

Dear JCC Community,

It's over! Since our very first BVM cohort enrolled in 2017, we have been preparing for this day, the end of our accreditation assessment by two international teams – the Australasian Veterinary Boards Council and the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons.

Everyone involved in the BVM programme, no matter how peripheral, has invested so much time, energy and goodwill. Thanks to all of you for your stellar teamwork. Both the AVBC and RCVS commented to me that our staff are to be commended for their rock solid commitment to the program and our students. They were also genuinely impressed with our product – the students themselves – and enjoyed the many opportunities that they had to talk with them about their experience in the BVM programme at CityU. I am also grateful to our many partners who have provided so much support during the accreditation, including colleagues at the Veterinary Medical Centre and Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, Hong Kong Jockey Club, the AFCD, the FEHD, Zodiac Pet and Exotic Hospital and Tableland Veterinary Services.

Our College support staff received a special vote of thanks for making the accreditation teams feel welcome and for organising all the logistics behind the scenes. I am also immensely grateful for the support that the JCC has received from so many people in CityU outside of the JCC to respond quickly to urgent requests to help us get over the line.

The AVBC and the RCVS will send me draft reports within the coming weeks which will be checked for factual accuracy before being sent back to them for forwarding to the overarching accrediting committees of each of these organizations, who will make their final deliberations and return their final decision on the outcome to us by early September. As soon as we have the green light, our students will be able to graduate then register with the Veterinary Surgeons Board of Hong Kong and start practicing as veterinarians. Until then, as frustrating as it is, we need to be patient. The media has been speculating over the last few weeks about our accreditation, but like us, they also need to be patient.



Figure 1: RCVS accreditation team from left to right Dr. Michael Frill, Dr. David Black, Dr. Valentina Bousin, Dr. Celeste Belesconi, Mr. Jordan Nicholls, Prof. Sheena Warman, Prof. Liz Mossop, Dr. Jo Outram.



*Figure 2: BVM Year 5 students Margarita Shu Mung Kwan (left) and Tiffany Chu Yu Kwan wowed the accreditation team with their presentations on *In vitro* antibacterial properties of the black soldier fly (*Hermetia illucens*) and Prevalence of *Coxiella burnetii* in ruminants in Hong Kong.*



Figure 3: Heading into a gruelling accreditation session. From left to right. Ms Rochelle Ko, Ms. Shirley Chu, Dr Omid Nekouei, Prof. Vanessa Barrs, Dr. Colin McDermott, Ms. Tiffany Chu, Dr. Akos Kenez, Ms. Candice Mo, Ms. Margarita Shu.

In other news, I would like to welcome Professor Patrick Butaye our new global STEM professor in One-Health, who will join the PH department next week and arrived in Hong Kong a few days ago. Professor Butaye is a European Professor in Veterinary Microbiology and joins us from Ghent University. He is internationally renowned for his research in [antimicrobial resistance](#).

Congratulations to our BMS department, who's faculty have published no less than 8 new papers since my last newsletter, including several with impact factors ranging from 9.5 to 16, reflecting their internationally impactful research in vascular inflammation and cancer therapy.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to farewell Dr. Rebecca Parkes as she takes up a new position at the School of Veterinary Medicine in St. George's University in Grenada. Dr. Parkes has made enormous contributions in veterinary education during her time at the JCC and we wish you all the best with this next chapter of your career.

Kind regards

Dean



Jockey Club College of Veterinary
Medicine and Life Sciences

香港城市大學
City University of Hong Kong
In collaboration with Cornell University



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Adjunct Professor
Department of Population Medicine and
Diagnostic Sciences
Cornell College of Veterinary Medicine
Cornell University

News From Our Departments

Veterinary Clinical Sciences

Research

- Pimentel, P.A.B.; **Giuliano, A.**; **Bęczkowski, P.M.**; Horta, R.D.S. Molecular Profile of Canine Hemangiosarcoma and Potential Novel Therapeutic Targets. *Vet. Sci.* 2023, 10, 387. <https://doi.org/10.3390/vetsci10060387>

Event

- An educational conference entitled “Education and Animal Conservation in Hong Kong” was successfully held on June 12, 2023. Co-organized by PhD students from VCS and PH, this hybrid conference had gathered 80 participants across different countries and industries to discuss many ways in animal conservation in Hong Kong and its challenges with the esteemed speakers from the CityU and industries.



