

## Launch of the Global Academy of Agriculture and Food Security



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Editor-in-Chief Professor David J. Argyle

Editor Neil Wilson

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Jen Middleton

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If you have any ideas or feedback for the **Dick Vet News** please email [Neil.Wilson@ed.ac.uk](mailto:Neil.Wilson@ed.ac.uk)

The Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies  
The University of Edinburgh  
Easter Bush Campus  
Midlothian  
EH25 9RG  
Scotland  
t: +44 (0)131 651 7300



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# Message from Head of School

## Dear Friends,

This edition of the Dick Vet News allows us to share with you our recent successes and developments in our key areas of teaching, research and clinical service.

We have had another exceptional year with the school ranking 1st in the Guardian and Times league tables for Veterinary Science, 8th in the World in the QS Ranking and 4th in the World in the Shanghai Ranking. This is a testament to the quality of our staff and students and the collegiate environment we have created for people to succeed.

In this edition you will see some significant developments for the school, not least our major investment in The Global Academy of Agriculture and Food Security, led by Professor Geoff Simm.

This will create an international focus for research and teaching in Agriculture and Food Security and will dovetail with The Roslin Institute and our major initiatives funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. The Global Academy is already forging links internationally to provide educational and research opportunities focussing on solutions to the major challenges of global food security. The school has received a total of £15 million from the Gates Foundation to develop a new Centre for Tropical Livestock Genetics and Health (CTLGH), coupled with a major programme to study the impact of interventions in Africa (SEBI). Professor Appolinaire Djikeng has joined us to lead the Centre for Tropical Livestock Genetics and Health, a £10 million partnership between The University, Scotland's Rural College and the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) in Nairobi. The Supporting Evidence Based Interventions initiative (SEBI) has secured £5.5 million for a new initiative to improve animal health and productivity in Sub-Saharan Africa. Working very closely with the new Global Academy, the project, led by Professor Andy Peters, is focused on improving the livelihoods of livestock farmers in developing countries by delivering evidence-based health technologies. These initiatives bring together a significant critical mass in education and research and are a fitting evolution of the School's Centre for Tropical Veterinary Medicine.

I am also delighted to announce Professor Eleanor Riley as the new Director of The Roslin Institute. Professor Riley has a background in veterinary medicine, human infectious diseases and global health and has more than 30 years' experience of research in the UK and Africa.

This is an exceptional year for the Institute, which has also received £29.3 million from the UK's Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council to support its research over

the next five years. As ever, this edition of the Dick Vet News contains some exciting news of our impactful research in livestock and companion animal diseases, from genome editing for disease resilience to determining the underpinning genetics around brachycephalic dogs. As an example, Chancellor's Fellow Dr Jeff Schoenebeck's study of dog DNA has revealed a genetic mutation linked to flat face shapes, such as those seen in pugs and bulldogs. Dr Schoenebeck's research gives new insights into the genes that underpin skull formation in humans and animals and has been profiled extensively internationally.

The exceptional standing of the school would not be possible without exceptional staff and students and, again, this edition is not short of staff and student success stories. We were delighted to hear earlier this year that Professor Susan Rhind had been awarded an OBE in the 2017 Queen's New Year's Honours, which was for her exceptional contribution to Veterinary Education nationally and internationally. I am also pleased to report the success of Dr Jessie Paterson, Lecturer in Student Learning, who received the Chancellor's Award for Teaching in recognition of her innovative learning methods, especially the peer assisted learning scheme. Our students have also been recognised for their outstanding contributions. Lauren Krueger, who has just graduated from the Dick Vet, was the first undergraduate vet student in the UK to receive an Associate Fellowship from the Higher Education Academy. Lauren's award highlights her contribution to education and learning in veterinary medicine as one of our students working towards an Undergraduate Certificate in Veterinary Medical Education.

In finishing, I would like to express my gratitude to all of our supporters locally, nationally and internationally. Recently, we were very proud to host an event in memory of Robert Ormiston Curle who served as the University's Accountant on what would have been his 100th birthday. Funds from the Robert O Curle Charitable Trust will help purchase a new endoscope and related equipment for the Hospital for Small Animals, also funding laboratory equipment for the new Conservation Science Centre at the Easter Bush Campus.

I hope you enjoy reading this edition, which reflects many of our successes. These are made possible only by our outstanding staff and students whose commitment enables us to enhance our international reputation and look to the future with ambition.

Professor David J. Argyle

# Global Academy of Agriculture and Food Security

**There are fewer bigger challenges facing humanity than feeding the growing human population well, while protecting the natural systems on which we all depend.**

The new Global Academy of Agriculture and Food Security – based in The Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies and The Roslin Institute – aims to help tackle this challenge.

This is the latest of five Global Academies in the University, which stimulate interdisciplinary teaching, research and partnership across the University's schools and colleges, and beyond, to help address major global challenges.

For the new Academy, a key research area will be the effectiveness and sustainability of agri-food systems. This is vital to tackle the challenges of global population growth, rapid urbanisation, food and environmental security, and diet and health – challenges that affect both affluent and low income countries.

Addressing them is key to moving hundreds of millions of people out of poverty, and central to many of the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Tackling these challenges requires a global step-change in the scale and impact of education, research, and translation. The world-leading research in the University provides a solid foundation.

Our joint submission with Scotland's Rural College (SRUC) in Agriculture, Veterinary and Food Science ranked top in the UK for research power in the Research Excellence Framework (REF) 2014.

The University is investing around £35 million in the new Global Academy of Agriculture and Food Security to enhance our provision of targeted



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Professor Geoff Simm, Director of the new Global Academy of Agriculture and Food Security.

education, training, research, innovation and consulting. Professor Geoff Simm was appointed as Director of the new Academy in October last year, and has since been joined by Professor Liz Baggs as Deputy Director and Dr Darren Watt as Business Manager. Around ten new academic appointments will be made over the next few months, many jointly with other schools in the University, to lead the academy's ambitious research and teaching agenda.

This includes the launch of a series of new BSc programmes in Agricultural Science which has been developed jointly with Scotland's Rural College.

The new programmes will attract students seeking a research-led, globally-orientated education, and prepare them for a wide range of future careers and leadership roles in research, policy, non-governmental organisations or the agri-food industry, nationally and internationally.

Further information on the Global Academy can be found on the website [www.ed.ac.uk/global-agriculture-food-security](http://www.ed.ac.uk/global-agriculture-food-security)

and any queries can be sent to: [globalagriculture@ed.ac.uk](mailto:globalagriculture@ed.ac.uk)

## Agriculture workshop examines drone use to boost harvests

**International experts have convened in Africa to explore how drones and other remote sensing tools may be able to help farmers make better use of their land.**

Researchers discussed how remote sensing – such as using unmanned aircraft and satellites – could provide farmers with information about crop yields as well as greenhouse gas emissions from grazing livestock. This information could help farmers to make vital decisions that help them optimise the productivity of their resources.

The workshop in Kenya was attended by experts from the UK, Malawi, Zimbabwe, Kenya, Ethiopia and Nigeria. The focus was to identify knowledge gaps and barriers that may affect how remote sensing technology is implemented in farming with the aim of finding ways to better measure and analyse complex systems and data in new ways that benefit farmers. New collaborations will be set up to address research questions raised by the event.

The workshop, which took place at the International Livestock Research Institute in Nairobi, Kenya, was organised by the Global Academy of Agriculture and Food Security and led by Professor Geoff Simm.

“New remote sensing technologies can play a key role in helping farmers adopt ‘climate smart’ systems that improve productivity sustainably.”

**Professor Geoff Simm**  
Director of the Global Academy of Agriculture and Food Security

## New Director for The Roslin Institute



Professor Eleanor Riley

### Professor Eleanor Riley has taken up the role of Director of The Roslin Institute, succeeding Professor David Hume.

Professor Riley joins the Institute from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine where she was Professor of Infectious Disease Immunology. With a background in veterinary medicine, human infectious diseases and global health, Professor Riley has more than 30 years' experience of research in the UK and Africa.

Professor Riley graduated from the University of Bristol with degrees in Cellular Pathology and Veterinary Science, trained in Veterinary Pathology

at Cornell University and holds a PhD in Immunology and Parasitology from the University of Liverpool.

She spent five years working at the Medical Research Council Laboratories in The Gambia before joining the University of Edinburgh's Division of Biological Sciences as a Wellcome Trust Senior Research Fellow in 1990.

In 1998, she was appointed Professor of Infectious Disease Immunology at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. She led the School's Department of Immunology and Infection from 2001-2013.

Her research interests include immunity to malaria and related infections, genetic susceptibility to infection, the biology of natural killer cells and

immunological evaluation of vaccines.

Professor Riley is a Fellow of the Academy of Medical Sciences and Chairs the BBSRC's Bioscience for Health Strategy Advisory Panel.

Commenting on her appointment, Professor Riley said:

"I am honoured and delighted to have been given the opportunity to lead The Roslin Institute. Roslin is one of the world's most respected veterinary research organisations with a longstanding, global reputation for excellence in improving animal health, welfare and production. I look forward to guiding the Institute to continued success and to strengthening research collaborations at home and abroad."



We are very pleased to welcome Professor Riley to Edinburgh. As an internationally-respected scientist, Professor Riley has a significant track record in leading major multi-partner projects in the UK and abroad. We are confident that her visionary leadership will cement The Roslin Institute as a global research leader in human and animal health.

**Professor David Argyle**  
Head of School

## Dick Vet top ranked for Veterinary Medicine

**We were very pleased to see that the Dick Vet was ranked first in The Guardian and The Times 2018 league tables for veterinary science.**

Head of School, Professor David Argyle said: "We strive to provide the best possible teaching and educational environment and it is very rewarding to see it reflected in these rankings. This is excellent and deserved recognition of the hard work from all of our staff."



## EUSA Teaching Award winners



Congratulations to Jenna Richardson, who won the EUSA Best Teacher Award for Teaching in Veterinary Sciences and Yolanda Martinez-Pereira who was runner up for this award.

Darren Shaw was runner up in the overall Best Personal Tutor Award – congratulations to all!



Pictured with Darren Shaw, runner up in the Best Personal Tutor award, are left to right: Bex Allen, Leslie Lopes de Lima, Kelly Wyper, Meghane Badin, Jessi Beyer and Iona Allan.

## Web course takes care of online identity

**As we move around the online world, we leave tracks and traces of our activity all the time: social media accounts, tagged images, professional presences, but also many artefacts we don't always realise we are leaving behind, or that others leave about us.**

The Dick Vet, in collaboration with EDINA, has created a new massive open online course (MOOC), which is completely free and focuses on the different dimensions of a digital footprint, including developing an effective online presence, managing privacy online, creating opportunities for networking, balancing and managing

professional and personal presences (e-professionalism).

This course includes a range of experts from across the world, practical advice, as well as providing an opportunity to reflect on and refine your own online presence and digital footprint. It would be useful for anyone who maintains an online presence and by the end of the course participants should be confident in managing a digital footprint that works for them, whether it's small and private, or a more effective and impactful presence.

