



Centre for Veterinary Epidemiological Research
Annual general Meeting
AVC 280N
January 7, 2015
10:30 a.m.

Attendees:

Dr. J. VanLeeuwen	Dr. E. Laurin
Dr. J. Christenson	Dr. J. McClure
Dr. M. Cockram	Joan Marks
Dr. J. Davidson	Dr. K. Singh
Dr. I. Gardner	Dr. S. St. Hilaire
Dr. L. Hammell	Dr. H. Stryhn
Dr. G. Keefe	Dr. R. Vanderstichel

Meeting called to order at 10:30 a.m. by Dr. John VanLeeuwen. Noted to attendees that this is the 2014 AGM – due to scheduling it could not be held earlier. The 2015 AGM will be held later this year.

Announcements/Congratulations:

Shauna Richards – NSERC award and ongoing stipend
Babafela Awosile – ITRAP food safety training award
Raph Vanderstichel – congratulations on Research Scientist appointment
Emilie Laurin – congratulations on CERC post doc appointment

Welcome to new members:

Babafela Awosile, Niorn Ratanapob, Teri McComber. Nora Biermann,

Approval of agenda:

MOVED: J. Davidson
SECONDED: S. St. Hilaire
APPROVED

Approval of previous minutes of November 8, 2013: One section was duplicated and has been corrected.

MOVED: J. Davidson
SECONDED: S. St. Hilaire
APPROVED

New Business

1. Graduate students in epidemiology

- a. Continued downturn in graduate student numbers in Epi I/II is making inefficient use of instructor time, and no “community” for group learning/teaching. Suggestions to rectify the problem include:
- i. Promote Epi to rest of campus. Currently no support (attendees) from other faculties – used to have some, perhaps not promoting it enough.
 - ii. Promote Epi to rest of AVC. Time is an issue for interns and residents – some potential students interested but have no time. Try to change the mindset of department chairs and faculty – need to make time for students to attend.
 - iii. Push for more research projects funded through agencies that allow grad students within CVER faculty – AIF rules have changed to disallow grad student funding
 - iv. Push for utilization of graduate students when they are the most appropriate means for getting research done – recent preference among some CVER faculty members to utilize post-docs rather than graduate students
 - v. Push for GSR stipends. AVC Scholarship not run in 2014. GSR asked Dean’s office if it will run scholarship program in 2015 but no feedback to date (Dean’s council issue). GSR has no funding of its own and is currently not represented on Dean’s council with the abolishment of the Associate Dean GSR position in 2014.
 - vi. Look for combinations of funding to build a complete and competitive grad student stipend – NSERC grad salaries low, especially for DVM – takes effort to combine sources but industry and government funds often possible
 - vii. Offer partial credit option for some students, if rest of course is not relevant.
 - viii. Online possibilities.
 - ix. Move CVER allocations to HM trust fund to be managed there. Discussion of percentage (voluntary or mandatory to be determined) to go to funding grad student – would require HM Department discussion. Details of students can be worked out but funding should be organized asap. Some concerns of potential for bias – how to judge if student is epi? Consider including an amount in budget to cover maternity and/or sick leave for student (4-5 months’ pay recommended for buffer).

MOVED: Dr. L. Hammell
CVER propose to Health Management Department meeting that a strategy to equitably allocate funds to support graduate students be developed as part of a strategy to merge CVER funds with Health Management Trust Fund.

SECONDED: I. Gardner

APPROVED

2. Plans for staff support for CERC and CVER in 2015

- a. In the past, CRVNet had funding to pay for admin support. CERC paid admin support last year but will not continue. CVER to determine best plan to provide support. Perhaps pay hourly rate for actual needs.

3. CVER accounts clean-up and limited use

- a. CVER will only be used to handle Epi-on-the-Island and CAVEPM expenses. Joan Masterson reconciled account - \$4500 deficit. CVER will use \$3125 allocated to Toft and a small percentage off everyone’s allocation to cover deficit.

ACTION: John and Joan Marks to administer.

4. CVER coffee socials – continue in 2015? Changes?
 - a. Some discussion of day of week and presentations mixed with social. Sometimes presentations are crowded. Try coffee upstairs and move presentations to another room. Needs better promotion of presentations. Separate presentations may increase attendance.
ACTION: John to circulate doodle polls to determine best day and approval of separation of presentations.
5. Epi on the Island in 2015 – update on plans
 - a. Epi-on-the-Island will again be run this summer, probably July (dates will depend on speaker availability). Offering 2 courses, one of survival analysis (local instructors) and other to be determined, maybe time series. Looking at previous topics.
6. ISVEE – who is going? Submitting abstracts?
 - a. ISVEE in Mexico the first week of November. Two calls for abstracts – the latest will be end of March. Nothing will be accepted after that date. Attending: J. VanLeeuwen + 1 student, G. Keefe + 2 students, R. Vanderstichel, maybe others.
7. Other items from members
 - a. UPEI Presidential review – discussion of group submission. Comments will be solicited, individuals sign onto one letter.
ACTION: L. Hammell to send email to group to submit comments. J. McClure, H. Stryhn to assist with review/edit of comments.
 - b. Reports – all to submit for annual report.
ACTION: J. VanLeeuwen to circulate last year’s annual report to all for reference.

Updates on centres, groups, and projects

- a) CERC
- b) CAHS
- c) CRVNet
- d) MQM
- e) Shellfish Research Group
- f) Sir James Dunn Animal Welfare Centre
- g) Kenya Research Group

CVER Steering Committee members continue:

Current group is listed and will stay the same.

Meeting adjourned at 12:08 p.m.