



Dear JCC Community,

It's the end of another busy fortnight. In this newsletter the strength and diversity of our teaching efforts across the College are standouts – including continuing professional development teaching by our veterinary specialists to veterinarians on the mainland, a biodiversity field trip to nearby mangrove mudflats for Biological Sciences major students, ruminant veterinary medicine clinical placements in the Atherton Tablelands near Cairns in far North Queensland for BVM Year 6 students and oral presentations of research project proposals by Year 5 BVM Students.

As a College we can be proud of our strong interest and talent in pedagogy as demonstrated by the award of Teaching Grants to Profs. Katie Chan and Kwan Chow to promote integration of AI into teaching in Biomedical Sciences, and by the high-turnout of BVM teachers to the “Authentic Assessment” Seminars given by Prof. Sheena Warman and her team from the University of Bristol via Zoom earlier this week.

Next Wednesday at 11 am we'll celebrate the opening of the JCC Staff Common Room, located in TYB-2-G02, G/F, Block 2, To Yuen Building, with an informal morning tea. I hope this will be the first of many informal gatherings and the chance to meet colleagues from different departments in the College.

Kind regards



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Medicine and Life Sciences

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



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# News From JCC and Our Departments

## JCC



- JCC's flag was flying high at the China Exotic Conference in Chang Sha, Hunan Province this week. Dr. Howie Wong, Director at Veterinary Medicine Development facilitated our engagement in this highly popular event, with over 5000 attendees, as part of the National Pet Medical Industry Conference. Keynote speakers from JCC were our pathologists Prof. May Tse and Jeanine Sandy, Exotics Specialist Prof. Colin McDermott and anaesthesiologist from CityU Veterinary Medical Centre, Adjunct Prof. Alexander Thomson.

## Biomedical Sciences

### Award

Congratulations to **Prof Katie CHAN** and **Prof Kwan CHOW** for getting the Artificial Intelligence Action Research (AIAR) Project for Integrating AI supported by Teaching Development Grant 2023-24. This helps to promote innovations to enhance the quality of teaching for the better provision of quality education to students.



Prof Katie Chan's project title:

- Technology-Driven Calculus Learning for Biology Students: Enhancing Student Motivation and Learning Experience

Prof Kwan Chow's project title:

- The Use of Artificial Intelligence for BMS2803: Biology of Cells.

### Teaching

A class of Biological Sciences major students had a fruitful and enjoyable field trip to Sha Tau Kok Mangrove stand and mudflat in October and November 2023 for the course of BMS2204 Diversity of Life and Microbiology Laboratory. Students were using camera to explore mangrove stand and mudflat biodiversity and human-nature interactions. Thanks to BMS2204 teaching team, all teaching assistants, guest lecturers and technical support to make the field trip successful.



## *Veterinary Clinical Sciences*

### Teaching



- Our fifth-year BVM students completed their oral presentation of their research proposals for the VM4401 Research Project course. All of the presentations were excellent, with great questions and discussion following each presentation. Topics were wide-ranging and included the detection of dermatophytes in exotic companion mammals, identification of *Leptospira* from environmental samples, novel evaluation of CSF samples from dogs, evaluation of the causes of anemia in cats, and the identification of *Malassezia* from cattle, just to name a few. Congratulations to the fifth-year BVM cohort on a job well done. We are looking forward to seeing the results of your research projects next semester!



- Led by **Professor Pedro Melendez**, numbers of our sixth-year students are undergoing the cattle rotations at Tableland Veterinary Practice in Malanda Queensland Australia during November 6-17, 2023.



- **Samantha LIE**, our sixth-year BVM student, will get her research featured in the RCVS website during the Fellowship Day on Monday November 27<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at <https://www.rcvs.org.uk/fellowship/fellowship-day/>. Her research about the "Diversity, prevalence and intensity of gastro-intestinal parasites in the Hong Kong feral cattle" was conducted for her Final Year Research Project, under the supervision of **Professor Kate Flay**.

