,” Dr van de Fliert said.

“It enables mid-career professionals and emerging leaders to tap into Australian expertise and to exchange valuable skills and knowledge to facilitate their networks and their individual growth.”

The Mongolian course leader, Ms Tungaa Boldbaatar, said participants developed the ability to identify and source innovations taught in this course, based on their individual needs.

“They acquired enhanced capacity to develop business, research, and development strategies unique to their individual endeavours.”

During the course, participants were also exposed to Indigenous culture through several site visits.

“Participants drew parallels between these stories and their own Mongolian culture and ways of understanding ownership and access to land,” Dr Henning said.

“They highlighted the importance for those working in the agricultural sector to consider traditional and Indigenous knowledge around farming, land ownership and connection to country.”

The program was a valuable networking opportunity, according to many participants. Image: supplied.

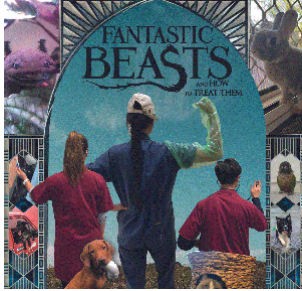
Head of the Production and Service Division with Mongolia’s Department of Food and Agriculture, Tsetsegmaa Tseden-Ish, was one of the participants and said she was grateful for the opportunity to visit key agricultural areas in Gatton and in the surrounding areas and learn from UQ’s renowned researchers.

"Everyone we met generously shared their knowledge and personal work and life experiences," Ms Tseden-Ish said.

"I left with a new understanding of Australia's commitment to social responsibility, mutual respect and growth, and sustainable resource use in the agricultural industry.

"I have expanded my network and go home with a lot of information to share."

The course is being delivered both online and in-Australia between May and September.



Fifth year conference week

The final year veterinary student "Conference Week" was held from Monday 20 to Friday 24 June 2022. The student-voted theme for this year was "Fantastic beasts and how to treat them". Over the week students all presented a common and interesting case and taught their powers about the key lessons learned/ take home messages from each case. As per usual, there were a number of seminars to help prepare students for imminent transition to practice

and the help and support available for them. And finally, the week included a range of sign-up small group workshops and wet labs based on topics requested specifically by the cohort.

Here were the audience-voted awards for the week:

- Avian, exotics & wildlife - Divya Krishnan
- Canine – Sherry Harvey
- Equine – Claudia Greve
- Feline – Alison Meyer and Tobie Anderson
- Livestock – Caitlyn Hovey

And the 'Grand Prize' was awarded to Sherry Harvey. Congratulations to all.

Thanks to all the staff markers, workshop tutors and MCs who helped to make the week run smoothly.

What an amazing privilege it is for us all to be able to care for and treat these fantastic beasts.



UQ VETS achievements outside the clinic

From 'scrubbing in' to 'scrubbing up', our talented team have been keeping busy outside of clinics!

Over the past several weeks our production animal, equine and small animal teams have been presenting at a range of conferences included the 2022 AVA Conference, the 28th VNCA Conference and the ANZCVS Science Week 2022.

A massive congratulations to our team who have not only presented but also to those who have taken home awards, including:

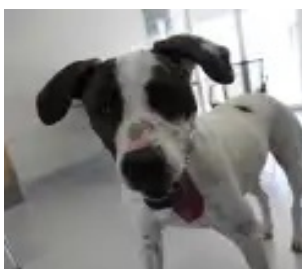
- VNCA's Best Case Report - Iffy Glendinning
- VNCA's Helen Power Future Leadership scholarship - Rebecca de Gier
- Science Week's Best Abstract in Anaesthesia and Analgesia - Adam Whitelock
- Science Week's Best Equine Abstract - equally awarded to Abby Cox and Natasha Lean
- Paper of the Year for the Australian Veterinary Journal for 2022 - Nicole J Kalnins, Mark Haworth, Catriona Croton, Justine Gibson, Alison Stewart and Sarah Purcell.



FIRST Veterinary Technician Specialists in Clinical Practice (Exotic Companion Animal) in the southern hemisphere!!!