Organisers: Nicolas Brualla (chair), Khizar Hayat (co-chair), Maria Robles Malagamba (moderator), George Hodgson (organiser), Pok Him Ng (organiser), Cheuk Sing Cheng (organiser), Tania Perroux (organiser)

Infectious Diseases and Public Health

Visit

A team of **13 PH faculty members** visited the future Dongguan campus on 6 June 2023 and discussed potential collaborations with Professor Julie Li.



Awards

- **Dr. Ibrahim Elsohaby** has been awarded the prestigious Kei-ichiro Maeda Memorial Ise Award for 2023 and will be invited at the AAVS (Asian Association of Veterinary Schools) Annual Assembly in September. This Award recognizes excellent scientific achievements in the field of veterinary sciences. <https://aavs.jpn.org/about/kei-ichiro-maeda-memorial-ise-award/award-winners-2023/>
- **Dr. Surya Paudel** finished at the third place during nomination for the prestigious Bart Rispens award this year. This award is given internationally to the first author of the best paper published in the journal Avian Pathology in the year 2021 and 2022.

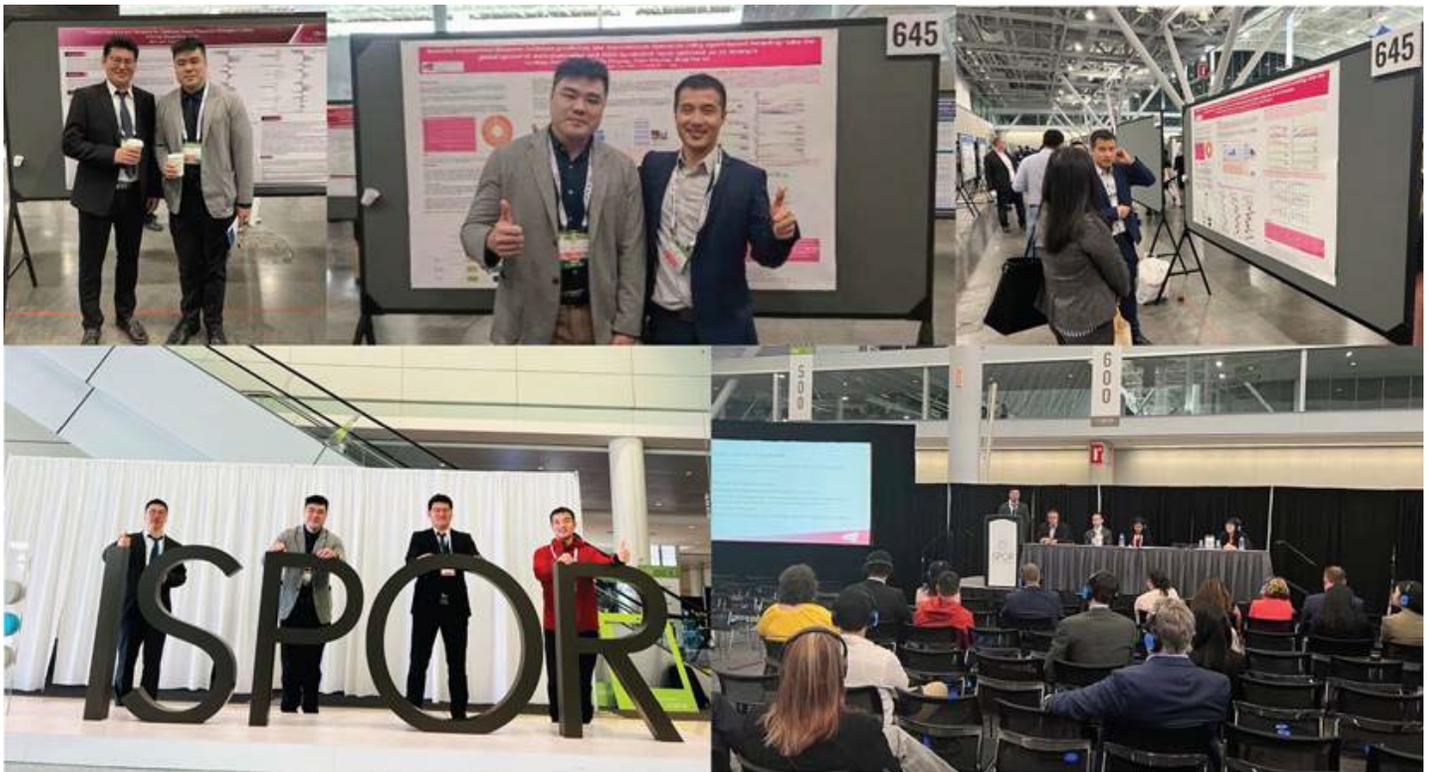
Research (included new awards, new publications, new **successful** external grants, etc.)

