

RVC

Royal Veterinary College
University of London

Annual Review 2007-08



Leading the way



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Expanding horizons

Quintin McKellar, Principal

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This year marks the beginning of a new planning period for the Royal Veterinary College; an opportunity to look back with satisfaction on the achievements of the last three years and to fortify ourselves for the challenges of the next five years – our planning horizon expanding with our ambitions.

Fundamental developments of the last three years for which we can be proud include the complete revision and introduction of a new curriculum for our BVetMed students characterised by ‘less teaching, more learning’; the introduction of our Gateway programme, successfully bringing students from diverse backgrounds into veterinary medicine; the expansion and consolidation of our nursing programmes from Foundation to BSc and Post-graduate Diploma and the appointment of the first Professor of Veterinary Nursing; the first graduates emerging from our BSc Bioveterinary Sciences programme finding diverse and exciting employment; together with continued growth in student numbers, which have grown by approximately 300 since 2005.

Our research groupings have refocused on Infection and Lifestyle Disease to better reflect the major problems in animal and comparative biology. Research income has tripled over the planning period. The Estate has been substantially enhanced by the construction of an environmentally controlled animal laboratory for welfare studies, a structure and motion laboratory, infectious disease containment laboratories and – our most ambitious project – the doubling in size and capacity of our Queen Mother Referral Hospital, creating a clinical teaching and research environment of global stature. Growth in activity has been matched by growth in staff numbers, from 561 in 2005 to 742 in 2008 and the reputation of the College has helped us attract the best and brightest to our faculty.

The evolution of our new planning strategy has embraced the ideas of all our staff and students and it is to their credit that their ambitions will fully stretch

our capacity. We will remain an international leader of the veterinary professions and will excel in our educational, research and clinical activities.

We will develop the very best methods to educate all our students and cascade these methods through our programmes. We will support our students, improve their learning environments and encourage them to develop as individuals who will enhance society and experience rich and satisfying lives. Our researchers will make discoveries in infections and in the major diseases of lifestyle which affect our animal and human populations and will exploit the unique opportunity which the veterinary science environment presents to study from the particle to the population.

Our clinicians will raise the barriers of expectation to deliver to our livestock industries, production and healthcare systems which make farms in the UK profitable and ethical. Our companion animal populations will reap the benefits of clinical innovation and more efficacious therapeutic protocols, both directly through our hospitals and more widely through dissemination via conferences and CPD programmes on national and international platforms. Despite economic constraints, the College has an ambitious building and refurbishment programme which will ensure that our facilities enhance delivery across our activities and provide a working environment which encourages scholarship and community and helps us achieve our ambitions. The College strategy can be accessed on our website and provides the broad path down which we will travel. Much will happen to influence the direction of that path but with the energy and intellect embodied in the Royal Veterinary College, I have no doubt that we shall continue to achieve greatness.



Fifty years on

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This year marked the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of the Hawkshead Campus, which gave the opportunity for celebration of this milestone, and also a chance to consider the progress that has been made.

The Hawkshead Campus was acquired by the RVC on 8 February 1955. Following the outbreak of World War II, the College was evacuated from London to a field station in Streatley, Berkshire where teaching continued throughout the war. During this period, there was found to be real value in having a rural centre where farm animals were available for both teaching and research. After investigating several potential sites, the Hawkshead House and Bolton's Park estate, consisting of 440 acres in total, was agreed upon. The Medicine and Surgery departments moved into the new campus in 1958 and teaching began shortly after.

The new site was officially opened by the Queen in 1959. An excerpt from the Annual Report of 1959 describes the event:

'20 April 1959 was a beautiful sunny day. The Queen was received by the Lieutenant of the County of Hertfordshire, the Hon. David Bowes-Lyon, the Chairman of the Council and the Principal. Representatives of the County, the University Architects and the staff were presented to The Queen by the Chairman of the Council, Professor Sir Charles Lovatt Evans. Her majesty unveiled a plaque commemorating the occasion and declared the buildings open. After a tour of the new premises, further presentations were made including representatives of the Students' Union Society. Various College activities were demonstrated by members of the staff. The visit was witnessed by representatives of the University and of various organisations associated with the College. Nearly all members of the academic and non-academic staff attended, as well as a fair number of students, who returned early from vacation for the occasion.'

From the Annual Report for 1959



Initially, the campus comprised of numerous lecture theatres, practical classrooms and laboratories, alongside an operating theatre and post-mortem unit. The facilities were expanded substantially over the following years, particularly with the opening of the Queen Mother Hospital for Small Animals in 1986 and the construction of the Eclipse Building, which was opened in 2003. Following the opening of the Learning Resource Centre in Eclipse, Professor Lance Lanyon stated in the Annual Report of 2003 that:

‘Completion of the new buildings at Hawkshead and their opening by the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh marks a significant step forward and should consign to history forever the designation of the Hawkshead campus as the “field station”.’

To mark the 50 year anniversary of the campus, a weekend of celebrations took place on the 7 and 8 June 2008. A reunion of former RVC staff and alumni was held across both days, and the College also invited members of the local Hertfordshire community who were provided with a series of tours of the facilities. Around 100 local people attended and were provided with an insight into the work of the RVC and life on the Hawkshead campus.

Grand opening

Becci Cussens at Communications Management

On Thursday 20 November 2008, Her Royal Highness The Duchess of Cornwall opened the newly expanded state-of-the-art Queen Mother Hospital for Animals (QMHA) Phase 3 development. The new extension and redevelopment work has upgraded the existing facilities to make the QMHA the largest veterinary teaching hospital in Europe.

Established in 1986, the QMHA currently trains over 300 undergraduate students and sees over 8,000 small animals each year, primarily cats and dogs. The QMHA's Phase 3 expansion means the hospital can now treat more animals, train more veterinarians, veterinary nurses and physiotherapists, and advance veterinary medicine.

The £8m extension and redevelopment project has extended the hospital's facilities to include: 24 consulting rooms, three new operating theatres, a new and enlarged Intensive Care Unit, a new diagnostic imaging room containing both MRI and CT scanners, separate waiting areas for cats and dogs, new cat and dog wards and seminar rooms with video links from the operating theatres.

'The Royal Veterinary College's new facilities establish it as the largest veterinary teaching hospital in Europe,' said Nigel Gibbens, Chief Veterinary Officer for England. 'This commitment to education and the subsequent benefits for small animals and their owners should not be underestimated. Britain is a world leader in the field of veterinary science and developments like this help ensure that we retain that position.'

The Royal Veterinary College has co-funded the £8m Phase 3 expansion with the Animal Care Trust (the College's registered charity) which is contributing £5m, raised by the 'Paws for a Cause' appeal and with support from many generous benefactors. The QMHA is named after Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother who was the Animal Care Trust's first Patron. HRH The Duchess of Cornwall is the current Patron.

Veterinary practices from across the South-East of England and often further afield, refer their patients to the QMHA for specialist treatments, emergency and critical care, rehabilitation and behavioural problems. The hospital is also world-renowned for specialist surgery – it is the only centre in Europe to offer leading-edge surgical treatments such as heart valve replacement.

One of the hospital's unique strengths is its Emergency and Critical Care service, which serves veterinary practices across the South-East of England, twenty four hours a day, seven days a week. The hospital's staffing is increasing to include three board-certified emergency and critical care specialists, who join the existing team of hospital staff.

The strength of the Queen Mother Hospital for Animals lies in the highly specialised care that staff offer. The QMHA clinical team contains some of the world's leading consultants in their field, including in specialisms such as anaesthesia, cardiology, dermatology, diagnostic imaging, emergency and critical care, internal medicine, neurology, orthopaedics, soft tissue surgery and rehabilitation.

'The combination of a better environment for pets and their owners, together with the introduction of new services and excellent clinical expertise, means that the Queen Mother Hospital for Animals can lay claim to being one of the most progressive small animal hospitals of its kind in the world,' said Graham Milligan, Director of Clinical Services at the Royal Veterinary College.

'The Hospital team of our 166 vets, nurses and receptionists can offer pets and their owners expert treatment and care across all the major medical and surgical specialties. This integrated approach to care is made easier by the Phase 3 development, which enables cases to move seamlessly from one service to another.'

Graham adds: 'We will also be able to expand our current list of specialties and soon will be able to offer interventional nephrology and urology, interventional radiology and an expanded oncology service.'







