

College Courier

June 2020



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EDITOR'S DESK

Welcome to the Winter edition of the College Courier.

We're half way through the year, and what a year it has been so far. The world as we know it has changed and the College is busily working on adapting to this new environment.

We remain committed to developing strategies to stay engaged with Members and deliver examinations for Membership and Fellowship Candidates. As things return to the new normal, please do not hesitate to contact the College office if you have any questions about membership or examinations.

We would love to feature Member stories in future editions of the College Courier and encourage you to email marketing@anzcvs.org.au to discuss how we can share your story with our community.

"In the middle of difficulty lies opportunity."

- Albert Einstein

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dr Zoe Lenard, President



As we head through the middle of the year, it is easy to feel disconnected from the ANZCVS.

Major disruptions to the College schedule courtesy of the nasty little virus has resulted in deferring our Membership exams till 2021 and a massive disruption to the heart and soul of the College, a face-to-face Science Week.

Our second year at The Star (Gold Coast) was expected to evolve from last year's successful meeting, with expanded pre-conference workshops, including one focussing on wellness, as well a host of discipline-specific cutting-edge material.

The College leadership have worked hard to adapt to such disruptions, and we are pleased to announce progress in this regard. An online version of several Chapter programs will be provided later in the year, with Chapters enthusiastically embracing the forced change, showing a willingness to adapt and overcome.

If this year teaches us anything, it has been that digital adaption can occur and that necessity is the mother of invention. Clever and creative minds from the College office have worked diligently with the skilled Science Week Committee to creatively embrace the change and still provide a forum for our community. The learnings from this year's different SW will inform our approach to future meetings and to better digital communication with members.

The Fellowship exams, which are such an important milestone for many

Members each year, have been shifted to November. This has been a major effort for the College exams team, College Manager Mary Anne Hiscutt and CEO Stephen Alderman, and strongly supported by the Chief and Assistant Chief Examiners (Carolyn Guy, Peter Bennett and Sharanne Raidal).

The ability to plan for and adapt these high-stakes exams is a prime example of the dedication of this team in its support of Fellowship candidates when most other specialist level exams in Europe and America have been cancelled for the year. The challenge is that we still do not know if the exams will be possible at their planned dates, as it will depend on state/federal health/travel restrictions, but the dedication of the staff and exams teams in being flexible in their approach to this milestone deserves commendation. The Fellowship candidates have been patient with the situation and are in their final months of preparation; we will cross our fingers that Australia and New Zealand remain relatively CoVID-free and the plans can be followed through.

The newly formed New Zealand Network was off to a flying start with plans for several face-to-face functions this year, also dashed by COVID. However, the committee has used the time to organise itself and plan for future meetings.

In a world where "Zoom" has become ubiquitous, Council has continued to meet digitally regularly. Our regular July face-to-face meetings are replaced by several shorter Zoom sessions where

we will continue to discuss governance and plans for the future.

The office team have been working remotely during this time under the new leadership of CEO Stephen Alderman, and will shortly move back into our premises in Eight Mile Plains in time for the one-year anniversary of the purchase of the site.

The College AGM will proceed as planned at 5:00pm AEST on Friday 10 July, also via Zoom. There will be a Member Convocation afterwards, a chance to engage with the leadership and ask questions. We promise to keep it snappy and remain happy to engage with you directly.

Finally, disruption has reached every aspect of everyone's life, in a way that is unlike any other situation for decades. Our workplaces have likely changed, our movements have certainly changed and many of us have faced additional stressors, possibly loss of income, lost opportunities, perhaps a marked increase in workload, isolation from friends or family, or massive disruption that we did not expect. I hope you are coping; we are a resilient profession but the changes may have impacted some harder than others. To paraphrase Dolly Parton (and why not?), if you wanna see the rainbow, you gotta put up with the rain. I remain optimistic and look forward to what the next six months bring.

→ CEO REPORT



I would like to introduce myself as the new CEO of ANZCVS.

Arriving at the College in March as the global health crisis reached our region, I became immediately focused on the impact and disruption to years of established processes and schedules impacting everyone associated with the College.

In the last four months, a lot of tough decisions needed to be made that have affected many of you. The deferral and rescheduling of the 2020 examinations and the cancellation of Science Week has meant initiatives, plans and schedules for the coming years need to be re-established and communicated to everyone.

