



Australian Biosecurity CRC for Emerging Infectious Disease

AUGUST
2006

SPRING
EDITION

FROM THE CEO

Dr Stephen Prowse



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FROM THE CEO*Dr Stephen Prowse*

The national and international biosecurity environment has changed dramatically over the last 12 months. The activities of the AB-CRC in the region have increased, with an outstanding cohort of international students now in place and two ACIAR (Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research) projects recently commenced. The National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Scheme (NCRIS) is developing a biosecurity stream in which increased collaboration and linkages between the human health and livestock health sectors has been identified as of major importance. Many of the AB-CRC's operations sit directly in this area of activity. The AB-CRC Board has also identified this cross-sectoral area as of key strategic importance in the future directions of the AB-CRC.

Changes

Dr Deb Cousins is currently Application & Linkage Program Coordinator on a one day per week basis. She will take up a full-time secondment to the AB-CRC as Director, Application & Linkage from September. This reflects the additional emphasis we are placing on the adoption of research outcomes. I am looking forward to working closely with Deb as we strive to ensure that our research has a positive impact. I would also like to thank the Department of Agriculture and Food, Western Australia (DAFWA) for facilitating the secondment.

Dr Lisa Adams will be changing her role in the AB-CRC in early September. She will be leaving her position as Education & Training Program Coordinator and taking up the position of Director, Research Development to facilitate the process of developing a new national biosecurity centre to follow on from the AB-CRC. On behalf of the AB-CRC, I would like to thank Lisa for the tremendous amount of work she has done in putting together the Education & Training Program.

Year 3 Review

The AB-CRC Board is required to oversee a review of the AB-CRC following year three of funding on behalf of the Australian Government Department of Education,

Science and Training. The third year review panel members have completed their deliberations and submitted a report to the AB-CRC Board. The report highlighted that the work being undertaken by the AB-CRC in the generation of knowledge, information, new skills, technologies and systems is of fundamental importance for Australia's ability to protect itself from major outbreaks of human or animal communicable diseases. The panel recognised that the AB-CRC is a harmonious, enthusiastic and competent team that has built strong and effective links which will help ensure the adoption of key research outputs.

The panel provided constructive comments on the operations of the AB-CRC, emphasising that there is particular value to be gained from strengthening the linkages established within the AB-CRC between human and animal health.

Chris Baldock Prize for Early Career Researcher

It is very appropriate that we were able to announce the winner of the Chris Baldock Prize for Early Career Researcher at the AB-CRC National Workshop dinner, and present the award at the opening of the ISVEE (International Symposium on Veterinary Epidemiology and Economics) conference. Chris was a strong supporter of the AB-CRC,

and Chair of the ISVEE organising committee until his untimely death. In recognition of his outstanding contribution to the AB-CRC and veterinary epidemiology in general, the AB-CRC decided to give an award in his memory. In line with the spirit and mentoring role that Chris displayed, the award was aimed at young researchers. We had a strong field of candidates who were judged by a panel of three people associated with the AB-CRC. There was strong agreement that the award this year be given to Dr Mark Stevenson, who is a veterinary epidemiologist currently at the Massey University Epicentre. His research has centred on improving our understanding of the factors driving disease outbreaks, most notably foot-and-mouth disease, bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) and avian influenza. He is internationally sought after as an instructor in spatial analytical tools and techniques. He has demonstrated that he is a world class epidemiologist and a worthy recipient of the prize.

Training Iraqi veterinarians delivers results

The AB-CRC, through its partners at DAFWA, Murdoch University and AusVet Animal Health Services, provided United Nation's Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) sponsored training to a group of Iraqi veterinarians during 2005 (see

Sentinel Autumn 2006 at www.l.abcrc.org.au/UPLOADS/PUBLICATIONS/PUBLICATION_249.pdf for full report). Dr Ali Jafar reports that he and his colleagues are now implementing many concepts that they learned in Australia to promote veterinary services in Iraq, particularly in developing their animal health information system. They have carried out a new freedom from disease survey for rinderpest, and based on the results of this survey the OIE (World Organisation for Animal Health) and FAO have recently announced that Iraq is free from this disease, which is welcome news.