You can find out more, or sign up, here: <https://goo.gl/rKEZ3Q>

## Attitudes to learning may influence mental health

**Students' mental health may be tied to their approach to learning, research suggests.**

Experts say changing the way students are given feedback could help them adopt a more appropriate mindset and improve their psychological wellbeing.

Researchers found that students who believed their level of intelligence was fixed showed signs of poorer mental health.

The students scored lower on five out of six areas of psychological well-being compared with those who believed that their intelligence could be improved.

Previous studies have found that students' mindset relating to intelligence is influenced by the type of praise given by parents and teachers, as well as the way in which they are assessed.

The research suggests that altering feedback and assessment styles to promote a positive outlook on learning may offer an opportunity to tackle mental health problems among students.

Mental health problems such as depression and anxiety are becoming more common among UK university students. The number of students seeking counselling has risen by almost a third in the last four years.

Dick Vet researchers used a questionnaire to assess mindset and psychological well-being in 148 veterinary students.

Vets are particularly susceptible to mental health problems and are four times more likely to take their own lives than the general population.

Rachel Whittington, Lecturer in Professional Studies, said: "We're interested in how we can give our students and graduates the best chances of a fulfilling and successful career while promoting positive psychological wellbeing."

# Funding backs next phase of Roslin research

**Research to improve the health, welfare and sustainability of livestock farming has received a multi-million funding award from the UK Government.**

The investment in the University's Roslin Institute was announced by Business Secretary Greg Clark during a visit to the Easter Bush Campus.

Research at The Roslin Institute aims to enable data-driven innovations to improve the productivity of farmed animals without compromising their health and welfare.

An investment of £29.3m from the UK's Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council will support three key programmes of research over the next five years.

Scientists will examine how genes determine the healthy development and function of systems in the body – such as the nervous and cardiovascular systems.

Infectious diseases in farmed animals will also be a focus of research. Experts will aim to develop strategies to control outbreaks, in particular of diseases that can spread to people.

Funding will support research to understand the role of genetic, environmental and dietary factors that affect livestock growth.

Professor Bruce Whitelaw, Director of Partnerships at The Roslin Institute said: "The BBSRC's support highlights the quality and strategic relevance of our work in farm animal genetics, development, welfare and infectious diseases."

Professor Melanie Welham, Chief Executive of BBSRC said: "BBSRC's strategic funding investments in research, people and vital national capabilities at world leading bioscience institutes will deliver new knowledge and innovation and help realise the potential of a bio-based economy. The positive impacts in food, agriculture, energy, materials and health will help drive economic growth and deliver benefits to society across the UK and beyond."



This investment will help to ensure The Roslin Institute's continuing success over the next five years. The Institute plays a pivotal role in the University's mission to tackle the many pressing issues in animal health and welfare, including those which have implications for human health and sustainability of animals in the food chain.

**Professor Sir Timothy O'Shea**  
Principal and Vice-Chancellor,  
The University of Edinburgh

## £10m deal to boost impact of animal science innovations

**Innovations that improve the health of farmed animals and raise agricultural productivity will be brought to market with the support of a £10 million investment.**

The investment in the new company Roslin Technologies will develop business opportunities arising from the University of Edinburgh's world-leading animal science research.

The deal will allow researchers to explore the commercial potential of technologies that enable low-cost manufacturing of new medicines using chicken eggs.

Methods of preserving frozen stocks of reproductive material from bird species are set to benefit from the funding.

Such technologies aim to safeguard the future of rare bird species, which may carry useful genetic information that makes them resistant to existing – and future – diseases.

The company will also bring to market new veterinary vaccines and tools for diagnosing diseases that affect farmed animals.

Roslin Technologies Ltd was launched to facilitate the commercialisation of research from the University of Edinburgh's Roslin Institute and Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies.

It is thought to be the largest agriculture biotechnology start-up in UK history to focus on research projects aimed at improving animal health and raising agricultural productivity.

The company is a partnership between the University, the agriculture-focused private equity advisors, JB Equity, and the British Innovation Fund, a newly-formed fund that invests in leading innovation venture funds and companies from British universities.

An initial fundraising round has recently concluded, securing £10 million from institutional investors.

Professor Bruce Whitelaw, Director of Partnerships at The Roslin Institute said: "Having pioneered the commercialisation of animal biotechnology for three decades, the establishment of Roslin Technologies now provides an exciting platform to accelerate the translation of Roslin's data driven innovations into the commercial sector."

Glen Illing, Chief Executive Officer of Roslin Technologies, said: "There is incredible demand for innovations that address desperately needed productivity increases in agriculture. This investment allows us to deliver a technology pipeline that spans across The Roslin Institute's core focus on food, environmental security and animal and human health."

# DNA study reveals genes linked to face shape

**A study of dog DNA has revealed a genetic mutation linked to flat face shapes such as those seen in pugs and bulldogs.**

The research reveals new insights into the genes that underpin skull formation in people and animals. The findings also shed light on the causes of birth defects that affect babies' head development in the womb.

Dr Jeff Schoenebeck and colleagues analysed DNA samples from 374 pet dogs of various pedigree and mixed breeds that were undergoing treatment at the Hospital for Small Animals.

All of the animals underwent detailed CT scans as part of their care, producing high quality 3-dimensional images of the dogs' heads.

The team used these high-resolution images to take precise measurements of the shape of the dog's skull.

By comparing the dogs' genetic information with measurements of their skulls, they were able to pinpoint DNA variations that are associated with different head shapes.

One variation – found to disrupt the activity of a gene called *SMOC2* – was strongly linked to the length of the dog's face. Animals with the mutation had significantly flatter faces, a condition called brachycephaly.

Babies are sometimes born with brachycephaly too, though little is known about its causes. The team says screening children for changes in the *SMOC2* gene could help to diagnose the condition.

“ Our results shed light on the molecular nature of this type of skull form that is so common and popular among dogs.

**Dr Jeffrey Schoenebeck**

The Roslin Institute and The Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies

“ This study is an excellent demonstration of how we are integrating our clinical and research teams across the Dick Vet.

**Professor Richard Mellanby**

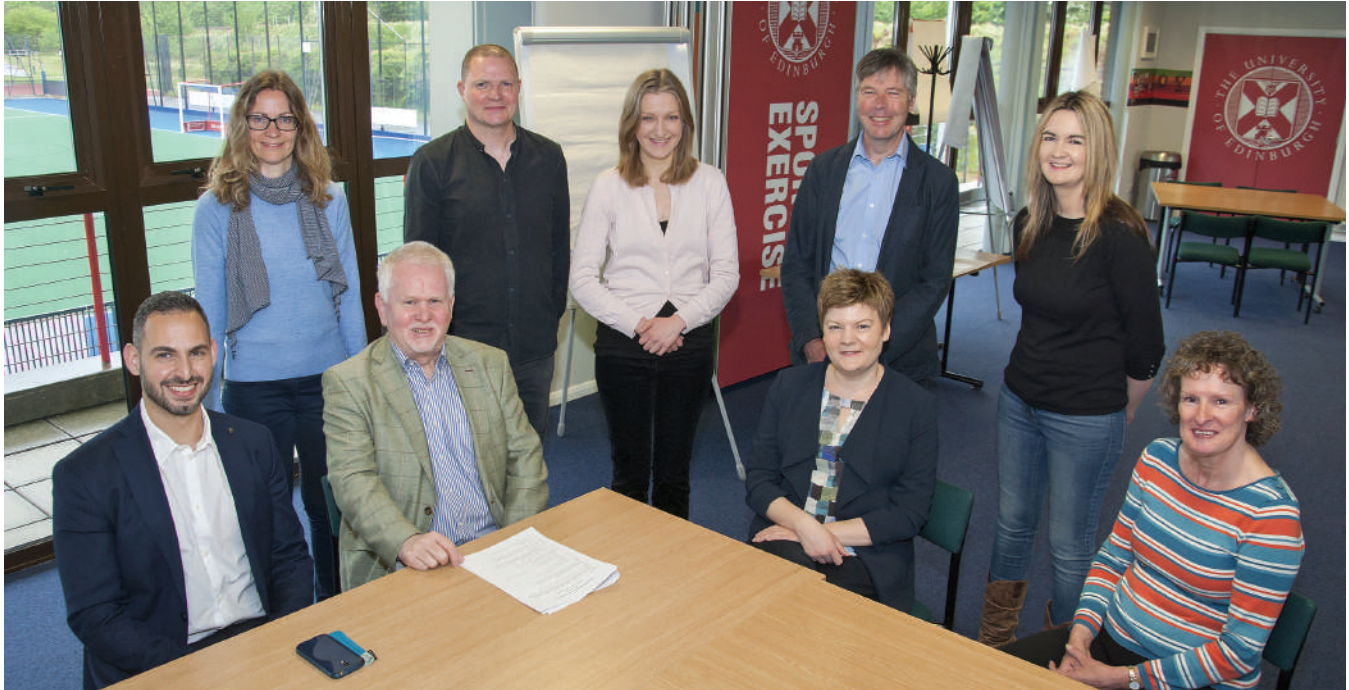
Head of Companion Animal Sciences, Hospital for Small Animals



Dr Jeffrey Schoenebeck

# Improving livestock health in Africa

**Experts at the Dick Vet have secured £5.5 million for a new initiative to improve animal health and productivity in sub-Saharan Africa.**



SEBI staff with colleagues at a recent workshop event. Pictured are:

Back from left: Dr Louise Donnison (Data Analyst); Colin Watt (IS Project Services); Dr Cheryl Heath (Programme Manager, SEBI); Alan Duncan (Consultant); Ciara Vance (Programme Manager, SEBI). Front from left: Josef Geoola (Consultant for Contract and Legal Services); Professor Andy Peters (Director, SEBI); Dr Karen Smyth (Deputy Director, SEBI); Alex Jones (HR Learning and Development).

The scheme aims to boost the livelihoods of livestock farmers in developing countries, by delivering evidence-based health technologies that offer sustainable solutions to the challenges they face.

The Supporting Evidence Based Interventions initiative (SEBI) has received funding from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) for three years.

Three programmes of work have been established to help address different challenges.

The first programme aims to identify evidence-based interventions to cut death rates and reproductive losses in dairy cattle in Ethiopia, Nigeria and Tanzania. Sub-grants will be provided to enable research groups to investigate the causes of these losses.

The first of these has been awarded to The University of Glasgow to build a disease surveillance platform in Tanzania.

A second programme will facilitate data gathering and the development of

analytical tools to better track livestock performance.

Researchers are setting up an international network of practitioners – the Livestock Data for Decisions (LD4D) community – to harmonise systems of data management across borders.

The third strand of the initiative will provide sub-grants to enable researchers to evaluate innovative veterinary interventions for their use in developing countries.

SEBI has already awarded £125,000 to the University of Guelph to fund field trials of a hand held device that can detect animal diseases. The portable sensor allows dairy farmers to rapidly diagnose specific diseases in cows from a small volume of blood or milk.

A team of five staff and three consultants has been recruited to drive forward the SEBI initiative.

Researchers are working with a large range of partners to meet their ambitions, including Scotland's Rural College, the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation

(Australia) and the International Livestock Research Institute (Kenya).

