

RVC

Royal Veterinary College
University of London

Annual Review 2006-07



best together



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The Royal Veterinary College occupies the heart of a developing and expanding profession preventing disease incursions, assuring food safety, enhancing the welfare of animals, discovering biological process and informing Government policy. It is consolidating its position as a leader of veterinary progress and the instinctive source of veterinary advice. Our distinguished heritage, extending over two centuries, has shaped the College community but has never dulled its vision nor limited its ambition.

growing influence

Quintin McKellar, Principal

Our new veterinary curriculum has acknowledged and addressed the inevitable content expansion of biological knowledge and is designed to make students accountable for their own learning and empowered to function independently.

The opportunities for our bioveterinary scientists to make valuable contributions to disease research grow almost monthly as incursions of Bluetongue, Avian Influenza, Foot-and-Mouth disease and spread of Bovine Tuberculosis make such research a national and international priority.

The expectation of people that their animals will be cared for as well in veterinary hospitals as in human hospitals (a questionable challenge!) makes the work of veterinary nurses and, indeed, the 'whole veterinary team' more complex and demanding.

It is our ambition to produce research of fundamental importance and of clinical relevance and our environment from the research bench to the consultation room provides the integration which will make it a reality.

I am immensely proud that our College now sits at the core of a network of academic endeavour – clinical, research and educational – that stretches around the world and spans the entire range of veterinary studies. It makes the RVC one of the most exciting places to work and learn.



Higher Education has become a global business. With dramatic changes in the international landscape and the emergence of new quality providers in all corners of the world, all UK universities are facing up to the challenges of internationalisation.

What exactly do we mean by internationalisation within the context of Higher Education and what does this mean for the RVC? Do we consider ourselves a truly international player today, and what should we be focusing on for the future in order to maintain our competitive position?

With external drivers of liberalisation, privatisation and increased competition showing no signs of abating, these issues are every bit as relevant to a small, specialist institution such as the Royal Veterinary College, as they are to the large, multi-disciplinary university. In the future, the College's position and many of its markets will depend on strong strategic overseas partnerships and collaborative ventures.

Truly global universities are recognised as having a global brand amongst their peers, excellent standards of teaching, innovative research, industry links, professional services and a curriculum both influenced and delivered by staff from different nationalities. In the global university, staff impact upon policy decisions at an international level; the institution has strong links with international business and visitors are welcomed to campus week in, week out.

The RVC is international in outlook. With our specialist focus and strong reputation in the veterinary and biomedical sciences, we are ideally placed to consolidate our position internationally and develop strong and lasting partnerships with other leading institutions, to the benefit of all.

Let's take a look at the facts: our undergraduate students come from 26 countries and our postgraduate students from 48 countries. Asia and South America top the list of student origins after the EU and the US. Our academic staff is more international in composition than in many larger universities; 49 currently coming from outside the EU, with almost a third of this number from Australasia or Africa.

Gone are the days when an international recruitment strategy was sufficient for a university to boast about its international credentials. Today, research and teaching collaboration are the key focus; particularly in research-led universities. At the RVC, increased internationalisation will enrich our curriculum even further, allowing us to incorporate additional relevant and topical programmes of study, and to ensure an even more rewarding experience for staff and students. It will create more opportunities for overseas studies, offshore CPD, distance learning and franchising, joint research centres and collaborations; and increase our access to case and sample material.

Over the past two years, China has been at the heart of the College's internationalisation strategy; a market which is rapidly changing and where opportunities for collaboration abound.

The initial challenge has been to identify key opportunities whilst building co-operation and establishing lasting contacts in Hong Kong and mainland China. Our focus has been on creating an Asia-Pacific Centre for Veterinary Public Health based at the Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK), designing a veterinary nursing programme and providing consultancy services to the Hong Kong Government.

We also see exciting opportunities to promote the College among small animal and equine clinicians who may be interested in our services, and are seeking to raise an endowment for a joint chair shared by the RVC and the CUHK.

international aspirations

Colin Howard, Vice Principal for Strategic Development and Professor of Microbiology



reaching out

Jennifer Quinn, BSc Bioveterinary Sciences Year 1

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The RVC now has four undergraduate degrees on offer, and our small, specialised College community is self-contained but very diverse. The RVC student community is becoming ever more inclusive. It is reaching out to all corners of London and, in fact, the globe.

Over recent years, the College has increased the number of courses it has on offer. With the introduction of bioveterinary science, nursing and gateway programmes it is no longer only training vets. Quick to keep up with the changing face of the College, last year, the student community chose Ben Stileman to head up the Student Union.

Ben was at the end of his second year when he was elected, and is the first bioveterinary science undergraduate to take up the post. This fact didn't seem to be much of an issue amongst the students. At the time, the outgoing SU president stated; 'I'm a vet med and have been representing gateway, science and nursing students for the last year. Why shouldn't a gateway, science or nursing student be allowed to represent the vets?' Now, along with the rest of the SU, Ben is striving to diversify our student community.





The SU has always encouraged students from different courses to mix, but now they are taking it one step further by encouraging people from different colleges to join in. Being a part of the University of London gives RVC students a great chance to meet scholars of all disciplines and backgrounds. The SU is now taking full advantage of this link by bringing RVC and Courtauld Institute of Art students together. Courtauld is a small college specialising in history of art, and by teaming up with it, RVC students have gained access to a far wider community.

However, it is not just other universities that students are reaching out to. The Ambassador Scheme run by the Education Liaison and Widening Participation Units allows RVC students to get involved with the local community. Ambassadors are sent to schools all over London and the UK to promote future learning at the College. By running mentoring programmes, organising science clubs and giving campus tours our student ambassadors show pupils what College life is like and all that the RVC has to offer.

One of the greatest opportunities available to students here is the chance to get involved in summer research projects. These take us all over the world in order to conduct veterinary research and educate local communities on animal health and husbandry.

Studying at the RVC is not for the faint-hearted. Life involves a lot of lectures and a lot of hard work, but it also gives us the chance to be part of an exciting, vibrant, growing community. This means that alongside their veterinary education, RVC students also receive an education in all aspects of life.

**To see the list of student awards
for 2006-07 please go to
www.rvc.ac.uk/annualreport/**



In August 2007, the Population Medicine Group launched a new initiative in Wales; the Welsh Region Veterinary Centre (WRVC). Based at the College farm in Gelli Aur, two Veterinary Clinical Sciences staff members, Steven Van Winden and Janneke Erkelens, work through and with local vets to deliver farm health investigations in South Wales.

sharing knowledge

**Steven Van Winden, Lecturer in Production Animal Medicine,
Director of the Welsh Regional Veterinary Centre**

One of the primary drivers for this initiative was the absence of academic input in the Welsh farming and veterinary communities. The WRVC aims to correct this deficit and, by so doing, strengthen the veterinary profession and improve the level of health and welfare on farms in the region.

The Centre is founded on principles of teaching, service, outreach and collaboration. Alongside the Royal Veterinary College, the main participants in this strategic co-operation are the Carmarthenshire College (Coleg Sir Gar), the Welsh Assembly Government, the University of Aberystwyth and the Veterinary Laboratories Agency.

In addition to serving the regional agricultural community, the WRVC provides a platform for training undergraduate veterinary students and clinical residents in the essential skills needed for the diagnosis and management of problems in population health and production medicine.

