

Dr James (Jim) Bellamy Retires from AVC



Dr James E. C. Bellamy has enjoyed several firsts in his professional career at the Atlantic Veterinary College (AVC). Most recently, Jim was the first faculty member to retire after the abolishment of mandatory retirement at UPEI. His retirement marks a significant milestone date for AVC, which is 25 years old this year. Jim's retirement leaves a void that will be difficult to fill given the contribution he made to the planning of AVC, to the leadership of the Department of Pathology and Microbiology, and to his solid championship of the AVC Graduate Studies and Research Program. Jim received his DVM from Ontario Veterinary College, University of Guelph, in 1969, and a PhD in Pathology from the University of Saskatchewan in 1973. He followed this with one-year research post-doctoral in immunology at the University of Adelaide in 1974. From 1974 to 1985, he taught experimental and clinical pathology in the Department of Veterinary Pathology, Western College of Veterinary Medicine (WCVM), University of Saskatchewan. Jim was an active researcher, especially in the fields of enteric immunology and pathology and he served as Editor of the Canadian Journal of

Veterinary Research for 5 years in the 1980's. Jim was recruited from the WCVM in 1985 as the founding Chair of the Department of Pathology and Microbiology and the Coordinator of Graduate Studies and Research for Canada's newest veterinary college, which was to be built at UPEI in Charlottetown. He served as Department Chair of Pathology and Microbiology until December 1987, during which time many faculty and staff members were recruited to the Department. During this period Jim also successfully negotiated the transfer of the provincial diagnostic laboratory to the College, much of which continues as the Diagnostic Services unit of AVC today. Jim continued as Coordinator of Graduate Studies and Research until 1996. During this period, he spearheaded the planning, initiation, and organization of the MSc and PhD programs at AVC/UPEI. The MSc program was approved by the MPHEC in 1986 and the PhD program was approved in 1995. Jim represented the College on a number of national committees, such as the NSERC Strategic Grants Panel and the Canadian Agricultural Research Council. He initiated AVC's first "Graduate Studies and Research Days", which has continued as an established annual event. With the maturation of the Graduate Studies and Research programs at AVC, Jim returned to the Department as a clinical pathology faculty member and continued to be engaged in Departmental affairs. In 2003, Jim accepted a 6-year appointment as Associate Dean of Graduate Studies and Research and oversaw another period of unprecedented growth in the AVC's research and graduate programs. Research activity grew tremendously at AVC over the past decade, supported by several new federal funding programs for university research, like the Canada Research Chair program. After completing his term as Associate Dean, Jim has been working on developing computer based decision support systems for veterinarians, which follows a research interest that he has pursued for several years. Jim decided to officially retire on July 2, 2010. Always leading by example, he leaves a void that will be difficult to fill. Well done Jim. Good luck and God speed. From your colleagues in Pathology and Microbiology (Written by Dr. Fred Kibenge and approved by Dr. Jim Bellamy).

Dr Heather Fenton, Our New MVSc Student in Wildlife Pathology

Born in Yellowknife, **Dr Heather Fenton** grew up in Edmonton, Alberta, where she studied animal biology at the University of Alberta. Heather obtained her Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree from the Western College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Saskatchewan, in 2008. She has spent the past two years working in mixed practice in Alberta and Saskatchewan. Dr Fenton has a strong interest in wildlife disease through involvement with the Wildlife Disease Association and the Canadian Cooperative Wildlife Health Centre regional node in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. She is excited to join the pathology team at AVC and be the first student in the MVSc residency program with a wildlife pathology focus under the **Drs Pierre-Yves Daoust** and **Maria Forzan**.



Keynote Speaker at the Spanish Association of Bovine Practitioners

Dr Alfonso Lopez was invited as the keynote speaker for the XV International Congress of Bovine Medicine organized by the Spanish Association of Bovine Practitioners. He presented two papers, one entitled “Respiratory Pathology for Bovine Practitioners” and another “Current Views on Sepsis and Septic Shock” This meeting took place on June 10-11 in the historic Spanish city of Granada in the Province of Andalucia. Over 120 bovine practitioners from Spain, Portugal, Holland and Italy and other European countries were in attendance.

During his trip to Andalucia, Dr Lopez was invited by Dr Aniceto Mendez, Chair of the Department of Pathology at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine in Cordoba, to speak to students and faculty about the current trends of veterinary education and professional practice in Canada.

Photo: Dr Alfonso Lopez with Dr Estrella Aguera-Buendia, Associate Dean, Academic Affairs, University of Cordoba.



