

Dear JCC Community,

What a great job you are all doing! I wanted to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you for your contributions to JCC. We are a diverse College and extremely busy with teaching, research, service and community outreach. Some of the highlights of the past few weeks include the third White Coat Ceremony held earlier in the week and the Communications Conference. Our BVM5 students donned pristine white coats, symbolizing the mantle of professionalism that they will be equipped with as they enter workplace-based clinical attachments, aspiring to practice the best evidence-based veterinary medicine possible. The students were cloaked by their mentors, who have stood by their side through this 5-year long journey and seen them develop into fine, upstanding junior colleagues. Distinguished guest, Dr. Francois Saulnier, specialist veterinary surgeon, gave a moving speech about the professional and personal fulfillment of being a veterinarian in your chosen field. He also reminded us about the challenges of working in a public-facing industry and the importance of having mentors and good support networks.



Figure 1: The students recite the Veterinarian's Oath together with the Dean.



Figures: Left Dr. Francois Sualnier, specialist veterinary surgeon, and right, BVM5 students with their mentors and teachers.

On Wednesday, PhD students from different departments at JCC organized a Conference on “Turning Failure into Success” as part of an innovative course led by communication coach Mr Richard Shah. I had the pleasure of opening the conference and was overwhelmed by the seamless organization and camaraderie by the 20 PhD students who organized the conference. They demonstrated that they more than rose to the challenge and have acquired skills to be successful researchers and leaders through their efforts to secure funding, a panel of diverse speakers, and a large audience. Top notch stuff and well done to all!

Enjoy reading about more successes below from our departments.

Sincerely,



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News From JCC and Our Departments

Veterinary Clinical Sciences

Teaching



We held a very engaging and successful day of presentations for the 5th year students in VM4401 on March 22nd, 2024. Students had their oral presentation of methods, results, discussion, and conclusions for their year-long research projects. Thank you to everyone who attended, and a special congratulations to all of our year 5 students for their excellent presentations!

Research



- Professor Colin McDermott has been appointed as an editor for the Journal of Herpetological Medicine and Surgery, a publication of the Association of Reptile and Amphibian Veterinarians.
- Professor Pedro Melendez was invited to visit the Northwest A&F University in Yangling for teaching and research activities during March 15-27, 2024.

Events

Professor Pawel Beczkowski presented the BVM programme to an audience of over 30 overseas high school principals / career guidance councillors from over 10 countries on 26 March 2024, as part of an initiative organised by CityU's Global Engagement Office. JCC also organised a booth to provide further information about JCC and the BVM curriculum and admissions.



Professor Pedro Melendez, Professor of Bovine Production Medicine, and a boarded specialist in dairy practice from the American Board of Veterinary Practitioners, gave a talk to 60 high students on 2 April about cattle of the world and their importance in feeding the global population, as part of the CityU Learning Classroom.

JCC hosted 30 students on 27 March from the Hoi Ping Chamber of Commerce as part of our school outreach activities. Students were given a comprehensive tour of the CityU Farm by Dr. Eryl Done and Dr. Joyce Ip who showcased the husbandry and welfare initiatives introduced on our farm as well as the range of sustainable food sources that are helping to reduce the carbon footprint of the farm.



Biomedical Sciences

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



Congratulation to our BMS PIs who have recently been awarded new external grant of Innovation and Technology Fund (ITF) from Innovation and Technology Commission, they are:

Prof YAN Jian, his project title is “Developing A Method for Efficient Detection of Binding Proteins of Specific RNA in Cells and Tissues”.

Prof Gigi LO, her project is “Development of Cadherin-17-Targeted Antibody-Drug Conjugates for the Treatment of Advanced Gastrointestinal Cancers”.