Across the Atlantic

Julia Hewett, Education Liaison Manager

The RVC's commitment to recruit the brightest and best students, coupled with our dedication to provide a high quality education has led to a number of recent developments designed to enhance the experience of our North American students. These increased activities in North America are directly linked to the vision of the College as we continue to strive to be not only the premier veterinary school in the UK, but also one of the best veterinary schools world-wide.

The RVC has been actively recruiting students from North America – both the USA and Canada – since the mid-1990s. As the only English veterinary school accredited by the American Veterinary Medical Association, the College is an attractive study destination for those looking for an international experience, particularly if their home state has no veterinary school, or one that is heavily over-subscribed. The recruitment of North American students builds on a history of strong links between the RVC and the USA: many of the College's academic staff have spent part of their careers in research, teaching and clinical work on the other side of the Atlantic.

In early 2008, the RVC held its first formal interviews in the US for applicants to the BVetMed from the US and Canada. This ensured that prospective students were able to meet RVC staff face-to-face and gain a real insight into the course and the College itself. Furthermore, the implementation of an interview component results in a more-effective student recruitment process, allowing us to more accurately gauge the suitability of applicants for our programme, and ensure that we truly are selecting excellent and able students. The Admissions Office at the RVC has recently expanded, with a dedicated International Enquiries Co-ordinator, Rachel Smith, now in post to provide North American applicants with a smooth application and transition process.

Showcasing the prestige and long history of excellence that the RVC offers is crucial in our efforts to be viewed as one of the world's leading veterinary schools. Thus, we have expanded our involvement in veterinary conferences and symposia in North America, allowing us to engage with a higher number of advisors and pre-vet students with a desire to study at a longstanding and innovative veterinary school.

Stronger links with North American alumni have also been developed through this increased activity in the US and Canada, with a number of RVC graduates offering their support through attendance at recruitment events and providing assistance at interview sessions, offering applicants a powerful insight into the College and the career opportunities available to them upon graduation.

Furthermore, having many RVC staff with experience at a number of leading vet schools in North America has allowed us to form a stronger bridge with our US and Canadian students and thus provides the College with a better position from which to understand the expectations and needs of those considering coming to study at the RVC from across the Atlantic.

In addition to enhancing the experience of our prospective students and applicants, the College has also focused on developing the support and services we provide for our North American students once they have enrolled, and indeed, throughout their time with us. The appointment of a dedicated Student Support Manager, Fiona Nouri, in 2007 has provided a hub of activity for both UK and International students at the College in terms of the support and guidance now on offer.

Gail Henry, a former International Student Representative at the RVC from the US and now in her fourth year of the BVetMed programme, believes the experience of her fellow North American students has transformed during her time at the College and has led to greater student satisfaction.

‘As the years go by I feel like I become more and more a part of the RVC community, and I have seen some great changes taking place. Each year the school works harder to accommodate the international student population; they do this by asking the students directly about what is liked and what improvements need to be made. Since I started in 2005, there has been a lot done to improve the new international student orientation. There is now an airport collection system in place and also a London bus tour! A second international student advisor has been appointed to assist with the clinical students’ issues. Also, there are now interviews that take place in the US for North American applicants, which is something that I was very excited to hear about. This is a fantastic way for not only the RVC to get to know the North American applicants better but a way for North Americans to get to know the RVC better too. Overall, these changes and the effort that is put in by the RVC confirms to me that I made the right choice because this is a school that cares about its students.’





5,000 temporary workers, 139 vets, 295 horses, two typhoons, a \$10bn racing industry and a golf course: just some of the ingredients that went into the 2008 equestrian Olympic Games in Hong Kong.

Olympic adventure

Josh Slater, Professor of Equine Medicine



All this and two members of the RVC's Equine Referral Hospital, Imogen Johns (Lecturer in Equine Medicine) and Josh Slater (Professor of Equine Medicine), who acted as quarantine and biosecurity consultants to the Hong Kong Government's equivalent of DEFRA, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department, during the Olympic and Paralympic Games in August 2008. The Olympic Equestrian venue was adjacent to Hong Kong's \$10bn Shatin Racecourse headquarters,

and shared some horse training areas with the Hong Kong Jockey Club. The cross-country course was built on a golf course located 10 miles north of the Shatin venue. The threat of contagious disease being introduced into the HKJC's racehorse population was considered very real, especially after the 2007 Australian influenza outbreak. Josh and Imogen were responsible for overseeing the strict pre-export and post arrival biosecurity measures and coordinated the work of the 50-strong quarantine team.

The logistics of long haul air equine transport were truly amazing: horses travelled in pairs as pallet cargo in specially-constructed air stables. Even after 30 hours of travelling, most horses emerged from their air stables looking as if they had just travelled to the local show. Most horses arrived as mixed cargo with the front part of the jet carrying passengers with horses and other cargo travelling at the rear. The first Olympic horses –



three day Eventers as they were the first to compete – arrived on 23 July. The most exciting part of the process was the high-speed, blue-light, armed police-escorted convoy of air conditioned articulated lorries through the centre of Hong Kong to the venue – if only the RVC's equine hospital clients could enjoy the same benefits when travelling along the M25!

The Olympic venue itself was extremely impressive with purpose-built, air conditioned and insect-proof stabling for 200 horses, divided into five separate and independent barns. Mist tents, with large fans blowing out iced water provided a vital means of cooling horses in the 35-40°C and 95% humidity weather. Although some horses were initially wary, they quickly realised the tents were actually rather pleasant, and it was not uncommon to see horses (and riders!) almost asleep in the tents, obviously enjoying the experience.

The daily work of the quarantine team involved checking the temperatures and general health of all horses in the venue and making critical decisions on any horses with clinical signs indicating possible infectious disease: not an easy task and decisions were usually taken in high-pressure situations. Allowing an infectious disease to spread through the venue would have been the end of the Games and crippled the Hong Kong racing industry; excluding a horse unnecessarily would have meant a premature end of several years' preparation, significant financial investment and the hopes and dreams of all those in the affected team.

The threat of infectious disease was not the only veterinary problem faced. There was real concern that the combination of high heat and humidity of Hong Kong in August would push some horses beyond the limit of their endurance. The organisers put in place

extraordinary measures to safeguard the welfare of the competing horses, especially on the cross-country day, and everyone breathed a sigh of relief when the last horse finished safely. Overall, these Olympics were unique because all horses flew home as scheduled and none were kept back because of disease or injury.

As soon as the Olympic Games finished the 77 Paralympic horses started arriving, although Typhoon Nuri, a Category 9 storm and the second typhoon to affect the Olympic programme, did its best to disrupt in-bound flights. The atmosphere during the Paralympics was very different from the Olympic Games. With a much smaller number of competitors and support staff, there was much more interaction between riders, grooms, vets and other support staff, and between groups from different countries. The horses were also very different, coming in all shapes and sizes, from the 18hh Warmblood from Australia, to the much smaller, and delightfully named 'Teddy' from Great Britain (a gold medal winner!). All however had the unique ability to work as a team with their riders, and adapt to their disability – truly inspirational.

Imogen and Josh felt that the high points were seeing the amazing horses and being part of one of the greatest sporting experiences in the world. For many spectators, the low point was the news that several horses had tested positive to the banned substance capsaicin, and one to a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug felbinac. Imogen commented 'Whilst this was disappointing news, it was a testament to the effectiveness of the FEI Anti-Doping and Medication team's efforts to promote fair competition and safeguard the welfare of the horse'. Both Imogen and Josh are looking forward to playing a role in the next Olympics. To quote Imogen, 'Roll on London 2012!'

Next-generation nurses

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Sarah Bayliss, Veterinary Nursing Administrative Manager and Perdi Welsh, Lecturer in Veterinary Nursing

Veterinary nursing at the RVC has expanded substantially in the last 12 months, with several developments ensuring that the RVC remains at the forefront of veterinary nursing provision.

September 2008 saw the launch of the RVC's BSc (Hons) in Veterinary Nursing. Eleven students are in the first cohort and will be undertaking this course over a four-year period.

The RVC set up the first BSc (Hons) in Veterinary Nursing in Europe in collaboration with The College of Animal Welfare and Middlesex University in 1998. By assuming full control of the course, the RVC is now able to introduce a more flexible approach to training to be a veterinary nurse. As part of its mission, the RVC strives to provide excellence in veterinary nursing education and offer a comprehensive programme of HE courses in the field. The development of this programme is designed to meet the increased demands and requirements of veterinary nursing and the veterinary profession.

