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## VISITING ACADEMICS

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**2010**

**DR MURWANTOKO**  
Gadjah Mada University, Indonesia

Dr Murwantoko from the Department of Fisheries, Faculty of Agriculture Gadjah Mada University, Yogyakarta, Indonesia visited the Faculty for five weeks in October - November. He worked with Richard Whittington and the aquatic animal health group on molecular epidemiology of iridoviruses in grouper aquaculture. This is Dr Murwantoko's third visit to Camden. The most recent visit was funded by the Ministry of Education, Republic of Indonesia.



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### INDONESIAN VETERINARIANS and SENIOR AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS – STUDY TOUR



Funded by the project ACIAR AH 2006 166 – Improving Veterinary Service Delivery in a Decentralised Indonesia – this group visited the University of Sydney Camden campus on 19<sup>th</sup> October to gain insight into the organisational framework for animal health control and research in Australia.

Pictured ←, Dr Helen Scott-Orr (back centre) is tour leader. Dr Enuh Djusa (front centre) and Dr Wayan Sukanadi (front right of centre) are key collaborators in University of Sydney hosted ACIAR project AH/2006/156 - Livestock movement and managing disease in Eastern Indonesia and Eastern Australia.

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**ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR CORD HEUER**  
**MR CHRISTOBAL VERDUGO**  
Massey University, New Zealand

This week Associate Professor Cord Heuer and Mr Christobal Verdugo from the EpiCentre, Institute of Veterinary, Animal and Biomedical Sciences at Massey University in New Zealand spent a couple of days at the campus collaborating with the Johne's Disease research team and Navneet Dhand about statistical analysis. Associate Professor Heuer also presented a seminar in the GTB entitled "Johne's disease in New Zealand".

Pictured → lunching with Navneet is Cord (right) and Christobal (centre).



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**DR SYSENG KHOUNSY**  
**Lao PDR Department of Livestock and Fisheries**  
**DR SUON SOTHOEUN**  
**Cambodian Department of Animal Health and Production**  
**AusAid Australian Leadership Award Fellowships**



Professor Peter Windsor and Ms Luzia Rast were successful in their application for an Ausaid ALA Fellowship to host Dr Syseng Khounsy from the Lao PDR Department of Livestock and Fisheries, and Dr Suon Sothoeun from the Cambodian Department of Animal Health and Production. These gentlemen are both Honorary Associates of the Faculty and as the in-country project leaders of two 4-year ACIAR projects on improving cattle and buffalo health and productivity as a means of alleviating rural poverty in both countries, they have hosted many of our students in PhD, BVSc and BAVBiosc Hons projects plus and RPP (Rural Public Practice) rotations. They visited Australia from July 12 through 23, participating in the 3 day residential workshop on Project Management in the MVPHM degree and met postgraduate student James Young who is using data from the ACIAR projects as part of his candidature for the MVPHM degree. In their second week they participated in a tour of our leading animal health agencies, accompanied by both Professor Windsor and Ms Lynn Henry of the FANR who is the economist on the ACIAR projects. Meetings were held with staff at Animal Health Australia, Bruce Twentyman of the national office of the Australian Veterinary Association

and they also visited ACIAR and met the new CEO Dr Nick Austin, the Mekong region coordinator Dr Gamini Keerthisinghe and animal health project manager Dr Doug Gray plus others. On July 21<sup>st</sup> they visited the Goulburn livestock saleyards where they witnessed the NLIS in action (compulsory livestock identification) and toured the rural veterinary practice of Rob Churchill where they gained a valuable insight into the delivery of rural veterinary services by private practitioners, a service that is practically non-existent in their countries. On July 22<sup>nd</sup> they visited the Department of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries and in a full day organized by Dr Mike Nunn, they met the CVO Dr Any Carroll and received presentations from numerous sections of DAFF that enabled their understanding of how animal health policy and legislation is developed and enacted. They will be visiting Australia again in February 2011 to participate in the MVPHM residential for the Leadership unit and learn more of our systems of livestock disease surveillance and response capacities.

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**DR CHRIS JEWELL**  
**Warwick University, United Kingdom**

Dr Chris Jewell, a post doctoral fellow from the Department of Mathematics and Statistics at Warwick University in the UK, spent a week with the Faculty of Veterinary Science at Camden. Chris is a statistician and veterinary epidemiologist and uses statistical methods to analyse animal disease data and make real-time risk predictions for in-progress epidemics. He is particularly interested in using Bayesian techniques to analyse epidemic data. The aim of his Sydney visit was to foster links between Warwick University and the University of Sydney, which resulted in two new collaborations with Professor Michael Ward and Dr Navneet Dhand. Chris is pictured → with Michael Ward.



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**MR MARCELO MOTA**  
**Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food Supply, Brazil**

Mr Marcelo Mota from the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food Supply in Brazil spent four weeks in June/July with the University of Sydney's Faculty of Veterinary Science at Camden as a recipient of the Australian Council on Australia Latin American Relations (COALAR) Executive Awards.

