



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



From the Dean's Desk

21 December 2023

Dear JCC Community,

2023 has been a big year for the JCC. We went straight from the AVBC/RCVS dual accreditation visits into three rounds of Research of Excellence assessments by different international panels who assessed the JCC, and the Departments of PH and VCS. The upshot was we are benchmarking extremely well, and we were reminded that the accreditation of the BVM is just the starting point. Attaining our vision of being a top 20 veterinary school will require further resources to enable growth.

After that, all departments worked hard to produce draft impact cases for the Research Assessment Exercise (RAE). We received feedback from the mock assessment panels and next year these impact cases will be a major priority for further development and refinement.

With the major business of BVM accreditation out of the way, a welcome breath of fresh air has blown through the College, enabling us to develop new partnerships both internally and externally. As a College we are more united and more collaborative. We have a communal meeting place, and we meet together as a College frequently through multiple different forums. We are also exploring new relationships with mainland Universities including Fudan and Zhejiang Universities. We continue to be bolstered and supported by our strategic partner, Cornell College of Veterinary Medicine, and 2023 saw the return of exchange visits between JCC and CVM, including a visit from the Dean of CVM.

CityU farm is performing excellently as a teaching and research facility, showcasing sustainability and promoting the BVM and JCC through its tasty milk (and ice-cream coming in January 2024).

By far, the biggest asset of our College is our people. As you'll see through the news below, our people are excelling in research, teaching and service. We are winning awards, securing major research grants, publishing in high-impact journals, and more importantly, producing research that is life-saving and making important contributions to society and to improving our world.

I am proud of our team and grateful for all of your contributions over the last calendar year.

With all Best Wishes for the Festive Season.



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News From JCC and Our Departments

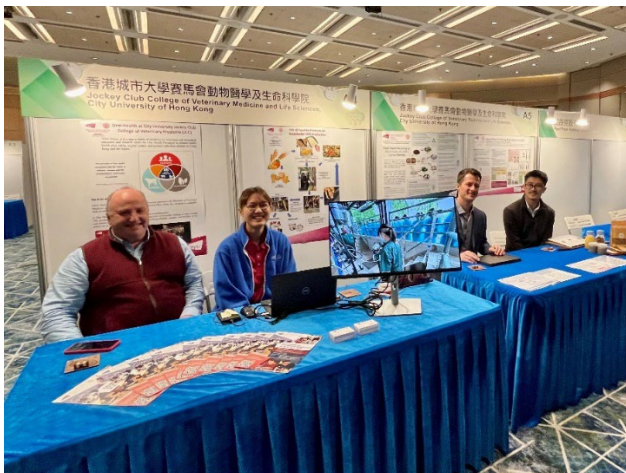
JCC

- Dr Joyce IP, senior dairy farm officer at CityU Farm, gave a short presentation at the EPD-sponsored “Biochar Promotion Conference” about both the current use of biochar at CityU Farm to reduce odours and future potential uses for effluent filtration, bedding, and as a feed additive to reduce ruminal methane production. Also, a study will compost the farm manure with biochar to produce a sustainable fertiliser for local horticulture.



- FoodSmart Conference and Expo for Food and Beverage Trade 2023 - Towards Carbon Neutrality organised by the Environmental Protection Department of the HK Government was held on 11-12 December 2023 at Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre, JCC have 2 booths (one feat CityU Farm and the other featuring Black Soldier Fly Larvae research).

During the conference, Dr. Eryl DONE gave a talk on “*Food Waste as Part of Sustainable Dairy Farming in Hong Kong,*” and Dr. Akos gave a talk on “*Insect Farming for Food Waste Recycling and Sustainability Animal Nutrition.*”



Infectious Diseases and Public Health

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

- **Bronze Award**, The 9th China International "Internet Plus" College Student Innovation and Entrepreneurship Competition (Zhaojin Guo, Li Lyu, Zheng He, Endai Huang, Axiu Mao, Mae Hossain; Team advisor: **Prof Kai LIU**)




