
VISITING ACADEMICS

2008

DR ASHLEY HILL
Colorado State University

Dr Ashley Hill from Colorado State University joined the group on 12th May for five weeks. Dr Hill was awarded a prestigious University of Sydney International Visiting Research Fellowship and undertook work on optimal sampling strategies for microbiological diagnosis of ovine virulent footrot (*Dichelobacter nodosus*) for targeted vaccination with Om Dhungyel and Richard Whittington, as well as presenting a formal training course at Camden on logistic regression for Faculty and the Australian Biosecurity CRC.



DR NICOLA POZZATO
Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale delle Venezie.
Verona, Italy

Dr Nicola Pozzato from Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale delle Venezie, Verona, Italy spent 6th – 9th May 2008 with the Johne's research group. Dr Pozzato also visited EMAI presenting data on Avian Influenza – Gross Pathology, Diagnostics and Control Programs in Italy in the last 10 Years and the Surveillance Program for Abortions in Dairy Cattle.



PROFESSOR JOHN PRESCOTT
University of Guelph, Canada
12th September, 2008.

Professor John Prescott, Professor and Chair in Department of Pathobiology, University of Guelph presented seminars entitled "Public health at the Ontario Veterinary College: changing the paradigm?" at Camden and the Sydney campus. Professor Prescott reviewed research and teaching activity in the Faculty in food safety and veterinary public health, and had many useful planning sessions with our Faculty in relation to international trends in veterinary education.

Professor Prescott pictured above (second from left)
with Michael Ward, Kate Bosward and Gary Muscatello

DR NAZRUL ISLAM
DR AFZAL HOSSAIN
DR MOZAFFAR GANI OSMAN
Government of Bangladesh

The Farm Animal and Veterinary Public Health group hosted three veterinarians from the Government of Bangladesh for a one month period of training in epidemiology methods. They arrived in Sydney from Dhaka on Saturday October 11. They represent three-quarters of a recently formed Epidemiology Unit, within the Department of Livestock Services, Dhaka.

Their travel and training was sponsored by the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations, as part of FAO's program to control Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza H5N1. Bangladesh has experienced 289 outbreaks of H5N1 disease since February 2007.

This training aims to strengthen the National Epidemiological capacity of Bangladesh in the area of animal health, particularly in efforts to control transboundary disease incursions, such as Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza. A secondary objective of this training is to establish and maintain a continuing education linkage in veterinary epidemiology and public health between The University of Sydney, the Food and Agriculture Organization, and the Government of Bangladesh. This will enhance epidemiologic capacity.

The training program focused on an understanding of epidemiological principles and application to the design of studies and analysis of results. The visitors arrived with data that will be used as a teaching example. The training was delivered by Michael Ward, Navneet Dhand and Jenny-Ann Toribio.

Whilst here, Drs Nazrul, Afzal and Mozaffar visited some tourist spots in Sydney and the Blue Mountains.



Michael Ward hosted Drs Nazrul Islam, Afzal Hossain and Mozaffar Gani Osmani, firstly on a tour of the city including Circular Quay and a visit to the Faculty at the Camperdown campus.

2007

PROFESSOR WES JOHNSON
University of California

Professor Wes Johnson, from the University of California, is one of the world's top Bayesian statisticians. He visited the Camden campus in December and February, August 2006 to work with the Farm Animal & Veterinary Public Health group developing Bayesian models for estimating animal level prevalence from pooled faecal culture (PFC) results, a technique currently used in Australia for diagnosis of ovine Johne's disease (OJD). Professor Johnson also conducted a seminar where recent advances in nonparametric approaches to survival data were discussed, in particular, a model that allows survival curves to cross, possibly due to a toxic treatment effect resulting in early deaths but which is ultimately effective as a treatment and used as illustration a cancer clinical trial.



ASSOC PROFESSOR TODD DUFFIELD
University of Guelph

Associate Professor Duffield is from the Department of Population Medicine at the University of Guelph, Ontario, Canada. During his visit he was working with Adjunct Professor Ian Lean and had financial support from Elanco, US.

Todd has established an international reputation as a dairy researcher and veterinary scientist. His work on periparturient metabolic disease, subclinical ketosis and negative energy balance has resulted in several landmark publications, which have changed our understanding of these problems. Todd is one of the few individuals who have been able to harmonize the boundaries of pure nutrition and nutritional management for animal health.



