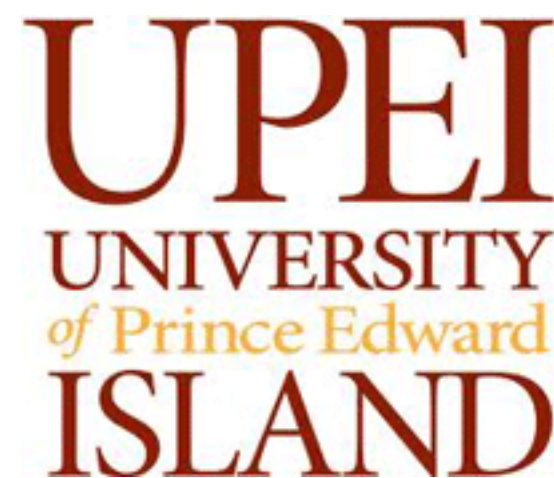




Pathology & Microbiology Newsletter
Bi-monthly News Bulletin
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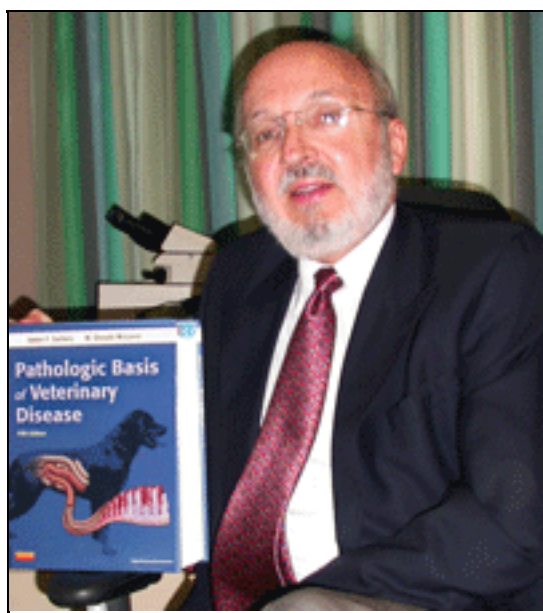
Ramona Taylor Receives 25 Years of Service Award at the President's Reception

On Thursday, April 5 a reception was held for the recipients of the 2012 Presidential Recognition Awards of Merit and 25-year service awards. Two recipients of 25-year service awards came from our very own department of Pathology and Microbiology. Dennis Olexson, a Saskatchewan native and the current Diagnostic Services Laboratory Manager was not present to receive his award. Ramona Taylor, a Charlottetown native with three wonderful daughters and a sweet husband started at the Atlantic Veterinary College in March of 1986. Ramona is a much valued Registered Technologist in the department who graduated as a Medical Laboratory Technologist in 1972. When asked about her 25 years of service, she replied "I love my job, and that's the truth!"



5th Edition of Pathologic Basis of Veterinary Disease

The 5th edition of *Pathologic Basis of Veterinary Diseases* was recently published. This book is one of the best selling textbooks of Elsevier in veterinary medicine. With over 2000 full-color figures and illustrations, *Pathologic Basis of Veterinary Diseases* is the recommended textbook for DVM students in Canada, the US and many other countries around the world. For the last four editions, **Dr. Alfonso López** has authored the chapter on pathology of the respiratory tract which has many gross and microscopic pictures from diagnostic cases done at AVC. "*Pathologic Basis of Veterinary Disease is now in its fifth edition and continues to be one of the essential veterinary pathology texts... It is reasonably priced relative to most specialist texts, and would make a sound investment for anyone interested in discovering more about the fascinating world of veterinary pathology.*"



Veterinary Record, January 2012.

Recent Successful Research Grants, Trainee Awards and Accomplishments

Congratulations to **Dr. Mark Fast** for his recent success in being awarded a NSERC Discovery Grant for 5 years (2012-2017) at \$26,000/yr (total funding \$130,000). The research program is titled 'Lower vertebrate immunostimulation and effects on host-parasite interactions'.

Congratulations to **Dr. Rick Cawthorn** and **Dr. Russ Kerr** (Chemistry and Biomedical Sciences) who have been awarded a research grant of \$25,000 under the Innovation PEI Pilot and Discovery Fund for their research project titled "Identification and Characterization of the Toxin of bitter Crab Disease".

