

New Coordinators for the Chinook Project

The Chinook Project was founded in 2005 by **Dr. Lisa Miller** (Pathology and Microbiology, retired adjunct faculty), Dr. Jane Magrath (past professor of English, UPEI), and **Dr. Marti Hopson** (Companion Animals, adjunct faculty). This is a unique interdisciplinary project that provides free veterinary care to remote communities in the Canadian north. Each year, several veterinarians, technicians and fourth year Atlantic Veterinary College (AVC) students travel to a northern location to set up a clinic to provide spay/neuter services as well as vaccination, parasite control and treatment of medical conditions.

Drs. Miller and Magrath have stepped away from the Chinook Project as of January 2018, and Dr. Hopson is welcoming **Dr. Cora Gilroy** (Pathology and Microbiology), and Dr. Mila Profit (AVC Class of 2017, past Chinook student and current associate veterinarian at Abegweit Animal Hospital in Charlottetown) as new coordinators.



Dr. Gilroy had an interest in learning more about the Chinook Project for several years, contemplating in what way she could be involved, and had communicated this interest to Dr. Miller in the past year. This appointment became possible for Dr. Gilroy when she was asked to take over Dr. Miller's role as course coordinator for the Department of Pathology and Microbiology. Dr. Gilroy wanted to be part of this project as it broadens the veterinary learning experience for students and benefits the people and animals in northern Canadian communities. A great deal has already been learned in the few months she has been a coordinator, and Dr. Gilroy is looking forward to being able to experience it first-hand in June 2018, as this will help her more fully understand the Chinook Project so that she can better serve in her role as a coordinator.

Photo: Dr. Cora Gilroy

Dr. Profit travelled to Iqaluit with the Chinook Project in 2016. Since she returned from her time in Nunavut, she has been passionate about being part of this educational and unique project and has now taken on the position of coordinator. The most endearing part of the Chinook Project to Dr. Profit is that it combines community service and education, benefiting AVC students, animals and the northern communities. Dr. Profit is excited to learn not only the organizational part of the Chinook Project but the impact that it has on the communities and the lives of the AVC students.

Photo: Dr. Mila Profit



Welcome to Dr. Megan Jones



We welcome **Dr. Megan Jones** (Wildlife Anatomic Pathologist), who has started her tenure-track faculty position in the Department of Pathology and Microbiology. Dr. Jones is also the new Regional Director of the Atlantic node of the Canadian Wildlife Health Cooperative. Dr. Jones is no stranger to AVC and UPEI. She is a DVM graduate of the AVC Class of 2005. After graduation, she pursued a residency in wildlife and zoo pathology in a combined program at University of California, Davis, and the San Diego Zoo, and became board-certified by the American College of Veterinary Pathologists. After her residency, she did a two-year fellowship in amphibian pathology at the San Diego Zoo, where she coordinated testing for the amphibian chytrid fungus for clients from around the USA and internationally, and consulted on amphibian disease issues. Megan then pursued her PhD at the College of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Georgia. She did her dissertation research at the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, studying the pathology of filoviruses (Ebola virus) in fruit bats. In 2014, she returned to the San Diego Zoo Institute for

Conservation Research, where she worked as a wildlife pathologist and provided support for the many zoo field conservation programs. Megan returned to PEI to start her faculty position in late February, 2018.

Photo: Dr. Megan Jones

Welcome to Dr. Dave McRuer



The Department of Pathology and Microbiology welcomed **Dr. Dave McRuer** who is a 2005 graduate of the AVC and one of two Wildlife Health Specialists employed by Parks Canada. In this role, Dave works on a broad range of wildlife health issues in national parks including disease surveillance and management, animal care and welfare, immobilization training and drug acquisition, and assisting parks with knowledge and expertise responding to wildlife health concerns. Operating within the Department of Pathology and Microbiology at the AVC will allow a closer working relationship with the Atlantic node of the Canadian Wildlife Health Cooperative, project collaboration with UPEI faculty and staff, and wildlife health training opportunities for students.

