

Dr. Kibenge Recognized for Outstanding Service to UPEI and Finishes Term as Department Chair



The Department of Pathology and Microbiology extends its gratitude and best wishes to **Dr. Frederick Kibenge** as he steps down from his fourth consecutive term as the department chair. He has served as a grant reviewer and journal section editor, and on many committees, including for AVC's curriculum, professor emeritus, dean search, and the UPEIFA's scholarly achievement awards. In addition to teaching, he has a strong research and publishing record. His hard work, open door policy, and dedication to the success of the department were greatly appreciated by faculty, staff, and students.

As a testament to his dedication, Dr. Kibenge was awarded the UPEI Faculty Association's 2021 Merit Award for Outstanding Service at its annual recognition event online on May 5.

"Service is supposed to be a part of every faculty member's working life, and we know how essential that work is in institutions that depend on shared governance," said Dr. Shannon Murray, chair of the UPEIFA service awards subcommittee, in reading the citation. *"Some of our colleagues, though, go far beyond what is merely expected of them in this area, and their often selfless work is time spent supporting their students, their colleagues, and their communities. Dr. Fred Kibenge of the Department of Pathology and Microbiology is one of those extraordinary mentoring, supporting, and tireless servants of the University."*

The 2020-2021 UPEIFA Merit Award for Outstanding Service citation is accessible at <https://www.upeifa.ca/awards/faculty-awards/outstanding-service-award/>.

Contributed by Anna MacDonald and department faculty

Welcome to Dr. Mark Fast as Incoming Chair for Pathology and Microbiology



The department welcomes **Dr. Mark Fast** as the new chair. Here are some thoughts from Dr. Fast:

*"As I begin the new position of chair of our department, I would again like to thank **Dr. Fred Kibenge** for all of his hard work as the outgoing chair, and leaving our department in very good standing after all of his years of service. And I would like to thank you all for your warm words of encouragement and welcome into the new office. I am looking forward to the next 3 years in this position and working hard to ensure the success of our Department of Pathology and Microbiology."*

UPEI Senate Appoints Dr. Gary Conboy Professor Emeritus Status



Congratulations to **Dr Gary Conboy** on being named a professor emeritus by the University of Prince Edward Island! He was one of five professors emeriti announced by UPEI on Tuesday, June 15, 2021.

Dr. Gary Conboy joined the Department of Pathology and Microbiology in August 1991 as an assistant professor of veterinary parasitology. He obtained the rank of full professor in 2012 and retired on December 31, 2020, after 29 years of teaching, research, and service.

Dr. Conboy is renowned for his ground-breaking research on nematode lungworm parasites and French heartworm in wild and

domestic canids. His research has refined and revealed unique aspects of the parasite's life cycle and transmission, while his focus on treatment modalities has led to better clinical resolution and quality of life for canine patients.

He has more than 60 peer-reviewed publications, eight invited reviews, and four book chapters to his credit. He is co-author of *Veterinary Clinical Parasitology* (7th, 8th, and 9th editions), an essential diagnostic guide used in veterinary education and in veterinary diagnostic laboratories and clinics around the world.

He has participated in professional organizations, including the American Association of Veterinary Parasitologists, the Canadian Parasitology Expert Panel for Companion Animals, and the Canadian Wildlife Health Cooperative. In 2011, he was recognized as a charter diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Microbiologists (ACVM) in Veterinary Parasitology. He has contributed to the training of numerous graduate students as well as veterinarians seeking diplomate status in the ACVM-Veterinary Parasitology. An expert morphologic parasitologist, he is currently serving as section head of parasitology for AVC Diagnostic Services. He also consults locally with clients of the AVC Veterinary Teaching Hospital and internationally in his field.

Dr. Conboy plans to continue to contribute to AVC and UPEI through ongoing research, graduate student training, publishing, and internal and external collaborations.

Contributed by Anna MacDonald

Pathology and Microbiology Thanks Dr. Jean Mukherjee



The department had the pleasure of hosting **Dr. Jean Mukherjee** from August 2020 until April 2021. Dr. Mukherjee was the primary lecturer and course coordinator of VPM 2010 (Veterinary Bacteriology and Mycology) during the fall semester of 2020. During the winter semester of 2021, Dr. Mukherjee took over the helminthology lectures and laboratories for the first year parasitology course (VPM 1220). Given Dr. Mukherjee's extensive training and expertise in microbiology and parasitology, the department and veterinary students were very fortunate to have her contributions.