Congratulations to **Dr. Maria Forzan**, PhD candidate co-supervised by **Dr. Pierre-Yves Daoust** and **Dr. Fred Markham**, who has been awarded a NSERC Postgraduate Scholarship PGSD3 of \$21,000/yr for the next three

years.

Congratulations to Jennifer Harkness who successfully defended her MSc thesis titled "Comparison of naturally acquired and vaccine acquired immunity to *Loma salmonae* in rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*)" on April 13, 2012. She was supervised by **Dr. David Speare**. **Dr. Gary Conboy** was the Chair of the Examination Committee.

Canadian Cooperative Wildlife Health Centre Hosts a Marine Mammal Necropsy Workshop

Canadian Cooperative Wildlife Health Centre (CCWHC) regional director **Dr. Pierre Yves Daoust** facilitated a workshop on marine mammal necropsy techniques for interested Atlantic Veterinary College students who were members of the Aquatic Animal Medicine club. Fourteen keen students participated and got hands on exposure to the unique adaptations of marine mammals as well as techniques used in wildlife health surveillance in the Atlantic Region.



Dr. Scott McBurney Gives Presentation to the Prince Edward Island Natural History Society

On April 3, 2012 the Canadian Cooperative Wildlife Health Centre's (CCWHC) **Dr. Scott McBurney** gave a presentation for the April meeting of the PEI Natural History Society titled "Bat White Nose Syndrome, Canada's story". The presentation outlined the history of the disease, caused by a fungus *Geomyces destructans*, which has been responsible for the loss of upwards of 6 million bats in North America. The fungus was diagnosed by McBurney in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick in 2011 and he continues to be involved in the national bat white nose syndrome teleconferences and ongoing processing of bat cases through the CCWHC's wildlife disease surveillance program.



(Dr. McBurney is pictured here with Natural History Society president Ian Scott.)

CCWHC's Workshop for Wildlife Health Professionals

Dr. Heather Fenton and **Dr. Scott McBurney** recently traveled to Calgary to participate in the Canadian Cooperative Wildlife Health Centre (CCWHC)'s Workshop for Wildlife Health Professionals held at the Calgary Zoo from February 21 -22. The first day of the workshop included presentations on disaster preparedness, followed by a small group exercise in disaster response involving the real life possibility of oil spill along the route of the proposed Northern Gateway pipeline. The second day provided up to date reviews on emerging diseases of concern to Canadian wildlife, including rabies, freshwater fish diseases, bovine tuberculosis, avian botulism and chronic wasting disease. Dr. McBurney presented on White Nose Syndrome, an emerging fungal disease of hibernating bats that is currently decimating bat populations in eastern Canada, including the Maritime provinces. Workshop participants engaged in a town hall discussion of Canada's current capacity to deal with an emerging disease outbreak in wildlife. Heather and Scott also participated in the CCWHC Annual General Meeting sponsored by the Alberta node of the CCWHC, University of Calgary Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, providing an update on wildlife health issues from the Atlantic region.

Canadian Cooperative Wildlife Health Centre Hosts 4H Students at the Atlantic Veterinary College

On April 17, 2012 Canadian Cooperative Wildlife Centre (CCWHC) graduate students **Heather Fenton** and **Whitney Kelly-Clark** hosted a group of local 4H students to outline the importance of understanding wildlife health. The pair discussed career opportunities in the fields of biology and wildlife health as well as highlighting the importance of collaboration among various fields to address issues related to wildlife health and disease. Students were then given an opportunity to view teaching specimens that provide an appreciation of adaptations that local wildlife have for feeding such as the highly keratinized papillae of the leatherback sea turtle which prevents its prey of predominantly jellyfish from escaping after being ingested. Other specimens presented included parasitic disease of wildlife such as liver flukes and the winter tick of moose. The 4H students



who are interested in pursuing animal health careers were exposed to pathology (the study of disease) as a discipline, the role that biologists play in understanding disease dynamics in wild populations and current wildlife health topics being investigated in the Atlantic Region by the CCWHC including bat white nose syndrome and disease-related declines in amphibians.

Mink Biosecurity Advisory Committee Meeting

Dr. A. Cepica was the invited representative from academia in a Mink Biosecurity Advisory Committee Meeting, April 4-5, 2012, in Ottawa, ON. The meeting was organized by Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) and the purpose of the meeting was development of the National on Farm Biosecurity Standard. The participants were CFIA officials, the representatives of the management consulting company TDV Global Inc., the mink industry representatives and the representatives of the Ontario and Nova Scotia Departments of Agriculture.

