VISITING ACADEMICS

2009

DR MURWANTOKO
Ministry of Education, Republic of Indonesia

Dr Murwantoko, Head of the Fish Diseases Laboratory in the Faculty of Agriculture at Gadjah Mada University Indonesia visited the Faculty of Veterinary Science at Camden from 28th October to 8th November, funded by the Ministry of Education, Republic of Indonesia. The visit followed a successful visit of Drs Becker and Dhand and Professor Whittington to Indonesia in February 2009 and a return visit by Dr Murwantoko to Sydney in September, funded by the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research.

The purpose of the visit was to compare LAMP (loop mediated isothermal amplification) and real time PCR for detection of viruses of fish, and to explore other opportunities for collaboration between the two universities in research and teaching. A research agreement was signed between the two Faculties with a view to developing collaborative research grants to improve finfish health and education. Dr Murwantoko is pictured with Professor Leo Jeffcott, the then Dean of the Faculty of Veterinary Science.

PROFESSOR PAUL MORLEY
Colorado State University

Professor Michael Ward hosted Professor Paul Morley’s visit to the Camden campus prior to him delivering the Ian Beveridge Memorial Lecture on 17th November. Professor Morley, Professor of Epidemiology and Biosecurity, Colorado State University presented “Animal infections and risk for veterinary personnel... do we really act wisely? based on the Beveridge Principal of One Medicine. Whilst at Camden Professor Morley met with several staff and visited the Wildlife Clinic and Veterinary Teaching Hospital.

DR TORSTEN ECKSTEIN
Colorado State University

Dr Torsten Eckstein, Assistant Professor, Department of Microbiology, Immunology, and Pathology, Colorado State University visited the Faculty from 8th to 14th November as part of an International Program Development Fund grant from the University of Sydney. The purpose of the visit was to develop collaborative projects related to the detection and control of mycobacterial diseases with the paratuberculosis research group. Dr Eckstein is based in the premier mycobacterial (tuberculosis and leprosy) research laboratory in North America. Dr Eckstein is a graduate of the Humbolt-University Berlin where he earned an M.S. in Biochemistry and holds an M.D. and a Ph.D. in Infectious Diseases. He specialized in Infectious Diseases at the University of Heidelberg. Since 1995 he has been part of the Mycobacteria Research Laboratories at Colorado State University. He has made outstanding contributions in research on the lipids of mycobacteria, the immunolipidome of Mycobacterium avium subsp. paratuberculosis and of Burkholderia pseudomallei. He holds several patents, founded two Biotech companies, and has shown the potential of lipidomics to reinvigorate study of the cell wall of this important group of pathogens.
INDONESIAN DELEGATION

On October 20th five veterinarians and senior officials from Indonesia contributing to an Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) project visited the Camden Campus. They were accompanied by Drs Helen Scott-Orr and Tristan Jubb who have important roles in ACIAR AH/2006/166 “Improving Veterinary Service Delivery in a Decentralised Indonesia”. The visit was part of a study tour for the group involving visits to various organizations contributing to animal health in NSW and the ACT. Learning gained will reinforce the importance of animal disease prevention and control, and the need to introduce animal health policies and frameworks. This project is aiming to support development of the INDOVETPLAN such that Indonesia with a decentralized animal health delivery structure can achieve systematic planning and management for emergency animal disease outbreaks.

Two members of the group, Dr Maria Geong and Ir Martinus Jawa, have lead roles in ACIAR AH/2006/156 hosted by the University of Sydney and led by Dr Jenny-Ann Toribio. It was a particular pleasure to have them visit the Faculty given their substantial contributions to our research on pig movements and classical swine fever in Eastern Indonesia.

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR HANS HENRIK DIETZ
University of Copenhagen

Associate Professor Hans Henrik Dietz who is Head of Department of Large Animal Sciences in the Faculty of Life Sciences in the University of Copenhagen in Denmark (formerly the Royal Veterinary School). Hans was visiting Murdoch University with the international veterinary schools accreditation committee, but also chose to visit us to progress plans for increasing collaboration of our faculty with his school, as initiated with a visit by Professor Windsor to Copenhagen in June this year when he met with Professor Jorgen Agerholm and Hans at the Torstrup large animal teaching facility on the edge of Copenhagen (picture has Jorgen on left with Hans on right outside of isolation facility at Torstrup). Jorgen is a pathologist and is now Professor of Reproduction, following his sabbatical here at Camden with Peter Windsor in 2006. The aim of this collaboration is to have final year veterinary students from both our faculties participating in 'exchange visits' to facilitate opportunities for enhanced 'global citizenship'. A Danish student has already expressed interest in coming to Camden. Other opportunities for collaborations are being explored as the Danes have a great interest in Australia.
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.
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.

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.