



Path Micro News

A monthly news bulletin of the Department of Pathology and Microbiology,
Atlantic Veterinary College, University of Prince Edward Island



July 2009
Issue 1

A Message from the Chair

I am pleased to introduce this inaugural issue of Path Micro News, an instrument we plan to use to promote enhanced communication in and out of the department. Our department embraces excellence in teaching, research, service, and community participation. We want to make our successes and achievements known to those that have a stake in what we do to accomplish our academic missions. Thank you for your interest in our work.

Dr. Fred Kibenge BVM, PhD, DACVM.

Dr. Gerry Johnson wins CAHLN Laboratorian of the Year Award

Congratulations to Dr. Gerry Johnson who received the Laboratorian of the Year Award at the 8th Annual Meeting of the Canadian Animal Health Laboratorians Network (CAHLN) at UPEI, June 7-10, 2009. This recognition was timely, as Dr. Johnson has just completed his term as Department Chair. Dr. Johnson is taking a six-month sabbatical leave, July-December 2009.

The Department was well represented at the CAHLN conference. There were 11 presentations by department faculty (8) and graduate students (3), and two department faculty moderated a General and Scientific Presentation Session over the 4-day event. The conference was organized by AVC Diagnostic Services (Dr. Carmencita Yason, Chair, Local Organizing Committee). Congratulations to all.

Graduate Thesis and Defences/Accomplishments

Dr. Mohammed Abdel Hameed AboElkhair successfully defended his PhD thesis titled "*Etiology of disseminated neoplasia in the soft shell clam *Mya arenaria**". He was co-supervised by Dr. Arnost Cepica and Dr. Franck Berthe.

Dr. Christine K. MacWilliams successfully defended her MSc thesis titled "*Pathogenesis of infectious salmon anaemia virus (ISAV) in rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*)*". She was co-supervised by Dr. Gerry Johnson and Dr. Fred Kibenge.

Recent Publications

Conboy, G., Hare J., Charles S., and Heine J. 2009. Efficacy of a single topical application of Advantage Multi® (= Advocate®) topical solution (10% Imidacloprid + 2.5% Moxidectin) in the treatment of dogs experimentally infected with *Crenosoma vulpis*. *Parasitol Res* 105:S49-S54.

Kibenge, F.S.B., Godoy, M.G., Wang, Y., Kibenge, M.J.T., Gherardelli, V., Mansilla, S., Lisperger, A., Jarpa, M., Larroquete, G., Avendaño, F., Lara, M. and Gallardo, A. 2009.

Infectious salmon anaemia virus (ISAV) isolated from the ISA disease outbreaks in Chile diverged from ISAV isolates from Norway around 1996 and was disseminated around 2005, based on surface glycoprotein gene sequences. *Virology Journal*, 2009, 6:88.

Awards

Sarah Stewart-Clark, PhD candidate was awarded a Post-Doctoral Fellowship by the Island Prosperity Fund. Sarah will be continuing her work on invasive species in shellfish aquaculture in the labs of Dr. Jeff Davidson and Dr. Spencer Greenwood.

Dante Mateo, PhD candidate was recently awarded a Craig Dobbin Scholarship by The Ireland Canada University Foundation to undertake a 3-week research project at the Department of Zoology, Ecology & Plant Science at University College Cork, Cork, Ireland (host is Dr. Sarah Culloty).

Appointments

We welcome back Dr. Jim Bellamy, who has completed a 6-year term as AVC Associate Dean of Graduate Studies and Research. Jim is now on a one-year administration leave, July 2009-June 2009.

Invitations

Ms. Brandy Davis from the University of Tuskegee, Alabama, is visiting the University of Prince Edward Island for 5 weeks beginning June 10, 2009, as part of our program on Mobility in Higher Education sponsored by the Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE) in the US and by Human Resources Development Canada (HRDC Project PM-498) in Canada (host is Dr. Alfonso Lopez).

Departmental Seminar Series (seminars already given)

Dr. Joel Rovnak on Tuesday, July 7, 2009, in K.C. Irving Building (KCI), room -104 at 10:00 a.m. Seminar is entitled "*WDS, building a virus tumor model from scratch.*" Dr. Rovnak is from the Department of Microbiology, Immunology and Pathology, College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, Colorado State University. He was at AVC as External Examiner for Dr. Mohammed AboElkhair's final PhD Examination.

Dr. Joy Becker on Friday, July 3, 2009, in K.C. Irving Building (KCI), room -128 at 9:00 a.m. Seminar is entitled "*Impact of introduced fish hosts and their pathogens on native Australian fish.*" Dr. Becker, an internationally recognized fish health expert, is a member of the Faculty of Veterinary Science, University of Sydney in Australia. She is a PhD graduate of AVC in 2004 (supervisor was Dr. Dave Speare).

New Initiatives in the Department

The Aquatic Virology Collaborating Centre's (AqVCC) was established by the UPEI Board of Governors in July 2009. With this recognized Research Centre status, the AqVCC has the right to use the University's name, address and symbols in connection with its activities. It may also, in accord with the University's visual identity policy, use the approved research centre name on

letterhead, in promotional materials, and in applications to external agencies. The AqVCC will house the currently active OIE Reference Laboratory for Infectious Salmon Anaemia (ISA), an AVC Centre of Expertise. Dr. Fred Kibenge, OIE Expert for ISA, will serve as the founding Director of the AqVCC. Anyone interested in joining the Centre should send a request or nomination with copy of their CV to the Centre's Director using e-mail aquaticvirol@upei.ca. All membership applications are vetted by the Centre's Scientific Advisory Board.

Notices

Pathology and Microbiology Faculty Retreat

The faculty retreat to discuss the Phase I document of the AVC Strategic Plan is scheduled for Thursday, August 6, 2009, from 8:00 am to 12:00 noon in UPEI Dalton Hall Dining Room (207). Please plan to attend.

Biosafety

The Human Pathogens and Toxins Act (HPTA), Bill C-11, received Royal Assent on Tuesday, June 23, 2009. The HPTA establishes legal prohibitions and authorities to govern human pathogens and toxins in Canada. It is designed to protect the health and safety of the public against the risks posed by human pathogens and toxins, while allowing science and research to progress. A pdf of the Act is available at

http://www2.parl.gc.ca/content/hoc/Bills/402/Government/C-11/C-11_3/C-11_3.PDF

Faculty Development Office booking for 2009-10 Fall and Winter Brown Bag Lunches and Lecture Series

If you have an interesting teaching strategy or learning experience you think others would benefit from, contact Dr. Barbara Campbell (bcampbell@upei.ca) or Krystal Mayne (kmayne@upei.ca) to book a date.

Innovations in Teaching

Need Some New Ideas in the Classroom? Please click this link:

<http://survey.upei.ca/survey/index.php?sid=63811&lang=en>

If you have any further questions, contact Joe Velaidum (jvelaidum@upei.ca).

For comments or suggestions for our newsletter, please contact Ms Diane MacLean at dimaclean@upei.ca Department of Pathology and Microbiology.