



Pathology & Microbiology Newsletter
Bi-monthly News Bulletin
Atlantic Veterinary College
University of Prince Edward Island
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Geoff Paynter Retires from AVC

Geoff Paynter spent his growing up years in Montreal where he attended elementary and high school and completed CEGEP. After graduating with a DEC in the health sciences in 1972, he went on to attend the University of Guelph from 1972-1975 and graduated with a BSc (Hons), major in Biology and minor in English.



Following this education, Geoff worked for one year as a technician in the laboratory of Dr. Reginald Shuel and assisted in the research of honeybee nutrition and nectar secretion. From this experience, he developed an ongoing fascination with beekeeping. From 1976-1978 Geoff was employed in a natural and ethnic food retail store in St. John's Newfoundland. He lived in Edmonton from 1978-1980 where he obtained his R.T. in medical laboratory technology from the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology as well as bench training at the Charles Camsell Hospital. He then returned to Newfoundland to work at the food retail store compiling the food catalogue for the mail order service. Geoff also worked as a technician in the neuroendocrinology research lab of Dr. Keith Brown-Grant at Memorial University. From 1982-1984, he spent his days running a day-care business for pre-schoolers and working as a waiter in a bagel shop in the evenings.

For the following two years, Geoff performed mycoplasma molecular biology research in the lab of Patricia Hempstead at Memorial University. In 1986, Geoff moved to Prince Edward Island to work in the virology research laboratory of Dr. Arnost Cepica until 1989. In June of 1989, he worked briefly in Evelyn Daley's histopathology laboratory in AVC Diagnostic Services before taking on the position of Supervisor of Central Services Laboratory in June of 1989. Geoff spent the rest of his career serving as laboratory supervisor until he retired in January 2012.

Dr. Heather Fenton gives necropsy demonstration for Holland College students

On Friday, January 6, 2012, **Dr. Heather Fenton** was invited to assist with a necropsy demonstration at Holland College for the Wildlife Conservation Technology students. Dr. Fenton gave a presentation entitled "Many ways to skin a rat" outlining proper necropsy technique and diseases of wild rodents. Students performed necropsies on muskrats that had been donated by local members of the PEI Trappers Association and were keen to identify parasites and lesions as well as normal anatomy.



Special Department Seminar

Dr. Davor Ojkic will present a seminar entitled, 'Exploring the pathogenic potential of viruses' on Tuesday,

February 28, 2012. Dr. Ojkic is candidate for Adjunct and Graduate Faculty appointment in the Department of Pathology and Microbiology.

AVC Seminar Series Presentation

Dr. Fred Kibenge presented a research seminar titled "*FISH FLU VIRUS, AN ORTHOMYXOVIRUS OF FISH* " on January 19, 2012, in the series being presented at AVC for 2011-2012.

Summary of presentation: Infectious salmon anaemia virus (ISAV) is arguably the most important salmonid virus in the world. It is classified in the family Orthomyxoviridae together with the influenza viruses, hence the term fish flu. The virus offers significant challenges to the Atlantic salmon industry worldwide in dealing with the non-pathogenic ISAV HPRO variants, to fish health professionals interested in diagnosis and control of ISA, and to molecular virologists because of its evolutionary relationship with influenza viruses. This presentation provided an overview of the current state of knowledge about ISAV including an update on the world situation of ISA.

Dr. Kibenge's laboratory is the premier research laboratory on ISAV and serves as the OIE Reference Laboratory for ISA. Research in the lab is focused on understanding the molecular basis for the ISAV virulence variation, and has been continuously funded by NSERC since 1999.

The Janet Pottie Murray Award for Educational Leadership

On February 3, 2012, **Dr. Alfonso Lopez**, received the Janet Pottie Murray Award for Educational Leadership. The purpose of this award is to promote academic excellence and recognize faculty members whose educational leadership transcend beyond their own classroom. Dr. Lopez has tirelessly worked in helping veterinary institutions in many regions of the developing world to streamline their instructional capacity. Soon after arriving to the AVC in 1988, Dr. Lopez distributed free audio-visual programs, first using Kodachrome slides and text-based instructional modules, then using latent hypermedia and software, and more recently promoting free access to instructional modules worldwide through his website. Through a Pfizer educational grant, he has also assisted colleagues at the AVC to start their academic web pages. During the award ceremony Dr. Lopez gave a seminar entitled: "Education in Developing Countries: How Canadian Universities Can Make a Difference".



Photo: Dr. Lopez with Dr. Sue Dawson and Dr. Shannon Murray

Human Pathogens and Toxins Act Implementation Project

Dr. Anne Muckle participated in a one-day Phase II Engagement Session of the Human Pathogens and Toxins Act Implementation Project held by the Public Health Agency of Canada on Thursday, February 9th, 2012. It was held at the Delta Prince Edward Hotel in Charlottetown. She worked with Denise Bustard, UPEI Health and Safety Advisor, and Dr. Rhoda Speare, UPEI Biosafety Officer, in an Academia Sector Stakeholders Group.

Dr. Heather Fenton, Guest Speaker for PEI Trapper's Association Annual Meeting

On January 7, 2012, **Dr. Heather Fenton** was an invited guest speaker for the Prince Edward Island Trapper's Association Annual General Meeting where she gave her presentation titled "Monitoring wildlife health in Prince

Edward island: Aleutian Disease in wild mink". The crowd of 30-50 people included trappers, biologists from PEI Fish and Wildlife and the deputy minister of the Department of Agriculture and Forestry, John MacQuarrie. Dr. Fenton is a MVSc resident in Anatomic Pathology and is involved in a collaborative project to estimate the prevalence and location of Aleutian Disease in wild mink on the Island. It involves submission of mink carcasses from trappers and is funded by the Department of Agriculture and Forestry as well as the Prince Edward Island Wildlife Conservation Fund.