Farm investigations are focused on problems that might impair the health, welfare or productivity of animals in the herd or flock. Inquiries usually involve a series of farm visits for animal examination, production evaluation and the analysis of any relevant management processes. Following data assessment, the results are condensed into an advisory report that is sent to the farmer via the local vet within a few days. Follow-up visits are then arranged to discuss the report findings and assist in the implementation of any recommendations, which are carefully tailored to the needs and circumstances of the farming enterprise in question.

The aim of the WRVC is to grow; to take on more staff and turn the enterprise into a durable and sustainable one. There is tremendous potential to recruit students for veterinary nursing training, educative programmes and research projects, all of which will involve collaborating and sharing knowledge with a wide variety of partner organisations.

small world

Dirk Pfeiffer, Professor of Veterinary Epidemiology

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Through the recent emergence of infectious zoonotic diseases such as SARS, Nipah Virus and Avian Influenza, we have been reminded of the critical role of the veterinary profession in dealing with these challenges. Specifically, the Royal Veterinary College has been involved in studying the epidemiology of Avian Influenza through project activities in Asia, Africa and Europe.



Much of the work is supported by the United Nation's Food and Agriculture Organisation, and more recently also by the UK's Department for International Development (DfID). It involves collaborations with partners in countries such as Vietnam, Thailand and China, and within international organisations such as the International Livestock Research Institute in Nairobi, the International Food Policy Research Institute in Washington, the French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development and University of California, Berkeley.

A key question is the role of migratory wild birds in the global and local spread of Avian Influenza virus infection. Through the European Food Safety Authority, staff from the RVC chaired a risk assessment for the European Commission on the risk of introduction of Avian Influenza to the EU, its chances of becoming endemic in wild birds and the risk of onward transmission to domestic poultry. The findings very much supported the currently observed pattern where within the EU Avian Influenza H5N1 infection occasionally may be observed either in wild birds or domestic poultry, but that transmission between the two seems to be relatively rare.

The relevance of migratory wild birds in comparison with the poultry trade to long-distance spread of the virus is still unclear. The RVC is involved in epidemiological studies conducted in African countries that investigate the importance of human activities in contrast to wild bird exposure. A notable observation so far has been that only relatively few countries in Africa have been affected by Avian Influenza H5N1 outbreaks in their poultry population, suggesting that the epidemiology of the disease is very different from that in East and South-East Asia.

The RVC has published work demonstrating the increased risk of outbreaks associated with rice paddy and duck grazing production systems in Vietnam. It was also shown that the increased poultry trade associated with religious festivals resulted in accelerated spread of infection. The findings from this work and various field activities are being used to develop mathematical models for evaluating the effectiveness of different Avian Influenza control methods.

State-of-the-art techniques such as participatory data collection methods and social network analysis are used to better understand farmer behaviour and movement patterns of poultry trade. Usually, most of the control efforts disproportionately affect the livelihoods of backyard poultry keepers, who typically also represent the poorest section of the population in these countries. If this disease is ever to be controlled successfully, it will be important to understand the incentives influencing farmers' biosecurity management, and the relative importance of backyard, semi-commercial and commercial poultry keeping in Asian and African countries.

The primary objective of the project funded by DfID is to protect the livelihoods of poor farmers in African and Asian countries affected by Avian Influenza outbreaks. Apart from the scientific research, the work in Asia and Africa has involved training local veterinarians and other professionals involved in Avian Influenza disease control. Our combined efforts are now further strengthened by a number of Commonwealth scholarships enabling veterinarians from developing countries to complete an MSc in Veterinary Epidemiology and Public Health at the RVC by distance learning.

community spirit

The Reverend Dr Giles Legood, College Chaplain

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In the closing years of the twentieth century many in the media perpetuated the notion that issues of faith and talk of God were irrelevant in the modern world. Over the past decade such talk has been shown to be misjudged and matters of belief and faith are now at the forefront of people's minds. In the 2001 Census nearly 73 per cent of the English population declared themselves 'Christian' and a large percentage more declared their commitment to other world faiths. Notions of God being marginal or non-existent in the public realm are no longer an issue and the RVC provides a forum for discussions and practice of faith in this scientific community.



In the last few years the media has jumped on the faith bandwagon and started to write once more about matters of belief and non-belief. Professor Richard Dawkins of Oxford University has helped push this agenda with a version of atheism that continues to demand that God is talked of even if it is in terms of non-existence. Sadly, of course, events such as the terrorist attacks in the USA on 9/11 and civil wars in Sudan, Kenya and other parts of the world have been largely driven by tribal and religious beliefs (often these are linked). People of faith have not always shown that their belief makes the world a better place. Indeed, one could argue that some who profess religious faith are less peaceful than those without. Such an argument, however, is facile and there are plenty of examples of tyrants not being motivated by faith commitment.

At the RVC the religious dimension of life has always been recognised by the College authorities and its personnel. There is an annual start of the academic year service and a long-standing commitment to university chaplaincy and the general pastoral and welfare care that this brings. Chaplains care for all those in the College community, of all faiths or none. They are able to offer a confidential, listening ear outside the formal structures of College, yet they are situated within it and understand its structures and personalities. They also offer specific religious care and can, if appropriate, refer staff and students to other religious organisations off-campus and provide details of local places of worship.

At the RVC this commitment to the religious element of people's lives has been deepened by its provision in the last two years of Prayer and Quiet Rooms. There is such a room at each campus and their usage has been heavy. These spaces are for individuals rather than groups and provide a quiet space for people to pray, reflect or sit for a few minutes away from the business of the working day. The rooms are used by those who profess a religious faith and those who do not. Indeed, they are so popular that there is often a queue at the door to get in!

Also at College, people of different religious faiths have started in the past year to meet to share their faith stories and to build up understanding of the different faiths represented in College. Visits have been made to local places of worship and to the Camden Jewish Museum. Although in its early stages this group has created friendships as well as a forum for sharing issues of common concern. Once again, in its support of this initiative, the RVC has shown its commitment to caring for the whole individual; body, mind and spirit.

never-ending journey

Paul Probyn, Head of Academic Development

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Our published Teaching and Learning Strategy has, for nearly a decade, focused on developing students as independent, lifelong learners. Scientific and clinical knowledge is growing exponentially, and we can teach our students only a fraction of what is known now and what they might need to know one day. So it is essential that they are equipped with the motivation and skills to learn for themselves. The days when pumping students' brains full of facts amounted to a job well done have long gone.

It is therefore appropriate that the RVC hosts the Centre for Excellence in Lifelong and Independent Veterinary Education, the LIVE Centre. Funded by HEFCE to the tune of £4.9 million over five years, since its official opening in February 2007 by HRH The Princess Royal, it has gone from strength to strength.

LIVE is one of 74 Centres for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETLs) established by HEFCE across a range of subjects and disciplines. The majority of its work is aimed at:

- promoting evidence-based teaching and learning practices
- developing technology-enhanced learning and assessment innovations
- initiating new approaches to work-based learning within the profession
- providing practical learning opportunities in state-of-the-art Clinical Skills Laboratories
- increasing learner independence

LIVE is staffed by an enthusiastic multi-disciplinary team, with backgrounds in veterinary medicine and nursing, and in educational development and electronic media. It is based in a purpose-built centre which provides unique facilities, including:

- two Clinical Skills Laboratories staffed and supported by an innovative team
- purpose-built suites equipped for the development of veterinary communication skills
- learning labs where cutting-edge research into technology enhanced learning is carried out



Among last year's LIVE projects was the Haptic Cow, brought to the RVC by Sarah Baillie, a vet with a PhD in computer science. This simulator enables students to practise pregnancy diagnosis and other clinical diagnoses in a realistic but safe environment. Kim Whittlestone led the progressive myPad project, in which final-year BVetMed students use hand-held personal digital assistants, no larger than mobile phones, to record and reflect upon their experiences in clinical rotations. Perdi Welsh led the production of the BVetMed Day One Skills Handbook, which identifies the behaviour, attitudes and skills expected of every RVC veterinary student by the time they graduate.

