



MED • VET • NET NEWS

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May 2006

In this issue of the Med-Vet-Net news we have the second of our overviews of the new Workpackages, Workpackage 25: A forgotten pathogen in our midst? – Development and application of improved diagnostics for Q fever.

We have an overview of the highly successful Second Annual Scientific Meeting - see if you can find yourself in the photographs on page 5!

We also have updates from the Project Management Team and Administration Bureau and international meetings which will be of interest to our members and stakeholders alike.

Med-Vet-Net Communications Unit

Q-Fever Overview

Workpackage 25: A forgotten pathogen in our midst? – Development and application of improved diagnostics for Q fever

Q fever is a zoonotic disease that causes a variety of clinical signs in a range of species of domesticated animals and wildlife, (including birds). The name was coined in 1937 following the description by Derrick of nine cases of query fever “until fuller knowledge should allow a better name”. The causative organism gains its name, *Coxiella burnetii*, from isolations made by Cox in the USA, who isolated the organism from ticks collected from Nine Mile Creek in Montana, and Burnet, who successfully isolated this microbe from patients. This Gram-negative coccobacillus is an obligate intracellular pathogen (an organism which causes disease but cannot live independently of its hosts cells), previously likened to the *Rickettsia*. However, genetic analysis has revealed that it is most similar to *Legionella pneumophila*.

In humans, infection is often asymptomatic, and in its mild form can be mistaken for other flu-like illnesses, but it can be associated with fatal consequences, usually through infection of the heart tissue, including the valves (endocarditis). Although this organism is endemic in the environment, infection is rarely reported. Around 100 human cases are reported in Britain each year, but diagnosis can be problematic. This situation is mirrored in livestock where, although cases are rarely reported, up to 20% of dairy herds may be infected (Defra Zoonoses Report 2004). In man, poor reporting may represent a lack of clinical awareness coupled with the variable clinical manifestations. What is becoming more

apparent is the ability of this organism to cause long-term conditions following infection. This is probably associated with chronic persistence (adaptation of *C. burnetii* so it can survive in tissues for a long time): as even after antimicrobial treatment and clinical recovery in man, polymerase chain reaction (PCR) assays for the organism have been found to be positive. Furthermore, chronic infection is described in livestock and has been associated with abortive episodes.

C. burnetii can infect a broad spectrum of susceptible hosts including domestic animals (livestock and pets), wildlife such as rodents and even non-mammalian species including reptiles, fish, birds and ticks. The major source of human infection is via shedding of *C. burnetii* in birth products (placenta, amniotic fluid and blood), but also in faeces, urine and milk from infected ruminants. Infection is mainly acquired through inhalation of infectious aerosols, at birth (including normal births) or at slaughter. In livestock, infection is usually incidental but sporadic. Cases of late stage abortion can occur in ruminants and inflammation of the womb (metritis) can occur in cattle.

The epidemiology of Q fever caused by *C. burnetii* in Europe is largely unknown. Methods for surveillance are limited and their application has been sporadic, whilst existing data is localised and poorly standardised. However, Q fever is well recognised as a

neglected zoonosis and is considered to be re-emerging, and has thus been identified in the Med-Vet-Net science strategy as a knowledge and skills gap.

Workpackage 25 Aims and Objectives

Detection in foods is largely untested, although recently PCR assays have enabled detection in bulk milk, eggs and mayonnaise samples. Advances in technical capabilities are required to progress detection, diagnosis and typing in both humans and livestock at Partner Institutes of Med-Vet-Net. This will produce comparable data and allow sharing of resources. The involvement of epidemiologists, detection and pathogenesis experts within this Workpackage will establish a critical mass of expertise and should encourage the development of a roadmap for future research in this area.

We are particularly keen to exploit the existing genome sequence (and those currently being produced), in order to devise molecular typing tools. Application of novel typing methods will enable preliminary investigations on the pathogenesis of these organisms. This may reveal any correlations of genotype with host species.

This Workpackage provides half funding for a PhD student who is now in post, Maha Bouzid. A recent Workpackage start-up meeting was hosted by VLA and attended by 13 participants from six countries (see photograph below). At

this meeting, collaborators revealed significant expertise and resources among the group. Similarly, gaps and limitations were identified, primarily through the restricted number of available isolates.