A launch event was held in Rome in January 2017. More than 30 international data scientists, epidemiologists and livestock production experts were in attendance, as well as representatives from BMGF.



SEBI is a pilot project but we anticipate that, if we are successful, it will expand to become the 'go to' organisation for the evaluation of novel veterinary technologies and livestock improvement interventions in Africa.

**Professor Andy Peters**  
Director, SEBI



# New Director for the Centre for Tropical Livestock Genetics and Health



Professor Appolinaire Djikeng

**Professor Appolinaire Djikeng has been appointed to head the Centre for Tropical Livestock Genetics and Health, a partnership between The University of Edinburgh, Scotland's Rural College (SRUC) and the Africa-based International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI).**

With a background and interests in genomics, Professor Djikeng brings a wealth of experience in developing and leading biosciences research and development and capacity building programmes across agricultural development and public health initiatives.

The Centre for Tropical Livestock Genetics and Health has a remit to build on the world-class research expertise of its partner institutions, ensuring the development and deployment of genetics and genomics technologies to improve livestock productivity and livelihoods in the tropics.

In addition to his role as CTLGH Director, Professor Djikeng has been appointed to a new Chair in Tropical Agriculture and Sustainable Development at the University of Edinburgh.

Professor David Argyle, Head of The Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies, said: "We are absolutely delighted with Professor Djikeng's appointment. As the Centre takes a world-leading position in tropical livestock health, his exemplary leadership skills and expertise will be essential for driving its success."

Professor Appolinaire Djikeng said: "I am grateful to all three founding partners for the trust placed in me to lead CTLGH at this critical stage of its development, and truly honoured to become part of an outstanding international research community with centuries-long track record of delivering remarkable innovations that have shaped our world."

“

We are absolutely delighted with Professor Djikeng's appointment. As the Centre takes a world-leading position in tropical livestock health, his exemplary leadership skills and expertise will be essential for driving its success.

**Professor David Argyle**  
Head of the Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies

## Partnership aims to strengthen wildlife law enforcement

**Wildlife crime is the focus of a new partnership between the University and the Scottish Government, which aims to boost the use of forensic science in tackling the problem.**

The partnership creates formal ties between the Scottish Government's Wildlife DNA Forensics unit and the Conservation Medicine research unit at The Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies.

Forensic science plays a key role in investigating illegal trade routes and poaching of wild animals. It can provide important evidence that an offence has been committed and help enforcement agencies pursue prosecutions.

Experts will explore how scientists can best support wildlife crime investigations – from illegal timber logging and fisheries, to illegal wildlife trade and persecution on both national and international levels.

Environment Secretary Roseanna Cunningham said: "The new wildlife forensics development programme builds on Edinburgh's strong reputation for biosciences, taking a progressive approach that will strengthen the links between enforcement, policy and forensics.

The partnership was announced at the Society for Wildlife Forensic Science's annual symposium in Edinburgh, which was held outside the USA for the first time in June.

“

The fight against wildlife crime in all its forms requires coordinated efforts from multiple partners to reduce incentives and demand, and to investigate and prosecute criminal activity.

**Dr Rob Ogden**  
Head of Conservation Genetics,  
The Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies

## China Agricultural University Visit

**We were delighted to welcome colleagues from the China Agricultural University to the Easter Bush Campus to meet with staff and explore ways to work together.**

Pictured are Professor David Argyle; Zhang Dongjun, Vice President; LI Peng, Associate Dean, College of Veterinary Medicine; BI Leilei, International Office; Gurpreet Grewal-Kang and Dr Tim King.



## Sustainability Award win for Campus – Gold award retained

**The Easter Bush Campus team attended the Sustainability Awards in March, retaining the Gold awards for Office and Lab they won in 2016.**

Our Campus team were delighted to receive two Special Awards for Innovation in Sustainability and Sustainability Impact. The Special Awards recognise staff and student collaborations or staff-led projects which contribute towards making the University more sustainable and socially responsible.

The Innovation for Sustainability category includes projects with an academic nature which bring together a wide range of stakeholders. The Easter Bush Campus Office Gold project, led by Sharon Boyd, focused on social

responsibility and sustainability in veterinary medical education. This project included a wide range of activities and events raising awareness of the importance of veterinary medical education in achieving the UN sustainable development goals.

In addition to teaching and research, this included our wellbeing events, free CPD provided by our clinics and collaborations with the ECA. It highlighted our work with the local community, for example All4Paws, the RHS and Midlothian Science Festival, the Investors in Young People award, STEM ambassadors and work with Midlothian Council on Career Ready placements and apprenticeships. The Sustainability Impact category includes projects which show

demonstrable sustainability impact through means other than energy. The Easter Bush Campus project, led by Brian McTeir, looked at polystyrene reduction and reuse. This was achieved by interaction and encouragement with suppliers and courier companies to reuse packaging. We also engaged with clinical and research labs to identify further opportunities to reduce and reuse.

Project Leader and Lecturer in Distance Student Learning, Sharon Boyd, said: "The Special Award was a wonderful surprise and honour to receive. It is a celebration of the hard work of the students and staff who were involved in the project and encourages us to build on some of the ideas



Lorna Bathgate and Brian McTeir.



The Campus Team with their awards.

## Professor Susan Rhind receives OBE in 2017 New Year's honours

**Deputy Head of School, Professor Susan Rhind, was awarded an OBE in the New Year's honours list for services to veterinary education.**

As Deputy Head of School, Professor Rhind oversees undergraduate teaching and is also one of the University of Edinburgh's Assistant Principals, offering strategic leadership on the improvement of assessment and feedback across the University. Susan's work has a particular focus on developing innovative teaching methods to ensure that students have the best chances of success.

Professor Rhind has also been instrumental in efforts to improve student support systems that promote well-being. These contributions

have helped the school to secure international accreditation for its undergraduate veterinary programmes, enabling graduates to practice in North America, Europe and Australia as well as the UK.

Susan was appointed as the first Chair of Veterinary Medical Education in the UK in 2007 and became a Principal Fellow of the Higher Education Academy in 2014 – the most prestigious award available to teachers in UK higher education. She is currently Chair of the UK Veterinary Schools Council Education Committee.



Professor Susan Rhind, Deputy Head of School.

## Welfare award for Heather Bacon

**Heather Bacon has received the Trevor Blackburn Award for raising standards of animal health and welfare in developing countries.**

She was given the award in recognition of her outstanding contribution to improving animal health and welfare through education, charity work and research.

The British Veterinary Association's award recognises Heather's unwavering passion to improve the welfare of animals in zoos, clinical practices, teaching hospitals and in people's homes.

Heather's work at the University's Jeanne Marchig International Centre for Animal Welfare Education is focused on improving the welfare of animals overseas by working with NGOs and veterinary associations.

## Staff Elected Fellows of The Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons

**Nine members of staff have been elected as Fellows of The Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (FRCVS).**

Five were elected for 'Meritorious Contributions to Knowledge' and four for 'Meritorious Contributions to Clinical Practice'.

The successful candidates were:

**For Meritorious Contributions to Knowledge:**

Professor David Argyle  
Professor Paddy Dixon  
Professor Bruce McGorum  
Professor Richard Mellanby  
Dr Dylan Clements

**For Meritorious Contributions to Clinical Practice:**

Professor Anna Meredith  
Professor Danielle Gunn-Moore  
Dr Tobias Schwarz  
Dr Patrick Pollock



The aim of the new Fellowship initiative is to advance and develop clinical and professional standards by providing a resource of independent knowledge for the benefit of the veterinary profession, the scientific community, and the general public as a whole.

**Nick Bacon**  
Chair of the Fellowship Board



## Patrick Pollock joins Equine Surgery Group

**Patrick Pollock – a leading specialist in equine surgery – has joined the Dick Vet.**

Patrick is a diplomate of the European College of Veterinary Surgeons, an RCVS recognised specialist and a Fellow of the Higher Education Academy. Since graduating from the University of Glasgow, Patrick has practiced in the UK, Ireland and Denmark.

He is passionate about clinical teaching, having introduced rescue and working equid training into the veterinary curriculum. His research and clinical interests include emergency equine care, ophthalmic surgery, working equid care and the provision of clinical training in underserved regions.



## Neurology welcomes Kiterie Faller

**Kiterie Faller has joined the Hospital for Small Animals as a Lecturer in Veterinary Neurology.**

Kiterie graduated from the University of Toulouse, France in 2005. She then completed a small animal internship at Alfort (Paris) Veterinary School before undertaking a second internship at the Small Animal Hospital of the University of Glasgow, where she developed a strong interest in neurology. After five years doing research in Oxford, which led to the award of a DPhil in Cardiovascular Medicine, she returned to Glasgow as a resident in neurology and neurosurgery and joined the Dick Vet in May 2017.



## Jon Hall joins the Surgery team

**Jon Hall has joined the small animal soft tissue surgery team at the Hospital for Small Animals.**

Jon is a Royal College and European College specialist in small animal surgery. He worked as an affiliated lecturer at the University of Cambridge for two years before joining the Dick Vet team.

Jon brings expertise in minimally invasive surgical options for small animal patients, particularly the development of advanced imaging techniques to improve disease detection and treatment. He has a particular interest in the epidemiology and treatment of brachycephalic obstructive airway syndrome.



## Small Animal Surgery welcomes John Ryan

**John is a Royal College and European Veterinary Specialist in Small Animal Surgery.**

He has returned to the Dick Vet as a Lecturer in Small Animal Orthopaedics, having spent the last three years as a Lecturer at University College Dublin.

His clinical interests include fracture management, osteoarthritis and the development of an evidence base for the rehabilitation of dogs following orthopaedic and neurological disease. John is a member of the annual BSAVA Congress Programme Committee.



## Gavin Paterson joins Easter Bush Pathology

**Gavin Paterson has joined the Dick Vet as Senior Lecturer in Molecular and Applied Microbiology.**

He studied Medical Microbiology at the University of Edinburgh before completing a PhD at the University of Glasgow. Postdoctoral research on various human and veterinary bacterial pathogens followed at the Universities of Glasgow, Texas, Oxford and Cambridge.

At the Dick Vet he will be continuing his research, while introducing new molecular diagnostics to Easter Bush Pathology.



## Farm Animal welcomes Rob Kelly

**Rob has joined the Dick Vet as a Lecturer in Farm Animal Practice.**

With a background in mixed animal practice in the UK, Rob has been involved with various clinical, research and knowledge exchange livestock projects in Latin America, North and sub-Saharan Africa. A Fellow of the Higher Education Academy, he recently completed a PhD in tropical epidemiology, part-time with The Roslin Institute, conducting fieldwork investigating infectious and zoonotic diseases in cattle in Cameroon.

## Biodiversity's in the Genes – Conservation Genetics comes to the Dick Vet

**The arrival of Dr Rob Ogden as Head of Conservation Genetics at the Dick Vet has allowed the school to complement its existing conservation medicine activities by expanding into the world of wildlife DNA analysis.**

The development of a conservation genetics laboratory will form part of a broader new initiative based at the Dick Vet, known as Edinburgh Conservation Science (ECOS).