Publications:

- Tean Zaheer, Rao Zahid Abbas, Nighat Perveen, **Olivier Andre Sparagano**, Shanza Rauf Khan, Tauseef ur Rehman, Ali Raza, Muhammad Kasib Khan, Muhammad Imran Arshad (2023). Cypermethrin-coated ZnS and ZnO nanoparticles can halt physiology of Rhipicephalus ticks. Pathogens. (in press).
- PREPRINT
Hodgson GMW, Flay KJ, Perroux TA, CHAN WY, **McElligott AG**. Sex and dominance status affect allogrooming in free-ranging feral cattle <https://www.biorxiv.org/content/10.1101/2023.05.08.539791v1>
- PREPRINT
Mason MA, Semple S, Marshall HH, **McElligott AG**. Goat Discrimination of Emotional Valence in the Human Voice. <https://www.biorxiv.org/content/10.1101/2023.05.26.542400v1>
- Palmieri, N., Apostolakos, I., **Paudel, S.**, Hess, M. 2023. The Genetic Network Underlying the Evolution of Pathogenicity in Avian Escherichia coli. Frontiers in Veterinary Science. doi: 10.3389/fvets.2023.1195585 (accepted)
In this work, we conducted Genome-Wide Association Study (GWAS) and integrated candidate gene identification with available protein-protein interaction data considering 2015 high quality genome, largest dataset ever in avian E. coli, to decipher the genetic network underlying the biological processes connected to avian pathogenic E. coli pathogenicity.
- van Dijk, E. S., **Bhattacharjee, D.**, Belli, E., & Massen, J. J. (2023). Hand preference predicts behavioral responses to threats in Barbary macaques. *American Journal of Primatology*, e23499. <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1002/ajp.23499>
- New blogs “In the Shadows of Skyscrapers: the Unconventional Human-Buffalo Interplay in Hong Kong” by **Dr. Danhe Yang** and “Buffalo on the beach” by **Dr. Debottam Bhattacharjee** published in the Lantau buffalo project website <https://www.hkbuffaloresearch.org/blog>.
- **Dr. Mason Dean** and Postdoc **Amar Surapaneni** and co-authors submitted a pre-print (<https://doi.org/10.21203/rs.3.rs-2969747/v2>), describing the structural mechanism by which some stingrays produce their electric blue coloration.

Service, events, conference, and symposium

- **Dr. Ming Wai Kit (PH)** and **three first-year PH PhD students** from his research group, **Xinyang Ma, Taoran Liu, and Ming Liu**, attended the prestigious The Professional Society for Health Economics and Outcomes Research (ISPOR) conference held in Boston, United States from May 7th to 10th. Taoran Liu captivated the audience with an oral presentation, while Xinyang Ma and Ming Liu showcased their research through engaging poster presentations. Together, the team inspired thought-provoking discussions and exchanges among a multitude of experts in the field.



- On 18 May 2023, a thought-provoking symposium discussing the evolving landscape of bioethics in a post-COVID world took place at HKU. **Dr. Ming Wai Kit (PH)** and **Dr. Anne Conan (PH)** were invited as speakers for the event. The symposium provided attendees with an opportunity to delve into the complexities of bioethical considerations emerging from the global pandemic.

HKU Med School of Clinical Medicine
Medical Ethics & Humanities Unit
香港大學醫學倫理及人文學部

MEHU

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THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG
CENTRE FOR MEDICAL ETHICS AND LAW

SYMPOSIUM ON BIOETHICS IN A POST-COVID WORLD

This symposium aims to consider the potential bioethical implications, dilemmas, and role in a post-Covid world. It will examine, for example, the role of international and national health organizations during Covid and future pandemics. It will also discuss how practices of solidarity played a part in individual and institutional responses to Covid and how they should play a role in future pandemics. The symposium will ultimately seek to understand how the world reacted to Covid, and how we might do better next time.