2010 AVC Staff Merit Award



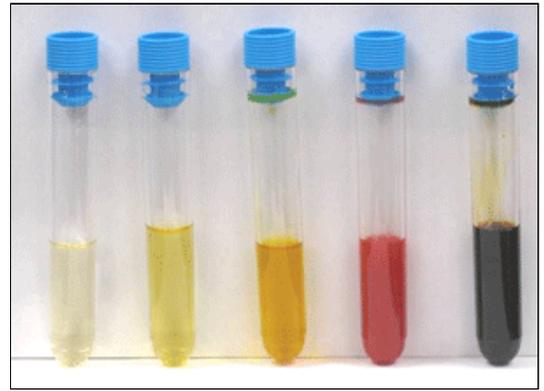
Mr Allan MacKenzie received the 2010 AVC Staff Merit Award and was presented with this honor at the AVC Ice Cream Social on June 26th. Mr. MacKenzie has been a research and teaching technologist in clinical pathology since 1989 and has ably lent his expertise to individuals in many related disciplines over the years. He has served the college and university in a variety of roles, including acting as member and chair of the UPEI Biosafety Committee. Allan was nominated by the clinical pathology group, who felt he deserved recognition for his excellent work, his exceptional mentorship of residents/graduate students and his insistence on quality, whether it be reagent preparation, test validation, or laboratory safety.

Photo:Allan MacKenzie with Dr Shelley Burton during the ceremony

Wet laboratory at the conference of the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association

Dr Shelley Burton, along with **Dr Sandra McConkey** from the Department of Biomedical Sciences, provided a urinalysis wet laboratory

on July 7th at the annual conference of the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association in Calgary. The laboratory was held in the new Clinical Skills Building at the Spy Hill Campus of the University of Calgary. The instructors were ably helped by clinical pathologists and AVC graduates, Dr Cathy Wagg and Dr Nicole Fernandez from the University of Calgary. It was a complex affair to orchestrate this wet laboratory long-distance as most supplies, including urine, needed to be shipped from PEI! However, it was well worth the effort as the participants were the most enthusiastic ever encountered by Drs. Burton & McConkey, with much learned and many excellent questions asked.



Congratulations to Dr Molly Kibenge



Congratulations to **Dr Molly Kibenge** who has recently been appointed Editorial Board Member of the Journal of Aquaculture Research & Development- Open Access

(http://www.omicsonline.org/JARDimages/JARD_h.pdf).

This is a new peer-reviewed journal published by OMICS Publishing Group, that focuses on hypothesis-driven research as well as review articles in all areas of cultured aquatic resources.

CCWHC Necropsies a Northern Right Whale in Nova Scotia



On August 15 and 16, a team of CCWHC members headed by **Dr Pierre-Yves Daoust** (photo) and including **Fiep deBie**,

Jessicca Mitchell and **Heather Fenton**, joined DFO regional officers and scientists from the New England Aquarium in the necropsy of a Northern Right Whale, *Eubalena glacialis*. The whale was an adult male that had multiple fractures on the rostrum. Whether the fractures were ante or postmortem was impossible to determine with certainty, but the presence of fractures in both middle ear complexes are very suggestive of a ship strike.

Welcome New Quality Assurance Coordinator to ACOA AIF Project



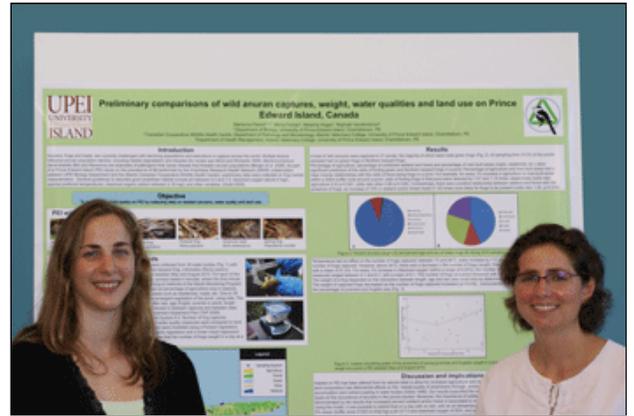
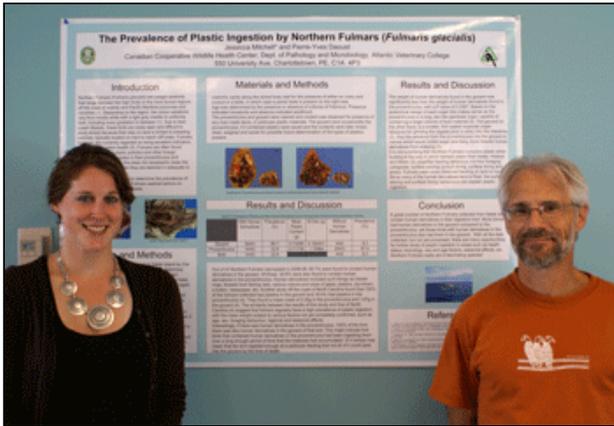
Karen Smith has recently taken on the role of Quality Assurance Coordinator for the ACOA AIF Research Project led by **Dr Anne Muckle** (Pathology & Microbiology), Dr David Sims (Biomedical Sciences), and **Dennis Olexson** (Diagnostic Services). Since October 2009, Karen has been leading the development and implementation of a Quality Assurance Management System for the Regional Diagnostic Virology Services and Toxicology and Analytical Services to prepare them for ISO/IEC 17025 accreditation. For the ACOA AIF Project, she is extending this foundational work to apply to all of Diagnostic Services' operations. Karen obtained a BSc in Biology and completed work toward a MSc focusing on fish immunology, both at UPEI, and contributed technical, developmental, licensing and quality compliance management expertise to the aquaculture and fish/farm animal vaccines manufacturing industries for close to 20 years prior to her employment at AVC.

