



Department of Pathology and Microbiology
Atlantic Veterinary College
University of Prince Edward Island



The Chair's End of Year Message and Holiday Greeting

This is my sixth end of year message, and fifth update on the state of the department. I would characterize this a transformative year, as three of our "original" faculty members transition to retirement from UPEI. While we have not recovered the staff positions we lost last year, we have been able to stabilize the faculty complement of the department. Consequently the department performance indicators remain strong, and we are cautiously optimistic that we are trending upwards. I am therefore proud to report the following sample of achievements of our faculty, staff and students:

Retirements

Dr. Fred Markham will be retiring effective January 1, 2015, after over 28 years as AVC faculty member. **Dr. Markham** served as Department Chair for 2 terms (1994-2000).

Dr. Alfonso Lopez will be retiring effective January 12, 2015, after over 27 years as AVC faculty member. He has been appointed Adjunct and Graduate Faculty in the department for a three-year term effective January 12, 2015.

Dr. Arnost Cepica will be retiring effective July 1, 2015, after over 30 years as AVC faculty member.

Faculty and staff accomplishments

Drs Paul Hanna, Barb Horney, and Alfonso Lopez received the 25-Year Employee Service Award (1988-2013) at the "Celebration of Colleagues" event on May 7, 2014. This annual event is organized by UPEI Human Resources Office.

Dr. Barb Horney was appointed to the CVMA Executive Council as AVC's and Faculté de médecine vétérinaire Saint-Hyacinthe representative effective January 1, 2015, for a 3-year term.

Dr. Mark Fast was promoted to the rank of Associate Professor effective July 1, 2014. The diligent work of the 2013 Departmental Review Committees (DRC) in the tenure and promotion process is acknowledged. **Dr. Fred Markham** served as Secretary of the 2013 DRC.

Rita Saunders was the recipient of the 2014 AVC Staff Merit Award. The award was presented at the 'Take-a-Break Social' in June 2014.

The following faculty members were successful in obtaining funding this year:

Dr. Chelsea Martin and **Dr. Juan Carlos** Rodriguez for research project titled "Targeting inflammation as a treatment for feline oral squamous cell carcinoma: Alternatives to Cyclooxygenase inhibition".

Dr. Pierre-Yves Daoust (with Dr. Jonathan Spears, Biomedical Sciences, and Dr. Hans Gelens, Companion Animals) for service project titled "Clinical care of wildlife at AVC".

Dr. Anne Muckle and **Dr. Jeff Lewis** (Co-applicants with Dr. Greg Keefe as Principal Investigator and 4 other co-applicants) for project titled "Validation of MALDI-TOF mass spectroscopy for coagulase-negative staphylococcus species identification with application to the CBMRN pathogen library and intramammary infection risk models".

Dr. Mark Fast for project titled "Kudoa thyr sites: Working towards a solution".

Dr. Scott McBurney for project titled "Canada Summer Jobs Student Program".

Dr. Fred Kibenge's research on ISAV was recently profiled in NSERC Dashboard (<http://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/db-tb/index-eng.asp?province=10&category=0> "Arming Aquaculture with Information to Fight Disease"). The report, a Canada-wide overview of NSERC investments across Canada, lists NSERC investments in PEI and features 8 NSERC Success Stories of which 7 are at UPEI.

Graduate student accomplishments

Fraser Clark, PhD Graduate, Department of Pathology and Microbiology the recipient of the OGS Award of Distinction. The award recognizes a convocating graduate student from AVC who excelled in their graduate program, and/or made outstanding contributions to their faculty, university and discipline. He was supervised by Dr. Spencer Greenwood (Biomedical Sciences).

Jordan Poley, PhD candidate (**Dr. Mark Fast**) was awarded a NSERC Postgraduate Scholarship PGSD3 of \$63,000 over 36 months. He also recently passed his Comprehensive PhD Examination.

