



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

18 March 2024

Dear JCC Community,

In the recent round of promotions, colleagues in all four departments in the JCC were very successful, and I extend my heartfelt congratulations to all faculty who had their contracts renewed, were substantiated and/or promoted. These excellent results are testament to the rigor, uniformity and credibility of the new promotions process implemented soon after President Boey's inauguration in 2023. For colleagues that were not successful this time around, know that you are highly valued and appreciated, and I have no doubt you will blitz it next time.

Our Departments' news below is a showcase of the incredible talent our College continues to nurture. Particularly noteworthy is the recent achievement of BMS PhD student, ZHANG Xuebing Eva, who won "Dance your PhD 2024" contest in the Chemistry category, hosted by Science Journal. If you haven't seen this amazing video, you must! Congratulations Eva! <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sXwOaXNAmkg>

JCC has been busy with community outreach in recent weeks, co-hosting the wildly popular [Pet Power](#) event on campus and arranging admissions events for the flagship BVM programme including farm tours. Our admissions teams for taught programmes have also been working hard to secure good admission numbers in the Masters programmes hosted by NS, PH and BMS.

Kind Regards,



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News From JCC and Our Departments

Infectious Diseases and Public Health

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

1. Davitt C, Huggins L, Pfeffer M, Batchimeg L, Jones M, Battur B, Wiethoelter A, Traub RJ. 2024. Next-generation sequencing metabarcoding assays reveal diverse bacterial vector-borne pathogens of Mongolian dogs. *Current Research in Parasitology & Vector-Borne Diseases*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.crvbd.2024.100173>
2. Huggins, L.G., Atapattu, U., Young, Traub RJ, Colella V. 2024. Development and validation of a long-read metabarcoding platform for the detection of filarial worm pathogens of animals and humans. *BMC Microbiol* 24, 28. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12866-023-03159-3>

3. A new paper published (PH & VCS) Hodgson GMW, Flay KJ, Perroux TA, Chan WY, McElligott AG. 2024. Sex and dominance status affect allogrooming in free-ranging feral cattle. *Animal Behaviour*.

DOI:

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.anbehav.2023.12.020>



[Sex and dominance status affect allogrooming in free-ranging feral cattle](#)

Social interactions are fundamental properties of gregarious species, helping to establish.

4. Example of media coverage:
Cattle have intricate social lives that aren't readily apparent.

<https://www.earth.com/news/cattle-have-intricate-social-lives-allogrooming-insights-behaviors-welfare/>



5. A new paper In Press (VCS & PH):
Bukhari SSUH, Parkes RSV, Sneddon LU, McElligott AG. 2024. The behavior and welfare of neglected species: some examples from fish and mammals. *PEERJ* (in press).
Species included: water buffaloes (*Bubalus bubalis*), camels (*Camelus dromedarius*), donkeys (*Equus asinus*), mules (*Equus asinus* × *Equus caballus*), and lumpfish (*Cyclopterus lumpus*).

Service

1. Prof. Patrick BUTAYE was nominated ESCMID Fellow from The European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases on 1 March 2024 due to his professional excellence and outstanding service to the profession and the society.



2. Prof. Patrick BUTAYE was nominated Member in the Biology and Medicine panel of RGC.
3. Prof. Patrick BUTAYE was invited panel member for digital health meeting at Stanford University.
4. Prof. Surya Paudel presented a research work titled "Escherichia coli load in the gut and weight gain in broilers: insights from a systematic review and meta-analysis" at the Australian Poultry Science Symposium held in Sydney from 19-21 February 2024.

Promotion

We are delighted to have two faculty members' recent promotions effective from July 1, 2024. We eagerly anticipate witnessing their future accomplishments and the positive impact they will continue to make on our department, college and university.

Prof. Akos Kenez - Promotion to Associate Professor

Prof. Jun Li - Promotion to Associate Professor



Veterinary Clinical Sciences

Teaching

Year 4 students were provided with their inaugural surgery exposure lab, designed to offer support prior to their first independent surgeries. The practical took place at the new facility of SPCA in Tsing Yi with Professors Paulo Steagall and Angel Almendros, and Drs. Seem Tsang, Laurie Hippman, Patricia Poon. The team neutered 5 female cats from the SPCA welfare program with hands-on opportunities. A special note of appreciation goes to the SPCA team for their collaboration in making this event possible.

