



Veterinary Science Newsletter

News and events



Vaccine trial launched for dogs with bone cancer

SVS researchers are recruiting pet dogs diagnosed with cancer to test an experimental vaccine.

The clinical research trial is for dogs recently diagnosed with canine appendicular osteosarcoma, a common bone tumour that affects 10,000 dogs a year globally.

Pet owners able to take their dog to the [UQ VETS Small Animal Hospital](#) at Gatton for surgery and treatment will be preferentially selected, however the team would also like to recruit patients from elsewhere in Australia, except NSW (due to an ethics requirement).

The project team includes experienced veterinarians, board-certified pathologists and clinical trial experts who will provide regular monitoring and follow ups.

Applications for the trial can be made via [this webform](#), or questions can be directed to Dr Dadhich a.dadhich@uq.edu.au or Dr José Granados Soler j.granados@uq.edu.au.

Photo from [The Courier-Mail](#): Rachel Allavena with her dog Barney who was given an early version of the vaccine when diagnosed with an aggressive bone cancer and 10 months later is alive and well.

[Read more](#)



Little things make great experiences - Abhilasha Dadhich

It was a big day! The canine bone cancer vaccine trial I am working on was to be made public. I was so excited that my project, which would potentially help dogs battle this devastating disease, would reach out to many in need. I was excited and went along with my supervisor Professor Allavena to learn first hand how media releases work.

We have been working with UQ Media and Communications to advertise this clinical trial. Just 5 minutes before the Channel 10 crew were to conduct the interview, a person from the Communication team informed me that I would need to be speak. It was jarring to be able to stand, let alone talk, in this total media environment. Before I could comprehend what was happening or prepare myself to speak, I was in front of the microphone ready to be interviewed by a journalist.

It's true that without new experiences something inside us sleeps. I spoke with the media while being filmed and I believe I did a decent job. I remember frequently looking towards Professor Allavena for support. Afterwards, everyone appreciated my talk and Professor Allavena's words "well done Abhi" echoed inside me. I was so relieved and took a relaxing breath. The UQ Communication team were a great help throughout. If other students need to engage with the public to support their research they should definitely consider reaching out to them for assistance.

First experiences are thrilling and surprising. My mind stretched with this experience and it gave me a new sense of confidence. I am grateful for this extremely valuable exposure.

Photo: Abhilasha Dadhich with Rachel Allavena's dog Barney.



Brianna Clark wins best abstract at Bain Fallon

Congratulations to Brianna Clark for winning the overall best abstract at Bain Fallon for 2023 and also the EVA Reginal R Pascoe Prize (senior research prize). She walks in the footsteps of great achievers with Nick Bamford winning these awards in 2022. Brianna will be invited to present an extended abstract at Science Week in 2024, with free registration and an \$800 travel allowance paid for by the Equine Chapter.

It's a wrap: UQ BVSc Conference Week 2023

The UQ BVSc Final Year Student Conference Week was held from 19-23 June 2023. The student-voted theme for this year was 'Wrapped'.

Across the week, all the final year students presented a seminar on a common condition seen by veterinarians in Australia. We had a keynote speaker each day on topics nominated by the students, and each afternoon there were a range of sign-up workshop options in areas the students requested additional training in prior to graduation! We also ran a number of transition to practice seminars – including a new graduate forum (Q and A), meet and greet the QLD Vet Surgeons Board, and a speed-dating job interview workshop. Over the week, students voted for their favourite presentation and this year the winners were Alisa Martch and Courtney Rafei with 'Bad

Breath? Big Problem! Approach to dental disease/ management in dogs'. In addition, Claire Zemek won the award for the top score in the mock capstone exam.

Thanks to all the UQ SVS staff who helped to mark presentations, deliver workshops and run seminars. Thanks to Ella Wright for securing sponsorship to support coffee, morning teas and lunches – and to Claire Girvin for her assistance with organising the catering.

Please reach out to Dan Schull (d.schull@uq.edu.au) or Aaron Herndon (a.herndon@uq.edu.au) for any further information about the event.



Rachel Allavena visits Universitas Brawijaya in Indonesia

This July I had the great pleasure to attend Universitas Brawijaya in Malang East Java, Indonesia. Malang has a mild 'highland climate', and is surrounded by mountains including Mt Bromo, a famous scenic volcano which I was lucky to visit. It is a lovely city, with excellent food, and fantastic hospitality from my hosts including Dean Dr Dyah and Vice Dean Dr Fajar and the staff and students of UB

Faculty of Veterinary Medicine. I was hosted by our Master of Veterinary Sciences (pathology) graduate Dr Andreas Bandang, a pathologist at the veterinary school. My visit included teaching the FVMUB's international student study program, where I had the great pleasure of catching up with some students from Nong Lam University who I'd taught in March this year, as well as some very talented students from the Philippines. I was also introduced to the Indonesian pathologists society.

