Notes from the Chair

Greetings. I hope everyone is enjoying this spring-like weather, but let's remember that spring isn't for another couple of weeks and generally we do have some heavy snow later in March and sometimes in early April. Overall, the winter has been rather easy and my sense is that we've had an unusual number of sunny days which is very welcome in southern Ontario.

I'd like to thank Drs. Patrick Boerlin, John Prescott, Geoff Wood, and Sarah Wootton for their hard work and creativity in developing the three minute seminars. Unfortunately, I missed this affair, however, I have received numerous supportive comments. I can't imagine how one goes about fitting your research concept and progress into three minutes, but I'm sure there is some humour involved. Congratulations to those grad students who were prize winners, but I'd also like to give a hearty thanks to all of those who participated. This will become a regular departmental event.

Please be aware we are having a site visit by two external consultants for the internal review of our graduate program. The reviewers are well-experienced academics and who understand our context at the OVC. This is a University Senate mandated exercise. The external reviewers have read our internal review document and will come prepared to ask questions and listen carefully. They will prepare a comprehensive report which will include a list of recommendations. I ask you to try your best to get to the meetings that Ms. Gilbertson has set up for us and to respond to the consultants' queries with honesty and communal pride that we have in our graduate program. Sincerely, R

Thurs. Mar. 29 & Fri. Mar. 30, Graduate Internal Review Subcommittee Site Visit
Drs. Susan Cork and James Cross, external consultants from the University of Calgary, will be in the department reviewing the graduate program.
General meetings with the consultants will be held as follows:
Thurs. Mar. 29 - Graduate Student meeting at 1:00 pm; and
Fri. Mar. 30 - Faculty meeting at 10:30 am and Staff Meeting at 2:00 pm. All meetings will take place in room 1817.

Good News
John Lumsden is developing management tools for bacterial coldwater disease. Caused by Flavobacterium psychrophilum, BCWD can kill 20 to 30 per cent of some trout strains and increases the risk of antimicrobial resistance. No commercial vaccine exists. Lumsden and his collaborators, Jan MacInnes and

Brian Dixon of the University of Waterloo, received $541,950 to develop novel management strategies, including potential vaccines that will lower disease incidence and reduce the use of antimicrobial treatments. They'll also identify resistant and vulnerable families of rainbow trout to better understand the immunological basis of disease resistance.

Scott Weese has co-authored, with Martha Fulford M.D., a new book entitled Companion Animal Zoonoses, available through Wiley-Blackwell Publishing.

Pat Turner has received approval from The American College of Laboratory Animal Medicine to continue her training program in Laboratory Animal Medicine. This training is crucial for future ACLAM Diplomates.

John Prescott is on the organizing committee for VetPath 2012, a conference that will bring researchers together to discuss the pathogenesis of bacterial diseases in animals. The conference will be held Oct 9-11 in Prato, Italy.

Patrick Boerlin is on the program advisory committee of the 3rd ASM Conference on antimicrobial resistance in zoonotic bacteria and foodborne pathogens in animals, humans and the environment. The conference will be held June 26-29 in Aix-en-Provence, France.

3 Minute Seminars
The 3 minute seminars series was a wonderful success with 12 students participating. PhD: Li Deng, Bryan Griffin, Mosum Ogedengbe, Marlene Paibomesi, Chandrika Senthilkumar, Kathleen Thompson, Scott Walsh and Darrick Yu; MSc: Lisa Santry; DVSc: Hein Snyman, Catherine Fischer and Janet Sunohara-Neilson. Everyone
enjoyed the variety of topics and it was a great learning experience for all. Look for the next event in the Fall.

Graduate Defenses & Reminders
Thurs. Mar. 14th, Jasmina Kircanski, MSc Final Exam, “Clostridium perfringens and the beta(2) (CPB2) toxin: Development of a diagnostic ELISA for neonatal piglet enteritis, and distribution of the gene in isolates from selected animal species”, 9:00 am, Room 1810.

Mon. Mar. 26th, Brian Stevens, DVSc. Oral Qualifying exam, 1:30 pm, room 4838.