Professor John Edwards (ISVEE XI Symposium Organising Committee Chair), Dr Mark Stevenson (Chris Baldock Prize winner), Dan Carmody (Chris Baldock's nephew) & Dr Stephen Prowse

CONFERENCE REPORT: 6TH INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON AVIAN INFLUENZA

*Cambridge, United Kingdom
3-6 April 2006*

Hans Heine, CSIRO Australian Animal Health Laboratory

I attended the 6th International Symposium on Avian Influenza and presented a poster on avian influenza molecular diagnostic tests developed at AAHL and through the AB-CRC funded project *Development of diagnostic capabilities for influenza H5N1 isolates*. The assays we developed on the AB-CRC co-funded project are in routine use at AAHL, being used on diagnostic submissions for avian influenza exclusion and on samples from bird surveillance. The tests are also currently implemented by a number of state veterinary laboratories for early avian influenza diagnosis.

The meeting covered global reports on avian influenza outbreaks, diagnostics, public health, pathobiology and pathogenesis, epidemiology and ecology, field experiences in control, vaccines and vaccinations, as well as legislation and trade implications.

There have been enormous efforts in understanding the disease and controlling the spread of H5N1 strains, but there are still many gaps in scientific knowledge as the risk of a pandemic, the susceptibility of various species, the reservoir hosts, and pathogenesis and many other factors are largely not understood. As different countries and geographic regions are implementing measures specific to their circumstances and capabilities for control, AAHL is well placed to help limit the spread and build up capabilities by supporting countries in the Asian region. Close collaboration between different labs, geographic regions and different disciplines, as well as the timely sharing of data, crucial to keep pace with the evolution of the virus and develop measures to reduce the threat of a pandemic.

Following the symposium I visited the OIE international reference laboratory for avian influenza in the UK (Veterinary Laboratories Agency in Weybridge) and the Federal Research Institute for Animal Health in Germany. I participated in a proficiency program for avian influenza molecular diagnostic tests that the Veterinary Laboratories Agency is setting up for European countries. This will allow us to benchmark molecular tests from AAHL against a number of other tests and gives us

the opportunity to evaluate our tests on the latest avian influenza isolates from Europe.

Further meetings with key scientists have given me the opportunity to identify mutual research interests, exchange information on diagnostic tests and gain access to important reagents.

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AB-CRC ARBOVIRUS FORUM

*7 June 2006
Canberra*

Dr Marion Macnish, (former) Senior Project Officer

Dr Moira McKinnon, in her three-way capacity as Chair of the National Arbovirus and Malaria Advisory Committee (NAMAC), Senior Medical Advisor at the Australian Government Department of Health & Ageing (DoHA) and as an issues-based Knowledge Broker for the AB-CRC, first proposed a face-to-face session between AB-CRC arbovirus researchers and NAMAC in February 2006. The AB-CRC's Application & Linkage Program Leader, Dr Debby Cousins,

welcomed the opportunity for the AB-CRC to update NAMAC on current research and in turn for the researchers to access the expertise of NAMAC. The meeting objectives were broadened to it becoming a forum for obtaining input and advice on how useful the research is from an end user's point of view, and on how best the research outcomes might be adopted by the end users.

The half-day meeting was attended by 27 people from state and federal health agencies and research organisations. It was designed to be an interactive event, starting with a short introduction by Moira McKinnon who outlined NAMAC's interest in finding out the breadth and scope of research being conducted within the AB-CRC, its potential impact on decision making, and their desire to underpin all policy decisions and strategic planning with good science. It was her belief that the forum was an ideal opportunity for the exchange of information that would help this occur. Eight presentations followed – the first by Conan Liu of DoHA, then by seven AB-CRC researchers.

- **Conan Liu** (DoHA) updated the participants on the National Notifiable Disease Surveillance System.