The BSc (Hons) Veterinary Nursing complements the existing provision of RVC veterinary nursing courses and in addition will provide a route for NVQ-qualified veterinary nurses to enhance their clinical and professional practice and qualifications.

This programme enhances the already successful Foundation degree by developing a more critical thinking veterinary nurse able to apply theory to a range of practical situations. There is a strong emphasis on the analysis and discussion of real-life situations and a diverse range of teaching strategies will be used to ensure that, by the end of the course, students will have developed the skills to influence the provision of health-care to animal patients, contribute to the development of the veterinary nursing profession and become successful lifelong learners.

In addition, the RVC welcomed its first intake of veterinary nurses onto the new Graduate Diploma in Professional and Clinical Veterinary Nursing in June 2008. This diploma has been developed in response to the increasing demand from the veterinary profession and veterinary nurses for courses developing specialist skills and provides a route for qualified veterinary nurses to progress to an advanced level qualification. The course also contributes to an increasing portfolio of distance learning degree programmes and e-CPD offered by the RVC.

This innovative course is delivered almost entirely online allowing veterinary nurses to access their learning whenever and wherever they want via the college's Virtual Learning Environment (VLE), Blackboard. This online mode of study is ideal for veterinary nurses wishing to advance their knowledge and skills and who are unable to attend regular sessions at college because of distance or family and professional commitments. The Graduate Diploma comprises a series of modular short courses delivered at Higher Education Honours level, enabling students to tailor their educational needs to match their professional interests and clinical practice. The modules generally use case or problem-based activities, so that students can work in small groups, which facilitate discussion, collaboration and research.



After completing the first module, Contemporary Study Skills, all students successfully met the academic requirements allowing them to progress to the next module, Applied Clinical Nursing. Feedback from the first module has been extremely positive and indicates a high level of student satisfaction with students appreciating the skills learned and enjoying the experience.

The reputation of the RVC as a leader in the field of veterinary nursing provision is demonstrated by the level of interest in, and applications to, our Foundation and BSc (Hons) Veterinary Nursing courses. The two courses combined have, to date, witnessed a 33% increase in applications from 2007 to 2008.

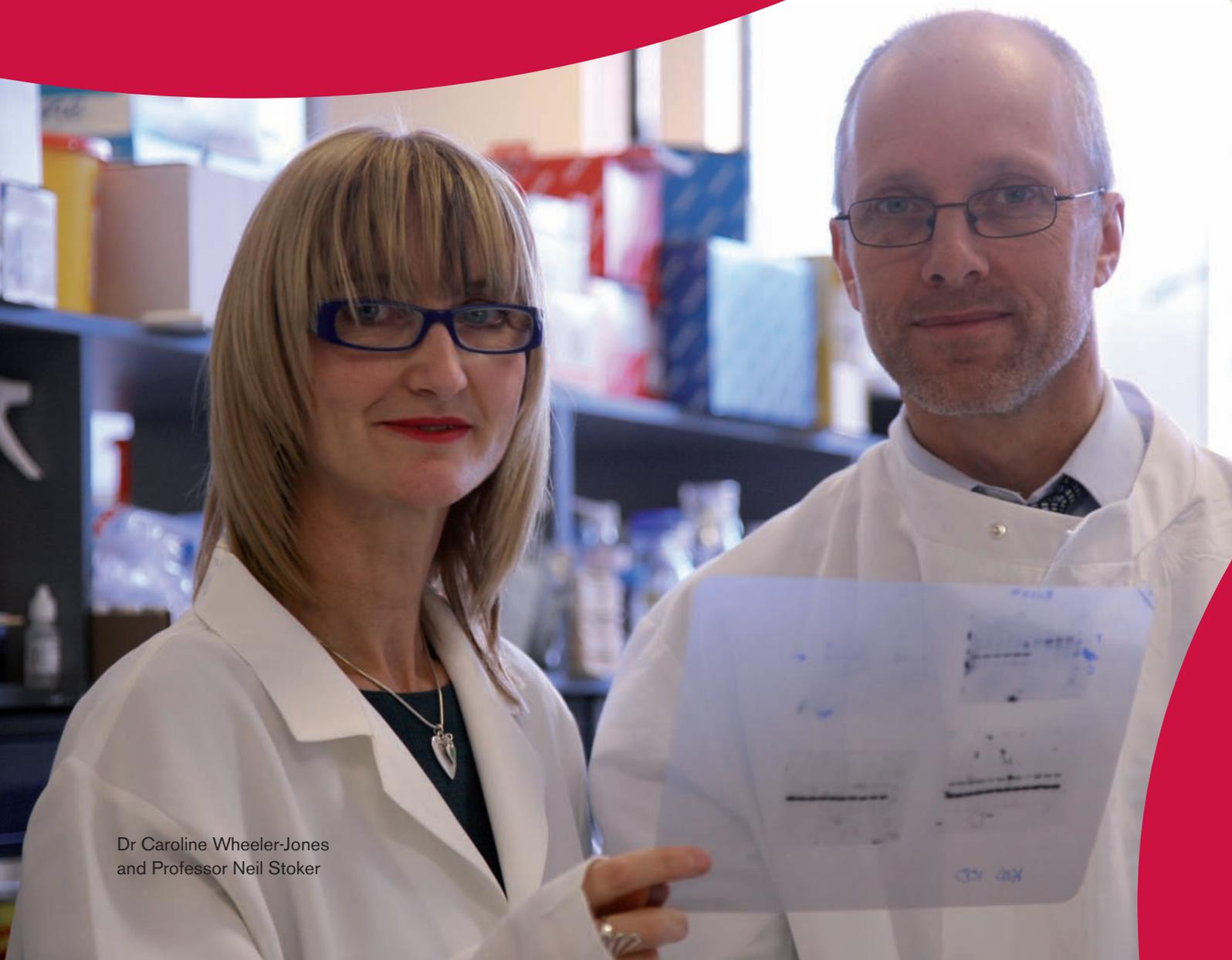
To support the delivery of the veterinary nursing portfolio of courses, the RVC has appointed Sue Gregory as the world's first Professor of Veterinary Nursing, an appointment which underlines the RVC's commitment to the field. It is also part of a wider extension of the teaching department, which now includes three lecturers in veterinary nursing – Hilary Orpet, Perdi Welsh and Sophie Pullen, an assistant lecturer – Rachel Lumbis and an Administrative Manager – Sarah Bayliss.

Bioveterinary Sciences at the RVC

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Caroline Wheeler-Jones, Reader in Vascular Cell Biology and BSc (Hons) Bioveterinary Sciences Course Director 2007-2009

The successful Quinquennial Review of the BSc (Hons) Bioveterinary Sciences took place in Spring 2008, and underlined the high quality of all aspects of the programme, particularly exemplified by the up-to-date, unique and stimulating curriculum on offer.



Dr Caroline Wheeler-Jones
and Professor Neil Stoker



Dr Rachel Lawrence
and Dr Donald Palmer

thus enable a sound grasp of scientific method. The breadth and quantity of research-based practical training offered by this BSc course is unusual amongst similar courses offered elsewhere in the UK. Students have access to project opportunities within a broad range of research areas and disciplines across the College, and teachers on the BSc course are all research active and committed to ensuring that current research informs their teaching. As a result of their active involvement in the research programmes of the College, many of the BSc students have already made significant contributions to research output by contributing to conference proceedings and peer-reviewed publications.

The BSc degree in Veterinary Sciences (now renamed BSc Bioveterinary Sciences) was first introduced in September 2002. This non-clinical course addresses the universal need for students qualified as veterinary scientists, which was unveiled by the Selborne Report into Veterinary Research, published in 1997. The three year honours degree programme offers a highly integrated course of study, covering animals in health and disease, which is underpinned by a strong emphasis on scientific research. The course is designed to equip graduates for careers in academic, pharmaceutical and industrial research within the veterinary and biomedical fields and is, therefore, key to the College's objective to promote animal and human health.

