

## Incoming Interim Chair of Pathology and Microbiology



Congratulations and thanks are extended to **Dr. Juan Carlos Rodriguez-Lecompte**, who after receiving departmental faculty support, has been appointed to serve as Acting Chair of the Department of Pathology and Microbiology during Dr. Fred Kibenge's sabbatical leave from July 1, 2019 to December 31, 2019.

Congratulations Dr. Rodriguez!

## Editorial Appointments



Congratulations to **Dr. Shannon Martinson** who in April 2019 was welcomed to the Canadian Veterinary Journal (CVJ) team as Assistant Editor.

Congratulations Dr. Martinson!



Congratulations to **Dr. Juan Carlos Rodriguez-Lecompte** who has been appointed to the Editorial Board of *Poultry Science* journal. Currently, *Poultry Science* is the highest-ranked (by Impact Factor and Eigen factor) journal dedicated to publishing poultry research. Dr. Rodriguez will serve as Section Editor for the Management and Production section.

Congratulations Dr. Rodriguez!

## Promotions



Congratulations to **Dr. Mark Fast**, who has been promoted to the rank of Full Professor at UPEI.

Congratulations Dr. Fast!



Congratulations to **Dr. Chelsea Martin**, who has been promoted to the rank of Associate Professor at UPEI.

Congratulations Dr. Martin!

## 25 Year Service Awards



We extend our congratulations to **Drs. Shelley Burton and Sandra McConkey** who received 25 Year Service Awards in appreciation of their 25th Anniversary at UPEI. The presentation was made during the 2019 Celebration of Colleagues (Presidential Recognition Awards for Staff and Faculty) on Tuesday, April 30, 2019 in McMillan Hall, W.A. Murphy Centre.

Congratulations Shelley and Sandra!

**Photo:** President Alaa Abd-El-Aziz presenting the 25-year service award to Dr. Shelley Burton (left) and Dr. Sandra McConkey (right).

## Research Funding Success



Congratulations to **Dr. Megan Jones**, Director, CWHC Atlantic Region, for her recent success in getting funding from Environment and Climate Change Canada for the service project entitled "Monitoring secondary lead poisoning in scavenging birds in Atlantic Canada". The total award is \$13,500 (\$4,500/year for three years).

Dr. Megan Jones and CWHC Atlantic also received a grant for \$7,045.00 from the PEI Wildlife Conservation Fund for a project entitled "Distribution and characterization of sarcoptic mange in red foxes."

Dr. Megan Jones and CWHC Atlantic also received funding from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) Marine Mammal Response Program. The total DFO funding is \$69,680.



**Dr. Laura Bourque** is a key collaborator on the DFO Marine Mammal Response program. The Program goal is "Enhancement of marine mammal response in waters of DFO Gulf and Maritimes Regions" (primarily via equipment purchase). This funding has supported the purchase of a new truck to replace the current Biomedical Sciences/Pathology and Microbiology vehicle (\$33,355.00). It is a 2019 Dodge Ram 1500 truck. The Dean's Office paid the difference (\$1,675) over the DFO funds. Biomedical Sciences/Pathology and Microbiology will pay for the maintenance and insurance of the shared vehicle.

Well done Dr. Jones and Dr. Bourque!

## Presentation at the Atlantic Provinces Veterinary Conference

**Drs. Shelley Burton** and **Cora Gilroy** presented two hematology laboratories at the Atlantic Provinces Veterinary Conference in Halifax on Friday April 12th. The laboratories were aimed at veterinary technicians and were titled, "Blood smears: your best (diagnostic) friend forever!" The sessions were well attended with participants enjoying reviewing glass blood smears and hematologic techniques. *(Photo not available).*



## Thesis Defenses



Congratulations to **Dr. Nicole Kaiser**, who successfully defended her MVSc thesis [Prostaglandin Receptor Expression in Feline Oral Squamous Cell Carcinoma] on June 10, 2019. Nicole is co-supervised by **Drs. Chelsea Martin** and **Shannon Martinson**. **Dr. Melanie Buote** chaired the Examination Committee.

