

2004  
No 80

## President's Report

The AVPA has the purpose of fostering the application of good veterinary science in the Australian poultry industry and does this through scientific meetings and providing expert advice on poultry health and welfare issues as they arise from time to time. In retrospect, the activities of AVPA in 2003 has borne out that members want to receive continuing education on advances in the science associated with their chosen profession in poultry production. The conferences in February and November were very well attended and it is gratifying that members show their appreciation by turning up; thanks to Tom Grimes for arranging the scientific meeting in February and to Jill Disint and Amir Noormohammadi for arranging the scientific meeting in November. There are some very willing helpers in AVPA. There were over 80 attendees at the November Conference. The papers for both the Sydney and Melbourne Conferences are now on the AVPA web-site.

With our conferences, 2003 has been a very busy year when it is looked back on particularly as we have built up towards organising the 5<sup>th</sup> Asia Pacific Poultry Health (AP5) Conference next year; the conference is being run back to back with PIX on the gold Coast 19-21 April 2004. AVPA's AP5 is being held on Wednesday 21 and Thursday 22 April 2004. The Conference follows on from PIX (Poultry Information Exchange) Conference run biennially by the Queensland Dept of Primary Industries; members are welcome to attend this conference. The AVPA AGM precedes the Conference late on the Tuesday afternoon and there is a Conference Dinner on the Wednesday evening. The Conference has major themes with key note, invited and proffered papers and posters.

The theme for the AP5 conference is "**Harnessing Science for Poultry Production**". The theme emphasises the thrust of the conference to showcase how Asia-Pacific poultry health scientists are harnessing the power of modern veterinary science to provide practical advances for poultry production. The major themes in the Conference sessions include: Newcastle disease, avian influenza, control of salmonella and campylobacter, new concepts in disease control, Salmonella enteritidis, vv infectious bursal

disease, the Australian approach to poultry research, viral and mycoplasmal respiratory diseases, antibiotics – poultry production and human health, village chickens, immunosuppressive viral diseases and bacterial and parasitic diseases. The program will be full on for two days in a very nice environment. Further detail of the Conference and a registration form are on our website at <http://www.au.edu.au/school/bms/avpa>. This will be another not to be missed conference and I suggest you mark your diary to be on the Gold Coast on 21 and 22 April 2004.

The AVPA is planning to run some sessions at the AVA Conference in Canberra 3-7 May 2004 in conjunction with some other special interest groups. The theme will be A Globalised World - World Trade Organisation, Sanitary and Phytosanitary Agreement, Quarantine and Free Trade Agreements and the impacts that can be expected on the agricultural and associated industries. The sessions are planned for Thursday and Friday 6 and 7 May. If you don't understand how all this works then you need to come to the AVA Conference in Canberra.

AVPA membership remains strong with 82 members and 10 sponsoring bodies. It was sad that AVPA lost three of its four foundation members that were appointed in 2001; Len Hart died late last year, robin Cumming died early this year and Beri Sinkovic died just after the Melbourne conference finished. The AVPA passed on your condolences to their families as we acknowledged their contributions to veterinary science in Australia.

On behalf of the Executive Committee, I want to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year; may 2004 be a year of health and happiness for you. I would want to thank the other Executive Committee members for their contributions in 2003; Peter Cowling left us in 2003 and Peter's contributions to AVPA's finances during the three years he was Treasurer is gratefully acknowledged.

I hope to see all of you on the Gold Coast next April.

Andrew Turner

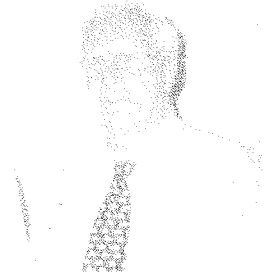
*The Australian Veterinary Poultry Association is a Special Interest Group of the Australian Veterinary Association. Membership of the AVPA is available to individuals and groups working in, or interested in, any veterinary aspect of poultry.*

*Dander will be published quarterly (March, June, September and December). Contributions are welcome. Electronic copy is preferred. Deadline for copy is by the end of the second week of the month of publication. Please send information on abstracts of interesting papers, summaries of reports, case histories, social news etc. to Jill Disint, School of Veterinary Science, The University of Melbourne, 250 Princes Highway, Werribee 3030, Victoria, <j.disint@unimelb.edu.au>, fax 03 9731 2366.*

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## Obituary

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The fields of poultry disease research, teaching and diagnosis suffered a sad loss in the death of Associate Professor Berislav Sinkovic. He was known to friends, colleagues and students most affectionately as Beri – a shortened form of his name appropriate to Australians' common inability to adapt to foreign names at the time of his arrival in this country a few years after the end of World War II. He gained his veterinary degree in Giessen, Germany after fleeing his native Yugoslavia.

