



Dear JCC Community,

In the JCC, 2023 got off to a flying start with a visit from our President and Provost meeting with JCC staff to give their encouragement for the upcoming accreditation.

Hot on the heels of that was the visit from the mock accreditation team with experts from the UK, New Zealand, Australia.

It's been a big week for everyone and I am grateful to all who participated for your sincerity and for the huge amount of preparatory work you have done for the visit. Members of the team who have visited previously, commented on how far the JCC has come and how much progress has been made in such a short period of time. The entire team were genuinely impressed by your talent and commitment to providing a positive student experience.

Of course there are some things we need to urgently action before the dual accreditation visits in May/June, but for now, we can go home and relax, confident that there are no stones to be unturned. We'll receive a report from the panel next week and will follow up with meetings to address things we need to action before the real visit.

In other news, I would like to welcome Dr. Priscilla Gerber, new associate professor in PH. Priscilla is a swine and poultry virologist who has extensive experience in porcine production and health. We also have some changes in the senior leadership team - Prof. Paulo Steagall is Acting Head of VCS, Prof. Han Cheng is Assoc. Dean of Research and Dr. Terrence Lau is Assoc. Dean of Postgraduate (JCC) & Undergraduate (BMS/NS) programmes. Thanks to Prof. Julia Beatty and Prof. Sheng Chen for their dedicated service to the College.

I would also like to congratulate PH for being awarded a global STEM Professorship position from the UGC to an acclaimed veterinary infectious disease scholar. In NS, Dr. LAI Kwok-On deserves a special mention for his CRF success, being awarded HKD 9.18 million for molecular neuronal transport mechanisms.

Kind regards

Acting Dean



Prof. Vanessa BARRS

BVSc(Hons) PhD ~~MSc~~ ~~MS~~ ~~Dist~~ ~~Dist~~ ~~Dist~~ (Higher Ed)
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Acting Dean of the Jockey Club College of Veterinary
Medicine and Life Sciences

BOCHK Chair Professor of Veterinary Medicine
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News From Our Departments

Veterinary Clinical Sciences

Teaching

- In week 1 of Veterinary Practice & Professional Studies 2 course, we begin to prepare our Year 4 students for the spay surgery later in this semester. In this practical session, students acquired the knowledge of surgical preparation that includes performing a surgical scrub, gloving, and surgical gowning, etc



Research

Publications

- **Giuliano, Antonio**, Rodrigo S. Horta, Rafael A. M. Vieira, Kelly R. Hume, and Jane Dobson. 2023. "Repurposing Drugs in Small Animal Oncology" *Animals* 13, no. 1: 139. <https://doi.org/10.3390/ani13010139>
- Capozza, Paolo, Maura Carrai, Yan Ru Choi, Thomas Tu, Omid Nekouei, Gianvito Lanave, Vito Martella, **Julia A. Beatty**, and **Vanessa R. Barrs**. 2023. "Domestic Cat Hepadnavirus: Molecular Epidemiology and Phylogeny in Cats in Hong Kong" *Viruses* 15, no. 1: 150. <https://doi.org/10.3390/v15010150>

Service & Media

- The WSAVA (World Small Animal Veterinary Association) has announced plans for an open audit of its essential medicines list for cats and dogs. **Prof Paulo Steagall**, as the WSAVA Therapeutic Guidelines Group co-chairperson, is urging vets and other stakeholders to take part. Current edition is available at <https://wsava.org/news/highlighted-news/wsava-list-of-essential-medicines-for-cats-and-dogs/>.

WSAVA launches audit of 'essential medicines' list

Vets and other stakeholders are being invited to have their say in a review process that opens next week ahead of the release of a new edition later in 2023.

Alister Webb | January 03, 2023

vet times

WSAVA Therapeutic Guidelines Group co-chairperson Paulo Steagall (inset) has called on vets and other stakeholders to share their views. Main image © Africa Studio / Adobe Stock

WSAVA launches essential medicines list audit

The review comes ahead of a revised version later this year.

Vets and industry stakeholders are being invited to submit their comments on the current edition of the *WSAVA List of Essential Medicines for Cats and Dogs*.

The open audit commences Monday 9 January prior to an expected revised version of the list later this year.