The significance of *C. burnetii* within Europe was highlighted by recent outbreaks of disease such as those in Newport, UK, during 2002 affecting 137 people and during 2005 where 322 human cases followed an outbreak in sheep in Jena, Germany. Similarly, gaps in our knowledge of where this organism is endemic have



Participants of the Workpackage 25 start-up meeting

been identified, for example Denmark has only recently recognised the presence of this organism.

Of particular interest was the identified lack of harmonisation among diagnostic approaches. Many commercially available diagnostic kits are available, however, no apparent standardisation or comparison of the performance of these has been undertaken within Europe. During this project we aim to address this issue through distribution and testing defined panels of material. Following these approaches we seek to make informed recommendations for the diagnosis of Q fever in Europe.

Sally Cutler

Project Management

Second Annual Scientific Meeting

Over the last few months the Project Management Team has been preoccupied with the organisation of the Second Annual Med-Vet-Net Scientific Meeting in Malta. This meeting broke new ground for us in several ways. Firstly it was remote from all Med-Vet-Net partners and located in a European country not part of the partnership. Secondly, the meeting was opened to external scientists. Feedback from delegates during and after the meeting was extremely positive and the best comment I overheard was "it feels just like a big family!" Once again, we would like to thank our colleagues on the organising committee, Co-ordinating Forum, Admin Bureau and Communications Team for all their help with various aspects of the meeting.

The third Annual Scientific Meeting will be in Lucca, near Pisa, Italy probably from 27 to 30 June 2007 – so put this in your diaries now. A conference website will be generated soon.

2nd Annual Review of Med-Vet-Net

The EC has informed us that the procedures for the annual review of Med-Vet-Net will change from those undertaken last year. In addition to the submission of an Annual Report and Joint Programme of Activity Plans (JPA), a meeting between the reviewers and selected network representatives will be necessary. It has now been agreed that a special meeting will take place on 13 September 2006 at Ploufragan, France. It is important that, as far as possible, the milestones and deliverables for all ongoing workpackages are on target and the plans for JPA3 are in place by that time.

Third Joint Programme of Activities (JPA3)

JPA3 will start in September 2006 and define all the activities for the following 18 months. A significant part of that programme is already committed to ongoing Workpackages. However, the completion of a few Workpackages during the next 18 months will release a small amount of funds for

Med-Vet-Net People

S.J. Cutler & V. Duquesne Co-leaders of Workpackage 25

Workpackage 25 is jointly managed by Sally Cutler from VLA and Véronique Duquesne from AFSSA.

Sally works within the Department of Statutory & Exotic Bacterial Diseases at VLA where she has been based for four years. During this time, she has primarily been involved in leading the brucellosis research team. She is actively broadening the scope and expertise of this group with projects on other zoonotic diseases. She graduated from University College, University of London, in 1982, initially working in human diagnostic microbiology. From here she pursued her research career at Charing Cross Hospital Medical School (now Imperial College School of Science, Technology & Medicine) with investigations into Lyme borreliosis in the UK. She additionally managed the Lyme borreliosis reference unit at Charing Cross Hospital. These studies gained her a PhD awarded in 1992. Her interest in spirochaetes broadened into relapsing fever spirochaetes where she was the first to successfully cultivate both *Borrelia recurrentis* and *B. duttonii* from patients in Africa. She has maintained her expertise in this field with on-going collaboration to undertake genomic sequences of these microbes among other research aspects. Her interest in bacterial zoonosis has continued expanding to incorporate other agents such as *Brucella*, *Coxiella*, *Leptospira* and *Burkholderia*, facilitated by her post at VLA. Sally has been significantly involved in a COST action for Brucellosis in Man and Animals where she leads the workgroup on applied molecular methods. Furthermore, she served as acting chair for this COST action for much of 2005. She is also involved with disseminating her knowledge of zoonotic diseases through teaching at several universities and holds honorary lectureships at both Imperial and University of East Anglia. She has co-authored over 40 publications, the majority of which are on zoonoses.



