



Jockey Club College of Veterinary
Medicine and Life Sciences

香港城市大學
City University of Hong Kong
in collaboration with Cornell University



From the Dean's Desk

27 September 2024

Dear JCC Community,

This week we celebrated another JCC First - our inaugural Graduate Student Research Gala Celebrating Interdisciplinary Research. With 300 participants including over 200 PhD students and faculty, as well as sponsors and exhibitors, the day was a great success. Professor Malik Peiris, Chair of Virology and Tam Wah-Ching Professor in Medical Science at Hong Kong University, renowned for his discovery of SARS-CoV as the causative agent for SARS gave an inspirational plenary for our graduate students and faculty. Based on his own career he advised graduates that of strategies for success in scientific research, including:

- Try to be interested/curious in topics outside of your own research, while recognizing that you are not an expert in everything.
- A “failed experiment” or unusual findings can lead to exciting new research directions
- Do not be afraid to change research directions to follow promising leads
- If you move to another lab, city or country, look for niche advantages in your new location. Its not necessary to follow your PhD topic for life!
- While we may not be able to be an expert in multiple disciplines, a transdisciplinary approach is essential to addressing the big questions of our time, so reach out across discipline boundaries.
- One Health is one transdisciplinary approach that is important to implement in our routine work, but we need to be cognizant of the challenges, such as territorialism.
- Cross-disciplinary learning opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students can be powerful drivers in successful implementation of one health.

Our Research Gala was a great example of how our whole, the College, is greater than the sum of our individual parts, our four departments of infectious diseases and public health, biomedical sciences, neuroscience and veterinary clinical sciences. Thanks to the hard work of our Associate Dean of Research, Prof. Wing Ho Yung, the organizing committee and the many staff in the JCC who gave up their time the day was a great success and will be a hard act to follow in 2025.





Sincerely,

Vanessa Barrs



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Adjunct Professor
 Department of Population Medicine and Diagnostic Sciences
 Cornell College of Veterinary Medicine
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News From JCC and Our Departments

JCC

CityU was well represented at the World Small Animal Veterinary Association conference in Suzhou in September. This global conference had nearly 10,000 attendees from over 90 countries.

Mrs Susanna Taylor presented lectures on a team-based approach to analgesia, blood pressure management, and CPR, as well as participating in a panel on optimising the value of the veterinary team

In addition, several of our Year 6 students presented their research via posters, supported by VCS faculty members. http://www.2024wsava.com/info_en.html





Year 5 BVM students started the new semester with dental practical classes in the Clinical Skills Lab, led by visiting veterinary dentistry specialist Dr. Ana Nemeč, and our clinical educator/veterinary scientific officer team – **Dr. Cherry Lee, Dr. Laurie Hippman, Dr. Denise Chan & Dr. Seems Tsang**. Students familiarized themselves with commonly encountered dental equipment and performed skills such as dental radiography, examination and charting, scaling and polishing, and teeth extractions using our life-like canine head models.

Biomedical Sciences

Research



BMS and NS departments co-organized a GRF Grant Writing Workshop on 29 August 2024. The event aimed to equip researchers with essential skills and strategies for preparing competitive grant proposals. Participants engaged in interactive sessions led by experienced grant writers, attendees left with valuable insights and resources to enhance their grant applications. The workshop fostered collaboration and knowledge-sharing among faculty and researchers, contributing to a supportive academic environment.

A research article titled “Daily Oral Administration of Engineered Probiotics Prevents Myocardial Injury from Ischaemic Heart Disease by Secreting Short-Chain Fatty Acids”, spearheaded by a collaborative team led by **Prof Terrence Lau, Prof Kiwon Ban, and Prof Kwan Chow** from BMS/CityU, along with Prof Hun Jun Park from the Catholic University of Korea, was recently published in *Cardiovascular Research* (Impact Factor: 10.3; Journal Citation Reports, Clarivate, 2023).



