

r u m e n a t i o n s

The establishment of an outstanding staff team dedicated to Farm Animal Health will ensure the Faculty plays a significant leadership role in the support of production animal industries through research and the education of animal health professionals.

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The unit will be led by Professor Richard Whittington, the new Sesqui Chair of Farm Animal Health. Richard comes to the Faculty from his role as Principal Research Scientist for NSW Agriculture. His position, which is jointly funded by a University of Sydney Sesquicentenary Grant and Meat and Livestock Australia, is typical of the strong industry support the Faculty has won for its commitment to the production animal industries. Richard already has established an extraordinary career based on extensive original research on all aspects of diseases of livestock, fish and wildlife, infectious disease investigation and input into government policy. He has undertaken ground-breaking work on Johne's Disease.



Professor Richard Whittington, Mr David Skerman (National Manager Animal Production, Meat and Livestock Australia) and Professor Reuben Rose at a February 2002 epidemiology workshop.

Associate Professor John House has commenced at Camden as the Director of the Bovine Clinical Practice and Associate Professor of Cattle Health and Medicine. John has returned to Australia from a decade at the University of California, Davis, and has extensive experience in cattle medicine and production (with special expertise in dairy cattle). He also has performed outstanding research on salmonellosis.

John received a number of prestigious teaching awards from UC Davis Vet School, and he will add clinical expertise to the dairy science group led by Professor Bill Fulkerson as well as supporting the development of the new curriculum in years 4 and 5.

Associate Professor Peter Windsor (formerly Harper) is the new Associate Professor of Sheep Health and Production. Peter also joins the Faculty from NSW Agriculture – his previous role was Senior Research Scientist. Peter has had diverse experience in cattle and sheep medicine and production, both within Australia and overseas, including work on Foot and Mouth Disease. His most recent research focus has been on Ovine Johne's Disease and Bovine Neosporosis.

Dr Jenny-Ann Toribio is the Faculty's first Lecturer in Epidemiology and she too brings wide expertise in livestock production. Jenny-Ann's role will include work on the establishment of a postgraduate training program in epidemiology and veterinary public health. As well as significant funding support from Meat and Livestock Australia, this program has recently won substantial 4-year funding from the Vincent Fairfax Family Foundation through the Veterinary Science Foundation.

Richard, John, Peter and Jenny-Ann have all had experience in developing countries, Europe or North America. They bring an international focus to the Faculty and an opportunity to explore and develop overseas links in teaching, research and aid programs.

Other positions under development include a Chair of Poultry Science and a Chair of Functional Genomics, both currently advertised. These positions have also won important financial support from relevant industry groups.

From the Dean's Desk

The Faculty recognised the importance of information technology many years ago in its planning and development, with our initial web site revamped and launched by the Vice-Chancellor in 1998. Since then we have also partnered with the Library, the Post Graduate Foundation in Veterinary Science and the Veterinary Science Foundation to develop the Veterinary Education and Information Network (VEIN), to provide up-to-date and high quality information to veterinary students and practitioners.

On Friday 3 May we launched the new Faculty web site (www.vetsci.usyd.edu.au) and the Faculty intranet, developed by Mr Federico Costa, our Faculty Web Services Coordinator. The new Faculty web site provides information about all areas of the Faculty in a searchable format, and the intranet will enable password protected information to be accessed. These are exciting developments and indicate the commitment we have to ensuring high quality and timely information is available to staff and students, as well as effective tools to promote the Faculty nationally and internationally.

Launch of Faculty Author's Book



Charles Darwin
co-author Professor
Frank Nicholas

On Wednesday 22 May in the Veterinary Science Conference Centre, Professor Judith Kinnear, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic and International), will launch the paperback edition of the prize-winning book, Charles Darwin in Australia. The book was written by Professor Frank Nicholas and his wife Jan Nicholas, a librarian.

All staff and students are welcome to join the launch which will commence at 5.30pm with a lecture by Frank on Charles Darwin's 1836 visit to Australia. For further details, contact Frank Nicholas on 9351 2184 or the Veterinary Science Foundation on 9351 8026.

PhD Student Presents Findings in Spain

The Australian Sheep Veterinary Society (ASVS) has presented the Hugh Gordon Australian Sheep Veterinary Society Scholarship to MLA-funded PhD student Chris Lambeth for his work on the transmission and early pathogenesis of Ovine Johne's Disease, including the risk of transmission of OJD between ewes and the unborn foetus. The award enables Chris to present a paper on his research to the Seventh International Colloquium on Paratuberculosis, to be held during June in Bilbao, Spain. The conference is held every 3 years and is the major world forum for presenting new information on paratuberculosis.



PhD Student
Chris
Lambeth
and Dr John
Plant
following
the
presentation
of the
award.

Chris received his award from Dr John Plant, President of the ASVS, in a year 3 mycobacteria lecture by Professor Richard Whittington, one of his supervisors. Richard said, "It's exciting to see this prestigious award going to a postgraduate student from this Faculty who is working on such a critical disease of production animals".

Chris, who grew up in the city of Newcastle, has always wanted to focus on herd and flock diseases rather than treatment of the individual animal. He received a Bachelor of Science (veterinary) with first class honours in 1997 and graduated BVSc in 1999. While he expects to finish his PhD by the end of 2003, Chris' research is already noteworthy with preliminary results available halfway through his studies.

Contact the newsletter team on email vsf@vetsci.usyd.edu.au, or phone Jennie Churchill, Director of the VSF on 9351 8024, or Denise Popovic, VSF Communications Coordinator on 9351 8026.