Dr Sally Cutler

Véronique joined the Unit of Pathology of the Small Ruminants at AFSSA Sophia Antipolis one year ago. Here she is responsible for the Q fever project. She works with six collaborators on the project and coordinates several laboratory approaches to the study of Q Fever. This new challenge is in line with her scientific training and her previous position. She has previously carried out research on immunological mechanisms in toxoplasmosis. This was the main subject of the PhD she obtained in 1990. For three years, she was involved in toxoplasmosis diagnosis in humans and vaccine development at the Pasteur Institute of Lille. Since then Véronique has been the project leader on feline viruses in the research department of Virbac Laboratories, an international veterinary pharmaceutical company, for 14 years. She developed immunological and molecular tools for the detection of feline retroviruses and coronaviruses and has created several specific vaccines using original immunological strategies. Although most of her results are covered by industrial confidentiality, she co-authored over 10 publications and authored several patents.



Dr Véronique Duquesne

reallocation. Funds may be available for only 1 or 2 new Workpackages.

The Co-ordinating Forum have agreed the following strategy:

« based on the funds available, the Project Director would work with the Thematic Representatives and their deputies to identify (i) potential specific workpackages with the strategy and FP7 in mind (ii) possible extensions to the current workpackages. »

In particular, if there are proposals unfunded from the commissioning process last year, which partners would like to amend and resubmit to Diane Newell, by **13 June 2006**, then these will also be considered.

Diane Newell

Au revoir...not goodbye

As I put this issue of the newsletter together, I can't help but feel a little sad. This is the last Med-Vet-Net newsletter I'll be compiling. At the end of this month my work will take me to SfAM where I will be working as Communications Officer, a job I'm very much looking forward to continuing. I would like to say what a delight it's been working with all at Med-Vet-Net. I've enjoyed my entire time with this dynamic and prosperous organisation and I hope to continue to collaborate with many of you in my new role. Many thanks to all of you who've helped and supported me throughout my time with Med-Vet-Net.

Au revoir!

Lucy Harper

WebEx Online Meeting Tool

Med-Vet-Net now has a subscription to WebEx – an online web-conferencing/meeting tool

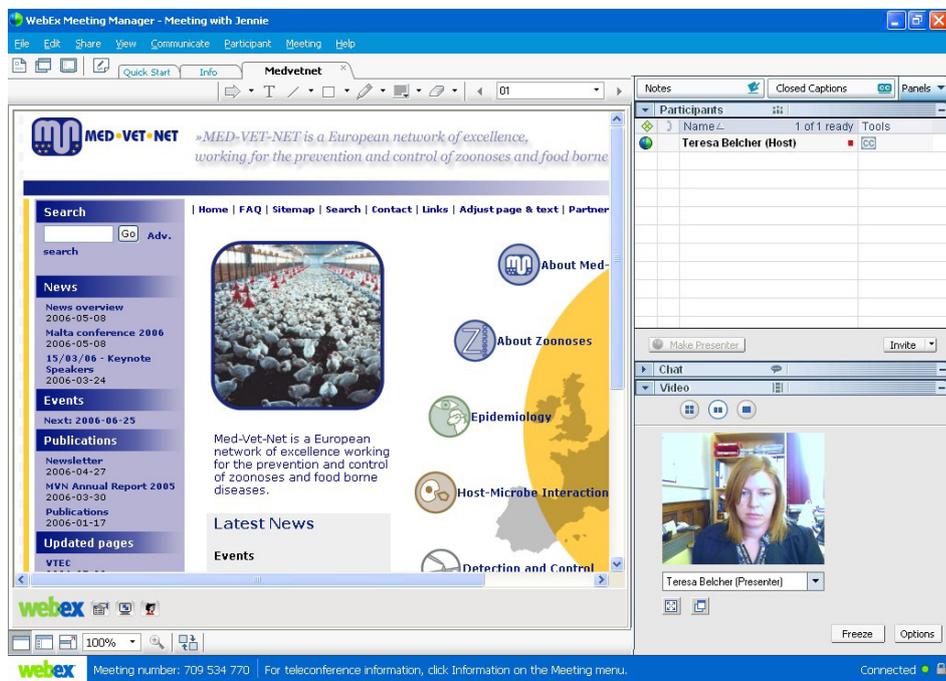
With WebEx there is no software to install, no hardware to purchase, and instant on-demand meetings from your desktop. You can take part in a meeting via your Internet browser. It is also possible to have a WebCam attached to your computer so that others in the meeting can see you live. Even if you don't have a WebCam, you will be able to view the images of those who do.