2006

ASSOC PROF JORGEN AGERHOLM
Royal Veterinary and Agricultural University, Copenhagen, Denmark

Veterinary pathologist, Associate Professor Jorgen Agerholm, from the Royal Veterinary and Agricultural University in Copenhagen, Denmark completed a two month sabbatical at the Camden campus of The University of Sydney with Professor Peter Windsor. Dr Agerholm has published extensively on inherited diseases, mostly working with Holstein-Fresians and Danish Red dairy cattle.

Danish and Australian scientists are collaborating to help reduce silent international transmission of diseases, particularly in dairy cattle. Associate Professor Agerholm brought with him glass slides and images of many inherited diseases and congenital abnormalities of livestock. He regularly visited the NSW Department of Primary Industries' Elizabeth Macarthur Agricultural Institute, also at Camden, to compare cases in the Australian registry of veterinary pathology. It was suggested that some of the diseases seen in cattle in Denmark may already exist undetected in Australia and vice versa. One disease in Denmark, not yet seen in Australia but that could occur as it is attributable to common sires, is complex vertebral malformation or CVM. Professor Windsor and Dr Agerholm share an interest in inherited diseases causing congenital abnormalities. Their analysis has considered a common factor - the use of the same elite sires for artificial breeding in many countries. The collaboration has also linked the University of Sydney registry to the national pathology registry at EMAI.



PROFESSOR IAN McCONNELL,
Cambridge University

Professor Ian McConnell is Professor of Veterinary Science and Director of Research at the School of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Cambridge, England. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh (FRSE), Founder Fellow of the Academy of Medical Sciences, Fellow of the Royal Society of Medicine, Fellow of the Royal College of Pathologists and Professorial Fellow at Darwin College Cambridge. He was the Miengunyah Distinguished Fellow at the University of Melbourne in 2006.

Professor McConnell visited the Faculty to give his personal perspective of "one medicine" and the value of naturally occurring animal diseases as real problems offering unique insights into disease processes. He presented a lecture that was illustrated with discoveries from some of his research on the ruminant lentiviruses as studied in sheep, a valuable model for AIDS and retroviral pathogenesis, scrapie a relevant model for vCJD and other examples of animal diseases of comparative significance.



DR CHUAN QING WANG,
Henan Agricultural University, Zhengzhou, China

Dr Chuan Qing Wang is Professor of Infectious Diseases and Head of the Department of Veterinary Science Agricultural University, Zhengzhou. His research interests are in the rapid diagnosis and prevention of animal infectious diseases and has recently had projects in immunology and virology in pigs and poultry. He gained his BSc in Animal Medicine Science in 1982 from Henan Agricultural University and his PhD in 1998 from Nanjing Agricultural University.

Dr Wang's year-long visit was funded by the Chinese Government and he joined the Farm Animal & Veterinary Public Health group at Camden to work in aquatic animal virology. This is a field of growing importance internationally and Dr Wang worked with Professor Whittington on epizootic haematopoietic necrosis virus. He also assisted in the research program on Johne's disease.



2004

PROFESSOR IAN GARDNER, University of California, Davis

Professor Ian Gardner, Professor of Epidemiology, Department of Medicine and Epidemiology, University of California, Davis, received a prestigious New South Wales Residency Expatriate Scientists Award and visited the Faculty of Veterinary Science for three months in 2004.

This program is a joint initiative of three partners: the University of Sydney, CSIRO and the NSW Department of Education and Training. The selection process was based on the academic quality, the relevance and potential benefit of the applicant's collaborative research proposal for the University of Sydney and/or CSIRO and the ability of the applicant to communicate effectively, especially with high school students.



Professor Gardner made a tremendous impact in his tour of NSW high schools to promote science, and in the Faculty where he presented numerous seminars, and undergraduate lectures. Research outcomes included proposals for joint projects in Johne's disease and links between the two universities in Veterinary Public Health.

2003

DR EDWARD MATHER, Michigan State University

Dr Edward Mather, Deputy Director of the National Food Safety and Toxicology Center at Michigan State University (MSU), visited the Faculty in February 2003. Dr Mather was a special international guest at the first residential for the postgraduate coursework Veterinary Public Health Management program at the invitation of then Dean Professor Reuben Rose. Dr Mather, as Program Director of the on-line Professional Master of Science in Food Safety (ProMS) Program at MSU, had experience to share in the establishment of on-line training programs. He provided an inspirational speech at the inaugural annual dinner, sharing his insights on food safety and public health issues in the USA. In addition he attended the residential teaching sessions and offered comment on suitability of the structure and content for Masters students. Dr Jenny-Ann Toribio later visited MSU and further joint activity in the discipline is planned.