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

1. Snow R, Tse M, Hill F, Choi YR, Beatty J, and Grioni A "Concurrent Iron Overload and Neoplasia in Leschenault's Rousettes (*Rousettus Leschenaultii*): A Case Series," *Journal of Zoo and Wildlife Medicine* 55(1), 235-247, (5 March 2024). <https://doi.org/10.1638/2022-0104>
2. Hodgson GMW, Flay KJ, Perroux TA, Chan WY, McElligott AG. 2024. Sex and dominance status affect allogrooming in free-ranging feral cattle. *Animal Behaviour*. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.anbehav.2023.12.020>
3. Hobi S, Bęczkowski PM, Mueller R, Tse M, Barrs VR. Malassezia dermatitis in dogs and cats. *The Veterinary Journal*. 2024 Feb 29:106084

Service

1. Professors Antonio Giuliano and Angel Almendros attended the three-day 91st Scientific Conference and Annual Convention of the Philippine Veterinary Medical Association (PVMA) held on February 21 - 23, 2024 in Bacolod, Philippines. The event was well-attended, and our Professors had engaged in many fruitful discussions and presented their research findings on oncology and infectious disease.



2. On 21st of February, Prof. Stefan Hobi gave a webinar to the Centre of Animal Health and Welfare about dermatological problems of brachycephalic dogs, which was a great success with over 40 participants.
3. Prof. Julia Beatty has been appointed as the member of the World Small Animal Veterinary Association (WSAVA) Vaccine Guidelines group that missioned to provide evidence-based scientific advice to the global veterinary profession on optimum vaccination practice for dogs and cats.

Others

1. As a member of the WAVD, Prof. Stefan Hobi would like to invite all people interested in dermatology to participate in the upcoming World Conference of Veterinary Dermatology (WCVD10), Boston, USA. The early bird registration just opened and there is also an online stream. For further information

please visit: <https://vetdermboston.com/registration/>



2. Year 5 students had the opportunity to visit the Hong Kong Government Centre for Food Safety's Food Research Laboratory as part of their Food Safety and Regulation course. Accompanied by instructor Dr [Fuyong Li](#) and Director of Development for Veterinary Medicine Dr [Howie Wong](#), they learned about food safety testing, analysis and risk assessment, as well as the regulatory system for food imports.



3. Professor Jeanine Sandy gave a continuing education talk on the limitations of in-clinic haematology machines as part of JCC's 2023-2024 Veterinary Practice Series sponsored by Royal Canin



Biomedical Sciences

Promotion

We are delighted to have three faculty members' recent promotions effective from July 1, 2024. We eagerly anticipate witnessing their future accomplishments and the positive impact they will continue to make on our department, college and university.

Prof. Deng Xin - Promotion to Professor

Prof. Katie Chan - Promotion to Associate Professor

Prof. Sean Yuan - Promotion to Associate Professor

Awards

Congratulations to our PhD student, ZHANG Xuebing Eva (Prof KIM Jin Young's group), has won "Dance your PhD 2024" contest in the Chemistry category, hosted by Science Journal. Eva's captivating dance performance, titled "Circadian Clock Communication between Different Cells," beautifully showcased the intricate scientific concepts of her research. Her innovative approach and exceptional talent have been recognized for effectively merging scientific exploration with artistic expression.



This achievement not only reflects the depth of her knowledge in Sciences but also highlights her ability to communicate complex ideas in a visually engaging and accessible manner. We are proud of Eva's accomplishment, as it brings honor to our department and underscores the interdisciplinary nature of our work. Her winning video can be watched below:

<https://www.science.org/content/article/kangaroo-research-wins-dance-phd-contest>

Outreach

Prof Yao Xi has recently delivered two online promotion talks for the Master of Science in Health Services Management (MSHSM) programme. The promotion talks took place at 寄托天下 Gter on 28th February 2024 and 中国教育在线 EOL on 7th March 2024, attracting enthusiastic participation from students and potential TPg programme applicants.