We think that WebEx will be a very useful tool for Med-Vet-Net. As a 'virtual institute' this tool allows us to have meetings between partners and Workpackage members without having to meet physically. It is possible to show Powerpoint presentations and also share documents, and even your desktop to other participants in the meeting. This means it's very useful for running online training, and applications can also be shared between computers. You can also take notes in the meeting, record the meeting, and chat between participants.

In order to run a meeting, a Host needs to schedule a time for the meeting and invite attendees. Med-Vet-Net currently has five Hosts who can set up meetings. These are Teresa Belcher (SfAM), Arnaud Callegari (AFSSA), Diane Newell (VLA), Claire Cassar (VLA) and Andre Jestin (AFSSA).

How to use WebEx

1. When a meeting is scheduled, all



invitees will receive an email with a link to follow. If you have Microsoft Outlook, it is possible to put the meeting in your calendar so you are reminded closer to the time.

2. When the meeting is ready to start, you follow the meeting link and click JOIN and then follow instructions (DO NOT dial in by phone yet!). You will be asked to enter your name, your email address and the meeting password (which is in the email).

3. The first time you attend a WebEx meeting, you might be asked to install additional plug-ins. Click yes when asked, and install these programmes. This may take a few minutes.

4. Once installed, there may be a wait (progress bar.... 'preparing meeting manager') and then a screen 'MEETING IN PROGRESS'. Continue waiting until another window opens and you have joined the meeting and can see the host and other participants.

5. Now you can dial in to the teleconference. There are local numbers to dial for most countries. You will need to dial the number for your country, and enter the meeting number and your Attendee ID. This will then match up your name and your phone connection. These phone numbers are available in a pop-up box and also in the info tab at the top left of the screen and in the email invitation.

6. There is an option to use headphones and microphones directly attached to your computer (internet phone). This is called Integrated voice-over IP (VoIP). If this option is chosen, then you can follow the menu for Audio Setup Wizard in WebEx once you are in the meeting. With this option, only one person can speak at once, so it is necessary to click on the 'raise hand' button if you want to speak, and the Host will pass you the microphone.

7. The Host can give any of the participants in the meeting 'presenter' rights, which means this person can take control of the meeting, show presentations, documents, and their desktop etc. The Host can also give Host rights to another participant and leave the meeting if they choose to. When people are more confident with using WebEx, we can set your meetings up for you, and then leave you to it!

If you would like to see how WebEx works or would like to trial a meeting with your group, please contact Teresa Belcher at the Communications Unit (teresa@sfam.org.uk) or Arnaud Callegari at the Administration Bureau (mvncoord@afssa.fr). You can visit Med-Vet-Net's meeting page at: <https://medvetnet.webex.com/>. This page shows any Med-Vet-Net scheduled meetings. **Teresa Belcher**

Med-Vet-Net People

We extend a warm welcome to our new Senior Communications Officer, Jennie Drew.

She began working for Med-Vet-Net on 16 May, and works in the Society for Applied Microbiology (SfAM) office with Teresa Belcher and Lucy Harper. Jennie has a first degree in Medical Biochemistry, an MSc in Communicative Science and is currently completing a postgraduate diploma in Public Relations. In addition, Jennie has experience and qualifications in education, and has a particular interest in distance and flexible learning. Jennie has worked for more than 10 years in science publishing and communication, including four years as Editor for an institute of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), based in Rome. She has also held posts in Canada, India, Ireland, The Netherlands, and the UK, and speaks English, Italian and rusty French. To contact Jennie about Med-Vet-Net communications, you can reach her on jennie@sfam.org.uk



Jennie Drew

2nd General Scientific Meeting, Malta

The very successful second Med-Vet-Net General Scientific Meeting, took place in Malta between 3 and 6 May 2006. After nearly two years of joint activities we are now beginning to see the outputs of our collaborative efforts, many of which were presented at this meeting. Over 180 delegates met for four days at the Dolmen Resort Hotel on this sunny Mediterranean island. Scientists from all Med-Vet-Net institutes were represented, and for the first time, the meeting was open to external delegates in order to share new research information and develop greater external collaborations worldwide. The meeting was opened by the Honourable Dr Louis Deguara, Maltese Minister for Health, the Elderly and Community Care.