Congratulations to the following PhD awardees of SGS Scholarships/Award for 2023/24:

Research Tuition Scholarships (RTS)

CHEN Qinghua
LI Xin
XIE Xulin

Institutional Research Tuition Scholarship (IRTS)

CHEN Fang
WANG Xuejiao
WARIS Abdul

Outstanding Academic Performance Award (OAPA)

CHEN Peiran
DING Zhaojun
LI Youyue
LU Beifang

Education

We are excited to announce that the Undergraduate Education Orientation took place on 27 August 2024, followed by the Master of Science in Health Sciences and Management Orientation on 29 August 2024. During the orientations, students had the opportunity to meet faculty, connect with fellow peers, and explore the various services available to support their studies. As we embark on this new academic year, we wish all our new students the best of luck in their endeavors. Have a successful and fulfilling year ahead!



Neuroscience

Events / Outreach

On 16 September 2024, the Departments of Linguistics and Translation (LT), Neuroscience (NS), and Social and Behavioral Sciences (SS) held the second session of their joint seminar series at the Li Dak Sum Yip Yio Chin Academic Building. The event drew a diverse audience of students and faculty, eager to explore the latest advancements in their fields.

Joint Seminar
Departments of Linguistics and Translation (LT), Neuroscience (NS), and Social and Behavioural Sciences (SS)

The seminar featured two presentations:

- Cortical Surface Stimulation via a Brain Implant Corrects Auditory Perception – Presented by Professor Yang Sungchil from NS
- Large Language Models for Brain Encoding and Decoding of Language Processing - Presented by Professor Li Jixing from LT

This joint seminar series aims to strengthen interdisciplinary connections and promote innovative research.



NS recently hosted two Orientation Sessions for new MSN and RPg students, held on 26 August 2024 and 20 September 2024, respectively. These events aimed to familiarize students with the department and university resources, providing essential information to help them navigate their academic journey.

During the sessions, faculty members and current students shared valuable insights about the curriculum, support services, and extracurricular opportunities. Participants engaged in interactive discussions, allowing them to connect with peers and the faculty members.

The orientations served as a vital platform for new students to prepare for this exciting chapter in their academic lives, fostering a sense of community and belonging within the university.

We wish all students a successful start to their studies!

Prof. Tak Pan Wong, Associate Professor, Department of Psychiatry, McGill University, presented a seminar entitled “Social Valence Dictates Sex Differences in Identity Recognition” on 26 August 2024



Funding

Congratulations!

Prof. Xiaowei Zhu’s proposal, “High throughput AI-guided Behavioral Classification for Mouse Model of Tourette’s Syndrome” was one of the top-ranked proposals at the CityU Institute of Digital Medicine (IDM) Research and Development Fund and was awarded HKD 200K.

Award

PhD Student Junmin Ren Leads Taikangnuo Biotechnology to Victory in HK Tech 300 Competition

Taikangnuo Biotechnology Limited, one of the winning start-ups in the HK Tech 300 National Start-up Competition, was established by our PhD student, Junmin Ren. The company aims to innovate in the biotechnology sector, contributing to advancements in health and wellness through cutting-edge research and development.

For full news story, please refer to [CityU NewsCentre](#).



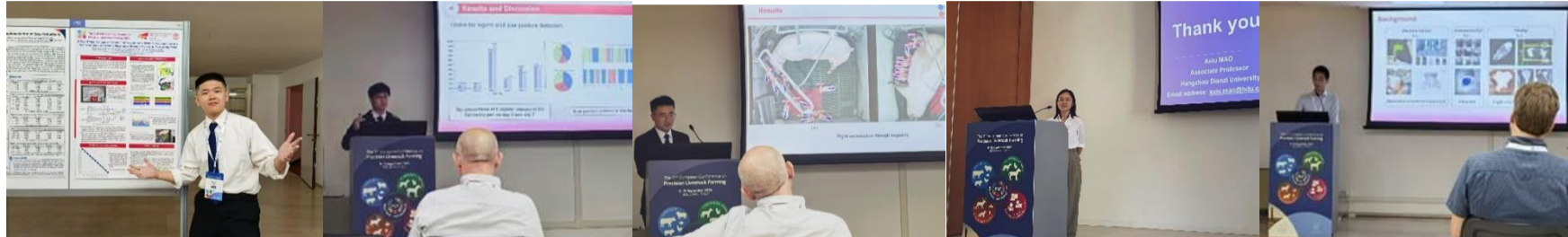
Infectious Diseases and Public Health

Research (includes awards, publications, successful external grants, etc.)