Of credit to the College membership is how you rallied together, helping navigate our way through. I cannot thank you enough for your support and input as it has enabled us to be agile and move forward on a positive path.

I am on a very steep learning curve and have a wealth of knowledgeable people ready to provide guidance and share their experiences and ideas.

My professional experience and knowledge include senior leadership roles in manufacturing, government, information technology and most recently human services and early childhood education in the not-for-profit sector.

Over the last two years, I have also been involved in the Animal Welfare sector in a director role for an animal sanctuary, set up on 20 acres on the Sunshine Coast in Queensland.

I have been very fortunate to work with and be mentored by some great people and teams, without whom I would not have achieved many of the successes in my life. This continues to be true at the College, where I am on a very steep learning curve and have a wealth of knowledgeable people ready to provide guidance and share their experiences and ideas.

Although there are thousands of membership-based organisations throughout Australia and New Zealand, I believe we have some very unique qualities that make ANZCVS a fantastic environment to be associated with and for me personally a great opportunity in my career.

I want to highlight one area that seems to be part of the DNA of the organisation that I found amazing:

In my first few days as CEO, I was working through the services the

College provides to the veterinary sector. We were developing, delivering and facilitating hundreds of face-to-face advanced examinations every year with a handful of staff who were not the subject matter experts, how could that be?

This was quite puzzling until I discovered that for almost 50 years, the College services had been built almost solely on the commitment of professionals that volunteer at a depth that is very rare in any organisation. In fact, the College is not able to deliver a single examination without many subject expert volunteers.

There are many lofty goals in our sights that I will be pursuing over the coming months as we finalise the strategic roadmap including:

- Providing additional member benefits
- External examination review
- Online assessment platform
- Website review and upgrade
- Online portals for Chapters
- Sustainability roadmap

There are still a lot of unknowns for us all as we wait for the new normal to arrive. I look forward to meeting you all in the future, and at this point that will probably be via our friends at Zoom.

Take care and thank you for your continued association with the College.

→ EXAMINATIONS REPORT

College Council and the Board of Examiners made the extremely difficult decision a few months ago to defer all Membership examinations to 2021 and postpone Fellowship examinations until later this year.

We have now developed and released a plan to deliver 2020 Fellowship examinations.

KEY DATES:

Wednesday	4 November	Written paper 1
Thursday	5 November	Written paper 2
Friday	6 November	Free / Lay day
Saturday	7 November	Practical Examinations
Sunday	8 November	Oral Examinations

Examination results will also be provided in November; the exact date will be communicated when confirmed.

Please note the new structure above schedules all examination components to be completed in the same week.

All examinations are planned to be held at QT Hotel Surfers Paradise, Gold Coast Queensland, Australia.

In the event there are Government imposed restrictions preventing travel to the Gold Coast, the College will look to implement an alternative examination arrangement for affected Candidates and Examiners.

Travel restrictions for Australian and New Zealand residents will be reviewed on 30 September 2020, and the Examinations Team will contact any affected candidates and examiners.

For further information please contact the Examinations Team at the College office at examinations@anzcv.org.au

We're not letting the distance come between you and our team.