Dr. Carlos Lopez-Mendez (**Dr. Alfonso Lopez** and **Dr. Enrique Aburto**) successfully defended his MVSc Thesis.

Heather Wotton (Dr. Mark Fast) successfully defended her MSc Thesis.

At the AVC 22nd Annual Graduate Studies and Research Days on May 16, 2014, **Dr. Fany Marron**, MVSc/Resident Student (**Dr. Alfonso Lopez** and **Dr. Shannon Martinson**) received the **Dr. Basil Ikede** Graduate Award in Diagnostic Veterinary Services. **Jordan Poley** received Silver Prize for his paper presentation in Section two

New faculty and staff personnel

Dr. Melanie Buote was recruited in a 1-year term contract position as Assistant Professor, Anatomic Pathology.

The department welcomed two new staff members: **Ingrid MacLeod**, Administrative Assistant, as term replacement for **Diane MacLean**; and **Jordi Segers**, Program Coordinator, White Nose Bat Syndrome, in the Canadian Cooperative Wildlife Health Centre (CCWHC), as replacement for **Allysia Park** who moved to take up a new position in Newfoundland.

New graduate students

The department welcomed **Dr. Walaa Nasry**, MSc Graduate Student under the co-supervision of **Drs Chelsea Martin** and **Juan Carlos Rodriguez**; and **Dr. Laura Ross**, PGD Graduate Student supervised by **Dr. Paul Hanna**.

Staffing requirements

This year, through the AVC 2014 Call for Staffing Requirements, and following prioritization by AVC Dean's Council, the department was able to convert three of its term contract faculty positions to tenure track faculty positions. This conversion will restore one tenure track position each in Anatomic Pathology, Bacteriology, and Clinical Pathology. It therefore allows for long-term planning, ensuring that the teaching and service responsibilities in each of these disciplines continue to be fulfilled. Filling these positions will also significantly strengthen our research base and add depth in our graduate student/resident supervision. Most importantly, this conversion will offer stability in each discipline and career advancement opportunities for the faculty members in these new positions.

Teaching initiatives and graduate programs

The department recently established a new graduate course, VPM 885 – Bioinformatics for Graduate Students. This course is an introduction to bioinformatics and a practical guide to the analysis of genes and proteins. It is cross-listed in the Faculty of Science as HUB 885.

The Pathology faculty in the department have prepared a self-assessment of the MVSc/Residency program and the Post Graduate Diploma in the department in preparation for a review by the UPEI Senate Academic Review and Planning Committee.

Our research and graduate programs are highly sought worldwide. This year the department hosted five visiting professors (Dr. Ben Sutherland from Université Laval, QC; Dr. Brian Wilcock from University of Guelph; Dr. Daniel Elad from Kimron Veterinary Institute, Israel; Dr. Mario Jacques from University of Montreal; Dr. Nicholas Gallo, President of DMS Laboratories, New Jersey) and one visiting student (Daniela Escoba, Ecuador).

We bid fond farewell to **Dr. Xiaoli Huang**, who returned to the Animal Science and Technology College, Sichuan Agricultural University in Ya'an, China, after a 1-year visiting scholars' award from the Chinese Government. She worked with **Drs Mark Fast** and **Dave Groman**.

Research publications

The department scientific publications board has not filled up as in past years. This year, the department published 16 peer-reviewed articles and two book chapters.

2014 Babies

On behalf of all in the Department of Pathology and Microbiology, I congratulate new parents this year:

Dr. Okechukwu "Oke" and wife Hope Ibgoeli on the birth of their daughter, Chinaza Belle.

Ori Elad and his wife Tara on the birth of their daughter, Aria.

Season's greetings

"There are two ways of spreading light: to be the candle or the mirror that reflects it."

-- Edith Wharton (American writer). Together, we have achieved so much to cheer about in 2014. The year 2015 promises ever more innovation and excellence in our teaching, research and professional service functions.

Wishing you all Peace and Happiness this Holiday Season, and Best Wishes for the New Year!

Fred Kibenge

