Professor Richard Whittington, the Faculty’s Chair of Farm Animal Health, will deliver the 2005 J D Stewart Address:

GLOBAL VETERINARY DEFENCE - new roles for vets in public health, food safety, emerging diseases and bioterrorism.

Richard will address the challenges faced by today’s veterinary scientists in the front line of human and animal health. Whether the issue is food safety, new fast-spreading animal viruses or the terrifying possibilities of bioterrorism, vets are often the first people to diagnose such problems and, most importantly, to alert government.

Professor Whittington is well placed to bring a global perspective to the subject, having studied diseases in Australian wildlife, fish and livestock since he graduated from the Faculty of Veterinary Science in 1980. He was instrumental in establishing the epidemiology and diagnosis of the 1995 and 1998 major epizootics that decimated wild bird populations around the Australian coastline.

Before joining the Faculty, Richard was Principal Research Scientist at the Elizabeth Macarthur Agricultural Institute. He is a registered specialist in Veterinary Pathobiology, teaches undergraduate units of study, and supervises numerous postgraduate research students. He manages, within the Faculty, Australia’s OIE Reference Laboratory for Epizootic Haematopoietic Necrosis Virus (an internationally notifiable fish disease), leads the Faculty’s role in the Australian Biosecurity Cooperative Research Centre, and is responsible for the Faculty’s on-line postgraduate degree in Veterinary Public Health Management. He currently leads research on the pathobiology of Johnne’s Disease in ruminants with an important aim of mentoring future leaders in veterinary research.

The Faculty and Foundation extend a warm invitation to members of the profession and to our other friends and supporters to attend the Address. For further details, please contact (02) 9351 8026 or email vsc@vetsci.usyd.edu.au.

The Faculty has secured a significant Australian Research Council grant (ARC) for advanced research in koala disease, welfare and treatment. The significant grant will fund a three year research project, based at the Koala Hospital at Port Macquarie, into the prevention and treatment of chlamydiosis and cryptococcosis – the most important infectious diseases threatening the sustainability of local koala populations.

As an ARC ‘linkage’ grant, the project will also receive financial and in-kind support from the following partners drawn from industry and wildlife organisations – bringing together their expertise in this area for the first time:

- The Australian Koala Foundation (leading national spokes-organisation for the conservation of the koala – financial and in-kind support)
- Pfizer Australia Pty Ltd (pharmaceutical and financial support)
- The Koala Preservation Society of New South Wales (expertise and facilities in treating sick and injured koalas)
- WIRES (Wildlife Information and Rescue Service - cash support)
- Mayne Vетnomics (diagnostic support)
- Dr Mark Krockenberger (above) heads the Faculty’s team which includes Professor Paul Canfield, Drs Susan Hemsley, Damien Higgins and Meran Govendir, and the Post Graduate Foundation in Veterinary Science Dr Richard Malik. The work will continue the Faculty’s longstanding pioneering studies into koalas.

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Pfi zer Australia Pty Ltd kindly supports this program.

Further information and application forms may be obtained from the Faculty Office +61 (0) 9351 3550.

The closing date for applications is 30 July 2005.
We want your feedback and contributions. Contact the newsletter team on email vsf@vetsci.usyd.edu.au, or phone Zara Gosson on (02) 9351 8026.

The Veterinary Science Foundation has announced its 2005 fundraising concert, Animalia – the Australian Youth Orchestra, Marshall McGuire and friends in a musical celebration of animals.

Guests will enjoy the inspirational playing of Australia’s most talented young musicians in a musical journey through the animal kingdom with soloists including renowned harpist Marshall McGuire, mezzo soprano Suzanne Johnston and Riley Lee, Australia’s only Grand Master of the Japanese flute, the shakuhachi. This once-only performance will be held on Thursday 1 December 2005 at the Verbrugghen Hall, Conservatorium of Music, Sydney and will raise funds for the work of the Veterinary Science Foundation. It will be an evening for music and animal lovers alike!

For further details or to receive an invitation please contact (02) 9351 8026 or email vsf@vetsci.usyd.edu.au

Emeritus Professor Cliff Gallagher passed away on 7 May 2005. A 1952 Graduate of Sydney and past Dean of the Faculty, Emeritus Professor Gallagher was a life-long supporter of the University of Sydney and the Faculty of Veterinary Science.

He was a pathfinder for veterinary biochemical pathology and received the highest University honour for research, a Doctor of Veterinary Science in 1962 at the unprecedented age of 37. He was amongst the first to encourage animal industry support of research programs into animal disease, a model for success that continues in the University and which is encouraged by the Federal Government. He also moved into areas of medical research including UV-induced skin cancer. This work continues in the Faculty today through a colleague Dr Vivienne Reeve. Until his retirement in 1990, Emeritus Professor Gallagher gained international recognition for the University and influenced many young research students and academics, many of whom have gone on to highly successful careers both here and overseas.

In May I attended my first Australian Veterinary Association Annual Conference in 20 years. The 2005 Conference was held at the new Convention Centre on the Gold Coast and was well organised and well attended. The highlight of the congress for me was the Veterinary Education program. The Faculty was well represented at these sessions and consolidated its position as a leader in innovation and curricular design.

Associate Professor Rosanne Taylor chaired a key session and Associate Professor Jennie Hodgson (the 2004 winner of the AVA Excellence in Teaching Award) spoke about “turning students on to” microbiology using a case-based approach. Dr John Baguley reported on our final year program and the transition to practice. This presentation was nicely complemented by Dr John Aspley-Davis, a practitioner from Canberra. John’s daughter Amy graduated from Sydney in December 2004, and he spoke about managing the final year rotations of our student interns. Finally, Dr Trish Holyoake, our Senior Lecture in Intensive Animal Industries, gave an inspiring presentation on developing a Pig Health and Production Course for Australian veterinary students – an excellent collaborative project.

And just to round it off, we received the very pleasing news that Senior Lecturer Dr Paul McGreevy had won the 2005 AVA Excellence in Teaching Award.

There were, of course, many other contributors from the Faculty to the conference, and I was proud of the Sydney Faculty’s performance at the premier veterinary conference of 2005.

Emeritus Professor Cliff Gallagher

Pro-Dean Appointment

Professor Chis Maxwell, the Faculty’s Associate Dean for Staff and Students, has been appointed the Faculty’s new Pro-Dean. Professor Maxwell commented, ‘I have greatly enjoyed working with our new Dean on a series of initiatives and the development of the Faculty’s 2005 -2010 strategic plan. I now look forward to taking these forward and continuing to support Professor Jeffcott in this role.’

Professor Maxwell will also continue to act as Associate Dean for Staff and Students until the end of the year.

Dean, Professor Leo Jeffcott

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