- **Prof. Kai LIU** and his PhD students (Mr. Zheng He, Mr. Chuanyi Guo, Mr. Zhaojin Guo, Mr. Li Lyu, Miss Axiu Mao) attended the 11th ECPLF in Bologna, Italy from 9-13 Sep. Four oral presentations and one poster presentation were given by his research team. There were over 200 oral presentations and 40 poster presentations during the conference. Mr. Li Lyu (VMP student co-supervised with Prof Kate Flay and Prof Daryl Nydam) won the ONLY “BEST PhD Paper Award” of the conference.



- **Prof. Kai LIU** awarded new research contract with the AFCD “Provision of Service for Feral Pigeon Population Survey at Specific Areas in Hong Kong”, with a total amount of HKD 734,273.



- **Prof. Brian Chin Wing Kot** and his team organized the “2024 International Cetacean Symposium & Workshop” from 6 to 10 September 2024. On 7 to 8 September, the 2-day symposium was hosted in CityUHK. About 30 international cetacean experts shared their research work on biology, ecology, health assessment and stranding investigation to over 100 participants. In addition, a 2-day workshop aimed to reconcile important conventional and revolutionary techniques for cetacean research was conducted, including a virtopsy course in CityUHK, a dolphin boat survey in Lantau waters, a “whale-watching” tour in Chinese temples in Cheung Chau, and a necropsy demonstration by delegates from National Museum of Nature and Science (Japan) and OPCFHK in Ocean Park Hong Kong.



Conference proceedings:

- **BCW Kot**, TYT Chung, HHN Ho, HCL Tsui. Meeting the challenges of cetacean stranding investigation: Refining, redefining and confluencing virtopsy evidence on fishery interaction. Proceedings of 2024 International Cetacean Symposium, Hong Kong, China, 6–10 September 2024.



- TYT Chung, **BCW Kot**, HCL Tsui. Confluence of virtopsy and other imaging technologies for cetacean research, education, and outreach. Proceedings of 2024 International Cetacean Symposium, Hong Kong, China, 6–10 September 2024.



New publications:

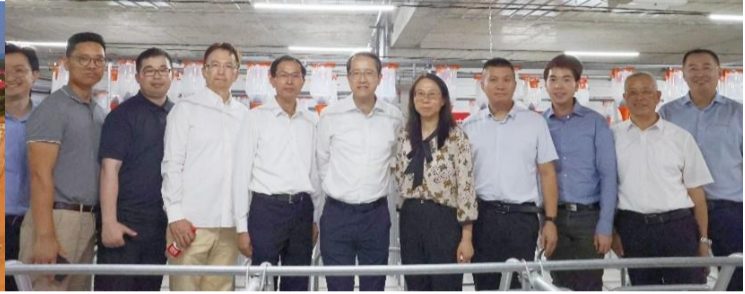
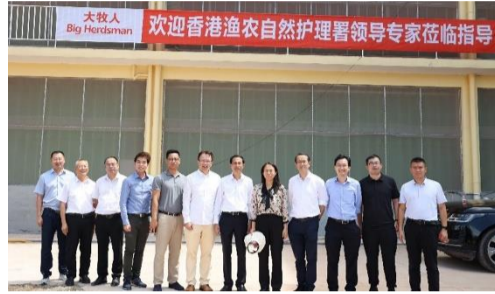
- JWY Yeong, P Martelli, TYT Chung, HCL Tsui, T Gerussi, **BCW Kot**. Ultrasonographic technique and appearance of the coelomic organs in crocodylians. *Frontiers in Marine Science*. In press.
- RM Boys, **BCW Kot**, G Lye, NJ Beausoleil, S Hunter, KA Stockin. Evaluation of ballistics euthanasia applied to stranded cetaceans using ethological and post-mortem computed tomography assessment. *Veterinary Research Communications* 2024. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11259-024-10537-3>
- **BCW Kot**, JWY Yeong, ASY Kwan, GYH Ho, HHN Ho, HCL Tsui, TYT Chung, T Gerussi. Illustrated cross-sectional computed tomography of the cetacean abdomino-pelvic organs. *Annals of Anatomy* 2024;256:152317. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.aanat.2024.152317>