Neuroscience

New External Grant

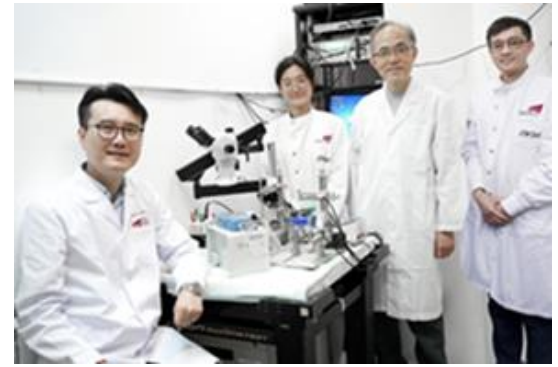
Professor Alan C. C. Fung has been awarded the Shenzhen Science & Technology Research Grants – General Grant for Basic Research in support of his pioneering research project titled "Impacts of Astrocyte-Driven Modulation of the Variation of Neurotransmitter Release Probabilities on the Dynamics of Neural Networks".



Research

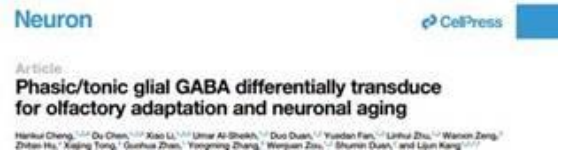
1. Prof Ma's recent research has been featured in CityU Research Stories "CityU neuroscientists unveil the novel therapeutic potential of Metaxalone for treating nerve injuries".

[Link to the article](#)



2. Hankui Cheng, Du Chen, Xiao Li, Umar Al-Sheikh, Duo Duan, Yuedan Fan, Linhui Zhu, Wanxin Zeng, **Zhitao Hu**, Xiajing Tong, Guohua Zhao, Yongming Zhang, Wenjuan Zou, Shumin Duan, and Lijun Kang. Phasic/tonic glial GABA differentially transduce for olfactory adaptation and neuronal aging. *Neuron*, doi: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.neuron.2024.02.006>.

[Link to the article](#)



3. Albert Hiu Ka Fok, Yuhua Huang, Beth Wing Lam So, Qiyu Zheng, Chun Sing Carlos Tse, Xiaoyang Li, Kenneth Kin-Yip Wong, Jiandong Huang, **Kwok-On Lai***, and Cora Sau Wan Lai* (2024). KIF5B plays important roles in dendritic spine plasticity and dendritic localization of PSD95 and FMRP in the mouse cortex *in vivo*. *Cell Reports* 43(3): 113906. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.celrep.2024.113906>;

[Link to the article](#)



4. Yu J, Wong S, Lin ZN, Shan ZM, Fan CY, Xia ZY, Cheung M, Zhu XW, Liu JA*, Cheung CW*. High-Frequency Spinal Stimulation Suppresses Microglial Kiso-P2X7R Axis-Induced Inflammation to Alleviate Neuropathic Pain in Rats. *Annals of Neurology*, Article DOI: 10.1002/ana.26898 (2023 In press).

[Link to the article](#)



Staff

We are delighted to announce the promotion of Professor Kwok On LAI to Associate Professor in Department of Neuroscience, with effect from 1 July 2024.



Research Grants

Notable grants application deadlines upcoming:

1. [Health and Medical Research Fund \(HMRF\)](#)
Deadline: 18 March 2024
2. [The University Alliance in Talent Education Development \(UAiTED\) – 2024 Faculty Exchange Scholarship](#)
Deadline: 18 March 2024
3. [Construction Industry Council Research and Technology Development Fund \(CIC\)](#)
Deadline: 22 March 2024
4. [Shenzhen Medical Research Funding 深圳市医学研究专项资金](#)
Deadline: 19 April 2024

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

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI)

Events

1. International Women's Day (IWD, March 8) is a "global day celebrating the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women."



2. Ramadan - A month of Blessings and Compassion



3. Why Postgraduate Students Matter in Science and Education

Date: 18th April 2024

Speaker: Mr. Richard SHAH



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>