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DIARY DATES
MONDAY 17TH MARCH
GOOD FOOD, GOOD HEALTH: DELIVERING THE BENEFITS OF FOOD SECURITY IN AUSTRALIAN AND BEYOND.
Where: MacLaurin Hall, Level 2, The Quadrangle
Time: 8.30am - 4.45pm,

MONDAY 24TH MARCH
THE 4TH ANNUAL DR ROBERT DIXON ANIMAL WELFARE MEMORIAL SYMPOSIUM
Where:- VSCC, Webster Lecture Theatre
Time: 3.30 - 5.00pm

THURSDAY 3RD APRIL
COMPANION ANIMAL RESEARCH
Where:- Seminar Room 353, Gunn Building
Time: 3.30pm

WEDNESDAY 9TH APRIL
TURNITIN WORKSHOP
Camden GTB Room 105

WELCOME

Congratulations to all who submitted grants over the busy Feb/March period. We have had a bumper crop! Fingers crossed!

At the moment there is a lot of focus on ERA 2015.

What is ERA? ERA stands for Excellence in Research for Australia and it is an assessment system that evaluates the quality of the research conducted at Australian universities. ERA is run by the Australian Research Council (ARC). In ERA 2012 we got a 5 out of 5 for 0707 (Veterinary Science) and 4 out of 5 for 0702 (Animal Production) and 0604 (Genetics). These are the key areas that we are focusing on again for the next round. I am pleased to announce that this time we have FoR (Field of Research) Champions! They are Vanessa Barrs for 0707, Kendra Kerrisk for 0702 and Natasha Hamilton for 0604. Thank you Ness, Kendra and Tash for taking on these roles!

Thank you to everyone that has sent through new journals and conferences to be added to the ERA 2015 list. Kim, Marie and Pietà have been busily updating the ARC website – we are adding an extra 60 entries! The deadline for this is the end of March – so if you forgot to check the list – please do so now and let Marie know if you have any additions to make.

One of the initiatives of the Research Development Committee this year is to come up with a strategic plan for Companion Animal Research. We have our first working group on Thursday 3rd April at 3.30pm in room 353 of the Gunn building. All are welcome. Please let Marie know if you plan to attend.

Over the next week or two we will call for applications for Faculty bequests and MBI/CPC Intramural Short-term fellowships. Details will be circulated by email and due dates will be before Easter.

PROFESSOR KATHERINE BELOV
ASSOCIATE DEAN RESEARCH
30 SECONDS WITH ...

ELLE FOGARTY
(2013 ABVS HONS 1)

WHAT IS YOUR AREA OF EXPERTISE?
I wouldn’t say I am an ‘expert’ in any particular area, but my passion lies in animal behaviour and welfare with a particular emphasis on reproductive behaviour.

MOST EXCITING RESEARCH DISCOVERY TO DATE?
During my honours year I used GPS to track ewe movement around oestrus. I was able to find that ewes moving at a faster speed will incur a greater number of mounts by the ram, with an increase in speed of just 5cm/s resulting in a 28 fold increase in the number of mounts. I guess those ladies were really interested in finding their future partner!

WHAT IS ON YOUR RESEARCH BUCKET LIST?
I definitely think a PhD is on the cards for me. I really enjoyed the research aspect of my final year of uni and while the literature review was a headache I am definitely keen to sign up for more! … After a bit of a break of course.

SOMETHING ABOUT YOU THAT WE DON’T KNOW?
I actually went to high school in Singapore at the Australian International School so living in a country with no agricultural industry, I had never really had much to do with livestock until university. Also, I have a huge fear of birds – especially broilers.

WHO HAS BEEN IN THE NEWS..

Professor Paul McGreevy from the Faculty of Veterinary Science was quoted in a Sydney Morning Herald article about the potential of thermal imagers to study the eye temperature of horses.

We are thrilled to announce that Lydia Tong from the Pathobiology Group has been selected as a State finalist for FameLab. FameLab is an international communication competition for scientists, including engineers and mathematicians. Designed to inspire and motivate young researchers to actively engage with the public and with potential stakeholders, FameLab is all about finding the best new voices of science and engineering across the world. Lydia will be an amazing ambassador for our Faculty and the University. Please wish her luck as she goes ahead to the finals on 27th March!

