

OIE Sponsors Agreement for AVC Twinning Project with Chile



The World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) has provided funds to the Atlantic Veterinary College, UPEI, to support a Twinning Project between the OIE Reference Laboratory for ISA at AVC (the Parent Laboratory) and the Laboratory of Molecular Genetics, Immunology and Bioinformatics at Pontificia Universidad Catolica de Valparaiso, Valparaiso, Chile, (the Candidate Laboratory) that has been designated as the National Reference Laboratory for ISA in Chile. The OIE will provide EUR 39,480 (or CAD 50,392) over 2 years to support the project. **Dr. Fred Kibenge** is the project leader, and will be supported by **Dr. Molly Kibenge**, both of the OIE Reference Laboratory for ISA at AVC. The project which is titled "*Building capacity for improved diagnosis and control of ISA in Chile*" will involve establishing firm links of cooperation and collaboration between the Parent and Candidate Laboratories, in partnership with

Sernapesca (National Fisheries Service, Chile), which is the official sanitary authority of Chile's aquaculture. In the past 3 years, the OIE Reference Laboratory for ISA at AVC has worked very closely with government officials and the Atlantic salmon industry in Chile to characterize the virus responsible for the 2007-2009 ISA epizootic in Chile. This laboratory demonstrated through sequence analysis that the ISA virus changed to a highly pathogenic form, not unlike what happens when avian influenza viruses infect commercial poultry and become highly pathogenic. In collaboration with Sernapesca, the laboratory conducts round robin QA testing of the private fish diagnostic laboratories in Chile. The OIE Reference Laboratory for ISA at AVC is housed in the UPEI Aquatic Virology Collaborating Centre (AqVCC).

New Postdoctoral Fellow

Dr. Helena Fridholm joined the virology research group lead by **Dr. Fred Kibenge** in the Department of Pathology and Microbiology in May 2010. Helena received her PhD in Microbiology at Lund University, Sweden, in 2008, where she studied the salmonid viral pathogen Infectious Pancreatic Necrosis Virus (IPNV) with regards to the virus immunogenicity, viral and the early virus/cell interactions. Since then, she has done a one year post-doc on yeast genetics with focus on the maintenance of the telomeric 3'-single-stranded overhang. At AVC/UPEI, she will study the different genotypes of Infectious Salmon Anaemia Virus (ISAV)



The Atlantic Provinces Diagnostic Services Award

The Atlantic Provinces Diagnostic Services Award was recently established to acknowledge the achievement of a graduating veterinary student in the discipline of diagnostic services. It is presented to a graduating student in veterinary medicine at the Atlantic Veterinary College demonstrating excellence in diagnostic pathology and microbiology during the senior clinical rotations. The 2010 shared award was given during the white coat ceremony to Stephanie Bodnarchuk and Adam Ogilvie on May 7, 2010. This award, which will enhance the visibility of the discipline of diagnostic pathology and

diagnostic microbiology among veterinary students, was initiated and developed by **Dr. Carmencita V. Yason** of AVC Diagnostic Services and Department of Pathology and Microbiology. It was orchestrated by **Dr. Paul Hanna**, the award representative of the department and Acting Chair of AVC Awards Committee.

Congratulations to Our Recent Graduates



Congratulations to **Dr. Dante Mateo** who received his PhD degree during the May 10 Convocation at UPEI. Dr. Mateo, originally from Peru, came to AVC in 2003 to obtain his MSc and in 2006 started the PhD program. He did his research at the Mollusc Health Lab led by **Dr. Ahmed Siah**. He developed an *in vivo* model of host-pathogen interaction by assessing phenotypic and molecular responses of soft-shell clam haemocytes induced by 2 strains of *Vibrio splendidus*. Dante's PhD program was supervised by **Drs. Spencer Greenwood** and **Gerry Johnson**.



Dr Soraya Sayi was raised in a loving family in a small town in the south-western part of Zimbabwe. She graduated with a Bachelor of Veterinary Science degree from the University of Zimbabwe, Harare, Zimbabwe in 2005. A year later she enrolled into a post-graduate diploma program at AVC-UPEI followed by a combined residency/MVSc program in Anatomic Pathology. Her MVSc was supervised by **Drs. Paul Hanna** and **Basil Ikede**. Dr. Sayi's successful completion of the residency/master's program, according to her, is in large part due to the very capable and dedicated pathologists in the Department of Pathology and Microbiology. She is currently working as a diagnostic pathologist at AVC.