Marcelo is studying for his PhD in Veterinary Science at the Federal University of Minas Gerais. During his four weeks at the University, Marcelo worked with Professor Michael Ward on the epidemiology of avian influenza and monitoring and surveillance systems. He learnt and developed skills and techniques in disease mapping, spatial analysis and demonstrating freedom from disease.



Professor Ward said "Australia and Brazil share many similarities in agricultural production; some of their most important trading partners are also the same, for example the United States. Disease is a major trade barrier and through the standardisation of methods we can reduce barriers by using a science based approach to agricultural trade issues".

Marcelo also spent time in Canberra with the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry in the Office of the Chief Veterinary Officer (OCVO) which facilitates the development of national policies and strategies and the provision of scientific advice to minimise the potential impacts of diseases on Australia's animal health.

The Faculty of Veterinary Science at the University of Sydney has a long history of engagement in Brazil and in the near future Professor Ward hopes to travel to Brazil to develop further research collaborations with the Ministry and Marcelo's home institution.

The COALAR Latin America Executive Awards provide professional development opportunities in Australia for high achievers in business, industry, education or government from participating countries. The Awards focus on building skills and knowledge through a host work environment [www.coalar.com.au](http://www.coalar.com.au). Additional professional development opportunities for Latin American applicants are available through the Australia Awards [www.australiawards.gov.au](http://www.australiawards.gov.au)

With acknowledgment : Victoria Romaniuk Office of Deputy Vice Chancellor International

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**DR ROB CHRISTLEY**  
**University of Liverpool, United Kingdom**



Dr Rob Christley, Senior Lecturer in Epidemiology, Head of Epidemiology & Public Health, School of Veterinary Science, the University of Liverpool, UK was a visiting scholar with the Faculty for several weeks in April/May 2010. Rob is famous in the animal health community for his pioneering research in the field of social network analysis. Born and educated in Sydney, Australia, Rob graduated in Veterinary Science, completing a Diploma and Masters in Clinical Studies before going on to a PhD investigating the epidemiology of lower respiratory tract disease

in racehorses. This was interspersed with periods in practice, in both Australia and the UK.

Rob has wide interests in the determinants of health and disease. He is particularly interested in the application of network analysis to the evaluation of population behaviour, including inter-group (farm) contacts and social behaviour within animal groups, and its role in transmission of infectious diseases.

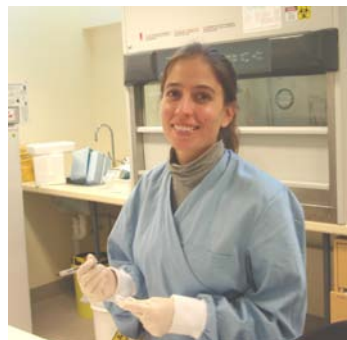
Rob is pictured ↑ facilitating the Network Analysis Course run in late-April.

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**MS DIANA JARAMILLO**  
**Columbia**

Diana Jaramillo joined the Faculty in March for three months supported by a Council of Australian Latin America Relations scholarship. Diana undertook training in virology and research on diagnosis of EHN virus for 10 weeks with Richard Whittington, Joy Becker and Alison Tweedie. Diana has taken these new skills home to Columbia where there is need for more people with skills in microbiological and molecular diagnostic techniques. Accurate diagnosis of fish diseases and identification of fish pathogens will open new gates to understand and improve Colombian fish production.



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**2009**

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**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 Murwantoto is pictured with Professor Leo Jeffcott, the then Dean of the Faculty of Veterinary Science.

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**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 17<sup>th</sup> 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.

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**DR TORSTEN ECKSTEIN**  
**Colorado State University**

Dr Torsten Eckstein, Assistant Professor, Department of Microbiology, Immunology, and Pathology, Colorado State University visited the Faculty from 8<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> 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.



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**INDONESIAN DELEGATION**

On October 20<sup>th</sup> 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.



Left to right, Standing:: Tristan Jubb, Maria Geong, Jenny-Ann Toribio, Josef Mantara,  
Seated: Tjahjani Widiastuti, Budiantono, Richard Whittington, Martinus Jawa, Nobel Toribio

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**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.



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**2008**

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**DR ASHLEY HILL**  
**Colorado State University**

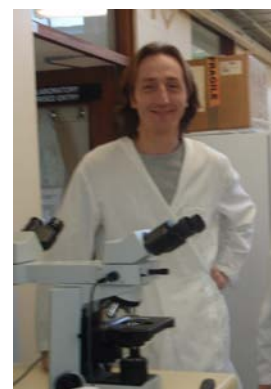
Dr Ashley Hill from Colorado State University joined the group on 12<sup>th</sup> May for five weeks. Dr Hill was awarded a prestigious University of Sydney International Visiting Research Fellowship and undertook work on optimal sampling strategies for microbiological diagnosis of ovine virulent footrot (*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.



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

Dr Nicola Pozzato from Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale delle Venezie, Verona, Italy spent 6<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> 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.



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**PROFESSOR JOHN PRESCOTT**  
**University of Guelph, Canada**  
12<sup>th</sup> 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 left (second from left) with Michael Ward, Kate Bosward and Gary Muscatello**

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**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.**

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**2007**

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**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.



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**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.



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**2006**

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**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-Friesians 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.



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**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.



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**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.