Education

We recently concluded a successful clinical attachment visit to Singapore General Hospital (SGH), strengthening our collaborative efforts in healthcare and medical education. Led Prof Gigi Lo (Programme Leader of BScBMS) and Prof Kwan Chow (Deputy Programme Leader of BScBMS) and Mr Jacky NG (Scientific Officer), our delegation received a comprehensive laboratory tour guided by Dr. Evelyn Heng, the Cytogenetics lab in-charge at SGH. We visited 10 out of the 14 laboratories, including Virology, Histopathology, Biochemistry, Hematology, and Cytogenetics, where we learned about various blood tests and equipment from experienced SGH professionals. The modern equipment and efficient sample registration system at SGH made a lasting impression



During a lunch gathering, fruitful exchanges took place among our delegation, SGH staff, and students. SGH praised our clinical attachment program and expressed eagerness for future collaborations. Our BMS students also shared their overseas clinical laboratory experiences and discussed overcoming challenges. Notably, our BMS-major students, CHAN Yee Kwan, CHING Kwong Kwan, LEE Ching Yi, and SOONG Wai Chi, were commended for their outstanding performance at SGH. This successful visit further solidified the partnership between our institutions, paving the way for continued cooperation.

The Biomedical Sciences (BMS) Alumni Association and the Department of Biomedical Sciences successfully coordinated a career talk on April 5, 2024. The event focused on the Hospital Authority's central recruitment process and attracted 39 participants on campus and online. Esteemed guest speakers with extensive experience in healthcare shared valuable insights and tips on interviews and working in healthcare settings. The interactive session allowed students to actively engage in discussions and ask questions. The event not only provided practical advice and knowledge but also fostered a sense of tradition and knowledge sharing between alumni and current undergraduates. Future activities are planned to strengthen the relationship between the BMS Alumni Association, the department, and the undergraduates.



Research

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Article | [Open access](#) | Published: 22 March 2024

Intrinsic and extrinsic actions of human neural progenitors with SUFU inhibition promote tissue repair and functional recovery from severe spinal cord injury

Yong-Long Chen, Xiang-Lan Feng, Kin-Wai Tam, Chao-Yang Fan, May-Pui-Lai Cheung, Yong-Ting Yang, Stanley Wong, Daisy Kwok-Yan Shum, Ying-Shing Chan, Chi-Wai Cheung, Martin Cheung & Jessica Aijia Liu

Chen YL, Feng XL, Tam KW, Fan CY, Cheung MP, Yang YT, Wong S, Shum DK, Chan YS, Cheung CW, Cheung M, Liu JA*. Intrinsic and extrinsic actions of human neural progenitors with SUFU inhibition promote tissue repair and functional recovery from severe spinal cord injury. NPJ Regen Med. Mar 22 2024;9(1):13.

doi:10.1038/s41536-024-00352-4

<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41536-024-00352-4>

Infectious Diseases and Public Health

Awards

Ms ROBLES MALAGAMBA Maria Jose, a fourth-year PhD student supervised by Prof. Mason DEAN was awarded the 2023 HKAUW Postgraduate Scholarship Award on 24 March 2024. The scholarship aims at recognizing and encouraging female postgraduates who conduct high-quality original research of significant value to our society and the body of knowledge. HKAUW 2023-2024 Annual Business Meeting Cum HKAUW 2023 Scholarship and Award Presentation — HKAUW



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

1. Bukhari SSUH, Parkes RSV, Sneddon LU, McElligott AG. 2024. The behavior and welfare of neglected species: specific examples from fish and mammals published on 28 March 2024. PEERJ 12, e17149. <https://doi.org/10.7717/peerj.17149>
2. Paudel, S., Apostolakos, I., Ngom, RV., Tilli, G., de Carvalho Ferreira, H., Piccirillo, A. A Systematic Review And Meta-Analysis On the Efficacy of Vaccination Against Colibacillosis In Broiler Production. Plos One. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0301029>
3. Bhattacharjee, D., Waasdorp, S., Middelburg, E., Sterck, E.H.M., and Massen, J.J.M., 2024. Personality heterophily and friendship as drivers for successful cooperation. Proceedings of the Royal Society B, 291: 20232730.20232730 <https://doi.org/10.1098/rspb.2023.2730>
4. Bhattacharjee, D.*, Sau, S.*, Das, J., and Bhadra, A., 2024. Does novelty influence the foraging decisions of a scavenger? PeerJ (*co-first authors) <https://doi.org/10.7717/peerj.17121>
5. Hodgson, G. M. W., Flay, K. J., Perroux, T. A., & McElligott, A. G. (2024). You lick me, I like you: Understanding the function of allogrooming in ungulates. Mammal Review. <https://doi.org/10.1111/mam.12351>