Beri did the foreign veterinary graduates' examination soon after his arrival here. The Chief Examiner commended Beri on his ability and especially congratulated him on being prepared to admit when he did not know the answer to a question, apparently an uncommon talent and a feature of his humility throughout his professional life.

He was appointed to the Veterinary Research Station Glenfield in 1951 and soon became the poultry disease specialist. In those days farmers brought birds for diagnosis direct to the laboratory and Beri soon established a reputation as a friend of the poultry farmer by his professional and kindly manner.

While at Glenfield Beri was a regular speaker at Wagga Agricultural College for the Annual Turkey Schools. I clearly remember taking him down to a paddock so he could see a case of foot rot in a Dorset Horn ewe. He was such a city person in his good shoes and suit that walking through the long wet grass to get to the affected ewe was a bit of a problem that he long remembered.

A meeting called by Beri to discuss respiratory diseases of poultry was held on 8 August 1961. Chronic Respiratory Disease was discussed first and then Beri opened the discussion of laryngotracheitis concentrating especially on egg-adapted vaccines which were not widely used at the time. David Howes of the National Biological Standards Laboratory introduced the subject of the development of a standard for vaccines against the disease starting a significant era in poultry health in Australia.

This meeting then discussed the possibility of forming a branch of the World Veterinary Poultry Association and it was agreed to proceed. A Committee was formed comprising Len Hart, President, Rob Cumming Secretary and Beri Sinkovic Committee Member. He remained active in that organisation and other poultry health forums until

quite recently. He was made a Life Member of the Association in recognition of his contributions to poultry health. The Association also funded the Beri Sinkovic prize to be awarded annually to the best student in poultry health at Sydney University. In 1962 Beri became Lecturer in Poultry Health at Sydney University Veterinary School and was located at the Camden Campus for the remainder of his career. He is remembered with great affection by generations of students who still speak glowingly of his teaching and scientific expertise, his support and concern for students and for having the manners of a European Gentleman. I still meet his students in various parts of the world, most recently in Southern Africa. He always dressed immaculately, always addressed people by their formal title where appropriate and became a very approachable Aussie in his new country.

In an era when there were a number of poultry veterinary practitioners in the Sydney area Beri became the reference point for information on diagnosis and research. As poultry organisations developed Beri was a frequent speaker at industry meetings. His research work became focussed on viruses causing respiratory disease in chickens especially infectious bronchitis and infectious laryngotracheitis. Growing viruses in chicken embryos was the cutting edge of avian virus work when Beri went to the University job. At Camden Beri developed tissue culture of avian pathogens and numerous students benefited from his work. He went back to Giessen for post graduate work and upgraded his tissue culture skills.

Subsequently Beri was granted a PhD by the University of Sydney for his thesis on vaccination against infectious laryngotracheitis. He was held in high regard for the manner in which he supervised a number of post graduate students in the area of avian tumour virus research, principally Marek's disease virus and reticuloendotheliosis (REV). His contribution to poultry research in Australia is signified especially by his work on Marek's disease, particularly the isolation of the herpes virus of turkeys, that continues as one of the vaccine strains still used today.

One of his discoveries, appreciated by friends, family and colleagues was that negative (uninfected) control chickens from laryngotracheitis trials made excellent Chicken Maryland.

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Beri was one of the foundation members of the Australian Veterinary Poultry Association and remained active in that organisation and other poultry health forums until quite recently. He was made a Life Member of the Association in recognition of his contributions to poultry health. The Association also funded the Beri Sinkovic prize to be awarded annually to the best student in poultry health at Sydney University.

On a trip to France to present a paper he went via Yugoslavia – his first return there since he had arrived in Australia. When we arranged to meet in Paris he asked me to do something for him in case he were detained in Yugoslavia and failed to turn up. He showed me how to throw a brick through a window and I was to do so to the Yugoslav Embassy in Paris in protest at his detention.

