

## New Parasitology Residency Program Tackles Heartworm as an Emerging Health Risk for Dogs in Atlantic Canada



Dr. William Robbins and Dr. Nina Germitsch

The Atlantic Veterinary College (AVC) at the University of Prince Edward Island, with support from Mitacs and Boehringer Ingelheim Canada, has launched a Veterinary Parasitology Residency Program with one major goal: to address the growing threat of heartworm in dogs in Atlantic Canada. The program's first resident, **Dr. William Robbins**, brings deep expertise in parasitology and is investigating the emergence of dog heartworm (*Dirofilaria immitis*) in the region. Once absent from Atlantic Canada, heartworm is now appearing in both dogs and wildlife such as coyotes and foxes. Research of Dr. Robbins also examines the risk of drug-resistant strains entering Canada through imported dogs, aiming to improve awareness, early detection, and prevention strategies for veterinarians and pet owners.

**Dr. Nina Germitsch**, Assistant Professor of Veterinary Parasitology at AVC, highlights the importance of understanding the emergence of parasites in Atlantic Canada. Dr. Germitsch explained the significance of the residency program and how it will benefit animal and public health. "With the first recognized Parasitology Residency Program in Canada, we are taking a major step toward strengthening our national capacity to study and manage parasitic infections," said Dr. Germitsch. "This program will not only help us better address emerging concerns such as dog heartworm in Atlantic Canada but also build long-term expertise that benefits animal and public health across the country."

Dr. Germitsch noted that several parasites have emerged in Atlantic Canada in recent years, with dog heartworm (*Dirofilaria immitis*) becoming an increasing concern.

Recognizing the importance of this program and how it will better address emerging concerns such as dog heartworm in Atlantic Canada; Boehringer Ingelheim Animal Health Canada in partnership with Mitacs, provided funding to help launch and establish the Parasitology Residency Program at the Atlantic Veterinary College (AVC), University of Prince Edward Island.

Credit to Nicole Phillips, Communications at UPEI

To access the full story, you can visit the following links:

<https://www.boehringer-ingelheim.com/ca/new-parasitology-residency-program-tackles-heartworm-emerging-health-risk-dogs-atlantic-canada>

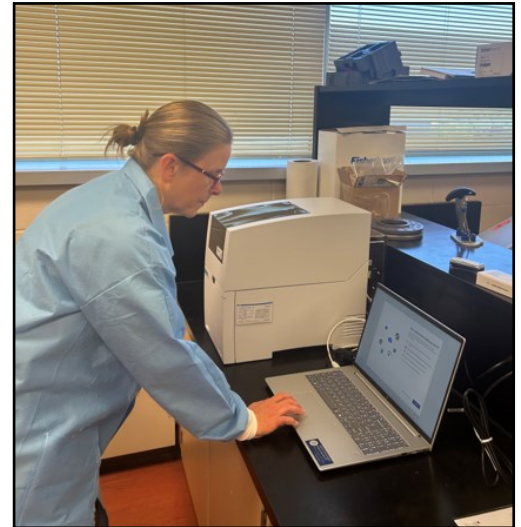
<https://www.upei.ca/communications/news/2026/03/new-parasitology-residency-program-tackles-heartworm-emerging-health>

## Dr. Lisanework Ayalew Acquires New Laboratory Equipment



**Dr. Sara Purcell** performing experiments using the laboratory's newly acquired genomics platforms.

**Dr. Lisanework Ayalew's** laboratory recently acquired a MiSeq i100 Plus next-generation sequencing (NGS) platform and a 4150 TapeStation System through funding provided by CFI and ACOA. These instruments enhance the laboratory's research capacity by enabling nucleic acid quality assessment and high-throughput sequencing. They will support the generation of high-quality genomic data, foster collaborative research initiatives, and provide advanced training opportunities for students and research personnel.