High-calibre presentations

The emphasis of the scientific presentations was to promote current and new findings from both a clinical and veterinary perspective, with 70 oral presentations and over 150 posters.

Med-Vet-Net was fortunate to have a number of high-calibre, international keynote speakers attending the conference. Professor Patricia Smith from the Laboratory of Bio-Anthropology and Ancient DNA, Faculty of Dental Medicine, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel, presented a talk entitled 'The zoonotic revolution: the impact of domestication'. Professor Scott McEwan from the Department of Population Medicine, University of Guelph, Canada discussed 'Uses and abuses of microbiological risk assessment'. Dr Eric Fèvre from the Centre for Infectious Disease, University of Edinburgh, Scotland spoke on 'Emerging zoonoses, animal movements and disease risks'. Professor Jean-Pierre Kraehenbuhl from ISREC and Institute of biochemistry, Lausanne, Switzerland gave a presentation on 'Host-microbial interactions at mucosal surfaces'. Professor Gadi Frankel from the Department of Biochemistry, Imperial College London, England spoke on 'Application of contemporary molecular and cell biology technologies to study host-microbe interactions'.

On the final day of the conference, a session covering 'Networking for Food Safety' was held. Dr Marta Hugas from the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) gave an outline of the newly-formed body that is the keystone of EU risk assessment regarding food and feed safety. Dr Jan Sargent from the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC), spoke about the Food Safety Research and Response Network (FSRRN). The FSRRN is a multi-institutional, multidisciplinary team of more than 50 food-safety specialists from 18 universities, state and federal agencies and agricultural commodity stake-holder groups and is funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Dr Susanna Lukinmaa from the Statens Serum Institut (SSI), Denmark explained the workings of PulseNet Europe, the molecular surveillance network for food-borne infections in Europe. In conclusion, Dr Claire Cassar from the Veterinary Laboratories Agency (VLA), UK spoke about the new network EUUS-SAFEFOOD, which aims to develop a transatlantic strategic alliance, between food-borne zoonoses research networks in the European Union and the United States.

The Closing session saw Project Manager, Professor Diane Newell talk about the future of Med-Vet-Net followed by Dr Franco Ruggeri who outlined plans for the next Annual meeting to be held near Pisa in Italy. A summary of the meeting was given by Chairman of the Med-Vet-Net Advisory Panel, Professor Bill Reilly, and closing remarks by Med-Vet-Net Project Coordinator's Representative, Dr André Jestin.

... sun, sea, scenery

This year, Med-Vet-Net also departed from their current member countries to find the sun and sea in one of the European Union's southern-most countries, Malta. Inhabited since prehistoric times, and with an excellent natural harbour, Malta has always maintained a strategic location at the crossroads of the Mediterranean. It has frequently been a key prerequisite to domination of the Mediterranean by various powers, being first colonised by the Phoenicians and then subsequently by the Romans, Arabs, Normans, the Knights Hospitallers of St. John of Jerusalem, and the British. All have influenced Maltese life and culture to varying degrees and many delegates took the opportunity to appreciate this aspect of local history.

Several social events were organised to showcase the beauty of Malta. These included an ocean-side finger buffet and wine reception for the first evening, a night's entertainment comprised of a short tour around Mdina, Malta's medieval capital, followed by a champagne reception on the bastions overlooking the island culminating with a dinner at Bacchus, a reception venue located in chambers built by the Knights of Malta in 1657 on the second evening. A relaxed poolside barbeque overlooking the islands of St Paul was organised back at the hotel for the final evening. Med-Vet-Net gratefully acknowledges the support from FAO, Malta Tourism Authority, Pfizer and Air Malta for the running of this meeting.

Teresa Belcher



What did you think?

