

## Dr. Fred Kibenge Reappointed for 4th Term as Chair of Path / Micro



**Dr. Fred Kibenge** has been reappointed as Chair of the Department of Pathology and Microbiology for a fourth 3-year term which begins June 1, 2018.

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 fourth term. He is honoured 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 third faculty *Professor Emeritus* this year.

## Dr. Fred Kibenge, 2018 Zoetis Award for Research Excellence Recipient



**Dr. Fred Kibenge** was the recipient of the 2018 “Zoetis Award for Research Excellence”. The award is given out annually by each North American veterinary college. The purpose of the award is to foster innovative research, on which the scientific advancement of the profession depends, by recognizing outstanding research effort and productivity. The research must have been conducted within the past three years. Dr. Kibenge was presented with the award on May 18, 2018, at the UPEI Annual Graduate Studies and Research Conference. Dr. Kibenge’s invited Zoetis Lecture was titled “One Fish, One Health”.

This was Dr. Kibenge’s second time to receive this award at AVC. He first received it in 1993, when it was called SmithKline Beecham Award for Research Excellence.

## 2018 Graduate Student Awards Received at the UPEI Annual Graduate Studies and Research Conference



Congratulations to **Dr. Walaa Nasry**, recipient of the 2018 “Zoetis Graduate Student Award of Distinction” for AVC. The award is given to a convocating graduate student who excelled in their graduate program and has made outstanding contributions to their faculty, university and discipline. Dr. Nasry was presented with the award at the UPEI Annual Graduate Studies and Research days on May 16, 17 and 18, 2018. Dr. Nasry received her MSc at convocation and is now a PhD graduate student.

## 2018 Graduate Student Awards Received at the UPEI Annual Graduate Studies and Research Conference



Congratulations to **Dr. Jordan Poley**, who is the recipient of the 2018 Faculty of Graduate Studies Award of Distinction for AVC. The award, which was presented at convocation, recognizes a convocating graduate student who excelled in their graduate program, and has made outstanding contributions to their faculty, university and discipline.



Congratulations to **Desmond Hammill**, MSc student, Department of Pathology and Microbiology who was the recipient of the Dr. Douglas W. Ehresmann Graduate Award which is awarded to a student performing outstanding research in some aspect of virology.



Congratulations to **Dr. Kim Foote**, MVSc student in the Department of Pathology and Microbiology who was the recipient of the Dr. Basil Ikede Award in Diagnostic Veterinary Sciences. This prize 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.



Congratulations to **Dylan Michaud**, PhD student, Department of Pathology and Microbiology for being awarded the Second Best Bioscience Presentation.



Congratulations to **Alyson Brown**, MSc Student, Department of Pathology and Microbiology for Best Paper Presentation Overall.

## 2018 UPEI 3 Minute Thesis Competition Winners



Congratulations to **Ashley McKibbon** and **Enooyaq Sudlovenick** who won second and third place, respectively, in the UPEI 3 Minute Thesis competition last night.

Ashley's presentation was titled "Investigating a new virus in Atlantic salmon." Ashley is supervised by **Dr. Fred Kibenge**.



Enoo's presentation was titled "'Pathogens and heavy metals in harvested Ringed Seals around Iqaluit, NU". Enoo is co-supervised by **Dr. Pierre-Yves Daoust** and Dr. Susan Kutz (University of Calgary).

## Research Funding Success



Congratulations to **Dr. Mark Fast** for his recent success in renewing his NSERC Discovery Grant. The award is for a five-year term at \$33,000 per year (April 1, 2018 to March 31, 2023). The research program is titled "Lower vertebrate immunostimulation and effects on host-pathogen interactions."



Congratulations to **Dr. Shannon Martinson** who was successful in the 2018 AVC Research Fund competition (Basic Science Pool), being awarded \$5,400 to her project entitled "Pathologic findings and mortality in farmed mink in Atlantic Canada; a retrospective study."

Congratulations to **Dr. Shannon Martinson** who was successful in the 2018 Companion Animal Trust Fund competition, being awarded \$5,340 to her project entitled "Cilia-associated bacilli as a cause of respiratory disease outbreaks in PEI shelter cats."



