

# r u m e n a t i o n s

Issue 17 February 2003

*The Faculty of Veterinary Science is progressing well with preparation for the consultative visit of the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) accreditation team between 13 and 16 April 2003. Led by Chair Associate Professor Geraldine Hunt, the AVMA Management Committee has involved staff at all levels and all areas of the Faculty.*

The AVMA is the accrediting body for Veterinary Schools in the United States and Canada and also offers accreditation for foreign schools. A number of international schools are already AVMA accredited, including those at the Universities of London, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Utrecht and Massey (New Zealand). Murdoch University (Western Australia) is waiting for the report from their final accreditation visit.



**Associate Professor Geraldine Hunt, Chair of the Faculty AVMA Management Committee, whose members are drawn from academic and general staff, and undergraduate and postgraduate students.**

Accreditation is important for several key reasons. Students graduating from an accredited school have their degree recognised in North America and are entitled to sit the US National Veterinary Licensing Examinations. Winning and maintaining AVMA Accreditation is a rigorous process that ensures certain standards are met, so it also provides a means of benchmarking different veterinary schools nationally and internationally. University of Sydney Faculty of Veterinary Science AVMA accreditation is not only an important quality assurance process, it has longer term international significance for our veterinary graduates.

The AVMA sets guidelines for 11 Standards that cover a wide range of Faculty activities, with major emphasis on the effectiveness of teaching, scope of the curriculum, adequacy of facilities, occupational health and safety and outcomes assessment.

View the AVMA Standards at the Faculty web site: <http://www.vetsci.usyd.edu.au/>

During the preliminary Site Visit, the 3 members of the AVMA Council of Education will conduct interviews and meetings with staff and students, and Faculty will also contact members of the veterinary profession who may be interested in meeting with the AVMA to provide an independent view of our BVSc program.

Outcomes Assessment is an important recent addition to the AVMA Standards and evaluates ways in which the Faculty assesses the quality of its teaching program and its graduates. Very few veterinary schools have a formal mechanism for Outcomes Assessment and the Faculty will be conducting surveys and discussions with veterinary employers in 2003 to assess its success in meeting the objectives of its Strategic Plan, and to obtain feedback about undergraduate veterinary education.

Following the presentation of the Self-Study Document in February and the April accreditation team visit, a preliminary report from the AVMA will detail areas of deficiency that must be addressed. A final Site Visit (usually 1 to 2 years after the preliminary visit) will determine the AVMA Council's final decision regarding the suitability of the Faculty for accreditation.



**Hannah Forsyth (Faculty Office) and Denise Popovic (Veterinary Science Foundation) are compiling and designing the 100-page Self-Study Document that addresses the Faculty's performance in relation to the 11 AVMA Standards.**

## From the Dean's Desk

Welcome back for a busy but exciting 2003! Many staff have been involved in the significant effort to prepare for the AVMA consultative site visit in April and all members of the Faculty will soon receive copies of the self-study document. Positive outcomes from the visit preparation include the University of Sydney committing significant maintenance funds to improve buildings and to air condition the Gunn Lecture Theatre. Associate Professor Geraldine Hunt has done an excellent job as Chair of the site visit team with outstanding backup support from Ms Hannah Forsyth. We need to demonstrate the best features of our school to the site visit team and I am grateful for the help and interest of all staff and students.

We have had extremely strong demand from both local and international students for 2003. Our international marketing program has been very successful and managing the numbers of students who wish to study with us will be an ongoing challenge.

The new Veterinary Public Health Management postgraduate program starts on 16 February with a one week residential. The strong demand for the program led to more than 70 enquiries, resulting in 22 enrolments for 2003 including 3 international students. This is an exciting new opportunity for the Faculty – visit the Faculty web site for more information on the program.

## The Hartley Collection

Eminent veterinary pathologist Professor Bill Hartley has donated his extraordinary pictorial livestock pathology collection to the Faculty's image database OLIVER. Dr Hartley has gathered together the images since the 1960s, from cases seen in Australia and overseas. Associate Professor Peter Windsor, who facilitated the donation of the collection, is undertaking the huge task of describing each image.

## Research Student Wins

PhD student **Fiona Hollinshead** was runner-up in the junior scientist competition at the International Embryo Transfer Society meeting in Auckland during January.

**Amy Wilson**, 2002 year 4 agriculture student and a research student working with Dr David McNeill, Dr Michelle Hyde and Professor David Fraser, is joint Australian Dairy Conference Young Scientist of the Year.

## Staff Update

**Dr Sanaa Zaki** has been appointed Lecturer in Veterinary Anaesthesia.

**Dr Simon Pearce** has returned to Australia from the University of Guelph Canada to take on the role of Director of the Veterinary Clinical Trials Unit. Simon is a Melbourne graduate with a PhD from Massey University and is a Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Surgery.

**Specialist surgeon Dr Brigitte Brisson** has also joined the Faculty from Canada and will be part of the surgical team at the University Veterinary Centre Sydney.

**Dr Jeff Downing** has been appointed Lecturer in Animal Science.

## Canberra Fire Alumni Appeal

A number of Faculty staff have joined the Veterinary Science Foundation in donating to a Faculty appeal to support Sydney graduate Dr Ivan Gavazov following the tragic loss of more than 30 pets when the Woden Veterinary Hospital burnt to the ground in the recent bushfires. Please consider donating through the Foundation if you haven't already done so – every gift helps and donations are tax deductible. Contact us on [vsf@vetsci.usyd.edu.au](mailto:vsf@vetsci.usyd.edu.au).

## VSF Website

The Veterinary Science Foundation's website now displays all the press releases distributed by our media consultant Ms Libby Greig on behalf of the Faculty. Check them out at [http://www.vetsci.usyd.edu.au/Foundation/media\\_news.php](http://www.vetsci.usyd.edu.au/Foundation/media_news.php).

We want your comments and contributions. Contact the Newsletter Team on [vsf@vetsci.usyd.edu.au](mailto: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.