

Dear JCC Community,

The graduation ceremony of our first cohort last Saturday was a great celebration. The Dean of Cornell College of Veterinary Medicine Prof. Lorin Warnick and the Associate Dean of International Programs Prof. Caroline Yancey flew from Ithaca, New York to join the celebrations. Former Chief Executive of Hong Kong Mrs. Carrie Lam and former President of CityU Prof. Way Kuo were also in attendance. You can read more about the graduation ceremony and see photos [here](#). It truly was a memorable and historic occasion and the first of many BVM graduation ceremonies to come.

You can read all of our departmental news below. I'd also like to make a special shout out to all of those JCC staff that are not in a department but work for the JCC including our Scientific Officers and Clinical Educators. Mrs Susanna Taylor (back row, 5<sup>th</sup> from the right), who is passionate about veterinary professional and paraprofessional education and leads many initiatives in our clinical skills laboratory, recently spoke at the Singapore Vet Show together with Dr. Alan Taylor (3<sup>rd</sup> from the left), specialist anaesthetist at CityU Veterinary Medical Centre about "the anaesthesia team – management priorities, legal issues and sensitivities" – emphasising the critical importance of teamwork in anaesthesia and surgery. Some of our BVM students and recent graduates also attended.



Kind regards



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  
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## News From Our Departments

### Veterinary Clinical Sciences

#### Teaching

- We care for students' wellness, and we encourage students to put their mental health as top priority. In one of the Veterinary Practice and Professional Studies classes, in collaboration with the Hong Kong Animal Assisted Therapy Association (HKAATA), our BVM Year 3 students had learnt meditation and participated in some stress relieving activities with therapy dogs.




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

- PhD student Tania PERROUX** gave a research presentation on the phenotypes of Hong Kong feral cattle, with a particular focus on the impact of urbanization on the appearance of cattle. The research work, also jointly



developed by **Professors Kate Flay and Alan McElligott and Miss George Hodgson**, will also be presented in an international conference in Australia in November 2023.



**Phenotypes of a unique free-roaming bovid: impact of urbanization on the appearance of cattle**



**Tania A. Perroux, Alan G. McElligott, George M. W. Hodgson, Kate J. Flay**


**Tania PERROUX**  
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### Service

- **Professors Julia Beatty and Paulo Steagall** gave several lectures at the 11th FASAVA (Federation of Asian Small Animal Veterinary Associations) congress in Mumbai, India between Oct 27<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>, 2023.



## Service

- Professor Pedro Melendez, Clinical Professor in Bovine Production Medicine, has received an overwhelming support on his JCC research presentation entitled “*Understanding the physiology of the abdominal fat in the modern dairy cow with especial emphasis on metabolic diseases*”, it was attended by over 150+ international audience.
- In our latest CAHW Animal Health and Welfare seminar, Dr Joshua Steinhaus walked us through the interventional radiology procedures in veterinary patients using a tracheal collapse case and discussed the decision-making process, including the consideration of pros/cons of treatment, balancing ethics standards, etc. Please reach out to us at [centre.ahw@cityu.edu.hk](mailto:centre.ahw@cityu.edu.hk) for recordings if you couldn't join us live last week.

JCC-VCS Research Seminar

**Understanding the physiology of the abdominal fat in the modern dairy cow with especial emphasis on metabolic diseases**

Abdominal fat and the degree of adiposity in dairy cows have a genetic component. Excessive mobilization of abdominal fat may predispose periparturient dairy cows to develop several metabolic diseases such as ketosis, fatty liver, and displacement of the abomasum. These diseases lead to significant economic losses for the dairy industry. As a result, effective feeding and management strategies are essential to prevent these metabolic disorders and improve the overall productive and reproductive performance and wellbeing of dairy cows.

Speaker: **Prof. Pedro Melendez**  
Clinical Professor in Bovine Production Medicine, CityU

**Nov 1, 2023 (Wed)**  
**1-2 pm HKT on Zoom**

Scan for FREE registration

Enquiry: [vc@cityu.edu.hk](mailto:vc@cityu.edu.hk)

Centre for Animal Health and Welfare  
City University of Hong Kong

Animal Health and Welfare Seminar

**INTERVENTIONAL RADIOLOGY PROCEDURES IN VETERINARY PATIENTS: WHEN, WHY, IF**

Joshua Steinhaus MS BVMS, DACVIM (SAIM) DECVIM-CA  
IRIS Ambassador to Hong Kong

## *Infectious Diseases and Public Health*

### Awards

- **Five Professors from PH Ranked Among Stanford University's Top 2% of World Scientists**

**Prof. Patrick Butaye, Prof. Dirk Pfeiffer, Prof. Olivier Sparagano, Prof. Mason Dean, and Prof. Ming Wai Kit** from PH have been listed among the top 2% of the world's most highly-cited scientists in the latest report by Stanford University <https://www.cityu.edu.hk/ph/news/congratulations-five-ph-faculty-members-are-ranked-worlds-top-2-most-cited-scientists-2023>. This recognition reflects the high academic standards of our faculty members and our outstanding research performance.