Launched in 2020, the document was developed by the WSAVA's Therapeutics Guidelines Group to address the global challenges faced by companion animal vets in accessing vital veterinary medicines.

The topic was addressed during the recent *Shaping the Future* session at WSAVA World Congress 2022 in Lima, Peru. A stakeholder meeting was also held during the Congress to discuss the issue in more detail and to explore potential solutions.

Dr Paulo Steagall, co-chair of the Therapeutics Guidelines Group, said: "The WSAVA List of Essential Medicines for Cats and Dogs has proved an important step forward in our efforts to improve global drug availability. We know that it is already supporting regulatory decision-making around licensing, registration and approval, as well as assisting with pharmacovigilance.

"As it was launched in 2020, it is now time for its three-yearly review and, for this, we are calling on the global veterinary community to help us so that we can ensure that the document fulfils its purpose of becoming a key element of the regulatory framework and a useful tool to ensure access to veterinary medicines globally.

"We are keen to hear from veterinarians, from industry and from all other stakeholders with their suggestions and comments as to what the core and complementary medicines for treating the most frequent and important diseases in small animal companion medicine should be. This will ensure that the 2023 edition of the WSAVA Essential Medicines List for Cats and Dogs is fully up-to-date when we release it later in the year."

The document is available for free on the WSAVA website, including core and complementary essential medicines listed alphabetically, either by drug category or organ system/species.

Submissions should be sent to the WSAVA Therapeutics Guidelines Group at wg@wsava.org by 31 March 2023.

Centre for Animal Health and Welfare (CAHW)

To kick start a new year with new insights and perspectives, please join our first Animal Health and Welfare webinar in 2023 **next Tuesday 17 January at 1pm HKT** to learn from The Hong Kong Jockey Club representatives on the **Thoroughbred Racehorse Welfare in Training and Racing**.

In this talk, they will highlight the importance of recognizing the welfare issues facing racehorses in training and understanding the perception and ethical viewpoints of stakeholders and the general public for developing strategies to improve racehorse welfare. There will be a follow-up seminar later on about the life of a retired racehorse.

For more information, please visit: <https://www.cityu.edu.hk/cahw/news-and-events/upcoming.htm>.



Animal Health & Welfare Seminar

Thoroughbred Racehorse Welfare in Training and Racing

Dr James Mizzi & Mr Voss Yu,
The Hong Kong Jockey Club



Infectious Diseases and Public Health

Teaching (e.g. awards)

- Dr Ákos Kenéz from PH and Dr Rebecca Parkes from the department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences received funding from CityU's Teaching Development Grant. Their research project titled "Digital Learning Environment for Generation Z Students in Veterinary Problem-Based Learning" will evaluate the impact of using digital tools on the learning outcomes and learning experience of our 3rd year BVM students.

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

- New publications of Giraudet CSE, Liu K, **McElligott AG**, Cobb M. 2022. Are children and dogs best friends? A scoping review to explore the positive and negative effects of child-dog interactions. PEERJ 10, e1453. on 19 December 2022. <https://peerj.com/articles/14532/>
- **Dr. Alan McElligott** received the Certificate of Controversies and Collaboration: Moving Toward Consensus in Animal Welfare from UFAW Indo-Pacific Asia Online Workshop on 06 December 2022.
- **Dr. Alan McElligott** was the organiser of How can Precision Livestock Farming (PLF) Help with Animal Welfare and Health. He was also a Speaker of Livestock Emotions, Vocalisations and Positive Welfare on 21 December 2022.
- **Dr. Akos Kenez** was invited to give a talk at the HK Tech Forum - Metabolism in Health and Disease on 16 December 2022. He presented his latest research on metabolic inflammation in dairy cattle. <https://www.cityu.edu.hk/hktechforum/cof-metabolism-in-health-and-disease-desc.htm>.

New Publications:

- Zeb, J.; Song, B.; Senbill, H.; Aziz, M.U.; Hussain, S.; Khan, M.A.; Qadri, I.; Cabezas-Cruz, A.; de la Fuente, J.; **Sparagano, O.A.** Ticks Infesting Dogs in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan: Detailed Epidemiological and Molecular Report. Pathogens 2023, 12, 98. <https://doi.org/10.3390/pathogens12010098>
- Aziz, M.U.; Hussain, S.; Song, B.; Ghauri, H.N.; Zeb, J.; **Sparagano, O.A.** Ehrlichiosis in Dogs: A Comprehensive Review about the Pathogen and Its Vectors with Emphasis on South and East Asian Countries. Vet. Sci. 2023, 10, 21. <https://doi.org/10.3390/vetsci10010021>.