Fortunately it was not necessary and we went on to do our 3 minute presentations and to travel with a French Veterinarian and his family to the Palace of Versailles. My schoolboy French vocabulary and his knowledge of Grammar got us through. I remember we were taken out to Dinner by Kay Kesteven (a distinguished Australian veterinarian then on a diplomatic post in Europe) and to the Hungry Horse Saloon by the French Elanco veterinarians. In later years he returned to Yugoslavia frequently and found a holiday spot on an island off the Dalmatian coast.

It was something of a surprise to observe in such a gentle caring person a strong moral outrage when he perceived unfairness as a result of the authoritarian behaviour of some people, including the regime in Yugoslavia and even some of his superiors,

After retirement from the University he moved from Camden to the Manly district. However he continued to attend professional functions and spent a day each week at Elizabeth Macarthur Agriculture, some 100 km away, propagating REV in tissue culture and investigating some hypotheses he had about spread by fomites.

Beri died on November 19, 2003 aged 83. He developed liver cancer recently and rapidly became ill followed in a very short period by his death. He is missed by his colleagues for his science, his professionalism and his friendship.

His funeral was held at the Serbian Orthodox church at Alexandria (an inner Sydney suburb) where he and his wife Zivana were married 45 years previously. The service was attended by many veterinarians and others who had worked with Beri including a number of members of the Australian Veterinary Poultry Association, which he had been instrumental in founding.

**Paul Gilchrist**

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Its membership renewal time again! A membership renewal form is included as a separate PDF file attachment with this edition of *DANDER*.

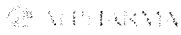
Sustaining members will be contacted individually about renewing memberships for 2004.

(as of 1 October 2003)

Edlar Arzey, George Arzey, Trevor Bagust, Balkar Bains, John Barnett, Doug Black, Pat Blackall, Glenn Browning, Wayne Bryden, David Buckley, Graham Burgess, Grant Campbell, Anthony Chamings, Peter Claxton, Peter Coloe, Dana Cowan, Peter Cowling, Neil Christensen, Kim Critchley, Gary Cross, Mike Cundy, Peter Curtin, Jules D'Assonville, Andrew Demkowicz, John Dingle, Jill Disint, Gordon Firth, Irene Gorman, Peter Gray, Kylie Greentree, Tom Grimes, David Hampson, Leeorne Hinch, Fakhrul Islam, Clive Jackson, Rod Jenner, Noel Johnston, Robert Johnston, Brian Jones, Wayne Jorgensen, Vivien Kite, Ramon Layton, Phil Lehrbach, Mark Lindsey, Margaret Mackenzie, Michael McDermott, David Marks, Cemlyn Martin, Jeanette Mifflin, Krystina Minkiewicz, Linden Moffatt, Robert Morton, Alistair Murdoch, Amir Noormohammadi, Michael Nunn, Denise O'Rourke, Barry Philips, Sarah Plant, Rod Reece, Bruce Remington, Simon Robinson, Ambrosio Rubite, Leslie Sims, Peter Scott, Charissa Smith, Peter Spradbrow, Jillian Templeton, David Tinworth, Andrew Turner, Stephen Walkden-Brown, Andrew Walsh, John Walters, Ben Wells, Mark White, Kevin Whithear, Eddie Wright, Mary Young.

Roger Chubb, Dinah Fry-Smith, Paul Gilchrist, Harvey Langford.

Sustaining members contribute funds that help defray costs of services to members of the AVPA. We thank all sustaining members for their active interest and support. We thank the following sustaining members for (as of 1 October) renewing their memberships for 2003.



Alpharma Animal Health, Locked Mail Bag 30, Toorak 3142 Victoria. (03) 9826 4777

Contact: Tim Wilson 0409 080 549 <tim.wilson@alpharma.com.au>

Bayer Australia Ltd, 875 Pacific Highway Pymble 2073 NSW. (02) 9391 6218

Contact: Neil Cooper 0418 970 351 <neil.cooper.nc@bayer-ag.de>



Bioproperties Pty Ltd, 20 Carbine Court, New Gisborne 3438 Victoria. (03) 5428 8273

Contact: Greg Underwood 0417 548 879 <greg.underwood@bioproperties.com.au>



Elanco Animal Health, 16 Giffnock Avenue, Macquarie Park 2113 NSW. (02) 9878 7720

Contact: Jim Aspinall 0427 704 972 <jaspinall@elilly.com>



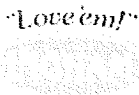
Fort Dodge Australia Pty Ltd, P O Box 6024, Baulkham Hills 2157 NSW. (02) 9889 2151