## Pet CPR Pilot Project Trains 45 Firefighters in Charlottetown on First Aid for Cats and Dogs.

**Dr. Nina Germitsch** co-established a pet rescue and CPR training initiative for firefighters in Charlottetown in collaboration with Dr. Patrick Burns (Companion Animal Department) and Dr. Julián Reyes-Vélez (AVC PhD graduate). The pilot program, conducted with the Charlottetown Fire Department, provided training in emergency first aid, CPR, oxygen administration, and rescue techniques for cats and dogs.



In May 2026, the initial training session successfully trained 45 firefighters, representing one of the first structured pet emergency response training initiative for firefighters in Prince Edward Island. The program was featured in *The Guardian* newspaper and online in the article "Pet CPR Pilot Project Trains 45 Firefighters in Charlottetown on First Aid for Cats and Dogs," published on 12 May 2026.

[SaltWire article.](#)

Dr. Nina Germitsch, professor at the Atlantic Veterinary College and volunteer firefighter, performs CPR on Jerry, a dog manikin on loan from the AVC. Germitsch and Dr. Julián Reyes-Vélez, veterinarian and volunteer firefighter, left, are leading a pilot pet CPR program for firefighters. Photo by Logan MacLean /The Guardian

## Pathology & Microbiology Welcomes Dr. Lani Bower



Pathology & Microbiology welcomes **Dr. Lani Bower**, a term faculty member in the department. Dr. Bower will be filling in for **Drs. Melanie Buote** and **Chelsea Martin's** sabbaticals and will be with us until January 2027. Dr. Bower's training as a veterinary pathologist began with her bachelor's degree in biology with a focus on wildlife, from Northeastern University (NU) in MA, USA. This included a cooperative learning position working as the assistant curator at the Center for Vertebrate studies at NU where Lani first started investigating and learning taxonomy, anatomy, normal physiology, and disease. She then returned to the western United States, near to where she was raised in Wyoming, to earn a Master of Agriculture in the Integrated Resource Management Program at Colorado State University. Lani stayed at CSU and received her Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree. Anatomic pathology residency brought her to the University of Tennessee, where she finished her training and subsequently became board certified by the American College of Veterinary Pathologists. She considers herself a generalist, loving all pathology in all species. She has special interest in avian, production animals, wildlife/exotics, ocular, reproductive, infectious and zoonotic disease. Her goals and passions include continuing to learn, teaching fellow veterinarians, students and scientists, participating in collaborative research studies and presenting and/or publishing case series and reports. During her time outside of work, she enjoys reading, hiking, skiing, swimming, spending time with family and friends, volunteering in her community, and spending quality time outdoors. Lani is grateful and excited to join the team at the Atlantic Veterinary College.

## Welcome Dr. Ashley Powell as Diagnostic Fish Pathologist



**Dr. Dave Groman**, with the Aquatic Diagnostic Services, is pleased to welcome **Dr. Ashley Powell** as the new Diagnostic Fish Pathologist. Dr. Powell graduated from the DVM program at the Atlantic Veterinary College in 2019. She joined the team in January 2026 after completing a residency in aquatic and anatomic pathology at the University of Georgia. Dr. Powell has successfully defended her PhD thesis on 26<sup>th</sup> June at the University of Georgia.

Congratulations to Dr. Powell.

## Laura Leaman Celebrates Successful MSc Thesis Defence



Congratulations to **Laura Leaman**, who successfully defended her MSc thesis, "*Investigation of Lung- and Heartworms in Red Foxes and Coyotes of Atlantic Canada*" on May 5, 2026.

Laura's principal supervisor was **Dr. Nina Germitsch**, with **Dr. Spencer Greenwood** as co-supervisor. **Dr. Chelsea Martin** chaired the Supervisory Committee and **Dr. Megan Jones** chaired the Examination Committee.

Congratulations Laura!

## Pathology & Microbiology Welcomes New Graduate Student



Pathology & Microbiology welcomes **Nia Ehrenberg**, a new graduate student in **Dr. Lisanework Ayalew's** lab with a focus on virology. She will be researching vaccine development for reovirus in poultry.

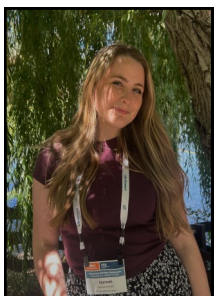
Nia grew up in a small town in Ontario and received her undergraduate degree from the University of Guelph. Her primary academic interests include production animal medicine - especially dairy cattle - and soft tissue surgery. After completing her degree, she spent nearly three years in New Brunswick before relocating to Prince Edward Island in early 2025.

Outside of work and her education, Nia enjoys a variety of sports, including rock climbing, hockey, soccer, softball, as well as reading, painting and drawing, and exploring outdoors. She has a plethora of animals at home, including two cats, a dog, six snakes, eleven geckos, a 10-gallon planted freshwater fish tank, and a saltwater fish tank.

## Pathology & Microbiology Welcomes 2026 VetSRA Students



**Zeyad Akl**, AVC Class of 2029, is a VetSRA student under the supervision of **Dr. Nina Germitsch**. His project is: "Prevalence and distribution of *Echinococcus* species in Nova Scotia foxes." Zeyad is from Nova Scotia and this is his first summer working with Dr. Germitsch on a VetSRA project. Outside of AVC, he enjoys playing soccer and playing the piano!



**Hannah Johnston**, AVC Class of 2028, is a VetSRA student under the supervision of **Dr. Nina Germitsch**. Her project is: "The search for *Dirofilaria immitis* and lungworms in PEI wild canids." Hannah is from PEI and this is her second summer working with Dr. Germitsch on a VetSRA project. Outside of AVC, she enjoys playing music, going to the beach, and hanging out with her cat!



**Abigail Black**, AVC Class of 2028 is a VetSRA student under the supervision of **Dr. Lisanework Ayalew**. Her project is entitled, "Comparative analysis of the effect of p10 protein variants of avian reovirus on host cell metabolism". Abby comes from Belledune, NB and this is her second summer working in Dr. Ayalew's lab. Outside of work, Abby enjoys spending time outdoors, including going for walks and visiting the beach.



**Sheila Walsh**, AVC class of 2028, is a VetSRA and Boehringer Ingelheim Veterinary Scholar student under the supervision of **Dr. Lisanework Ayalew**. Her project is titled "Genetic and Antigenic Diversity of Avian Reovirus Isolates across Atlantic Canada" which will involve characterizing ARV strains present across the region and evaluating the efficacy of vaccine-induced immune responses to these strains. Sheila is from Wood Islands, PEI, and is entering her third year of the DVM program in the fall. In her free time you can find her hanging out with her goats or at the beach.

## Research Grants Received



**Dr. Nina Germitsch** received two new research grants in 2026. She is a Co-Principal Investigator (CO-PI) on the NSERC-FRQ NOVA-funded project “*Surveillance of Dirofilaria immitis prevalence and drug resistance in Eastern Canada: A One Health approach,*” which was awarded CAD \$249,300 beginning in April 2026 for a three-year term.

She also received funding from the Nova Scotia Habitat Conservation Fund as Principal Investigator (PI) for the project “*Echinococcus species in Nova Scotia – an emerging threat?*” This project was awarded CAD \$15,100 beginning in March 2026 for a one-year term.



**Dr. Lisanework Ayalew** received the following research grants:

1. For the development of a vectored vaccine for dual protection of broiler chickens against inclusion body hepatitis and avian reovirus-induced tenosynovitis

Amount funded: **\$303, 025.00** (March 1, 2026, to February 28, 2030)

Role: Co-Applicant (Applicant: Dr. Susantha Gomis, University of Saskatchewan)

Funding agency: Alberta Results Driven Agriculture Research (RDAR)

2. For the discovery of vaccine antigen candidates and development of rapid diagnostic assays against emerging avian reoviruses in Atlantic Canada

Amount funded: **\$103,000.00** (Until March 31, 2028)

Role: Principal Investigator

Funding agency: Pan-Atlantic Agricultural Project Partnership Initiative (PAPPI) and Atlantic Poultry Research Institute (APRI)

3. For the effect of natural polymorphism of Sigma C gene of avian reovirus on protein function and virus-host cell interactions