- As the corresponding author: “MacKinnon, B.; Pratim Debnath, P.; Bondad-Reantaso, M.; Fridman, S.; Bin, H.; **Nekouei, O.** Improving tilapia biosecurity through a value chain approach. *Reviews in Aquaculture*. 2023. doi:doi:10.1111/raq.12776; *In Press.*”
- As a co-author: “Capozza, P.; Carrai, M.; Choi, Y.R.; Tu, T.; **Nekouei, O.**; Lanave, G.; Martella, V.; Beatty, J.A.; Barrs, V.R. Domestic Cat Hepadnavirus: Molecular Epidemiology and Phylogeny in Cats in Hong Kong. *Viruses* 2023, 15, 150. <https://doi.org/10.3390/v15010150>”

Service

- **Prof. Sophie St-Hilaire** and **Ms. Sabrina Lam** attended the opening ceremony of the Hong Kong Ichthyological Society on behalf of the Acting Dean. Founded in 2008, the Ichthyological Society of Hong Kong’s mission is to promote the study and research of fish species and encourage the public to learn more about nature, biodiversity and ecosystems, integrating the attributes of research, education and conservation. One of the highlights of the ceremony was the guided tours of their new centre. Located on the first floor of the cultural heritage Lake House, visitors are greeted by a lovely aquarium, with well-maintained tanks introducing various fresh and saltwater fish species and their habitats. To the left, there was a display room with teaching material and student artworks. There was also a laboratory with an impressive collection of formalin-preserved fish samples. Some of them dated back to the 1980s, long before the establishment of the society. On the right, there was a museum of Prof. Chong’s own book collection, featuring valuable books such as the second edition of Charles Darwin’s “On the Origin of Species”



- **Dr. Alan McElligott** attended an editorial meeting for a new journal: *Animal Behaviour and Welfare Cases of CABI Digital Library* on 13 December 2022 <https://www.cabidigitallibrary.org/journal/abwcs>.
- **Dr Ákos Kenéz** joined the BVM Programme Committee as BVM Year 2 Lead and he got elected to represent JCC staff and students on the JCC Dean Search Committee.
- **Dr. Wenlong (Colin) CAI** has been concurrently appointed as a full member of the State Key Lab of Marine Pollution (SKLMP), effective Jan. 1, 2023 to Dec. 31, 2025. SKLMP comprises research members from the seven local universities in Hong Kong and is a leading group on marine environmental research. During his term, Dr. CAI would like to investigate the microplastic pollution in fishes from the Hong Kong marine region and how microplastic affects fish physiology and immune response.

Staff Development

- **Dr. Alan McElligott** received the Certificate of Participation Award of Unconscious Bias Training from the American Association of Veterinary Medical Colleges issued on 12 December 2022.

Staffing

- On January 10th our new Associate Professor, **Dr Priscilla GERBER** arrived. Dr. Gerber is a porcine and poultry virologist and has extensive experience in porcine production health.
- PH was awarded a Global STEM Professorship for 5 years by UGC. We expect to welcome the candidate around July 2023.

Biomedical Sciences

Events

The two-day **Forum on Metabolism in Health and Disease** co-organized by **BMS & HKIAS** was successfully organized on 15 & 16 Dec 2022 in a hybrid mode format with overwhelming participation across platforms.

Online (Webinar, YouTube and Tencent) participation was over a thousand. Thanks to invited speakers for their insightful sharing including BMS speakers Dr ZHANG Liang, Dr Kingston MAK and Dr WANG Li, and great efforts from Organizing Committee and Session Chairmen from BMS faculty members including Prof Michael YANG, Prof HUANG Yu, Dr Ming CHAN, Dr Wenjun XIONG, Dr Jilin ZHANG, Dr WANG Li and Dr Kwan CHOW, as well as our voluntary PhD student helpers.