- Wang H#, Xu Q#, Heng H, Zhao WX, Ni HYH, Chen KC, Chan KW, Tang Y, Xie MM, Peng MX, Chan WC, **Yang G***, Chen S*. High mortality of *Acinetobacter baumannii* infection is attributed to macrophage-mediated induction of cytokine storm but preventable by naproxen. *EBioMedicine*. 2024 Sep 19;108:105340. doi: 10.1016/j.ebiom.2024.105340 (#student co-author, *corresponding author)

Service



On 19 Sep, **Prof Kai LIU** coordinated an AFCD delegation to visit Dongrui Company at Heyuan, Guangdong, China. Dongrui is the largest exporter of live pigs to Hong Kong (about 1/3 of Hong Kong's live pig import), which operates one of the most state-of-the-art high-rise pig farms in the region. The delegation had the opportunity to get into the barn and explore all the equipment and facilities. In addition, potential collaboration between Dongrui company and JCC BVM program has also been discussed. Dongrui is interested in hosting our BVM students for pre-EMS and EMS.



Prof Rebecca Traub was invited to share her research as a plenary speaker at the International Congress of Tropical Medicine and Malaria in Kuching, Borneo, 19 – 23rd September.



Prof. Rebecca Traub, Chair Professor and Head of the Department of Infectious Diseases and Public Health, was invited as a member of Executive and Steering Committee of the newly launched Asia Pacific Association for Veterinary Parasitology, representing Hong Kong SAR.



Prof. Wenlong (Colin) Cai organized a workshop on Aug. 30, 2024, to promote the Specific Pathogen Free (SPF) grouper aquaculture. The event attracted over 30 fish farmers from across Hong Kong and received very positive feedback.



Media

Giant 'living tractors' are bringing nature back to post-industrial wastelands - BBC Future Planet "McElligott leads City University's [feral buffalo project](https://www.bbc.com/future/article/20240827-how-water-buffalo-can-bring-back-nature-to-abandoned-land), which is piecing together research that shows how feral buffalo on Lantau Island in west Hong Kong interact with human neighbours and impact these ecosystems." <https://www.bbc.com/future/article/20240827-how-water-buffalo-can-bring-back-nature-to-abandoned-land>

Teaching

Dr. Syed Saad Bukhari presented his PhD defense entitled "Welfare Concerns, Recognition, and Measures of Sentience in Working Donkeys" on August 26, 2024 under the supervision of **Professors Paulo Steagall** and **Alan McElligott** and **Dr. Rebecca Parkes**. He is the first individual to defend his PhD thesis in VCS.



Research

Professor Paulo Steagall attended the 60th Association of Veterinary Anaesthetists meeting and co-authored four abstract presentations:

- Murrell JC, Bukhari SSUH, Lutevele N, Ajadi A, **Steagall PV**, Monteiro BP. Analgesic practices for acute pain management by veterinarians in Africa.
- Hofmeister EH, **Steagall PV**, Love L, Reed R, Cremer J. Anesthesia Curricula and New Graduate Skill Expectations.
- Tomacheuski RM, Klostermann C, Frank D, Taffarel M, Pinho RH, Monteiro BP, Trindade PH, Desrochers A, Glerup K, Luna SPL, **Steagall PV**. Psychometric properties of the Bovine Pain Scale developed for postoperative pain assessment in the hospital setting
- Robinson A, **Steagall PV**. The effects of training on Feline Grimace Scale scoring for acute pain assessment in cats.