We all agree that the conference was a resounding success. Here is a selection of some of the very positive feedback we've received on the Malta conference.

"I must congratulate you on your good work. The Conference was indeed very well planned and everything ran very smoothly. Thanks for all your hard work."

Birgitte Borck, DFVF

"We all enjoyed the Conference very much. There was a tremendous wealth of high quality poster presentations and the overwhelming majority of the lectures were also great. We thank you all for the opportunity to take part in this event which was socially so pleasing and scientifically rewarding. We are all grateful for your work in organisation and for your attention and care at every step of this tedious endeavour."

Bela Nagy, VMRI

"It is hot... the bright sun is shining and reflecting on the clear blue waters ahead of me... the breeze is blowing through my hair... I hear the sound of the sea, the seagulls cawing ... People are surrounding me smiling, calm, chatting to each other in a myriad different language, sharing their opinions, spreading their knowledge... I feel integrated... Everything is perfect... and I am not dreaming; it is the 2nd Med-Vet-Net General Scientific Meeting in Malta. It is a coffee-break and I am enjoying a cup of tea... and (of course) I am thinking of science..." Sonia Tellez, UCM

Sustainability Questionnaires

If you've attended the second annual Med-Vet-Net meeting at Malta, you will have been aware of the questionnaire enclosed in your delegate pack.

My name is Eelco Peterzen. I am a Dutch student doing an investigation into the sustainability of Med-Vet-Net. I'm currently studying at the free university of Amsterdam for the Master of International Public Health.

This traineeship for the RIVM is about sustainability based upon the opinions of the participating scientists - that's you. I'm afraid I can never interview you all. So should you have any comments or opinions about good or bad parts of Med-Vet-Net which would add to sustainability, please complete your questionnaire and return it to me by fax or post to the address below.

Eelco Peterzen

Postal: RIVM/MGB, Postbus 1, 3720 BA Bilthoven, Mailstop-63, The Netherlands

Fax: +31 (0) 30 274 4434

eelco.peterzen@rivm.nl





MED•VET•NET

UPDATED INFORMATION

SCIENCE COMMUNICATION INTERNSHIP

As part of its overarching 'Spreading Excellence' Workpackage 3, Med-Vet-Net is offering positions for a Science Communication Internship. The Internship is open to any current student, researcher or staff member of the Med-Vet-Net partner institutes. There is limited opportunity for external participants to attend modules at their own cost. After an evaluation of the first 3-month full-time internship, it has been decided to offer future training as modules to make it easier for people to participate and fit into their current work commitments. While the final programme is still currently being designed, a brief outline is given below. Each module will run between 2 and 4 weeks.



Module 1: Communication – Why and How? – Why do we need to communicate? What happens if we don't? Covers all essential skills needed for successful communication such as writing, presenting, networking, interviewing, being assertive etc. (NB: It is compulsory to undertake this module before completing any others)

Module 2: Influencing the Media and Publishing – Examines two-way communication with the media so we can understand each other's needs. Topics include broadcasting (TV, radio), press (newspapers, magazines, journals), writing press releases, media skills, desktop publishing (InDesign) and public relations.

Module 3: Influencing Stakeholders – examines communications with scientists, decision makers, government, industry, NGOs, museums, schools and the public. You will gain skills in influencing, networking, writing proposals, organising conferences and events.

Module 4: Virtual Communications – a look at new and emerging technologies. Topics include web design, online communications, graphics, basic HTML. Some assignments will be pre-set and work will be required from participants while they are located at their home institute. Following completion of the modules, it is expected that participants will return to their Institute and apply the skills learnt by communicating the work of Med-Vet-Net in their country, as well as assisting the Med-Vet-Net Communications Unit with the dissemination of information throughout Europe.

During the Internship modules, the candidates will be mainly located at the offices of the Society for Applied Microbiology in Bedford, UK, with some additional travel throughout Europe to other partner institutes and Brussels. Accommodation, travel and associated expenses will be provided.

The exact timing and work structure of the modules is currently being finalised, but it is proposed that **Module 1** will be offered from **15 October 2006**, with subsequent modules in **early December**, **early February**, and **late March**. Repeat modules will be run over the next three years.