- **Scott Ritchie** outlined his group's research into mosquito trapping systems that are being trialled in several locations in Queensland and the Torres Strait.
- **Andrew van den Hurk** outlined progress on two research projects, the first determining entomological factors for West Nile virus (WNV) and the potential for its incursion into eastern Australia, and the second, commenced only recently, to determine the potential for colonisation of the *Aedes albopictus* mosquito as an arbovirus vector in Australia.
- **John Bingham** outlined the methods and results arising from experimental inoculation of a (USA) WNV isolate into Australian corvid species at CSIRO AHHL.
- **Cheryl Johansen** briefly outlined the surveillance systems for medically important arboviruses carried out in Western Australia by the Arbovirus Surveillance Research Laboratory.
- **Lorna Melville** provided an outline of arbovirus surveillance in the Northern Territory.
- **David Boyle** outlined the molecular tools being used to characterise unknown viruses isolated from the NT sentinel herd program described by Lorna.
- **Roy Hal** outlined the research currently underway to differentiate between the closely related WNV and Kunjin viruses. The forum concluded with a one hour

discussion session facilitated by Aileen Plant in her capacity as a member of NAMAC and Deputy CEO of the AB-CRC.

A full copy of the report from the forum, including summaries of the presentations, is available at www1.abcrc.org.au/uploads/publications/PUBLICATION_256.pdf.

The AB-CRC thanks Moira McKinnon and DoHA for financial and in-kind support, and the members of NAMAC who attended the forum. Many thanks also go to Aileen Plant for facilitating the discussion session.

2006 AB-CRC POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH STUDENT WORKSHOP

*Cairns Colonial Club Resort
Friday 4 August 2006*

Dr Lisa Adams, Education & Training Program Coordinator

The annual Postgraduate Research Student Workshop (aka 'PD Day') has become an important networking event in the AB-CRC calendar. There were some raised eyebrows from our original cohort of nine students when it became apparent how rapidly our student numbers have grown over the past two years. While 30 students participated in the PD Day our student numbers have

grown to 42, and it is anticipated that we will have 47 AB-CRC student scholars on board by early 2007.

The structure of the PD Day was based on input from our students. Dr Vivienne Mawson travelled from Tasmania to deliver a one-day scientific writing workshop. All 30 students undertook the morning session, which focussed on approaches to scientific writing, organising your materials, and structural editing. After lunch, approximately half the group continued with Vivienne to explore stylistic editing. Vivienne also supplied a comprehensive scientific writing manual that provides practical advice and tips on writing and editing.

Students, primarily in the second or third year of their PhD, participated in two panel sessions after lunch. The first session was with a panel of employers and explored 'Life beyond your PhD', specifically the job market and prospects for career progression across the academic, government and industry sectors. Interestingly, the number of students anticipating seeking work in each of these sectors after completing their PhD was evenly balanced. The second session was with a panel of PhD examiners and explored take home messages on the PhD thesis. The PD day closed with a panel and whole group discussion on the dos and don'ts of scientific

writing. A summary of each of the panel sessions will be written up and circulated to our students and made available on our internal web site.

Feedback on the workshop has been very positive. One student couldn't wait to "jump straight from the plane to writing a Lit Review!" On behalf of the students, I would like to acknowledge the valuable contribution of our scientific writing trainers Dr Vivienne Mawson and Associate Professor Peter O'Donoghue; and our expert panellists Dr Phil Toye (Agen), Dr Paul Wood (Pfizer), Dr Scott Ritchie (Queensland Health), Dr Robyn Martin (Biosecurity Australia), Dr Debby Cousins (DAFWA), Professor Aileen Plant and Professor John Mackenzie (Curtin University), Professor Richard Whittington (University of Sydney), Professor Ross Barnard and Associate Professor Peter O'Donoghue (University of Queensland), Professor John Edwards (Murdoch University) and Ms Corinna Lange (AB-CRC).

We are already planning the 2007 PD Day, which will include sessions on managing intellectual property, and the adoption of research outcomes through commercial and non-commercial channels – essential training for star scientists of the future!

At the end of August I will be taking up a new position as Director of Research Development with the AB-CRC. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all students and supervisors, and my AB-CRC team and colleagues for a most rewarding and enjoyable two and a half years as coordinator of the AB-CRC's Education & Training Program.