We are excited to announce that Rebecca de Gier and Gary Fitzgerald have officially obtained their VTS (Veterinary Technician Specialist) certification, after meeting the rigorous requirements set by the Academy of Veterinary Technicians in Clinical Practice (AVTCP). AVTCP is modelled after the American Veterinary Medical

Association accredited college, the American Board of Veterinary Practitioners (ABVP). Their sub speciality in this Academy is Exotic Companion Animals. They are the only technician and nurse in the southern hemisphere (and are only # 10 & 11 in the world to hold this qualification). This is a huge achievement from two amazing individuals and role models!



Portrait of Sarina by Hannah Lee

Thank you to CSC's personal UQ hero, the amazing Hannah Lee, who is an intern at VMC. In her downtime, Hannah enjoys relaxing with her paints, and she offered to paint a portrait of our Sarina! Hannah has captured Sarina exactly and we're all very hopeful this gives Sarina a little boost above that big crowd of needy dogs, to help her find her new family soon. [Learn more about Sarina.](#)

Congratulations to Amy Birch on receiving the 2021 Don Kerr Award

At the 2021 BVSc Graduation Dinner, Amy Birch was awarded the AVA (QLD Division) Bachelor of Veterinary Science Dux Award, the Epidemiology Chapter of the ANZCVS Epidemiology Prize, and the School's nomination for the Don Kerr Award. To everyone's delight, Amy was presented with the Don Kerr award at the recent AVA Conference held on the Gold Coast.



The Don Kerr Veterinary Student Award commemorates the work of the late Don Kerr who died in November 1992 while serving as President of the Australian Veterinary Association. Don was an enthusiastic cattle practitioner and dedicated educator of veterinary undergraduates. The Award is conferred on a final year veterinary student from one of the veterinary schools for academic achievement and exceptional commitment to cattle medicine.
(Photo: Amy Birch being presented with the School's nomination by Ben Wood at the 2021 Graduation Dinner.)



Three Minute Thesis Competition

Congratulations to Brianna Clark and Sharon Jeong, the winner and runner up from the SVS 3MT competition. Brianna and Sharon were invited to present at the Science Faculty Finals at the St Lucia Campus in the second stage of the competition. (Photo: Sharon Jeong)

Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA) for students

UQ takes protecting its staff and student's privacy and information very seriously, which is why we are happy to announce that Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA) will be enabled for students through a staged rollout in **September** and **October 2022**. MFA functionality will be the same for students as it is for staff, with most expected to use the Duo app on a smartphone. Where this is not possible, alternate options are available. For more information and FAQs, visit the [MFA website](#).

Staff News

Welcomes:

Kehinde Owalabi - Research Development Officer
Cate Khursandi - Small Animal Surgeon

Expected Arrivals

Mohanathas Gobikrushanth - Lecturer in Production Animal Medicine

Departures:

Sarah Purcell - Small Animal Emergency and Critical Care Clinician
Kayla Lawson - Project Officer Animal Welfare

Library News

Creating accessible content

This new guide provides ways to make your content more accessible for learners and includes tips on what to look for and to consider when creating your teaching materials. [Introduction - Create accessible content - Library Guides at University of Queensland Library \(uq.edu.au\)](#)

Resource trial: JoVE Science Education

UQ Library has arranged a trial of JoVE Science Education package. This trial will begin on July 25th and run for 4 weeks. Contact j.whitcombe@library.uq.edu.au if you would like to arrange a quick overview of the resources being trialled and how you can use them in your teaching.

Client-driven book purchases

UQ staff and students can suggest additions to the Library collection for published resources which are not already available. We will consider your request for purchase based on our [Collection Management Policy](#). Resources requested must support research, teaching or learning at the University. Online format is preferred, and for space requirements, one copy will be held in the collection if in physical format.

Upcoming events and opportunities

One Health Downunder Symposium

Call for Registration

A symposium by the Queensland Alliance of One Health Sciences
12-13 September, 2022

Location:

Victoria Park Event Centre, Brisbane. This event will be livestreamed via zoom for participants who cannot attend in person.

Registration:

Registration for this event is free with options available for face to face or virtual attendance and one day or entire event attendance. Please use the link below to register for the event:

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/one-health-downunder-tickets-343988778697>

Closing Date: Monday 29th August, 2022

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)