Please send expressions of interest to **Teresa Belcher**
teresa@sfam.org.uk

Admin Bureau Update

Transfer of the second grant from Co-ordinator to Partners

Funds from the second grant are currently being transferred to the bank accounts of all partners. Financial Officers and Institute Representatives will be notified by e-mail when these transfers are complete. The money should reach the Partners bank accounts by the beginning of June.

Admin Pages on the private website

Admin pages are now being set up on the private website. You will soon be able to navigate the Virtual Institute pages where many different kinds of information will be placed - notably the minutes of the Co-ordinating Forum, Governing Board and Advisory Panel meetings. Individual logons are currently being assigned by the Communication unit.

Admin Bureau

Members website logon update

Individual Logons

The Med-Vet-Net private website now has individual logons. The old 'mvm' logon will soon be removed.

This means that you won't be able to use the private website until you have created a new account for yourself.

In order to create a new account:

1. Go to the membersite (login as 'mvm' as usual).
2. Click on 'Create account' on the menu bar (bottom, left) and follow the instructions. You'll be sent an email message and you'll have to confirm by clicking on a link in that message.

Restricted pages

Now that we have individual logons, it will be possible to have pages that have restricted access. Some of you have already been in touch with me regarding this. If as a

Workpackage, you want to do have restricted access to pages, please ensure all your members create a logon, and then send me a list of Workpackage members so that we can do this. Please note, that we would encourage most Workpackages to have pages 'open' for all MVN members, and only have them restricted if there is a confidentiality issue.

Collaboration/workplace area

In addition, we are trialing a 'collaboration/workplace' area. This will allow workpackages and other groups to have a work area and allow people to sign up to it. It is like an e-meeting place, where documents can be uploaded and shared. If you as Workpackage leader would be interested in trialing this also, please contact me (teresa@sfam.org.uk) or Staffan (staffan.tamm@sva.se) (and copy the other). Eventually this will be available to all – we just want to check that it is working OK first. We will also be preparing some guidelines for use of this tool.

Teresa Belcher

External Congress

Joint AG/SOMED meeting on use of gnotobiotic models for studying host-microbe interactions

St Louis, USA
5-8 June 2006

Subjects involved in the programme include: the gut microbiota and its microbiome; metabolomics; invertebrate gnotobiotic models; inflammatory and motility models of the gut; innate immunity; immunology and atopy; new genetic techniques and probiotics. For more information please visit: <http://www.gnotobiotics.org>

Innovations in Bioscience for Animal and Human Health

Renaissance Hotel, Rue du Parnasse 19,
1050 Brussels, Belgium
7 June 2006

The conference will focus on the latest innovations in biosciences for animal and human health. The conference will bring together researchers, scientists, policy and decision makers and industry representatives to discuss scientific solutions that could prevent diseases and reduce animal and human health risks in Europe. The conference is divided into two parallel seminars dealing respectively with healthy oils and plant-cell produced technologies. Please note the proposed discussion on FP7 and development of collaborations. Please visit <http://www.isc-europe.com/dasconference/index.php>

4th International Veterinary Vaccines and Diagnostics Conference (IVVDC)

Oslo, Norway
25-26 June 2006

The conference provides an excellent opportunity to meet colleagues and be updated on recent progress and future perspectives in the fields of vaccinology and diagnostics. The IVVDC has become an important meeting place for regulatory authorities, pharmaceutical companies and the scientific community. Please visit: http://www.vetinst.no/inet_eng/index.asp?strUrl=1002147i&topExpand=&subExpand=

1st International Conference on Avian Influenza in humans: Latest Advances on Prevention, Therapies and Protective Measures

Pasteur Institute - Paris
29-30 June 2006

The conference will provide sessions on the following aspects of avian influenza:
- Focus on H5N1
- Treatments and Perspectives
- Prevention
- Alternative Solutions and Pathways in Influenza Prevention and Treatments
- Disaster Management Response
Please visit: <http://www.isanh.com/avian-influenza/>

7th International Workshop on Pathogenesis and Host Response in Helicobacter Infection.