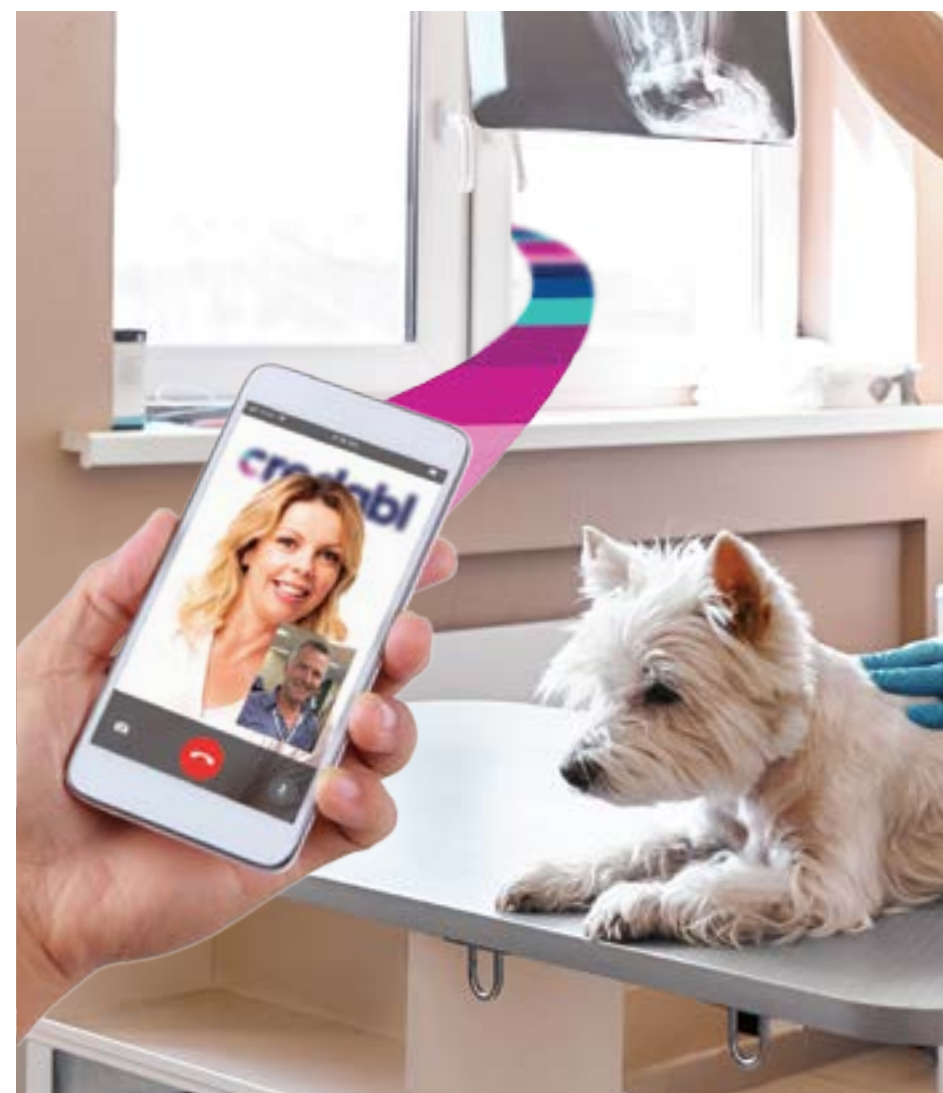
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➔ UPDATE PROJECT OFFICER

➔ Dr Rachel Tan
Project Officer



MAINTENANCE OF CREDENTIALS (MOC) IMPLEMENTATION DEFERRED UNTIL JULY 2021

The MOC program was scheduled for implementation in July 2020 with application to occur for all new Members and Fellows after this examination period. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, a number of issues have been raised which may considerably impact both the implementation of the MOC and compliance by Members and Fellows. These are:

- Changed working conditions of veterinary practice causing stress and increased demands on Members/Fellows time
- Financial hardship
- Cancellation of a significant number of CPD events
- Disparity in access to alternative CPD
- Cancellation of 2020 College Membership exams and deferral of Fellowship exams

In consideration of this, Council has decided to defer implementation of the MOC program until July 2021. Retrospective application of MOC requirements for existing Fellows is still scheduled to occur from July 2022.

INSTITUTIONAL ACCREDITATION FORMS FOR FELLOWSHIP CANDIDATES IN SMALL ANIMAL MEDICINE AND SURGERY NOW AVAILABLE

The College recognises that Fellowship candidates in institutions recognised to have a track record of providing education and training facilities consistent with the requirements of a Fellowship Training Program would benefit from streamlining of the applications process.

For Small Animal Medicine and Small Animal Surgery, the College now has standardised forms for Fellowship

Candidates in institutions (universities and private practices) to complete. Please contact the Examinations Team for copies of these forms.

The aim is to develop forms for use by Fellowship candidates in institutions who regularly train Fellowship candidates in the same subject. If your chapter is interested in developing a form for a particular subject, please contact the examinations team at examinations@anzcvs.org.au to evaluate the small animal forms and discuss development and implementation.

If you have any questions or feedback on any of the above projects, please contact me via email at po@anzcvs.org.au.

MEMBER BENEFITS AND SUPPORT FOR CANDIDATES

The College continues to investigate expansion of Member benefits and improving the support structure for Candidates. We are delighted to announce renewal of the partnership with Elsevier Australia which entitles all Members 25% off the RRP on all books within the Elsevier Veterinary catalogue. This discount is applicable to veterinary purchases made through www.elsevierhealth.com.au with use of the unique discount code. It cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer.