Amount funded: **\$90,000.00** (Until August 31, 2027)

Role: Principal Investigator

Funding agency: Biovectra-Mitacs

4. For Improving diarrhetic calf welfare by integrating optimized husbandry practices with metagenomic insights

Amount funded: **\$93,095.50** (Until August 31, 2027)

Role: Co-investigator (Principal Investigator – Dr. Jason Stull)

Funding agency: Sir James Dunn Animal Welfare Centre (SJDawC)

## Dr. Lisanework Ayalew Receives Award



Congratulations to **Dr. Lisanework Ayalew** who received the 2026 Springer Nature Editor of Distinction Author Service Award for his contributions to the World Journal of Microbiology and Biotechnology.

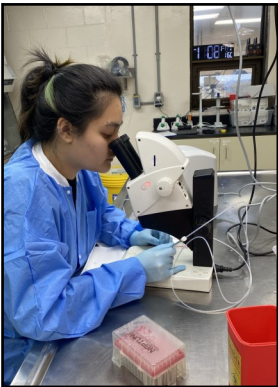
Congratulations Dr. Ayalew!

## Student Awards



Congratulations to **Samantha MacEachern**, MSc graduate student, on being the recipient of the 2026 Dr. Douglas Ehresmann Graduate Award. The Dr. Douglas W. Ehresmann Graduate Award is awarded to a student performing outstanding research in some aspect of virology. The award will be presented at the 2026 AVC Awards Ceremony in October .

Congratulations Samantha!



Congratulations to **Javon Lo**, MSc graduate student, on being the recipient of the 2026 James E. Bateman Memorial Scholarship in Aquatic Health Research Award. The James E. Bateman Memorial Scholarship under the Aquatic Health Research at AVC is awarded to a graduate student who demonstrates excellence and a strong potential for a career in aquatic food animal health. The award will be presented at the 2026 AVC Awards Ceremony in October.

Congratulations, Javon!

## Pathology & Microbiology Bids Farewell To Dr. Manuel Soto-Davila



Pathology and Microbiology would like to thank **Dr. Manuel Soto-Davila**, Post Doctoral Fellow under the supervision of **Dr. Mark Fast**, for his contribution to the department and to the work of Dr. Fast's laboratory.

Congratulations to Dr. Manuel Soto-Davila, who has accepted the Assistant Professor position at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine at Universidad San Sebastián in Puerto Montt, Chile, beginning July 1st.

Dr. Soto-Davila would like to share the following message with the AVC community:

"I would like to sincerely thank everyone at the Atlantic Veterinary College at UPEI whom I have had the privilege to work with during these amazing three years. I am especially grateful to Dr. Mark Fast for giving me the opportunity to become part of

AVC and his laboratory, to Dr. Shona Whyte for her scientific guidance and mentorship, and to Dr. Sara Purcell for supporting me during my first months in the lab. I would also like to thank my lab colleagues, the fish facility staff, administrative personnel, central services staff, cafeteria workers, cleaning services, shipping and receiving staff, and everyone else who help make this place run so well every day. It has been an honor to have AVC as part of my professional journey, and I hope that in the future we may continue collaborating in different ways. I wish all the very best to everyone who continues working here, and I hope I was able to give back, in some way, the same kindness and support that I received during my time here."

Congratulations and all the best Dr. Soto-Davila in this new position!

## Presentations



- **Dr. Nina Germitsch** presented *Surveillance for feline lungworm on PEI: Integrating research with clinical programs* as part of the AVC Research Seminar series on 18 March 2026.

- **Dr. Nina Germitsch** delivered several outreach presentations in early 2026 focused on *Echinococcus multilocularis*, highlighting its established endemic presence and particularly high transmission risk in Prince Edward Island, as demonstrated through findings from her research group's ongoing surveillance and epidemiological work in the region.

