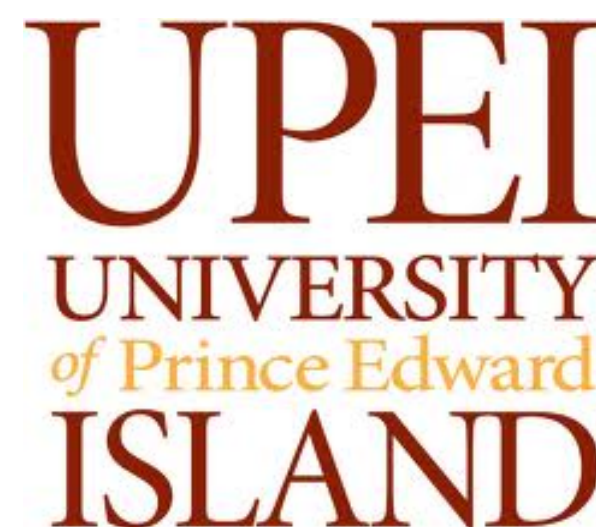




Pathology & Microbiology Newsletter
Bi-monthly News Bulletin
Atlantic Veterinary College
University of Prince Edward Island
Issue 24, May-June, 2012-



Department Chairman²

Dr. Fred Kibenge has been reappointed as Chair of the Department of Pathology and Microbiology for a second 3-year term which began June 1, 2012. He has also been appointed Acting Chair of the Department of Companion Animals for a 6-month term which began June 1, 2012.

Dr. Kibenge thanks the Elective Committee and the Department of Pathology and Microbiology for the overwhelming support for him to serve as Department Chair for a second term. He considers it a great honour to continue to represent the Department of Pathology and Microbiology. This is a department of award winning teachers and researchers, delivering high quality diagnostic service, with high quality graduate programs and proud to have received its first faculty *Professor Emeritus* this year.

The desire to see AVC succeed was key in Dr. Kibenge's decision to accept the responsibility for the challenging role of Acting Chair of Department of Companion Animals. He sees himself as a "**facilitator**" and he is truly humbled by the support he has received from the faculty.



Dr. Johnson has gone fishin'!

Dr. Gerald Johnson entered AVC with the first students, hard hat and all. He had a clear mission: Introduce the aquaculture industry to veterinary medicine and the veterinary profession to aquaculture. During his 25 years at AVC, he took part in every aspect of academic life with cheerful enthusiasm, pursuing his mission with overwhelming success thanks to the many people inside and outside of the college that participated in that original vision.



Dr. Johnson retired on September 1, 2011, and became *Professor Emeritus* at the recent UPEI convocation in May 2012. He continues his "fishy" activities as an active member of an Atlantic halibut farm on PEI and still has several projects within AVC and UPEI. He teaches frequently in continuing education courses and mentors students who wish to make aquatic medicine their specialty. Gerry may have retired and gone fishin' but he continues in the pathway he began when he joined UPEI. We wish him success and happiness in retirement and hope he maintains his strong connections to the AVC for a long time to come.

2012 Pfizer Carl J. Norden Distinguished Teacher Award

Congratulations to **Dr. Paul Hanna** who has been honored with the prestigious 2012 Pfizer J. Norden Distinguished Teacher Award, the highest teaching award given by North American veterinary colleges. Dr. Hanna has been with the Department of Pathology and Microbiology since 1986, first as a contract pathologist and adjunct professor and, since 2002, as an associate professor. During this time, Dr. Hanna has taught extensively in undergraduate General and Systemic Pathology courses, the graduate Cellular Pathology course and several courses in the anatomic pathology segment of the MVSc program.



Dr. Mark Fast Obtains Funding From ACOA's Atlantic Innovation Fund

Dr. Mark Fast was successful as Lead Principal Investigator in obtaining funding through Atlantic Canada's Opportunity Agency (ACOA) Atlantic Innovation Fund (AIF) Round IX, through Novartis Animal Health. The three year project is valued at over \$3.5 million, with significant contributions from ACOA (>\$2.5 million), Innovation PEI D&C (\$100,000) and partners in Fisheries and Oceans Canada, AVC Aquatic Animal Health Program, Canada Excellent Research Chairs (CERC) and members of the Centre of Veterinary Epidemiological Research. Tools to resolve environmental impacts and treatment resistance in sea lice-2 (also known as TREAT2) will bring together world experts in sea lice biology, genomics and therapeutic development to address the problems of integrating aquaculture with environmental stewardship and developing new approaches that can be applied to provide sustainable sea lice control.

Drs. Mark Fast and **David Groman**, as Co-Principal Investigators, were awarded funding from ACOA AIF Round IX through the Coastal Zones Research Institute in New Brunswick to work on Arctic charr health and immunization (valued at >\$200,000 for 3 yrs).

Global Development Symposium - Critical Links Between Human and Animal Health

Dr. C. Anne Muckle attended the Global Development Symposium – *Critical Links Between Human and Animal Health*, May 6-9, 2012 at the Ontario Veterinary College, University of Guelph. The conference focused on interdisciplinary approaches to improving public health and food security worldwide while empowering communities for lasting change.

Keynote speakers included Mr. Stephen Lewis, The Stephen Lewis Foundation; Dr Brian Evans, Chief Veterinary Officer of Canada, CFIA; Dr. Theresa Bernardo, Director, Information Technology Center, Michigan State University and Dr. Dominique Charron, Ecohealth Program Leader, International Development Research Centre, Canada.

AVC students Dr. Amy Lowe and Nicole Mayne gave enthusiastic, thought provoking presentations during the "Pitches for Progress" sessions.