Discount code to be entered at checkout:
ANZCVS25 Expiry: 31st May, 2021



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MAINTENANCE OF CREDENTIALS

The Maintenance of Credentials (MOC) will be implemented from July 2021. Please read the MOC guidelines to decide whether you would like to participate in the program.

The MOC was designed to be flexible and achievable for Members and we strongly encourage all Members to consider participating in the program to demonstrate their commitment to life-long learning and for their own professional development.



WHAT IS MOC?

The objectives of Maintenance of Credentials (MOC) requirements are to allow the individual to reflect on their personal knowledge and performance, commit to a process of improvement and re-evaluation, and promote engagement within their professional organisation. The overall result is to improve quality of the profession, which can be externally promoted and align with accrediting body requirements.

WHY IS THE COLLEGE IMPLEMENTING IT?

The introduction of a MOC program is required for the College to align itself with the standards set by international veterinary organisations. In addition, the Australasian Veterinary Boards Council (AVBC) has strongly suggested that MOC should be a

requirement to ensure the ongoing quality of qualifications. This move will protect the ANZCVS qualifications from any allegations (real or perceived) of degeneration or reduction of quality, and is in line with New Zealand and other foreign jurisdictions.

WHO DOES IT APPLY TO?

All Members and Fellows who are awarded their qualifications from 2021 onwards. Existing Members may choose to participate in MOC on a voluntary basis. Compulsory MOC will be introduced for all Fellows from 2022.

WILL I LOSE MY POST-NOMINALS IF I DO NOT COMPLY?

Members and Fellows will not lose their post-nominals as long as they remain a financial member of the College.

Detailed information on MOC, including the guidelines and frequently asked questions can be found on our website anzcvs.org.au



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➔ MEMBER CONVOCATION & AGM

After a successful Member Convocation in 2019, we are pleased to welcome the event back again in 2020. The Member Convocation is a forum where College Council and Board of Examiners (BoE) can interact and discuss with Members issues affecting the veterinary profession that are relevant to the College.

Members will have the opportunity to submit questions prior to the Convocation and the Council and BoE members will respond and discuss the questions submitted during the Convocation with the aim of taking action on feedback, suggestions and comments.

Members do not need to be present at the Convocation to submit a question and we encourage all Members to get involved and have your say.

HAVE YOUR SAY

How to submit a question

Use this [form](#) to submit your questions. All questions must be identifiable.

Before the Convocation

Members will be notified of the questions submitted via email and questions will also be displayed on the College [website](#).

During the Convocation

Questions will be answered at the Convocation by the College Convocation Panel.

INVITATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

ANZCVS invites its members to the
50th Annual General Meeting.

Date: Friday 10 July 2020

Time: 5:00 PM AEST

Where: Online via Zoom

Members were sent an email with the registration link and AGM documents. If you require these documents re-sent to you, please [email cm@anzcvs.org.au](mailto:email_cm@anzcvs.org.au)

WHEN

5:45pm, Friday 10 July, 2020

LOCATION

Online via Zoom



REGISTER

Register online [here](#)

ANZCVS Online Scientific Series 2020



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You are invited to the College's inaugural Online Scientific Series, as we continue our commitment to life-long learning in the online environment. Featuring international and local guest speakers, the Online Scientific Series will deliver cutting-edge veterinary education not available anywhere else in the southern hemisphere!

Stay tuned for more information on presenters, program schedule and how to register.

Visit our [website](#) to stay up-to-date

ANZCVS Online Abstract Forum 2020

NEW

ANZCVS is pleased to be delivering an Online Abstract Forum to provide authors a platform to showcase their research.

The following Chapters have re-opened abstract submissions for participation in the Online Abstract Forum:

- Small Animal Medicine and Feline
- Emergency and Critical Care
- Veterinary Epidemiology
- Surgery (residents only)

Online Abstract Forum is complimentary to attend, and we encourage all Members to come along and support their colleagues.

Please share this information with any Colleagues who may be interested in presenting or attending.

The Online Abstract Forum program schedule and registration forms will be released shortly.

SUBMIT AN ABSTRACT OR FOR MORE INFORMATION.
PLEASE VISIT OUR [WEBSITE](#).



➔ NZ REPORT

Dr Allen Bryce



THE NEW ZEALAND NETWORK OF THE COLLEGE

The network is up and running, with 103 paid up members as at 11/5/2020, and 96 members of the network's Facebook group. Communication with members is by email and Facebook.

