

The Pathobiologist

Department of Pathobiology
May, 2012

Notes from the Chair

I would like to thank everyone in the department for your help with the review of our graduate program. The report from the external consultants, Drs. Susan Cork and Jay Cross from the University of Calgary, has been received and I am working on responses to their comments. Once I have a reasonable draft, I will circulate it around for your comments and edits. I am to have our response back to the Assistant VP by 11 May. Overall, the consultants' report was quite positive. Changes they suggested, for the most part, are covered under our departmental initiatives that we've already made some movement on.

We had a very successful and productive initial meeting with stakeholders in our **Poultry Health Research Network**. This initiative is being led by **Dr. Shayan Sharif**. The main objective is to establish a cross-disciplinary network of experts, consisting of poultry researchers and poultry health specialists who can address problems ranging from very basic biological processes, to environmental concerns and industrially relevant issues. At this time, academic and government researchers as well as industry partners are being engaged to identify and refine specific goals of this Network.

Exams are done, marks are in, we are in the process of deferred and supplemental exams and academic review has commenced. Many of you have summer students, new graduate students and visitors to your labs. I wish you all a very productive and interesting summer and I look forward to meeting the "newbies" at the pizza lunch next week. R

Good News

Congratulations to **Hein Snyman** on the birth of his second child, baby Myra Luisa Cassol-Snyman. She was born on the 21st of April at 9:49 pm. Zander loves his new baby sister and smothers her in kisses.



Shayan Sharif had a TV interview on CBC. as a part of the CBC National. on Saturday, April 20. It was entitled "Of Mice and Men".

Welcome to new graduate students: **James Ackford** [MSc - E. Nagy]; **Neda Barjesteh** [MSc - S. Sharif]; **Doran Kirkbright** [DVSc - G. Wood]; **Courtney Schott** [DVSc - J. Caswell]; **William Gow** [DVSc - D. Wood]; **Shirene Singh** [PhD - S. Sharif]; **Ian Ryerse** [MSc - J. Lumsden].

Congratulations to graduate student **Kayla Price**, PhD in parasitology, who is the first place Canada Zone Regional winner for the Alltech Young Scientist Competition. An article in the Ontario featured Kayla who has wisely advise for students, "I would encourage graduate and undergraduate students to participate in the Alltech Young Scientist competition ... this program is a great experience and a fantastic way to showcase your scientific writing".



Graduate Defenses & Reminders

Tues. May 1st, Alexandra Reid, PhD Final Defense, "Plasma pattern recognition receptors of walleye, with an emphasis on mannose-binding lectin and viral hemorrhagic septicemia virus", 10:00 am, Room 1810.

Thurs. May 3rd, Andrés Diaz-Méndez, PhD Final Defense, "Characterization of an equine rhinitis virus (erav/on/05) and development of an experimental infection model in horses", 9:30 am, Room 1810.

Fri. May 4th, Kamran Haq, PhD Final Defense, "Investigating the role of cytokines in immunity against Marek's disease in chickens", 9:30 am, Room 1810.

Mon. May 7th, Li Deng, PhD Oral Qualifying Exam, General Area: Biology of animal viruses of veterinary importance, 1:00 pm, Room 3826.

Tues. May 8th, Solomon (Wole) Odemuyiwa, DVSc Final Defense, "Immunophenotypic characteristics of equine monocytes and alveolar macrophages", 2:00 pm, Room 1812.

Pathobiology Seminar Series

[Fridays at 11:00 AM in Room 1810 unless otherwise noted.]

May 11th, Neda Emam, Pathobiology PhD student, "Cytokine gene expression profiling of commercial and

indigenous chickens following immunization with 2 different antigens”.

May 18th, Roger Johnson, Laboratory for Foodborne Zoonoses & Public Health Agency of Canada, “Non-O157 Verotoxin-producing *E. coli*: Emerging or Re-emerging Pathogens?”

May 25th, Bryan Griffin, Pathobiology PhD student, “Interrogating the genus-specific genes of the fowl adenoviruses”.

Events

May 6-9, Global Development Symposium, Symposium themes are: Theme 1: Global Public Health; Theme 2: Food Security and Health; Theme 3: Empowering communities for change. Full details regarding abstract submission can be found at: http://www.ovc150.ca/en/celebrate/Global_Dev_Sym_2012.asp.