MEET OUR SPEAKERS

 PROF. ANGUS DAWSON National University of Singapore	 DR. ANITA HO University of British Columbia and University of California, San Francisco	 PROF. VIVIAN LIN University of Hong Kong	 DR. CALVIN HO University of Hong Kong	 DR. KAREL CAALS National University of Singapore
 DR. ZOHAR LEDERMAN University of Hong Kong	 DR. MING WAI KIT City University of Hong Kong	 DR. ROGER CHUNG Chinese University of Hong Kong	 DR. OLIVIA NGAN University of Hong Kong	 DR. KAREN A. GRÉPIN University of Hong Kong
 DR. ANNE CONAN City University of Hong Kong				

Main themes:

- Autonomy, Paternalism, and Justice
- Social Determinants of Health and Related Inequalities
- Solidarity, Marginality, and Vulnerable Population
- Pandemic Preparedness Planning

May 18, 2023 Thursday 9:00 AM - 5:45 PM

Room A6-09, 6/F, William M.W. Mong Block, 21 Sassoon Road

In-Person & Online via Zoom

Registration

HKU members: non-HKU members:

Enquiry: mehu@hku.hk

- Dr. Alan McElligott** as a member joined the Equality, Diversity, Inclusion, Accessibility (EDIA) committee meeting for the International Society for Applied Ethology (ISAE) on 6 June 2023 - https://www.applied-ethology.org/Committees_and_Experts.html
- Dr. Alan McElligott** as a committee member joined the AFCD Animal Welfare Advisory Group (AWAG) meeting on 8 June 2023. The role of AWAG is to advise the Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation on matters concerning animal welfare, including :

- i) the promotion of community awareness of animal welfare, and
- ii) responsible pet ownership

https://www.afcd.gov.hk/english/aboutus/abt_adv/abt_adv_f.html

- **Dr. Surya Paudel** served as an external examiner of a PhD thesis for the University of Melbourne, Australia.
- **Dr. Mason Dean** and Postdocs **Chloe Hatten**, **Amar Surapaneni** are organizing a 2024 conference on “*Multidisciplinary approaches in conservation forensics in Hong Kong: Developing new tools for combating wildlife crime in Asia’s global city*” - in support of the conference, we were just awarded a Croucher Foundation grant, generously matched by the JCC.
- Postdoc **Chloe Hatten** presented a poster at the *8th International Hornbill Conference*, a hybrid conference in May. Dr. Hatten presented preliminary data on her project on the cranial anatomy of the Helmeted Hornbill - a critically endangered bird with a unique internal skull structure relating to its high-impact head-butting behavior. Her poster was well received and has already led to much discussion into new external and interdisciplinary collaborations for our workgroup.
- **Dr. Mason Dean’s** group — students **Ben Flaum** and **Mike Schindler**, and postdocs **Amar Surapaneni** and **Chloe Hatten**— traveled to France, Ireland and Germany to gather data for multidisciplinary research projects. Trips were supported through grants from the Ocean Park Conservation Foundation Hong Kong (OPCFHK); the RGC/CGF France/Hong Kong Joint Research Scheme (PROCORE); the RGC/DAAD Germany/Hong Kong Joint Research Scheme; and a Human Frontier Science Program grant.

Biomedical Sciences

Research (included new awards, new publications, new **successful** external grants, etc.)

Research Publications:

- Ding, H., Jiang, M., Lau, C. W., Luo, J., Chan, A. M., **Wang Li & Huang Yu** Apr 2023, Curaxin CBL0137 inhibits endothelial inflammation and atherogenesis via suppression of the Src-YAP signalling axis. In: British Journal of Pharmacology. 180, 8, p. 1168-1185 18
- Cheng, C. K., Ding, H., Jiang, M., **Yin Huiyong**, Gollasch, M. & **Huang Yu**, Jun 2023, Perivascular adipose tissue: Fine-tuner of vascular redox status and inflammation. In: Redox Biology. 62, 102683
- Xu, W. W., Liao, L., Dai, W., Zheng, C., Tan, X., He, Y., Zhang, Q., Huang, Z., Chen, W., Qin, Y., Chen, K., **He Mingliang**, Law, S., Lung, M. L., He, Q. & Li, B., Jun 2023, Genome-wide CRISPR/Cas9 screening identifies a targetable MEST-PURA interaction in cancer metastasis. In: eBioMedicine. 92, 104587 **IF 11.2**
- Xie, Y., Zhou, Z., Liu, S., Zhang, Y., Liu, W., Zhang, R., **He Mingliang**, Qiu, J., Wang, L. & Jiang, B., 15 May 2023, microRNA-497 slows esophageal cancer development and reverses chemotherapy resistance through its target QKI. In: Aging. 15, 9, p. 3791-3806
- Xia, S., Pan, J., Dai, D., Dai, Z., **Yang Michael** & Yi, C., May 2023, Design of portable electrochemiluminescence sensing systems for point-of-care-testing applications. In: Chinese Chemical Letters. 34, 5, 107799
- Feng, Y., Hu, H., Wong, Y., **Yao Xi, He Mingliang**, May 2023, Microneedles: An Emerging Vaccine Delivery Tool and a Prospective Solution to the Challenges of SARS-CoV-2 Mass Vaccination. In: Pharmaceutics. 15, 5, 1349
- **Gigi Lo**, Ng, D. K. P., Pandey, R. K. & Zimcik, P., 12 Apr 2023, (Online published). Photodynamic Therapy: An Innovative and Versatile Treatment Modality Triggered by Light. In: ChemPlusChem. e202300159
- Tam, L. K. B., Chu, J. C. H., He, L., Yang, C., Han, K., Cheung, P. C. K., Ng, D. K. P., **Gigi Lo**, 5 Apr 2023, Enzyme-Responsive Double-Locked Photodynamic Molecular Beacon for Targeted Photodynamic Anticancer Therapy. In: Journal of the American Chemical Society. 145, 13, p. 7361-7375 **IF 16.383**

Patents:

- **Yang Michael**, WANG, Y., ZHOU, X. & HOU, X., 23 May 2023, HYDROGEL-BASED CELL ENCAPSULATION METHOD, A CELL OR CELL-ENCAPSULATING POLYMERIZED MICROGEL AND A SYSTEM THEREOF, AND KIT THEREOF. (Accepted/In press/Filed) Priority No. PCT/CN2023/095763
- **He Mingliang**, LI, H. & WANG, X., 5 May 2023, Method of use LRPAP1 inhibitors against multiple virus infections. (Accepted/In press/Filed) Priority No. 63/500,277
- XU, X., **Yang Michael**, ZHOU, X., Mu, Yaoqin & WANG, Y., 27 Apr 2023, AUTOMATIC HIGH-THROUGHPUT AND NON-INVASIVE SELECTION OF SINGLE SPERM ATBIOCHEMICAL LEVEL. (Accepted/In press/Filed) Priority No. 63/498,524
- **Rebecca Chin**, HU, J. & HE, Q., 26 Apr 2023, METHOD OF TREATING BREAST CANCER IN A SUBJECT BY INHIBITING TUBB2B. (Accepted/In press/Filed) Priority No. 18/307,258

Research Grants

Notable grants application deadlines upcoming:

1. [National Key Technologies R&D Programme](#)
[國家重點研發計劃 - 重大自然災害防控與公共安全”重點專項](#)
Deadline: 23 June 2023
2. [Croucher Tak Wah Mak Innovation Awards](#)
Deadline: 3 July 2023
3. [National Key Technologies R&D Programme \(for Hong Kong Institutions\)](#)
[國家重點研發計劃專項\(對香港高校開放申請\) - 長江黃河等重點流域水資源與水環境綜合治理](#)
Deadline: 7 July 2023
4. [RGC grant proposal writing Webinar1](#)

For more information on Research Grants
[Research Grants and Contracts Office](#)

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI)

Upcoming DEI Events

Title: Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) in Veterinary Education – importance and potential way forward for Asia

Organizer: The Asian Association of Veterinary Schools (AAVS, webinar)

Date: Thursday 29 June, 2023

Time: 4-6 pm Japan Standard Time (JST)

Location: via Zoom

Detail: [Link](#)

ZOOM WEBINAR
DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION (DEI)
IN VETERINARY EDUCATION:
importance and potential way forward for Asia

Dr. Lisa M. Greenhill
AAVMC
"Standing at the Intersection of Veterinary Medicine and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion"

Prof. Lubna Nasir
University of Glasgow
"Importance of developing cultural competency in veterinary education"

29 JUNE, 2023
04:00 - 6:00PM JST

Prof. Pan-Dong Ryu
Seoul National University
Moderator

REGISTER NOW

Visit our Website
<http://aavs.jp.org>

For further information about the event, please contact: secretary@aavs.jp.org

Click on the events tab on our DEI website for the full list of events
<https://www.cityu.edu.hk/jcc/about-us/diversity-equity-and-inclusion>

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