Dr. Elizabeth Stone, OVC Dean and Dr. Cate Dewey, Chair of the Department of Population Medicine with Mr. Stephen Lewis, in front of War Memorial Hall, U of Guelph.



CCWHC Participates in Postgraduate Program in Costa Rica

For two weeks in May 2012 **Dr. Maria Forzan**, wildlife pathologist with the Canadian Cooperative Wildlife Health Centre, taught a short course on amphibian and reptilian health and medicine. The course is part of a recently established postgraduate degree offered by the Universidad Nacional de Costa Rica. Six Master of Conservation Medicine students participated in the course, which included sessions on diseases, medicine, diagnostic techniques and general handling of



herpetofauna. The students were enthusiastic about learning and participating in the laboratories. One of the most interesting challenges of the course was obtaining blood samples from small tree frogs - see if you can spot the patient in the photo.

From left to right: Roberto Peña, Kinndle Blanco (program coordinator), Ricardo Jimenez, Maria Pia Martin, *Smilisca phaeota*, Christian Gonzalez, Josimar Estrella, Eric, Ana Maria Torres.

Fraser Clark Receives Awards at Graduate Studies & Research Days



The following awards were presented to **Dr. Fraser Clark**, PhD student, at GS&R Days on May 8, 2012:

The John and Carol MacLeod (\$1000) Award for Research Communication Excellence awarded annually to a graduate student at the Atlantic Veterinary College who is performing research and who exemplifies skill and ability in the delivery of research findings to their peers and/or the public through written and/or oral communication.

The Dr. Douglas W. Ehresmann Graduate Award, awarded to a student performing outstanding research in some aspect of virology.

Dania Villarnovo Receives Awards at Graduate Studies & Research Days

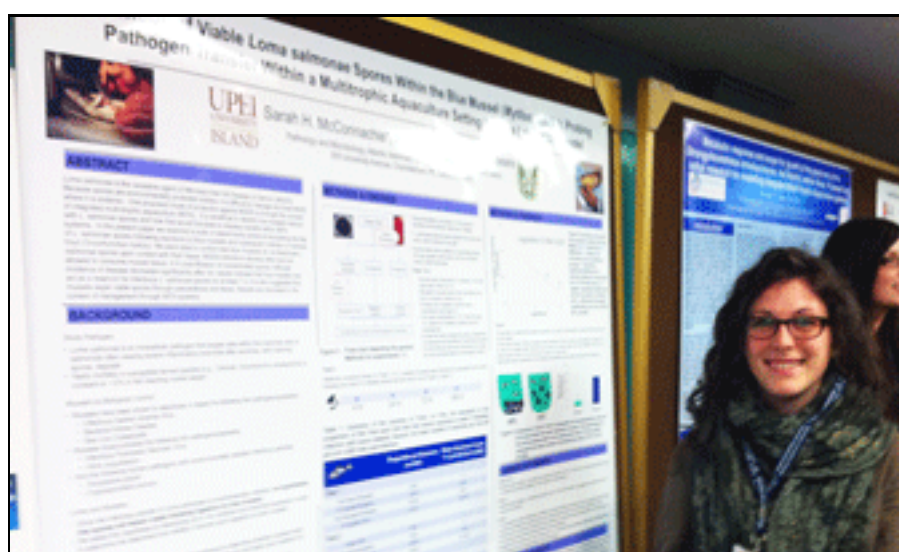
The following awards were presented to **Dr. Dania Villarnovo**, MVSc Student from the Department of Pathology and Microbiology at the Graduate Studies and Research Days held on May 8, 2012.

The Dr. Basil Ikede Graduate Award in Diagnostic Veterinary Sciences (\$500) is awarded to a first or second year MVSc student at AVC to assist with travel to present his or her research or diagnostic findings at a scientific or professional meeting. The criterion for selection is the quality of presentation at the Annual GS&R Days at AVC.

The Bronze Prize in Paper Presentations in the topic category of Animal Health Research.



Sarah McConnachie Wins First Prize



Sarah McConnachie recently attended the Aquaculture Association of Canada Annual meeting (May 27th-30th) and was awarded first place in the poster session.

The poster was entitled: Retention of viable *Loma salmonae* spores within the blue mussel (*Mytilus edulis*): Probing pathogen transfer within a multitrophic aquaculture setting using a laboratory model; co-authors were **Nicole Guselle** and **David Speare**.

Acknowledgment of Successful Research Award

Todd Stoddard, an undergraduate summer student supervised by **Dr. Gary Conboy**, was awarded a CIHR Health Professional Student Research Award for a 13-week stipend.

Recent Publications

Calleja F, Godoy MG, Carcamo JG, Bandin I, Yanez, AJ, Dopazo CP, Kibenge FS, Avendano-Herrera, R. Use of reverse transcription-real time polymerase chain reaction (real time RT-PCR) assays with Universal Probe Library (UPL) probes for the detection and genotyping of infectious pancreatic necrosis virus strains isolated in Chile. *Journal of Virological Methods*. 2012; 183: 80-85.

Horney, BS. A call for a national guidance document for veterinary professional conduct in Canada. *Special Report*. CVI. 2012; 53.

Igboeli OO, Fast MD, Heumann J, Burka JF. Role of P-glycoprotein in emamectin benzoate (SLICE[®]) resistance in sea lice, *Lepeophtheirus salmonis*. *Aquaculture*. 2012; 344-349; 40-47.

McElroy A, Clark C, Duffy T, Cheng B, Gondek J, Fast, M, Cooper K, White L. Interactions between hypoxia and sewage-derived contaminants on gene expression in fish embryos. *Aquatic Toxicology*. 2012; 108: 60-69.

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