

Pathology & Microbiology Newsletter Bi-monthly News Bulletin Atlantic Veterinary College University of Prince Edward Island Issue 38, May, 2016



Awards Received



Congratulations to **Dr. Juan Carlos Rodriguez** who was the recipient of the 2015-2016 UPEI Merit award for Scholarly Achievement. Dr. Rodriguez received his reward at the annual Faculty Recognition Night held on Wednesday May 4, 2016, at the Fox Meadows Golf and Country Club.

Job well done Dr. Rodriguez!



Congratulations to **Dr. Cora Gilroy** who was the recipient of the 2015-2016 UPEI Hessian Merit Award for Excellence in Teaching. Dr. Gilroy was honored at the annual Faculty Recognition Night held on Wednesday May 4, 2016, at the Fox Meadows Golf and Country Club. Last year Dr. Gilroy received the 2015 Zoetis Carl J. Norden Distinguished Teacher Award given to an outstanding teacher at AVC.

Job well done Dr. Gilroy!



Congratulations to **Dr. Dave Speare** who received the 25 Year Service Award in appreciation of his 25th Anniversary at UPEI. The presentation took place during the 2016 Celebration of Colleagues (Presidential Recognition Awards for Staff and Faculty).

Job well done Dr. Speare!

Recipient of the Governor General's Award



Congratulations to **Dr. Maria Forzan**, who received The 2016 Governor General's Gold Medal award (graduate level) at the morning UPEI Convocation Ceremony on Saturday May 7, 2016.

Well done Maria!

Best Seminar Presentation



Congratulations to **Kami Harris** who is the recipient of the 2016 Department of Pathology and Microbiology Seminar Series award for Best Seminar Presentation.

Well done Kami!

MSc Thesis Defense



Congratulations to **Dr. Jocelyn Perez Lazo** who successfully defended her MSc thesis [Improved detection of a fish virus with a segmented genome by real-time RT-qPCR] on Tuesday March 29, 2016. Jocelyn was supervised by **Dr. Fred Kibenge**. **Dr. Chelsea Martin** chaired the Examination Committee.

Congratulations Jocelyn!

Graduate Student Awards Received at Annual GSR Days

Congratulations to the following for their awards at the 24th Annual GSR Days on May 13, 2016. Seen in the pictures on the left handing out the awards are Dr. Dorothee Bienzle from the Ontario Veterinary College. Dr. Dorothee Bienzle was also the RG Thomson speaker for GSR Days.



Congratulations to **Sarah McConnachie**, who received The 2016 Office of Graduate Studies Award of Distinction.

Well done Sarah!



Congratulations to **Kami Harris**, who received The John and Carol MacLeod Award for Research Communication Excellence. Kami also received Best Overall PhD Graduate Student Presentation. Dr. Dorothee Bienzle on the left, from the Ontario Veterinary College and invited speaker for the R.G. Thomson lecture, presented the award.

Well done Kami!



Congratulations to **Dr. Laura Ross**, who received The 2016 Dr. Basil Ikede Award in Diagnostic Veterinary Sciences. Dr. Dorothee Bienzle on the left from the Ontario Veterinary College presented the award.

Well done Laura!

Graduate Student Awards Received at Annual GSR Days



Congratulations to **Jordan Poley**, who received Best Paper Presentation (Session Three). Dr. Dorothee Bienzle on the left from the Ontario Veterinary College presented the award.

Well done Jordan!



Congratulations to **Dr. Laura Bradon**, who received Best Overall Postdoctoral Presentation. Dr. Dorothee Bienzle on the left from the Ontario Veterinary College presented the award.

Well done Laura!

Grants Received



Congratulations to **Dr. Mark Fast** for his recent success in being awarded an Innovation PEI Pilot & Discovery Fund Grant of \$25,000, with Industrial partner Somru BioScience Inc, Charlottetown, PEI. The research project is titled "Development of Functional and Diagnostic Assays for Assessing Fish Health and Vaccine/Treatment Efficacy (MICCSA - Phase I)".

Well done Dr. Fast!