Safe, nutritious food for all - the challenge of food security in the 21st century
On 17 March the University of Sydney is holding a public event, Good Food, Good Health: Delivering the Benefits of Food Security in Australia and Beyond, to explore this contradiction and the many complex challenges to achieving global food security. For more information, please visit: sydney.edu.au/news/84.html?newsstoryid=13222 to read the full story.

Associate Professor Kendra Kerrisk from the Faculty of Veterinary Science was interviewed on ABC SA Country Hour about robotic diary.

Old funds create new Koala Health Hub Koalas throughout NSW and potentially nationwide will benefit from the establishment of the Koala Health Hub at the University of Sydney’s Faculty of Veterinary Science. For more information, please visit: sydney.edu.au/news/84.html?newsstoryid=13066 to read the full story

Tackling food security together The University of Sydney met with the Chinese Vice-Minister of Agriculture Dr Li Jiayang and members of the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences to work on ways to help solve food security challenges.
For more information, please visit: sydney.edu.au/news/84.html?newsstoryid=13053 to read the full story.

Professor Paul McGreevy from the Faculty of Veterinary Science was interviewed on 612 ABC Brisbane Weekends (Saturday) about new research into dogs’ hearing.

Dr Damien Higgins from the Faculty of Veterinary Science was quoted in a Sunday Telegraph story about funding to create a koala STD clinic.

Helen Golder PhD candidate from Dairy Science Group has won The Feed Central 2014 Young Dairy Scientist Communication award and Saranika Talukder was runner up at the Australian Dairy Conference young scientist competition in Geelong.
WHAT IS YOUR AREA OF EXPERTISE?

I work in a team led by Professor Peter Windsor and Dr Russell Bush and we research methods of improving livestock health and production in the Mekong Region. My PhD studies are focused on trying to illuminate the socioeconomic impacts of transboundary diseases affecting cattle and buffalo on smallholder farm households, through to national and regional economies. Foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) is my main focus as there are various projects and a high level of interest in improving FMD control in the region.

MOST EXCITING RESEARCH DISCOVERY TO DATE?

We were able to show that when considering both direct and indirect costs of FMD and haemorrhagic septicaemia the financial impact on smallholder households is much higher than many believe. Rising cattle and buffalo prices in the region in part drive this as more people enter the middle class – particularly in Vietnam and China. Hopefully drawing attention to the high impacts will help support more investment in disease control. Livestock play a big role in rural peoples lives in countries such as Cambodia and Laos, therefore improving health and production has implications on poverty reduction and food security. There is still much work to be done!

WHAT IS ON YOUR RESEARCH BUCKET LIST?

I want to continue to learn how to apply economic principles to animal health issues so we can improve communication and engagement with decision and policy makers. While we have established some findings on the acute affects of FMD, there is almost no data on the chronic impacts in the Mekong – so that is one particular area I want to investigate.

SOMETHING ABOUT YOU THAT WE DON’T KNOW?

Both my father (Bruce Young, graduate of UQ, 1974) and grandfather (Jim Young, graduate of Sydney, 1947) were veterinarians who also focussed on cattle medicine and production. They both had interests in research, with my grandfather completing his PhD with the University of Sydney in 1970 on beef reproduction. He then spent several years in Thailand and Malaysia doing similar work to our team now.


Foster, C, Portman, N, Chen, M, Slapeta, J. Increased growth and pigment content of Chromera velia in mixotrophic culture. FEMS Microbiology Ecology Online

Gosby, A K, Conigrove, A D, Rauenheimer, D, Simpson, S J. Protein leverage and energy intake Obesity Reviews: 15, 183–191


Jago, J, Eastwood, C, Kerrisk (nee Davis), K L, Yule, I. Precision dairy farming in Australasia: Adoption, risks and opportunities Animal Production Science 53(9) 907-916


Mathis, K, Nykamp, S, Ringwood, B, Martin, D. What is your diagnosis?


Podadera, J M, Gavin, P, Saveraid, T, Hall, E, Chau, J, Makara, M. Effects of stifle flexion angle and scan plane on visibility of the normal canine cranial cruciate ligament using low-field Magnetic Resonance Imaging. Veterinary Radiology & Ultrasound: online


Rast, L, Torbio (Lee), J-A L M L, Dhand, N K, Khounsry, S, Windsor, P A. Why are simple control options for Toxocara vitulorum not
being implemented by cattle and buffalo smallholder farmers in South-East Asia? Preventive Veterinary Medicine:113:2:211-218


Scott, V, Thomson, P C, Kerrisk (nee Davis), K L, Garcia, S C. Influence of provision of concentrate at milking on voluntary cow traffic in a pasture-based automatic milking system.