Left to right, from front row: Pebi Purwo Suseno, Suhella Tulsiani, Sarah Palmer, Jingyu Zhang, Sam Hamilton, Songhua Shan; Kyaw Naing Oo, Mark O'Dea, Sothya Tum, Tze Hoong Chua; Kris Murray, Peter Moore, Jody Hobson-Peters, Cassie Jansen, Celia Smuts, Elva Cha; Jay Nicholson, Carmel Hancock, Elena Virtue, Vivienne Irwin, Abbey Bestall, Ania Gubala, Jonathan Lee; Claudia Thalmann, Sheryl Maher, Annette Dougall; Janine Muller, Chris Cowled, Karli Geerlings, Antonio di Rubbo

11TH INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON VETERINARY EPIDEMIOLOGY AND ECONOMICS (ISVEE XI)

*Cairns, Queensland
6-11 August 2006*

*Dr Lisa Adams, Education & Training Program
Coordinator*

ISVEE XI was a great success. After more than two years in the planning, ISVEE XI attracted more than 700 delegates world-wide and is reputedly the largest ISVEE symposium ever. The scientific program, which was based on eight themes, included more than 450 oral presentations and 340 poster presentations. Short oral presentations associated with the poster presentations were also held during lunch breaks.

As a major sponsor, the AB-CRC was able to make a significant contribution to the success of ISVEE XI. The benefits to the AB-CRC are equally significant. By organising the AB-CRC National Workshop to coincide with ISVEE XI, an estimated 70% of people attending the workshop also attended ISVEE XI, either for the first two days as part of an AB-CRC registration package, or for the full symposium. In addition to our veterinary epidemiologists, early feedback from the AB-CRC's laboratory-based researchers, public health researchers and our government and

industry partners indicates that attendance at ISVEE was worthwhile for expanding knowledge, networks and linkages in areas of common interest.

I would like to acknowledge the wide ranging contributions of AB-CRC people to ISVEE XI. The Symposium was chaired by Chris Baldock (AusVet) and subsequently John Edwards (Murdoch University). The Symposium Organising Committee included David Banks and George Perry (Biosecurity Australia), Jenny-Ann Toribio (University of Sydney), Evan Sergeant (AusVet), Tony Martin (DAFWA) and Lisa Adams (AB-CRC). Scientific Program Theme Coordinators included Graeme Garner (Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries & Forestry), Robyn Martin and Mike Nunn (BA) and Hume Field (Queensland Department of Primary Industries & Fisheries).

The AB-CRC's PhD students were outstanding ambassadors at ISVEE XI for showcasing the scope, quality and relevance of the AB-CRC's research. Students from Curtin, Murdoch, USyd and University of Queensland presented, including Andrew Breed, Tze Hoong Chua, Sam Hamilton, Carmel Hancock, Sheryl Maher, Sarah Palmer, Nicole Schembri, Richard Shephard, and Sothyra Tum.

Senior AB-CRC researchers presenting on biosecurity-related topics at ISVEE XI included Ian Pritchard and Peter Durr (CSIRO AAHL), Chris Hawkins and Tony Martin (DAFWA), Lorna Melville (Northern Territory Department of Primary Industry, Fisheries & Mines), Hume Field and David Pitt (QDPI&F), Helen Scott-Orr (NSW Department of Primary Industries), Peter Daszak (Consortium for Conservation Medicine), Pat Boland, Peter Black, Bob Biddle, Graeme Garner and Sam Beckett (DAFF), Mike Nunn (BA), Angus Cameron, Evan Sergeant, Nigel Perkins, and Jenny Hutchison (AusVet), Simon Reid (Murdoch), Joerg Henning (UQ), Lee Skerratt (James Cook University), and Jenny-Ann Toribio and Richard Whittington (USyd). Bryan Eaton (AAHL) was one of three invited keynote speakers.

A lively discussion session on the future of global surveillance for emerging infectious diseases was organised by Mike Nunn and George Perry, John Edwards, Stephen Prowse and Lisa Adams. Many thanks to our expert panellists – Aileen Plant (Curtin), Vincent Martin (FAO), Tata Naipospos (Indonesia), Peter Daszak (CCM), Brian Perry (International Livestock Research Institute), and David Waltner-Toews (University of Guelph). The take home messages from the session will be summarised and tabled with the ISVEE International Committee.