- On 9 April 2026, **Dr. Nina Germitsch** presented *Echinococcus multilocularis – an endemic parasite in PEI* to Forests, Fish and Wildlife, Government of Prince Edward Island. On 24 March 2026, she presented *Do all dogs need praziquantel? A risk-based approach to Echinococcus multilocularis prevention in Prince Edward Island* during a seminar for the PEI veterinary community organized by Boehringer Ingelheim. On 6 March 2026, Dr. Germitsch and C. Doucette presented *On the hunt – for emerging parasites* at the Trappers Association of Nova Scotia Annual Workshop & Convention. Dr. Germitsch also presented *On the hunt – for emerging parasites* at the Prince Edward Island Trappers Association Annual Convention on 3 January 2026.



Photo left: **Laura Leaman**, MSc student, attended the Canadian Emerging Veterinary Scholars Summit 2025, which fosters community and innovation in veterinary research.

### Infectious diseases and epidemiology

Several talks by researchers from universities across Canada focused on pathogens that threaten both animal and human health. **Laura Leaman (Atlantic Veterinary College, AVC)** investigated lungworm and heartworm infections in wild canids of the Maritimes, identifying emerging risks such as *Angiostrongylus vasorum* and *Dirofilaria immitis*. From the aqua-culture sector, Ahsan Raquib (AVC) analyzed space-time clustering of infectious salmon anemia virus, pinpointing risk zones important for disease control.

- The findings of study titled, “Investigation of the fecal microbiome of raccoons (*Procyon lotor*) in a captive environment.” were presented at the Canadian Animal Health Laboratory Network (CAHLN), in Guelph, Ontario, on May 24-27, 2026. Researchers are Kelsey Holland, Mikaela Jahncke, **Lisanework Ayalew**, **Shivani Ojha**.

## Visiting Researchers

- **Dr. Shawna Semple**, visiting researcher with WellFish Tech from January 12– December 31, 2026, supervised by **Dr. Mark Fast**.
- **Yubing Chen**, visiting graduate student from the University of Waterloo from January 19-February 28, 2026, supervised by **Dr. Mark Fast**.
- **Carmi Riesenbach**, visiting scientist with Wellfish Tech from January 21-December 31, 2026, supervised by **Dr. Mark Fast**.
- **Dr. Brian Dixon**, visiting researcher from the University of Waterloo from February 9 – 10, 2026, supervised by **Dr. Mark Fast**.

## Publications

Lamothe K.A., **Groman D.**, White C., Barnucz J., Gáspárdy, R.C., and Drake, D.A.R. 2025. Disease Screening of Fishes in Candidate Source and Recipient Locations to inform Eastern Sand Darter Reintroduction. Canadian Manuscript Report of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences 3305:vi+20 p.

<https://doi.org/10.60825/6vqv-1c70>

**Fast M.D.**, Veltman C.V., **Purcell S.L.**, McCurdy R., Maguire D., Andrew S., **Groman D.**, **Poley J.D.**, Jia B., **Whyte S.K.** 2025. Impacts of jellyfish homogenates on Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*) gill and head kidney cells. Aquaculture Reports 25: 103073 <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.aqrep.2025.103073>

**Fajei E.**, **Whyte S.K.**, **Soto-Davila M.**, Eslamloo K., Groves L., Storey K., **Ghanei-Motlagh R.**, **Groman D.B.**, **Purcell S.L.**, **Fast M.D.** 2026. Impact of co-exposure to *Chaetoceros* spp. and *Tenacibaculum maritimum* on Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*) gills. Aquaculture 614: 743530.

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.aquaculture.2025.743530>

Patriquin K.J., Phinney L, **McBurney S**, **McRuer D**, Barclay R.M.R, Broders H.G., Crook A, Faure P.A, Humber J, Hunter A, **Jones M**, Jung T.S, Lausen C.L, Losada D, **McBurney T**, Ratcliffe J.M, **Segers J.L**, **Washingier D**, and Willis C.K.R. 2026. Welfare and Handling Recommendations for Bat Surveys in Canada. Journal of North American Bat Research Monographs. 1:1-67