LO-skolen, Helsingør, Denmark.
1-4 July 2006

The European study group on pathogenesis and immunology in *Helicobacter* infections and the European *Helicobacter* study group would like to invite you this meeting.

Living together: Polymicrobial Communities
Society for Applied Microbiology 75th Anniversary Summer Conference
Edinburgh, Scotland

3-6 July 2006

This conference has a packed scientific programme including sessions on:

- Physiology of polymicrobial communities
- Influencing polymicrobial communities
- Gut microflora
- Bioremediation

There will be a session dedicated to students on "Making good use of your supervisor".

There is also a full social programme including a quiz night, trade show and conference dinner at the prestigious Hub restaurant on the Royal Mile. To book online and for full programme details please visit: <http://www.sfam.org.uk/sumconf.php>

Priority Setting of Foodborne and Zoonotic Pathogens

19-21 July, Berlin, Germany

An international conference organised jointly by Med-Vet-Net and the US Food safety consortium. To promote progress in food safety priority setting by identifying key scientific issues and opportunities and fostering international scientific collaboration. For more information please visit <http://www.medvetnet.org/priority>

AAEA Pre-conference Workshop "New Food Safety Incentives and Regulatory, Technological, and Organizational Innovations"

Long Beach, California

22 July 2006

The workshop starts with a panel of three industry food safety innovators discussing how their companies control pathogens in the food supply chain, the economic incentives (or disincentives) faced and the role of innovation. Researchers from eight countries follow and share their methods, results and ideas on food safety innovation and economic incentives. For more workshop information please visit www.fsn-aea.org

20th ICFMH on Food Safety and Food Biotechnology: Diversity and Global Impact

Bologna, Italy

29 August to 2 September 2006

This congress is a great opportunity for food microbiologists, technologists and students involved in the food industry as well as regulatory agencies to improve their understanding and discuss topics related to food safety and new-emerging challenges that the scientists have to cope with in order to ensure a safe, secure, nutritious and appealing food supply to a wide range of different consumers. If you are interested in this event, please check our web site <http://www.foodmicro2006.org>

2nd European Veterinary Immunology Workshop

Paris, France

4-6 September 2006

This workshop will run sessions on the following topics:
- From innate to adaptive immunity
- Infection & immunity
- Clinical immunology / Immunopathology
- Immunological tools
- Immunomodulation
- Comparative immunology (fish, avian)
- Immunogenomics (Genomic approaches in veterinary immunology)
- Leukocyte subsets and functions
- The role of dendritic cell subsets in initiating immune responses
- How many more?: Porcine CD8+ lymphocyte subsets and their functions
- Mucosal immunology
- Novel strategies of vaccine development

(incl. probiotics etc)

Please visit: <http://www.inra.fr/Internet/Projets/eviv/EN/index.php>

7th International Congress on Veterinary Virology (ESVV)

Faculdade de Medicina Veterinária in Lisboa, Portugal,

24-27 September 2006

The scientific programme will consist of plenary invited lectures by renowned scientists, oral presentations and poster sessions selected by the Scientific Committee. Please visit: <http://www.esvv2006.org/welcome.php>

PRION2006

Strategies, advances and trends towards protection of society
Centro Congressi Lingotto

Turin, Italy 4-6 October 2006

The programme of "Prion 2006" will include state-of-the-art lectures, oral presentations selected from contributed abstracts and poster sessions on the themes of NeuroPrion Network (prevention, control, treatment, management and risk analysis of prion diseases) and discussions focused on basic research. This event will provide a great opportunity for scientists from all over the world to share their findings and progress in an attractive and interesting setting. For more information please visit: <http://www.newteam.it/PRION2006/>

Nano and Microtechnology in the Food and Health Food Industries

NH Grand Hotel Krasnapolsky,

Amsterdam

25-26 October 2006

The conference will have sessions on:
- Nano and micro technologies in food processing, monitoring, labelling, storage, distribution and related issues
- Using nano and micro technologies to meet the challenges of food for nutrition and food for health
- New techniques and technologies for rapid safety testing, and prevention of food borne disease
- Safety and regulatory issues related to the use of new technology
Please visit: <http://www.nano.org.uk>

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Contributions and suggestions are welcome.

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