Contact: John Reeves 0412 264 497 <jreeves@fordodge.com.au>



Hy-line Australia Pty Ltd, PO Box 647 Maitland 2320 NSW

Contact: Mr Fred Seers 0418 106 925 <fred.seers@hyline.com.au>



Inghams Enterprises Pty Ltd, Locked Bag 4000 Liverpool 1871 NSW, (02) 9602 8744

Contact: Kevin McBain

Pace Farms, Locked Bag 800 Rooty Hill 2766 NSW

Contact: Frank Pace 02 9830 9800 <fp@pacefarm.com>

Rural and Commercial Projects, Unit 8, 5 Bent Street Coffs Harbour 2450 NSW.

Contact: 0427 438 388 <leonbarlow@bigpond.com>



SPAFAS Aust P/L, PO Box 641 Woodend 3442 Victoria. (03) 5427 1466

Contact: Graham Murray 0418 325 769 <spafas@ozemail.com.au>

## **MINUTES OF ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING**

The meeting opened at 5.45pm following completion of the Scientific Program.

**Chair:** Andrew Turner

**Attendees:** Greg Underwood, Peter Scott, Tom Grimes, Peter Groves, Bany Oyay, Graham Murray, Ray Layton, John Doyle, Trevor Bagust, Grant Richards, Rod Jenner, Jim Aspinall, Noel Johnston, Denise O'Rourke, Peter Cowling, Clive Jackson, Pat Blackall, Susan Bibby, Soy Rubite, Balkar Bains, Kim Critchley.

**Apologies:** Roger Chubb, Mark Lindsay, George Arzey, Jillian Disint, Kevin Whithear.

**Minutes of last OGM:** Held at Chifley Hotel – accepted

### **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

#### **Progress of student scholarship programme**

Peter Scott reported that 2 students from the final year of the University of Melbourne veterinary course undertook a poultry health elective; the elective comprised a 3 week program. In planning the visits to poultry farms, Peter ensured that biosecurity arrangements were specially arranged to meet industry requirements. Peter expressed special thanks to Susan Bibby for her assistance with and coordinating the program. Each student made a report to the University and AVPA Executive on the experiences. The possibility of the reports being published in Dander was to be explored. Suggestions were made by each student for more work with layer farms to be included in the elective; however maintaining biosecurity of the farms is an issue of concern to the industry.

Andrew Turner reported that the proposal can be taken up in the other Universities including New Zealand; further representations are to be made. Peter Scott reported the elective is relatively straight forward once the visitation list is compiled.

Andrew Turner indicated that the course provided a basis for new graduates to have an understanding of the poultry industry; this will provide greater confidence to participants to take up a position in the industry. Only 2 students took the elective this year, but after 5 years there will have been 10 veterinary students given greater exposure to the poultry industry. There is the possibility for other students to gain such experience at the other universities.

Trevor Bagust reported that similar experiences were offered at the veterinary schools in Canada; some USA and European veterinary schools provide special entry conditions for students wishing to become production animal veterinarians.

#### **AVPA membership categories**

The President reported that there were currently categories of Member, Life Member and Foundation Member. The issue of membership categories was discussed in more detail later in the meeting.

Andrew Turner reported that 2 of our 4 Foundation Members, Len Hart and Rob Cumming, had died in the last 12 months.

#### **5<sup>th</sup> Asia Pacific Poultry Health Conference**

A 3 day meeting is scheduled immediately following PIX on Wednesday 21 and Thursday 22 April 2004. The AGM of AVPA will be held on Tuesday evening 20 April and the conference dinner will be held on the Wednesday evening. Organising Committee members were requested to meet after this meeting to finalise the list of invited speakers.

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Andrew Turner reported no special business to report and expressed his thanks to members for attending the meeting so enthusiastically by turning-up to this meeting. Special thanks were given to Amir Noormohammadi and Jill Disint for the very satisfactory arrangements of the meeting.

The President informed the meeting that Peter Cowling had resigned during the year as Treasurer and the Executive Committee had asked Greg Underwood to become Treasurer until elections at the next AGM. Tom Grimes conveyed the thanks of all members to Peter Cowling for his efforts over the past 3.5 yrs as Treasurer, seconded by Trevor Bagust, carried by acclamation.

Andrew Turner indicated that he would send a message to Beri Sinkovic thanking him for his works and efforts to the AVPA over the past 40 years given the news that Beri, one of the founding AVPA members in 1961, was currently very ill.

#### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Greg Underwood put forward the proposal to alter the membership fee for ordinary members set at \$50 at present to be \$49.50 to make GST calculations simpler; this was carried and would be put to the next AGM to be the membership fee for 2005.

#### **Membership category for postgraduate students**

It was agreed that a new membership category be created; postgrads could be either Honorary Members with free membership or they could be student members and pay a fee. Following discussion, it was agreed that the postgraduate student membership fee be \$15.40, a GST easy figure. For this, they will receive Dander; and pay member rates for conference attendance; but will not be listed for WVPA and therefore won't receive Aerosols.

#### **International associate membership fee**

It was agreed that another category of membership be created; to be eligible, persons must be currently located off-shore, with a foreign address; it would be open to Australian and non-Australian persons for a fee of \$Aus 14, being GST free; the same as for student memberships.

#### **THERAPEUTICS COMMITTEE**

Tom Grimes had nothing to report since Dander's publication.

#### **EXOTIC DISEASES**

George Arzey was not present at the meeting to report. Andrew Turner indicated that a response would be expected from AVPA on the SPF egg and chicken meat importation proposals when made public.

#### **GENERAL BUSINESS**

It was proposed by the Executive Committee that Life Membership of AVPA be offered to Balkar Bains and Leon Barlow; the meeting agreed to this proposal. These life memberships would be bestowed at the AP5 meeting in April.

In scheduling a November meeting next year, organisers should try to avoid the second week of November as the annual poultry golf day is held in this week. The President reported that a suitable venue was not available in the third or fourth week of November this year.

Peter Scott revisited the poultry scholarship programme for veterinary students. Peter Groves provided an update by reporting that one final year student from Sydney University, Michael Wallis, had completed an elective in poultry medicine. A report was currently being prepared and it will be submitted to AVPA. Michael had completed his experience with Peter Groves and Phil Ashby and is now seeking a job in the poultry industry. The elective was undertaken over a 4 week period. It was part of the usual University of Sydney program and had not been set up to be an AVPA sponsored program.

Rod Jenner queried whether anyone had spoken to the University of Queensland. Andrew Turner had written and spoken to Malcolm McLennan, course coordinator. Rod suggested that contact be made with Prof Wayne Bryden.

#### **NEXT MEETING**

Preceding AP5 conference at 5pm on Tuesday 20 April 2004 in ANA Hotel, Surfers Paradise, Qld.

Meeting closed at 6.30pm

## Avian Influenza in the Asian Region

Outbreaks of AI have been officially reported from Vietnam, South Korea and now Japan. Persistent unofficial reports continue to be received of outbreaks in other countries in South-East Asia, particularly Indonesia.

It would be prudent to consider this information and intelligence when investigating disease incidents in poultry, in undertaking surveillance of both wild birds and poultry, and in encouraging poultry producers to improve biosecurity practices designed to preclude contact between poultry and free-living waterbirds that might carry AI virus.

Vietnam has advised OIE that it has confirmed AI ('H5') and is seeking help from FAO. OCVO of DAFF has been liaising with CSIRO AAHL (which is an OIE-designated reference laboratory for Newcastle disease and AI), and PIAPH will provide funding support to investigate the outbreak and characterise the virus isolated. The funding (of up to \$7500), from emergency animal disease preparedness project funds, will enable a Vietnamese veterinary virologist to come to AAHL and for an AAHL scientist to go to Vietnam to help strengthen its central veterinary laboratory's diagnostic capacity for AI.

BBC News online, Monday 12 January 2004 < <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/asia-pacific/3388781.stm> > reported that WHO believes that several recent deaths of humans (at least two children and one adult) may be due to AI (reportedly H5N1) in Vietnam.

Reuters and a range of Japanese media yesterday afternoon carried reports of an outbreak of AI (H5) in poultry in Japan. ProMED carried an abbreviated version of the Reuters report. The outbreak appears to be in Yamaguchi Prefecture, on the south-west tip of the island of Honshu. An official report is now available on OIE's website 12 January 2003 <<http://www.oie.int/Messages/040112JPN.htm>>.

Thai authorities have denied suggested reported Malaysian concerns (and suggest that the reports may relate to cases of fowl cholera reported last month).