ISVEE XI delegates were able to test run a number of AB-CRC research products at our exhibition booth. Corinna Lange, supported by Tony Martin (DAFWA), Evan Sergeant, Angus Cameron, Jenny Hutchison (AusVet), and Richard Shephard demonstrated the web-based software developed in three AB-CRC funded research programs: the Pooled Prevalence Calculator (www.ausvet.com.au/pprev/); confidence in disease freedom scenario tree modelling (www.ausvet.com.au/freedom/); and BOSSS – the bovine syndromic surveillance system (www.ausvet.com.au/bosss/).

ISVEE XII will be held in Durban in 2009. Best wishes to the incoming organisers. ISVEE XII will be an important forum for showcasing the AB-CRC's contributions to new knowledge, tools and methods for detecting, predicting and responding to emerging infectious diseases.



Evan Sergeant demonstrates software to a visitor during one of the quieter moments at the booth during the week!

SHORT COURSE REPORT: BIOSECURITY SHORT COURSE

*Perth
10-14 July 2006*

*Professor Aileen Plant, Deputy CEO, AB-CRC;
and Professor of International Health, Curtin
University of Technology*

The need exists at every level of government – regional, state and national – to develop the skills of people responsible for protecting the biosecurity of Australia's public health system. This need is strongly aligned with the core education and training objectives of the AB-CRC. Consequently, the AB-CRC funded development of an accredited Masters Unit as part of the Masters Program in Public Health at Curtin University of Technology (CUT). The unit was delivered in collaboration with Murdoch University, the Western Australian Department of Health and PathWest.

The Masters Unit was initially offered as a face-to-face short course in Perth, 10-14 July 2006; it will be offered through distance learning in 2007.

The aim of the short course was to bring together biosecurity professionals from across the public and animal health sectors in Western Australia to deliver multidisciplinary

training in biosecurity. There were 14 participants in the course including current Masters students and staff from the Western Australian Department of Health.

The learning topics were:

- Principles of biosecurity
- Biosecurity systems in Australia and internationally
- Policy – current principles and new directions
- Biosecurity and surveillance
- Biosecurity and causal pathways

Each of these topics was applied to bioterrorism, emerging infectious diseases, and public and animal health.

I'd like to thank Prof John Edwards and Dr Trevor Ellis (Murdoch), Prof John Mackenzie and A/Prof Angela Merianos (CUT), Dr Moira McKinnon (DoHA), Dr Andy Robertson and Dr Paul van Buynder (WA Department of Health), Professor David Smith (PathWest) and Dr Kay Sauer and the staff from the School of Public Health at Curtin for their contributions to making the course a success.

AB-CRC SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

Applications close Monday 20 November 2006

The AB-CRC has three PhD scholarships available in the area of epidemiology:

Studies on the epidemiology, pathogenesis and control of highly pathogenic avian influenza (H5N1) in ducks in Vietnam

Dengue outbreak control: identifying early indicators of large outbreaks

The epidemiology of the current epidemic of avian influenza H5N1 in domestic poultry in Indonesia

We are also calling for applications for Masters Project Scholarships, Honours Scholarships, Student Placement Scholarships, Professional Development Scholarships for PhD Students and Vacation Scholarships for 2007.

For more information on how to apply please visit our website at www.abcrc.org.au



2007 SUMMER SCHOOL

Geelong, Victoria

13 –15 February 2007

REGISTRATIONS DUE 4 SEPTEMBER 2006

COURSE ONE
Epidemiology Clinic for Emerging Infectious Disease Preparedness and Response

TRAINERS
Dr Peter Durr
Prof John Edwards
Dr Nigel Perkins
Prof Aileen Plant
Dr Jenny-Ann Torbio

COURSE TWO
Biosecurity Laboratory Training for Emerging Infectious Disease Preparedness and Response

TRAINERS
Dr David Smith
Dr Peter Daniels
Dr Mike Catton

COURSE THREE
Advanced Training in Analysis of Complex Surveillance Data to Demonstrate Freedom from Disease

TRAINERS (as required)
Dr Angus Cameron
Dr Jenny Hutchison
Dr Tony Martin
Dr Evan Sergeant