The course is in keeping with the College's aim to enhance the scientific underpinning of teaching and

The BSc (Hons) Bioveterinary Sciences continues to grow in popularity, with applications to the course increasing substantially since its first inception. The course attracted 37 applications in its first year, leading to a total enrolment figure of 17. By 2008 entry, application numbers had risen to just under 200, with 67 students enrolling. Two course-specific Open Days are now held annually at the Camden Campus to cope with demand from prospective students.

Graduates from the course to date have gone on to a variety of careers across the scientific sector. Several graduates are enrolled on PhD degree programmes in research laboratories within universities and in government/charity-funded research laboratories as well as being employed in veterinary laboratories and in the pharmaceutical industry.

Global perspective

**Katharina Stärk, Professor of Veterinary Public Health and Dirk Werling,
Professor of Molecular Immunology**

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The last academic year has seen the development of a new theme within the College's impressive research work, focused on Infection and Immunity. Headed by Professor Katharina Stärk, the Infection and Immunity research programme draws upon significant expertise to address questions of global importance affecting animal and human health.

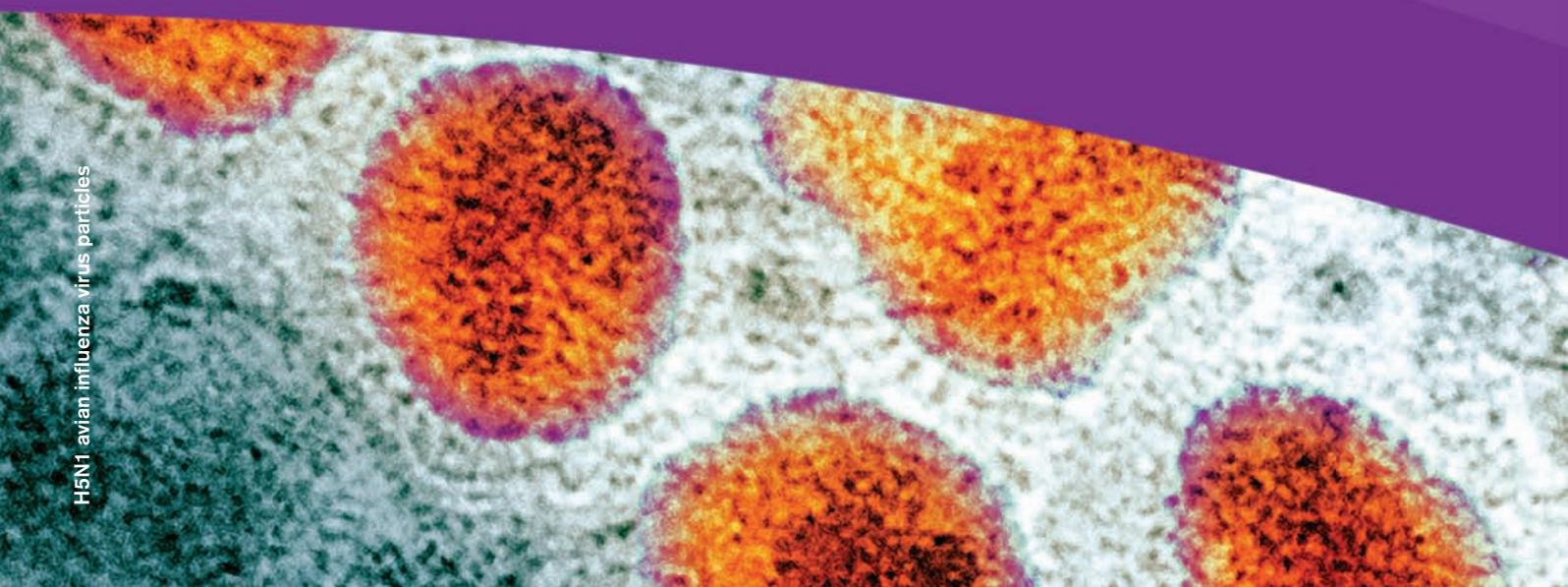


During 2007-08, Infection and Immunity research undertook numerous major research projects and attracted substantial funding. In summer 2007, the RVC was awarded a project to investigate Post-weaning Multi-systemic Wasting Syndrome (PMWS) as part of the BBSRC initiative 'Combating Endemic Diseases of Farmed Animals for Sustainability'. The project is led by Professor Dirk Werling and will run over a period of five years, with a total budget of £2.4m. The multidisciplinary project consists of three parts: epidemiology, immunology and animal welfare, and will identify risk-factors contributing on different levels to the development of clinical signs of PMWS.

The epidemiological part of the project had a busy start. Initially, a retrospective investigation of a PMWS outbreak on a large commercial pig farm was carried out. This included testing of 370 stored blood samples and investigating association between PMWS and potential risk factors. Preliminary results indicated that the breed and origin of the sow may be important contributing factors, and this will be further investigated by the incorporation of parity data. The beginning of the prospective cross-sectional study occurred when the majority of English pig farmers started vaccinating

for porcine circovirus (PCV) 2, a causative agent of PMWS, and the recruitment of farms turned out to be a race against time. Thanks to close collaboration with BPEX and pig veterinarians, a total of 2,280 samples from 122 farms were obtained before the start of the vaccination campaign. These were tested for PCV2 and various other pathogens. The present results indicate that all recruited farms were positive for PCV2. In addition, preliminary analyses indicate that there appears to be an age-dependent correlation between the presence of PCV2 and other diseases. These results will not only impact on the remaining parts of the project, but are already new and valuable information for the British pig industry.

The RVC's Veterinary Epidemiology & Public Health (VEPH) group continue to be involved in several projects related to avian influenza (AI) epidemiology. It is co-leading a DfID funded multidisciplinary and collaborative research project aimed at minimising the impact of highly pathogenic AI on the poor in Africa and South-East Asia. The work is conducted jointly with the University of California at Berkeley, the United Nation's Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), the International Livestock Research Institute in Nairobi and the International Food Policy Research Institute in Washington. The project is aimed at improving our understanding of the factors influencing disease



risk in these regions. It has an emphasis on the impact on institutions as well as the livelihoods of the poor, and should lead to substantive and innovative policy guidance. A key novelty is the tight integration between epidemiology, economics, policy and social sciences. The RVC leads the activities related to avian influenza risk assessment and modelling. In addition to this project, the RVC was also a partner in a recently completed FAO-funded project investigating factors influencing avian influenza outbreaks in several African countries. Furthermore, work is being conducted in a separate project examining the risk of human infection resulting from exposure to highly pathogenic AI in Egypt. The VEPH group also conducted an epidemiological study for the Hong Kong government to examine the role of wild birds in avian influenza epidemiology in Hong Kong. Finally, on behalf of FAO training and advice about avian influenza surveillance has been provided to the Chinese government.

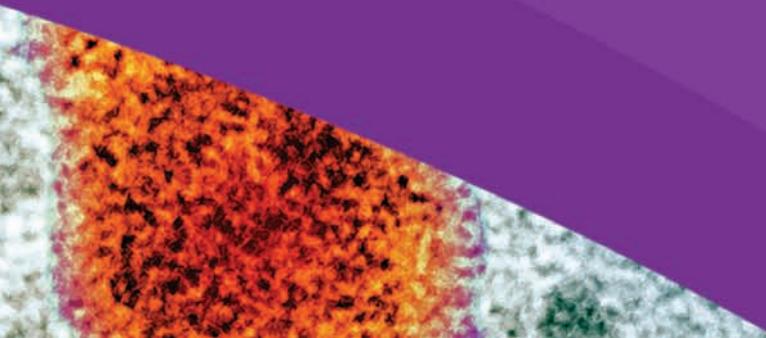
Another highlight of the last year was the RVC researchers' success with their proposal submitted to the European Commission's 7th Framework Programme. Out of a total of eleven submissions in response to the specific call topic, the project entitled 'Preventing community and nosocomial spread and infection with MRSA ST 398 – Instruments for accelerated control and integrated Risk Management of antimicrobial resistance' [PILGRIM] was ranked second and received funding of € 3m. The project will be conducted by a consortium consisting of twelve partners in six EU countries, and led by the RVC (Principal Investigator, Professor Katharina Stärk).

The project will focus on the methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) strain ST398 which has emerged from pigs and is now rapidly spreading both within pig and human populations. In humans, this strain can cause disease outbreaks in hospital settings. The consortium will use this strain as a model to investigate molecular determinants of host specificity, transmission dynamics between pigs and humans and to evaluate intervention strategies. The latter is particularly important as there is currently a lack of models that allow the formal assessment of the effectiveness of intervention technologies. The RVC therefore plans to develop a Technology Testing Platform that will be available to companies for testing of their products targeting both environmental decontamination and treatment of patients. The start date of the project is 1 January 2009 and it will run for three years.