Before joining Parks Canada, Dr. McRuer worked for ten years as the Director of Veterinary Services at the Wildlife Center of Virginia and then briefly in 2017 as a wildlife biologist with the PEI Division of Fish and Game. Dave earned a Master of Science degree in Ecology in 2001 from Carleton

University in Ottawa and is a Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Preventative Medicine. Dave's wife, Dr. Martha Mellish, is an Assistant Professor in Ambulatory Equine Services, Department of Health Management at the AVC, and together they are raising an energetic three-year-old with another small human on the way this spring.

Photo: Dr. David McRuer with a snowy owl *Bubo scandiacus*.)

Welcome to Dr. Thomas Ogilvie



The Department of Pathology and Microbiology welcomes **Dr. Thomas Ogilvie**. Thomas is working part-time under the co-supervision of **Drs. Shannon Martinson and David Groman** to obtain his Master of Veterinary Science (MVSc) degree in Fish Health. Thomas is from Spring Brook, Prince Edward Island, and he attended the University of Prince Edward Island, where he completed his Bachelor of Science in 2005 and later received his Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree from the Atlantic Veterinary College in 2010. For the past six years, Thomas has been practicing as an aquaculture veterinarian and is currently employed by Northern Harvest Sea Farms. He is interested in diseases and pathology of salmonids.

Going Batty with Bat Questions?

A new toll-free number—1-833-434-BATS (2287)—has been released to report sightings of bats on Prince Edward Island (PE) or in Newfoundland and Labrador (NL). This number will put members of the public in direct contact with **Tessa McBurney**, the Atlantic Bat Conservation Project Technician for the Canadian Wildlife Health Cooperative (CWHC), Atlantic Region. The toll-free number is part of a collaborative project between the CWHC and the provincial governments in PE and NL that is funded by the Environment and Climate Change Canada Habitat Stewardship Program—Species at Risk Stream. By working closely with PE and NL provincial government collaborators responsible for wildlife, human health and pest control, as well as private pest control companies, callers will be provided with the most up-to-date and accurate information about bat-related topics. Bat sightings reported by the public will also provide researchers with valuable information related to the protection of two federally endangered bat species: the little brown myotis and the northern myotis. The health of bats in Atlantic Canada is under threat from the devastating bat white-nose syndrome (WNS), which continues to spread in the region and impact endangered species.



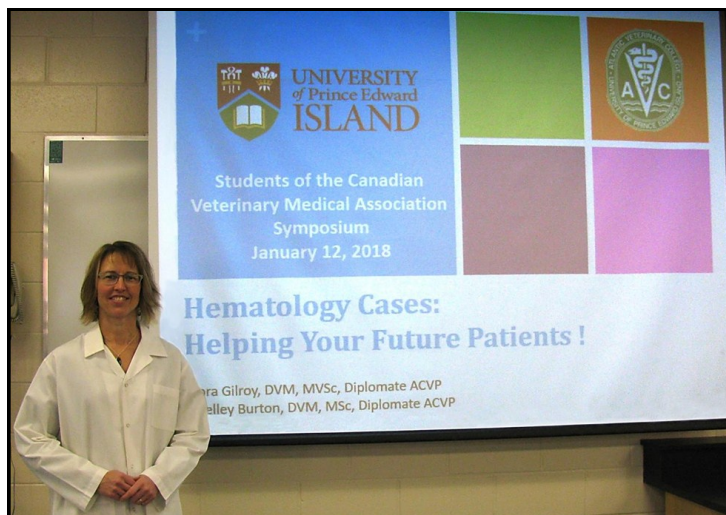
Going batty with bat questions?

Call 1-833-434-BATS (2287)!