The interim committee will be replaced by an elected committee at the first AGM, which we expect will be run as a

Zoom meeting in the next few months. Interim Committee roles are:

- Dr Ricketts – President and College liaison
- Dr Bryce – Secretary/Treasurer and Council liaison
- Dr Cantley – to lead the North Island subcommittee
- Dr van Dam – to lead the South Island subcommittee.

Planning for in-person meetings has been put on hold due to COVID-19 restrictions. Details of Zoom meetings of the network with guest speakers will be announced as they become more certain.

Zoom meetings have the advantage that more members have the opportunity to attend, and are cheaper than in-person meetings.

In the meantime, the online World Veterinary Association Congress 2020 has provided a plethora of CPD material, much of it of direct relevance to NZ members.

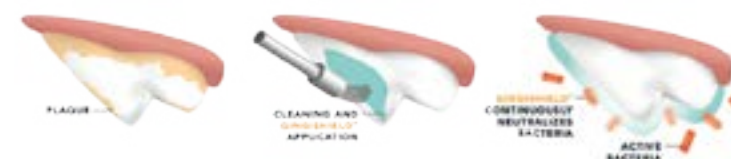
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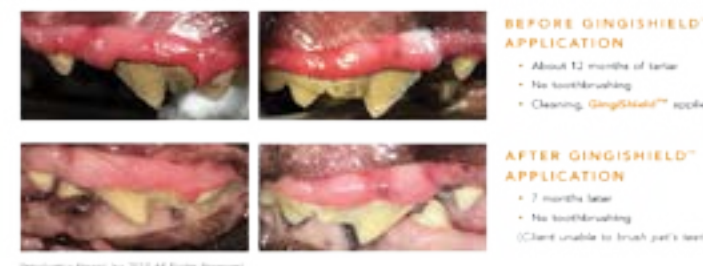
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cve.edu.au/practice-membership

*Practice Members that join by 30 June 2020 receive 13 months access to CVE membership benefits which includes a BONUS month added to their annual membership

➔ CHAPTERS

ANIMAL WELFARE CHAPTER

As COVID-19 continues to have a significant impact on the lives of people, animals and the planet. It is also an opportunity to view how we do things differently.

Never before has the One Health and One Welfare concept been more important as the implications are felt on a global scale. Let us hope improvements will be made to benefit our lives and work in our part of the world, as well as all life on Earth in the future.

To find out more visit <https://www.onewelfareworld.org/>



2020 Science Webinars

With the disappointment of losing Science Week this year, the Chapter executive and scientific convenor are considering the option of hosting a monthly webinar to help keep members up to date with exciting animal welfare topics. Logistics and costs are yet to be evaluated, and we will be looking for ideas from members for topics and presenters. Chapter Treasurer Anne Fawcett hosted a webinar on ethical and welfare implications of COVID-19 and the impact on veterinary practice in

April, through the University of Sydney CVE. For those who missed it, the webinar is available to view [here](#).

Annual General Meeting

It is hoped that having a Zoom meeting this year will mean more members can participate in the AGM. This may be a sign of the future. An agenda and relevant papers will be sent to all members in early June. **The date of the AGM is Thursday 9th July at 5:30pm.**

Chapter website

Thanks to our Secretary, Kat Littlewood for tidying up our website – we want to ensure that we have key documents and abstracts from past Science Weeks. There is still some ongoing work to be done to make it a useful resource for members.

2020 David Bayvel Award

A sincere thanks goes to the Chapter members for the nominations for this Award. Three nominations have been received and are currently being assessed. The winner will be announced just prior to the start of the AGM, where they will be invited to give a short presentation of their work.

COVID-19 Surveys

The following information has been included under the Welfare Chapter News rather than being sent out as an email to our Chapter, as members from other chapters may be interested in these studies.

1. Ethically challenging situations for veterinarians, veterinary nurses and animal health technicians due to the COVID-19 pandemic

The COVID-19 pandemic has raised additional and perhaps unforeseen ethically challenging situations (ECS) for those working in veterinary clinical settings. Anne is conducting this survey to determine the frequency, stressfulness and nature of these ethical challenges as part of her PhD.

The survey is open to veterinarians, animal health technicians and veterinary nurses around the world who are over the age of 18. It will take 15-20 minutes to complete.