Tues. May 8, Poultry Industry Council-Poultry Health and Disease Symposium, The research, the management, and the costs, Victoria East Golf Club, Guelph, 11:30 am-5:00 pm, Speakers include Drs. Shayan Sharif and Michelle Guerin from OVC. Details and registration can be found at: <http://www.poultryindustrycouncil.ca/training-and-events/research-day/>.

Fri. May 11th, New Summer & New Graduate Student Pizza Lunch, 12:30 pm, room 1810.

Wed. May 16, ICCI Cancer Research Symposium, keynote speaker is Dr. Timothy Fan, principal investigator at the Comparative Oncology Research Laboratory in the Department of Veterinary Clinical Medicine at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, “Investigating Direct Procaspase-3 Activating Compounds as Novel Anticancer Agents”, 9 am to 5 pm, LLC. For program details, visit the ICCI website at www.ovc.uoguelph.ca/icci/symposia/2012/.

Notices

June 3-6, 11th Annual Meeting of the Canadian Animal Health Laboratorians Network (CAHLN), this years theme is “One Health, Emerging Diseases”. National Centre for Foreign Animal Disease, Canadian Food Inspection Agency, Winnipeg, MB. A draft meeting agenda can be found at <http://www.cahlncrlsa.com/>.

Fri. June 15th, Cross-Border Connection in Canadian and US Veterinary History. The American Veterinary Medical History Society and the Ontario Veterinary College encourage you to join us in celebration of OVCs 150th Anniversary in 2012. To register email Tara O’Brien at ovc150@uoguelph.ca. Details at <http://www.ovc.uoguelph.ca/150/cross-border-connections/speakers/>.

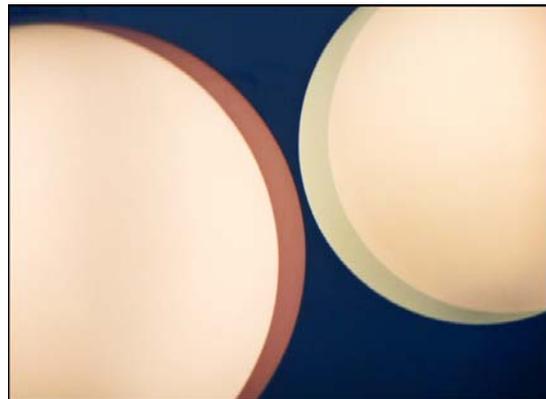
Graduate Students - Writing Services

Writing Services, First Floor McLaughlin Library, supports University of Guelph students of all levels in becoming stronger, more confident writers.

Wed. May 23rd, Brain Food: The Ultimate Power Lunch Series - Formulating Your Research Question and Thesis Plan - Workshop, Your research question forms the basis of your graduate-level research project. In this session, learn how to formulate an effective research question and how to use it to guide and inform your thesis or dissertation from start to finish. 11:30-1:00; Florence Partridge Room, 3rd flr, Rm 384. More information on free services available can be found at http://www.lib.uoguelph.ca/assistance/writing_services/.

Photo contest

Last month’s winner is Donna Kangas who correctly answered that the photo was of the back of the bar chairs on



the 4th floor. She won a \$10 hospitality card.

Can you name the objects, in Bldg. 89, in this photo? Be the first to call or email Elizabeth at 54649, egilbert@uoguelph.ca and you’ll win too!! *Photo courtesy of Patrick Boerlin.*



Safety Corner:

As the season for hiring summer student assistants is here, you are reminded that a **Safety Orientation Sheet** must be completed for everyone working in your lab. The signed sheet should go to Elizabeth Gilbertson for safe keeping, and it is suggested that a copy be kept in a readily accessible SAFETY binder in each lab. This would also be a good place to keep copies of laboratory inspection checklists too.

UofG WHMIS & Laboratory Safety Training is mandatory for all new students & staff is now done on-line. Please visit the following website for information on how to do the on-line training: <http://www.uoguelph.ca/ehs/training/computer-based-training>.

RESPIRATOR INSPECTION and FIT TESTING CLINIC will be held on May in Pathobiology Room, sign up with Elizabeth Gilbertson by calling at ext. 54649 or email at egilbert@uoguelph.ca. Look for a notice with the date and time coming soon.