Funding from CUPE 1870 PDF

Congratulations to **Dr. Sara Purcell** who was awarded the CUPE 1870 Professional Development Fund (PDF) of \$1,000 to take the course "qPCR Experiment Design and Data-Analysis" in her research role in Dr. Mark Fast's laboratory.

Appointment to Editorial Board of ISRN Virology

Congratulations to **Dr. Fred Kibenge** who has been appointed to an international Editorial Board of ISRN (International Scholarly Research Network) Virology (<http://www.isrn.com/journals/virology/editors/>). This is a new open access peer-reviewed journal that publishes articles in all areas of virology.

March-April Seminar Schedule AVC Lecture Theater C Thursday, 10:30-11:30

March 1	Lobster immunology, not as non-specific as once believed	Fraser Clark, Pathology and Microbiology
March 8	Microbial Communities Associated with the Larvae and Zooxanthellae of Gorgonian Corals. Pathogenesis of Bitter Crab Disease in Snow Crabs	Erin McCauley, Biomedical Sciences Dr. Melanie Buote, Pathology and Microbiology
March 15	Investigation of the mechanism of action of the antitubercular natural product pseudopteroxazole.	Doug Marchbank, Biomedical Sciences
March 22	The effects of chemical and environmental factors on the development of attentional processing in rats.	Amber Marriott, Biomedical Sciences
March 29	The trich to safe bird feeding: Survivability and recovery of <i>Trichomonas gallinae</i> from bird feed and water. Developmental stages of <i>Hematodinium sp. in vitro.</i>	Whitney Kelly-Clark, Pathology and Microbiology Peter Gaudet, Pathology and Microbiology
April 5	In vivo optoacoustic imaging of a transgenic murine model of prostate cancer: signal amplitude and frequency spectrum analysis.	Michelle Patterson, Biomedical Sciences
April 12	Establishment and characterization of an actinomycete culture collection for anticancer drug discovery.	Katherine Duncan, Biomedical Sciences
April 19	Evaluating a novel model of forced use movement therapy on post-ischemic recovery.	Jessy Livingston-Thomas, Biomedical Sciences
April 26	Hemotrophic Mycoplasma infections. TBA	Dr. Dania Villarnovo, Pathology and Microbiology Dr. Carlos Lopez-Mendez, Pathology and Microbiology

Recent Publications

Aboelkhair M, Iwamoto T, Clark KF, McKenna P, Siah A, Greenwood SJ, Berthe FC, Casey JW, Cepica A. Lack of detection of a putative retrovirus associated with haemic neoplasia in the soft shell clam *Mya arenaria*. J Invertebr Pathol., 2012; 109: 97-104

Ali H, Ali AA, Atta MS, and Cepica A. Common, Emerging, Vector-Borne and Infrequent Abortogenic Virus Infections of Cattle. -Review. *Transboundary and Emerging Diseases*, 2012; 59: 11–25

Ali, H, Keefe, GP, and Cepica A, Bovine Herpesvirus-4, A Potential Cause of Mastitis in Canadian Dairy Cows. *British Journal of Dairy Sciences*, 2011; 2: 31-34

Forzán, M. J., R. V. Vanderstichel, C. T. Ogbuah, J. R, Barta, T. G. Smith. Blood collection from the facial (maxillary)/musculo-cutaneous vein in true frogs (family Ranidae). *Journal of Wildlife Diseases*, 2012, 48(1):176-180

Lemon, M., Pack, L., Forzán M.J. Valvular Endocarditis and Septic Thrombosis Associated with a Radial Fracture in a Red-Tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*). *Canadian Veterinary Journal*, 2012, 53(1):79-82

Important Deadlines

1. NSERC Deadlines: http://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Media-Media/Contact-Contact_eng.asp#1.
2. CERC (Canadian Excellence Research Chair) – AVC Early Career Development Grants.
3. UPEI FA 2011-2012 Merit Awards for Scholarly Achievement, application deadline is **March 1**, 2012: <http://www.upeifa.org>.
4. The Colleen MacDougall Graduate Student Travel Awards; application deadline to UPEI Scholarships and Awards Committee c/o UPEI Office of Graduate Studies is **March 2**, 2012.
5. Presidential Recognition Awards for UPEI Faculty and Staff. Nominations close on **March 9**, 2012: <http://www.president.upei.ca/presidential-recognition-awards-merit>.
6. The John and Carol MacLeod Award for Research Communication Excellence; application deadline to AVC GSR office is **March 15**, 2012.
7. Pfizer Award For Research Excellence; application deadline to AVC GSR office is **March 15**, 2012.
8. Pfizer Student Award; nomination deadline to AVC GSR office is **March 15**, 2012.
9. The Dr. Basil Ikede Graduate Award in Diagnostic Veterinary Sciences; application deadline to AVC GSR office is **March 15**, 2012.
10. The Dr. Errol E. Hancock Scholarship; application deadline to AVC GSR office is **March 15**, 2012.
11. The "Dr. Ray Long Award"; application deadline to AVC GSR office is **March 15**, 2012.
12. The Dr. Douglas W. Ehresmann Graduate Award in virology; application deadline to AVC GSR office is **March 15**, 2012.
13. GSR Days May 7-8, 2012: Abstract submission deadline is **March 15**, 2012.

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For comments and suggestions please contact us by e-mail:

Editor: [Dr. Alfonso Lopez](#)

Editorial Assistant: [Laura DeVries](#)

Reviewers: Dr. Maria Forzan & Dr. Shelley Burton

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