



<http://nzsp.rsnz.org/index.htm>

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Once again I have bad news concerning members of the NZSP currently employed by AgResearch. The company is currently making a significant number of people redundant, and management have proposed that each of the two parasitology teams should lose one staff member. It is possible that if pending funding decisions are not favourable, this number could rise. So fingers crossed.

On a brighter note, I was invited to attend a strategy meeting for the Australian Society for Parasitology in Melbourne a few weeks ago. The ASP, as we are all aware, is much better resourced and has many more members than the NZSP. Despite this healthy status, the Asp Executive decided to 'future-proof' the society by attempting to define what that future may hold, and how the ASP could best position itself. It was an interesting process, with many of the issues shared between our societies – particularly with regard to attracting and retaining young members, and promoting livestock parasitology research.

The ASP is also very keen to forge a closer relationship with the NZSP. In my view, this can only be good for both of us, and the two Executives will explore how this can be achieved. On a related topic, the ASP Annual Conference next year will be held in Cairns in July (from my three years in Queensland, I can assure you the weather will be wonderful and the XXXX will be cold). I would appreciate some feedback via email whether the membership would be interested in making this a joint ASP:NZSP meeting. As always, I realise that many of our members would not attend, but please let me know your thoughts.

Finally, ICOPA XII, in Melbourne, is coming up fast. It would be good to see a really strong NZSP contingent attending. In case anyone is unaware, there is an added attraction to many of our members – embedded in the program is the Novel Approaches to the Control of Helminth Parasites of Livestock.

Ian Sutherland

NEW BOOK

Keys to the Nematode Parasites of Vertebrates, Archival Volume

Roy C. Anderson, Alain G. Chabaud, Sheila Willmott (Eds.). CABI Publishing, Nosworthy Way, Wallingford, Oxfordshire OX10 8DE, U.K. Hardback, 2009. ISBN-13: 978 1 84593 5726.

Price: £95.00, US\$ 190.00, €145.00

For a review of this book see **Veterinary Parasitology**, Volume 169, Issue 1-2 (2010).

CONFERENCE NOTICE

ICOPA XII

15–20 August 2010, Melbourne [<http://www.icopaxii.org>]

Executive

President:	Ian Sutherland	Ian.Sutherland@agresearch.co.nz
Vice President:	Colin McKay	colin.mckay@novartis.com
Treasurer:	Ian Scott	I.Scott@massey.ac.nz
Secretary:	Tania Waghorn	tania.waghorn@agresearch.co.nz

VALE DAVID OVEREND

“On a sad note I am not sure if you heard but Dr David Overend died on 28/12/2009 after a long battle with bone cancer. His funeral was on 6/1/2010 at the Springvale Botanical Crematorium near Dandenong in Victoria.

It was a thoughtful service that reflected his truly remarkable contributions to both his chosen professions and the many colleagues and friends he touched along the way.”

Kate Parry

Livestock Officer – Beef

Industry & Investment NSW

Wagga Wagga Agricultural Institute

“David worked in the Vic Department Lab in Benalla and did a PhD with Leo in Armidale on parasite immunity in mice. He also did some resistance survey work.”

Nick Sangster

Professor of Veterinary Pathobiology

Associate Head of School

Charles Sturt University

Wagga Wagga NSW 2678

NEW ZEALAND DEVELOPS A NEW WEAPON AGAINST PARASITES

Scientists at AgResearch's Hopkirk Research Institute have developed an assay which identifies those sheep with the strongest immune response against gastrointestinal nematodes. The test measures the levels of salivary antibodies to a carbohydrate antigen (CarLA) found on infective-stage larvae. The test was developed with funding from Ovita, a consortium made up of Meat & Wool NZ and AgResearch, and is currently in a pre-commercialisation phase, with the full product launch planned for October 2010. Richard Shaw, a member of the Molecular Immunology and Parasitology team in AgResearch Animal Health, says that those animals with high levels of antibodies accumulate less adult worms, and therefore produce fewer parasite eggs onto pasture. Furthermore, with fewer worms to fight, the 'high-responders' usually grow faster and have no increase in dagginess. Interest from farmers so far has been strong, and everything points to the CarLA Saliva Test becoming a crucial weapon in the fight against parasites in livestock.

The test unit can be contacted on 0800 4 CarLA, or by email to carlasalivatest@agresearch.co.nz. Visit the website at www.carlasalivatest.com

Question 1: In 1889, Theobald Smith and Fred Kilbourne were the first to describe which phenomenon?

Answer :

Vector transmission of babesiosis (Texas fever) by ticks.

Question 2: Leigh Van Valen borrowed from Lewis Carroll to give us which evolutionary theory related to parasitism?

Answer: The Red Queen theory - running on the spot just to stay ahead (of parasites).

Question 3: Which malt whisky was the toast of the day at the recent NZSP conference at Wanaka?

Answer : 16 year old Scapa whisky - The Orcadian (from the Orkneys)

QUIZ QUESTIONS

QUIZ # 6

1. Pilobolus is implicated in the dispersal of which parasite?
2. Which human parasite can be half again as long as a mature killer whale?
3. With where in the house would you associate *Cimex lectularius*?
4. Which actress starred in the 1982 movie 'Parasite'?

Praise for scientists

Scientists Ian Sutherland, of AgResearch, and Ian Scott, of Massey University, have won favourable reviews for their 256-page *Gastrointestinal Nematodes of Sheep and Cattle: Biology and Control*, which has just been published by British imprint Wiley-Blackwell. Professor Sir James Armour, emeritus professor of veterinary parasitology at Glasgow University, describes it as "informative and thought-provoking and required reading for all students, scientists and veterinarians interested in parasitic disease and livestock production".

Next Newsletter: June 2010

Please send news items, notices etc. to Tania

Email: tania.waghorn@agresearch.co.nz

SUBSCRIPTION NOTICE

Return Subscription to: Dr Ian Scott
IVABS, College of Sciences, Massey University
Private Bag 11-222, Palmerston North

.....
DETACH HERE

NEW ZEALAND SOCIETY FOR PARASITOLOGY SUBSCRIPTION 2009 / 2010

The subscription for this year is \$20.00.

NAME: _____

AMOUNT PAID: _____

CORRECT EMAIL ADDRESS: _____