For more information visit <http://www.abcrc.org.au> and check out the Education and Training pages

Australian Biosecurity Cooperative Research Centre for Emerging Infectious Disease

2007 SUMMER SCHOOL - Geelong, Victoria 13 –15 February 2007
REGISTRATIONS DUE 4 SEPTEMBER 2006

COURSE ONE Epidemiology Clinic for Emerging Infectious Disease Preparedness and Response
TRAINERS Dr Peter Durr, Prof John Edwards, Dr Nigel Perkins, Prof Aileen Plant, Dr Jenny-Ann Torbio

COURSE TWO Biosecurity Laboratory Training for Emerging Infectious Disease Preparedness and Response
TRAINERS Dr David Smith, Dr Peter Daniels, Dr Mike Catton

COURSE THREE Advanced Training in Analysis of Complex Surveillance Data to Demonstrate Freedom from Disease
TRAINERS (as required) Dr Angus Cameron, Dr Jenny Hutchison, Dr Tony Martin, Dr Evan Sergeant

For more information visit <http://www.abcrc.org.au> and check out the Education and Training pages

AUSTRALIAN CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE FOR RISK ANALYSIS

The Australian Centre of Excellence for Risk Analysis (ACERA) was established in the School of Botany at the University of Melbourne on 1 March 2006, a result of a Federal Government election commitment. It will develop the practice of risk analysis by creating and testing methods, protocols, analytical tools and procedures. Its work will aim to benefit government and the broader Australian community.

The Centre's funding agreement is managed by the Bureau of Rural Sciences in the Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry. Federal Government and partner contributions, including from the University of Melbourne, the Australian Mathematical Sciences Institute and the Australian Research Centre for Urban Ecology, provide funding of close to \$2 million per year until 30 June 2009.

ACERA is a research network including initially the University of Queensland, the University of New South Wales, Monash University and the CSIRO. It will draw on expertise throughout Australia and overseas.

The objectives of ACERA are to:

- Research and develop state-of-the-art risk analysis methods across areas of

interest to the Australian community.

An early priority for the Centre will be the biosecurity risks confronting Australia.

- Engage the range of skills and sciences relevant to the analysis of risk, to ensure that Australia remains at the forefront of practical risk assessment. These skills and sciences are relevant to the communication and perception of and response to risk.
- Document and communicate research findings to ensure governments and others engaged in risk analysis have access to state-of-the-art risk analysis methods and raise the community's understanding of risk.
- Work to promote excellence in risk analysis in Australia.
- Work with the government in influencing international standards in risk analysis.

For more information about ACERA visit www.acera.unimelb.edu.au/index.html

GRANTS AND AWARDS

Australian Academy Of Science - Awards And Grants For Research Excellence

The Academy is calling for nominations for:

- medals and prizes for early-career and career researchers

Applications close 30 August 2006

For more information visit www.science.org.au/awards/index.htm

- research support for the conservation of endangered vertebrate species
- support for overseas and local travel

Applications close 30 September 2006

For more information visit www.science.org.au/awards/research.htm

The Academy is also calling for expressions of intent for:

- support for research conferences

Applications close 30 September 2006

For more information visit www.science.org.au/awards/research.htm

International Science Linkages Competitive Grants

Applications close 1 September 2006

These grants offer assistance for international research and development cooperation and related activities. Funding is available to private companies, educational institutions, cooperative research centres, industry groups and Commonwealth scientific agencies.

For more information visit <https://sciencegrants.dest.gov.au/ISL/Pages/Home.aspx> or contact: Carley Rothnie

Department of Education, Science & Training
- International Science Branch

P: (02) 6240-8263

E: isl@dest.gov.au

British Council Researcher Exchange Programme

Applications close 18 September 2006

The Researcher Exchange Programme provides individual early-career researchers with awards (up to £5000) covering travel and subsistence costs, and some consumables costs, needed to develop new scientific collaborations and contacts through exchange visits of between one week and three months duration.