- A team consisting of students supervised by **Prof Kai LIU (PH)** and **Prof Kate Flay (VCS)**, including Mahejabeen Hossain Nidhi, Axiu Mao, Li Lyu, Zhaojin Guo, and Zheng He, participated in 2023 Huawei Developer Competition held at Huawei European Town, Dongguan, China. In this event, the team won the Second Runner-up Prize with a cash award of 3000 USD at the 2023 Huawei Developer Competition – Asia Pacific. <https://www.cityu.edu.hk/ph/news/researchers-supervised-dr-kai-liu-and-dr-kate-flay-win-second-runner-prize-2023-huawei>



- A new accepted paper. Hodgson GMW, Flay KJ, Perroux TA, Chan WY, **McElligott AG**. *In Press*. Sex and dominance status affect allogrooming in free-ranging feral cattle. *Animal Behaviour*. [Preprint](#) version

<https://www.biorxiv.org/content/10.1101/2023.05.08.539791v1>

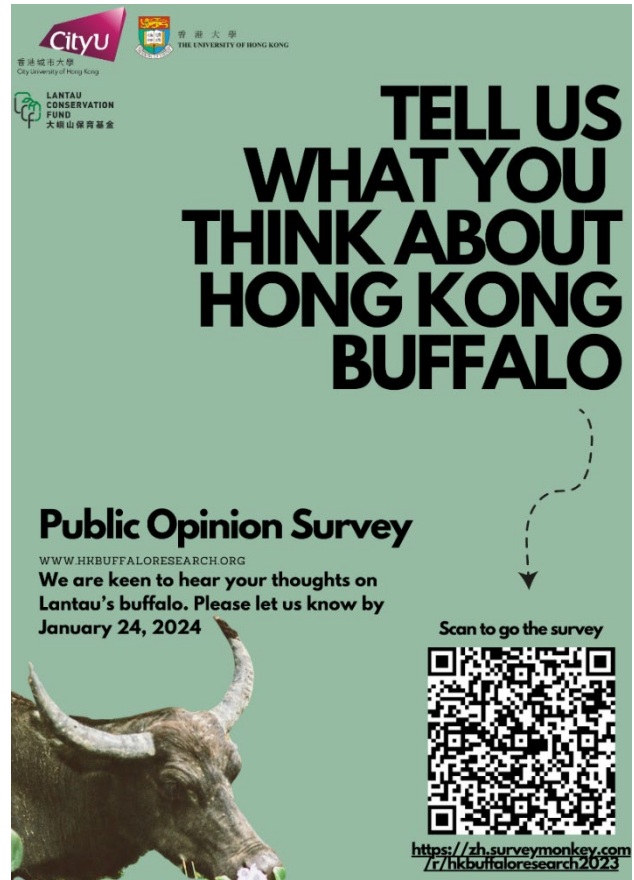


[Sex and dominance status affect allogrooming in free-ranging feral cattle](https://www.biorxiv.org/content/10.1101/2023.05.08.539791v1)
www.biorxiv.org

- Jorge-Smeding E, Leung YH, Ruiz-González A, Xu W, Astessiano AL, Trujillo AI, Rico DE, **Kenéz Á**. Plasma and milk metabolomics revealed changes in amino acid metabolism in Holstein dairy cows under heat stress. Published in *Animal* (Elsevier) on 1/12/2023.
- **Ákos Kenéz** presented a paper at the International Conference on Sustainable Animal Agriculture for Developing Countries in Vientiane, Laos. The subject of the presentation was the outcome of Margarita Shu's 5th Year BVM research project (Mung Kwan Shu, Cheuk Ming Li, William Eduardo Furtado, Qianjun Huang, Sophie St-Hilaire, Ákos Kenéz: Antibacterial properties of oil extracts of black soldier fly larvae reared on bakery waste)



- The team from "The Role of Buffalo in Lantau Biodiversity" project officially launched a survey on December 11 to collect public opinions primarily about Hong Kong buffalo. **Dr. Danhe Yang** is leading this survey, which is designed to understand the Hong Kong public opinions on water buffalo, feral cattle, and other animals in Lantau. Here are the links of the survey: <https://zh.surveymonkey.com/r/hkbuffaloresearch2023> (English version); <https://zh.surveymonkey.com/r/hkbuffaloresearch2023cnt> (繁體中文); <https://zh.surveymonkey.com/r/hkbuffaloresearch2023cns> (简体中文).