Dr. Noel Clancey Obtained Tenure at UPEI



Congratulations to **Dr. Noel Clancey**, Assistant Professor, Clinical Pathology, who has obtained tenure at the University of Prince Edward Island.

Phase 1 ACVP Certifying Examination



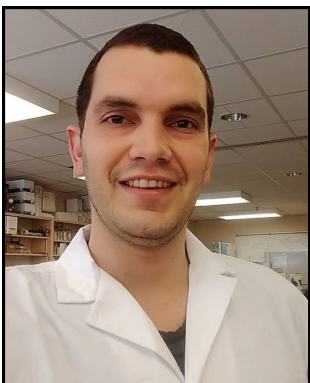
Congratulations to MVSc student and anatomic pathology resident **Dr. Nicolas Decelles** on passing Phase I of the Certifying Examination of the American College of Veterinary Pathologists (ACVP). Dr. Decelles is co-supervised by **Drs. Melanie Buote and Megan Jones**.

PhD Thesis Defense



Congratulations to **Haifaa Mahjoub** who successfully defended her PhD thesis titled, "Investigations on the treatment and diagnosis of metastrongyloid infections in dogs and cats" on May 31, 2021. Ms. Mahjoub was co-supervised by **Dr. Gary Conboy** and **Dr. Spencer Greenwood**. **Dr. Fred Kibenge** chaired the supervisory committee. **Dr. Megan Jones** chaired the examination committee.

MSc Thesis Defense



Congratulations to **Dr. Santiago Uribe Diaz** who successfully defended his MSc thesis (Molecular and Macromolecular Science) titled, "Folic acid (FA) supplementation impact on avian B-lymphocyte molecular innate and adaptive immunity gene responses under lipopolysaccharide (LPS) and Infection Bursal Disease Virus (IBDV) activation." Dr. Uribe Diaz was co-supervised by **Dr. Juan Carlos Rodriguez-Lecompte** and Dr. Marya Ahmed. Other members of the examination committee were Dr. Marya Ahmed, Dr. John Zuccolo and **Dr. Fred Kibenge**. Dr. Barry Linkletter chaired the examination committee.

MSc Thesis Defense



Congratulations to **Dr. Daniela Losada** who successfully defended her MSc (Molecular and Macromolecular Science) thesis titled, "Identification, tissue characterization and innate immune role of Angiogenin-4 expression in young broiler chickens." Daniela was supervised by Dr. Marya Ahmed and **Dr. Juan Carlos Rodriguez-Lecompte**. Her examination committee was composed of Drs. Barry Linkletter, Larry Hale, Jon Zuccolo and Marya Ahmed.

Pathology and Microbiology Welcomes New Postdoctoral Fellow



The department welcomes **Ryan Shartau**, a Mitacs Elevate postdoctoral fellow under the mentorship of **Dr. Mark Fast**. Dr. Shartau completed his PhD at the University of Calgary in comparative physiology. He then began a visiting fellowship at the Government of Canada's Pacific Biological Station investigating the molecular and physiological effects of exposure to toxic cyanobacteria in salmonids. His project within the department will examine the transcriptomic responses of Atlantic salmon to algal toxins to develop molecular biomarkers to assess the health impacts of exposure. Much of this work is being conducted at the Pacific Biological Station on Vancouver Island. When he is not working, he enjoys exploring Vancouver Island with his wife and two dogs.

Pathology and Microbiology Welcomes New Graduate Students



The department welcomes **Crystal Veltman**, who started her MSc (Veterinary Medicine) program on May 3, 2021. She is supervised by **Dr. Mark Fast**, focusing on Atlantic salmon. Crystal graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree, majoring in marine biology, from Dalhousie University in the fall of 2020. When not working, she is either walking on the beach, hitting the hiking trails, taking pictures, painting, or making travel plans once COVID is a thing of the past.



The department welcomes **Dr. Amanda Clark**, MVSc student and resident in wildlife anatomic pathology. She is supervised by **Drs. Megan Jones** and **Russell Fraser**. She graduated from the DVM program at the Atlantic Veterinary College in May of 2021. She will be working primarily with the Canadian Wildlife Health Cooperative. Amanda enjoys cooking, baking sourdough bread and gardening.