Rob has 15 years' experience in applying genetic analysis to wildlife conservation and law enforcement, working in industry, academia and NGO sectors before coming to the University of Edinburgh. This varied background

has included time as a visiting scientist at Kyoto University in Japan and the role of Director of Conservation at the Royal Zoological Society of Scotland, as well as co-founding a number of conservation-focused SME companies.

He is the current President of the Society for Wildlife Forensic Science and has been appointed to support the scientific work of Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) as one of eight new members joining SNH's Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) and Expert Panel.

The development of a new conservation genetics laboratory at The Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies has been generously supported by the Robert O Curle Trust.



Dr Rob Ogden

### Oncology team welcomes Magdalena Parys

Magdalena has joined the Riddell-Swan Veterinary Cancer Centre at the Dick Vet. She received her Doctor of Veterinary Medicine at University of Warmia and Mazury, Poland in 2010. Dr Parys completed a fellowship and internship at the Centre for Comparative Oncology, Michigan State University in US from 2010-2012. Afterwards, she undertook a medical oncology specialty internship at the University of Guelph in Canada. Magdalena finished up with a combined radiation oncology residency and Masters Programme at Purdue University from 2013-2016. She has a special interest in advancing radiotherapy technologies, multimodal approaches and palliative care for veterinary cancer patients.



Dr Magdalena Parys

### Farm Animal Practice welcomes Paul Wood



Paul Wood

**The Dick Vet's Farm Animal Practice has welcomed Paul Wood as a Lecturer and Principal Clinician.**

Paul has a wealth of experience in farm animal medicine, having worked at both the RVC and University of Cambridge. He also has a strong background in teaching and was heavily involved in all aspects of the RVC curriculum during his time there. In 2012 he received the Jim Bee Educators Award for his commitment to the student learning experience.

Paul's background includes a brief foray into wild animal health and conservation medicine. He has also worked as an Area Veterinary Manager in the pharmaceutical industry at Pfizer Animal Health.

### Liz Baggs joins the Global Academy

**Professor Liz Baggs has joined the Global Academy of Agriculture and Food Security as Deputy Director.**

Prior to this Professor Baggs held the Established Chair of Soil Science at the University of Aberdeen, and was Head of the School of Biological Sciences for the last five years. She is a soil biogeochemist, and develops and applies stable isotope approaches to investigate soil processes and plant-soil-microbe interactions.

She is currently Vice President of the British Society of Soil Science, and is a member of NERC and BBSRC training and strategy advisory boards.

Professor Baggs has a degree in Physical Geography from the University of Bristol, a MSc in Agronomy from the University of Nottingham and a PhD in soil science from the University of Edinburgh in 1997. She then took up a lectureship at Wye College, University of London, and a BBSRC Wain Research Fellowship at Imperial College London, before moving to Aberdeen on a NERC Advanced Fellowship in 2004.



Professor Liz Baggs

# Chancellor's Award recognises teaching excellence

**Dr Jessie Paterson has received the Chancellor's Award for Teaching for her innovative learning methods, in particular her work on our pioneering peer learning scheme.**

Jessie joined the Vet School four years ago as a Lecturer in Student Learning. In addition to teaching professional skills, she has been instrumental in improving our student support systems.

In 2014, she launched the VetPALS initiative to help students transition into vet school life. The scheme sees senior year students mentor their young peers on specific topics to help them adapt to university study.

They cover topics such as how to take notes in lectures, writing essays and lab book reports, revision techniques and how to prepare for exams.

The initiative received an Impact Award for Best Peer Assisted Learning Scheme from the University's Student Association EUSA in 2016.

Jessie Paterson said: "The VetPALS scheme is something I am very proud of. Its success is due to an amazing group of students – their enthusiasm and willingness to give are my inspiration. I am only too happy to facilitate and see them grow, and in turn to see the scheme become something I never imagined could be so successful.

Jessie is also the lead instructor on our popular free online course "EDIVET: Do you have what it takes to be a veterinarian?", which she helped launch.



Jessie received her award from Lord Provost The Rt Hon Donald Wilson at a Dinner at The Palace of Holyrood House.

Thousands of learners from all over the world have taken part in the course, which offers a taste of what it is like to study veterinary medicine.

Now, Jessie has been honoured with a Chancellor's Award for her role in these innovative learning initiatives.

Professor Susan Rhind, Director of Veterinary Teaching, said: "We are delighted that Jessie's achievements have been recognised with this honour. It is a well-deserved testament to her tremendous creativity and personal dedication to teaching and learning."

The Chancellor's Teaching Award specifically honours a colleague who has enhanced the teaching reputation of the University, through a significant contribution to improving or invigorating student learning at any level.

“  
The VetPALS initiative sees senior year students mentor their young peers on specific topics to help them adapt to university study.



Dr Jessie Paterson is pictured with the VetPALS leaders.

# Animal Welfare Masters programme wins innovation accolade

The on-campus and Online Masters in Animal Welfare at The University of Edinburgh and SRUC has been recognised with the award for 'Innovative Developments in Animal Welfare 2017' by the British Society of Animal Science (BSAS) and the RSPCA.



The award recognises the provision of Postgraduate Animal Behaviour and Welfare education for more than 25 years and also highlights their role in increasing accessibility to the subject of animal welfare through the provision of online education.

During this time more than 600 students have graduated from these Masters programmes and these graduates have subsequently contributed to the progression of applied animal welfare through positions within Research, Education, Government, Non-Governmental Organisations and Industry.

Pictured with their award and certificates are Dr Tamsin Coombs, Dr Susan Jarvis and Dr Fritha Langford.

## Staff celebrate awards and qualifications successes

Our staff regularly receive awards and specialist qualifications. Here are some of the most recent successes. Congratulations to:

**Maciej Parys**, who received the 2016 AVMA/AVMF Young Investigator Award, as well as the 2017 ABCD & Merial Young Scientist Award.

**Andrew Gardiner**, who was nominated for the 2017 CEVA Animal Welfare Chris Laurence Vet of the Year Award.

**Tess Fordham**, who was nominated for the Petplan Vet of the Year 2017, also completing the Certificate of Advanced Veterinary Practice.

**Alex Seguino**, who became an RCVS Specialist in Veterinary Public Health in March 2017, also being awarded a Diploma from the European College of Veterinary Public Health (Food Science) in September 2016 – one of only two people in the UK to hold this award.

**Ana Marques**, who completed the Fellowship of the Higher Education Academy in March 2017.

**Spela Bavcar**, who has qualified as a European Specialist in Small Animal Oncology (Diplomate ECVIM-CA (Oncology)).

**Magda Parys**, who passed her Diploma exams in Veterinary Radiation Oncology.

**Victoria Macklin**, for obtaining her BSAVA postgraduate certificate in Small Animal Ophthalmology – with a distinction in her final exam.

**Annelies Willems, Jenny Cartwright, Scott Kilpatrick and Helen Titmarsh**, who all passed their certifying European Internal Medicine exams to become ECVIM Diplomats.

**Rachel Blake** (Cardiopulmonary), **Juan-Carlos Serra** (Oncology) and **Marisa Ferreira** (Internal Medicine) who passed their general examinations.

**Erin Williams**, who completed a Postgraduate Diploma in Veterinary Education.

**Donald Yool and Linda Morrison**, who have been awarded a Senior Fellowship of the Higher Education Academy.

**Gary Entrican, Pauline Jamieson, Ana Marques, Mary McCulloch and Kirsty Ireland**, who have been awarded a Fellowship of the Higher Education Academy.

**Laura Glendinning, Sonsiray Alvarez and Carol Daniel**, who have been awarded an Associate Fellowship of the Higher Education Academy.

# Celebrating Dolly's legacy

**Twenty years after the birth of Dolly the sheep, the legacy of the world's most famous ruminant has been celebrated at a series of events.**

A team from The Roslin Institute put together a programme of activities throughout the year including a public lecture, scientific symposium, an appearance at Edinburgh's Fringe Festival and a tea party in Roslin village.

The events offered an opportunity to reflect on how Dolly – and the research leading up to her birth – opened up previously unimaginable possibilities in biology and medicine.

Talks at the symposium showcased the amazing progress that has been made in the engineering of livestock animals using genome editors since Dolly's birth.

Experts also highlighted the advances in stem cell research that have led to the first clinical trials for human diseases.

Nobel Laureate Professor Shinya Yamanka gave a plenary lecture. He spoke about how Dolly had inspired him as an early career researcher.

In addition to the events, Dolly provided the theme for our stand at the Royal Highland Show. Visitors learned about our current sheep research including work on lung microbes, brain disease, reproduction and sheep genetics.

Dolly made several appearances at the Midlothian Science Festival,

with a team of researchers delivering our DNA, Dolly and You workshop in three local primary schools.

We also launched the Dolly Memories project, where people from around the world were invited to share their recollections of Dolly's unveiling.

The day of the anniversary was marked with a tea party in Roslin village and an almost life like Dolly-shaped cake. Roslin staff members past and present joined local residents to reflect on the extraordinary scientific advance that was achieved amidst their small rural community.

As the first animal ever to be cloned from an adult animal cell, Dolly's birth proved that cells from anywhere in the body could be made to behave like a newly fertilised egg – something that scientists previously thought was impossible.

This paved the way for researchers to develop methods of producing stem cells from adult cells, offering hope of therapies for a wide-range of diseases. It also sparked intense public debate about the ethics of cloning.

Twenty years on, it's clear that Dolly continues to capture people's hearts and imagination all around the world.

## Bird migration routes key to spread of avian flu

**Migrating birds help to spread deadly strains of avian flu around the world, research has found.**

Monitoring the routes of wild birds could help to provide early warning of potential bird flu outbreaks, the team says.

Researchers investigated how a subtype of bird flu called H5N8 spread around the world following outbreaks in South Korea that began in early 2014.

The team – led by Dr Samantha Lycett at The Roslin Institute – analysed migration patterns of wild birds that were found to be infected with the H5N8 virus. They then compared the genetic code of viruses isolated from infected birds collected from 16 different countries.

Their findings reveal that H5N8 was most likely carried by long-distance flights of infected migrating wild birds from Asia to Europe and North America via their breeding grounds in the Arctic.

The researchers say their findings reinforce the importance of maintaining strict exclusion areas around poultry farms to keep wild birds out.

Greater surveillance of wild birds at known breeding areas could help to provide early warning of threats of specific flu virus strains to birds and people, they add.

Some strains of bird flu viruses are highly lethal in birds they infect and can kill up to 100 per cent of the birds they infect within a few days. In rare cases, the viruses can also infect people and cause life-threatening illness.

The study was conducted by the Global Consortium for H5N8 and Related Influenza Viruses and involved scientists from 32 institutions worldwide.



Professor Sir Ian Wilmut pictured at a Dolly20 celebration event with symposium participants.



## The International Veterinary Vaccinology Network

The International Veterinary Vaccinology Network (IVVN) has been awarded £2.1 million by the Medical Research Council and the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council to facilitate the formation of new partnerships that will contribute to the development of vaccines against livestock diseases that have major impacts on the health and productivity of animals in low-and-middle income countries (LMICs).

The IVVN will facilitate collaborations between scientists, industrial partners and others from both the UK and

LMICs across the broad range of disciplines that can contribute to vaccine development by funding scientific meetings, workshops, laboratory exchanges and supporting 'pump-priming' projects.

