



# VPA NEWS



## EDITORIAL

This is the first edition of what we anticipate being a quarterly newsletter for the newly launched Veterinary Pharmacy Association. It will be for all professional veterinary care providers.

The idea is to provide a mix of news and views of interest to all our members and some articles that may help towards satisfying professional CPD requirements. We will also be looking at various consultative documents from the VMD. There will definitely be coverage from our international colleagues too! Maybe even some letters. It will take some time to establish the content so 'thank you for your patience' while we get our act together!

Like editors everywhere I start with a plea! It will only work if you, dear reader, get involved! So, if you have anything that you would like to share with your colleagues, please send it over to me. Do not worry how it looks - I will happily format it for you.

In this edition, you will find coverage of the VPA launch, Harper Adams University Graduation at which our students did so well, (and to whom we offer our warmest congratulations). How pleasing to hear the encouraging remarks from the Vice Chancellor! There is a feature on one of our graduates and some information on a vaccine for Lyme Disease, a zoonotic condition that has been receiving much media attention. Checkout our website – [www.vpa.education](http://www.vpa.education) - it should be fully operational soon.

SBK

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## VPA launches

*At a dinner held on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> September during the first residential week of the Veterinary Pharmacy MSc/pgDiploma programme at Harper Adams University, the multidisciplinary Veterinary Pharmacy Association was launched. It will seek to support all veterinary health providers involved with the provision and use of veterinary pharmacy services.*

Dr Steven Kayne, Professional Director of the Veterinary Pharmacy Courses offered by Harper Adams University, introduced the guests. They included Mr Carwyn Ellis, Head of Animal Production, Welfare and Veterinary Sciences at HAU, Dr Michael Jepson who was responsible for the RPSGB Diploma course from its inception in 1981, and Dr Sarah Cockbill, who was a member of the second cohort of the original RPSGB course and was associated with the current course during its transitional years.

Dr Kayne thanked Mr Ellis for the valuable support that had



been given to the veterinary pharmacy programme. He responded by offering congratulations on the VPA launch and said, "The University is delighted to be associated with the Veterinary Pharmacy Association. I welcome the fact that VPA support will be available to all veterinary health providers involved in the production and supply of veterinary medicinal products." Rob Morris, Chair of the RPS Veterinary Pharmacy Forum said, "The new VPA plans to be a very influential in all of this because it will encourage pharmacists and both allied professionals (including vets) to join and promote excellence in veterinary pharmacy practice at all levels"

The Association was formally launched by Dr Jepson.

## Harper Adams VC welcomes collaboration with VPA



### Harper Adams University

In his opening address, at the Graduation Ceremony at Harper Adams University on 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2017 the Vice-Chancellor Dr David Llewellyn made detailed reference to the recent launch of the Veterinary Pharmacy Association, The welcoming the continued partnership between Harper Adams University and his the

Conferment of the awards of PgC, PgD and MSc to our sixth cohort of Veterinary Pharmacy students was made by Adam Henson, of the BBC's Countryfile Show, The Duke of Buccleuch, and to reflect the exciting new Veterinary School development at Harper Adams, the TV vet Cat Henstridge.

Our graduates reflect the international acknowledgment of the veterinary pharmacy provision at Harper Adams and represent a broad range of associated career paths, including employment with veterinary practice, academia, and animal health research and development.

AZP

*Harper Adams has offered its unique Veterinary Pharmacy qualifications since 2009. Veterinary pharmacists, SQPs, veterinary nurses and veterinary science graduates from the UK and overseas have completed the courses successfully. The first MSc was awarded to Michael Thomason in*

## Graduation at HAU - a day to remember!



**Dr Alison Pyatt**, Senior Lecturer Animal Science at Harper Adams has graduated with a PhD with a thesis entitled 'Service provision in the animal health sector'. The contribution made by Veterinary Pharmacists and SQPs. was investigated. Alison has been Course Manager for the Veterinary Pharmacy programme offered by Harpers since the University took it over in 2009. A keen horsewoman, she lists among her interests 'drinking red wine and sitting in the sun.' Living as she does in rural Shropshire there are no prizes for guessing which is the more likely!

**Congratulations to the following who also received their awards"**

MSc Caroline Best (with Distinction), Alice Geddes(with Merit)

PgD Martin Bennett, Vetja Haakuria (Namibia).