Work on more valid and reliable means of assessing student performance, led by Jane Tomlin, is also central to LIVE's work. This resulted in the addition of an Extended Matching Question (EMQ) paper in the final BVetMed examination. EMQs are similar to Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs) but are usually based on 'clinical vignettes' and emphasise clinical reasoning skills rather than recall of factual knowledge.

Our commitment to producing independent lifelong learners is nowhere more evident than in the new BVetMed curriculum; four years in the making, it was launched in 2007. Factual content and class contact time have both been reduced by some 25 per cent. Students will be expected to concentrate on core concepts and facts, but to learn them thoroughly, and have been given the private study time in which to do this.

Basic sciences and clinical subjects are more closely integrated, so students learn topics in context, but there is still a strong emphasis on scientific rigour. Students will be expected to demonstrate a grasp of the essential Day One Skills set out in the blueprint produced by LIVE, but for the first time in a UK veterinary school they will have the opportunity to specialise in studying a species that they hope to work with after graduation. The new curriculum also places greater emphasis on the professional knowledge, skills and attitudes required of a vet, and classes on this theme are a feature of the teaching every week.

Staff throughout the College have been working hard to turn the concept of Lifelong Learning into a reality and place it at the centre of all our educational programmes. It also means the RVC continues to play a role in our students' professional and educational lives long after they have graduated.

Time spent at The College is just the start of a lifelong journey of professional learning and development for RVC graduates. RVC4Life is an online resource for our alumni. It provides continuing access to all the electronic learning materials, such as lecture notes, videos and podcasts, that students use while they study here. Our graduates also have subsidised access to the RVC's rapidly expanding programme of CPD (Continuing Professional Development) courses. In 2007, we offered over 50 courses, from up-dating days on topics such as clinical problem-solving and anaesthesia, to advanced courses on specialist areas including abdominal ultrasonography and brain disease in small animals. The College is now embarking on an exciting new professional venture, as the only UK vet school to be an accredited assessor for the RCVS's new Certificate in Advanced Veterinary Practice.

The Royal Veterinary College sees its responsibilities extending way beyond its own 'four walls'; as evidenced by the launch of VETNET LLN, an innovative lifelong learning network bringing together universities, land-based colleges and other education and veterinary organisations.

The goal of VETNET LLN is to enable students following vocational courses in land-based colleges to progress into higher education courses in veterinary-related subjects, through brokering agreements between institutions, adapting curricula to make progression possible and ensuring that learners receive better advice and guidance.

The network, which has received £3.73 million from HEFCE, is the only one of its kind dedicated to veterinary science in the UK and one of only two nationwide lifelong learning networks. Led by the RVC, it also has regional bases in Cambridge, Nottingham, Newcastle, Liverpool and Bristol. As VETNET LLN develops, it will extend its work to support people already working in veterinary practice and animal welfare, helping them to continue their professional development as well.



In the past year, three talented individuals have joined the VETNET team, bringing with them an impressive range of knowledge and experience. Regional Manager, John Butcher, spent fifteen years teaching in secondary and special schools, ten years working in the education advisory and inspection services, and another decade in the university sector. He introduced schemes devised to support students as they moved from school and college into university and became heavily involved with widening participation activity throughout the East of England.

Sarah Field graduated from the University of London in 1991 with a BSc in Animal Sciences. Since then she has worked for two land-based colleges; Writtle College in Essex and Moulton College in Northamptonshire, where she was Head of Higher Education. There she oversaw the establishment of a modular HE curriculum and the expansion of Moulton's higher education portfolio, and taught parts of the National Diploma in Animal Management and the degree programmes in Animal Studies. Sarah became National Co-ordinator for the VETNET LLN in April 2007.

Last but by no means least, Sue Baddeley joined the regional team for the South East and London. She has extensive animal-related industry experience and for a number of years taught in the FE and HE sectors, specializing in animal management and veterinary nursing. She has worked widely in the agricultural and zoological fields and for the RSPCA and is an experienced teacher and active veterinary nursing external verifier.

productive partnerships

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Jonathan Elliott, Vice Principal for Research



The RVC sustains a vibrant and collaborative research community. Over 80 per cent of our academic staff contribute directly to our strategic research objective, which is to establish and enhance integrated research activity of international quality in focused areas of practical relevance within the broad disciplines that comprise veterinary science.

Current external research funding (202 active grants/contracts) totals £37 million, and there are 104.5 FTE research students studying here. Research activity has been managed to ensure that growth has increased capacity and enhanced quality in areas of existing strengths. New appointments have been made in line with strategic planning for future activities and succession.

Our research strategy is delivered through groups led by world-class scientists. Four established groups: Musculoskeletal Biology (MSK); Reproduction, Genes and Development (RGD); Cardiovascular and Inflammation Biology (CVIB); and Infection and Immunity (I&I) deliver high quality basic and clinically-related research. Two recently formed groups facilitate research on the clinical caseload (Clinical Research; managed through the Clinical Investigation Centre) and co-ordinate animal welfare research across the College (Animal Welfare; co-ordinated through the Centre for Animal Welfare).



We have continued to develop a comparative animal biomechanics team within the MSK group that delivers fundamental, world-class interdisciplinary research. The Locomotion Barn, a gait analysis laboratory was completed early in 2007 and is fully equipped with state-of-the-art tools for biomechanics research. Funded by a BBSRC Research Equipment Initiative grant, this facility is attracting visiting scientists from all over the world. New recruits to the locomotion team in 2007 include Dr Monica Daley (from Harvard, lecturer in VBS), and Dr Andrew Spence (RCUK Biomechanics Fellow).

We are building capacity in developmental biology within the RGD group. Developmental biologists will work with the MSK group on regenerative biology and tissue engineering (in partnership with UCL's Institute of Orthopaedics) to develop solutions for degenerative diseases of ageing. An important strategy is to expand our zebrafish facility and use this animal model to address questions relevant to regenerative biology. New recruits to the RGD group in 2007 include developmental biologists Dr Claire Russell (from UCL) and Dr Brian Stramer (from Bristol).

Reproductive physiology has been an area of strength in research at the College for many years. Maintaining this and planning for succession is therefore very important. World-class leadership and future direction in fundamental comparative male reproduction research and its application to ecology is assured by new recruit, Professor Eduardo Roldan (from CSIC, Madrid). His appointment in 2007, facilitated by a Royal Society Wolfson Merit Award, adds a new dimension to the group's excellent research into the science underpinning artificial breeding technologies. Moreover, it ensures continuance of the cryobiology theme headed for 30 years by Professor Paul Watson. Professor Roldan's interests in the conservation of species will bring new relevance to our long-standing links with the Zoological Society, London. Other new recruits in 2007 include Dr Mandi DeMestre (from Cornell) and Dr Simon de Graaf (from Melbourne).

Molecular and quantitative genetics (RGD group) underpin clinical research into the interaction between genetics and environment on disease occurrence. New appointments in 2007 include quantitative geneticist Dr Geoff Pollott (from Scottish Agricultural College) who is a senior lecturer in Veterinary Basic Sciences and Dr Holger Volk who is working on the molecular and genetic basis to pharmaco-resistant epilepsy in dogs.

Building capacity and developing leadership in veterinary epidemiology and public health to underpin high quality clinically-related research, particularly in infectious diseases, is an important part of our research strategy. New recruits in 2007 include Professor Katharina Stärk (from the Swiss Federal Veterinary Office) and Dr Barbara Wieland promoted from Research Assistant (1A). Dr Lisa Collins has also been appointed to a Research Fellowship to further develop mathematical expertise within the Veterinary Epidemiology and Public Health team.

Another priority is responding to present and future national and global priorities in infectious diseases by establishing a critical mass of multi-disciplinary scientists, and recruiting leaders in all disciplines. Teams of researchers are working to devise practical measures to control endemic diseases. Their efforts will be reinforced by a team led by Professors Werling, Wathes and Pfeiffer, supported by the award of a £2.4 million multidisciplinary programme grant by BBSRC's Combating Endemic Diseases of Farmed Animals for Sustainability (CEDFAS).

Future emphasis will be placed on tackling emerging zoonotic infectious diseases in partnership with human medicine. New recruits in Infection and Immunity research in 2007 include Professor Declan McKeever (from Edinburgh), Dr Liam Good (from the Karolinska Institute), Dr Sharon Kendall (promoted from RA1A), Dr Hermosilla (from Geissen) and Dr Solano-Gallego (from Padova).

We are establishing the necessary infrastructure for disciplined study of the clinical caseload, and appointing research-trained clinical specialists supported by a team of clinical trials nurses. Co-ordinated through the Clinical Investigation Centre, this work will result in clinical research that truly informs clinical practice. New recruits in 2007 include Dr Arthur House and Dr Anneliesse Stell, both of whom completed their PhD training at the RVC before taking up academic posts within Veterinary Clinical Sciences.

To see a full list of 2006-07
Research grants please go to
www.rvc.ac.uk/annualreport/

Animal Welfare has been established as a new research discipline championed by strong leadership. Integration with established research groups has been achieved through two programme grants in the areas of Musculoskeletal and Developmental Biology (Fetal programming: pre-hatch environmental influences on subsequent musculoskeletal health of chickens) and Infectious Diseases. New appointments in this area in 2007 include Dr Siobhan Abeyesinghe, who was awarded the RCUK Fellowship in Animal Behaviour and Welfare. Future public outreach initiatives are planned as part of this fellowship, and will emphasize the animal welfare implications of all our research activities.

In summary, our research activities continue to flourish. The strategic appointments made have assured our current and future ability to progress our research strategy and undertake focused, high quality investigations of the utmost practical relevance to veterinary science throughout the world.

opening doors

**Julia Hewett, Education Liaison Officer
and Jon Parry, Project Director – Widening Participation**

The expansion of the Education Liaison function at the RVC, coupled with the continued outreach work of the Widening Participation Unit, has increased the College's ability to communicate and build relationships with prospective students, education providers and the wider public across the UK.





2007 saw the development of numerous projects and activities providing those interested in the RVC with a deeper insight into life at the College and within the veterinary profession in general. The RVC on Tour grew to a total of 11 events, attracting close to 500 visitors at venues across the UK. Such events enable students, teachers and parents alike to find out more about what the College can offer, and allow the RVC and the veterinary world to expand into communities. We are developing long-standing links and relationships with people from a wide range of backgrounds, including those who perhaps would not otherwise choose to engage with the College or the profession in general.

The design and extensive use of veterinary-related educational materials, such as portable Clinical Skills Kits, bring elements of teaching and learning methods employed by the College to a wider audience. This, alongside additional web content such as podcasts and student profiling, provides prospective students with a genuine insight into the RVC community before they even arrive at the College.

Widening Participation activities have been both regional and national. Our link with a school in Wolverhampton continues to encourage and engage its pupils, as postgraduate and postdoctoral RVC students travel to the West Midlands to discuss scientific and medical topics. In London, schools from several boroughs have attended our popular Wednesday Afternoon Tasters. An increasing number of primary schools have also become involved. The College is working with other central London HEIs on Gateways to the Professions, a project to engage young people in professional careers. Our African-Caribbean Saturday Schools remain popular and we are stimulating interest in Life Sciences through sponsorship from the London Development Agency. Yet again we have organised summer schools on veterinary subjects for Year 10 and Year 11 students in the London area.

Overall, the RVC continues to increase its engagement with the wider public and hopes this will lead to a greater interest in and understanding of the veterinary and scientific fields.

harnessing talent

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Katharina Stärk graduated from the University of Zürich and developed an interest in epidemiology because she found its multidisciplinary and applied nature appealing. She obtained a PhD from Massey University, New Zealand, working on the epidemiology of infectious diseases in pigs, including classical swine fever and respiratory diseases. During a post doc in Denmark, Katharina's interest shifted to veterinary public health topics, specifically risk assessment along the food production chain.

In 2000, Katharina returned to Switzerland to take on a senior position at the Swiss Federal Veterinary Office. She was responsible for the design of national surveillance systems for both animal health and food safety issues. She developed a risk assessment team with a mandate to conduct import/export risk assessments but also assessments on domestic food safety and animal health hazards. Over the following years, the design of effective and efficient surveillance programmes became her research focus, including the application of risk assessment methods to set priorities in surveillance and disease control. She was also teaching veterinary public health at the VETSUISSE Faculty in Bern.

Katharina's international experience includes work for Codex alimentarius and the Food and Agriculture Organisation and participation in working groups of the World Health Organisation, the World Organisation for Animal Health and the European Food Safety Authority in the role of a surveillance and risk assessment expert. She is currently president of the European College of Veterinary Public Health.

At the RVC, Katharina is Professor for Veterinary Public Health and designated Director of the new Centre for the Control of Veterinary Infectious Diseases and Zoonoses to be opened in 2008. Her teaching goals are to raise an awareness of veterinary public health duties in young veterinarians. In her research she plans to continue to work on risk-based surveillance, particularly in a systems context at the human-animal interface.



In 2007, the RVC attracted many invaluable new members of staff. Some joined our academic and research teams, others came to augment our administrative and support services. Five of them are profiled here.



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Professor Declan McKeever, MVB PhD MRCVS, is our new Chair of Immunoparasitology and Head of Department, Pathology and Infectious Diseases. After two years in clinical veterinary practice, he undertook a PhD project at the Moredun Research Institute on the immune responses of the sheep to the orf parapoxvirus of sheep. This work involved the use of lymphatic cannulation, a technique that underpinned much of his subsequent research.

Having completed this PhD, he moved to the International Laboratory for Research on Animal Diseases (ILRAD) in Kenya to study function of bovine afferent lymph dendritic cells (ALDC). This work determined the heterogeneity of this cell population and examined the capacity of different subsets to process and present soluble antigen. He also studied the bovine immune response to *Theileria parva* at the level of the lymph node, using lymphatic cannulation and cytotoxic T lymphocyte (CTL) precursor frequency analysis. This work confirmed that immune CD8+ T cells provide protection against *T. parva*, based on adoptive transfer between monozygotic twin calves.

When the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) was formed in 1995, Declan was given responsibility for the Immunology and Vaccines project. In addition to the work described above, the project involved research on the immunopathogenesis of *Trypanosoma congolense* infection of cattle and improved vaccines for *Cowdria ruminantium*.

He left ILRI in 1999 to take up a joint chair established by the University of Edinburgh and the Moredun Research Institute. With support from the Wellcome Trust, he established a project in 2002 to evaluate the influence of bovine CTL responses on the population structure of *T. parva*. This became Declan's major research interest and he obtained additional funding from the Trust in 2005. In May 2007, he relocated to the Royal Veterinary College, where he plans to continue his research on *Theileria* and broaden his interests to other pathogen systems.