Around 20 industrial and academic partners are already part of the Network. New members who have a scientific contribution to make or an interest in the aims of the Network are always welcome. For further details please contact Dr Timothy Connelley, [timothy.connelley@ed.ac.uk](mailto:timothy.connelley@ed.ac.uk)

## Pig study tackles costly disease



**Pigs that are potentially resilient to Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome (PRRS) have been produced using advanced genetic techniques.**

Early tests have revealed that cells from the pigs are completely resistant to infection with two major subtypes of the virus that cause the disease.

The animals are otherwise healthy and the change – introduced using gene-editing technology – should not affect their ability to fight off other infections, the researchers say. The study was led by Dr Christine Burkard

and Professor Alan Archibald from The Roslin Institute, who worked with experts from US biotech company Genus on the project.

PRRS causes severe breathing problems in young pigs and breeding failures in pregnant females. Vaccines have mostly failed to stop the spread of the virus, which continues to evolve rapidly and is endemic in most pig producing countries. In Europe alone, the disease is estimated to cost the pig industry more than €1.5 billion each year.

## Dog study hints at why tails lose their wag

**A nationwide canine health survey has shed light on a painful condition that affects dogs' tails.**

The research offers clues to potential causes of limber tail – an illness that mostly affects larger working dog breeds such as Labrador Retrievers.

The Dick Vet team, led by Dr Carys Pugh, say their findings are the first step towards preventing the distressing condition, which causes dogs' tails to become limp and painful.

Limber tail symptoms usually resolve within a few days or weeks so many cases are not reported to vets. The study – which is part of the Dogslife project – offers the first large-scale investigation of the ailment.

Most dogs in the study were pets but those affected by limber tail were more likely to be working dogs.

Swimming was thought to be a risk factor but the study found not all of the affected dogs had been swimming before symptoms set in.

Geographical location may be important, as the team found that dogs with the condition were more likely to live in northern areas. They say this fits with anecdotal reports that limber tail is associated with exposure to the cold.

Genetics may also be at play, as dogs that suffered limber tail were more likely to be related to each other than those that were not affected.

Further studies will help to identify genes associated with the condition, which could one day help breeders to identify animals that are likely to be affected. Over time, the team hopes this could help to reduce the prevalence of the condition.

## Genome editing and the future of farming



The one day event brought together experts from academia, industry and regulatory bodies.

### Leaders in the field of livestock genetics gathered at The Roslin Institute to discuss the future of farming and the implications of genome engineering at a one day event.

The event highlighted how new genetic techniques are improving our understanding of biological processes and genetic conditions, leading to new treatment options and disease prevention methods.

Using these techniques to improve crops and livestock has the potential to make a significant contribution to addressing the pressing challenge of global food security.

The event brought together experts from academia, industry and regulatory bodies to discuss the emerging challenges and opportunities in the field.

Their goal was to help inform future policy decisions that ensure the potential socio-economic benefits of this research can be achieved.

## Egg-free chickens produced to save rare breeds

### Hens that do not produce their own chicks have been developed for use as surrogates to lay eggs from rare breeds.

The advance – using gene-editing techniques – could help to boost breeding of endangered birds, as well as improving production of commercial hens, researchers say.

A team led by Dr Mike McGrew at The Roslin Institute used a genetic tool called TALEN to delete a section of chicken DNA. Hens with the genetic modification were unable to produce their own eggs but were otherwise healthy, the team found.

Specialised cells from other bird breeds could be implanted into the surrogates so that the hens produce eggs containing genetic information from the other birds instead, the researchers say.

The surrogate chickens are the first gene-edited birds to be produced in Europe.



## Research could pave the way for 'low-emission cattle'

### A Scottish study that potentially paves the way for the breeding of low-emission livestock has won an internationally respected research prize.

The study, the result of a collaboration involving Scotland's Rural College, The Roslin Institute and The University of Aberdeen, identified a genetic link between host animals, the microbial community in their digestive tract and the methane that they produce. The findings could ultimately help farmers respond to the growing global demand for meat, while minimising the associated environmental impact.

The results were reported in the international research journal PLOS Genetics and won the journal's 2017 annual prize for outstanding research.

Researchers have for some time discussed the possibility of breeding cattle that generate less methane but it was not known to what extent the cattle genome would influence the make-up of gut microbes. In the winning study, the researchers explored the interactions between an animal's genetic background, its diet and the composition of its microbial community. They identified microbial community profiles that can be used to recognise cattle that use their feed more efficiently while also emitting less methane.



We employed a relatively new technique called metagenomics, which involves analysing the genetic composition of an entire organism including the microbes that exist within it.

**Professor Mick Watson**  
The Roslin Institute

# Gold Award for Rabbit and Exotics Practice

**The Dick Vet Rabbit and Exotics Practice has received a Gold Award for Rabbit Veterinary Care.**



Jenna Richardson from the Rabbit and Exotics Practice with two veterinary students.

The Practice is one of only four centres in the UK to receive the endorsement from the Rabbit Welfare Association and Fund.

It recognises exceptional standards of rabbit veterinary care and is the highest accreditation bestowed by the RWAFF.

The Practice provides first opinion and referral treatment for exotic animals, as well as training the School's students. Members of the team include several specialists, who offer expert care and advice.

Kevin Eatwell, Senior Lecturer, Dick Vet Rabbit and Exotics Practice, said: "We are delighted that the dedication of our team has been recognised with this award. The passion of our owners for their pets and their continued support in enabling the students to learn about these amazing creatures, allows us to pass knowledge and skills on to the next generation of vets, which has a huge benefit in advancing the veterinary care of rabbits worldwide."

## Hayley wins the Bruce Vivash Jones Award 2017

Hayley Walters has been awarded the Bruce Vivash Jones Veterinary Nurse Award for 2017. The award is presented annually for outstanding contributions to the advancement of small animal veterinary nursing worldwide. Hayley is a Welfare and Anaesthesia Veterinary Nurse in The Jeanne Marchig International Centre for Animal Welfare Education.



# Lights, camera, action! Behind the scenes in our Emergency and Critical Care service

**Human Emergency Medicine and Intensive Care are perennial favourites of TV drama and documentary writers.**

Here, doctors are working at the cutting edge of our understanding of physiology, resuscitating sometimes from death itself. In veterinary Emergency and Critical Care (ECC) we have not quite reached the big screen, but in a humbler way we can replicate an extraordinary amount of what is done in human medicine. At the Hospital for Small Animals, The Emergency and Critical Care team is led by Dr Emily Thomas.

ECC is one of the fastest developing fields in veterinary medicine. Traditionally, it has not been taught as a separate discipline within UK veterinary schools so we are less aware of the extent of care that can be offered.

For example, when an emergency patient arrives at the Hospital for Small Animals, they are triaged immediately and, if deemed unstable, a team of ECC vets and nurses will place an intravenous catheter, run blood work, and perform bedside imaging. This means that appropriate stabilisation can typically be started within less than five minutes after arrival, often before the patient is formally admitted. As in human medicine, this rapid approach can save minutes and, therefore, lives, in the most critical patients.

In our Intensive Care Unit, the most ill patients are nursed in a paediatric hospital cot. Constant monitoring may include invasive blood pressure, ECG, temperature, pulse oximetry, frequent bedside imaging, urine output, and, if intubated, end tidal CO<sub>2</sub>. Patients with prolonged anorexia can be supported with parenteral or enteral nutrition (or both). Placement of central lines facilitates the administration of numerous continuous rate infusions, enabling us to maintain tight control over analgesia, fluid balance and blood pressure. More advanced interventions may include mechanical ventilation. As in human medicine, our goal in these patients is to provide support for every body system to keep the patient alive until the primary disease process has resolved.

By definition, in this population of patients, not every case can survive.



Emergency and Critical Care is one of the fastest developing fields in veterinary medicine.

One of the key differences from human ECC is that vets have the privilege of being able to perform euthanasia. Just because we can prolong life, does not mean we should always do this. Ethical consideration is a central tenet in our ICU and is always discussed with the client.

This new and exciting field of veterinary medicine provides an extra layer of care that can be offered to your clients and their pets. Over the coming year we will be expanding our team and the advanced modalities we can offer.

## Countryfile focus on farm vet safety

**Our work to train students about the occupational hazards of working with farm animals was profiled on BBC's Countryfile.**

Alex Corbishley spoke about the health and safety risks of working with large animals and how we're training our students to mitigate their risk of injury.

The crew visited SRUC's Easter Howgate Beef Unit with a group of final year students for a live demonstration of their state of the art cattle handling system.

Vets on the farm are at risk of injury from being crushed, kicked, butted or gored by the animals in their care. A recent survey found that more than half of farm vets were injured at work during a 12-month period.

Alex Corbishley, Lecturer in Farm Animal Practice, said: "We're training our students in proper handling techniques and use of specialised safety equipment such as crush gates, so that they can minimise their risk of being injured at work."



Alex Corbishley

## Interventional radiology speeds recovery times

**Cutting-edge techniques to diagnose and treat diseases without surgery are helping to speed recovery times for sick pets at the Dick Vet.**

Our vets are using advanced diagnostic imaging methods to assess clinical problems in animals. This enables the team to deliver therapies – such as laser surgery or chemotherapy – to very precise locations in the body.

Where surgery is required, it allows them to take a minimal approach so that the impact on the animal is reduced.

The advantages are that the animals recover much faster and there are far fewer risks of complications. The approach – called interventional radiology – is helping vets to correct

incontinence issues in dogs born with faults in the tubes that connect the bladder to the kidney. The team is also using the technique for cardiac, gastrointestinal, vascular and respiratory problems.

With world class facilities based in the Hospital for Small Animals, we are one of the few centres in the UK able to offer these procedures.

Nick Bommer, a European Specialist in Veterinary Internal Medicine at the Dick Vet, said: “The introduction of our interventional radiology service has

increased the types of procedures we can perform as well as decreasing the invasive nature for many treatments. This has huge welfare benefits for the animals concerned.”

Professor Rich Mellanby, Head of Companion Animal Sciences at the Hospital for Small Animals, said: “These procedures are extremely technically challenging and we are proud to have several highly-trained members of staff on board who enable us to offer this service to clients.”



With world class facilities, we are one of the few centres in the UK able to offer these procedures.

## Smartphone app aids mission to wipe out rabies

**Rabies could be eradicated from street dogs with the help of a new smartphone app, researchers from the Dick Vet have shown.**

Teams are using the app to track free-roaming dogs that have been vaccinated against rabies around the world. Monitoring them in this way has enabled vaccination of 70 per cent of the dog population in the Indian city of Ranchi. This represents the threshold needed to minimise the risk that the disease can be passed to people. Adopting the approach more widely could help to eliminate rabies from people and animals, the researchers say.

The bespoke smartphone app – called the Mission Rabies app – was developed by Dick Vet PhD student Andy Gibson so that information about the animals vaccinated, including their exact location, can be instantly uploaded.

In areas where coverage falls below 70 per cent, catching teams are re-deployed to vaccinate more dogs until the target is achieved.