Service & Media

- **Prof. Dirk Pfeiffer** participated in a workshop in Paris organised by the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) in collaboration with INTERPOL during Nov 13-16, 2023. The workshop aimed to share knowledge and experiences on interview techniques for epidemiological, criminal, and non-compliance investigations. The workshop supported the development of capacity-building tools and guidance that will foster cooperation and preparedness for events at the animal health-security interface. It also aimed to facilitate a revision of the WOAH Guidelines for Investigation of Suspicious Biological Events. Approximately 30 experts from the Veterinary Services, Public Health, and Law Enforcement sectors from WOAH Member countries and international organisations were involved in the workshop. To provide participants from the law-enforcement sector with context, Prof. Dirk Pfeiffer delivered a presentation at the beginning of the workshop about the use of interviews in the context of epidemiological outbreak investigations.



- **Prof. Dirk Pfeiffer** participated in a workshop - 2023 Global African Swine Fever Research Alliance (GARA) Gap Analysis in Manila, Philippines organised by the Global Foot-and-mouth disease Research Alliance during Dec 5-8, 2023. The GARA Gap Analysis strived to bring together leading scientists from around the world to engage in discussion on current research on African Swine Fever (ASF), with a focus on identifying knowledge gaps. The workshop was organized as a series of events, each targeting a specific region of the world. The workshop in Manila aimed at identifying critical knowledge and research gaps related to ASF which are specific to Asia.
- **Prof. Alan MCELLIGOTT** attended a meeting of the Association for the Study of Animal Behaviour [ASAB] Education Committee on 15/11/2023 <https://www.asab.org/education-committee>.
- WHAT ARE FARM ANIMALS THINKING? New research is revealing surprising complexity in the minds of goats, pigs and other livestock. **Prof. Alan McElligott** was invited to share his views in a feature story in SCIENCE. <https://www.science.org/content/article/not-dumb-creatures-livestock-surprise-scientists-their-complex-emotional-minds>
- **Population control or wipeout? Hong Kong ‘buffalo mama’ worries for Lantau Island cows, wants sterilisation stopped.** <https://www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong/health-environment/article/3242797/population-control-or-wipeout-hong-kong-buffalo-mama-worries-lantau-island-cows-wants-sterilisation>



[Hong Kong ‘buffalo mama’ worries for Lantau cows, wants sterilisation stop](https://www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong/health-environment/article/3242797/population-control-or-wipeout-hong-kong-buffalo-mama-worries-lantau-island-cows-wants-sterilisation)

Authorities have been sterilising buffaloes after cases of people being injured, but some activists are calling on government to drop programme.

www.scmp.com

- **Dr. Akos Kenez, Dr. Eryl Done, Dr. Joyce Ip, and Tyler Li** presented the sustainability initiatives of JCC at the “FoodSmart Conference and Expo for the Food and Beverage Trade 2023 – Towards Carbon Neutrality” organised by the Environmental Protection Department of the HK Government. Dr. Akos Kenez also gave a talk on “Insect farming for food waste recycling and sustainable animal nutrition”.

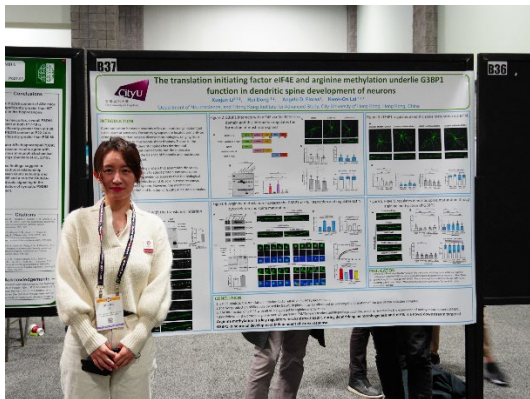
Neuroscience

Award



- Ms. WANG Xiaojie, a fourth-year PhD student in Prof. Kwok-On LAI's lab, was awarded the Outstanding Presentation Award at the 16th USTC-CityU PhD Student Workshop on 3 November 2023.

Event



- Ms. LI Xuejun, a second-year PhD student in Prof. Kwok-On LAI's lab, made a poster presentation on her work during the Society for Neuroscience Annual Meeting at Washington D.C. on 15 November 2023.