Jonathan Forrest, our new Development Director, graduated from St Edmund Hall Oxford in 1981. He began his career with an international water and paper engineering group before completing an MBA at the Cranfield School of Management in 1986. He then spent six years with Citibank in London designing and launching a retail banking business and co-ordinating market development across a part of Citibank's European product portfolio.

In 1992 Jonathan joined the fundraising team at ActionAid, the international development NGO, and eventually co-ordinated fundraising development across their international operations and managed the funding planning function. During this period he also developed ActionAid's work with major corporations, spoke on the emerging field of corporate social responsibility and established an independent development agency in Greece.

In 2000 Jonathan joined the Parnham Trust, a small design college, becoming its Chief Executive and subsequently merging it with the Bloomsbury-based Architectural Association, the oldest and perhaps most important architectural school in the UK.

Meanwhile, in 2001 he helped set up the Inforce Foundation and served as its Finance and Operations Director. Inforce is a charity involved with the forensic investigation of mass fatality events, with the development of international standards and operating procedures for managing the aftermath of atrocities, and with training and educating forensic practitioners. Over a period of six years, Jonathan worked in Iraq, Rwanda and Cyprus as well as with a number of international agencies, governments and emergency services.

At the RVC Jonathan is keen to establish the role and purpose of the Development Office, which is a new function here. His goals are to help the College develop its core activities and secure the funding that will make such initiatives sustainable.





Fiona Nouri joined the RVC in August 2007 after eight years as Student Support Officer at the Royal College of Art (RCA). She came to the UK from Kenya in 1980 as an international student, has lived and worked in Spain and Zimbabwe, and has a smattering of several unusual languages, not to mention a degree in Farsi.

For the past 25 years Fiona has made her career working with students, with a particular interest in those from overseas. Building up non-existent or minimal student support services in small specialist central London institutions has become her 'specialism'. She is very familiar with the particular stresses that studying for intense highly-achieving courses can bring.

Fiona has extensive experience in all aspects of student support. As accommodation secretary for hostels and halls of residence; as the person responsible for placing up to 4000 language students a year with 500 host families; and as manager of private rented accommodation for a number of colleges.

She was also project manager for a HEFCE-funded Strand One project entitled 'Improving Provision for Disabled Students', and responsible for developing a full disability service at the RCA. Fiona also has a proven track record in student finance, general welfare and immigration (she is a member of the Executive Committee for the Association of International Student Advisers).



Our new Director of Finance, Andrew Dyer, graduated from the University of Brighton with a BA in Accounting and Finance in 1996. As a graduate trainee in the Finance Department of the University of Hertfordshire he split his time between accounting work and systems development, and helped to strengthen the financial functionality of a new room-booking system.

In 1999 Andrew assumed responsibility for four of the University's trading subsidiary companies, including a security company offering manned guarding and access control systems to a range of public and private sector clients. During this time he also played a major role in compiling and consolidating the annual financial accounts for the University and all eight of its subsidiaries.

Pursuing his interest in budgeting, forecasting and costing activities, in looking forward rather than back, Andrew completed a Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA) qualification in 2000. Following a promotion to Management Accountant, he led a team of Finance Advisors based throughout the University. As he took on additional responsibilities, the role expanded and was finally re-designated. When he was Deputy Director of Finance, Andrew facilitated changes to the University's strategic planning processes and monitored and reported on a budget of £180 million.

He completed an MBA last year, just before joining the RVC: 'I believe I have joined at an exciting time in the College's long history and I am really looking forward to helping shape and support its future development.'

changing roles

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Dan Messum has been promoted to the position of IT Helpdesk Manager. He kick-started his career at BP Oil as a mainframe computer operator. The 'desktop publishing' revolution presented an opportunity to move into IT support within the Faculty of Visual Communication at Watford College in 1989, and he has been working in the higher education sector ever since. To keep pace with the Internet revolution, Dan completed a BSc in 2000, combining computer-networking studies with audio and video engineering.

He has been manning our IT Helpdesk since September 2001. He joined as an Audio Visual/IT Technician just as we embarked on a comprehensive AV and IT upgrade; and as the services we offer our staff and students have continued to expand, so have Dan's responsibilities. Working closely with IT and Academic Support and Development colleagues in e-learning and e-media, he has helped to enhance teaching and business-related services such as video-conferencing, voting systems, and ongoing PC replacement and installation programmes.

Dan's role involves him in supporting the growing range of hardware and software in use by staff and students across the College. He and his team and their colleagues in Systems and Applications are presented with new challenges on a daily basis, and it can be anticipated that, as the College continues to evolve, so will the IT services provided.

Over the course of the last year, a number of our brightest stars have taken on new roles and responsibilities and two, sadly, have moved on to pastures new.

2007 was also a notable year for new professorships. No less than five of our distinguished academics were recognised and promoted in this way, and to all of them we would like to extend our hearty congratulations:

Professor Kathy Botham 1

Professor Dan Brockman 2

Professor Andrew Rycroft 3

Professor Dirk Werling 4

Professor Alan Wilson 5





Director of Finance, Reggie Blennerhassett, left the RVC in 2007 to take up a new post at Roehampton University. When he joined the College in 1991 as Deputy Finance Officer he arrived with specialist qualifications, which he later supplemented with an MBA from Imperial College. Utilising his business experience, Reggie quickly developed an understanding of the Higher Education Funding Council's regulatory requirements, and the complexities of the then small, specialist Royal Veterinary College. Turnover then was £10.5 million. Today it is £55 million.

When Reggie became Finance Officer in 1999 he seized the opportunity to introduce new professional disciplines and working practices. With quiet persistence he improved accounting systems and procedures, developed strategic planning models and financial forecasts and ensured the College's approach to risk and risk management and to business continuity planning was widely understood. Over the last ten years, his careful stewardship of our finances has allowed significant building developments of some £44 million.

Reggie's charm and sense of humour were always apparent in even the most difficult circumstances. He could deliver unwelcome financial news with accompanying solutions and optimism, and rarely left a senior management meeting without having made a lively contribution to the debate. He assisted with student tutorial work, and his tutorial meetings in the hostels of London were legendary. Reggie was a popular colleague and a friend to many staff and students here, and we wish him well in his new role.

Ketan Patel has returned to Reading University, from whence he joined the RVC five years earlier as Reader in Developmental Biology in the Department of Veterinary Basic Sciences. His career prior to that included an MRC Fellowship at the National Institute of Medical Research, followed by a Wellcome Trust Career Development Fellowship in Professor Cheryl Tickle's group at UCL, a world leader in the field of developmental biology.

Ketan proved to be a phenomenally hard-working, energetic and successful member of the VBS team. His great enthusiasm for teaching was recognised by a Jim Bee Prize for Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching in 2005. His work on the PATHE programme led to an MA and to full membership of ILT. Ketan is a prolific researcher, but also found time to lead the Molecular, Cell and Developmental Biology module on the BVetMed course. He was a staunch defender of his subject and very popular with his students.

Ketan's research focuses on the developmental biology of skeletal muscle and he has made a number of important contributions to the field. He established a large, active research group here and attracted talented researchers from all over the world. His activities were supported by project grants from the BBSRC, the Wellcome Trust and the British Heart Foundation. He published 29 papers while at the RVC, all in high quality journals, and became a Professor in 2006.

September 2006

The Clinical Investigations Centre opens at the Hawkshead Campus. Along with its Director, the Centre now employs nine veterinary nurses and a research scientist

November 2006

Following a win over The University of Greenwich the RVC Men's Rugby Team was promoted up a league in BUSA

1 December 2006

Building work begins on the new extension to the Queen Mother Hospital for Animals. This will make the QMH one of the largest referral hospitals in Europe when it officially opens in Spring/Summer 2008

2 December 2006

Refurbished Hawkshead House student area opens

January 2007

The RVC joins VMCAS, the Veterinary Medical Colleges Admissions Service, for recruitment of North American students

3 February 2007

HRH The Princess Royal officially opens the LIVE Centre

4 April 2007

Several RVC staff including Mike Archer, Emma Mitchell and Quintin McKellar run the London Marathon to raise funds for the ACT

April 2007

London BioScience Innovation Centre (LBIC) wins top EU Award for its work in enabling bioscience and related knowledge-based companies to thrive, expand and succeed. LBIC is seen as a model of best practice across Europe and one which is transferable across other sectors

May 2007

The RVC holds its first Summer party for staff and family at Hawkshead Campus

May 2007

Professor Joe Brownlie and colleagues discover that Foot and Mouth Disease virus can cross the placenta in sheep and cause fetal death. This is an important discovery in the context of national disease control strategies



1



2



3



4

college life

the year at a glance

5 July 2007
 The RVC graduation ceremony takes place at Logan Hall in Central London. The first Foundation Degree students graduate from the RVC

July 2007
 RVC spinout, VetCell Bioscience Ltd wins a special award from UK Trade and Investment, following on from its award for Outstanding Achievement, announced earlier in the year

August 2007
 RVC submits application to the Privy Council for degree awarding powers

6 September 2007
 RVC on Tour visits over 500 students around the UK

September 2007
 218 students from six countries enrol on the BVetMed degree. The curriculum has been radically revised

7 October 2007
 RVC Opening Ceremony address given by Dr Christianne Glossop, Chief Veterinary Officer for Wales and an RVC alumna. Dr Glossop discussed the important and challenging role of the veterinary profession in modern life as well as remembering her happy experiences as a BVetMed student

October 2007
 Thirty 1965 graduates attend the RVC 65 Club Reunion

November 2007
 LBIC reaches 90% occupancy and reports its first profits

November 2007
 Launch of Innovation China-UK, an initiative led by Queen Mary University, and including RVC, Kings College London and the Universities of Nottingham and Southampton. Minister for Science and Innovation and the Ambassador for the People's Republic of China address an audience of academic and business leaders from both countries

November 2007
 Privy Council approves revisions to the College's Charter and Statutes to modernise Governance arrangements



5

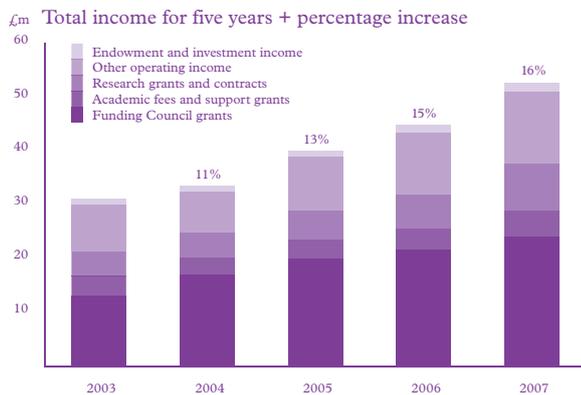
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7

2006-07 was an eventful year in the long and distinguished history of the Royal Veterinary College; academically, administratively, ceremonially and socially.

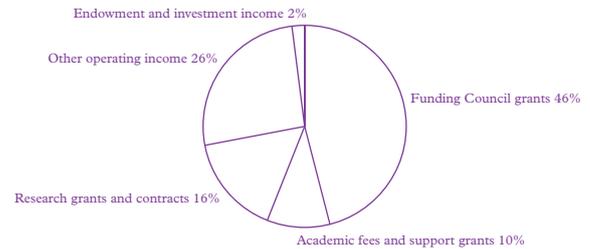
The Royal Veterinary College
Financial Year Ended 31 July 2007
Income and Expenditure Account

1 Turnover has increased by £7.1m (16%).



2 Income from Funding Council grants has increased by £2.6m and represents 46% of Total Income (47%, 2005-06; 50%, 2004-05)

2006-07 Income



exceeding targets

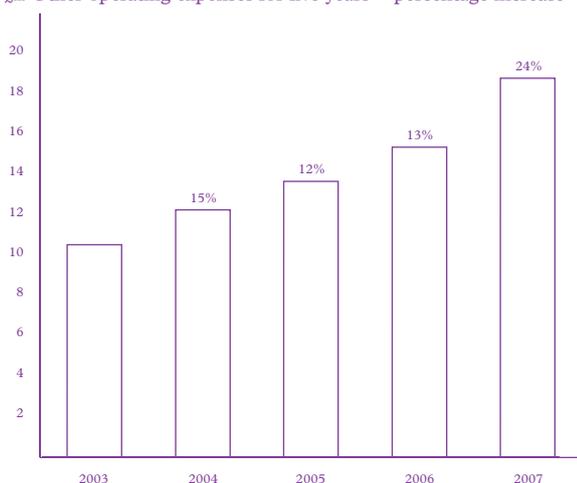
Andrew Dyer, Director of Finance

The College remains in a financially sound and secure position. In 2006-07 we generated a surplus of £1.5 million, or 2.7 per cent of income. Turnover for the year rose by £7.1 million, or 16 per cent, and it was another excellent year for research grants and contracts, which increased by 34 per cent.

The Royal Veterinary College
Financial Year Ended 31 July 2007
Balance Sheet

- 3 Income from Research Grants and Contracts has increased by £2.1m (34%) mainly as a result of increased funding from Research Councils and UK Government Bodies.
- 4 Income from Other Operating Income has increased by £1.0m (8%) a result of increased activity in the small animal and equine hospitals.
- 5 Staff costs have increased by £3.3m (13%) as a result of additional recruitment to support increased teaching, research and clinical activity and pension costs.
- 6 Depreciation has decreased by £60k (1%).
- 7 Other operating expenses have increased by £3.6m (24%) primarily reflecting the increased activity in clinical services, educational expenditure, research grants and contracts. In addition, utility charges went up by 12% and expenditure on estates building projects, minor works and estate maintenance increased by 148%.

£m Other operating expenses for five years + percentage increase

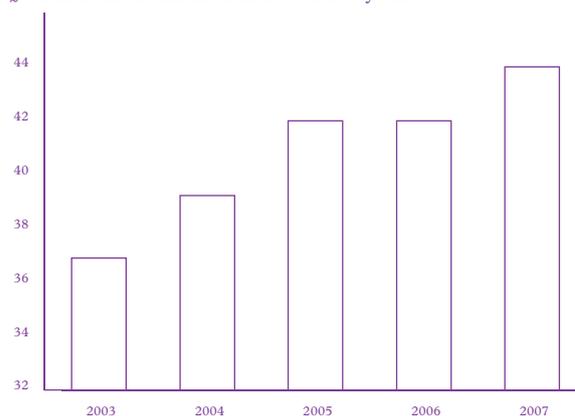


- 8 The surplus from continuing operations for the year is £1,528k (2.7% of turnover). Including the disposal of assets the surplus is £3,461k (6.7%).

- 9 Expenditure on additions and improvements to the estates has been £5.3m. During the year the LIVE! Centre for Excellence in Teaching & Learning was completed together with the Animal Welfare Barn, a research facility.