In Autumn 2008, the new £4m Centre for Emerging, Endemic and Exotic Diseases (CEEED) was completed at the Hawkshead Campus, which will house much of the Infection and Immunity research. CEEED aims to facilitate multi-disciplinary programmes of research by enhancing the interactions between epidemiologists, microbiologists, immunologists and clinicians. CEEED's official opening ceremony will take place in February 2009.

During the year, infection and immunity research at the RVC was also strengthened by the appointment of the following academic staff: Silvia Alonso will be conducting research with a veterinary public health focus, particularly on zoonoses in developing countries. Anette Loeffler and Sharon Kendall will contribute to the RVC's successful research programmes on MRSA and tuberculosis, respectively. Jackie Cardwell joined the Veterinary Epidemiology & Public Health Group and Bradley Cobb will work on developmental immunology. Finally, Jonathan Rushton was appointed as senior lecturer in Animal Health Economics. He will integrate economic aspects in a wide range of ongoing and new infectious disease research projects.

To see the list of Research Grants for 2007-08 please go to www.rvc.ac.uk/annualreview





An inclusive approach

Jon Parry, Head of Widening Participation and Community Engagement



Throughout the academic year 2007-08, the College continued its range of work with schools and FE colleges both regionally and nationally. The Wednesday afternoon school visits, mainly by Year 10 cohorts, remained popular. Young people from Camden, Kensington-Chelsea/ Westminster and Tower Hamlets in particular came to work in our museum and anatomy rooms and departed enthused by Andrew Crook and his team and by our Student Ambassadors. The latter maintained their high standard of reliability through their inward and outward visits, the Science Clubs that they organised and the Student Shadowing that they supported. RVC Student Ambassadors are highly regarded across London.

As are staff who undertook masterclasses and workshops for many boroughs. As the lead HEI until July 2008 of the Aim Higher project to widen participation in Health Professions, RVC staff provided veterinary workshops for the London partnerships in 14 boroughs and 35 schools and colleges. Through the Central London Partnership's bid to the Gateway to the

Professions initiative, VBS staff researching in locomotion organised a day of activity for schools from the four boroughs and this is to be followed up in 2009; work with primary schools increased and again is being developed in the academic year 2008-09.

Outside London, post doctoral colleagues worked with Highfields School in Wolverhampton to deliver 'the best Aim Higher project this school has ever had' and this is now an annual event. Other workshops were held in FE colleges in Berkshire and in Gloucestershire and the WP Unit was fully involved in the increasingly popular RVC on Tour events and the promotion of the Gateway course. This course is now developing its own momentum, with 36 students enrolled on the programme in 2008-09. Gateway students are now enrolled through Years 0-3 with nearly 100 'Gateway' undergraduates in the College.

The Summer School remains an important feature of the College's year and again 45 Year 11 students stayed with us in July 2008. In 2008-09 we shall be offering three Easter and Summer Schools funded either through HEFCE or VETNET. It was pleasing to see students from our original 2001 Summer School graduate in July 2008. It can safely be said that HEFCE have been impressed with the RVC's widening participation work and with the contribution the College has made to a variety of initiatives, including the work of the Lifelong Learning Network. We were pleased to be chosen as the specialist HEI exemplar when the National Audit Office was preparing its report on Widening Participation in 2008.

As we move in to the latter part of this review period, the College is reviewing and assessing its widening participation commitments. A new strand of our work is in the area of Community Engagement which began in August 2008. We hope that this will enable us to build on our past successes, engage new learners, and attract fresh funding. Already we are having discussions with the National Institute of Adult and Continuing Education (NIACE) on projects relating to family learning and engagement with Science; we are planning to co-operate with the London Borough of Camden in working with parents around public health. We shall be working with Looked After Children and applying for the Frank Buttle Quality Mark. Activity for next year with other organisations is also being planned. Community Engagement can only be successful through partnership working and many organisations find the specific expertise that the RVC can bring to the table to be particularly attractive. The fact that they are surprised, as well as pleased, that we want to work with them is illustrative of how far in advance of others we might be, of how great the need for universities to work in communities and society in general is and of the high regard in which our own institution is held.

College life

November 2007

The RVC makes its submission to the Research Assessment Exercise 2001-07. The results published by the Times Higher Education confirm the RVC as the leading veterinary school for research in the UK.

	RVC	Glasgow	Edinburgh	Cambridge	Liverpool	Bristol
2008 average	2.50	2.50	2.45	2.40	2.40	2.25
% of 4* research activity	10	5	20	5	5	0
Number of staff submitted	103	75	107	39	63	55

NB results published in December 2008

February 2008

Dirk Pfeiffer and colleagues are announced as winners of the George Fleming Prize, awarded by The Veterinary Journal for their article 'An analysis of the spatial and temporal patterns of highly pathogenic avian influenza occurrence in Vietnam using national surveillance data'

February 2008

RVC students form the first European chapter of the Veterinary Business Management Association (VBMA), which goes on to have a hugely successful first year of activity

March 2008

The RVC Women's Rugby team end the season unbeaten, winning promotion in their ULU league

May 2008

The RVC annual Open Day attracts over 1,200 visitors from across the UK

June 2008

The RVC Summer Party is attended by over 700 staff, who compete in an 'It's a Knockout' style tournament





June 2008

A two-day Alumni Reunion is held at the Hawkshead Campus to mark the 50th anniversary of the Hertfordshire site

June 2008

The Graduate Diploma in Professional and Clinical Veterinary Nursing is launched at the College with the first cohort of students enrolling

July 2008

The first MSc Veterinary Physiotherapy Open Day is held at Hawkshead, attracting over 60 prospective students

July 2008

Students from various courses graduate at the RVC Graduation Ceremony, held at Logan Hall in Central London

July 2008

Business Development lead the coordination of a Pfizer Animal Health sponsored exchange visit to 5 Mid-West vet schools, with two RVC 2nd year BVetMed students and Dr Jim Gazzard attending

August 2008

The ACT, in conjunction with a team of QMH nurses, hold a Charity Fun Dog Show at Hawkshead, featuring 18 competition classes alongside several stalls and activities

September 2008

Professor Joe Brownlie is presented with the Dalrymple-Champneys Cup and Medal for 2008 in recognition of his long and outstanding services to veterinary science

September 2008

11 students enrol on the new four-year BSc (Hons) Veterinary Nursing course at the RVC

October 2008

The RVC holds its first Autumn Graduation Ceremony at the Camden Campus

November 2008

The RVC holds its first Veterinary Nursing short-course programme in Hong Kong, which runs over a two week period and attracts over 70 students

November 2008

The newly redeveloped Queen Mother Hospital is officially opened by Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Cornwall

Harnessing talent

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Graham Milligan

Graham Milligan MA Vet MB MRCVS, was recently appointed as Director of the Clinical Services Division at the RVC, bringing almost twenty years of commercial experience to the role.

Following a long-held ambition to become a vet, Graham gained an entrance scholarship to Emmanuel College Cambridge, and qualified from the Veterinary School in 1985. After three years spent in predominantly small animal practice in Essex, where he pursued an interest in radiology and radiography, in 1989 he joined a small animal nutrition company to explore the potential of a career in industry.

He started as a Professional Services Representative with Hill's Pet Nutrition, providing technical and practice development support to veterinary practices across the North and Midlands, and took on roles of increasing responsibility in marketing and management, being promoted to European Marketing Manager.

In 1995 he moved with his family to company Head Quarters in Kansas to head the professional marketing (business to business) team for the Prescription Diet brand. Returning to the UK as Director of Marketing and then Director of Sales for the company's veterinary business across Europe, the Middle East and Africa, added senior executive experience in a global company.

At the RVC Graham will be responsible for over 150 people, employed in the Clinical Services Division (CSD) to manage the varied clinical caseload and practice facilities which enable the College to fulfil its combined roles of teaching, service and research. As Director he will lead in the development and delivery of a five year strategic plan that ensures the provision of a growing and varied caseload, and meets ambitious financial goals. Clinical income from CSD facilities contributes around a fifth of the RVC's annual revenue.