To read the participant information statement and complete the survey, please click [here](#).

This is an anonymous survey. You are welcome to share the link with colleagues.

For further information about this study, contact Anne Fawcett: anne.fawcett@sydney.edu.au

2. The global role of the veterinary sector in COVID-19 pandemic responses

Recent press reports indicate that veterinarians and others working in animal health have been assisting with responses to the COVID-19 pandemic. The purpose of this short questionnaire is to document the role of the veterinary sector in COVID-19 responses worldwide. This information will be used to explore the roles and relationships that have been formed during this outbreak, to identify ways to sustain these relationships and build new ones, and to deal with



Image courtesy of Dr Anne Fawcett.
Illustrated by Sally Pope.

future human, animal or One Health crises.

Please take a few minutes (less than 10) to fill in the questionnaire and contribute to building stronger and more diverse relationships between people working in human and animal health. You can access the questionnaire using this [link](#).

The questionnaire is available in English, Spanish, French, German, Portuguese and Korean. It will soon be available in Mandarin.

This project is a collaboration between the Veterinary Public Health Institute (VPHI) of the University of Bern (Switzerland), the European Network for EcoHealth and One Health (NEOH), the City University of Hong Kong (Hong Kong SAR) and the University of Ilorin (Nigeria).

This is an anonymous questionnaire. By submitting your answers, you consent to the use of this data for scientific purposes. You can contact us via:

luis.gomesdocarmo@vetsuisse.unibe.ch

EPIDEMIOLOGY CHAPTER

With the cancellation of Science Week in its usual format, the Epidemiology Chapter has been working hard to adapt a conference program for online delivery.

We are pleased to announce that a virtual program will be hosted this year with the support of the College and in collaboration with the Veterinary Public Health Chapter. A number of joint Epi-VPH sessions, tentatively scheduled for the original Science Week dates, will include professional insights into the COVID-19 pandemic and African swine fever.

Later in the year, a College-driven online abstract forum will encourage a diversity of epidemiology-focused presentations.

Further details on the program content, abstract submissions and timing will be released soon.

We wish to take this opportunity to thank our incredible Science Week Convenor team for their unfaltering enthusiasm and positive attitudes whilst navigating this past year's unusual complexities and challenges. Thank you, Troy Laidlow, Caitlin

Pfeiffer, Jennifer Manyweathers and Joshua Aleri!

The Epidemiology Chapter Annual General Meeting will also go virtual this year. Members are invited to attend the online meeting on Thursday 9 July 2020 at 14:00 AEST.

The College has kindly organised to host the meeting via Zoom, with further details to come. We hope to see you all there.

We know recent months have been very challenging for some of our colleagues, and recognise now more than ever the importance of fostering a collegial atmosphere and positive Chapter community.

To strengthen our network, we have begun conducting brief interviews with members to share through the Chapter Facebook group and email, with the aim of communicating current work and favourite epi-related experiences, lessons and insights.

It's a bit of fun to bring everyone a little closer in this time of great distance, and we look forward to getting to know our members better.

Sincerely,
Epidemiology Chapter Executive

CHAPTERS CONTINUED

FELINE CHAPTER

Well, 2020 has certainly made an impact in the history books! With Membership examinations, College Science Week and the Feline Medicine Masterclass all cancelled, you would think that the Feline Chapter had time to twiddle their thumbs ... no such luck for us!

In fact, it seems that in recent months some of our long-term goals have finally come to fruition. The ISFM Academy has been launched and is open to those with Membership in Medicine of Cats and ISFM membership, and the new online ISFM Community portal has also been launched.

This will allow a new way of interacting with feline clinicians from around the globe, and is a portal through which case discussions can occur, as well as hosting journal clubs, and getting to know other feline clinicians.

Additionally, ISFM have generously opened all their webinars to veterinarians free of charge during the COVID-19 crisis, which allows

any veterinarian access to hours of state-of-the-art continuing education resources on many feline topics. Hopefully this will allow us all to maintain our CPD requirements during a time when most face-to-face conferences have been cancelled.

In other news, whilst the Membership examinations for 2020 have been cancelled, the Chapter can confirm that those who had enrolled in Membership Examinations for Medicine of Cats in 2020 will be able to sit this examination in 2021, and we will likely then continue to examine biennially beginning again in 2022. We are also hoping to host the Feline Medicine Masterclass as a pre-congress day in 2021, however this will depend on the availability of our speakers.

