



Dear JCC Community,

With only 5 and a bit weeks left until accreditation, many people in the JCC have been busy preparing labs and teaching facilities for tours, prepping for meetings and gathering the last pieces of supplementary evidence requested by the accrediting bodies. In addition to this, JCC is continuing to bear fruit in its core business, and there are many things to celebrate;

Our students are being noticed both at home and internationally. Congratulations to Long Hei Ling, who has been awarded for the Innovation and Technology Scholarship 2023. This is the second time in the last few years that the JCC has had success for CityU in this prestigious scholarship award.

Congratulations to BVM 5 student Darrian Leung who has been awarded a scholarship by the World Veterinary Association, 2023.

Congratulations to BVM 2 student Ching Ki Wong, who has been awarded an undergraduate scholarship from the Association for the Study of Animal Behaviour, for buffalo research.

The Singapore General Hospital has praised the design of the BMS clinical attachment program and given very positive feedback on the performance of our JCC BVM students rotating through the program.

The JCC has many key opinion leader (KOLs) who are internationally recognised in different research and clinical fields. Their impact is global – read the departmental news below and you will see evidence of impact through new research, patents and key note presentations.

We received a philanthropic donation from the CC Wu Cultural and Education Fund Foundation Ltd. Part of this donation was given to fund student research projects in the combined Cornell/JCC Interdisciplinary PhD programme, a flagship PhD programme in the College. Five student projects will be funded \$180 000K each over the next two years. Please contact Mr. Frankie Wong or the Associate Dean of Research if you have any questions about conditions and eligibility.

Have a relaxing weekend and stay dry.

Kind regards

Acting Dean



Prof. Vanessa BARRS 5/F, Block 1, To Yuen Building
BVSc(hons) PhD MVetClinStud GradCertEd 31 To Yuen Street
(Higher Ed) Kowloon, Hong Kong
FANZCVS (Feline Medicine)

Tel: (852) 3442 8825

Acting Dean

BOCHK Chair Professor of Veterinary Medicine Fax: (852) 3442 0589
Department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences
City University of Hong Kong

Website:

<https://www.cityu.edu.hk/vcs/staff/prof-vanessa-barrs.htm>

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

News From Our Departments

Veterinary Clinical Sciences

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

Publications

- Muguero DH, Nekouei O, Lee KY, Hill F, **Barrs VR**. Prevalence of Babesia and Ehrlichia in owned dogs with suspected tick-borne infection in Hong Kong, and risk factors associated with Babesia gibsoni. Prev Vet Med. 2023 Mar 29;214:105908. doi: 10.1016/j.prevetmed.2023.105908. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 37004500. (<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/37004500/>)
- **Barrs VR**. Comments on Case Report: A fatal case of Aspergillus felis infection in an immunocompetent. Access Microbiology. 2023 Apr 03. DOI: [10.1099/acmi.0.000561.v3](https://doi.org/10.1099/acmi.0.000561.v3)
- **Melendez P**, Pinedo P, Gibbons J, Bartolome J, Naikare H. 2023. Embryo mortality in Holstein x Limousine embryos. Reproduction in Domestic Animals (in press) <https://doi.org/10.1111/rda.14343>
- **Melendez P**, Moller J, Arevalo A, Pinedo P. 2023. The effect of rumen-protected lysine and methionine on milk yield, milk components, and body weight in grazing Holstein cows during spring calving season in the southern hemisphere. Livestock Science (accepted).
- **Bukhari, Syed & McElligott, Alan & Rosanowski, Sarah & Parkes, Rebecca** (2023) Owner's recognition of sentience improves welfare of donkeys in challenging working environment. Abstract accepted to The 56th Congress of the International Society for Applied Ethology (ISAE), Tallinn, Estonia.

Service



- **Professor Paulo Steagall** gave the keynote opening presentation entitled '*Feline Acute Pain Management: 10 years in review*' at the World Congress of Veterinary Anaesthesia and Analgesia in Sydney, Australia. The congress was held at the Sydney Massonic Centre between March 27th and 30th, 2023.
- Additionally, **Professor Paulo Steagall's** group presented 7 research abstracts; two of these abstracts were related to the automation of the Feline Grimace Scale using deep neural networks.

Others

- Co-ordinated by **Dr Santiago Alonso**, the VCS is organizing a [Faculty sharing session on the American Board of Veterinary Practitioners \(ABVP\) Certification](#) on May 10th, 2023 (Wednesday) at 6:30-7:30pm on campus to give our BVM students an introduction on this veterinary certification. Our ABVP-certified faculty members **Professor Pedro Melendez**, **Dr Angel Almendros** and **Dr Nicole Wyre** will also join Dr Alonso to share their insights.

CityU Department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences ABVP

Faculty Sharing Session:

ABVP
American Board of Veterinary Practitioners

CERTIFICATION

Speakers:

Prof Pedro Melendez
Dr Angel Almendros
Dr Santiago Alonso
Dr Nicole Wyre

May 10, 2023
(Wednesday)
6:30-7:30pm
CityU Campus

Scan to register now!

ABVP was founded in 1978 and its Diplomates have a common desire and willingness to deliver superior, comprehensive, multi-disciplinary veterinary services to the public. They are veterinarians who have demonstrated expertise in the broad range of clinical subjects relevant to their practice and display the ability to communicate medical observations and data in an organized and appropriate manner.

ABVP currently awards certification in eleven recognized veterinary specialties (RVSS): Avian Practice, Beef Cattle Practice, Canine and Feline Practice, Dairy Practice, Equine Practice, Exotic Companion Mammal Practice, Feline Practice, Food Animal Practice, Reptile and Amphibian Practice, Shelter Medicine Practice, and Swine Health Management.