## **Research Projects Currently Funded by the Australian Poultry CRC**

*Dr Paul Iji, University of New England*  
*Control over life-long productivity by dietary manipulation immediately post hatch.*

*Dr Kathy Ophel-Keller, SARDI*  
*Application of advanced DNA-based tools for monitoring and managing the gut microflora of poultry.*

*Dr David Tivey, University of Adelaide.*  
*Development and validation of cell and tissue assays to assess nutrient uptake and digestive function of poultry.*

*Professor Birger Svihus, Agricultural University of Norway*  
*The use of different dust bathing materials for layers: Effect on nutrient digestion, gut physiology and welfare.*

*Dr Ian Wilkie, University of Queensland*  
*Confirmation of virulence genes and pathogenic mechanisms of *Pasteuralla multocida*.*

*Dr Rob Moore, CSIRO*  
*Discovery of novel therapeutics and antimicrobials*

*Dr Tim Doran CSIRO.* Development of RNA interference for genomic studies and therapeutic applications.

*Dr Andrew Bean CSIRO.* Enhancement of immune responses.

*Associate Professor Steve Walkden Brown, University of New England*  
*Improved diagnostics and disease surveillance through the application of molecular biotechnology.*

*Professor Greg Tannock, RMIT University*  
*Isolation, adaptation and testing for contaminants and maintenance of stocks of MDV and CAV.*

*Professor Glenn Browning, University of Melbourne*  
*Genomics approaches to development of novel vaccines.*

*Professor Glenn Browning, University of Melbourne.*  
*Assessment of chicken anaemia virus mutants as vaccine strains.*

*Dr Peter Scott, University of Melbourne*  
*Towards rapid registration of a live, attenuated *Pasteuralla multocida* vaccine.*

*Dr Mike Jennings, University of Queensland*  
*Development of live, attenuated vaccines for infectious Coryza.*

*Dr Philip Markham, University of Melbourne*  
*Development of new generation Mycoplasma based vaccines.*

*Dr Robin Gasser, University of Melbourne*  
*Eimeria vaccines.*

*Dr John Barnett, Victorian DPI Chicken meat industry welfare audit: improving adaptation rate by the national industry.*

*Dr John Barnett, Victorian DPI  
Human animal relationships in the laying hen: Proof of concept and the development of an industry training package to change attitudes and behaviour of stockpeople to improve welfare.*

*Dr Phil Glatz. SARDI.  
Consistent and effective beak-trimming of all strains of birds in all production system.*

Mr Ian Farran, Agribiz Engineering  
Development of Australian Poultry CRC Centre program on the impact of poultry production on the environment

The application form is available from the Poultry CRC:

email: [poultrycrc@une.edu.au](mailto:poultrycrc@une.edu.au); ph: 02-6773 3051; fax: 02-6773 3050.

Preliminary Research proposals are due by 9.00 am EST on Monday 26 January 2004.

## **More Abstracts Needed!**

### **5<sup>th</sup> Asia Pacific Poultry Health Conference (AP5) “Harnessing Science for Poultry Production”**

AP5 from 21<sup>st</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> April, 2004 at the ANA Hotel on the Gold Coast promises to be one of the best yet with high profile speakers from around the world. However, the locals have been a bit backward in coming forward with their abstracts for presentations. So please, researchers, students clinicians etc, arise from your post Christmas lethargy and prepare to share your knowledge with your colleagues at AP5. You have until the end of January to submit your abstracts to:

Dr Pat Blackall  
Scientific Program Convenor, APPHC 5  
Animal Research Institute  
Locked Mail Bag No 4, Moorooka QLD 4105 Australia  
Fax +61 7 3362 9429; E-mail [pat.blackall@dpi.qld.gov.au](mailto:pat.blackall@dpi.qld.gov.au)

More information about AP5 at the back of this edition of *DANDER*.

## AVPA Veterinary Student Scholarship Scheme

As reported in previous editions of Dander (see also Minutes of last OGM in this edition of Dander), the AVPA has committed some of its reserve funds to initiate a scholarship scheme to encourage senior veterinary students to obtain experience in, and some knowledge of, the modern poultry industry. The hope is that this experience may encourage some of them to consider a future professional career in the poultry industry.

The first two students, Aishwari Pathi and Harris Chow have fulfilled the scholarship requirements as part of the final year elective program at the University of Melbourne. Poultry Medicine was offered as an elective over a 2 week period.

Below are summaries of the student's perceptions of the overall value of the poultry 'experience' followed by comments from the responsible veterinarians. A diary account of what the students did and observed during their elective is also provided.