The Feline Chapter Executive wish everyone the very best in these unusual times, and hope that you all remain healthy and sane.

MEDICINE AND MANAGEMENT OF LABORATORY ANIMALS

Unfortunately due to the pandemic, Science Week has been cancelled for 2020 and the examinations postponed to 2021.

Our AGM, which normally is held during Science Week, will be done this year online via Zoom. Once the date

is confirmed, papers will be distributed via email and log in details for Zoom provided. If you want to be part of the executive please give this some consideration. The positions for Chief, Head and Assistant examiner will carry over to 2021 and so are not available, but all other positions on the executive are available for nomination. These include President, Secretary, Treasurer, other member and the Subject Standards Committee (SSC).

Currently we are considering the presentation of possibly a two-hour session for MMLA to be delivered on line. This would consist of fifteen-minute talks with time allocated for discussion. If you are interested in presenting a fifteen-minute talk please contact Gabby Musk gabrielle.musk@uwa.edu.au who is our official chapter conference organiser.

I received the following correspondence from Robert Jones from the Aquatic Animal Health Chapter that may be of interest to our members.

The Aquarium Vet is delighted to announce that it is now an Approved Provider of Continuing Veterinary Medical Education by the American Association of Veterinary State Boards (AAVSB).

We have applied for and received AAVSB RACE (Registry of Approved Continuing Education) approval for

five of our on-line modules (programs). With conferences cancelling and travel restrictions, many Veterinary Boards have increased the amount of CE that can be earned on-line. Each of our first five modules is now RACE approved for 15 hours of Continuing Veterinary Medical Education (total 75 hours).

For more information please go to <https://www.theaquariumvet.com/education/>

Stay safe during these difficult times. Julie Ferguson

OPHTHALMOLOGY CHAPTER

Well what a beginning to 2020! First, we witnessed the devastation of the worst bushfires in east coast history, followed by the unfolding of the COVID-19 pandemic.

But true to form, big challenges can bring out the best in people and we have found resilience and adaptability far beyond what we felt was possible. The Ophthalmology Chapter Executive has been amazed at the ability of the veterinary profession to continue supporting patients and clients during these challenging times, and also find novel ways to deliver professional development to our colleagues.

Like most chapters we were saddened by the cancelling of the Science Week program and

membership examinations and offer our condolences to those candidates affected by these changes. We look forward to coming back in 2021 with a bigger and better Science week program and rolling out our interim meeting in the picturesque Margaret River - keep posted for more information.

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome Dr Marnie Ford PhD DVM DACVO our newest Chapter member and to congratulate Dr Kellam Bayley on his paper published in Veterinary Ophthalmology last year titled 'Superficial keratectomy as a treatment for non-healing corneal ulceration associated with primary corneal endothelial degeneration'. This paper was among the top 10% most downloaded papers for the period between January 2018 and December 2019!

PHARMACOLOGY CHAPTER

I hope this June edition of the Courier finds you all safe and well. Just a few updates from us.

Pharmacology Symposium March 2020

It feels like a lifetime ago, and indeed in some ways it was. A different time when 'physical distancing' hadn't yet become part of our daily Australian vocab!!

To all those involved in the process - thank you! This symposium was the result of many months of planning and collaborating with the Centre of Veterinary Education (CVE). With previous symposiums having been held in Sydney (2015) and Brisbane (2010), the decision was made to host this event in Melbourne.

The aim was to serve both our Chapter members as well as provide relevant clinical pharmacology content for small animal general practitioners.

We had a fantastic line up of international and local keynote speakers - a special thanks to Andrew Woodward and Stephen Page for your talks! The

feedback that I heard was that the whole program was well received.

For those that we saw at the event, it was lovely to catch up and for those not able to make it - maybe we'll see you at the next one!

Online Science Week 2020

There were some great talks planned with multiple other chapters however, after gathering feedback from speakers and the committee, the decision has been made to postpone these talks to 2021 rather than to run virtual webinars. The AGM will still go ahead however, so please keep an eye out for details on the date & time of that event.

Well, that's it. Short and sweet.

If anyone would like to get more involved or has suggestions to offer, please email us with your ideas. We are always looking for ways to add value.

Until the next Courier, take care.

From Megan Lui & the rest of the executive committee.