Congratulations to **Dr. Noel Clancey** and co-investigators Drs Michele Evason (Department of Companion Animals, AVC, Principal Investigator), Scott Weese ( Department of Pathobiology, Ontario Veterinary College, University of Guelph), and Jason Stull (Department of Veterinary Preventive Medicine, Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine and Adjunct Professor Department of Health Management, AVC). They were successful in the 2018 AVC Research Fund competition (Clinical Applied Pool), being awarded \$15,000 to their project entitled "Canine vector-bone Pathogen and Leptospirosis Serosurveillance in Atlantic Canada: The Canadian K9 Lifetime Study."

## Research Funding Success



Congratulations to **Dr. Noel Clancey** for his recent success in being awarded \$13,375 as a grant from the 2018 AVC Companion Animal Trust Fund. His project is entitled, "Erroneous hyperkalemia associated with elevated creatine kinase activities using a point-of-care analyzer" and the co-investigators are **Drs. Cora Gilroy** and **Shelley Burton**. This investigation will help ensure accurate after-hours blood test results for AVC patients.

Photo: Drs. Noel Clancey, Cora Gilroy & Shelley Burton

## Invitations for Dr. Shelley Burton



**Dr. Shelley Burton** recently was invited to be one of two external reviewers of the Doctor of Veterinary Science (DVSc) program at the Ontario Veterinary College. The interesting review visit was on April 10-11<sup>th</sup> in Guelph, Ontario. Dr. Burton was also invited to serve a 3 year term as clinical pathology editor of the American College of Veterinary Pathologists (ACVP) Test Item Writers Group (TIWG). In this capacity, she will be helping to train new question writers and will be reviewing and editing questions for the ACVP Certifying Examination.

## Invited Speaker at Elanco Laboratories in Prince Edward Island



Elanco laboratories in Victoria, PEI, invited **Dr. Juan Carlos Rodriguez-Lecompte** to give a seminar on April 27, 2018. The title of his presentation was "Microbial and Immunological Considerations of *Piscirickettsia salmonis* in fish: A perspective antigen-host-antigen." This seminar was attended by researchers and technicians working in the pharmaceutical industry.

## Invited Speaker at the University of Georgia



**Dr. Juan Carlos Rodríguez-Lecompte** was an invited speaker at the Poultry Diagnostic and Research Center (PDRC), Department of Population Health, College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Georgia, Athens, GA. On April 9, 2018, Dr. Rodriguez presented a lecture entitled "Antigen presentation by the avian immune system and link between innate and adaptive immune responses." During his visit, he also presented a seminar entitled "Nutritional Intervention in Poultry." Dr. Rodriguez also discussed his research findings on avian nutrition and immunomodulation with colleagues and researchers working in the poultry industry and government agencies.

## Annual Convention of Poultry Specialists in Mexico



**Dr. Juan Carlos Rodríguez-Lecompte** was a guest speaker at the 43rd National Convention of the "Mexican Association of Avian Specialists" celebrated in Ixtapa, Mexico during May 2-5, 2018. His keynote presentation was entitled "Anatomy and Immunology of Newcastle Disease and Avian Influenza." During this meeting, Dr. Rodriguez also participated in an international workshop on "Applied Biotechnology in Poultry" organized by Vetanco. His presentation on this workshop was "The gut as an immunological organ: Intestinal integrity."

## 67th Western Poultry Disease Conference in Salt Lake City, Utah



**Dr. Juan Carlos Rodríguez-Lecompte** was a speaker at the 67th Western Poultry Disease conference and a workshop sponsored by the American College of Poultry Veterinarian that took place in Salt Lake City, Utah, on April 13-18, 2018. Dr. Rodriguez presented his research work on immunonutrition and diseases in the context of animal welfare and antibiotic use in poultry. His talk was entitled "The impact of nutrition on immunity and disease."

Photo: Left to right- Dr Rodrigo Gallardo, UC Davis and Dr. Juan Carlos Rodriguez-Lecompte, AVC, UPEI.

