

Dr. Mark Fast Receives Zoetis Award for Research Excellence



Dr. Mark Fast is the 2022 recipient of the Zoetis Award for Research Excellence.

The Atlantic Veterinary College (AVC) at the University of Prince Edward Island recently awarded Dr. Mark Fast, chair and professor, Department of Pathology and Microbiology, AVC, the 2022 Zoetis Award for Research Excellence.

This award is one of AVC's most prestigious awards and recognizes an AVC faculty member whose research over the past three years shows promise of attaining national recognition. The purpose of the award is to foster innovative research, on which scientific advancement of the profession depends, by recognizing outstanding research effort and productivity.

"Dr. Fast has a sustained record of significant contributions to aquaculture research," says Dr. Larry Hammell, associate dean of graduate studies and research, AVC. *"His ongoing research and accomplishments in the field of genomic approaches for sea lice and disease issues of wild and farmed salmonids is globally recognized."*

Throughout his career, Dr. Fast has developed a highly productive research program, securing over \$33 million dollars for internationally collaborative research projects, as well as

regional, national, and international projects. He has published over 85 peer-reviewed journal articles, contributed to several book chapters and sections, and is regularly invited to speak at local and international conferences. In addition to this, he is dedicated in training and mentoring the next generation of fish health scientists, having supervised postdoctoral fellows, graduate students, undergraduate students, and doctor of veterinary medicine students on their research projects.

As the winner of this award, Dr. Fast provided a public presentation entitled, "Integrating genomics research into applications for aquaculture," on Wednesday, November 9 and was presented with the award at AVC's Fall Awards and Recognition Night.

"Dr. Fast had demonstrated himself as an international leader in fish health," says Dr. Hammell. *"The rigour and impact of his research program makes him highly deserving of this award."*

Submitted by
Rachel Cutcliffe, External Engagement Officer
Atlantic Veterinary College

Dr. Nina Germitsch Receives Two Research Awards

Congratulations to **Dr. Nina Germitsch** who traveled to Switzerland to receive two awards for her research. Her first award was the 2022 SSTMP Young Investigator Award by the Swiss Society of Tropical Medicine and Parasitology. It recognized her clear commitment to strengthening parasitology in general, the innovative and 'high-risk' nature of her research, and the potential to become an acknowledged international ambassador for the Swiss Society of Tropical Medicine and Parasitology. It was presented during the 80th general assembly of the Swiss Society of Tropical Medicine and Parasitology in Bern, Switzerland on November 10th. Dr. Nina Germitsch was also invited to attend the annual conference and meeting of the Swiss Society of Tropical Medicine and Parasitology.

Dr. Germitsch also received the 2022 AHS Award from the Albert Heim Foundation. This foundation is dedicated to and promotes research in cynology and awards an annual academic prize worth 10,000 Swiss francs to a researcher from a Swiss university for outstanding contributions in this field. It was awarded during the 93rd annual assembly and meeting of the Albert Heim Foundation on November 11th at the Natural History Museum in Bern, Switzerland. Dr. Germitsch received this honor for her research in how the parasite *Angiostrongylus vasorum* affects canine health.



Left to right: **Dr. Nina Germitsch**, Dr. Andrea Meisser (president of the Albert Heim Foundation), and Dr. Manuela Schnyder (former supervisor of Dr. Germitsch) during the 93rd annual assembly and meeting of the Albert Heim Foundation.

Pathology Training of Large Animal Residents

The large animal residents [Drs. Simon Bourassi, Margaret (Louie) Genis, Yoko Nakamae and Molly Mills] from the Department of Health Management enjoyed an intensive week of pathology training from December 5-9, 2022. The clinical pathology sessions were led by **Drs. Shelley Burton, Cora Gilroy and Noel Clancey**. Anatomic pathology training was provided by **Drs. Shannon Martinson, Russell Fraser, Chelsea Martin, Andrea Bourque and Melanie Buote**. This week partly or fully meets requirements for time spent with American College of Veterinary Pathologists (ACVP) boarded pathologists in residency programs accredited by the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine (ACVIM) or the American College of Veterinary Surgery (ACVS).



L-R: Drs. Shelley Burton, Margaret Genis, Simon Bourassi, Yoko Nakamae, Shannon Martinson, Noel Clancey, Cora Gilroy

Graduate Study Research Award Winner in Pathology and Microbiology



Congratulations to **Eyesun Fajei**, a PhD student in the Department of Pathology & Microbiology, on being selected as the recipient of the 2022 James E. Bateman Memorial Scholarship in Aquatic Health Research at the AVC. She was presented with this scholarship as part of Graduate Study Research Days. at the AVC Fall Recognition Night on November 9th.

Congratulations Eyesun!