Key areas of focus for CSD are the provision of the right mix of services across the species accessed through state-of-the-art facilities and delivering the highest standards of care. Graham believes that it is important to remember that reputation means everything, so professional service and customer focus are critical factors for success, and that every member of the College has a role to play as an ambassador for what we do.

Financial discipline, strategic partnership and building teams are critical to the success of the Division, with a passion for animal health and welfare at the core of its strategy.



Reverend Philippa Turner

The Reverend Philippa (Pippa) Turner arrived at the RVC in April 2008 to take up the post of Chaplain to the College, a position which is shared between the RVC and the UCL Medical School.

Having been brought up and educated in England, reading Theology at Durham University and volunteering in Zimbabwe and Malawi during her gap year, Pippa went to the States for graduate work at the Yale Divinity School, and remained there, primarily in New York City, for the next twenty-two years. She trained as a Hospital Chaplain and became the first Chaplain to the Program for Children with AIDS at the New York Hospital-Cornell Medical Center whilst also preparing for Holy Orders and working in a parish. She was ordained a priest in 1995 and became Associate at Church of the Heavenly Rest, a large Manhattan parish where she remained for over twelve years, with oversight for all Children and Youth Ministries and the entire Pastoral Care Program. Active on a Diocesan and community level, she also became deeply involved after 9/11, volunteering her time at the temporary morgue of the World Trade Center site, blessing human remains and ministering to the Recovery workers until the pit was closed nine months later.

As Chaplain to the RVC, her role is to offer pastoral care to all students and staff, regardless of their belief; to be a religious and spiritual resource, and to support and promote fellowship and community within the College campuses. To that end she is available for those who wish to share any matter, be it personal, spiritual or ethical in nature and for support regarding any issue. She also sponsors various forums, both within and outside the College which promote discourse and a space to listen to, learn from and understand one another. She oversees various seasonal ceremonies and activities, such as the Autumn Service, Remembrance Day, Carolling and Lenten programs; and sponsors opportunities for building fellowship, be it social

gatherings or activities in response to ethical or social justice issues. In helping to foster community, she also envisions forums to discuss topics of interest ranging from the personal to the global, from ethical to social.

She oversees the Prayer and Quiet Rooms in Camden and at Hawkshead which are available for all members of the community to use for their spiritual nourishment.

Pippa believes it to be important that such a venerated and vital place of training and research in veterinary sciences have a Chaplain, recognising not only the spiritual element of life but also the stresses and challenges put upon those in this field which call upon many resources to respond to the emotional, spiritual, physical and ethical issues which are part and parcel of this exciting but challenging and competitive milieu.



Christine Thuranira-McKeever

Christine Thuranira-McKeever is the RVC's new Director of Distance Learning Programmes. Christine graduated from the University of Kent in Canterbury and went on to read for a Masters degree in Development Economics at the University of Manchester, in 1995. She moved to the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) in Nairobi and Addis Ababa, and worked there for a number of years before leaving to undertake a PhD at the University of Edinburgh's Centre for Tropical Veterinary Medicine. Her research focused on the costs of livestock disease to small holder farmers in western Kenya and the socio-economic

factors influencing smallholders' ability to productively keep livestock. The broader aspects of this work included issues of market access for smallholder farmers, international trade in primary products, and ultimately the effects of government's agricultural and animal health policy on the livelihoods of smallholder farmers.

After completing her PhD, Christine worked as a research associate for a DFID-funded Animal Health Programme, based at the University of Edinburgh. This was a competitive grants programme that funded research into animal health issues in the developing world. During her time at Edinburgh University, Christine was also involved in teaching undergraduate students. Her research interests remain in the field of international development, mainly from a livestock and agriculture perspective.

Christine believes that distance learning has a prominent place in the College's future and her main goal is to broaden and diversify the RVC's Distance Learning Programme so it includes an even greater number of high quality courses and has a wider reach to students world-wide.



Beckie Knight

Beckie Knight, our new Widening Participation Development Officer, joined the RVC in July 2008 after achieving success in a similar role at Lancaster University. Beckie graduated from the University of Warwick in 2005 with a BA (Hons) in English Literature and Creative Writing, before moving on to complete an MA in English at the University of Guelph in Canada.

During her time at Lancaster University, Beckie was responsible for the creation, development and implementation of the Transitions skills program, an innovative series of activities designed to enhance the English, Maths and IT skills of senior school students in preparation for entry into HE. The project was the first of its kind in the UK and has since been rolled out across Cumbria, Lancashire and into the Merseyside area. As coordinator for the vocational and work-based learners WP portfolio at Lancaster, she also won funds to develop interactive advice and guidance.

Coming from a widening participation background herself, Beckie is passionate about helping young people achieve their potential and also has a keen interest in working with vocational and work-based learners. She will be working in collaboration with the VETNET Lifelong Learning Network to ensure that the RVC attracts the best and brightest students from all backgrounds.



Changing roles

Ayona Silva-Fletcher

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After a six-year period as the Director of Distance Learning, Ayona has recently moved to LIVE to take a role in the development of a new MSc in Veterinary Education. During her time at the RVC to date, Ayona has played a major role in expanding the Distance Learning programme with the development of a new MSc and a short course framework.

Ayona graduated in veterinary medicine from the University of Peradeniya in Sri Lanka before completing an MSc in Animal Nutrition and a PhD on Ruminant Digestion at the University of Aberdeen. After her postgraduate studies Ayona returned to Sri Lanka and worked as a lecturer in Animal Nutrition at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Science at the University of Peradeniya and was involved in a project on water buffalo. Following this Ayona spent several years in post-doctoral and teaching appointments at the University of London (Royal Postgraduate Medical School), University of Leiden, the Netherlands and finally at the Open University in Milton Keynes. Ayona is a Fellow of the Centre for Distance Education and is passionate about Distance Education and the international outreach of the RVC to the wider veterinary community.

In her new role she is hoping to develop a successful MSc programme targeted at all those who teach and train veterinary and para-veterinary professionals, alongside developing a research programme in Veterinary Education. Ayona believes that to be a successful educational institute it is necessary to develop the teachers and maintain a community of practice.



Neil Stickland

Neil Stickland graduated in Zoology with Physiology from Bedford College, University of London in 1970. He then moved to Hull where he gained a PhD in porcine muscle growth.

His lecturing career started in 1974 as Lecturer in Veterinary Anatomy at the University of Nairobi, Kenya where he spent three years before moving to the Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies in Edinburgh. During his Edinburgh appointment he spent sabbatical periods of one year at Tufts University, Boston and two months at the University of Morogoro, Tanzania where he helped to set up Veterinary Anatomy teaching.

In 1984 he took up a position as Senior Lecturer in Anatomy at the RVC. He was promoted to a Chair in 1994 and has previously been Head of Department and Vice Principal for Research. He has contributed to a number of books and has over 100 scientific publications on the development and growth of skeletal muscle.

In October 2008, Professor Stickland was appointed as Head of Veterinary Basic Sciences at the RVC, leading the department in its broad range of teaching and research activities.



Sue Gregory

Sue Gregory qualified from the Royal Veterinary College in 1985. She spent the first six months in small animal practice before spending three years in the Department of Veterinary Surgery, University of Bristol as a Junior Fellow in Surgery. During that period she gained the RCVS Certificate and Diploma in Veterinary Radiology. Sue then spent six months as a temporary resident in small animal surgery at Cambridge University before returning to Bristol to do a PhD in the Department

of Surgery. Sue later moved back to the Royal Veterinary College when she was appointed as a Lecturer in Small Animal Surgery in 1992. She has remained there since, gaining the RCVS Diploma in Small Animal Surgery (soft tissue) in 1996, becoming a fellow of the Higher Education Academy and an RCVS specialist in small animal (soft tissue) surgery. Sue became a Senior Lecturer in 2001 and has just been appointed to the new chair in Veterinary Nursing. Her main clinical interests are urogenital tract, gastrointestinal tract and ENT surgery in dogs and cats. Other interests are preventing hospital acquired infections and teaching and learning in veterinary education.

On 1 November 2008, Sue started her role as Professor of Veterinary Nursing (we believe to be the world's first Professor of Veterinary Nursing). Sue will be leading the strategic development of veterinary nursing education within the collegiate, national and international arena. She will play an important leadership role in extending the Department's performance in teaching, clinical expertise and research in veterinary nursing. Sue will continue to undertake an active role in teaching and will be contributing to the College's educational and support programmes for veterinary nursing.