Pathology and Microbiology Welcomes New Summer VetSRA Students



The department welcomes **Raelyn McCurdy**, third year veterinary student at the AVC. Raelyn is a summer student who will be working under the supervision of **Dr. Mark Fast**. Raelyn has a 7 year old goldfish named Enzo. She enjoys playing volleyball, taking photos and diving in her free time.



The department welcomes **Dan Maguire**, third year veterinary student at the AVC. Under the guidance of **Dr. Mark Fast**, Dan will be completing a research project this summer and presenting his findings at the National Veterinary Scholars Symposium. When not studying for veterinary school, Dan enjoys swimming with his dog Harley and running with the UPEI cross country/track team.



The department welcomes **Olivia Galeuzzi** who is a second year veterinary student at the AVC. Olivia will be working on a research project under the supervision of **Dr. Megan Jones**, which aims to shed light on the distribution and diversity of helminths in eastern coyotes and red foxes on PEI. Additionally, this project will include targeted surveillance for *Angiostrongylus vasorum* (French heartworm), to better understand its presence on the island.

Pathology and Microbiology Welcomes New Summer Students



The department welcomes **Isabel (Siheng) Xie**, AVC Class of 2023, who has been hired as the Wildlife and Plastics Summer Student Assistant, with **Drs. Megan Jones** and **Laura Bourque**. She will be working with the Atlantic node of the Canadian Wildlife Health Cooperative (CWHC) database to help develop a pilot project that identifies and characterizes plastic pollution in the Atlantic Canadian wildlife.



The department welcomes **Quinn Molnar**, AVC Class of 2023, as the Summer Student Assistant in Wildlife Pathology. His work this summer will include participating in necropsies submitted to the AVC, as well as helping to manage case submissions and special projects for the CWHC database. He has special interests in pathology, surgery and small animal internal medicine. In his free time, Quinn enjoys reading, cooking, playing soccer, hiking and spending time with his daughter Riley.



The department welcomes **Lindsey Bailey**, AVC Class of 2023, who is working part-time with Dr. Chelsea Martin. Her summer project is entitled, "Image analysis for monitoring *in vitro* migration of feline oral squamous cell carcinoma cells". Lindsey is from St. Louis, Missouri and her main veterinary interest is in radiology. When she is not working on her project or at her clinic job, Lindsey likes playing with her cat and dog, gardening, and exercising.

Publications

Wakid MH, Toulah FH, **Mahjoub HA**, Alsulami MN, Hikal WM, *Giardia duodenalis* pathogenicity on immunosuppressed animal model. Trop. Biomed. 2021: 37; 1008-1017.

Nazeer N, **Uribe-Diaz S**, **Rodriguez-Lecompte JC**, Ahmed M. Antimicrobial peptides as an alternative to relieve antimicrobial growth promoters in poultry. British Poultry Science <https://doi.org/10.1080/00071668.2021.1919993>

Fajei E, **Cai WC**, **Whyte SK**, **Purcell SL**, **Fast MD**. Boosting tilapia (*Oreochromis niloticus*) immune responses to *Flavobacterium columnare* using PACAP (pituitary adenylate cyclase activating polypeptide.) North American Comparative Immunology Workshop, June 8-10, 2021. (Presented virtually by E. Fajei).

Groves L, **Whyte SK**, **Purcell SL**, Parrish K, Perreira J, Garber A, **Fast MD**. The effects of climate change on the Atlantic salmon's (*Salmo salar*) immunological response to infectious salmon anemia (ISAv). North American Comparative Immunology Workshop, June 8-10, 2021. (Presented virtually by L. Groves). This presentation was also made at the American Fisheries Society Fish Health Section (AFS-FHS) Summer series on June 11, 2021

Kibenge F, **Kibenge M**, Godoy M. [SARS-CoV-2 transmission via aquatic food animal species or their products: A review](#). Featured Research in the April 8 edition of the Canadian Institute of Health Research III e-bulletin.

For comments or suggestions for our newsletter, please contact: Dr. Russell Fraser (rufraser@upei.ca) or Ingrid MacLeod (imacleod@upei.ca) (902) 566-0541.

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