ABVP is the AVMA-recognized veterinary specialty organization™ for certification of each AVMA-recognized veterinary specialty™ listed above.

Infectious Diseases and Public Health

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

New awards and grants

- **Olivier, Colin, Fuyong, Ibrahim and Ming** were successful for their SIRG grant applications.
- **WONG Ching Ki**, a Year 2 student, won an ASAB Undergraduate Project Scholarship of £ 4,200 for buffalo research.

Publications

- The following abstract was presented at the British Society for Parasitology Spring Meeting in Edinburgh (UK): Cowley, Finn, **Sparagano**, Pérez de León, Zhang. (2023). Comparative biochemical characterisation and inhibitory profiling of cattle tick, human, bovine and mosquito Flavin Adenine Dinucleotide sub-domains
- "A Semi-Supervised Generative Adversarial Network for Amodal Instance Segmentation of Piglets in Farrowing Pens" was accepted for publication by Computers and Electronics in Agriculture on 10 April. Authors: Endai Huang, Zheng He, Axiu Mao, Maria Camila Ceballos, Thomas D. Parsons, **Kai Liu*** (corresponding author)
- Bateman-Neubert A, Briefer EF, McElligott AG. 2023. [Delayed benefits for fallow bucks: more fights decrease same day mating success, but increase matings the next day.](#) Animal Behaviour 200, 37-48.

Service

- **Prof. Sophie ST-HILAIRE** participated in an Ad Hoc committee for the World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH) on aquatic animal health in this month.
- **Dr. Alan McElligott**
 - i. Invited talk (title): Animal Cognition and Changes to Standards of Welfare 2nd Animal Behaviour and Welfare Conference in Africa on 6th April 2023
 - ii. Attended a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) meeting as JCC Rep for the Asian Association of Vet Schools (AAVS) on 28th March 2023. AAVS is planning a DEI event for the 2nd half of 2023.
- The National STI Digital Healthcare Annual Conference was held in Beijing, China. During the conference, **Dr. Ming Wai Kit (PH)** participated in a roundtable discussion with experts from diverse fields to explore strategies for establishing a more efficient ecosystem for digital healthcare development.



Staff

- **Dr. Debottam Bhattacharjee** - New postdoc in PH, started from 3rd April 2023, his email address: dbhattac@cityu.edu.hk
<https://www.dbcognition.co.in/>

He did his PhD (2020) at the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research Kolkata, India in biological sciences focusing primarily on animal behaviour. Before joining CityU, he was a Marie Curie Fellow at Utrecht University, the Netherlands. His research interests are broad, from comparative animal cognition and behavioural ecology to biodiversity conservation. After studying phylogenetically distant taxa like free-ranging dogs and macaques, Debottam is now investigating the role of feral buffalo in biodiversity conservation in Hong Kong's Lantau island.

Working with: **Dr. Alan McElligott (PH)**, Dr. Kate Flay (VCS), and Dr. Hannah Mumby (HKU).

Biomedical Sciences

Teaching

- **Dr Jackie Pon**, our Clinical Attachment Coordinator has paid a clinical attachment progress visit to Singapore General Hospital during 12-14 April 2023. A very positive feedback was received from our host hospital on our BMS program design and training at our four clinical specialties, as well as our four students' performances with hard working and proactive learning attitudes, they have expressed strong interests to employ our students upon their graduation to work as a MLT. It is a valuable and remarkable clinical attachment visit to Singapore general hospital so as to keep our long term relationship with them.



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

Hong Kong PhD Fellowship Scheme

- BMS has one successful HKPFS candidate (PI: **Prof Huang Yu**) for 2023/24 admission exercise. We will continue in promoting CityU's research studies and recruiting outstanding students in the future HKPFS exercises.

Research Publications:

- He, L., Shi, H., Zhang, G., Peng, Y., Ghosh, A., Zhang, M., Hu, X., Liu, C., Shao, Y., Wang, S., Chen, L., Sun, W., Su, J., Chen, X., **Zhang, Liang**, Chan, Y., Pei, D., Tortorella, M., Guo, Y., Yan, H. & He, J., 29 Mar 2023, A Novel CCK Receptor GPR173 Mediates Potentiation of GABAergic Inhibition. In: Journal of Neuroscience. 43, 13, p. 2305-2325
- Huang, X., Zhang, S., Tang, J., Tian, T., Pan, Y., Wu, L., Zhang, J., Liu, Y., Huang, J., Dai, H., Xu, W., Zhang, Y., Chen, J., Cao, M., **Zhang, Liang**. & Qiu, X., 29 Mar 2023, (Online published). A self-propagating c-Met-SOX2 axis drives cancer-derived IgG signaling that promotes lung cancer cell stemness. In: Cancer Research.

Patents:

- **YANG, Michael**, AYELE, B. W., GUNAWAN, R. & WU, W., 23 Mar 2023, ONE-POT PATHOGEN DETECTION SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR REAL-TIME LATERAL FLOW ASSAY. (Accepted/In press/Filed) Priority No. 18/188,527.
- **ZHENG, Zongli** & LU, C., 16 Mar 2023, METHODS AND SYSTEMS FOR MEASURING MULTIPLEX RNA EXPRESSION. (Accepted/In press/Filed) Priority No. 18/245,599

Research Grants

Notable grants application deadlines upcoming:

1. [PROCORE-France/Hong Kong Joint Research Scheme](#)
Deadline: 9 June 2023
2. [Germany/Hong Kong Joint Research Scheme](#)
Deadline: 9 June 2023
3. [RGC grant proposal writing Webinar1](#)
4. [Professional Services Advancement Support Scheme \(PASS\)](#)
Deadline: 23 May 2023

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

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI)

Upcoming DEI Events

- 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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