

# POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH STUDENTS ANNUAL CONFERENCE



LIZ KERNOHAN CONFERENCE CENTRE,  
CAMDEN 2<sup>ND</sup> AND 3<sup>RD</sup> NOVEMBER 2011

## Thank you for your attendance at the Faculty of Veterinary Science Postgraduate Conference 2011

The 2011 postgraduate conference was held in Camden over two days, Wednesday 2nd and Thursday 3rd November. The conference was opened by our Dean, Professor Rosanne Taylor. During the two days, we were treated to exceptional student presentations ranging from the effect of humidity, air temperature and wind on the local spread of equine Influenza, from Simon Firestone in his final year of his PhD to an exploration of the origin of apicomplexan flagella from Christie Foster in her first year of her PhD candidature and the list goes on. The standard of presentations was excellent. The sessions were well supported with great attendance from both students and staff. This year prizes were awarded to the best presenters in 3 categories, with the winners being: Matthew Van Der Saag (early phase), Jeffrey Go (middle phase) with a tie for to Hayley Pearson and Joanna Whitney (final phase). The best poster prize was

given to Tenzin and the Early Bird Abstract prize awarded to Justin Ng, congratulations to them all.

We were very fortunate this year with three fantastic guest speakers: Poppy Prezio "Finding and managing the best information". Poppy utilised the computer facilities with a group of students who navigated their way through some of the on-line library resources, such as 'endnote' and 'theses@sydney' and other information and services our librarians provide our postgraduate students along their research journey as they strive towards submission of their thesis. In the concurrent session Julie Doherty from the Careers Development Office provided insights into career planning, job applications and interview skills for postgraduate students", in a well attended session Julie highlighted many useful presentation and interview tips that I'm sure many of the postgraduates at the end of their candidature will be able to apply successfully as they strive for that dream job in coming months.....



And finally Michelle Hyde who with assistance from our very own Irene Ekris, presented an interactive presentation highlighting what students say and what supervisors hear". Michelle provided valuable insight into the underlying concerns of postgraduates in thesis preparation and writing whilst reflecting on what supervisors and examiners want from a PhD thesis. Michelle provided some wonderfully simple tips to prevent procrastination and maintain momentum when writing a thesis.

We were indeed lucky to have displays from MLA, The Centre of Veterinary Education, and Qiagen who provided mini expos for the duration of the conference providing staff and students with information on their products and services. Well done to all!

And our final thanks to Lianne and David from Sprouts Catering, many thanks for taking such great care of us. Overall, it was a great two days, plenty



of excellent presentations we indeed have many enthusiastic and talented students. We would like to thank you again for your support and look forward to seeing you all again about the same time next year, at the Sydney campus, for another illustration of high quality research from our talented postgraduates !

Regards  
Dr Gary Muscatello

Sub Dean of Postgraduate Research

*On behalf of the Faculty of Veterinary Science  
Postgraduate Education and Research Training  
Committee (PERTC)*



Congratulations to the 2011 prize winners. Matthew Van Der Saag (Early Stage), Justin Ng (Early Bird Abstract Prize), Jeffrey Go (Mid Stage), Gary Muscatello (Sub Dean Postgraduate Studies), Tenzin (Poster Prize), Hayley Pearson and Joanna Whitney (equal- Final Stage awardees).....

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