Events



Twenty students from the MPH & PhD streams (PH, VCS & NS) in the PH8003 – Communication Skills & Conference Organization course, led by the Mr. Richard Shah, organized and executed the first-ever In-Person student run communication conference titled 'Turning Failure to Success.' This event brought together a diverse range of activities, including panel discussions featuring subject matter experts, student talks, career booths, and meet & greet sessions. The students received invaluable support from sponsors, such as JCC, as well as external sponsors like F45 & ATCG, whose contributions made this conference possible. Furthermore, strategic partnerships with SDS CityU HK, CSSA CityU HK, SPCA, Flash Diagnostics, Chinese University of Hong Kong, Body Banter, and Taikangnuo Biotech, whose collaboration added immense value to the event. We extend our heartfelt congratulations to all the students who, under the guidance of Mr. Richard Shah, played host to a conference of such magnitude. Their dedication and hard work were instrumental in providing a platform for insightful discussions and valuable networking opportunities.

Media

Unique insights into the social lives of cattle revealed in a new study by scientists at CityUHK can enhance our understanding of animal behaviour and welfare. The research is led by Professor Alan McElligott, Associate Professor, and PhD researcher George M. W. Hodgson in PH,

<https://go.cityu.hk/qkcsy6>

Research Grants

Notable grants application deadlines upcoming:

1. [Shenzhen Medical Research Funding \(深圳市医学研究专项资金\)](#)
Deadline: 19 April 2024 (Fri)
2. [Croucher Senior Research Fellowships](#)
Deadline: 3 May 2024 (Fri)
3. [Professional Services Advancement Support Scheme \(PASS\)](#)
Deadline: 14 May 2024 (Tue)

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

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI)

Events

"Ramadan for 2024 starts on the evening of Monday, March 11th, lasts for 30 days and ends at sundown on Wednesday, April 10."

<https://www.cityu.edu.hk/jcc/about-us/diversity-equity-and-inclusion/dei-news>



Workshop:

Why Postgraduate Students Matter in Science and Education

Date: 22 April 2024 (Mon)

Speaker: Mr. Richard SHAH

A poster for a CityU workshop titled "Postgraduates Matter: Invisible Barriers, Reporting and Career Progression". The poster features a central image of a staircase with various icons representing challenges like "Stability?", "Progression?", "Publish or Perish?", "Work-Life Balance?", "Reporting Harassment?", and "Mentoring & Teaching?". Text on the poster includes: "Join us for a workshop exploring barriers to career progression, reporting biases, and overcoming these", "FREE SNACKS AND DRINKS All postgraduates welcome!", "Venue: TYB 1B G04", "Date: 22nd April 2024", "Time: 17:00-18:30", and a QR code to register. A small photo of Mr. Richard Shah is also present.

CityU Postgraduates Matter: Invisible Barriers, Reporting and Career Progression

Join us for a workshop exploring barriers to career progression, reporting biases, and overcoming these

FREE SNACKS AND DRINKS All postgraduates welcome!

Stability?
Progression?
Publish or Perish?
Work-Life Balance?
Reporting Harassment?
Mentoring & Teaching?

Venue: TYB 1B G04
Date: 22nd April 2024
Time: 17:00-18:30

SCAN TO REGISTER →

Session led by Mr. Richard Shah, communication coach and certified Human Factors Coach, who will facilitate and lead this 90 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>