Dr. Megan Jones Granted Tenure



Congratulations to **Dr. Megan Jones** who has been granted tenure by the University of Prince Edward Island effective July 1, 2023.

Congratulations Dr. Jones!

CWHC Atlantic Staff Celebration Healthy Wildlife



The Atlantic node of the Canadian Wildlife Health Cooperative (CWHC) recently organized a dinner to celebrate their staff. The centre had a very eventful and successful 2022 to date. Staff worked tirelessly coordinating many aspects of the avian influenza virus (AIV) outbreak which affected many wild bird species throughout the region and nationally.

An important project also underway at the centre this summer involved surveying for plastics ingested by marine birds. Many students and staff also worked very late and long hours conducting bat research throughout various areas located in Prince Edward Island. On top of dealing with an unexpected AIV outbreak, multiple projects and research, staff and

students gained valuable experience and knowledge performing necropsies on various species of wild animals and had fun doing it.

We congratulate the wonderful team and wish them a very happy and successful future!!!!!"

Photo: L-R: **Tessa McBurney**, Graduate and DVM student, bat conservation & health, **Darlene Jones**, wildlife technician, **Fiep de Bie**, wildlife technician, **Dr. Megan Jones**, regional director, wildlife pathologist, **Dr. Laura Bourque**, wildlife pathologist, **Dr. Scott McBurney**, wildlife pathologist (retired), **Dr. Amanda Clark**, pathology resident, **Jamye Rouette**, DVM and CWHC summer student, marine plastics, **Olivia Galeuzzi**, DVM and CWHC summer student, bat research, **Kirsten Spray**, DVM and CWHC summer student, AIV surveillance, **Darrian Washinger**, bat conservation technician. Missing from photo: **Jordi Segers**– national White Nose Syndrome coordinator.

Pathology and Microbiology Welcomes New Graduate Students

The Department of Pathology and Microbiology is pleased to welcome **Yang Feng**, visiting PhD student, conducting research in Atlantic Canada under the supervision of **Dr. Mark Fast**. He will be here from November 28, 2022 until November 25, 2023.

The department of Pathology and Microbiology is pleased to welcome **Emily Wainwright**, an MSc student who will be joining our department on January 2, 2023. She will be co-supervised by **Drs. Lisane Ayalew** and **Mark Fast**.

First South American Roadshow



Shortly after traveling restrictions due to Covid-19 were lifted, Dr. Francisco Uzal, University of California, and Dr. Francisco Carvallo, Virginia Tech, contacted **Dr. Alfonso Lopez** (Professor Emeritus, Department of Pathology and Microbiology) to discuss a possible face-to-face academic tour of various South American countries. This educational tour, named the First South American Roadshow, was sponsored by the Davis-Thompson Foundation (an international organization for the advancement of veterinary pathology) and the Latin Comparative Pathology Group. Four South American veterinary colleges expressed interest in hosting and co-sponsoring this event in October 2022. They included the Universidad Nacional de la República in Montevideo in Uruguay, the University of Buenos Aires in Argentina, the University of Asuncion in Paraguay, and the National University of Colombia in Bogota. In each country, Dr. Lopez gave an intensive 12-hour course on respiratory pathology, reviewing the structure-function of the respiratory tract and the pathogenesis of pneumonia for domestic animals. This course also included problem-based cases of respiratory diseases for horses, ruminants, pigs, dogs, and cats. It was finalized with a comparative review of viral infections with an emphasis on Covid-19. Over 350 pathologists, clinicians, residents, and students attended his lectures. According to Dr. Lopez, the tour, although hectic, was enjoyable. It provided a fantastic opportunity to meet old colleagues again and make new friends while updating respiratory pathology in Latin America.

Additional information is available on the Davis-Thomson Foundation

<https://davisthompsonfoundation.org/latin-american-roadshow-2022/>

Photo: Course participants in the University of Asuncion in Paraguay.

Publications

Godoy M, **Kibenge MJT**, Montes de Oca M, Pontigo JP, Coca Y, Caro D, Kusch K, Suarez R, Burbulis I, **Kibenge FSB**. Isolation of a new infectious Pancreatic Necrosis Virus (IPNV) variant from genetically resistant farmed Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*) during 2021-2022. Pathogens 2022;11; 1368.<https://doi.org/10.3390/pathogens 11111368>.

Department Chair Christmas Message



I want to take this opportunity to thank all our faculty, students and staff for another successful year, and wish you all the best and happiest holidays. It is a time for us to get together with friends and family and appreciate all that we have and to also think about and find ways to help those who are less fortunate. Specifically, I think of several members of Pathology and Microbiology with family in and strong ties to Iran, where demonstrations and executions are a stark contrast to shopping and holiday parties here in Canada. I wish them all a safe holiday season with their families and hopefully with some respite from these everyday struggles. Happy holidays!

Mark



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