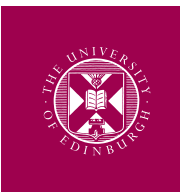


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THE ROYAL (DICK) SCHOOL OF VETERINARY STUDIES



THE NEWSLETTER FROM THE EDINBURGH VETERINARY TEACHING HOSPITALS | ISSUE 01

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WELCOME



Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to the first of our new newsletters. These short publications will come to you quarterly, to keep you up to date with what's happening here at the Dick Vet.

Our links with you, our colleagues in general practice, are fundamental to the work of our vet school. The clinical cases which you refer to us are crucial to our teaching and research remit, while your acceptance of our students for Extramural Studies continues to be a very significant part of their preparation for veterinary professional life. I cannot over-emphasise how much we value this partnership with you.

This month sees the launch of another link, which we at the Dick Vet hope will become an essential part of that partnership. The Practice Research Network will, I believe, develop the huge potential for meaningful research in your practices and be a significant step forward in the development of evidence-based veterinary clinical work.

With best regards,

Professor David Argyle
Head of School



The network will draw on the relative clinical and academic strengths of practices and the Dick Vet

PRACTICE RESEARCH NETWORK

The Dick Vet is establishing a ground-breaking Practice Research Network (PRN). In this initiative, we will work with our referring practices to identify and prioritise important research questions relating to the clinical needs of general practice.

The PRN will draw on the relative clinical and academic strengths of

general practices and the Dick Vet to develop a synergistic approach to the promotion, support and dissemination of the results of high quality research within the practice setting. The aim is to improve the evidence base for clinical veterinary practice.

Acting as a forum to discuss the needs of general practitioners, the PRN will bring together vets in practice who have

an interest in research and will develop the research capability and capacity of these vets, support their professional development and educational needs.

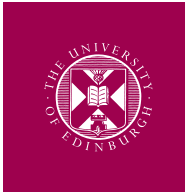
By maintaining and building upon our existing partnerships (including referrals and EMS), the PRN will foster stronger links and communication between the Dick Vet and general practitioners.

In order to develop a sustainable expert research network, we will design and develop research protocols to take key aspects of the research agenda forward but also identify relevant funding bodies and submit research funding applications to support and develop the PRN.

The PRN will help the Dick Vet to promote the dissemination and translation of research findings into practice, locally, nationally and internationally.

At this stage, we are informing practices of the PRN initiative to establish level of interest. This will be followed by an official launch of the PRN, then by the collection of basic demographic and practice data to establish a PRN database at the Dick Vet campus.

If you are interested in being part of the PRN initiative, please contact Dr Scott Pirie on Scott.Pirie@ed.ac.uk 0131 650 6253.



NEW CLINICAL HEAD FOR VETERINARY CANCER CENTRE



The network will draw on the relative clinical and academic strengths of practices and the Dick Vet

Jessica Lawrence has been appointed to lead the clinical team at the Cancer Centre at the University of Edinburgh's Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies, one of the world's leading Veterinary Cancer Centres.

The £3 million Riddell-Swan Cancer Centre provides cutting-edge treatment for animals and is the translational arm of the school's strong cancer research portfolio.

Dr Lawrence, who has completed training in both radiation and medical oncology, joins the School from the University of Georgia, where she was Assistant

Professor of Small Animal Oncology. "If you look at human medicine, radiation therapy plays a massive role as both a stand-alone treatment or in combination with other therapy," said Dr Lawrence.

"Unlike chemotherapy, radiation is targeted at specific parts of the body so

can avoid damaging healthy tissue. Our main aim, when providing treatment, is to ensure animals have the best quality of life possible. Radiotherapy, even in the sense of palliative care, also has a huge role to play in the management of chronic disease."



We are delighted to have Jessica on board. She has a vast wealth of experience and will be able to further strengthen the work of the cancer centre along with research looking at how treatments and outcomes can be improved. Her expertise will also be of immense benefit for veterinary students interested in oncology."

Professor David Argyle

The cancer centre's equipment includes a linear accelerator, similar to those used in human medicine, which can provide radiotherapy treatment to target diseased tissue. Its advanced software enables vets to draw up tailor-made treatment plans for individual animals.

Dr Lawrence assumes the role of head of veterinary clinical oncology to support Professor David Argyle.

FINAL YEAR STUDENTS' EXTERNAL ROTATION

In August 2012, in association with Inglis Vets in Cowdenbeath, Fife, we began a two-year trial of an external rotation for Final Year students, aimed at widening the student experience of general practice.

The trial is governed by a contract which places strict requirements on both the staff and the premises. It is going very well and we have now decided to undertake a procurement exercise to secure external rotations on a commercial basis from 2014.

JUNIOR VETS

The School has been back on TV with 'Junior Vets', a series of ten 30 minute episodes made for CBBC with True North Productions, which was filmed in the summer of 2012.

The programmes see a group of six young animal enthusiasts undertake a range of veterinary challenges to find out who has what it takes to become a 'Junior Vet' at the Dick Vet. The tasks give the children a chance to impress leading Vet Paul Manktelow in their quest to be named Head Vet!

'Junior Vets' also features some of our colleagues in private practice who helped film segments at their own facilities. We are grateful for their help and support.



To find out more, please go to
www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer