

PARASITOLOGY

New Zealand Society for Parasitology Newsletter

August 2015

President's Post

Greetings members,

Well, what a conference! For those that missed it, the conference was quite a swept up affair, with a great venue, food, lots of drink (to my detriment the day after the dinner) and importantly great speakers and topics. I think every facet of parasitology was covered-marine, ruminant, companion animal, human and from the molecular to big picture level.

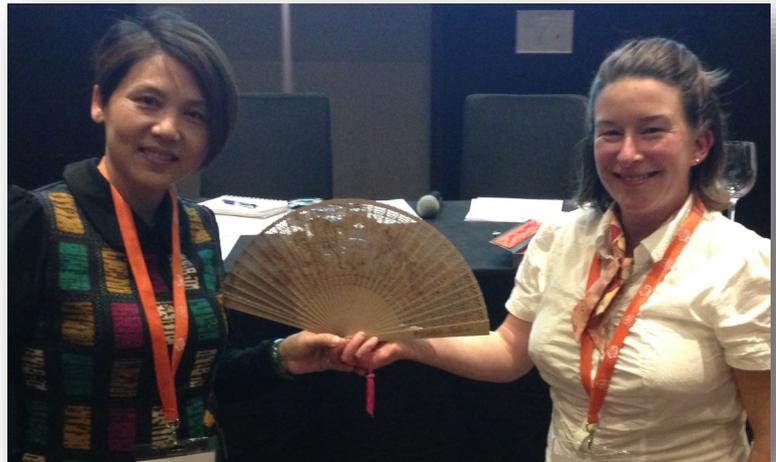
The conference was well organised by Nick Smith and Lisa Jones but also very ably assisted by Tania Waghorn on the registration front, so my thanks go to you all.

We had an excellent AGM spurred on by a review of the Australian Society's *raison d'être* from outgoing Australian President Robin Gasser, and from this, we now have a small subcommittee working on our objectives, strategy and plan for the future of our Society-so watch this space.

Haseb Randhava, Paul Mason and Robin McNulty have kindly agreed to organize next years conference, which we all agreed should be held in Dunedin! We will keep you posted for the date to block out in your diary.

Keep warm out there

Victoria



Yan Huang presents a gift of a decorative wooden fan to Victoria at the AGM

Executive

President:	Victoria Chapman	victoria.chapman@zoetis.com
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Request for Specimens

Andrea Lawrence, University of Sydney, presented a paper on morphological and molecular identification of cat and dog fleas. Her research had examined fleas collected the Czech Republic and Romania. Andrea is very interested in examining more specimens. The following documents the study and her requirements.



“There is nothing more common in the veterinary practice than a flea! Fleas are ubiquitous and a year-round problem in most coastal regions of Australia and worldwide. Many different species have been recorded from dogs and cats in the past, yet *Ctenocephalides felis* (the cat flea) is the dominant flea associated with domestic dogs and cats. Cat fleas were originally restricted to the Palearctic region but have moved around the world with us and our companions. The outstanding question remains to be: how similar are these cat fleas around the world? In other words, are the Australia cat fleas the same as those in Europe, America, Africa or Asia? *For clinical practice this will carry significant weight as common wisdom dictates that all cat fleas are the same, hence the same management strategies apply.* Last but not least, the cat flea has always been tightly associated with the domestic dog. As man’s best friend, we therefore use the cat fleas as markers of human migration.

Our goal is to collect fleas and identify them using our state-of-the-art molecular approach at the University of Sydney and create a public repository of the diversity of the cat flea. The proof of the principle has already been demonstrated in our recent publications (see references). Such a database will then enable us to answer questions of population diversity and distribution of the most common parasite in small animal veterinary practices. To achieve our goal we need the help of veterinary colleagues around the world. If our aim is one hundred countries then we will need a lot of help.

Can you collect 5 or more fleas from 5-10 dogs and/or cats in your veterinary practice?

If your answer is YES, then it is easy as 1-2-3:

- Collect fleas and preserve them in 80-100% ethanol in a small plastic container (we suggest around 5 fleas from a single animal; please separate fleas based on individual host animal).
- Label container with host species (dog/cat) and number, date, and location of the veterinary practice, town and country; you may also indicate if this was a stray animal/feral or one living in a household.
- Ship it to Australia; fill out and print the attached form with your details and content in the containers, then print and attach the document for Australian Quarantine (email Andrea alaw7873@uni.sydney.edu.au for a copy) that importation of fleas is exempt from an import permit.

Conference 2015

The Crowne Plaza Auckland was a good central location for the conference. The large room used for the plenary sessions then divided into two rooms for the concurrent sessions. Great food, drink and company was enjoyed.

The conference opened with addresses by both Presidents—Victoria for NZSP & Robin Gasser for ASP.

The updated Conference Abstracts booklet has been published on the conference website www.parasite.org.au/2015conference/program/. This version includes the abstract of "Impact of experimental *Haemonchus contortus* infection on the sheep gut microbiota" Md Abdullah Al Mamun, David Piedrafita, Mark Sandeman, Andrew R. Greenhill on page 23 (missing from the printed version).

Conference photos can be seen on the ASP Facebook page www.facebook.com/ASParasitology. Please email Lisa Jones (lisa.jones1@jcu.edu.au) if you want the high resolution image.



New Members

Goh Sheen Yee

My name is Goh Sheen Yee and I am from Malaysia. I have completed my primary veterinary education in Malaysia and have obtained a degree in Doctor of Veterinary Medicine from University Putra Malaysia (UPM). After graduation, I have been practicing as a vet in several small animal practices and in an animal shelter. Practicing as a vet allows me to apply the various principles and knowledge I have gained during the years of studying veterinary medicine and deepened my understanding on various subjects. However, I think my interest in parasitology is still at its infancy. The main areas of parasitology which interest me are control of parasitic infections in domestic animals, therapeutic treatment of parasitic infection in small animals, skin parasites such as *Demodex* sp., heartworm disease and babesiosis in dogs. Currently, I am doing a master of veterinary studies (MSV) programme in Massey University and I am planning to do research-related work in the future.



Abi Chase

Abi hails from a small farming community in rural England. She has a degree in Agriculture from the Scottish Agricultural College in Edinburgh and a Veterinary degree from the University of Glasgow. After two years working as a vet in rural Yorkshire following graduation Abi felt the need to further her interest in production animals and so she accepted a Clinical Scholar position back at the University of Glasgow Veterinary School. During this time Abi's involvement in a gut worm study lead to her undertaking a three year PhD, in targeted selective anthelmintic treatment in dairy calf heifers. After her PhD Abi moved to a large teaching practice for the University of Nottingham Veterinary School in Derbyshire to work as a farm animal veterinarian and teaching associate. After a couple of years in Derbyshire Abi moved with her kiwi husband to Christchurch and started work as a Livestock Performance Advisor for Synlait Farms. She recently started working for Merial An-care as their cattle Technical Product Manager.



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Hudson Lecture 2015

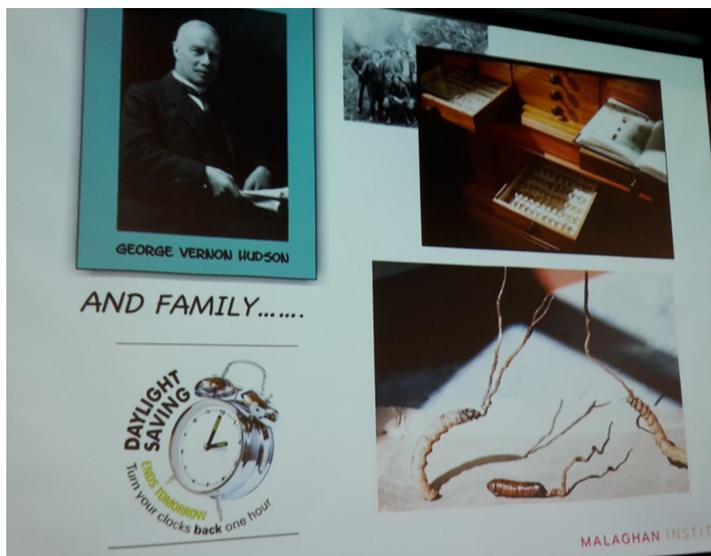
Professor Graham Le Gros, Director and Group Leader Malaghan Institute of Medical Research presented the lecture with a title a little modified from that advertised “Friend or Foe, how parasites educate our immune system and relate to the global allergic diseases epidemic”