Thomas, K, Hamilton, N A, North, K N, Houweling, P J. Sequence analysis of the Equine ACTN3 Gene in Australian horse breeds


FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Feline Health Research Fund
The Feline Health Research Foundation invites applications for its research grants. These are awarded to aid research into the causes, prevention and cure of illnesses affecting cats, or other species where the results are likely to be of relevance to cats.

Applications Close: 31st March 2014
Further Information: fhrf.org.au/grants.htm

L’Oréal Australia & New Zealand For Women in Science Fellowship applications now open
Applications are now open for the 2014 L’Oréal Australia & New Zealand For Women in Science Fellowships.
We’re offering three AU$25,000 Fellowships for outstanding young female scientists through the highly competitive For Women in Science Fellowship program.
The Fellowships will be awarded to three Australian or New Zealand women who have shown scientific excellence in their career to date.
The Fellowships are intended to help early career female scientists to consolidate their careers and rise to leadership positions in science, by providing funding for travel, equipment or childcare.
This year’s Fellows will join a cohort of 23 past Fellows, who’ve gone on to contribute significantly to their fields of science, including:

Applications for this year’s Fellowships are now open and close at midnight on Wednesday 16th April
Applying is easy – the whole process is online. scienceinpublic.com.au/loreal/applications

Fellowships are available to Australian and New Zealand women researchers who are no more than five years past their PhD and have shown excellence in their career to date.
To get a sense of the qualities expected of entrants into this highly competitive Fellowship, we encourage potential applicants to read the profiles of past recipients.
The Fellowship can be used to help finance the Fellow’s scientific research, including the costs of equipment, consumables, travel and conferences. The funds can also be used to hire a research assistant, or cover the cost of childcare.
The full Fellowship conditions and eligibility criteria are available scienceinpublic.com.au/loreal/applications/criteria

If you have any questions, please read the FAQ, or email loreal@scienceinpublic.com.au

Australian Museum Eureka Prizes
Presented annually by the Australian Museum, the Australian Museum Eureka Prizes reward excellence in the fields of research & innovation, leadership & commercialisation, school science and science journalism & communication

Applications Close: Friday May 2nd 2014
Further information:- australianmuseum.net.au/About-Eureka-Prizes
Applications are open now for the EMBL Australia PhD Travel Grants
PhD students have limited opportunities to travel overseas for training and networking.

The following travel grants are available in 2014:

The EMBL Australia PhD Travel Grants provide up to $3,500 for short trips of less than six weeks, or up to $7,500 for a longer visit of up to 6 months. Applications for travel between 1 July 2014 and 31 December 2014 Close: 4 April 2014.

The EMBL Australia’s International PhD Program enables students to undertake their PhD at an EMBL facility in Europe. The PhD is jointly awarded and co-supervised by EMBL and the student’s Australian university, and students are provided with a stipend and travel support.

These grants are open to PhD students studying life sciences at any Australian university or research institute.

For more details on those courses, and all of EMBL Australia’s student programs, head to: emblaustralia.org/students

Awards for measurement research
Measuring is done in the kitchen, at cafés, in industry and in laboratories every day. The National Measurement Institute (NMI) is Australia’s peak measurement body responsible for biological, chemical, legal, physical and trade measurement.

They’ve just opened nominations for two awards, one for early career researchers, and the other for a highly significant contribution or long-standing eminence in the field. The value of each award is $2,000 and the closing date for nominations is 31 March 2014. Winners will be announced on World Metrology Day, 20 May. For more information: measurement.gov.au

Australia–India Strategic Research Fund for joint research projects
Australian Government funding of up to AUD 200,000 over two years will be available to each successful Australian applicant. The Government of India, through the Department of Science and Technology (DST) and the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), will support the corresponding Indian partner’s participation in the joint research project.

Internal Deadline Closing date: 15 April 2014
Grant writing advice: Thomas.Soem@sydney.edu.au
Applications to: Sophie.Carruthers@sydney.edu.au

Fisheries Scientific Committee student research grants
The Fisheries Scientific Committee (FSC) is conducting a second round of applications to award student research funding of up to $3,000 aimed at filling some of the gaps in research information for threatened and rare species of fish and marine vegetation in NSW.