Overall the program gave a comprehensive insight into the broiler industry. The opportunity to meet people from various sectors gave a thorough understanding of issues facing the broiler industry, industry structure and bird management. Visits to different producers, processors and farms enabled comparison and evaluation of systems and management.

The modern layer farm visited gave an overview of a variety of egg production systems, however, this was the main exposure to the layer industry for the three-week placement. Placement for a day at another egg production farm, to allow comparison of production systems and for greater awareness of production goals and issues in layers, may have been beneficial.

Travel took up a significant part of each day, but this was not a concern. Everyone involved in the program had good industry background and were happy to explain their areas of expertise. Susan Bibby was able to smoothly coordinate the program. Initial briefing by Peter Scott was useful to set a background, and final debriefing assisted to bring together information gathered.

Overall, I have learnt a lot into the intensity of the poultry industry in Aust.; the hatchery, grower and breeding farms, different biosecurity requirements on each farm, chicken processing, feed production and marketing of the final product. Personally, I would like to see a little bit of free-range set-ups in Victoria, more of the layer industry, and other domestic fowl species (such as turkey, ducks, etc.); but I understand the quarantine difficulties of such visits would create. However, I have enjoyed this elective immensely and would also like to thank you Dr. Susan Bibby and Dr. Peter Scott for organising this elective.

The industry representatives were supportive of the AVPA's program to introduce veterinary students to the poultry industry and there were no refusals of the student visitations. The timing of individual visitations is partially restricted by people availability and biosecurity issues. Both candidates were briefed on the importance of confidentiality. Some companies correctly requested a copy of the University of Melbourne Public liability policy for the students.

To allow for an increased exposure to the various sectors of the poultry industry it would be necessary to lengthen the time or preferably have two separate periods. This is particularly so if species such as ducks wish to be included in the program.

The AVPA would like to thank the following industry members for their co-operation: Baiada Poultry, Hazeldene's Chicken Farm, Kinross Farms, Ridley Agriproducts, Victorian Institute of Animal Science and Scolexia Pty Ltd.

#### **11/08/03 Hatchery 1**

Tour of Hatchery, introduction to daily/weekly schedule  
Feather sexing  
Candling  
Breakouts  
Drive-by tour of farms  
Discussion regarding general poultry industry, egg handling, hygiene, predicting hatchability, investigating hatchability, staff training, staff management and other issues (OH&S etc).

#### **12/08/03 Rearer Farm**

Tour of farm  
PM dead and cull birds  
Overview of farm management paperwork  
Discussion regarding feeding and drinking systems, shed set up and maintenance, biosecurity (litter, water, workers, trucks).

#### **Hatchery 1**

Chick defects  
Introduction to the machinery – how things work and maintenance  
Hygiene  
Investigation of hatchability  
Basic welfare

#### **13/08/03 Breeder Farm 1**

Tour of Farm  
PM dead and cull birds  
Discussion regarding: caged breeder systems including general management, health issues, benefits and disadvantages of automatic egg collection and packing.

#### **Grower Farm**

Placing of chicks

#### **14/08/03 Feed Mill**

Tour of Mill  
Discussion regarding: HACCP program, mill industry structure and distribution, sourcing of feed, issues faced when formulating feeds, introduction to feed formulating computer program, general discussion about the poultry industry.

#### **15/08/03 Victorian Institute of Animal Science**

Tour of institute  
Research of current cases  
Introduction to the various projects at VIAS  
PM of dead and cull birds

#### **18/08/03 Breeder Farm 2**

Tour of farm  
Discussion regarding: background of a company layer system with automatic egg collection, combined deep litter and slat sheds, transition to point of lay, cooling and ventilation, light programs, feeding to target weights.

#### **Breeder Farm 3**

Tour of farm  
Manual egg collection  
Forecasting monthly farm expenditure  
Discussion regarding: routine animal health checks (worming, serology), 1st and 2nd grade eggs, management of workers and OH&S, introduction to various farm management paperwork.

#### **19/08/03 Hatchery 2**

Tour of hatchery and overview of general procedures (some notable differences in procedure to Hatchery 1 included Embrex® vaccination of embryo at D18, semi-automated transfer from incubation to hatching trays, coarse aerosol live vaccination for NDV.  
Procedures done included:  
Feather sexing  
Day 1 egg breakouts to assess fertility.  
Breakouts  
Candling  
Assessment of quality of day 1 eggs (shell quality, packing, contamination, cracks. Also weighed to assess subsequent weight loss during incubation).  
Assessment of incubator and embryo temperature.  
Introduction to traceability system (can follow a chick back through various trolleys, hatchers, incubators to the farm and shed it came from) and other various paperwork.  
Overview of general maintenance and cleaning procedures.