Good progress was made on Phase 3 of the Queen Mother Hospital for Animals together with a start on the Centre for the Control of Veterinary Infectious Diseases, which is funded by HEFCE.

£m Fixed assets and investments for five years



- 10 A net cash inflow of £6.2m from operating activities has improved the College's cash position with an increase in cash for the year of £2.5m.
- 11 Legacies of £0.97m (£0.5m, 2005-06) have been received by the College and the Animal Care Trust during the year. After taking account of appreciation of and expenditure against endowments, the overall value of the funds has increased by £2.1m (18%) (2005-06, £1.4m (14%)).
- 12 The College's investment portfolio is managed by Black Rock Investment Managers Limited. The market value of the College's Endowment Asset Investments has increased by £911k (9.9%).

combined efforts

Jonathan Forrest, Development Director

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In July 2007 the RVC appointed its first Development Director and created a department that brings together the work of the Animal Care Trust with alumni relations. The Development Office will help the College achieve its ambitious targets for expanding and improving its estate, for promoting research and teaching, for supporting students and for developing new and exciting fields of academic and commercial endeavour.

Fundraising is undertaken by the Animal Care Trust which is a registered charity administered by the College. 2006-07 was a particularly good year for the ACT.

We raise funds to support the hospitals and the other work of the College in a range of ways. Our principal fundraising work during the year was for the Queen Mother Hospital.

Paws for a Cause

Our major appeal to support the expansion of the Queen Mother Hospital had a wonderful year and we were delighted to receive support from many new and generous donors. With a healthy stream of pledges, the appeal has now exceeded £3 million. With a target of £5 million to reach, donations are still being gratefully received!

We say good-bye to the Paw Trail...

At the end of 2006 we closed the Paw Trail so that the old Queen Mother Hospital could be refurbished. It has been a huge success and the 4000 paws have contributed over £42,000 to the Paws for a Cause appeal. That is enough to equip an operating theatre! So we owe a huge debt of gratitude to all our Paw Trail donors.

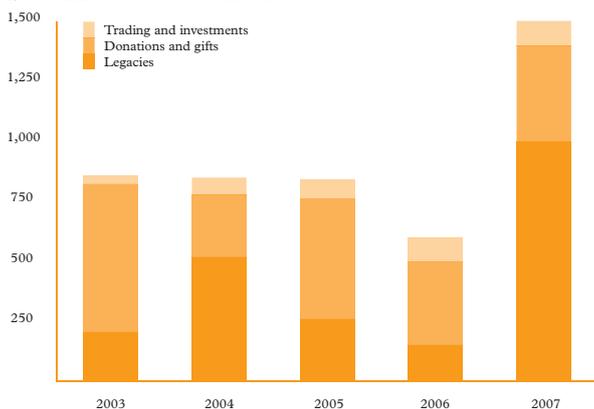
...and hello to the Paw-folio!

Paw prints will no longer adorn the walls, but they are being re-homed in our new Paw-folio which is a book marking your donations and celebrating the names of your pets. It is not too late to put your pet's print in the Paw-folio.

The effort and joy of fundraising

Of the many ways that our donors found to support us, running was a theme for the year. In October twenty-five runners took on the Great North Run whilst an eight-strong team led by Principal Quintin McKellar entered the 2007 Flora London Marathon. Between them our teams raised an astounding £18,000!

£000 Animal Care Trust income



Animals matter

Income for 2006-07 totalled over £1.4m. Income from legacies was particularly strong at £968,057. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our many supporters who have remembered our work in their Wills.

This strong income performance has meant that we have been able to increase our campaign funds for the Queen Mother Hospital appeal by £996,000. Our total funds have grown to £3.26m and will be drawn down in 2008 as the Queen Mother Hospital is opened.

Thanks to the magnificent generosity of our donors we have also been able to increase our grants to the Royal Veterinary College by 18% to £238,000. Here are some examples of those grants.

A grant of £19,570 helped the Beaumont Animals' Hospital to refit and equip an isolation ward and a new small animal ward. This expands our capacity to treat cats, rabbits and other small animals.

Grants of £110,996 to the Equine Hospital were spent on a range of equipment including a new ultrasound unit providing us with the highest level of ultrasonographic imaging available anywhere in the UK.

In the Queen Mother Hospital a grant of £18,267 made it possible to purchase a phacoemulsification system used in the treatment of cataracts.

Finally the Farm Animals Project was granted £6,200 to purchase an innovative recovery tank for downed cows; saving them by lifting them and supporting their weight using warm water.

You can help

The Animal Care Trust is always pleased to hear your ideas for raising funds in support of the College's work. We are committed to the welfare of animals, the education of our students and the progress of our College. If you would like to get in touch, make a donation, leave your pet's print in our Paw-folio or make a gift in your Will, please contact Joanne Hussain on 01707 666237, email jhussain@rvc.ac.uk or visit www.rvc.ac.uk/act

The Animal Care Trust is a registered charity (number 281571).

The Development Office team including students Bev, Becky and Nikki





In December 2007, The Most Hon The Marquess of Salisbury stepped down as Chairman of the RVC Council, a position he had held for eight years. The incoming Chairman is The Rt Hon The Baroness Shephard of Northwold. As these profiles reveal, when it comes to the RVC, they have views, values and goals in common.

During his time at the College Lord Salisbury has seen it develop considerably, improve its performance in the field of research and respond 'in a distinguished manner' to the recent crises that have affected the veterinary world.

'The College has broadened its appeal to meet the demands of a changing world,' comments Lord Salisbury. 'The fact that the College has adjusted to this increase in size so competently is a great tribute to the management of the College and the sense of loyalty of its members. I was very pleased that the College Council maintained its cohesion and sense of focus during a period of great change and at no time allowed the lesser considerations to get in the way of discussions about the greater good of the College.'

Looking over his time spent as Chairman Lord Salisbury concedes that he does have just one regret: 'That I didn't see more of the students, something that is difficult for a part-time Chairman with a busy life.'

However, Lord Salisbury feels that he is leaving the College in a strong position to face the future. He cites the RVC's widening participation work, its increasing connections with international institutions and its ability to attract students from overseas as evidence of the College's ability to succeed when faced with future challenges.

'The College has a great sense of itself as an ancient institution whose members have its best interests at heart. Whatever else it does to adapt to the demands of the future, it can do no wrong if it maintains that sense of collegiality, which is I think its greatest strength.'

Although Lord Salisbury's tenure as Chairman has now come to an end he hopes to maintain contact with the College and sees his new role as a great opportunity to do so. 'I have been enormously honoured to have been elected a Fellow of the College, a distinction which is accorded to few and in which I take great pride.'

Lord Salisbury adds: 'Anything that I can do in the future to serve the College's interest will be something which I look forward to with pleasure.'

common ground

handing over the Chairman's baton

Lady Shephard comes to the role of Chairman with extensive experience in education, agriculture and politics. She was the Minister for Agriculture in 1993 and the Secretary of State for Education from 1994 until 1997, and is currently Chairman of the Association of Conservative Peers and Trustee of the Workers' Educational Association.

Coming from an agricultural background Lady Shephard has long admired the veterinary profession and recognises the important role that it plays in the economy. Lady Shephard acknowledges that she has 'a lot to learn about the world in which the College operates', but is looking forward to 'the whole challenge'.

'I have the utmost admiration for the history and the reputation of the College. It has maintained its high standards for many years and over many changes. I'm really thrilled to have the chance to work with so many dedicated and distinguished academics and professionals, and extremely enthusiastic and focused students.'