Professor Julia Beatty is the senior author of an award-winning oral research abstract presented at the ESVP-ECVP Congress in Madrid during August 28th-31st, 2024. This work represents an international collaboration:

- [Min Chun Chen](#), João P. Cavaşin, Yan Ru Choi, John M. Cullen, Melanie J. Dobromylskyj, Wei-hsiang Huang, Yi-Hsiang Huang, Patricia A. Pesavento, Jonathan A. Lidbury, Jörg M. Steiner, **Julia A. Beatty**. Association between domestic cat hepatitis virus and feline hepatocellular carcinoma. European Society of Veterinary Pathology and European College of Veterinary Pathologists (ESVP-ECVP) Congress, Madrid, Spain 28th-31st August, 2024 **Oral research abstract**

Professor Vanessa Barrs attended the 34th European Congress of Veterinary Internal Medicine for Companion Animals, which was held in Lyon, France from September 5th to 7th. Professor Barrs was the convenor of the International Society for Companion Animal Infectious Diseases (www.ISCAID.org) stream and judged the oral and poster abstracts with a team of international judges. Professor Barrs gave two oral scientific presentations on her research on Diagnosis of Invasive Fungal Infections in Cats and Treatment of Oomycosis in Cats and Dogs.

Manuscript publication:

- Marangoni S, **Steagall PV**. Video-based compilation of acute pain behaviours in cats. Journal of Feline Medicine and Surgery. 2024;26(9). doi:10.1177/1098612X241260712
- Hill FI, **Tse MPY**, Mills SW, **Sandy JR**, Elsohaby I, **Barrs VR**. Histopathological changes in testicular lesions in cats. Journal of Feline Medicine and Surgery. 2024;26(9). <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/1098612X241264124>

Service

Professor Paulo Steagall gave lectures at the FECAVA 2024 Eurocongress in Athens between September 12-14th, 2024:

- The 2024 ISFM guidelines on the long-term use of NSAIDs in cats: what's the take-home message?
- The 2024 highlights on pain management
- Real-life analgesic protocols in small animal practice

Professor Paulo Steagall participated in a Feline Pain Expert Panel Discussion organized by the company Zoetis. The event was held in the city of Utrecht, Netherlands and was recorded and streamed live to almost 1000 participants.

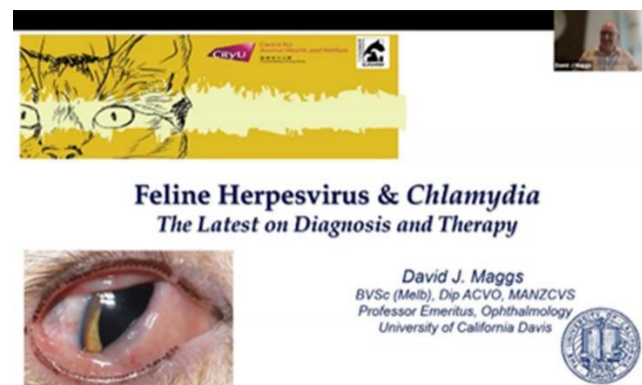
Media

Professor Paulo Steagall has launched a YouTube channel entitled "Cat Pain Management" as an open-access online resource for training and education of veterinary health professionals, students and cat caregivers on the topic.

<https://www.youtube.com/@catpainmanagement>

Animal Health and Welfare Seminar

We are incredibly grateful to Prof. David Maggs, Professor Emeritus of Comparative Ophthalmology at the UC Davis, for his fantastic presentation on **Feline Herpesvirus and Chlamydia**. The audience truly enjoyed it and walked away with many useful insights on diagnosing and treating these common ocular diseases in cats. If you missed the live session, don't hesitate to contact us at centre.ahw@cityu.edu.hk for a recording.



Research Grants

Notable grants application deadlines upcoming:

1. [National Key Technologies R&D Programme](#)
[國家重點研發計劃](#)

2024 年度第十五批

- “生物安全关键技术研究”重点专项

Deadline: 8 October 2024

2024 年度第十七批

- “国家磁约束核聚变能发展研究专项”重点专项

Deadline: 18 October 2024

2024 年度第十八批

- “深海与极地关键技术与装备”重点专项

- “海洋环境安全保障与岛礁可持续发展”重点专项

Deadline: 1 November 2024

2. [National Key Technologies R&D Programme \(for Hong Kong Institutions\)](#)
[國家重點研發計劃專項\(對香港高校開放申請\)](#)