AVC Collaboration Generates Environment Canada Funding

Bat White-nose Syndrome (BWNS), a fungal disease caused by *Pseudogymnoascus destructans*, has devastated populations of hibernating North American bat species since its emergence in 2006. While the spread of the disease mostly relates to movements of bats, human-related dispersal of the fungus associated with research activities and recreational caving is also possible. Therefore, decontamination of equipment, caving gear and personal clothing after visiting caves or mines has become a key component of the management strategy to prevent the anthropogenic spread of BWNS. However, the decontamination protocol developed for Canada lacks certainty because the products available in this country that could safely clean caving gear or sensitive scientific equipment have not been tested for their effectiveness at killing or inactivating the spores of *P. destructans*. To address this problem a unique collaboration was developed between AVC Diagnostic Services and the Canadian Wildlife Health Cooperative (CWHC), Atlantic Region in the Department of Pathology and Microbiology.

The team consists of Ms. Liz Dobbin, Dr. Anne Muckle and Mr. Matthew Saab from AVC Diagnostic Services and Dr. Scott McBurney, Dr. Dave Overy, Mr. Jordi Segers and Mrs. Darlene Weeks from the CWHC. This group was recently awarded a service contract for \$24,955 from Environment Canada to test the efficacy of three liquid decontamination products and two disinfectant wipes, widely available in Canadian retail stores, for their ability to kill or inactivate the spores of *P. destructans*. The project will use a recent isolate of the fungus from the leading edge of the emerging disease in Canada and employ a testing protocol developed in the United States to ensure the results will be widely applicable in the North American context. Since *P. destructans* is a slow growing fungus, the work will not be completed until early 2017. It is hoped at this time that the results will permit strong science-based recommendations for the Canadian Decontamination Protocol, ultimately leading to the protection of bat populations throughout the country.



Photomicrograph of banana-shaped spores or conidia of *Pseudogymnoascus destructans.*

Dr. Frederick Kibenge Publishes First Book

Congratulations to **Dr. Fred Kibenge** whose first book is being published by Academic Press; the expected release date is June 1, 2016. It is available for pre-sale through Elsevier's online store. The book "*Aquaculture Virology*" 1st Edition is co-edited with Dr. Marcos Godoy of the Center for Applied Biological Research (CIBA) in Chile. *Aquaculture Virology* covers principles of clinical virology for viruses of the three major aquatic food animals: fish, crustaceans, and molluscs. The authors for the different chapters are invited international experts recognized in their specific virus family or disease(s). Dr. Kibenge wrote or co-wrote 8 of the 39 chapters of the book. The details including the Table of Contents, are available at this link:



http://www.store.elsevier.com/9780128015735

"Aquaculture Virology" will be useful to clinical veterinarians, aquaculture disease practitioners, biologists, farmers, and all those in industry, government or academia who are interested in aquatic animal virology. Dr. Kibenge teaches veterinary virology in the second year of the DVM curriculum at AVC. He has been working with animal viruses for more than 30 years in addition to prior extensive post-doctoral research experience in virology in the United Kingdom and the USA.

Congratulations Dr. Kibenge!

Dr. Frederick Kibenge, Chair, Pathology and Microbiology, and Dr. Molly Kibenge, Research Associate, work in the virology research lab at AVC.

Recent Publications

Nino-Fong R, Esparza Gonzalez BP, Aburto E, McDuffee LA. *In vivo* comparison of the osteogenic properties of equine mesenchymal stem cells from periosteum, muscle, and bone marrow with and without demineralized bone matrix. *J J Vet Sci Res. 2015, 1(4):025.*

Alizadeh M, Rodriguez-Lecompte JC, Yitbarek A, Sharif S, Crow G, Slominski BA. Effect of yeast –derived products on systemic innate immune response of broiler chickens following a lipopolysaccharide challenge. Poultry Science 2016; 00:1-8 http://dx.doi.org/10.3382/ps/pew154.

Escobar Alarcón DK, Reyes Matute A, Méndez Bernal A, Flores Pineda K, López A. Chronic eosinophilic leukemia in an African hedgehog (*Atelerix albiventris*). Braz J Vet Pathol 2016; 9:34-38.

For comments or suggestions for our newsletter, please contact: Dr. Fred Kibenge (<u>kibenge@upei.ca</u>) or

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