#### **21/08/03 Broiler Servicing**

Farm visits – assess and discuss shed environment in relation to bird behaviour, examine drinking and feeding lines, discuss shed types, ventilation systems, cooling systems, brooders, free range flocks, biosecurity.  
Placing of chicks  
3 day old chick PMs  
End of batch paperwork

#### **22/08/03 Processing Plant**

Plant tour  
Discussion of: end product including value added products; position of the Australian chicken meat industry in the global market; consumer perception of chicken meat including food safety and welfare.

#### **25/08/03 Commercial Layer Farm**

Tour of farm – replacement pullets, caged layers in various shed types, breeding stock for embryonated eggs, incubators, grading and packing room, feed mill.  
Discussion – structure of the layer industry, anticipated future changes in the industry, position in the global market, welfare, behaviour modification by feeding programs, shed set-up, role of veterinarians in the layer industry, embryonated eggs for vaccine production, animal health (vaccinations, beak trimming) and biosecurity.

#### **26/08/03 Hatchery 1**

Chick defect examination  
Assist with inventory

**Breeder & Hatchery Meeting**

Discussion of general issues relating to breeder and hatchery management. Gathered an appreciation for the intricacies of coordinating different sites and people, prioritising maintenance and expenditure, need for good communication between various levels of management, forward planning for Christmas demand.

**Grower Farm**

Testing of water source for adequate chlorination  
Discussion of farm facility audits

**27/08/03 Breeder Farm 1**

Examine birds.  
Collect microbiological samples from various areas in the facility  
Discuss investigation of cracks in eggs, treatment of red mite in caged multi-aged sites.

**Hatchery 1**

Candling of eggs

**Grower Farm**

Farm visit and examination

**29/08/03 AVPA Representatives**

Debrief of elective placements. Discuss: the history and structure of the Australian poultry industry and changes over time, scope of veterinary involvement in poultry, decision making in business and relationship of profit and 'best' practice, marketing strategies in poultry.

**Victorian Institute of Animal Science**

Assistance with bird weighing for experiment relating to layer genetics.

Discuss: breeding goals for commercial layers, experimental design and preliminary results, poultry research and funding, concerns with research in private and government facilities, management of major disease outbreaks.

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## **5<sup>th</sup> Asia Pacific Poultry Health Conference**

### **“Harnessing Science for Poultry Production”**

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The 5<sup>th</sup> Asia Pacific Poultry Health Conference will be on the 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> April, 2004 at the ANA Hotel on the Gold Coast. PIX will occur at the same venue on the 18<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> April.

Registration for the Conference will be handled by the PIX conference. The costs details of the 5<sup>th</sup> Asia Pacific Poultry Health Conference are as follows:

\$200 for AVPA members for the two day meeting

\$250 for non-AVPA members for the two day meeting

\$100 for day registration for AVPA members

\$125 for day registration for non-AVPA members

A Conference Dinner – cost \$80 – will be held on the 21<sup>st</sup> April, 2004.

The meeting will consist of plenary sessions on both mornings and concurrent sessions on both afternoons. The meeting will address key issues impacting poultry health and poultry production in the Asia-Pacific region.

Dr Dave Cavangh, Division of Molecular Biology, Institute for Animal Health, Compton Laboratory, UK

Dr Tim Cummings, College of Veterinary Medicine, Mississippi State University, USA

Dr K.A. (Ton) Schat, College of Veterinary Medicine, Cornell University, USA

**End of January 2004 – Abstract Due**

**We are actively seeking proffered papers – both as oral presentations and as posters.**

**End of February 2004 – Authors notified of allocation to oral or poster session**

Our time lines are:

**Registration Date – 24<sup>th</sup> March 2004**

Abstracts should be submitted via e-mail as attached documents to Dr P Blackall (see details below). The preferred word processing program is Microsoft Word and the required format is as follows:

<b>Title</b>	<b>Bold 12 pt Roman</b>
Authors	Normal 11 pt Roman
Body of Abstract	Normal 11 pt Roman – maximum word count – 300 words

Please place a line between the three components of the Abstract. The text should be left and right justified.

For further information, please contact

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