KAIST-CityU Joint Symposium
Metabolism and Cardiovascular Research

KAIST GSMSE | CityU Department of Biomedical Sciences

Jan. 5 (THU), 2023 14:00-18:00(KST)
ZOOM Link: <https://kaist.zoom.us/j/86570122409> (ID:865 7012 2409)

13:45-14:00	Registration	15:40-16:00	Break
14:00-14:10	Opening Address	16:00-17:30	Session #2 (90')
14:10-15:40	Session #1 (90')	Chairman: Hail Kim (KAIST) Xin Deng (City U Hong Kong)	
	Chairman: Yu Huang (City U Hong Kong) Pilhan Kim (KAIST)	16:00-16:30	Jae Myoung Suh (KAIST) Adipose tissue remodeling in health and disease
14:10-14:40	Kiwon Ban (KAIST) Development of a novel strategy for cardiac regeneration	16:30-17:00	Li Wang (KAIST) Atherosclerosis: from the mechanistic study to drug discover
14:40-15:10	Injune Kim (KAIST) DBM regulation of vascular integrity in the central nervous system	17:00-17:30	Kyun Hoo Kim (KAIST) Transcriptional profiling of pancreatic β -cells to investigate progressive β -cell dysfunction in type 2 diabetes
15:10-15:40	Cheng Chak Kwong (KAIST) The role of antioxidant mitochondrial protein UCP2 in endothelial cells during atherogenesis and inflammation	17:30-17:40	Closing Remarks

A Joint Symposium in Metabolism and Cardiovascular Research, organized by Department of Biomedical Sciences (BMS) of the City University of Hong Kong (CityU) and Graduate School of Medical Science and Engineering, Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (KAIST) was organized on 5 January 2023, close to 90 participants with insightful talks given by renowned scientists and researchers. Dr BAN Kiwon and Dr WANG Li gave presentations at this fruitful symposium.

The BMS Research Retreat 2023 took place at Peninsula Hotel on 6 January 2023, with the theme of “Inspire to Go Beyond - Strategic Areas to Enhance BMS Development in Education, Research and Reputation”. The Retreat kicked off with a welcome speech by Prof HUANG Yu (Head, Department of Biomedical Sciences). Prof HUANG gave a brief overview on the past achievements made by the concerted efforts of individual faculty members and the overall BMS performances on different areas including teaching, research publications and grants and other professional areas in 2022. Both academic and non-academic colleagues were divided into groups to brainstorm any initiatives and plans to enhance our UG education and outreach strategies for our taught and research programmes, and discuss preparation plans for Research Assessment Exercise 2026 and professional accreditations. The day ended with closing remarks by Prof HUANG. He expressed appreciation for the constructive comments from colleagues, welcomed colleagues to discuss with him if they need support, and encouraged them to proactively discuss with him what can be offered by Department to add value to their teaching, research and other professional development.



Neurosciences

Research Updates

News

Dr. LAI Kwok-On's research project, "**Molecular mechanism of RNA transport and specificity of their spatial distribution in neuron**", has been awarded with the amount of **HKD 9.18 million** from the Hong Kong Research Grants Council (RGC)'s Collaborative Research Fund (CRF) 2022/23.

New publication:

- **Dr. Jessica LIU** and her team of researchers and research students have published “Histone deacetylase 5-induced deficiency of signal transducer and activator of transcription-3 acetylation contributes to spinal astrocytes degeneration in painful diabetic neuropathy” at *Glia* (A journal) on 29 December 2022.
- **Dr. Jessica LIU** and her team of researchers and research students have published “Mode of action of astrocytes in pain: From the spinal cord to the brain” at *Progress in Neurobiology* (A+ journal) on 10 October 2022.
- **Dr. Eddie MA** and his team of researchers and research students have published “Clinically relevant small-molecule promotes nerve repair and visual function recovery” at *npj Regenerative Medicine* (A+ journal) on 1 October 2022.
- **Dr. Eddie MA** and his team of researchers and research students have published “Cerebellar glutamatergic system impacts spontaneous motor recovery by regulating Gria1 expression” at *npj Regenerative Medicine* (A+ journal) on 5 September 2022.