Closing Date: 2 May 2014
Contact: Kay.Winton@sydney.edu.au

Canine Research Foundation Research Grants 2015
The Canine Research Foundation is seeking applications for grants for research to commence in the year 2015. The Foundation is an independent public trust for the purposes of funding research directed at improving canine health, which it does through a program of annual research grants.

Grants may be made by the Foundation for research projects relating to canine health where the research is conducted by an Australian university. Proposals should be received by the Foundation by May 30, 2014. See Flyer for further information, a word version of the application for funding is available contact marie.wildridge@sydney.edu.au

Research Professional: researchprofessional.com/ has many other opportunities listed every day.

WORKSHOPS/COURSES

Turnitin Workshop - Camden
Rick Connor will be running a Turnitin workshop at Camden on Wednesday 9th April in the GTB room 105 (Computer Lab). Further Information contact sally.pope@sydney.edu.au

Animal Ethics IRMA Training Session.
Animal Ethics “IRMA” training was held recently at both campuses, which great turnouts to both. Attendee’s received assistance with general overview to gain familiarity with IRMA. There still appears to be a degree of uncertainty about how to complete submissions, if you require assistance please do not hesitate to contact the helpful staff at Animal Ethics animal.ethics@sydney.edu.au.
Research into ruminal acidosis earns Young Dairy Scientist award

A dairy scientist whose research could lead to a reduction in ruminal acidosis in Australian dairy herds has won the 2014 Feed Central Young Dairy Scientists’ Communication Award.

Helen Golder, from SBScibus at Camden NSW, has completed a joint industry-university PhD with her employer and the University of Sydney and hopes its findings will improve understanding and control of acidosis.

The Feed Central Young Dairy Scientists’ Communication Award, designed to progress the careers of dairy scientists by nurturing quality scientist-to-farmer interaction, was presented at the Australian Dairy Conference in Geelong on February 27.

Ms Golder said ruminal acidosis was a complex nutritional disorder that has a large economic impact to both the dairy and beef industries. Her research project involved increasing understanding of ruminal acidosis in dairy cattle through investigation of the role of different feed substrates on acidosis risk.

Ms Golder said the award recognition “gives my research meaning”.

“I get great pleasure in knowing my acidosis research has meaning to the farming community and is making a difference to them. Over the past few days I have had people speak to me about the relevance and importance of the issue and that they are happy it is being addressed.

“As scientists we get limited opportunity to present our findings to farmers – it’s good to bring our research back to earth and discuss it with people who experience the problems that we are researching, such as acidosis. It’s great to have the research appreciated and noticed.”

Ms Golder said ruminal acidosis was widespread in dairy herds and reduces milk production, contributes to lameness and other health problems and affects body condition. However, many farmers are not aware of the problem.

“We estimate 11 per cent of lactating cows have acidosis in their first 100 days of milk,” she said.

“If we can improve our diagnosis and awareness of it then we can improve the control.”

Ms Golder, originally from Kangarilla in South Australia, is continuing her research with SBScibus and hopes to develop an on-farm diagnostic tool for acidosis. She is also investigating rumen bacteria associated with acidosis.

She says ongoing research is vital for the dairy industry. “There are countless questions out there.”

Managing Director of Feed Central, Tim Ford, said Ms Golder was a worthy recipient of the award.

Mr Ford, who presented the award at the conference, said the winner was chosen for their sound scientific approach to research and their ability to communicate its benefits for the dairy industry.

“This type of research is making a positive difference for dairy farmers and helping them to address very real problems that they face every day,” he said. “It will lead to better production outcomes for the dairy industry.”

The other 2014 finalists were Bronwyn Edmunds, DAFWA, Matthew Reynolds, Antony Crowther and Zibei Lin all from Latrobe University/DEPI in Victoria, and Saranika Talukder from the University of Sydney.

The finalists were selected on the strength of their scientific prowess via a submitted abstract, but the competition also involved preparing an article for the Australian Dairy Farmer magazine; preparing and discussing a poster; and preparing and delivering a five minute talk to more than 400 dairy farmers at the conference.