PgC Amit Kauhsik, Vivek Sharma





## Profile

# Caroline Best

Caroline recently graduated from HAU with an MSc in Veterinary Pharmacy *with distinction*. She is now moving on to study for a PhD. In this article she traces her journey to where she is right now...

I was brought up on a mixed (but predominantly dairy) farm in the Cotswolds. I have always loved being on the farm and still play an active role on the family farm to this date.

I graduated from Cardiff University in 2011 with a BSc Zoology, awarded 2:1. I chose to study Zoology as I wanted to enroll onto Veterinary Science after my degree, through the graduate entry scheme. Although I did aspire to be a vet, my plans changed through university, as I gained a real enthusiasm for research, particularly in the lab. Since graduation, I have been working in the animal health laboratory setting, and most recently, in human neuroscience as a research technician.

In 2013, I embarked on the part-time MSc Veterinary Pharmacy course. I chose to study this, as my main drive was to work in animal health research and I eventually wanted to complete a PhD in farm animal research. Although at the time I didn't know the specifics of my future Masters Research Project, I wanted it to be lameness related, since lameness is a major economic and welfare concern in sheep and cattle and an interest of mine.

I was very lucky to have such a supportive and passionate supervisor for my Masters Research Project, Kate Phillips, who is an expert in the sheep field. Since graduation, I have been working closely with Kate and colleagues at Harper Adams and other institutions in putting together a formal PhD studentship proposal. This PhD proposal is an extension of my Masters Research Project, which was titled "An investigation into the factors affecting hoof shape, size and integrity in breeding rams". During the next few months, I will be applying for studentship calls and research grants, in a bid to begin my PhD journey in October 2018 at Harper Adams.

In the meantime, I will be continuing my neuroscience research technician position and gaining valuable research experience

I was the only non-pharmacist in my cohort at Harper Adams and did originally feel very much out of my depth. This did drive me to study harder and I soon felt on par with other students. I am happy to now see that the course is a mixture of pharmacists and non-pharmacists.

## Reports from the media

### *Eye worm 'could spread to UK'*

An eye infection caused by a parasitic worm increasingly common in mainland Europe could spread to the UK, pet owners are being warned. The disease, *Thelazia callipaeda* or oriental eye worm, is transmitted by a type of fruit-fly that lands on the eyes and deposits infective larvae. The flies tend to be found in areas of oak woodland during warmer months. Cats, dogs and people catch it from the flies, which feed on eye secretions. Infected animals show a variety of symptoms, from mild conjunctivitis (pink eye) to severe corneal ulceration, which, if untreated, can lead to blindness.

There have been three recent canine cases reported in the UK, but the animals had been imported from abroad. One had been brought to the UK from Romania. The other two had recently travelled to mainland Europe with their owners. All made a full recovery following drug treatment and eye washes to flush out the adult worms. Britain has the same type of fruit-fly - *Phortica variegata* - and the concern is these could become infected and then spread the condition to people and animals in the UK, says veterinary expert John Graham-Brown, from Liverpool University, in the Veterinary Record. *BBC News 19 Sept2017*

### *A vaccination that can help to prevent against Lyme Disease*

For the past four years it has been possible to vaccinate dogs against Lyme disease, the infection caught from a contaminated tick

bite, but the same protection has not been available for humans. However, scientists at the University of Massachusetts Medical School in Boston have now developed a jab that, during tests on mice, was 100 per cent effective – completely halting the transmission of infection-causing bacteria from ticks into the bloodstream. They plan to run human trials over the next two to three years. Although labelled a ‘vaccine’, the new jab does not work like normal inoculations – which prime the immune system to recognise a virus or bacteria as foreign by exposing it to tiny amounts of the bug itself *Read more at this link:*

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/health/article-4918824/A-vaccination-jab-help-prevent-Lyme-Disease.html#ixzz4ttPUKtl>

### *Illegal pet trade in Indonesia*

The increasing demand for exotic and endangered species for pets continues to give concern world-wide. Officials in West Sumatra, Indonesia, rescued nine slow lorises from being



sold on the illegal pet market. All species of slow lorises are protected by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species and by local laws in

southern Asia and are classified ‘critically endangered’. They are sensitive, nocturnal animals that don't fare well in captivity and often undergo a painful and potentially fatal procedure to remove their sharp teeth before being sold on the black market. In addition to the pet trade, they face threats from poaching and habitat loss. The rescued nine will eventually be released into the wild after undergoing rehabilitation. *National Geographic*

## VPA honours Dr Michael Jepson

The VPA is delighted to announce that its first Honorary Fellowship has been awarded to **Dr Michael Jepson** of Birmingham for his tireless work associated with promoting veterinary pharmacy over four decades.