## Cat DNA collected for feline biobank

**Researchers from the Hospital for Small Animals and The Roslin Institute are setting up a biobank of cat DNA.**

The project aims to identify the genetic basis of common diseases of cats, including hyperthyroidism, chronic kidney disease, diabetes and certain types of cancer.

Findings from the study will enable researchers to develop better and less stressful tests for these conditions, leading to earlier and faster diagnosis.

This could improve quality of life for animals affected by ensuring they have access to treatment from the earliest opportunity.

The research team, Professor Danielle Gunn Moore, Professor Richard Mellanby, Dr Jeff Schoenebeck and Jenni Irving McGrath hopes their investigations will also shed light on the mechanisms of these diseases, helping them to develop new and improved therapies. Owners are being invited to contribute leftover blood from samples taken from their cats during routine care. These will be analysed alongside the animals' health records for comparison.

# Major donation marks a lifetime of loyalty

**Research at the University has received almost £1.2 million from the estate of a former staff member on what would have been his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday.**

Funds from the Robert O Curle Charitable Trust will help purchase a new endoscope and related equipment for the Hospital for Small Animals.

It will also fund laboratory equipment for the Conservation Science Centre at the Dick Vet.

Human medicine will benefit from the funds too, with the establishment of a high-tech research suite for studies into eye diseases at Edinburgh Bioquarter.

Robert Ormiston Curle served as the University's Accountant from 1946 until his retirement in 1980. His sister Hester, a graduate of the University, established a charitable trust in his name after his death in 1991.

Over the years, the Trust has generously supported numerous projects in human and animal health at the University.

In recognition of his significant contributions in life and in death, the Robert O Curle Charitable



Brian Robertson, Trustee, Principal and Vice-Chancellor, Professor Sir Timothy O'Shea and Alastair Maclean, Trustee.

Trust has now been awarded the distinction of University Benefactor.

Professor Sir Timothy O'Shea, Principal and Vice-Chancellor of the University, presented the award to the charity's trustees at an event at the Easter Bush campus.

The Principal also unveiled a commemorative plaque, which has been installed in the atrium of the teaching building at the Vet School.

Professor Sir Timothy O'Shea, Principal and Vice Chancellor of the University, said: "We are delighted to honour Robert's long contribution to the University and his incredible generosity of both time and money. Along with his sister Hester, he will be remembered for his unwavering loyalty and true commitment to the University's aims for generations to come."

## Fearless fundraising secures new Ophthalmoscope for Clinical Skills Laboratory

**We're extremely grateful to the many people who fundraise for the School, often raising thousands of pounds to help us purchase new equipment, or deliver programmes to improve the welfare of animals.**

We have been able to purchase a new ophthalmoscope for the School's Clinical Skills Laboratory, providing a useful resource for student learning. Our Fundraisers included Dr Sally Argyle, the School's Director of Admissions, who has taken part in a range of fundraising activities, including raising over £500 twice, by abseiling down the David Hume tower and taking part in a firewalk, which led to this purchase.

If you would like further information about fundraising for the School or are interested in getting involved, please contact Kerry Mackay, Community Fundraising Officer on +44 (0)131 650 9221 or at: [kerry.mackay@ed.ac.uk](mailto:kerry.mackay@ed.ac.uk)



Dr Sally Argyle (left) and her intrepid fundraisers were glad to be back on the ground after their abseil adventure!

## Advanced critical care scholarships for veterinary nurses

Three veterinary nurses in the Hospital for Small Animals have been awarded a scholarship for advanced training in emergency and critical care.



Veterinary nurses Lindsey Ashburner, Emily Gorman and Martyna Godniak in the Hospital for Small Animals have been awarded a scholarship for advanced training in emergency and critical care, supported by the Sir Hamish McTavish Memorial Fund.

The scholarship is supported by the Sir Hamish McTavish Memorial Fund, which will cover the costs of training and eventual certification as a Veterinary Technician Specialist (Emergency and Critical Care).

At present, there are fewer than ten veterinary nurses with this American qualification in the whole of the UK, and there is no equivalent British qualification. To our knowledge, we are the first hospital in the world to provide a formal programme to help nurses prepare for the exam, which can only be taken in the US where the awarding body is based. Our programme consists of structured in-house training, external conference attendance, close mentorship, and shadowing at external organizations including an Intensive Care Unit for people.

Nurses from the programme will have opportunities to share their

training with others outside of the Hospital, with a view to improving critical care nursing across the UK.

The Sir Hamish McTavish Memorial Fund was set up by Ken and Emilia Cook from Northumberland in memory of Sir Hamish, their beloved West Highland White Terrier. The charity campaigns to improve veterinary care for animals everywhere.

Ken Cook, Co-founder of the Sir Hamish McTavish Memorial Fund, said: "We are delighted to be associated with this remarkable milestone in the history of the University of Edinburgh's Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies' Training Programmes. We are certainly aware of the enormous value to be gained in the field of Veterinary, Emergency and Critical Care in the UK and overseas and the need for such a speciality."



Ken and Emilia Cook with Emily Thomas (far left), Lecturer in Emergency and Critical Care.

“We are all very excited about this innovative project, which will help us build both our nursing team and the future of critical care nursing within the UK.”

**Emily Thomas**  
Lecturer in Emergency and Critical Care

# Inaugural One Health Student conference in Edinburgh

**The Edinburgh One Health Society hosted the Inaugural National Students' One Health Conference in November. The event was led by Rosie Herrington, Helen Stirling, Gus Cassie and Siônyn Ford.**

The One Health principle is an all-inclusive multidisciplinary approach to global health problems, in doing so improving human, animal and environmental health. One Health uses the expertise of professionals across medicine, veterinary, nursing, anthropology, economics, biology, earth and climate science, military and global health organisations.

The conference's main aim was to inspire a new generation of professionals from across these areas to engage in One Health research - and open communication between disciplines, breaking down traditional barriers. The 100 delegates came from across many institutions including London, Dublin, Vienna, Nottingham,

Liverpool, Bristol, Surrey at both an undergraduate and postgraduate level across a wide range of studies such as Veterinary, Medical Sciences, Midwifery, Agricultural Sciences and Biology.

Speakers from around the UK – with one speaker travelling from Uganda – presented on a range of topics including: Conservation + One Health, Zika Virus, Economics of Poverty, Antimicrobial Resistance and many more.

The conference was hosted at the Easter Bush Campus over the weekend. During the day there were lectures and workshops, and on the Saturday evening, delegates enjoyed a drinks reception, formal dinner and ceilidh in the Vet School.

The wide-ranging talks were both enjoyable and inspiring for those attending - and the success of the weekend means that the conference will continue next year – at another UK vet school.



The Vet School Atrium formed the perfect backdrop for the conference dinner.

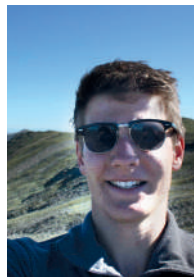
Cormac Everard, 4<sup>th</sup> Year Medicine student and Auditor of the One Health Society, University College Dublin, said: "I was incredibly impressed by the One Health Conference in Edinburgh. The organising committee had clearly put in a huge amount of work, from the travel grants we had to facilitate the trip, to the booklets detailing the timetable of events to the calibre of the speakers delivering the talks and workshops".



Dr Alain Kohl of the University of Glasgow is pictured presenting on the Zika Virus.



Rosie Herrington



Gus Cassie



Siônyn Ford



Helen Stirling

## Presentation success for Olivia

**Dick Vet student, Olivia Saunders, was triumphant at this year's MSD Animal Health Connect Bursary Awards where she was awarded second place for her presentation entitled 'Network analysis of multiple brain morphometric features in dogs to isolate key driving factors for syringomyelia'.**

The MSD Animal Health Connect Bursaries are designed to give veterinary students the opportunity to undertake their own research projects and to provide a better

understanding of the work carried out by MSD's research and development facilities in the UK.

The Awards ceremony was attended by representatives from each of the UK vet schools (including our own Dr Darren Shaw) and key industry personnel. Olivia's presentation was a summary of her Student Research Component project, supervised by Nina Rzechorzek, in collaboration with Tom Freeman and Tobias Schwarz.





# Dick Vet Behaviour and Nutrition Conference

**The Inaugural Dick Vet Behaviour and Nutrition Conference was held on Saturday, 6<sup>th</sup> May.**

The R(D)SVS Nutrition Society and the Dick Vet Animal Behaviour Society joined together to create the event, recognising the need to support these off-neglected topics in veterinary medicine.

The day was co-organised by students Bryanna Mariel Andrews of the R(D)SVS Nutrition Society and Benjamin Cross of the Dick Vet Animal Behaviour Society with support from Shuchorita Bose Epik and Helen Garber. Thirty-three people including vet students, vet nurses, MSc students, and staff attended the day. The day's programme hosted a range of talks and practical sessions on behaviour and nutrition topics.

The day began with Professor Alistair Lawrence of SRUC, who spoke about Positive Animal Welfare. Professor Daniëlle Gunn-Moore discussed behavioural and nutritional needs in her talk about Feline and Canine Cognitive Dysfunction. Lee Danks of Royal Canin presented an engaging practical session on reading pet food nutrition labels and the regulations surrounding pet food labelling. The Animal Behaviour Society hosted a practical on food toys and puzzles as enrichment for all animals. Attendees had the opportunity to try their hand at making their own food toys using crafting and recycled materials. The day finished with a talk by Dr Alastair Macrae on bovine nutrition and how best to monitor their nutrition and behaviour to assess their health.

There was also a raffle with opportunities to win textbooks of Canine and Feline Clinical Nutrition, the BSAVA Manual of Canine and Feline Behavioural Medicine, Clinical Medicine of the Dog and Cat, and a free ticket to the Nutrition Society's annual trip to Hesselhead Wildlife Rescue.

The day was very well received by all attendees. The Nutrition Society and the Animal Behaviour Society are delighted by the attendance and the warm reception the event received. It is planned to continue the conference as an annual event which will continue to grow in the coming years. Both societies would like to extend a big thank you to the Dick Vet for their support of students and societies, to all of the guest speakers who so generously gave up their time on a Saturday, and to all the attendees who helped make the event such a success!



Students Benjamin Cross and Bryanna Mariel Andrews ready for registration at the Behaviour and Nutrition Conference.

## Farm Health Awards Success for Ellen and Olivia

**Congratulations to Dick Vet students Ellen Smith and Olivia Dower-Tylee who were winner and runner up at the Royal Association of British Dairy Farmers (RABDF) Farm Health Management Awards 2017.**

Now in its tenth year, this annual competition was open to agriculture and veterinary students and required applicants to write a 1,500 word essay on proactive farm health

management – a key element of the Defra/industry Animal Health and Welfare Strategy – and the benefits it brings to animal health and welfare and farm business profitability.

The essays were judged by a panel featuring RABDF Council member and Gelli Aur College farm manager, John Owen; veterinary surgeon Oli Hodgkinson, and John Sumner, dairy consultant and Award chairman.