Congratulations Nicole!



Congratulations to **Enooyaq Sudlovenick**, who successfully defended her MSc thesis [A Serological Survey and Inuit Qaujimagajatuqangit of Ringed seals (Nattiit) in Frobisher Bay, Nunavut] on June 14, 2019. Enoo was co-supervised by **Drs. Megan Jones, Shannon Martinson** and Susan Kutz (University of Calgary). **Dr. Chelsea Martin** chaired the Examination Committee.

Congratulations Enoo!

## AVC White Coat Ceremony Award Winners



**Dr. Ashley Powell** of the AVC Class of 2019 received the Atlantic College of Veterinary Pathologists Award for Excellence in Veterinary Pathology at the AVC White Coat & Awards Ceremony. This award is given to a graduating student in veterinary medicine who demonstrated excellence in pathology coursework, excellence in senior pathology rotations and/or externships, dedicated involvement in pathology departmental activities, demonstrated strong leadership abilities, and was an active member in our ACVP Student Chapter. Presenting the award to Ashley is **Dr. Melanie Buote**.



**Dr. Ashley Powell** of the AVC Class of 2019 also received the Phibro Animal Health Award in Aquaculture at the AVC White Coat & Awards Ceremony. This award is given to a graduating student demonstrating aptitude and enthusiasm in aquaculture during 4th year aquaculture rotations. Presenting the award to Ashley is **Dr. Mark Fast**.



**Dr. Liam Shea** of the AVC Class of 2019 received the Pathology Achievement Award at the White Coat & Awards Ceremony. This award is given to a graduating student in veterinary medicine demonstrating proficiency and aptitude in pathology. Liam worked as a summer VetSRA student for CWHC/ Atlantic/ Path/ Micro in 2017. Presenting the award to Liam is **Dr. Megan Jones**.



**Dr. Jessica Grieve** of the AVC Class of 2019 received the Elanco Award in Parasitology at the AVC White Coat & Awards Ceremony. This award is given to the graduate demonstrating proficiency and interest in parasitology. Presenting the award to Jessica is **Dr. Gary Conboy**.



**Dr. Brian Blanchard** of the AVC Class of 2019 received The Atlantic Provinces Diagnostic Services Award at the AVC White Coat & Awards Ceremony. This award is given to the graduating student in veterinary medicine demonstrating excellence in diagnostic pathology and microbiology during senior clinical rotations. Presenting the award to Brian is **Dr. Shelley Burton**.

## 2019 UPEI 3 Minute Thesis Competition Winner



Congratulations to **Ashley McKibbon** who won third place in the UPEI 3 Minute Thesis competition held on March 12, 2019.

Ashley's presentation was titled "A key for every lock: studies on viral entry in Atlantic Salmon Bafinivirus". Ashley is supervised by **Dr. Fred Kibenge**.

Congratulations Ashley!



## North Atlantic Whale Necropsy

On June 7, 2019, a team from Canadian Wildlife Health Cooperative, Atlantic, performed a necropsy on an endangered North Atlantic Right Whale on Miscou Island, NB. The juvenile male Right whale had been observed dead on June 4, 2019, in the Gulf of St Lawrence, and was subsequently towed to Miscou Island by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard. **Dr. Laura Bourque** (lead pathologist on the case), **Dr. Megan Jones**, **Dr. Pierre-Yves Daoust**, **Dr. Dave McRuer** (Parks Canada Wildlife Health Specialist and Adjunct Faculty at AVC), **Tessa McBurney**, and summer students Amanda Clark (AVC Class of 2021, and Hanna Ruark (AVC Class of 2022, Companion Animals) worked with teams from the Marine Animal Response Society, CWHC Quebec, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, and other organizations to complete the necropsy.