Lynne Hill (left) receiving the Betts Prize from Mrs Jane Betts



Lynne Hill

Lynne Hill, Director of the Clinical Services Division, left the RVC in February 2008 to take up a challenging new role at the University of Bristol. Lynne joined the RVC in 1998 as Director of The Queen Mother Hospital for Animals, bringing with her a wealth of previous experience from general veterinary practice, commercial business development and as past President of BSAVA.

After turning around a hospital in financial deficit to one in surplus it was only a short time before Lynne's flair for developing excellent clinical services was extended to incorporate the Beaumont Animals' Hospital and on being appointed Director of the newly formed Clinical Services Division in 2003, the Equine Referral Hospital, Equine & Farm Animal Practices as well as the Clinical Diagnostic Laboratories. Under Lynne's strong leadership the Division quickly made great strides in improving the quality and range of clinical services offered, resulting in a very strong financial position and enhanced reputation. Lynne's boundless energy, positivity and drive for success instilled a great team spirit within CSD and a desire by all to make the RVC's clinical services the envy of all other UK veterinary schools. This was achieved and CSD has been the flagship for clinical services that other organisations aspire to.

As well as heading CSD, Lynne also taught veterinary undergraduates in business management, completed an MBA at the London Business School and was elected as a member of RCVS Council in 1999. Lynne chaired the RCVS Advisory Committee and served on its Education, Veterinary Nursing, Finance and General Purpose, External Affairs and Preliminary investigation Committees. She also led the Practice Standards Working Party.

In July 2005 Lynne was invested as the new President of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (only the fourth woman to hold this office since the RCVS was established in 1844). Lynne continues as an RCVS Council Member working on behalf of the profession.

In October 2008 Lynne received The Betts Prize alongside Professor David Church, in recognition of their remarkable co-operation in establishing the Department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences and The Queen Mother Hospital for Animals as a powerhouse of veterinary clinical service, training and education.

Lynne has contributed enormously in numerous ways to the College during the last ten years and was a loyal and popular colleague. We wish her well in her new role.

In tribute

Professor Emeritus Leslie Vaughan

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Professor Emeritus Leslie Vaughan served the RVC for 59 years and was instrumental in much of the progress achieved by the College during his long and extraordinary career.

Leslie qualified from the RVC in July 1949 and joined the academic staff as a Houseman in the Department of Surgery and Obstetrics. He was awarded a personal chair in 1972 as Professor of Veterinary Orthopaedics and his talent for small and large animal surgery earned him an international reputation. Leslie became Head of the Surgery and Obstetrics Department in 1974 and helped to make it the most successful veterinary clinical department in the UK at the time. He was Vice Principal of the College from 1982 to 1991 and was the driving force behind the establishment and development of the Queen Mother Hospital.

Despite officially retiring in 1991, it was not until late 2007 when Professor Vaughan finally finished working on small animal orthopaedic cases referred to the Queen Mother Hospital. He also continued his passionate support of the work of the Animal Care Trust. Although Professor Vaughan was involved in teaching elements of both undergraduate and postgraduate provision during this time, he refused to claim payment for his services, insisting instead that his fees be donated to support further development of the QMH.

As part of his long and distinguished career, Professor Vaughan also served as President of the RCVS from 1987-88.

‘Leslie Vaughan had an international reputation in veterinary orthopaedics, both as a clinician and a researcher, that included small animal, equine and even farm animal species,’ comments Dr Jerry Davies, RCVS Treasurer and former colleague of Professor Vaughan.

‘Those remarkable achievements were equalled by his skills as a teacher. He had an ability to instill in his students the fundamental principles of diagnosis where meticulous clinical observation and examination must precede the careful selection of adjunct investigations such as radiography and laboratory testing.

‘The extraordinary number of veterinary surgeons, both past and present, that will have benefited from his teaching over no less than 58 years will never be surpassed.’

Fittingly, the new operating suite in the recently expanded and redeveloped Queen Mother Hospital now takes Professor Vaughan’s name, in recognition of his invaluable contribution to the Royal Veterinary College and the establishment of the QMH in particular. A portrait of Professor Vaughan was unveiled at the official opening of the new phase of the hospital.

All connected with the RVC were saddened to hear of his death, following a short illness, on 14 November 2008. The College extends its sincere condolences to his wife, Margaret, and his children and grandchildren.

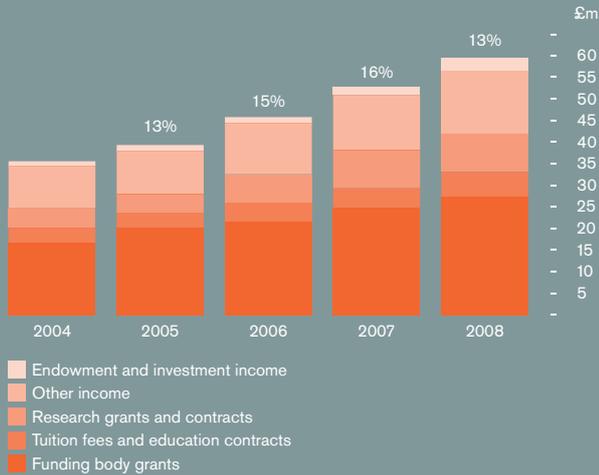


The Royal Veterinary College
 Financial Year Ended 31 July 2008
 Income and Expenditure Account

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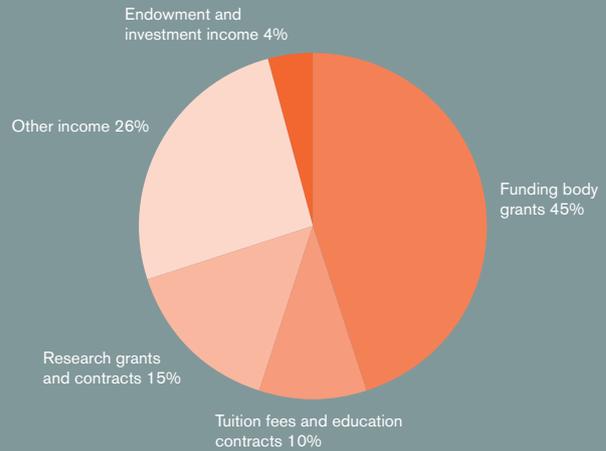
1 Turnover has increased by £6.9m (13%).

Total income for 5 years plus percentage increase



2 Income from Funding Council grants has increased by £3.1m and represents 45% of Total Income (46%, 2006-07; 47%, 2005-06; 50%, 2004-05).

2007-08 Income



3 Income from Research Grants and Contracts has, as forecast, stabilised at £8.5m, following rapid growth over previous years.

4 Income from Other Operating Income has increased by £1.6m (8%) as a result of increased activity in the small animal and equine hospitals. LBIC and the BSU have also performed well.

On target

The Royal Veterinary College Financial Year Ended 31 July 2008 Balance Sheet

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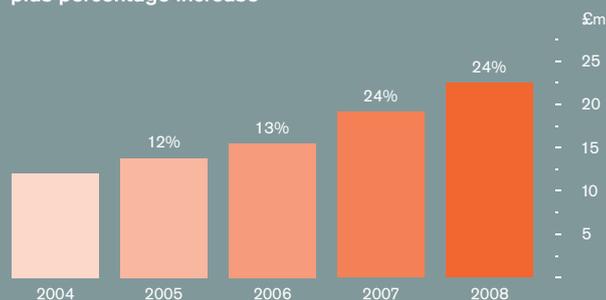
5 Staff costs have increased by £4.0m (14%) as a result of additional recruitment to support increased teaching, research and clinical activity. Staff costs have also risen due to pay awards and incremental progression.

6 Other operating expenses have increased by £3.7m (24%). One-off expenses accounted for almost 25% of the total increase. Other key changes reflected the increased activity in clinical services, educational expenditure, consultancy and payments to partners. In addition, utility charges went up by 21%.