Lady Shephard's experience and contacts are certain to be of benefit to the College. 'Political experience can only be useful in the role of Chairman. UK higher education is deeply involved in the political process not least because of funding but also because of other issues, such as ethics, animal welfare and strategic planning.'

Having chaired all kinds of bodies during her long career in public life, Lady Shephard lists listening as one of the most important attributes that a Chairman must have; 'on occasions a Chairman has to lead, but when you are new you really can't listen enough.'

The RVC Council plays an important role in the leadership of the College, deciding on strategic matters such as capital projects and international development. An effective governing body should, according to Lady Shephard, 'have a strong sense of strategy, be able to face up to changing circumstances realistically and objectively and be able to make difficult decisions when the going might be a little rough,' she adds: 'It's very important for the reputation of the College to be jealously guarded, but this has to be done in a way that enables the College to make the most of opportunities that are offered to it globally, nationally and locally.'

Lady Shephard adds: 'I have a lot to learn but Lord Salisbury has left a splendid legacy.'

governance

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Patron

His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh
KG KT OM GBE

The Council

(as at 31 July 2007)

The Officers of the Council

Chairman

The Most Hon The Marquess of Salisbury PC DL

Vice-Chairman

Professor P M Biggs CBE FRS DSc
DVM FRCVS FRCPath FIBiol

Hon Treasurer

J H Chatfeild-Roberts BA

Members appointed by organisations

Privy Council

The Rt Hon Frank Dobson MP

Secretary of State for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs

Professor J C Milne BVetMed MRCVS

Royal Society

Professor P M Biggs CBE FRS DSc
DVM FRCVS FRCPath FIBiol

Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons

R Green BVetMed MRCVS

Corporation of London

I Luder BSc(Econ) FCA FTII FRSA

British Veterinary Association

E A Chandler BVetMed FRCVS

Academic Board of the College

Professor D Church BVSc PhD
MACVSc MRCVS

Professor S May MA VetMB PhD
DVR DEO FRCVS DipECVS

Professor J Price PhD BVSc BSc

Professor N Stickland BSc PhD DSc

Professor D C Wathes BSc PhD DSc

Professor A Williams BVMS PhD
MRCVS DipECVP

Members co-opted by the Council

The Most Hon The Marquess of Salisbury PC DL

J H Chatfeild-Roberts BA

I B Flanagan FRICS

Professor D Noakes BVetMed PhD
DSc DVRRep DipECAR FRCVS

Miss V Collingwood

Dr G Schild CBE DSc

Ex-Officio

Professor Q A McKellar BVMS PhD
DVM DipECVPT CBiol FIBiol FRAgS
MRCVS FRSE (Principal)

Secretary to the Council

Mrs E C Acaster

Fellows of the Royal Veterinary College

Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal GCVO (1987)

Professor P M Biggs CBE FRS DSc DVM
FRCVS FRCPath FIBiol (1983)

W Plowright CMG FRS DVSc FRCVS (1987)

Miss W M Brancker CBE FRCVS (1989)

Professor L C Vaughan DSc FRCVS DVR (1995)

The Right Hon The Earl Cadogan (1997)

The Right Hon Lord Prior PC (1999)

Professor L E Lanyon CBE BVSc PhD
DSc MRCVS FMedSci (2005)

Honorary Fellows

Edmund Vestey TD DL (1994)*

Mrs Jean Sainsbury (1994)**

George H R Ward FCA (1994)

Sir Gordon Shattock MRCVS (1994)

Dame Bridget M Ogilvie ScD FIBiol
FRCPath (1994)

John K Pool (1994)

Tony Veal (1994)

Robert Luff CBE OStJ (1994)

Mrs Jessie Nye (1994)

The Rt Hon Lord Wolfson of Marylebone (1994)

Lady Harris DBE DL (1994)

Patsy Bloom (1997)

Professor Leo Jeffcott MA BVetMed PhD
DVSc FRCVS (1997)

Sir Brian Fender CMG (2001)

Professor Ken Goulding BSc PhD HonDSc
CBiol FIBiol (2001)

Christopher Sporborg CBE (2001)

Richard Carden (2003)

Brigadier Andrew Parker Bowles OBE (2003)

*Died – November 2007

**Died – February 2007

corporate governance

for the year ended 31 July 2007

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- 1 The purpose of this statement is to enable readers of the College's Report and Accounts to obtain a better understanding of the governance and legal structure of the College.
- 2 The College endeavours to conduct its business in accordance with the seven Principles identified by the Committee on Standards in Public Life, namely selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty and leadership. It also acts in accordance with the guidance provided by the Committee of University Chairmen in its Guide for Members of Governing Bodies of Universities and Colleges in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, in a manner appropriate to the circumstances of the College.
- 3 The College is an independent corporation, whose legal status derives from a Royal Charter granted in 1956, although the College can trace its history as a corporate body back to 1791. Its objects, powers and framework of governance are set out in the Charter and its supporting Statutes.
- 4 The Charter and Statutes require that the government of the College shall be vested in the Council, which has management and control of the College and administers all its property and income. The Council has a majority of members from outside the College (known as lay members) from whom the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Treasurer are by custom elected. None of the lay members receive any payment for the work they do for the College, apart from the reimbursement of expenses.
- 5 The Statutes also require that there shall be an Academic Board, members of which are the Professors of the College and representatives of the teaching staff, and of which the Principal is Chairman. The Board advises the Council on all academic matters.
- 6 The principal academic and administrative officer of the College is the Principal, who under the Statutes is responsible for the conduct of the College. Under the terms of the formal Financial Memorandum between the College and the Higher Education Funding Council for England, the Principal is the designated officer of the College and in that capacity can be summoned to appear before the Public Accounts Committee of the House of Commons.
- 7 Although the Council ordinarily meets three times a year, much of its detailed work is initially discussed in Committees, in particular the Finance Committee, the Audit Committee, the Nominations Committee and the Senior Staff Remuneration Committee. All Council Committees are formally constituted with terms of reference and specified membership. Many include a significant proportion of lay members. All Committees report formally to the Council.
- 8 As Chief Executive of the College the Principal exercises considerable influence on the development of institutional strategy, the identification and planning of new developments and the shaping of institutional ethos. Senior academic and administrative officers all contribute in various ways to these aspects of the College's affairs but the Principal remains responsible for the conduct of the College.
- 9 The College maintains a register of interests of members of the Council.
- 10 Any enquiries about the constitution and governance of the College should be addressed to the Secretary to Council.

London Campus
Royal College Street
London NW1 0TU
Telephone +44 (0) 20 7468 5000
Fax +44 (0) 20 7388 2342

Hertfordshire Campus
Hawkshead Lane
North Mymms
Herts AL9 7TA
Telephone +44 (0) 1707 666333
Fax +44 (0) 1707 652090

The London BioScience
Innovation Centre
Telephone +44 (0) 20 7691 1122

Communications Management
(Press Office)
Telephone +44 (0) 1727 733889

Animal Care Trust
Telephone +44 (0) 1707 666237
Fax +44 (0) 1707 666382

www.rvc.ac.uk

To view this publication on the web please go to www.rvc.ac.uk/annualreport/. Whilst all reasonable care has been taken in the compilation of this publication, the College can accept no liability which might arise from an unintentional inaccuracy. Readers are recommended to verify current circumstances for themselves whenever they need to do so.

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chlorine free (ECF) process

The College has charitable status



Established in 1791, RVC is the UK's longest-standing
veterinary college – with a proud heritage of innovation
in veterinary science, clinical practice and education.

Cover image: Dr Donald Palmer and student Annisa Chand