- **MSc graduate Mr. Zhaojin Guo wins the Outstanding Graduate Student Paper and Presentation Award at the 2023 International Symposim on Animal Environment and Welfare**

**Mr. Zhaojin Guo**, the graduate of MSc in Public Health and Epidemiology and the Part-time Research Assistant for **Prof. LIU Kai**, wins the Outstanding Graduate Student Paper and Presentation Award at the 2023 International Symposim on Animal Environment and Welfare ([ISAEW](#)) in Chongqing, China. The title of his paper and presentation is “DeMVpp-YOLO: A lightweight pig behavior detection model for improved pig health management in farrowing pens”.






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

- **Prof. Ming Wai Kit (PH) Leads the Publication of New Textbook on Behavioral Epidemiological Research Design and Implementation**

**Prof. Ming Wai Kit (PH)** has recently published a new textbook as the deputy editor-in-chief of the Editorial Board. The book, focusing on the design and implementation of behavioral epidemiological research, is set to become an essential reference resource in the field. Prof. Ming and his team, including several PH PhD students – Miss Chen Yanya, Miss Zhou Yuxin, and Mr. Liu Taoran, Dr. Paul Mok and Dr. Ronal Wong, all participated in the editing of this textbook. Through insightful research and in-depth analysis, they have provided readers with a comprehensive and practical guide to understanding and implementing behavioral epidemiological research design. This textbook will become an important resource for behavioral epidemiological research and further promote academic progress and practical innovation in the field of public health in mainland China.



- Mason MA, Semple S, Marshall HH, **McElligott AG**. In Press. Goats discriminate emotional valence in the human voice. *Animal Behaviour*. Preprint version: <https://www.biorxiv.org/content/10.1101/2023.05.26.542400v1>



## Goat Discrimination of Emotional Valence in the Human Voice

Reading another animal’s emotional state can enable receivers to anticipate their behavioural motivations, which is important in guiding interactions with that individual. For species living closely alongside humans, the emotional cues that people express can be almost as informative as those of conspecifics. Goats can discriminate differences in emotional valence present in another goat’s calls, and we investigated whether this ability extends to human speech. We presented goats with a habituation-dishabituation-rehabilitation paradigm, where they experienced multiple playbacks of a familiar or unfamiliar human voice conveying a single emotional valence (e.g., angry; habituation phase), before the valence of the voice changed (e.g., happy; dishabituation phase) and then reversed again in-line with the habituation phase (e.g., angry; rehabilitation phase). Over the habituation phase, goat behavioural responses decreased, showing evidence of having habituated to the playback stimuli presented. Following a ch [www.biorxiv.org](http://www.biorxiv.org)

- Abdelhamid, MK., Nekouei, O., Hess, M., **Paudel, S**. Association between Escherichia coli load in the gut and body weight gain in broiler chickens: a systematic review and meta-analysis. *Avian Diseases* (accepted)
- **Prof. Ming Wai Kit (PH) of CityU Hong Kong Delivers Keynote Speech at the 2<sup>nd</sup> China Health Preferences and Behavioral Health Economics Forum**

**Prof. Ming Wai Kit (PH)** attended the 2nd China Health Preferences and Behavioral Health Economics Forum held in Wuhan, China from October 26-28, 2023. At the conference, Prof. Ming delivered a keynote speech titled "China Health Preferences: Preferences for Public Health and Social Measures". In addition, three PhD students from Ming's team, Mr. Liu Taoran, Miss He Yan, and Dr. Ronal Wong, along with visiting graduate

student Miss Yang Yixin, participated in the academic conference. They actively engaged in various academic discussions and exchanged ideas with scholars at the conference. The keynote speech by Prof. Ming and the active participation of his students underscore the leading position of the PH in the fields of public health research and behavioral health economics. The event further demonstrated the department's commitment to promoting academic research and fostering national academic exchanges.



## Service

- **Prof. Dirk Pfeiffer** was re-appointed as Member of the Veterinary Advisory Committee of The Hong Kong Jockey Club Equine Welfare Research Foundation. The new term will be three years from 1 Nov 2023 to 31 Oct 2026.
- **Prof. Dirk Pfeiffer** was appointed as a commissioner on a new Lancet Commission: <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/global-health/science-and-disease/bird-flu-h5n1-human-deaths-cambodia-lancet-investigation/>
- **PH Co-Hosts VR Eye Health Seminar with Yau Tsim Mong Healthy City Committee**

