



Centre for Veterinary Epidemiological Research

Annual General Meeting

AVC Lecture Theatre A

December 4, 2012

11:00am

1. I. Gardner called the meeting to order at 11:05am, and welcomed everyone to the meeting.
2. Approval of agenda: moved by J. VanLeeuwen; seconded by G. Keefe.
3. Approval of minutes from last year's AGM; no discussion; approved by J. VanLeeuwen; seconded by C. Revie.
4. Announcements:
 - i. I. Gardner announced and welcomed J. Sanchez as the faculty replacement for I. Dohoo.
 - ii. Epi Technician J. Yu will now report to H. Stryhn, so requests for her assistance with analyses should be directed to him. She is working to get up to speed on spatial statistics to provide support for the CVER programs.
 - iii. A request for input from members for the CVER Annual Report was made. Updates should be forwarded to L. Newson by the end of January. Our 2012 Annual Report will be available in digital format only.
 - iv. I. Gardner announced the creation of an epi graduate student travel award, at \$1,000 per year, as a legacy project honoring I. Dohoo as he retires. The award reinforces I. Dohoo's commitment to graduate student education. Sources of funding to be further discussed at a steering committee meeting.
5. New Business:
 - i. Options for Epi on the Island 2013:
 - Introduction to Bayesian Risk Assessment – C. Smith & J. Sanchez*
 - Introduction to Multilevel Modelling – I. Dohoo & H. Stryhn*
 - Data Mining and Knowledge Discovery – F. Dorea & C. Revie*

We are in the process of collecting feedback from graduate students and post docs as to their preferences. H. Stryhn, C. Revie and J. Sanchez provided input on the content of their respective courses. CVER can organize all 3 courses if there is enough interest, or choose 2 of the 3. Based on the feedback received to date, an *Introduction to Multilevel Modelling* is the top course choice, and all those who have responded to the poll have indicated a preference to hold the course earlier in the summer rather than later. This topic will be further discussed at a steering committee meeting.

- ii. CVER Facebook Page
 - A page will be launched to complement the website that we currently maintain.
 - Item to be discussed further at a steering committee meeting.
- 6. Updates on centres, groups, and projects

Canada Excellence Research Chair (CERC) – I. Gardner:

The CERC program continues to work on building capacity. A new Post Doc, Annette Boerlage, will join the team in February 2013. Her position will be funded jointly by CERC and CAHS, and she will be engaged in BKD/ISA research, as well as some international work.

Centre for Aquatic Health Science (CAHS) – L. Hammell:

The centre continues to work in New Brunswick and Newfoundland (projected time commitment in the next 1-2 years: NB 30-50% and NF 50-70%). CAHS will be engaged in Pan-Atlantic clinical trials for vaccines, and field and treatment trials for sea lice treatments, as well as Infectious Salmon Anemia investigation into risk factors and treatment trials.

The Canadian Regulatory Veterinary Epidemiology Network (CRVE-Net) – J. Sanchez:

CRVE-Net has received funding for a one year extension (April 1, 2012 to March 31, 2013). The network implemented an Expert Advisory Committee in Aquatic Animal Health (EACAAH) and an Expert Advisory Committee in Terrestrial Animal Health (EACTAH), at the request of our funder, The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA). Both groups are developing terms of reference documents for approval by CFIA.

Last year, three candidates were selected by the Chinese Agricultural University (CAU) to participate in epi training at AVC. Two of the candidates did not pass the Test Of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) exam; the third accepted a position at another Canadian university. It is possible that CAU will fund one of the candidates next year. CRVE-Net will continue to work on the development of this partnership.

Maritime Quality Milk (MQM) – G. Keefe:

The group continues to work in two primary areas: Johnes, and Mastitis and milk quality.

C. Lavers is working on herd level diagnosis for diagnostics for Johnes Disease. E. Lauren is working on cow level diagnosis. K. MacDonald-Phillips is evaluating the Atlantic Johnes Disease Initiative (ADJI), with 650 herds in Atlantic Canada.

On mastitis and milk quality, M. Cameron is finishing her work on selective dry cow therapy programs. K. MacDonald has worked on evaluating milk iodine levels and associated risk factors, as well as mapping milk iodine levels across Canada (13,000 herds), with J. Sanchez. J. Reyes is working on *Streptococcus agalactiae* programs in Colombia. A. Elmoslemany has completed work on redesigning regulatory programs for milk quality, and that is being looked at as a model across Canada. MQM has a project being conducted by I. Elsohaby in infrared evaluation of immunoglobulins. O. Nekouei is working on a project in bovine leucosis, using previously gathered data, and will begin work in the new year on a prospective study on bovine leucosis. There are four major projects on the horizon for MQM that they will partner in as per their involvement in the Dairy Cluster 2, a national program from Dairy Farmers of Canada. They will engage in several mastitis-associated projects, including one that they will lead here on coagulase negative staph diagnostics. They are involved with a Johnes project in Calgary with H. Barkema, a cow comfort project with Agriculture and Agri-food Canada in British Columbia, and a national disease benchmarking study (similar to the United States Department of Agriculture National Animal Health Monitoring System (USDA NAHMS) program) being led out of Guelph.

Shellfish Research Group – J. Davidson:

The group continues their work in tunicates. The group is engaged in two CERC sponsored projects, one locally in shellfish movement, and the other in public health in Vietnam. The addition of S. St-Hilaire to the team was noted, as she has spent time working with the group in aquaculture sustainability in finfish and shellfish. The group will host a workshop in January to review preparatory plans and look at gap analysis to see what would happen if there was to be a disease outbreak in PE. In conjunction with other groups, they are looking at shrimp and with the University of Calgary on rabies control in Indonesia.

Kenyan Projects – J VanLeeuwen:

Four graduate students have successfully defended their theses in the last year. C. Dohoo, C. Walton, and 2 Kenyan graduate students. There are three new graduate students beginning their programs; S. Richards in PE, studying nutrition and lactating dairy cows, and two in Kenya; one in calf nutrition, and the other looking at dry cow mastitis. There is one ongoing Kenyan student who is engaged in a project looking at the causes of abortions in cattle. Finally, there is an individual in France interested in studying tuberculosis in Kenya.

Animal Welfare Research – M. Cockram:

Their research group is finishing two very successful graduate student projects; one in the transportation of horses for slaughter in the US, and a second study on the mortality of broiler chickens through transport. A new student, K. Dulal, has just started a project on the destruction of chickens en route to slaughter. In discussions with the poultry industry, there is potential for more poultry epidemiological study, not only in disease side, but in management factors, such as the transportation for slaughter.

7. Steering Committee Composition at present:

Chair - Ian Gardner

Dairy - Greg Keefe

Aquatic - Larry Hammell

Epidemiology - John VanLeeuwen

Ex-Officio members:

Health Management Department Chair - Dan Hurnik

Assoc. Dean Graduate Studies and Research - Jeff Wichtel

No nominations were received to add additional members.

A motion to maintain the Steering Committee composition as is was moved by J. Sanchez, seconded by C. Revie.

Members were reminded that the book launch for *Methods in Epidemiologic Research* (Dohoo, Martin, Stryhn) would follow the meeting, in Schurman Market Square. Also, members were invited to attend the 3 lectures being presented at AVC by I. Dohoo, W. Martin and H. Stryhn, as they were presented at the Schwabe Symposium earlier in the week.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Larry Hammell at 11:40am; seconded by John VanLeeuwen.