Email: presidentpharmacology@anzcvs.org.au

SMALL ANIMAL MEDICINE CHAPTER

Normally, the chapter contribution for the College Courier June edition is full of excitement and nervousness as we wish our Membership and Fellowship candidates the best during their examinations and are full steam ahead with the final touches for Science Week Scientific and Social programs.

This year is like no other, or as they say... 'unprecedented'. Excitement and anticipation had been replaced with disappointment, uncertainty and concern.

Many have had adverse professional and personal experiences that I hope are never repeated in our lifetime. I do however hope that through these times, there have also been the opportunities for reflection and chances to connect with colleagues, family and



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friends, likely in ways that you had not done so before. I hope that any good that has come from this situation is not forgotten as we slowly start to get back on the track to 'normal' albeit a new type of normal.

Despite Science Week as we knew it being cancelled, the SAM Chapter Science Week Convenors have been working hard and collaborating with several specialists as it is their intention to deliver a handful of select and significant presentations which we can look forward to presuming any logistical issues can be overcome.

In addition, there will also be circulating information regarding opportunities to contribute to an online Scientific Abstract Forum which will be hosted separately. The Small Animal Medicine Chapter AGM will be online this year with details currently being finalised and information to follow. I encourage as much participation as possible.

*Warmest wishes,
Fleur James
President, Small Animal Medicine
Chapter*

SMALL RUMINANT CHAPTER

FAMACHA CARDS

Veterinarians can purchase FAMACHA cards for their own use in sheep, goats or camelids in *Haemonchus contortus* areas to identify individual animals that need to be drenched. The cards are used to give a score from 1 (red) to 5 (white) based on the levels of anaemia. Owners are encouraged not to drench animals that are scores 1 and 2 so that the refugia has more susceptible worm larvae.

The Chapter has an agreement with the copyright holders and must keep records of all purchasers.

Contact Sandra Baxendell at presidentsmallruminant@anzcvcs.org for details. Animal owners can only purchase cards if they have done a course on worm control which includes a hands-on session on how to use the cards. Chapter members have held these courses in three states but these are now on hold due to Covid-19.

VETERINARY PUBLIC HEALTH CHAPTER

Potentially influenced by our COVID-19 requirements for social distancing and the time these afford for reflection, one might see some parallels with a different time so well described by the Charles Dickens' novel *A Tale of Two Cities*.

Its opening lines read: "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity..."

All of our lives will, to a greater or lesser extent, have been negatively impacted by the measures introduced to help suppress this novel coronavirus. Our College and this Chapter are no exception, with this year's Science Week and our Chapter's Annual General Meeting unable to be held in our accustomed face to face manner.

Perhaps there may be a small silver lining to the COVID-19 "cloud" for our Chapter members! With our public health backgrounds, we no doubt will have received intellectual stimulation as we contemplate the various response measures to this pandemic and their scientific and sociological underpinnings. Those of us involved with planning for, and executing, emergency animal disease response plans and with an interest in emerging zoonotic diseases and their epidemiology will have been particularly engaged by these recent

developments. Some even to the extent of contributing to the response at various levels.

With this interest in mind, it is pleasing to advise that we are planning, in conjunction with the Epidemiology Chapter, a "webinar" to discuss aspects of the animal Coronaviridae and their zoonotic potential. Full details will be provided to Chapter members in the near future.

Should this prove popular, then consideration will be given to further webinars covering other topics that were planned for our 2020 Science Week program. Our thanks are extended to Science Week co-ordinators, Drs Tristan Ingle and Kevin Doyle, as they work through these programming issues.

You would have been advised by the College that membership examinations have been cancelled for 2020 due to the current novel coronavirus pandemic. However, VPH membership examinations will be offered next year.

Our Chapter examination and standards committees continue to progress necessary curriculum reforms and guidance for both membership and fellowship levels. Additionally, our Chapter electronic resource material continues to expand thanks to the hard work of our resource co-ordinators.

Our Chapter Secretary, Dr Allen Petrey, amongst other activities, is currently working on arrangements for the remote conduct of our Chapter's AGM (possibly involving the use of the Zoom teleconferencing application). Chapter members will receive details once these arrangements are finalised.

Whilst it may not be the best of times for us all, our Chapter soldiers on and is hopefully providing a measure of solace (if not stimulation) for its members through its on-going activities, especially in relation to exchange of information so fundamental to nurturing our professional interests and development.

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Certifying excellence in veterinary science

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