Left photo: Photo was taken by drone courtesy of Marine Animal Response Society. Present in drone photo left to right are Dr. Laura Bourque, Hanna Ruark, Dr. Megan Jones, Amanda Clark and Tessa McBurney.



Photo to the right: Dr. Pierre Yves Daoust on top of the whale.



Photo above: Left to right Dr. Laura Bourque, Amanda Clark (wildlife pathology summer student), Hanna Ruark (AVC VetSRA student in Companion Animals department).

Photo below: Dr. Dave McRuer and Dr. Megan Jones measuring the tail of the Right whale.





## 2019 Chinook Project Update

In June 2019, the Chinook Project team will travel to Northern Labrador to provide free veterinary services to two locations. Nain is the northernmost community in Labrador, and this will be the fifth time the Chinook Project has visited this hamlet. Natuashish (moved from Davis Inlet in 2002) is one of the two Innu communities in Labrador. The Chinook project has visited this community three times in the past, the last visit being in 2015. Both communities have multiple positive rabies cases each year. In addition, a canine distemper outbreak in Natuashish in 2018 affected the dog population greatly.



Photo back row, left to right: Rachael Speare, Dr. Peter Foley, Ashley Kroyer, Dr. Mila Profitt, Dr. Heather Gunn-McQuillan, Bryan Welsh, Heather Chandler.

Front row: Dr. Cora Gilroy, Veronica Ellis and Dr. Mike West.



The team will spend 4.5 clinic days in each location, and hope to see many animals for vaccinations, deworming and spay/neuter surgeries, as well as any other procedures provided. School visits also have been booked to speak to youth about humane education topics and opportunities in animal sciences such as the Tim Ogilvie AVC Vet Camp.

The veterinarians travelling this year are mostly from AVC: Dr. Heather Gunn-McQuillan, Dr. Peter Foley and Dr. Mike West. Dr. Becky Jackson of Happy Valley-Goose Bay will also attend for the first week of the trip. Five fourth-year veterinary students will participate in the rotation: Bryan Welch, Ashley Kroyer, Heather Chandler, Veronica Ellis, and Rachael Speare.

More information about the Chinook Project can be found on Facebook and at [www.chinookproject.ca](http://www.chinookproject.ca)



## Hey Islanders, have you seen a bat? Then call the bat phone!

**Are bats back for the summer? Call 1-833-434-BATS (2287)!**



Spring is finally approaching, which means bats will soon emerge from their hibernacula and return to their summer roosting sites. People in Prince Edward Island (PEI) and Newfoundland and Labrador (NL) are encouraged to call the toll-free bat hotline —

1-833-434-BATS (2287) — to let researchers know that their bats are returning.

The bat hotline is based out of the Canadian Wildlife Health Cooperative (CWHC) Atlantic Region at the Atlantic Veterinary College, PEI, and is a collaborative project between the CWHC and the provincial governments in PEI and NL. The bat hotline has now been in place for just over a year, and calls from citizen scientists have been providing researchers with essential information on two federally endangered bat species: the little brown myotis and the northern myotis. The hotline received 178 calls in the last year (February 2018-2019), which enabled the following data to be collected: 157 reports of bat sightings, colony counts from 37 bat roosts, submission of 7 dead bats for necropsy and testing.

Researchers are asking for the public's help with monitoring local bat populations by doing colony counts if homeowners have roosting bats on their property, or by reporting bat sightings and potential roost sites of bats.

The health of bats in Atlantic Canada is threatened by the devastating disease bat white-nose syndrome (WNS), which continues to spread in the region, significantly impacting endangered bat species. WNS was only recently confirmed in NL in 2017, so it is crucial that bat populations in the province be closely monitored. WNS was first detected in PEI in 2013; however, bats are still being found infected with the fungus. To learn more about WNS, please visit <http://www.cwhc-rcsf.ca/wns.php>.

To report sightings of bats, to consult a professional about human health concerns associated with bats, or to ask bat-related questions, please call 1-833-434-BATS (2287).