## CWHC Atlantic Delivers Workshops on How to Manage Bats Roosting in Buildings



In March and early April, the CWHC Atlantic's bat health team (based out of the Department of Pathology and Microbiology in the AVC) delivered workshops in Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island. The objective of these workshops was to help pest control companies, provincial wildlife divisions, national parks, watershed groups, and public health departments better manage endangered bat species that roost in buildings. This initiative was achieved through the project *Bats roosting in anthropogenic structures: "Building" a better understanding in Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland and Labrador through stewardship and outreach*, which is funded by Environment and Climate

Change Canada through the Habitat Stewardship Program. Little brown myotis (*Myotis lucifugus*) and northern myotis (*Myotis septentrionalis*) are both listed as endangered under the federal Species-at-Risk Act due to bat white-nose syndrome (WNS). Both of these species frequently roost in human-occupied buildings in the spring, summer, and fall, a situation which puts them in close contact with humans. The workshops emphasised best management practices that are conservation-oriented, with approaches that allow bats and humans to share a structure safely. However, recognizing the human health concerns related to bats, techniques for safely evicting and excluding bats were also reviewed. Lastly, ways of creating and increasing bat-friendly habitat on private properties were highlighted.

**Photo:** Tessa McBurney, Atlantic Bat Conservation Project Technician



A total of 85 participants learned about basic bat biology, the relationship between bat and human health, what precautions to take to work safely near bats, what local regulations apply to protect bats from harm, and regional and nationwide bat monitoring projects. Most importantly, these workshops provided an opportunity to discuss the recommended best management practices for managing bats in buildings and to receive valuable feedback from pest control operators and other collaborators. It is imperative for the maximum protection of endangered bat species that those individuals whose work relates to bats in buildings accept and adopt these best management practices. It appears

these goals are being achieved because preliminary feedback suggests the workshops were well received, and the CWHC Atlantic has already had a bat specimen submitted for WNS surveillance by a pest control operator who attended a workshop.

**Photo:** Jordi Segers, National White-Nose Syndrome Scientific Program Co-ordinator.

## Doctoral Examination at the Universidad Metropolitana in Mexico

**Dr. Alfonso Lopez**, Professor Emeritus, was the external examiner for Dr. Patricia Roldán who defended her doctoral thesis on April 26 in Mexico City. Dr. Roldán completed her PhD at the Universidad Metropolitana, Campus Xochimilco under the supervision of Dr. Daniel Mota and Julio Martinez-Burnes (AVC-PhD 2001). As part of her degree, Dr. Roldan investigated the effect of sow parity on the physiometabolic response and welfare of neonatal pigs. This investigation was part of a collaborative research partnership formed between the Atlantic Veterinary College and the universities of Tamaulipas and Metropolitana in Mexico.



Examination committee (left to right): Drs Adriana Olmos, Ramiro Ramirez-Necoechea, Patricia Roldan-Santiago, Alfonso López, Julio Martínez Burnes, and Daniel Mota-Rojas.

## Publications

Ratanapob N, VanLeeuwen J, McKenna S, Wichtel M, Rodriguez-Lecompte JC, Menzies P, Wichtel J. The association of serum B-hydroxybutyrate concentration with fetal number and health indicators in late-gestation ewes in commercial meat flocks in Prince Edward Island. *Preventive Veterinary Medicine* 2018;154: 18-22.

Poley JD, Braden LM, Messmer AM, Okechukwu OI, Whyte SK, MacDonald A, Rodriguez J, Gameiro M, Rufener L, Bouvier J, Wadowska DW, Koo BF, Hosking BC, Fast MD. High level efficacy of lufenuron against sea lice (*Lepeophtheirus salmonis*) linked to rapid impact on moulting processes. *IJP: Drugs and Drug Resistance* 2018; 8: 174-188. <http://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijpddr.2018.02.007>.

Diel de Amorim, M., Chenier, T. S., Card, C., Back, B., McClure, J. T., & Hanna, P. Treatment of hydropsical conditions using transcervical gradual fetal fluid drainage in mares with or without concurrent abdominal wall disease. *Journal of Equine Veterinary Science*, 2018; 64: 81-88.

For comments or suggestions for our newsletter, please contact: Dr. Fred Kibenge ([kibenge@upei.ca](mailto:kibenge@upei.ca)) or

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