

Sydney's Faculty of Vet Science formalises partnership with French vet college

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The University of Sydney's Faculty of Veterinary Science and École Nationale Vétérinaire d'Alfort, France have signed a Memorandum of Understanding for research and teaching collaborations.

The ceremony was held on 27 July on campus with Professor John Hearn, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, International; Professor Leo Jeffcott, Dean of the Faculty of Veterinary Sciences and the French Embassy's Scientific Counsellor, Professor Michel Thiebier present.

"We have collaborated successfully in research with the Alfort School for many years," said Professor Jeffcott.

"However, this agreement will provide new opportunities for both students and staff to undertake academic programs and collaborative research to the benefit of both institutions. We look forward to a most successful partnership from now on. "

According to Professor Thiebier, this MoU will have numerous practical outcomes for both students and staff, taking into account the various and complementary approaches taken by the two institutions in education, clinical investigations and in more fundamental research.

"It will have a formidable impact on the profession in the two countries. It will allow the two professions to better understand the way each other work and improve on their skills by learning from the training and experiences of the other. In the longer term, it could assist to provide work opportunities for Australian veterinarians in France and vice versa," said Professor Thiebier.

"The agreement will be of mutual benefit, each partner having a lot to learn from the other."

École Nationale Vétérinaire d'Alfort (ENVA) was founded in 1766 and is the world's oldest Veterinary School still maintained on its original site, in the centre of Paris. ENVA has approximately six hundred students across three Departments - Biology and Pharmacy, Small animals and Horses and Animal Production and Public Health. Research areas of focus for ENVA are: animal infection and human health; animal models - physiology and pathophysiology and clinical research.

The Faculty of Veterinary Science at the University of Sydney first opened its doors in March 1910 and today is recognised internationally as a leading provider of education and a key contributor to the world's best practice in the care and welfare of animals. The Faculty has just over 900 students across undergraduate and postgraduate research and coursework degrees. The Faculty is committed to research and training in a variety of animals (particularly farm animals, equines and companion animals), in clinical and para-clinical disciplines as well as in areas of increasing prominence, such as infectious diseases, genetics, reproduction and public health.

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Dean, Prof Leo Jeffcott and Prof Michel Thiebier