A Bluefin Tuna Submitted for Postmortem Examination



A dead bluefin tuna was submitted by PEI Dept. of the Environment to AVC for necropsy examination. Postmortem was performed by **Dr Dave Groman** and a team of CCWHC members (see photo above) The fish weighed 336 kg, measured 2.8 meters in fork length and had a widest circumference of 2.0 meters. The bluefin tuna was found dead 30 meters east of Annandale Harbour. The previous night was lit by a new moon, which may have contributed to the tunas coming ashore. The carcass was discovered on the evening of August 7, 2010, by a retired fisherman, Cyril Mooney, who tied a rope around the tail of the fish so that it would not be taken away during the next tide cycle while DFO Officers were advised of the incident.

Poster Presentations by Wildlife Students in Summer Research Program



On August 12 a poster presentation depicting the projects of students enrolled in the AVC's Summer Research Program was held in the Learning Commons. Summer students working with the CCWHC participated in the summer-long program and contributed to the presentation with preliminary results for their respective research projects. **Jessica Mitchell** (3rd year) worked on plastic ingestion by Northern Fulmars and **Marianne Parent** (1st year) worked on amphibian habitat quality. Jessica and Marianne were supervised by **Drs Daoust** and **Forzan**, respectively.

Recent Successful Research Grants

Drs David Speare and Nichole Guselle: \$5000 from the Springboard Atlantic for the project "An approach to develop a novel orally-administered vaccine for Microsporidial Gill Disease of Salmon".

Drs Mark Fast, Fred Markham and John Burka: \$5000 from the Springboard Atlantic for the project "Oral stimulation of Anti-Parasitic Immunity".

Visiting Professors from Mexico



Drs Luis Rodriguez and Alicia Nevarez, a husband and wife team from the Veterinary College of the University of Nuevo Leon (UANL) in Monterrey, Mexico, came back to AVC for a month long academic visit. Both visitors are AVC alumni. Luis obtained his PhD in 2003 working with microsporidial gill disease (*Loma salmonea*) under the supervision of **Dr David Speare**. Luis is a professor of immunology and fish health at UANL. Supervised by **Dr Alfonso Lopez**, Alicia got her MSc in 2002 studying the microscopic lesions in the lungs of foxes naturally infected with *Crenosmoma vulpes* and *Eucoleus aerophilus*. Luis and Alicia are active researchers and work for the diagnostic laboratory at their university.

Recent Publications

Araya MT, Markham F, Mateo DR, McKenna P, Johnson GR, Berthe FCJ, Siah A. Identification and expression of immune-related genes in hemocytes of soft-shell clams, *Mya arenaria*, challenged with *Vibrio splendidus*. *Fish & Shellfish Immunology* 2010;29:557-564.

Muckle A, Giles J, Lund L, Stewart T, Gottschalk M. Cross-Canada Disease Report. Isolation of *Streptococcus suis* from the urine of a clinically ill dog. *Can Vet J* 2010;51:773-774.

Departmental Seminars

Dr Alfonso Lopez will present a seminar entitled "**So you think you can give a great seminar: Yes you can!**" on

September 9, 2010, AVC Lecture Theatre "C" from 10:30-11:20 hrs. This is the opening presentation for the weekly graduate seminar series organized by the Departments of Biomedical Sciences and Pathology and Microbiology for 2010-2011.

Dr Armando Heriazon will present a seminar as part of his nomination for an Adjunct and Graduate Faculty appointment on Tuesday September 21, 2010. Location, time and topic will be communicated in due course.

Upcoming Conferences and Events

OIE International Symposium on Infectious Salmon Anaemia, Oslo, Norway, September 13–15, 2010. See link to the symposium: <http://www.vetinst.no/nor/Forskning/Aktuelle-tema/Fiskesykdommer/Infeksioes-lakseanemi-ILA/ISA-OIE>.

6th International Congress of Pathophysiology: "Gene-environment interaction in health and disease" Montreal, PQ. September 22-25, 2010

Elizabeth O'Neil's MSc defense is scheduled for September 24th. Her research paper is entitled: **Evaluation of detection methods for bacteriuria, pyuria and hematuria in dogs and cats**. Time and place to be announced by GSR.

Our Faculty Members in the News

The Lab Business recently featured some of the work done on aquatics at AVC. For additional information please visit the following sites:

<http://www.labbusinessmag.com/>

[Aquatic Expertise at AVC](#)

Important Deadlines

1. ACOA AIF-8 deadline for submission of project proposals is Wednesday September 1, at 2:00 p.m



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For comments or suggestions for our newsletter, please contact

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