Ellen Smith



Olivia Dower-Tylee

# Research Student Day



L-R: Luise Seeker, Ailbhe Brazel, Jessica Powell, Laura Glendinning, Imogen Johnston-Menzies, Professor Colin Farquharson, Yennifer Cortes Araya, Amanda Warr, Violeta Trejo Reveles, Tom Marchant, Dadakhalandar Doddamani, Professor Bruce Whitelaw, Maria Contreras Garcia.

**The annual Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies Research Student Day took place on 10<sup>th</sup> May and brought together postgraduate students from The Roslin Institute, SRUC, the Moredun Research Institute, as well as the Vet School.**

The students' presentations covered the diverse range of research within the School and the wider Easter Bush Research Consortium. Final year PhD students gave short talks summarising the most exciting aspects of their research projects. First, second and third year PhD students, along with MSc by research, MVetSci students and Clinical Scholars presented posters. Overall, 121 students took part.

The day was an outstanding success, highlighting the strength of the research community and the inclusive atmosphere across the Campus. It showcased the contribution that our students make to the School's research output and provided a snapshot of their research interests to both staff and students. The high quality of the presentations posed a hard task for the various session judges, all of whom commented on the difficulty of choosing winners, given the excellent standard at all levels. Professor David Argyle and Professor Bruce Whitelaw congratulated the students on the high quality of their work and presented the certificates and prizes to the winners.

## Research Student Day Prizes

### First year poster winner:

Jessica Powell

### First year poster runners up:

Imogen Johnston-Menzies and Yennifer Cortes

### Second year poster winner:

Dadakhalandar Doddamani

### Second year poster runners up:

Maria Garcia and Stefan Szymkowiak

### Third year poster winner:

Amanda Warr

### Third year poster runner up:

Tom Marchant

### MSc poster winner:

Violeta Trejo Reveles

### Clinical Scholar poster winner:

Jennifer Cartwright

### Oral presentation winner:

Laura Glendinning

### Oral presentation runners up:

Luise Seeker and Ailbhe Brazel

## Charnock Bradley Lecture 2017

**Research Student Day was followed by The Charnock Bradley Lecture.**

The Lecture was presented by Professor Appolinaire Dijkeng, Director of the Centre for Tropical Livestock Genetics and Health (CTLGH), who gave an inspiring Lecture entitled: "Science-based opportunities for small scale farmers." The Charnock Bradley Lecture is named in honour of Professor Orlando Charnock Bradley FRSE (1871 – 1937) who, in 1911, became principal of what is now The Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies.

Professor Charnock Bradley was a British veterinarian and was first President of the National Veterinary Medical Association. He is described as one of the foremost veterinarians of the 20th century.



Professor Appolinaire Dijkeng and Professor David Argyle.

## Vet School Donates for the Homeless



The Vet School students who gathered and distributed supplies for vulnerably housed people and their pets.

**In December Vet School students and staff came together under the leadership of final-year student Jamie-Leigh Thompson to gather backpacks full of supplies for the underprivileged and their animals.**

The backpacks, donated by Royal Canin, were filled with warm winter clothes, notebooks, first aid items, basic toiletries, food, dog supplies and a Christmas card.

These were then delivered to the All4Paws veterinary clinic, a monthly-run initiative for vulnerably housed people and their pets, and various social supper soup kitchens hosted by local cafés.

Jamie-Leigh said: "I just wanted to try something new. The enthusiasm of the school and generosity completely astonished me."

A total of 62 backpacks were collected for a range for males, females and dogs.

"I really feel like we made a difference to someone's Christmas," Jamie-Leigh added. "I'm hoping it continues year on year."

Professor Susan Rhind, Director of Veterinary Teaching applauded the students' initiative, saying:

"This is a tremendous student-led project to support those less fortunate and their pets. We are proud of their inspiring kindness and pro-activity which was supported by staff - this is an excellent example of the entire Vet School community coming together to think of others during the festive period."

## Student research set to improve drug dose estimates

**Vets should take into account body shape when calculating drug doses for dogs, a student research project suggests.**

Estimates based on the dog's body surface area alone could result in animals being given the wrong dose and potentially expose them to toxic effects, the study found.

Dogs with extreme body shapes – such as long backs or short legs – may be particularly at risk, according to the findings.

The research was carried out by fourth year student Sophie Burdett thanks to a vacation scholarship from the Carnegie Trust.

Sophie used full-body CT scans to directly measure body surface area of a variety of dog breeds. She also employed 3D scanning of proportional models to allow calculation of the likely surface area for a full-size animal of that shape.

The results suggest that standard calculations used to estimate body surface area are likely to result in over- or under-dosing of drugs, depending on individual body shape.

Supervising researcher Dr Thalia Blacking said: "We hope to expand upon this pilot data to generate improved formulae for the estimation of BSA in clinical situations – for example, to take account of species and body shape – to aid in the accurate dosing of drugs and reduce the risks of toxicity to patients."



## Varsity triumph for rugby stars!

Six Dick Vet rugby players represented The University of Edinburgh against The University of St Andrews in the world's oldest varsity rugby match in September.

Liusaidh McMaster (V), Nicola Howat (III), Sally Stott (III), and Rachel Law (II) played for the Women's team, and Josh Alcock (V) and Dave O'Sullivan (III) for the men.

In front of a 10,226 strong crowd, the BT Murrayfield stadium held no fear for our Dick Vet athletes – Edinburgh won both games. The Women's 1st XV recorded a 53-5 victory and the Men's 1st XV ran out 31-7 winners.

A fantastic achievement by all players and coaching staff!

# Vet students make their mark in teaching

**Four Dick Vet students with exceptional teaching potential have been honoured by a leading higher education body.**



Dr Neil Hudson (left) and students on a visit to Liberton High School with staff dog, Juno.

Four Dick Vet students have been honoured by a leading higher education body. The students are thought to be the first undergraduate vet students in the UK to receive an Associate Fellowship from the Higher Education Academy (AFHEA).

Lauren Krueger, who recently graduated, was the first to receive the Associate Fellowship. She is thought to be the first undergraduate in Scotland in any field to receive this prestigious award and she was formally congratulated on her achievement by a cross party-supported motion raised in the Scottish Parliament.

Since Lauren's success, three more students, who graduated in the summer, have also been recognised – Fred Gromalak, Sarah Chinnery and Jo Lawrence.

The Associate Fellowship is normally awarded to academics further on in their careers. It is awarded to recognise contributions to education and learning.

All of the students had been working towards the Dick Vet Undergraduate Certificate in Veterinary Medical Education.

The optional three-year programme, which runs parallel to their main degree programme, is the first in the UK to formally champion vet students as teachers. Some 107 students are

enrolled in the programme to date. As part of the Certificate, the students visited local schools to boost their teaching skills and inspire pupils to consider scientific careers.

Some of the visits involved bringing a staff dog called Juno into class to allow pupils to learn more about caring for canine patients.

The first cohort of 22 out of a total of 107 students currently on the programme completed their certificate in May this year and received their Certificates at the Vet School prize giving ceremony this summer. Lauren, Fred, Sarah and Jo were amongst this final year cohort.

The Vet School Team who led the students through the AFHEA process were Neil Hudson, Catriona Bell, Kirsty Hughes, Julie Dickson and Susan Rhind, with assistance from Miesbeth Knottenbelt, formerly of the UoE's Institute for Academic Development.

Speaking of her award, Lauren Krueger, AFHEA, said: "I was really pleased to receive this fellowship. I'm interested in utilising my degree in an educational or research-based capacity and the experience gained through this certificate has helped transform me into a more effective and efficient educator capable of instruction both within and outside of the veterinary profession."



We are thrilled that these students have been recognised in this way. A key responsibility of veterinary professionals is the education of students, clients and colleagues and the Certificate is a great way to formally recognise the important role that students play in teaching.

**Dr Neil Hudson**

Director of the Undergraduate Certificate in Veterinary Medical Education

# Campus runs first Business Insights course

**The Easter Bush Campus welcomed eleven school pupils from Midlothian secondary schools for a week long work experience programme, focusing on the business side of the Campus.**

The Business Insights programme is thought to be the first of its kind in Scotland, offering an integrated and holistic approach for local secondary school pupils to learn about the world of business.

Pupils from Dalkeith High School, St David's Roman Catholic High School, Lasswade High School, Beeslack High School and Newbattle Community High School were invited to apply for places on the programme, with eleven being given the opportunity to spend a week at the Campus.

The week was organised and run by Campus HR Manager, Cat Eastwood, and Marketing Communications Officer, Tom Mortimer, who were on hand at all times to mentor the pupils. Both also presented as part of the programme and offered in-depth insight into their business area.

## Working with the local community

The Easter Bush Campus is committed to providing opportunities for young people. It was awarded the Investors in Young People Silver Award in 2016, becoming the first university body in Scotland to receive this Investors in Young People accreditation at silver level. The Business Insights programme is another way in which the Campus is reaching out and engaging with the local community.

## Discovering the business world

The programme was designed to introduce high school pupils to the wide range of roles that are available to support a large organisation, such as The University of Edinburgh. It seeks to provide first-hand experience of working in a real business environment, with the young people learning directly from those who are doing the jobs.

Across the week, sessions were offered by many of the functional areas on the Campus, including Finance, Marketing and Communications, Health and Safety, Human Resources, IT, and Facilities. The pupils were also taken on tours of the many buildings on Campus, so they could directly link their learning to actual business environments.



Cat Eastwood and Tom Mortimer who led on the Business Insights project.

The pupils were also given the chance to tour one of the buildings currently under construction on the Campus, visiting the Campus Hub and Roslin Innovation Centre, with representatives from the Facilities team and McLaughlin and Harvey, who are constructing the new building.

## Widening the experience

As well as the presentations, there were sessions on team building, with tasks designed to promote critical thinking, while also having fun. The pupils carried out team tasks, which included building platforms and learning actual clinical skills in the Dick Vet's clinical skills laboratory. There

were also sessions to teach core development skills, such as writing personal statements, to assist the pupils when applying for future study or training opportunities.

The final day of the programme focussed on presenting future opportunities for study and development. The pupils received talks from The University of Edinburgh's Widening Participation team about applying to university, from Edinburgh Colleges to discuss current and future College opportunities and from representatives of Skills Development Scotland, to talk about Modern Apprenticeships.

To show what they had learned, the pupils were given time to prepare a presentation in groups. They made their presentation to the staff who had mentored them through the week and each then received a certificate to recognise their successful completion of the programme.

## Community relationships

The Easter Bush Campus offers a range of community outreach programmes, including a Science Insights programme and visits to and from schools. It also participates in events, such as Midlothian Science festival, opening its doors to the local community, to give them the chance to visit the campus and see inside many of the buildings.



The pupils were given the chance to visit the Campus Hub which is currently under construction.

## A View from the Outside

**Dr Peter Wells worked in the Animal Health industry with a range of major international companies, including Hoechst Animal Health and Novartis Animal Health Inc. Here he gives us an insight into how his time at the Dick Vet shaped his entire career.**

The idea of a career in veterinary medicine evolved from my family background. My father was a pharmacist in a country market town in Northumberland with part of his business being the supply of animal medicines and my elder brother was a farmer. Overlying this was the desire to become involved into research. This arose from meeting a pharmaceutical company representative who visited my father's pharmacy and talked about the research laboratories where new medicines were being developed.