2024 年度第七批

1. 常見多發病防治研究

2. 生育健康及婦女兒童健康保障

3. 診療裝備與生物醫用材料

4. 幹細胞研究與器官修復

5. 前沿生物技術

Deadline: 2 October 2024

2024 年度第八批

1. 交通基礎設施*

2. 交通載運裝備與智能交通技術*

3. 國家質量基礎設施體系

Deadline: 7 October 2024

2024 年度第九批

1. 量子通信與量子計算機

Deadline: 9 October 2024

3. [ITF - Logistics and Supply Chain MultiTech R&D Centre \(LSCM\)](#)

Deadline: 7 October 2024

4. [General Research Fund \(GRF\) and Early Career Schemes \(ECS\)](#)

Deadline: 14 October 2024

5. [RGC Research Fellow Scheme \(RFS\) and RGC Senior Research Fellow Scheme \(SRFS\)](#)

Deadline: 21 October 2024

6. [Professional Services Advancement Support Scheme \(PASS\)](#)

Deadline: 11 November 2024

7. [Equal Opportunities Commission \(EOC\)](#)

Deadline: 5 December 2024

For more information on Research Grants

[Research Grants and Contracts Office](#)

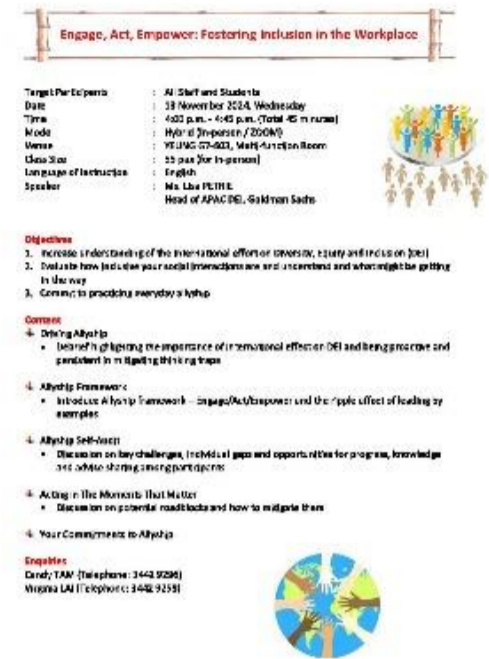
Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI)

Engage, Act, Empower: Fostering Inclusion in the Workplace

Join us for an insightful session with Ms. Lisa Petrie, Head of APAC DEI at Goldman Sachs, on November 13, 2024, from 4:00 p.m. to 4:45 p.m. This hybrid event will explore diversity, equity, and inclusion, and equip you with tools for everyday allyship. Don't miss out!

<https://www.cityu.edu.hk/jcc/about-us/diversity-equity-and-inclusion/dei-events>

ALL STAFF and STUDENTS Welcome.



Engage, Act, Empower: Fostering Inclusion in the Workplace

Target Participants : All Staff and Students
Date : 13 November 2024, Wednesday
Time : 4:00 p.m. - 4:45 p.m. (Total 45 mins)
Mode : Hybrid (In-person / ZOOM)
Venue : Y2/JMC 07-003, Multi-Function Room
Class Size : 25 pax (or less)
Language of Instruction : English
Speaker : Ms. Lisa PETRIE, Head of APAC DEI, Goldman Sachs


Objectives

1. Increase understanding of the international efforts on diversity and inclusion (DEI)
2. Evaluate how inclusion your social interactions and concerns and what might be getting in the way
3. Commit to practicing everyday allyship

Content

- **Defining Allyship**
 - Learn of highlighting the importance of international efforts on DEI and being proactive and persistent in supporting things that
- **Allyship Framework**
 - Introduce Allyship Framework – on page 46/47/48/49 and the ripple effect of leading by example
- **Allyship Self-Assess**
 - Discussion on key challenges, individual gaps and opportunities for progress, knowledge and skills sharing among participants
- **Acting on The Moments that Matter**
 - Discussion on potential roadblocks and how to mitigate them
- **Your Commitment to Allyship**

Organizer
Dandy TAM (Telephone: 3442 9236)
Wendy LAU (Telephone: 3442 9238)



The Action Plan, along with many other DEI resources, can be found here
<https://www.cityu.edu.hk/jcc/about-us/diversity-equity-and-inclusion>