Graham was introduced by the Wellington branch president Brian Jones before handing over to Dr George Gibbs, the grandson of G.V. Hudson (1867—1946), in

whose name the lecture is given. Hudson was an entomologist and astronomer whose large collection of insects is

housed in the Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa. Tradition for the lecture is the presentation of a book by Hudson. Graham started by provided a personal link to GV Hudson via the insect collections he admired as a child when visiting the then Dominion Museum. Hudson is also credited with proposing the modern-day daylight saving time.

Graham’s presentation covered some of the same ground that was presented at the 2014 Wellington conference but started with developments in cancer treatments (see *The Listener* 11-17 July 2015).



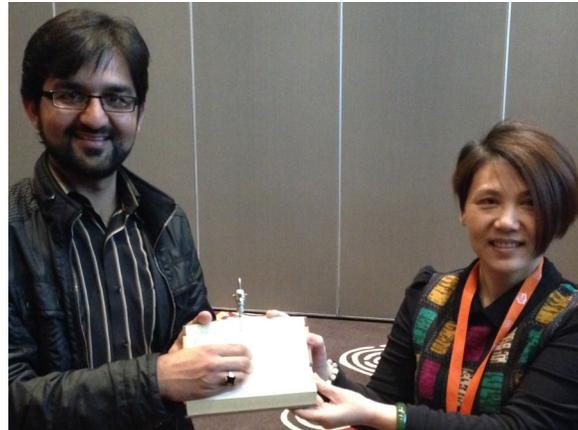
Royal Society—Council Election Results

Vice-President (Biological and Life Sciences) - Professor Barry Scott FRSNZ

Two Councillor positions

- Dr Siouxsie Wiles MRSNZ
- Professor Caroline Saunders ONZM MRSNZ

Dr John Caradus FRSNZ will serve a one-year term as appointed Councillor to complete the three-year term vacated by the incoming President Professor Richard Bedford QSO FRSNZ.



Yan Huang also presented Saleh with a book mark for assistance in getting to the conference

Continued from page 2: Conference 2015

Conference Banquet whisky—Dave Cole sourced multiple bottles (needed for the larger gathering!) of Jura "Origin" 10 year old Single Malt whisky (from the island of the same name).

NZSP 2016 Conference— this will be in the South Island, Dunedin was offered as an option. The volunteer committee of Haseeb Randhava, Paul Mason and Robin McNulty will decide the dates and final venue.

Wormwise—Trevor Cooke updated the society on the status of Wormwise, which began 6 years ago. It is now a standalone independent entity run as a charitable trust with Beef & Lamb a signatory

Executive—as shown on page 1, there was no change to the NZSP executive.

From the ASP AGM

The new Executive team are:

President: David Emery
Executive Secretary: Colin Stack
Treasurer: Peter Rolfe
Vice-president: Robin Gasser

ASP Award winners at the conference were:

Best ASP Student Poster: Stephanie Ryan, James Cook University

Best ASP Student Presentation - 2 minute Poster Presentation: Kate McSpadden, Charles Sturt University

Best ASP Student Presentation – Contributed Paper: Andrea Lawrence, University of Sydney

Best ASP Early Career Researcher Presentation: Clare Anstead, University of Melbourne



Thank you!

To Lisa & Nick for organising the joint meeting

To the many sponsors who helped make the conference such a wonderful event

To the students from both Societies who helped on the registration desk