Biomedical Sciences

Awards

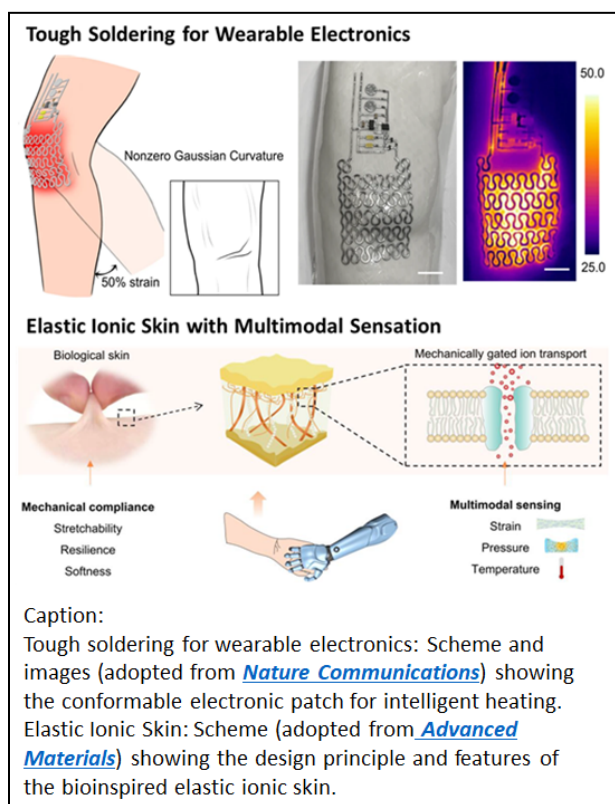
Professor **YAN Jian** and **YIN HUIYONG** from BMS each were awarded a highly competitive grant from Shenzhen Medical Academy of Research and Translation (SMART) to study the mechanisms of colorectal cancer and liver cancer, respectively. Each project was awarded three millions Chinese Yuan for three years. This grant scheme is aimed to explore the medical frontiers with high impact to human diseases.

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

Prof Yao Xi's Research Group Achieves Groundbreaking Findings Published in Top-ranked Journals - Nature Communications and Advanced Materials

The application of wearable technologies in personalized health management and medical treatment has attracted significant attention. On the one hand, various applications have been realized on the developed wearable devices including physiological state monitoring, disease prevention and diagnosis, and health data management. On the other hand, the rapid progress of personalized health management generates new demands on the multifunctionality of wearable devices, for example, to maintain function under large and frequent deformations when the device is equipped on human body, and to monitor diverse physiological parameters simultaneously with minimum energy supply.

To address the abovementioned challenges, **Prof. Yao Xi's lab** reported their recent progress on wearable electronics for healthcare management. Tough soldering technologies and corresponded materials have been developed to enable the chip-integrated wearable electronics which show a record-breaking maximum strain before electrical failure and small resistance changes over a large range of strains without encapsulation. This work has been published at [Nature Communications](#), for which the first author is **Ai Liqing, a PhD student in Prof. Yao's lab**. They also reported a bioinspired elastic ionic skin which shows similar mechanical compliance as human skin and holds a unique capability of multimodal sensation. With the help of machine learning algorithms, the variations of external stimuli from voltage signals generated by the ionic skin can be decoupled, making the ionic skin promising in human-machine interactions. This work has been published at [Advanced Materials](#), for which the first author is **Lyu Dong, a PhD graduate and now a postdoc in Prof. Yao's lab**.