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



**Professor Paulo Steagall** was the moderator of the Anesthesia and Pain Management stream at the Southern European Veterinary Conference in Barcelona, Spain between Nov 9-11<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Last-year BVM programme student Yoojin Kim presented a poster at the same conference including the results of her Year 5 research project entitled "PERCEPTIONS AND OPINIONS OF PET CAREGIVERS IN MAINLAND AND HONG KONG CHINA ABOUT SURGERY, PAIN MANAGEMENT, AND ANESTHESIA IN DOGS AND CATS". This study was co-authored by **Professor Pawel Beczkowski** and supervised by **Professor Paulo Steagall**

## Service



- **Professor Stefan Hobi** was honored to be a main speaker at the first Royal Canin Veterinary Symposium in Kaohsiung, Taiwan. There were over 300 interested local veterinarians. Prof. Hobi felt very welcomed and was given a certificate of appreciation by the Kaohsiung Veterinary Association.

## Others



- **Professor Stefan Hobi**, a proud member of the veterinary mycology one health working group, joined and successfully passed the 5th ISHAM-international Veterinary Mycology course in Iasi, Romania. He not only enjoyed the high class lectures and practical classes, but also the great spirit, diversity and enthusiasm of the participants.

# Infectious Diseases and Public Health

## Awards

- **Mr. LI Cheuk Ming**, first-year PhD student supervised by Dr. Akos Kenez was awarded the HK Tech 300 Seed Fund grant for his project titled "Pet food tech for sustainable animal feed".

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

- Parker MO, **McElligott AG**. 2023. Ethical evolutions: navigating the future of animal behaviour and welfare research (Editorial). Research Ethics 19, 369-372. - <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/17470161231202299>

## Service

- **Prof. Alan McElligott** attended the Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (EDIA) Committee meeting for the International Society for Applied Ethology (ISAE), Nov 7th, 2023. [https://www.applied-ethology.org/Committees\\_and\\_Experts.html](https://www.applied-ethology.org/Committees_and_Experts.html)

# Neuroscience

## Research

eLife | Home Magazine Community About

Research Article  
Neuroscience

### Astrocyte and L-lactate in the anterior cingulate cortex modulate schema memory and neuronal mitochondrial biogenesis

Mastura Akter, Mahadi Hasan, Aruna Surendran Ramkrishnan, Zafar Iqbal, Xianlin Zheng, Zhongqi Fu, Zhuogui Lei, Anwarul Karim, Ying Li

- Mastura Akter, Mahadi Hasan, Aruna Surendran Ramkrishnan, Xianlin Zheng, Zafar Iqbal, Zhongqi Fu, Zhuogui Lei, Anwarul Karim, **Ying Li\***. (2023). Astrocytic L-lactate signaling in the anterior cingulate cortex is essential for schema memory and neuronal mitochondrial biogenesis. *eLife* 2023.01.08.523156; doi: <https://elifesciences.org/articles/85751>

## Research Grants

### Notable grants application deadlines upcoming:

1. [Professional Services Advancement Support Scheme \(PASS\)](#)  
[Deadline: 17 November 2023](#)
2. [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

**Why Early Career Researchers (ECRs) matter in science and education**

**The Human Factor**  
Dealing with research, academia, grants, and teaching is challenging in itself, but what makes it easier is understanding the people behind it. We all come with biases, complexities and diversity in thought, action and belief. Recognizing these differences, and utilizing diversity as a strength, to create an inclusive impact is pivotal for every ECR.

**Performance and expectations as potential sources of anxiety**

**If any or all of these have ever crossed your mind as an ECR, you aren't alone!**

**JOIN US!** as we understand biases and celebrate differences to create a promising tomorrow.

**Venue: TYB - 1B - G04**  
**Date: 6 Dec 2023**  
**Time: 04:00 pm**  
Refreshments will be provided

**REGISTER NOW**

Session led by Mr. Richard Shah, Supervisor (Communication Coach), a certified Human Factors Coach, who will facilitate this powerful 50-minute session

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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