Angel-Isaza J.A, Naranjo-Ortiz M.F, Montoya A.L, Vargas-Bermúdez D.S, Martínez B.C, Jaime J., **Rodríguez-Lecompte J.C.** 2026. Molecular characterization of the effects of essential oils on mRNA gene expression related to proinflammatory and antiviral pathways, virus load, and antibody production in chickens vaccinated against Newcastle disease virus, infectious bursal disease virus, and infectious bronchitis virus. Poultry Science 105:106178. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.psj.2025.106178>

Alizadeh M, Oladokun S, Fazel F, Fletcher C, Blake K, Sharif S, **Rodríguez-Lecompte JC.** 2026. Modulation of gut immunity and microbiota by *Bacteroides thetaiotaomicron* confers dose-dependent protection against necrotic enteritis in broiler chickens. Poultry Science 105:106480 <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.psj.2026.106480>

**Kibenge F**, **Kibenge M**, Vargas D, Godoy M. 2026. Amarilloviruses of Aquatic Animals Pathogens 15:160 <https://doi.org/10.3390/pathogens15020160>

Schutten K, Shirose L, Stevens B, Goldsmith D, Slater O, Rothenburger J.L, Kutz S, Lair S, **Jones M**, **Bourque L**, **McBurney S**, Pybus M, Stasiak I, Moffatt E, Jutha N, Schwantje H, Nituch L, Joy D.O, Jardine C.M, Bollinger T.K. 2026. Twenty years of ungulate disease surveillance by the Canadian Wildlife Health Cooperative (2003-2022) PLOS One 21;3 <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0343520>

Misk E, **Whyte SK**, **Purcell SL**, **Groves L**, **Michaud D**, **Cai W.C**, Langille B.L, Garber A.F, **Fast M.D.** 2026. Thermal modulation of genetic resistance to infectious salmon anemia virus: Transcriptome analyses of Atlantic salmon families (*Salmo salar*) at 10<sup>0</sup> C and 20<sup>0</sup> C Comparative Immunology Reports 10;200274 <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cirep.2026/200274>

Dindial A, Bron J.E, McGowan M, Drake A, McLean K, Androskuk D, Roy W, Van A, Robledo D, Paley R, Joiner C, **Fast M.D**, Monaghan S.J. 2026. Investigation of a novel assay for the proteomic screening of the secretory and excretory products of individual salmon lice *Lepeophtheirus salmonis*. Veterinary Parasitology 344;110752. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.vetpar.2026.110752>

Abraham T.N, Nguyen D.T, Yazdi Z, Bell H.N, Todgham A.E, Adkison M. Johnson R.C, Jeffres C, Foott S, Fangué N.A, **Fast M.D**, Rinchar J, Ludwig J.M, Soto E. 2026. Susceptibility to columnaris disease in Chinook salmon *Oncorhynchus tshawytscha* offspring from thiamin-deficient and thiamine-replete females. Diseases of Aquatic Organisms Volume 165: dao03903 <https://doi.org/10.3354/dao03903>

**Fast M.F**, **Michaud D.** *Lepeophtheirus salmonis* In Fish Parasites: Pathobiology and Protection, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition. 2026. <https://doi.org/10.1079/9781800628748.0022>

**Ghanei-Motlagh R**, Cai W, Poley J.D, Zhang Y, **Whyte S.K**, Garber A.F, **Fast M.D.** 2026. Family-based transcriptomic profiling of Atlantic salmon skin and head kidney in response to *Lepeophtheirus salmonis* infestation under physiological and elevated temperatures. Comparative Immunology Reports 10;200285 <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cirep.2026.200285>

Chételat J, Gurney K.E.B, McClelland C, Yang J, Elliott J, Fitzgerald G, **Jones M**, Lair S, de Solla S, **de Bie F**, Bollinger T, **Bourque L**, Fenton H, Fisher R, Goldsmith D, Harms N.J, Hanaff M, Kiss B, Lee S, Magnusson K, McLeod J, Moffatt E, Shirose L, Whalen M, Zanuttig M. 2026. Eagles and vultures are exposed to high levels of lead in Canada. Facets 00; 1-11 [dx.doi.org/10.1139/facets-2025-0264](https://doi.org/10.1139/facets-2025-0264)