7 Depreciation has increased by £290k (10%).

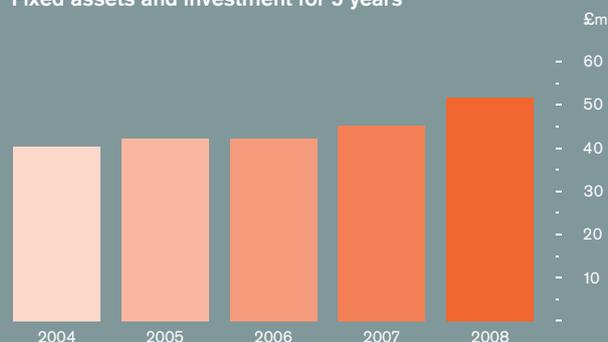
8 The surplus from continuing operations for the year is £416k (0.7%) of turnover.

Other operating expenses for 5 years plus percentage increase



9 Expenditure on additions and improvements to the estate has been £9.5m. The majority of this figure was spent on QMH Phase 3 and Zoonotics. A new requirement this year was to classify 'Heritage Assets'. Assets of this type have been recognised with a total value of £1.3m.

Fixed assets and investment for 5 years



10 Total donations and legacies received by the College and Animal Care Trust during the year was £0.9m (£1.1m 2006-07). In May 2008 a proportion of the endowment assets held were converted from equities to cash, resulting in a profit on disposal of £1.1m. Volatility in the financial markets since that time unfortunately resulted in a loss in endowment asset value of £1.8m. Following the introduction of the new accounting SORP, £2.2m of endowment funds have been reclassified as deferred capital grants.

11 Long term liabilities and provisions have increased to £8.0m (£7.4m 2006-07), due mainly to a provision for taxation.

12 The Group is now holding £27.7m in deferred capital grants (£24.1m 2006-07). These are released over the life of the assets funded to offset depreciation charges.

13 A net cash inflow for the year of £2.9m helped to enhance cash and investment balances at the year end to £9.8m.

Fuelling activity

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The Development Office seeks financial and other support from alumni, friends, donors, trusts and companies to support the College's ambitious plans and the many investments it makes to develop its facilities, scholarships and activities. The Office also administers the Animal Care Trust, a charity that was set up initially to raise funds for the Queen Mother Hospital but now for the full spectrum of the RVC's work.

Grants from the ACT were particularly high during the year:

- The largest grant was of £543K to the Queen Mother Hospital towards the costs of fitting and equipping its new wing. This is the first of a number of grants using funds raised through our successful Paws for a Cause campaign which is now drawing to its conclusion as the new hospital wing comes into full operation. Further grants will be made in 2008-09.
- £31K was granted to the Beaumont Animals' Hospital for a variety of equipment, including a new ultrasound machine and kennelling for a new ward. The Beaumont is the Royal Veterinary College's first opinion veterinary practice situated in Camden, North London. It has a tradition dating back to the 1930s for providing low-cost and high quality veterinary care in one of the less economically buoyant areas of London. It also undertakes a range of charity work with other well-known charities, for example to promote welfare by ensuring that stray cat populations are neutered.
- Grants totalling £21K were made to the Equine Hospital which helped it purchase new scintigraphy equipment. Scintigraphy is a means of imaging bones so that disease can be detected and understood at a very early stage. It is particularly useful in the diagnosis of stress fractures in horses, and cancer in small animals.
- A grant of just over £9K was made to purchase books for the Royal Veterinary College's Learning Resource Centre for use by the College's 1,700 students. This is funding an experimental rapid-rotation scheme to solve the problem of having high demand for certain texts at particular times of the year. Veterinary textbooks are often very expensive and we are keen to support their provision in order to ensure that all students can access the books that they need, whether or not they can afford the purchase of these crucial texts. This grant was funded by donations from our alumni, to whom we are very grateful.
- Finally, we funded seven PhD scholarships at a total cost of £117K progressing research in a variety of veterinary fields, including: animal locomotion, drug resistance, spongiform encephalopathies, pituitary cell function and tumour development, and arthritis.

All of this is only possible because of the continued generosity of our many donors and legators. The Trustees acknowledge that all of the work we are able to fund is solely possibly through their support.

Looking forward, we are excited by the College's considerable development plans and look forward to supporting these plans through our fundraising work. Over many years now the College has diversified its sources of income and so diluted its exposure to the risks that will arise during times of economic uncertainty. Whilst the College is very well-placed as a result, this economic uncertainty is lending further emphasis to the value and contribution of the many generous donations that make our work possible.

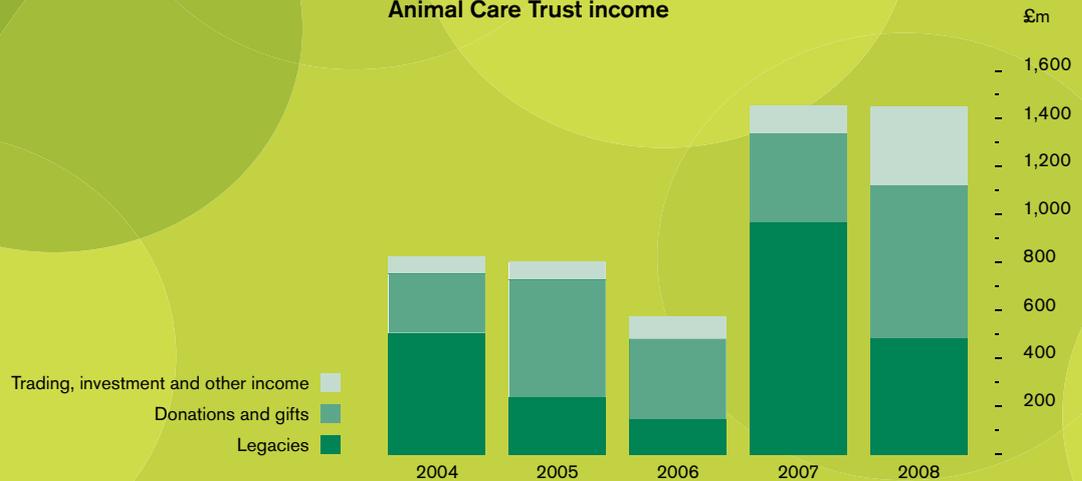
We are delighted that our participation in the Government's Matched Funding scheme will mean that from 2008 donations will attract a 33% matching contribution. Not only will this significantly boost our income but it will encourage more and more of our friends and alumni to support our work.

The College will make uninterrupted progress, but we need all of our friends more than ever. We are grateful to you all.

If you would like to know more about how you can support our work, please visit www.rvc.ac.uk/act

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

Animal Care Trust income



Governance

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Patron

His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh
KG KT OM GBE

The Council, under the terms of the Revised
Charter and Statutes, approved by The Privy
Council, November 2007(as at 31 July 2008)

The Officers of the Council

Chairman

The Rt Hon the Baroness Shephard
of Northwold JP 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 PC MP

Royal Society

Professor P M Biggs CBE FRS DSc
DVM FRCVS FRCPath FIBiol

Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons

R Green BVetMed MRCVS

British Veterinary Association

E A Chandler BVetMed FRCVS

Independent Members

Professor J C Milne BVetMed MRCVS

Brigadier P D Orchard-Lisle CBE TD DL LLD (hc)
DSc (hc) MA FRICS

Academic Board of the College

Professor J Price PhD BVSc BSc

Professor A N Rycroft BSc PhD CBiol
FIBiol FRCPath

Members co-opted by the Council

The Rt Hon the Baroness Shephard
of Northwold JP DL

J H Chatfeild-Roberts BA

I B Flanagan OBE FRICS

Mr B Stileman

Ex-Officio

Professor Q A McKellar BVMS PhD DVM
DipECVPT CBiol FIBiol FRAGS MRCVS FRSE
Principal

Professor J Elliott MA VetMB PhD CertSAC
DipECVPT MRCVS
Vice-Principal(Research)

Prof C R Howard BSc MSc PhD DSc FRCPath FIBiol
Vice-Principal(Strategic Development)

Prof S A May MA VetMB PhD DVR DEO
FRCVS DipECVS
Vice-Principal(Teaching)

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)

The Most Hon The Marquess of Salisbury
PC DL (2007)

Honorary Fellows

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 2008

Corporate governance

for the year ended 31 July 2008

- 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. The latest amendments to the Charter and Statutes were approved by The Privy Council November 2007.
- 4 The Charter and Statutes require that the governance of the College shall be vested in the Council. 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 and General Purposes Committee, the Audit Committee, the Nominations and Fellowships 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.

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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: Andrew Crook and students