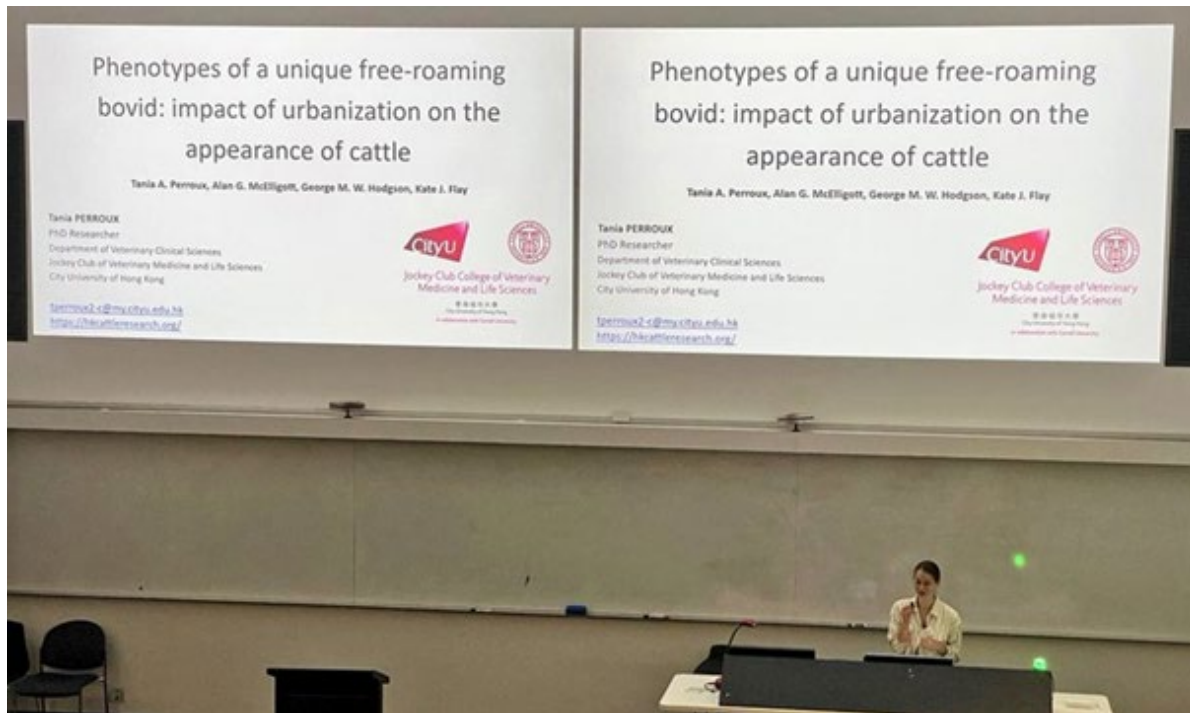


Caption:

Tough soldering for wearable electronics: Scheme and images (adopted from [Nature Communications](#)) showing the conformable electronic patch for intelligent heating. Elastic Ionic Skin: Scheme (adopted from [Advanced Materials](#)) showing the design principle and features of the bioinspired elastic ionic skin.

Veterinary Clinical Sciences

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



- On November 14th 2023, PhD student **Tania Perroux** presented her work on “Phenotypes of a unique free-roaming bovid: Impact of urbanization on the appearance of cattle” at the Oceania Regional Meeting of the International Society of Applied Ethology (ISAE).
- **Steagall, P.V.**, Monteiro, B.P., Marangoni, S. et al. Fully automated deep learning models with smartphone applicability for prediction of pain using the Feline Grimace Scale. *Sci Rep* 13, 21584 (2023). <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-023-49031-2>
- Marangoni S, Ubiali M, Ambrosini F, Jahnel L, Vilani JM, **Steagall PV** and Vilani RGD’OC (2023) Effects of different rates of propofol with or without S-ketamine on ventricular function in healthy cats – a randomized study. *Front. Vet. Sci.* 10:1272949. doi: 10.3389/fvets.2023.1272949
- **K. J. Flay**, A. S. Chen, D. A. Yang, P. R. Kenyon and A. L. Ridler. Identification of risk factors for ewe mortality during the pregnancy and lambing period in extensively managed flocks. *BMC Veterinary Research*, 19:257, 2023 <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12917-023-03822-x>

Service

- **Professor Pedro Melendez** has been accepted to join as the Fulbright Specialist Roster of the Fulbright Specialist Program organized by the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) and World Learning. He is now eligible to be matched with projects designed by host institutions in over 150 countries globally.

CAHW



Survey

Motivations, behavior, and perceptions of owners acquiring a dog in Hong Kong SAR and Mainland China

Join our survey to better understand the reasons why you chose a particular dog as your pet. The results will be used to inform pet welfare and pet education programs.

Check if you're eligible and complete the survey by scanning the QR code below!