Spending time in my holidays with the local vets and seeking their input was my first step when considering veterinary school and Edinburgh was the natural choice. Successful A-level results enabled me to enrol at the Dick Vet in September 1964 and to move to the city that came to determine the course of my life professionally and personally. I loved it then and still do.

In 1964 the Dick Vet was still thought of and referred to as a College although a faculty of the university. There was a great atmosphere of camaraderie. Freshers were welcomed and guided in a routine of hard work and play, whether on the sports field or in the Falcon Arms at the corner of West Preston Street. The path from the front door of Summerhall to this pub was well trodden especially on Saturday nights and on the days when exam results were posted on the college notice board. The Falcon was the focus for socialising, celebration and commiseration.

As we progressed through our course, we were introduced to Veterinary Pharmacology in the third year. This standard text book, which I still have, extended to a mere 170 pages with some statements that will now seem incredible. For example, "Carbon tetrachloride is the principle drug used to treat sheep affected with liver fluke followed by "the anthelmintic action may in fact be due to the liver damage produced by the drug."



Dr Peter Wells welcomes Bill Gates on a visit to Moredun at Pentlands Science Park in 2014.

Possibly because it was a time when many of these antiquated remedies were being replaced and new, safer and more effective medicines were being developed, this exciting time rekindled my interest in pursuing a research-based career. With encouragement from one of my lecturers, Peter Eyre, who was leaving the Dick in 1968 to take up a teaching appointment in Pharmacology at the Ontario Veterinary College, I set my sights on joining him to embark on post-graduate studies. After successfully navigating the final two years of my course in Edinburgh and marrying my wife Ceri, who I met in Edinburgh, this opportunity in Canada proved to be the beginning of a career in veterinary research and development spanning almost 40 years.

From hands-on research in my first few years in Canada, Edinburgh and Kenya, the nature of my work gradually changed to take on various management roles in the animal health pharmaceutical industry. The ultimate achievement of my schoolboy ambition came in the final years of my career

when I lead a global team involved in animal health product research and development. During this time I travelled extensively – sometimes too extensively – and worked with people of many nationalities.

More recently, in retirement I have had the privilege to hold the positions of Chairman of the Board of Moredun Scientific and the Global Alliance for Livestock Medicines (GALVmed). GALVmed is a global alliance that through its partners makes livestock vaccines, medicines and diagnostics available and affordable to resource-poor smallholder farmers in Africa and South Asia. GALVmed's major donor is the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and there was the chance to meet Bill Gates when he made a visit to GALVmed at Moredun's Pentlands Science Park near Edinburgh.

I am extremely fortunate to have had such an exciting career during which I met and worked with some great people. All of this is thanks to the decision to study at the Dick Vet back in 1964.

# Baron Soulsby: 23 June 1926 – 8 May 2017

**We were deeply saddened to hear of the passing of Baron Lawson Soulsby of Swaffham Prior at age 90 in May.**

A Dick Vet graduate, Lord Soulsby was a major innovator and made significant contributions to the veterinary profession and agriculture throughout his distinguished career.

Ernest Jackson "Lawson" Soulsby was made a life peer in 1990 and was the first veterinary surgeon to enter the House of Lords, serving until his retirement in 2015.

During this time, he was an esteemed expert advisor on animal welfare, science and technology, biotechnology and environmental issues. He served on the UK Government's inquiry into fox hunting with dogs.

As a member of the Select Committee on Science and Technology, he chaired enquiries on antibiotic resistance and fighting infection. He was also veterinary surgeon to Her Majesty the Queen.

A firm advocate of the concept of One Health, he was the first vet to serve as president of the Royal Society of Medicine and the Royal Institute of Public Health, and has also served as President of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS).

Lord Soulsby's research interests focused on the immunology of

parasitic infections – including parasites that can spread between animals and people. He also had a great interest in livestock development and research in developing countries.

In 2015 he was awarded the Queen's Medal – the highest honour bestowed by the RCVS – in recognition of his lifetime contribution to the profession. At the presentation he was praised for his achievements in bridging the gap between medical and veterinary science.



Lawson Soulsby while a student at the Dick Vet in 1948.

Lord Soulsby began his veterinary career at the Dick Vet. After completing his training in 1949, he served as Veterinary Officer for Edinburgh City until 1952.

He was then appointed Lecturer in Clinical Parasitology at the University of Bristol before moving to the University of Cambridge in 1954. He subsequently spent 15 years as Head of the Department of Pathobiology at the University of Pennsylvania in the US.

In 1978 he returned to the University of Cambridge as Professor of Animal Pathology and was Dean of the School of Veterinary Medicine there until 1993.

Lord Soulsby was raised on the family farm in Westmorland, now part of Cumbria, and educated at Queen Elizabeth Grammar School, Penrith.

A charity is now to be established in his name to support fellowships in One World One Health. His tireless efforts to improve the welfare of animals as both a vet and a campaigner will be an inspiration to the veterinary community for generations to come.

## The Dales Vet - A Working Life in Pictures

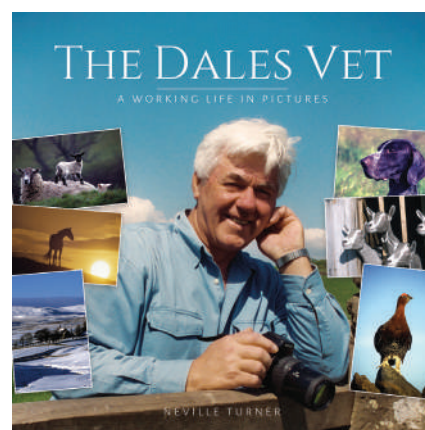
**The Dales Vet – a working life in pictures – is a collection of literary sketches illustrated by Neville Turner, a Dick Vet Graduate from 1968.**

The book contains beautiful pictures Neville's own huge library and the subjects cover life as a rural vet, but also include images of farm animals, hill farmers, wildlife rehabilitation, dales nature and culture, and dales landscape in all its glory.

It is a unique concept celebrating in pictures Neville's passions for his working life, the countryside, natural history, dales heritage, music-making, and photography and may be attractive

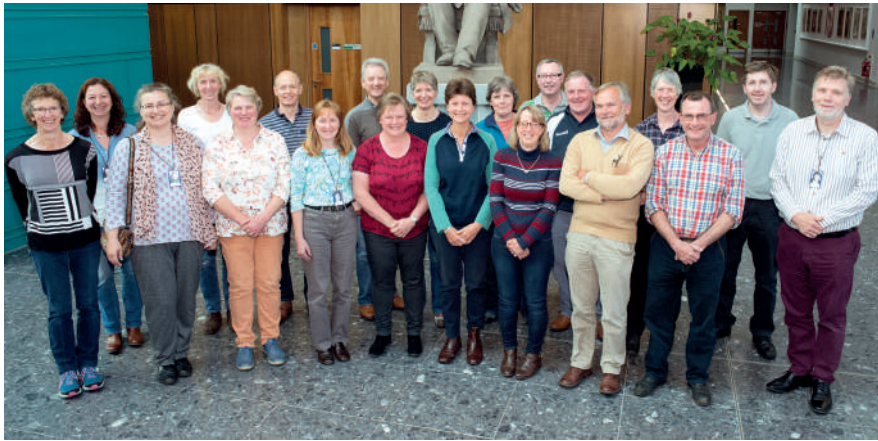
to those with an interest in animals and birds, botanists, farmers, photographers, and all who care for our rural heritage.

Following graduation from the Dick Vet in 1968, and after four years in Somerset, Neville jumped at an opportunity to return to his beloved Pennine dales when a job vacancy occurred in Barnard Castle. Carrying his camera everywhere with him resulted in a comprehensive photo library which forms the basis of this book. Neville's work has been widely used and his Red Grouse pictures were used by Saatchi and Saatchi to promote a "famous" brand of scotch whisky!



The book is published by Old Pond Publishing.

## Class of 1987



The Class of 1987 held their reunion on the weekend of 9th and 10th September. The event included a visit to Easter Bush to tour the new teaching building and learn about the latest developments in Equine and at the Hospital for Small Animals. Professor Susan Rhind welcomed the group and gave an overview on the Easter Bush Campus and the wide range of projects and new initiatives taking place. Dr Alastair Macdonald gave a history of the Dick Vet and the focal point of the weekend's festivities was a formal dinner at Pollock Halls.

## Class of 2007



The Class of 2007 visited the School as part of their Reunion weekend on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> May and were impressed to see the new facilities and developments on Campus. They also took the chance to introduce one of the next generation of vets to their Alma Mater!

## How to contact us

We depend on your support to maintain our high standards and fund new developments. You can help us to deliver the future of veterinary medicine. Here's how to contact us:

### Donations and Fundraising

Leisa Thomas 0131 650 6134  
leisa.thomas@ed.ac.uk

### Marketing and Alumni

Neil Wilson 0131 650 6261  
neil.wilson@ed.ac.uk

### Hospital for Small Animals

0131 650 7650  
HFSAreception@ed.ac.uk

### Equine Hospital

0131 650 6253  
EQH@ed.ac.uk

### Undergraduate Admissions

0131 650 6178  
vetug@ed.ac.uk

### Postgraduate Research Admissions

0131 527 4198  
vetpgresearch@ed.ac.uk

### Postgraduate Taught Admissions

0131 242 6460  
mvmpeg@ed.ac.uk

Or visit our website at:

[www.ed.ac.uk/vet](http://www.ed.ac.uk/vet)

## Dates for your diary

The Dick Vet has been running successful monthly continuing professional development (CPD) evenings for referring practitioners.

This year's free Clinical Club CPD evenings have to date included optimising the management of chronic kidney disease in cats; cardiac imaging and how to take a practical approach to pain assessment.

Upcoming events, held on Wednesdays, are as follows:

### 1<sup>st</sup> November 2017

Paola Cazzini: The blood smear whisperer – what a blood smear can tell you about your patient.

### 6<sup>th</sup> December 2017

Dr Silke Salavati: An update on canine chronic enteropathy.

More information can be found at [www.ed.ac.uk/vet/bookclinicalclub](http://www.ed.ac.uk/vet/bookclinicalclub) where bookings can be made for the events.

## Forthcoming Alumni Reunions

### 2018:

#### Class of 1968

Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2018

### 2019:

#### Class of 1969

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> – Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2019

## Alumni Events in North America and the UK

We are planning two events to provide opportunities to meet up with our Alumni – in North America and in the UK.

For Dick Vet graduates working in North America, we will be hosting an event at the VMX (formerly NAVC) conference in Orlando, Florida, in February 2018.

For UK and European-based graduates, we will be hosting an event at BSAVA Conference in Birmingham, UK in April 2018.

Further event details including dates, times and venues will be made available. In the meantime, if you are interested in attending either event, please contact Professor Brendan Corcoran

[Brendan.Corcoran@ed.ac.uk](mailto:Brendan.Corcoran@ed.ac.uk)

**Help us to keep in touch. We would like to keep in regular contact with our readers.**

If you would like us to email you details of news and events, please email your name and full address to [vet.alumni@ed.ac.uk](mailto:vet.alumni@ed.ac.uk)