20 October 2023, PH partnered with the Yau Tsim Mong Healthy City Committee, HKSAR Government to organize a unique eye health seminar. As part of this event, the department set up a VR Eye Disease Experience Zone to allow middle and primary school students and community members to experience and understand the severity of eye diseases firsthand. The event was hosted by **Prof. Ming Wai Kit (PH)** and his team (Dr. Paul Mok, Dr. Ronal Wong, Dr. MEKONEN Ginenus Fekadu, Ms LI Sicun and Mr WANG Morrison). They used cutting-edge VR technology to give participants the opportunity to simulate various eye disease conditions, thereby providing a deeper understanding of the impact and importance of these diseases. Through the VR Eye Disease Experience Zone, participants not only gained a more intuitive understanding of the impact of eye diseases but also learned about the importance of regular eye check-ups. Through this event, the PH has further highlighted its leadership in disease prevention education and technological innovation. In the future, the department will continue to work with the community to promote public health and drive the application of technology in healthcare.





- **Prof. Ming Wai Kit (PH) Elected as Co-Chair of Member Engagement at Statistical Methods in HEOR Special Interest Group of ISPOR**

**Prof. Ming Wai Kit (PH)** attended the Statistical Methods in HEOR Special Interest Group management meeting of the Professional Society for Health Economics and Outcomes Research (ISPOR) online on October 23, 2023. Prof. Ming was elected as Co-Chair of Member Engagement at the meeting, further solidifying his influence in the field of international health economics. The primary aim of this SIG is to provide statistical leadership for strengthening the use of appropriate statistical methodology in health economics and outcomes research, and to improve the analytic techniques used in real-world data analysis. The election of Prof. Ming as Co-Chair of Member Engagement is a testament to his exceptional contributions and leadership in the field of health economics. This role will allow him to further influence the direction of the field and support the SIG in achieving its mission. The active involvement of Prof. Ming in prominent international organizations such as ISPOR showcases the commitment of the PH to pushing the boundaries of public health research and promoting international collaboration.

We congratulate Prof. Ming on his new role and look forward to his continued contributions to the field of health economics and public health policy.

## Media

- **Prof. Akos Kenéz** spoke on TVB Pearl Magazine about the use of insect-based feed ingredients for animal nutrition. The report presented the growing black soldier fly farming sector of Hong Kong and also featured some of the recent research projects conducted in PH.





# Biomedical Sciences

## Events



### Symposium on Advances in Regenerative Medicine and Tissue Engineering

Hosts: Department of Biomedical Sciences & Department of Infectious Diseases and Public Health

**Date:** 17 October 2023 (TUESDAY)  
**Time:** 3:15 PM – 5:00 PM  
**Venue:** CMA Lecture Theatre (Lecture Theatre 15)  
4/F, Yeung Kin Man Academic Building, CityU

#### Speakers



*Harnessing mechanobiological domains to address tissue repair and disease treatment*

**Han-Yun Kim, PhD**  
Director and Professor, Institute of Tissue Regeneration Engineering, Dankook University, Korea  
Editor-in-Chief of Journal of Tissue Engineering



*Therapeutic potential of 3D cardiac spheroids derived from human pluripotent stem cells for cardiac regeneration*

**Hun-Jun Park, MD, PhD**  
Professor, Division of Cardiology, Department of Internal Medicine The Catholic University of Korea, Seoul St. Mary's Hospital, Korea



*Bio-inspired tuning of natural polymers for 3D cell culture*

**Sun-Woong Kang, PhD**  
Principal Researcher, Korea Institute of Toxicology, Korea  
Assistant professor, University of Science & Technology, Korea

### BMS and PH Departments Co-host Successful Symposium on Regenerative Medicine and Tissue Engineering

A Symposium on Regenerative Medicine and Tissue Engineering, jointly organized by the BMS and PH departments was held on 17 October 2023 at LT-15, YEUNG Building, CityU. Notable professors and scientists from Korea delivered insightful talks on the subject, highlighting recent advancements and future prospects. The symposium provided a platform for interdisciplinary discussions and facilitated collaborations among attendees, fostering innovation in the field. The symposium showcased the latest breakthroughs, encouraged collaboration, and inspired continued exploration in this rapidly evolving field.

## Award

Miss Shiman HU, a dedicated PhD student from Prof. Ming CHAN's lab, has been awarded "Outstanding Student Abstract Fellowship" at the 1st Epigenetics Society (ES) International Meeting: Epigenetics of Disease and Development, held in Rome from 12-14 October 2023. Congratulations to Shiman on her remarkable achievement, and her success serves as an inspiration to aspiring researchers in the field on epigenetics.



## Research Grants

### Notable grants application deadlines upcoming:

- [Jockey Club Global STEM Post-doctoral Fellowship for Translational Research and Application](#)  
Deadline: 2 November 2023
- [Professional Services Advancement Support Scheme \(PASS\)](#)  
Deadline: 17 November 2023
- [Research Fellowship Scheme - Medical Research Fund \(HMRF\)](#)  
Deadline: 18 December 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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