- ✓ Over 18 years of age
- ✓ Hong Kong SAR or Mainland China residents
- ✓ Currently have at least one dog



<https://cityuhk.questionpro.com/dogownership>



- Join our [survey](#) on “*Motivation, behaviour, and perceptions of owners acquiring a dog in Hong Kong SAR and Mainland China*” to help us better understand why you chose particular dogs as your pet. The results will be used to inform pet welfare and pet education programs.

**DEC 21, 2023
(THURSDAY)
15:30-16:30, ZOOM**

SEMINAR

Using equine fitness trackers to monitor training and performance, telehealth and big data

SUMMARY:

The world of equine fitness trackers is expanding, mirroring what is available in humans. A wealth of data is generated by these devices, and it is essential to validate the accuracy of these devices before using it in clinical and research settings.

The addition of ECG capability to one of these devices required some testing and validation, but is now in place in fitness trackers used on horses around the world. This has practical applications to monitor training, with speed, heart rate and recovery parameters, but also provides a unique window for telehealth, allowing us to review ECGs for horses with poor performance or an irregularity that are located on the other side of the world.

The fitness trackers also find applications in continuous monitoring of horses with diagnosed cardiac diseases, where previous monitoring relied on annual exercise tests with specialized equipment. These fitness trackers allow evaluations of frequent exercise sessions throughout the year. Additionally, this gives us access to thousands of ECGs, recorded on horses in training which is essentially a wealth of data for research purposes.

The device records many more parameters related to speed and distance, as well as locomotion, further completing the available data. The availability of this abundance of data comes with new challenges, but allows for research on a population basis. Ongoing studies explore the prevalence of exercising arrhythmias and their impact on horse health parameters and performance.

SCAN FOR
FREE REGISTRATION

Dr. Feter Woort
DVM, DVMC,
DACVIM (LAIM), DECVSMR
Waterloo, Belgium

Enquiry: vcsa@cityu.edu.hk

- Join our VCS-CAHW seminar on **December 21, 2023 (Thu) at 3:30pm** to learn about the revolutionary world of **equine fitness trackers** on Zoom! Discover how these devices are transforming telehealth and horse health monitoring, and explore the wealth of data they provide for ongoing research. ([RSVP](#))

Research Grants

Notable grants application deadlines upcoming:

- [Research Fellowship Scheme - Medical Research Fund \(HMRF\)](#)
Deadline: 18 December 2023
- [Strategic Seed Fund \(SSF\)](#)
Deadline: 8 January 2024
- [NSFC/RGC Joint Research Scheme / Collaborative Research Scheme](#)
Deadline: 8 January 2024
- [Professional Services Advancement Support Scheme \(PASS\)](#)
Deadline: 14 February 2024

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

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI)

Upcoming DEI Events



Abstract:
In general, fewer female scientists are promoted, and progress, to the most senior levels in academia, compared to males. This is a so-called 'leaky pipeline'. At The Roslin Institute, University of Edinburgh we are committed to improving gender balance and equality for all staff and students. This seminar will focus on the Roslin Institute and its research culture. Prof. Hope will introduce their approach to gender equality and the Athena Swan charter, including their Gold award. Furthermore, she will share her research journey and personal commitment to advancing research culture and equality, diversity, and inclusion.

Speaker's Biography:
Prof. Jayne Hope obtained a degree in Biological Sciences from the University of Birmingham, UK, and a Ph.D. from the University of Manchester, UK. She then conducted postdoctoral research at Kings College, London, UK, and subsequently at the Institute for Animal Health, Compton, UK. She joined The Roslin Institute, University of Edinburgh, UK, in 2011 and was awarded a personal chair in immunology in 2017. Her research group studies cellular immune responses in cattle with a particular focus on understanding the role of innate cells in driving natural and vaccine-induced immunity. Prof. Hope was appointed Deputy Director of The Roslin Institute responsible for Culture and Diversity in 2019. She is also the Associate Dean for Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion for the Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies.
<https://www.ed.ac.uk/profile/jayne-hope>



Prof. Jayne Hope

Date: February 08, 2024 (Thu)
Time: 4pm HKT
on Zoom
! FREE REGISTRATION !



The Roslin Institute - Athena Swan Gold

Date: 8 February 2024
Speaker: Prof. Jayne HOPE
Register: [Link](#)

Hong Kong Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Summit

Date: 1 February 2024
Location: Hong Kong Ocean Park Marriott Hotel
Register: [Link](#)

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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