During this May convocation, **Dr. Sarah Clark** also received her doctoral degree at UPEI. Sarah was born in Charlottetown and started her PhD in January 2007 under the supervision of **Drs. Jeff Davidson** and **Spencer Greenwood**. The title of her PhD thesis is "Molecular assays for the detection of invasive tunicates and phylogeography of a tunicate invasion in Prince Edward Island." Sarah is currently a postdoctoral research fellow at AVC and a Sessional Lecturer with the Department of Biology at UPEI. Currently, she is using a new innovative mussel microarray to assess mussel health in PEI mussel populations after tunicate fouling and following tunicate mitigation treatments.

Recent Publications

Godoy, MG, Kibenge FS, Kibenge MJ, Olmos P, Ovalle, A, Yanez, R., and Avendano-Herrera. TaqMan® real-time RT-PCR detection of infectious salmon anaemia virus (ISAV) from formalin-fixed paraffin-embedded Atlantic salmon *Salmo salar* tissues. *Diseases of Aquatic Organisms* 2010; 90:25-30.

Clancey N, Horney B, Burton S, Birkenheuer A, McBurney S, Tefft K. *Babesia (Theileria) annae* in a Red Fox (*Vulpes vulpes*) from Prince Edward Island, Canada. *J Wildl Dis* 2010; 46: 615-621.

Wilkins W, Rajic A, Waldner C, McFall M, Chow E, Muckle A, Rosengren L. Distribution of *Salmonella* serovars in breeding, nursery, and grow-to-finish pigs, and risk factors for shedding in ten farrow-to-finish swine farms in Alberta and Saskatchewan. *Can J Vet Res* 2010;74:81-90

Mateo DR, Greenwood SJ, Araya MT, Berthe F, Johnson GR, Siah A. Differential gene expression of γ -Actin, Toll-Like Receptor 2 (TLR-2) and Interleukin 1 Receptor-Associated Kinase 4 (IRAK-4) in *Mya arenaria* haemocytes induced by *in vivo* infections with two *Vibrio splendidus* strains. *Developmental and Comparative Immunology* 2010; 34:710-714.

Ramirez-Romero R, Rodrigues-Tovar LE, Nevarez-Garza AM, Lopez A. *Chlorella* infection in a sheep in Mexico and minireview of published reports from humans and domestic animals. *Mycopathologia* 2010: 169:461-466.

Important Deadlines

1. ACOA AIF-8 Letter of Intent internal deadline is June 8 to J. Coffin, ORD, and ACOA deadline for submission of project proposals is September 1, at 2:00 p.m.
2. PEI Innovation Graduate and Post-doctoral Fellowships – internal deadline is Wednesday June 16, 2010 to Office of Graduate Studies, 225 McDougall Hall.
3. NSERC Discovery Grant 2011 competition: deadline for Form 180 & related documents is August 1, 2010.
4. PEI Innovation Premier's Medal deadline is August 4, 2010 (internal deadline not yet set).

Special Departmental Seminars

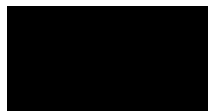
Dr. John Tremblay, Seminar title: Lobster population ecology: Research and assessment conducted at the Bedford Institute of Oceanography (BIO). Tuesday March 23, 1020.

Paula Jackman, Seminar title: Development of standardized acute and chronic toxicity tests with native amphibian species. Friday April 09, 2010.

Dr. Frank Morado, Seminar title: Bitter crab disease: Ecological and economic aspects of the disease. Tuesday, May 18, 2010.

Earl Dawe, Seminar title: Distribution and prevalence of bitter crab disease in Atlantic Canadian snow crab. Tuesday, May 18, 2010.

Dr. Bertrand Tankouo Sandjong, Seminar title: Development and validation of a low density vasa gene-based oligonucleotide microarray for simultaneous identification of *Botryllus schlosseri* and *Botrylloides violaceus* species. Thursday May 27, 2010



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For comments or suggestions for our newsletter, please contact Alfonso Lopez

lopez@upe.ca



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