For more information and an application form visit www.britishcouncil.org/science-rxp.htm

13th Rolex Awards for Enterprise 2008

Applications close:

- *Asia, Australia, the Pacific, North and South America: 31 May 2007*
- *Europe, the Middle East and Africa: 30 September 2007*

Although deadlines for submission are a year away, applicants are urged to submit their entries as early as possible so that they can be given full consideration by the Rolex Secretariat.

The Rolex Awards for Enterprise aim to encourage a spirit of enterprise in visionary individuals around the world, providing financial support and recognition for projects that advance human knowledge and well-being.

The Awards are presented every two years in five areas:

- Science and Medicine
- Technology and Innovation
- Exploration and Discovery
- The Environment
- Cultural Heritage

Each of the five winners, to be announced at a ceremony in late 2008, will receive US\$100,000, a specially inscribed gold Rolex chronometer and worldwide recognition of

their work through international publicity and advertising campaigns. Five Associate Laureates will also be selected. They will each receive a cash award and a steel-and-gold Rolex chronometer.

For more information visit www.rolexawards.com or contact:

Prof. Julian Cribb

Rolex Australia

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M: 0418 639 245

E: julian.cribb@work.netspeed.com.au

PERSONAL PROFILE

Nigel Perkins, AusVet Animal Health Services



I am the program coordinator for the AB-CRC's Advanced Surveillance Systems Research Program.

The program coordinator role involves a diverse array of activities including

communication and liaison functions, encouraging collaboration and knowledge exchange between different individuals and projects, reporting on project progress, and contributing to the strategic direction for the research program within the broader portfolio of AB-CRC activities. In my day-to-day job I am a senior consultant with AusVet Animal Health Services, a private consulting company providing services in the broader area of epidemiology.

I was raised on a sheep-beef property near Dirranbandi in south-west Queensland. I completed a veterinary degree at the University of Queensland, and spent time in private practice in Queensland, Victoria and New South Wales, as well as four years training at the Ohio State University in animal reproduction and a decade as an academic staff member in the veterinary school at Massey University, New Zealand. I have a Master of Science degree in equine reproductive physiology and a specialist qualification in animal reproduction, as well as a Fellowship of the Australian College of Veterinary Scientists in Equine Reproduction.

After spending almost 15 years focussed on animal reproduction, I moved into epidemiology while working at Massey University, New Zealand, completing a PhD on wastage in New Zealand

racehorses and a mid-career transformation to an epidemiologist with an interest in reproduction. I have particular interests in surveillance, investigating animal health and disease issues, and quantitative epidemiology. I am also the current Chief Examiner of the Australian College of Veterinary Scientists.

My wife, Kim, and daughters (Emily and Caroline) and I now live in the garden city of Toowoomba, about 1.5 hours west of Brisbane. I spend most of my spare time catering for the demands of two active children, and enjoying life close to extended family and friends in a drying but wonderful part of the country.

CONFERENCES

A conference database is available at www.abcrc.org.au > News & Events

COST 920 Meeting 'Future Challenges to Foodborne Zoonosis'

10-12 September 2006
Ploufragan, France
For more information contact the Conference Secretariat genevieve.clement@zoopole.asso.fr

Australasian Clinical Research: Collaborating to do it Right

Joint Conference of the Queensland Clinical Trials Network & Australasian Health & Research Data Managers Association
23-25 October 2006
Brisbane, Australia
For more information visit www.ausclinres.iamevents.com.au/

Emerging Diseases: Preparedness and Implementation Issues

Inaugural Biological Crisis Management in Human and Veterinary Medicine Meeting
5-8 November 2006
Lyon, France
For more information visit www.bcm2006.org/

International Meeting on Emerging Diseases and Surveillance (IMED 2007)

One Medicine
23-25 February 2007
Vienna, Austria
For more information visit <http://imed.isid.org/>

Annual Meeting of the Society for Veterinary Epidemiology and Preventative Medicine

28-30 March 2007
Helsinki, Finland
For more information visit www.svepm.org.uk/

GisVet 2007

International forum for researchers and officials interested in advanced applications of geographic information systems (GIS), remote sensing, spatial analyses, statistical techniques and modelling to challenges in veterinary science, public health and zoonotics.
22-24 August 2007
Copenhagen, Denmark
For more information visit www.gisvet.org/