UB is very keen to collaborate with UQ on teaching advancement and research projects. Several of our staff including Mal, Chiara and Nigel have had the pleasure of presenting seminars remotely to large and appreciative audiences of students, veterinarians and faculty. One of the goals of my visit was to explore options for greater strategic partnerships between our schools and universities. If you would like me to connect you with UB to discuss opportunities, please reach out. - Rachel

VSANZ review of veterinary science education capability of Australia and New Zealand

Veterinary Schools of Australia and New Zealand (VSANZ), has recently released the independent expert review of the veterinary science education capability of Australia and New Zealand. The review was conducted by a panel of three eminent veterinarians led by Dr Helen Scott-Orr AM PSM. The report from the review is entitled 'Rethinking veterinary education: Securing Australasia's future in biosecurity, food production, One Health and animal welfare'. It is freely available from the [VSANZ website](https://www.vsanzt.org/).

Everyone is encouraged to read the report – the panel received submissions from around Australia and also interviewed many stakeholders associated with the profession and the education sector.

The report finds that veterinary education is at a crisis point in Australasia, with inadequate funding to meet the costs of a very expensive teaching program with university operating models, and deteriorating wellbeing amongst students, staff and graduates. It makes 25 recommendations, addressed variously at veterinary schools themselves, their universities, accrediting bodies, veterinary professional associations, and governments. Among the key recommendations are:

- The establishment of a strategic change fund among the universities to unlock effective veterinary school resource-sharing models;
- Accelerated efforts to reduce the cost burden of school accreditation, and to move from assessing inputs to outcomes;
- An increase in government funding for veterinary students, and a clinical training loading for priority areas; and
- The exploration of veterinary apprenticeship and bonding models.

VSANZ and Veterinary Schools are now engaged with a variety of stakeholders to raise awareness about the report and to discuss and prioritise actions aligned with the recommendations.



Staff Updates

Welcome

Laura MacLeod - covering for Kathy Bachman, who is on long service leave.

Farewell

Dr Emily Jones

Upcoming events and opportunities



SVS Picnic Night

Thursday 3 August, 5-7pm, Central Walkway

The SVS students, led by UQVSA and PSN, and the School have organised a BYO picnic behind the rusty UQ sign on the walkway for Thursday 3 August in the afternoon/evening.

Please try to find time at 5pm (or earlier) to come over and say g'day, even if you can only stay an hour. Small humans are welcome too! This is a completely inclusive event.

BYO beanies and jackets, picnic blankets and games if you like, whatever treats and goodies you know you deserve by Thursday, and come see what our school looks like when we all get together! Just a reminder - the walkway is an alcohol-free zone. If you have a way to contribute to the spirit of the occasion, please feel free to offer.

The students are performing so we will have live music, and there are some student activities planned as the UQVSA and PSN introduce a buddy system between cohorts.

Gatton HDR seminar series

Welcome to our new RQ3 HDR SVS students and congratulations to those who have recently passed exams or progress reviews.

A reminder that the Gatton HDR seminar series is on the third Thursday of the month, for all staff and students. The next seminar is on **Thursday 17 August** from 12pm with

a HDR presenter from SVS and one from AGFS.

If you're interested in presenting at one of our future sessions, don't hesitate to reach out. It's a wonderful chance to showcase your work and improve your presentation skills in a friendly and supportive environment! Please contact your HLO or SVS Director HDR, Gry Boe-Hansen, at g.boehansen@uq.edu.au. Be quick, as spaces for the rest of 2023 are filling up fast!

The UQ Research Commercialisation Workshop

24-25 October 2023

The Research Commercialisation Workshop's program is tailor-made for the academic and research staff and research higher degree students of UQ, designed to inform, encourage and inspire those interested in creating impact through the commercialisation of their research. With a mix of small group activities and presentations from industry leaders and fellow researchers, the UQ Research Commercialisation Workshop will guide you along the tech transfer journey, outlining how your individual research project could be commercialised to create change.

[More information](#)



Vet Tech Third Year Dinner

SVS staff are invited to attend the Vet Tech Third Year Dinner to celebrate the 2023 graduates.

Date: Saturday 18 November

Time: 6:30-10:30pm

Location: [Rydges Southbank](#)

[Purchase your ticket](#)

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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