Oral Presentation Award at the 50th Annual Science Atlantic Conference



Jordan Poley, an honours student working with **Dr. M. Fast** in the Hoplite lab, received the 3rd place award for oral presentations in the Biology Section at the 50th Annual Science Atlantic (formerly APICS) Conference. This conference was held at Mount Allison University March 2-4 and Jordan presented his honours work entitled: "The effects of immunostimulatory feeds on Atlantic salmon responses to sea lice infection".

Dr. Todd Smith Visits the Atlantic Veterinary College

Dr. Todd Smith, Associate Professor in the Biology department of Acadia University, Wolfville, recently visited the AVC. Dr Smith was asked to become Adjunct Faculty in our department, in order to serve in the supervisory committee of Maria Forzan's PhD program. During his visit Dr. Smith delivered a well-attended talk on his research of recent years, entitled "Hepatozoon blood parasites of frogs, snakes and mosquitoes: ubiquitous yet enigmatic". A tour of the AVC included an inevitable visit to the necropsy room as well as meeting with several veterinary students whom he had taught during their undergraduate degree in Acadia.



Visiting Graduate Student from the National University of Mexico

Dr. Abel Isaac, a DVM graduate of his native State of Jalisco, Mexico is currently finishing his Master's Degree in the Department of Pathology of the National University of Mexico (UNAM). Last year **Dr. Alfonso Lopez**, who is a member of Abel's supervisory committee, invited him to visit AVC for one month. The purpose of this visit was to improve Abel's diagnostic skills by spending time on the necropsy floor and attend biopsy rounds where anatomic pathologists review cases three afternoons a week.



Abel is an amicable person and quickly made professional friendships with the pathologists, residents and other members of the Department. After his stay with us Abel left for the UK for a three-month externship in the pathology laboratory of the School of Veterinary Medicine, University of Cambridge.

Recent Publications

Clancey, N.P., Murphy, M.C. Zinc-induced hemolytic anemia in a dog caused by ingestion of a game-playing die. *Can Vet J.* 2012; 53: 383–386.

Soos, C., Parmley, E.J., McAloney, K., Pollard, B., Jenkins, E., **Kibenge, F.**, Leighton, F.A. Bait Trapping Linked to Higher Avian Influenza Virus Detection in Wild Ducks. *Journal of Wildlife Diseases.* 2012; 48: 444-448.

Siah, A., McKenna, P., Danger, J.M., **Johnson, G.**, Berthe, F.C.J. Expression of RAS-like family members, c-jun and c-myc mRNA levels in neoplastic hemocytes of soft-shell clams *Mya arenaria* using microsphere-based 8-plex branched DNA assay. *Immunology.* 2012; 2: 83-87.

Ali, H., Ahmed, A., Atta, M.S., **Hanna, P., Cepica, A.** Detection, genotyping, and antigen distribution of bovine viral diarrhoea virus in archival formalin fixed paraffin embedded tissues. *Revue Méd. Vét.*, 2012 163, 5, 219-226.

New Whale Baleen Display



Atlantic Veterinary College students and staff as well as public visitors are encouraged to visit the new whale baleen display in the corridor between the Learning Commons and the Biomedical Sciences department to see specimens from a Northern Right Whale and a Minke Whale. Baleen is a keratin derivative adapted for use in filter-feeding food-containing water through the large plates which define the suborder Mysticeti, the baleen whales. This display was made possible by a number of people including **Dr. Pierre-Yves Daoust, Darlene Weeks, Grant Curtis** from the Canadian Cooperative Wildlife Health Centre and Janice MacWilliam from the Dean's Office.

Important Deadlines and Events

1. NSERC Deadlines: [Click here](#).
2. UPEI Faculty Recognition and Awards event is May 7, 2012.
3. AVC GSR Days are May 7-8, 2012.
4. 2012-2013 UPEI International Graduate Student Awards application deadline to Department of Student Services is May 15, 2012.
5. PHARE Graduate Program Scholarship application deadline is May 31, 2012. [Click here](#) for application.
6. Dairy Farmers of Canada (DFC) call for applications for the Dairy Research Cluster 2 (2013-2018). Deadline for Letters of Intent is midnight, June 1, 2012. [More info](#).
7. Daniel Hines (MSc candidate) Thesis Defense: June 8, 2012.

Please don't print this newsletter unless you really need to!

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

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