Tessa McBurney, Atlantic Bat Conservation Project Technician

Photo by Mike Needham

Hematology Workshop for Students of the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (SCVMA)



On January 12, 2018, **Drs. Cora Gilroy** and **Shelley Burton** provided a workshop on intriguing hematology cases for veterinary students attending the annual Students of the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (SCVMA) Symposium held at the AVC. Interested students from across Canada enjoyed using microscopes and learning to recognize abnormal cells on blood smears from sick animals of various species.

Photo: Dr. Cora Gilroy

67th Western Poultry Disease Conference

Dr. Juan Carlos Rodríguez-Lecompte has been invited to participate in the 67th Western Poultry Disease conference and a workshop sponsored by the American College of Poultry Veterinarians that will take place in Salt Lake City, Utah, during April 15-18, 2018. His presentation will be entitled "The impact of Nutrition in Immunity and Disease."

Dr. Rodriguez-Lecompte attended International Poultry Scientific Forum



Dr. Juan Carlos Rodríguez-Lecompte attended the International Production Processing Expo and International Poultry Scientific Forum held in Atlanta, Georgia, on January 30 to February 1, 2018. At this meeting, Dr. Rodríguez-Lecompte gathered pertinent information to enhance his poultry disease rotation and graduate course "Diseases of Poultry and Poultry Production Systems." He also used this international conference to share with other scientists the results of his current research with immunosuppressive viruses and the use of immunomodulators in birds.

Photo: Dr. Juan Carlos Rodríguez-Lecompte with a former graduate student from the University of Manitoba, Dr. Harold M Echeverry.

2018 Winter Seminar Series

DEPARTMENTS OF BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES & PATHOLOGY AND MICROBIOLOGY		
Tuesday -3:00 pm Lecture Theatre A		
Date	Topic	Presenter
March 13, 2018	Stimulation of silent natural product biosynthesis using surface-active molecules in marine <i>Streptomyces</i> .	Zacharie Maw Biomedical Sciences
March 13, 2018	Pathogens and heavy metals in harvested ringed seals in Iqaluit, NU	Enooyaq Sudlovenick Pathology & Microbiology
March 20, 2018	Temperature dependent regulation of natural products biosynthesis in Arctic actinomycetes.	Anna Kuznetsova Biomedical Sciences
March 20, 2018	Identification of Virus-Host Receptors for Atlantic Salmon Bafinivirus, a Coronavirus of Fish	Ashley McKibbin Pathology & Microbiology
March 27, 2018	Investigations on the treatment and diagnosis of metastrongyloid infections in dogs and cats.	Haifaa Mahjoub Pathology & Microbiology
April 3, 2018	Prostaglandin receptor expression in feline oral squamous cell carcinoma.	Nicole Kaiser Pathology & Microbiology
April 3, 2018	Metabolomics Approach for the Identification of Putatively Novel Secondary Metabolites from 20 Marine Bacteria.	Vernon Ptycia-Lamky Biomedical Sciences
Co-ordinators of the Departmental Seminar Series are Drs. Sandra McConkey and Dave Speare.		

Publications

Yitbarek A, Alkie T, Abdelaziz T, Astill J, Rodriguez-Lecompte JC, Parkinson J, Nagy E, Sharif S. Gut microbiota modulates type I interferon and antibody-mediated immune responses in chickens infected with influenza virus subtype H9N2. *Beneficial Microbes*, 2017 online ISSN 1876-2883 print, ISSN 1876-2891.

Roldan-Santiago P, Mota-Rojas D, Martínez-Burnes J, Muns R, López A. Neurophysiological development of newborn pigs: effect of the sow's parity number in eutocic farrowings. *Anim Prod Sci* 2017; <https://doi.org/10.1071/AN16641>

Awosile B, McClure J, Sanchez J, Rodriguez- Lecompte JC, Keefe G, Heider LC. *Salmonella enterica* and extended-spectrum cephalosporin-resistant *Escherichia coli* recovered from Holstein dairy calves from 8 farms in New Brunswick, Canada. *American Dairy Science Association* 2018; 101:1-14 <http://doi.org/10.3168/jds.2017-13277>.

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

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