Funding for this project is provided by the Newfoundland and Labrador Department of Fisheries and Land Resources-Forestry and Wildlife Research Division and the Prince Edward Island Department of Communities, Land, and Environment-Fish and Wildlife Section.

### **Contact:**

Tessa McBurney  
Atlantic Bat Conservation Project Technician  
Canadian Wildlife Health Cooperative, Atlantic Region  
Office: (902) 894-2845/1-833-434-BATS (2287)  
[tmcburney@cwhc-rcsf.ca](mailto:tmcburney@cwhc-rcsf.ca)



## Researching the Impact of Climate Change on Atlantic Salmon Aquaculture



**Alyson Brown**, AVC Class of 2022, will spend the summer working on a research project investigating the impact of accelerated climate change on Atlantic salmon aquaculture in Atlantic Canada.

The project, developed by **Dr. Mark Fast**, professor of fish health at AVC, and collaborators at Memorial University and the University of Waterloo, is part of the College's veterinary student research awards (VetSRA) program, which is designed to give students a solid foundation in research.

Click [here](#) to read the complete article.

## Keynote Speaker at the International Congress of Bovine Medicine in Spain



**Dr. Alfonso López**, Professor Emeritus, was a keynote speaker at the XXIV International Congress of Bovine Medicine, hosted by the Spanish Association of Bovine Practitioners (ANEMBE) in Seville, Spain (May 22-24, 2019). Attending this meeting were over 300 participants, mainly from Spain, Portugal, and other European countries. Dr. López delivered a special presentation on the achievements and frustrations of veterinarians regarding bovine pneumonia over the last 50 years. During these many years, bovine pneumonia has been the number one cause of morbidity and mortality in feedlots in Canada, the United States, and several Latin American countries. One relevant point addressed by Dr. López was that much of the dogma on the pathogenesis of bovine respiratory diseases stemmed from Canadian investigations. His second presentation dealt with the comparative aspects of sepsis in human and veterinary medicine and the application of this misunderstood ailment in the ruminant practice. In his last lecture, Dr. López summarized the necropsy findings of the most common sequela of chronic pneumonia in dairy and feedlot cattle.

**Photo (L-R):** Dr. Joaquín Ranz Vallejo, President of the Spanish Association of Bovine Practitioners (ANEMBE); Dr. Alfonso López, Atlantic Veterinary College; Dr. Juan Carlos González Fernández, Vice-president ANEMBE.

## Publications

Kibenge MJT, Wang Y, Gayeski N, Morton A, Berdslee K, McMillan B, Kibenge FSB. Piscine orthoreovirus sequences in escaped farmed Atlantic salmon in Washington and British Columbia. Kibenge et al. Virology Journal 2019;16:41 <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12985-019-1148-2>.

Morandi B, Bertaso S, Conboy G, Gustinelli A, Galuppi R, Tosi G, Poglayen G. *Crenosoma vulpis* in red foxes (*Vulpes vulpes*) in Northern Italy. Parasitology Research <http://doi.org/10.1007/s00436-019-06272-3>.

Martinson SA, Skjonsberg C, Muckle CA, Spears J. Acute Septicemia in a Hermaphrodite Veiled Chameleon (*Chamaeleo calyptratus*) Infected with *Mycobacterium chelonae* Chemovar niacinogenes. The Journal of Herpetological Medicine and Surgery, 2019;29:21-26. DOI: 10.5818/18-04-150.1

Martínez-Burnes J, Mota-Rojas D, Villanueva, Ibarra RD, Lezama GK, Barrios GH, López A. Invited review: Meconium aspiration syndrome in mammals. CABI Reviews London 2019; 14:1-11.

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

Ingrid MacLeod ([imacleod@upei.ca](mailto:imacleod@upei.ca)) (902) 566-0541.

Editor Dr. Alfonso López Reviewer: Dr. Shelley Burton

**Please don't print this newsletter unless you really need to!**