Pathobiology Seminar Series
[Fridays at 11:00 AM in Room 1810 unless otherwise noted.]
Fri. Mar. 2nd, Paul Higgs, Dept. of Physics at McMaster University, “Efficiency in cells: How cells make proteins rapidly while working to a budget”.

Mar. 9th, Shayan Sharif, Pathobiology, “Immunity against avian influenza viruses: Implication for development of vaccines”.


Mar. 23rd, Marc Coppolino, Molecular & Cellular Biology, UofG, “Trafficking and Phosphorylation of Membrane Type 1-Matrix Metalloproteinase During Tumour Cell Invasion”.

Events
Mar. 2nd, OVC Budget Meeting, 12:30 pm, Room 1800.

Mar 6-8, ePortfolios Week, various workshops will be held i.e., ePortfolio Activities Integrated Across a Program/Major; Desire2Learn’s eP - Overview & Road Ahead; Keynote - Documenting Learning with ePortfolios. For more information about eP Week go to: http://coles.uoguelph.ca/epweek.

Thurs. Mar. 8th, OMAFRA Health Forum, Delta Hotel, to register, please email ag.info.omafra@ontario.ca or telephone 1-877-424-1300.

Mar. 12-16, March Break, for Primary and Secondary Schools in Guelph and area.

Thurs. Mar. 15th, Science in the Pub - “How clean is too clean?”, featuring Dr. Shayan Sharif, University of Guelph, and Jean-Pierre Vaillancourt, University of Montreal. 5:30-8:00 pm, Springfield Golf Club, Gordon St. Sponsored by the Poultry Industry Council. $20; free for students. To register visit http://www.poultryindustrycouncil.ca/events/scienceinthePub.php?v=E6nKr9949CY or call the Poultry Industry Council at (519) 837-0284. See you there!!

Mar. 19-20, College Royal, open house on campus, dog shows, cat shows, experiments and more, details can be found at http://www.collegeroysolsociety.com/index.html.

Fri. Mar. 23rd, UofG & OVC Budget Update, Drs. Summerlee and Mancuso, 12:30 pm, Room 1800.

Notices
Please do not take paper from the copier and printers in room 3830. These machines need to be full for use of the whole department and it is in-appropriate to take paper from them. Marilyn Fowler has a supply in her office that is for offices and labs. Please see her to obtain paper for your area.

Tues. May 1st, 25th Annual Teaching and Learning Innovations Conference, Rozanski Hall; Proposals due by Monday March 5th 2012, please contact: Janet Wolstenholme email jzkwoслt@uoguelph.ca or Ext. 58084 or go to www.tss.uoguelph.ca/tli.

Graduate Student News
Wed. Mar. 7th, Brain Food: The Ultimate Power Lunch Series - Graduate Research: Effective Research-Driven Writing & The Learning Commons. At the graduate level, research must drive your writing. In this session, learn effective strategies to maintain your own voice, organize your argument, paraphrase ideas, and manage multiple sources. 11:30 AM - 1:00 pm, Florence Partridge Room, Rm 384, McLaughlin Library. To register for this, and other graduate student workshops offered by The Learning Commons, go to: tohttp://www.uoguelph.ca/studentaffairs/reg/index.cfm?category_id=70.

Tues. Mar. 27th, Stress Less for Tests, Learn the skills to decrease test anxiety and enhance energy and performance during exam periods. This two-part program meets today and Thursday from 5:30 to 7 p.m. The fee is $5 for U of G students. For more information, visit www.uoguelph.ca/~ksomers/stressless.html, 5:30 pm, UC Room 335.

Safety Corner:
Housekeeping: please be reminded to...
- wash your own dishes DAILY;
- take cafeteria dishes/cutlery back the same day;
- don't perform scientific experiments with your food;
- don't leave food garbage in offices, dispose of this waste in the kitchenettes.

Composter
NO meat or paper plates in the composter!

Other Reminders
- pick up printing in the copy room DAILY;
- check email and mailboxes DAILY;
- no FOOD or DRINK is allowed in the labs;
- don't wear lab coats out of the labs;
- wear closed toe shoes and safety glasses in the lab.