FOR MORE INFORMATION Tim Ford 0429-309 265
13 February 2014

Ms Jane Zhang  
Research Administration Officer  
Research Grants and Contracts  
Level 6  
G02 Jane Foss Russell Building  
The University of Sydney  
SYDNEY NSW 2006

Dear Jane,

Canine Research Foundation  
Research Grants - 2015

The Canine Research Foundation is seeking applications for grants for research to commence in the year 2015. The Foundation is an independent public trust for the purposes of funding research directed at improving canine health, which it does through a program of annual research grants. The Australian National Kennel Council Ltd has adopted the Foundation as its research-funding vehicle.

Grants may be made by the Foundation for research projects relating to canine health where the research is conducted by an Australian university. Proposals should be received by the Foundation at the address noted on this letterhead by May 30, 2014.

Requirements of the Foundation in relation to the grants are:-

1. A report detailing progress on the project half yearly.
2. Within six months of the end of the period for which the project was funded, a final report covering the project and a summary for prospective publishing in journals of Member Bodies of the Australian National Kennel Council and other canine journals.
3. Any publications resulting from the work supported by the Foundation should acknowledge such support.

Grants per project will normally be in the order of $5,000-15,000 in any one year. Projects may extend beyond one year but funding each year will be dependent upon satisfactory progress as given in interim reports. Funds will be available as arranged through the university.

Note that funding is not usually provided for salaries, stipends or significant capital equipment.

An application form is attached. We ask that an electronic copy (preferably PDF format) be sent to the e-mail address noted on this letterhead as well as a hard copy forwarded to the postal address as noted.

Please respond where possible to the E-mail address as noted on this letterhead.

Yours sincerely,

Tracey Barry  
Administrator

Att.
Canine Research Foundation

APPLICATION FOR FUNDING

1. Project Title:

2. Research team:
   (a) Principal Investigator:
   (b) Other Research Staff:
   Contact phone number(s):
   Contact email address:
   (Give qualifications and appointment of Principal Investigator and other staff who will assist with the project, and email address for direct communications.)

3. University:

4. Department:

5. Postal address:
6. Estimate of days per month required for the project:
   (a) Principal Investigator: ........................................

   (b) Other research staff: ........................................

7. Critical Dates:
   (a) Commencement date: ........................................

   (b) Estimated completion date: ........................................

8. Summary of funds required:

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9. Estimated income:  ........................................
   (If any) ........................................

10. Please details any funds provided or being sought from other sources for this or related projects.
11. Is it proposed that any person whose work is supported by this grant will enrol in a higher degree? If so, please give details.

12. Given a successful project outcome, what is the intention relating to intellectual property?

13. Description of project.

Please attach a description of the proposed project including the following:

(a) Lay abstract (project summary).
   This should be written so that an interested person without a scientific background may understand the project.
   A glossary of terms may be included. Please include all acronyms used.

(b) Clearly stated aims.

(c) A detailed description of the experimental design and methodology, including the number of dogs (or other animals in the case of animal models) and controls that will be studied. For prospective studies, please provide the expected number of cases to be collected. Please indicate if a statistician or biometrician was consulted in the design of the project.

(d) If applicable, describe how this project relates to previously approved projects.

(e) Current state of knowledge.

(f) Likely state of knowledge at the end of the project.

(g) Relevance of this project to canine health.

(h) Review of stages of the project.

(i) Information on how information generated by the project will be disseminated.

(j) Verification of funds requested.

(k) A list of relevant publications by the Research team.

(a) I certify that this project has been approved by the relevant institutional ethics committee.

(b) I certify that this work will be conducted in accordance with the NHMRC/CSIRO Code of Practice for the Care and Use of Animals in Research in Australia.

Name of Principal Investigator

............................................................

Signature

............................................................

Date

__________

15. Agreement by Head of Department and/or other authorised persons that facilities are available and that he/she is agreeable to the location of this project under his/her jurisdiction.

Name of Department Head:

............................................................

Signature

............................................................

Date

__________

Note that;
Requirements of the Canine Research Foundation in relation to the grants are:-

1. Provision of a half-yearly progress report, including a list of any associated publications or conference presentations.
2. Within six months of the end of the period for which the project was funded, a final report covering the project and a summary for prospective publishing in journals of Member Bodies of the Australian National Kennel Council and other canine journals.
3. Any publications resulting from the work supported by the Foundation should acknowledge such support.

Grants per project will normally be in the order of $5,000-15,000 in any one year. Projects may extend beyond one year but funding each year will be dependent upon satisfactory progress as given in interim reports.

Note that funding is not usually provided for salaries, stipends or significant capital equipment.