Dr Sarah Cockrill says “Dr Michael Jepson was the first Course Director of the Diploma in Agricultural & Veterinary Pharmacy, the only academic course for which the RPSGB awarded recognised post nominals, when it was first established in 1980. He was a Member of the RPSGB's Veterinary Pharmacy Group Committee until 2010. He served for 8 years on the VMD's Veterinary Products Committee, which is responsible for the ‘quality, safety & efficacy’ of veterinary medicines. Dr Steven Kayne adds “I have known Michael for more than 50 years as a teacher, colleague but most of all as a good friend. He ran the RPSGB Veterinary Diploma course almost single handed for more than 20 years and continues to be a passionate supporter of veterinary pharmacy”.



## News from Ireland

We see from Facebook that Connor Ward (Cohort Two) has opened a new Veterinary Pharmacy in the north west of Ireland. Our congratulations and good wishes to him and his staff!

If we can persuade Connor to tap a few keys and send us a report we will feature his new venture in our next edition!



## Pharmacy Show

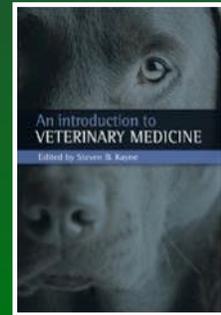
8-9 October 2017 • NEC Birmingham

For all that pharmacy demands



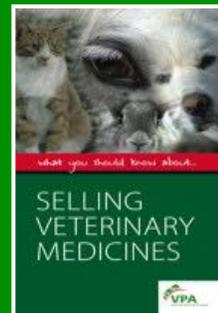
Harper Adams University will be promoting the Veterinary Pharmacy courses and the VPA at the Pharmacy Show in Birmingham with staff and past students in attendance to answer questions. A report will be included in our next newsletter early in the New Year.

## RECOMMENDED BOOKS



An Introduction to Veterinary Medicine, edited by Steven Kayne will equip pharmacists, veterinary nurses and SQPs with the knowledge necessary to enable a confident and appropriate involvement in this area of practice.

[ORDER HERE](#)



Selling Veterinary Medicines from the Veterinary Pharmacists Association is designed to be a handy reference for those dealing with owners of companion animals, mammals and horses in a retail environment.

[ORDER HERE](#)

## Comment

Veterinary pharmacy is an immensely interesting and varied branch of the profession and it is important that pharmacists maintain a strong presence and interest in it. Traditionally veterinary pharmacy has been about the large animal farm sector but that has changed in recent years and now most community pharmacies are involved in supplying medicines for pets, mainly dogs and cats.

The new VPA plans to be a very influential in all of this because

it will encourage both pharmacists and allied professionals (including vets) to join and promote excellence at all levels.

The link with Harpers Adams University is ideal because they are the leading provider of veterinary medicines training and bring quality and expertise to enhance our professional standing in this specialised sector. Whether you are a pharmacist or technician there is a veterinary medicine training course relevant to your needs.



*Rob Morris, Chair Royal Pharmaceutical Society Veterinary Pharmacy Forum. Member VPC and an AMTRA Examiner*

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## *Why you should consider joining in the VPA...*

The Veterinary Pharmacy Association is a professional multidisciplinary organisation to promote and support the practice of Veterinary Pharmacy by all veterinary health care providers. In the UK, Ireland and beyond.

The Association will seek to highlight the role of veterinary pharmacy by

- Promoting excellence in the safe, effective and appropriate use of medication in animals, thereby improving animal health and well-being.
- Raising awareness of public health implications arising from contact between humans and animals.
- Facilitating fully accredited training & Continuing Professional Development.

There will be lots of advantages of joining the VPA! Our educational focus is reflected in our website domain and with support from our good friends at Harper Adams University there will be CPD events and articles to support colleagues whatever your profession and depth of involvement in the veterinary sector. We will seek to respond to consultative documents from Government and professional sources and publish leaflets and books. There will be social events too, of course, with visits to sites of veterinary interest.

With a broad membership across the sector there will be a wealth of experience for younger colleagues starting out in this fascinating area of practice.

All this cannot happen overnight, but hopefully many people will want to be involved. The application form is on the website so please join us!

[www.vpa.education](http://www.vpa.education)