Massiel F. Copara Chino, Jayoon Lee, Yujin Han, Julia G. Neyedly, Matthew L. Michnik, Patrick Whittaker, Kathryn Smith, Keith B. Tierney, Yamila Carpio, Mario P. Estrada, **Mark D. Fast**, Brian Dixon, Daniel R. Barreda. 2026. Behavioral thermoregulation segregates sick and healthy fish to enable selective treatment. Aquaculture 623:744143 <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.aquaculture.2026.744143>

Asha Ranaraja, Iresha Subhasinghe, Noor Ahmad Shaik, Babajan Banaganapalli, Shelly Popowich, **Lisanework E. Ayalew**, Rupasri Mandal, David S. Wishart, Suresh Tikoo, and Susantha Gomis. 2026. Serum metabolomic profiling reveals LysoPC/PC depletion as a potential biomarker to detect avian reoviral infection in neonatal broiler chickens. Frontiers in Cellular and Infection Microbiology 16:1750590 [doi:10.3389/fcimb.2026/1750590](https://doi.org/10.3389/fcimb.2026/1750590)

Mihirabha Rathnayake, Noor Ahmad Shaik, Ashani Palkumbura, Asha Ranaraja, Yasodha Basnayake, Roaa Basyouni, Amy Taylor, Neil Ambrose, Shelly Popowich, **Lisanework E. Ayalew**, Suresh Tikoo, Susantha Gomis. 2026. Effects of conventional and raised without antibiotic feeding systems and exposure to infectious bursal disease virus on microbial diversity of the jejunal microbiota in broiler chickens. Poultry Science 2026:105;106823 <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.psj.2026.106823>

Mahon E, Kwabiah R.R, Paradis H, **Soto-Davila M.A**, Duglas S, Ram Gurung R, ParamanathanT, Vasquez I, Al-Badoosh S, Law J, Santander J, **Fast M.D**, Gendron R.L. 2026. Ocular Manifestations of Infectious Salmon Anaemia Virus Infection in Atlantic Salmon (*Salmo salar*) Journal of Fish Diseases 2026:0:c70219 <https://doi.org/10.1111/jfd.70219>

**Dr. Nina Germitsch** co-authored a case report published in The Canadian Veterinary Journal: Knap C.M., Ross S., Bourassi E., **Germitsch N.** 2026. Hypercalcemia as the primary finding in the first autochthonous *Angiostrongylus vasorum* (French heartworm) case in a dog from mainland Canada. The Canadian Veterinary Journal, 67(5), 504–510.

Brief Communication- **Laura J. Leaman, Kylee F. Graham, Megan E.B. Jones, Spencer J. Greenwood, Nina Germitsch.** First reported case of *Dirofilaria immitis* in a coyote (*Canis latrans*) from Prince Edward Island. Canadian Veterinary Journal CVJ/Vol 67/June 2026.

Bo Liu, Yanli Bi, Jinwen Xie, Haige Su, **Lisanework E. Ayalew**, Qihui Luo, Lizhong Miao, Na Tang, Wubshet Ashenafi Kiro, Abdelrahman Said, and Wenxiu Wang. 2026. Unraveling VP2 mutations in Infectious Bursal Disease Virus (IBDV) associated with potential vaccine escape in poultry flocks in Shandong, China. Liu et al. Virology Journal 23:149 <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12985-026-03144-y>

Mihirabha Rathnayake, Noor Ahmad Shaik, Shelly Popowich, Betty Chow-Lockerbie, **Lisanework Ayalew**, Suresh Tikoo, Mohamed Faizal Abdul-Careem, Susantha Gomis. 2026. Poultry Science 105;107253

For comments or suggestions regarding our newsletter,  
please contact Ingrid MacLeod ([imacleod@upei.ca](mailto:imacleod@upei.ca)) or (902) 566-0541.

Editors/Reviewers: Ingrid MacLeod and Dr. Shivani Ojha.

Please consider the environment before printing this document.