Updates from Individual Faculty Member:

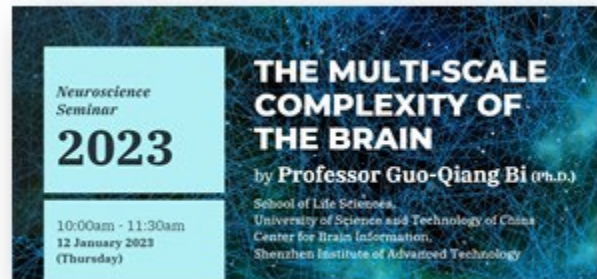
Several research conducted by **Prof Ying LI** as the corresponding author and his team has been accepted for publication in the journal "*iScience*", "*Communications Biology*", and "*Cells*". In these works, the important role of astrocytes in schema learning, decision-making, and aversion memory formation was investigated. Further, the mechanisms by which astrocytes regulate cognitive behavior through hippocampal-cortical communication, myelination, adrenergic signaling, and lactate signaling have been revealed.

- Liu, S., Wong, H. Y., Xie, L., Iqbal, Z., Lei, Z., Fu, Z., ... & Li, Y. (2022). Astrocytes in CA1 modulate schema establishment in the hippocampal-cortical neuron network. *BMC biology*, 20(1), 1-22.
- Hasan, M., Lei, Z., Akter, M., Iqbal, Z., Usaila, F., Ramkrishnan, A. S., & Li, Y. (2022). Chemogenetic activation of astrocytes promotes remyelination and restores cognitive deficits in visceral hypersensitive rats. *iScience*, 105840.

- Iqbal, Z., Lei, Z., Ramkrishnan, A. S., Liu, S., Hasan, M., Akter, M., & Li, Y. (2023). Adrenergic signaling to astrocytes in anterior cingulate cortex contributes to pain-related aversive memory in rats. *Communications Biology* (in press).
- Iqbal, Z., Liu, S., Lei, Z., Ramkrishnan, A. S., Akter, M., & Li, Y. (2023). Astrocyte L-Lactate Signaling in the ACC Regulates Visceral Pain Aversive Memory in Rats. *Cells*, 12(1), 26.

Other News

- NS has invited **Prof Guo-Qiang Bi** to give a talk on **The Multi-scale Complexity of the Brain** on 12 January.



Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI)

- Prof. Rustin Moore is the Dean and Ruth Stanton Chair of Veterinary Medicine in the Ohio State College of Veterinary Medicine (CVM). Dean Moore is a board-certified equine surgeon and has extensive experience in teaching and mentoring veterinary and graduate students, research & scholarship, and providing academic and scientific disciplinary leadership. Dean Moore has a special interest in the power of the human-animal bond and zooeyia, the positive health benefits (physical, emotional, behavioral, social and psychological) on people by interacting with animals. His manuscript entitled **“Parallels between biodiversity and human diversity: A mandate to improve ecological and organizational health and vitality”** draws parallels and compare the importance of biodiversity and human diversity and the impact on ecosystem health and vitality and organizational health and vibrancy, respectively. You can access this open-access article at the following link: <https://doi.org/10.1638/2022-0081>
- **One veterinarian’s remarkable journey to becoming a successful veterinarian and educator despite the physical and mental setbacks she has endured throughout her life. (Dr. Brandy Duhon, School of Veterinary Medicine, Louisiana State University, USA).** <https://www.dvm360.com/view/unwavering-spirit-a-veterinarian-s-inspiring-story-into-veterinary-medicine>
 “Dr. Duhon recalled being a relatively healthy child growing up. However, on June 18, 1995, she was diagnosed with meningococcal meningitis, a severe bacterial infection that cut off the blood flow in her extremities, leading to the development of gangrene in her hands and 1 foot. The traumatic event led to the amputation of both her hands and right heel.”
- **SCMP Conversations: Towards an inclusive & diverse workforce in Hong Kong (Recording of an event held earlier in 2022):** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1oT2o7cCDBY>
 Key topics: Building a workforce with no label: an LGBTQ perspective; Diversity in hiring: the theory vs the reality; Being disabled is not being differently abled; What does it mean to be a male ally?
- **Mattison et al. Community voices: broadening participation in Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics, and Medicine among persons with disabilities. Nature Communications (December 2022).** <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41467-022-34711-w>
 Press release link: <https://phys.org/news/2022-12-science-accessible-people-disabilities.html>

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