Biographies of lecturers of the workshop ''Biomarkers in Veterinary Medicine'' in alphabetical order

David Eckersall

Professor David Eckersall graduated from the University of Liverpool with a BSc in Biochemistry (1973) and a PhD in Biochemistry from University of Edinburgh (1977). He is a Fellow of the Royal College of Pathologists, a Fellow of the Royal Society of Biology and a Member of the Academia Europaea. Prof. Eckersall is the Professor of Veterinary Biochemistry at the School of Veterinary Medicine, University of Glasgow. His research has been focused on the diagnostic applications of protein analysis in veterinary medicine and has published over 200 peer reviewed papers and co-edited the first text on animal proteomics (Methods in Animal Proteomics, Wiley). He was the Chair of the COST Action for Farm Animal Proteomics (2011-14). He was awarded the Heiner Sommer Prize of the International Society for Animal Clinical Pathology for Lifetime Contribution to Animal Clinical Biochemistry in 2008 and the Siemens Prize of the Division of Animal Clinical Chemistry of the American Association of Clinical Chemistry for Contributions to Animal Clinical Chemistry in 2010. Scientific papers of prof. Eckersall have been published in a variety of refeered scientific and veterinary journals and over 100 presentations have been made at national and international conferences. Prof. Eckersall's number of articles: 218, number of citations: 8016 (Google Scholar), Hirsch 'H' index: 46 (Google Scholar).

Prof. Eckersall has been selected on 13th of April 2017 as the new ERA Chair holder on the VetMedZg project, to lead the ERA Chair team and project research until the end of the project implementation in June 2019.

Nicolas Guillemin

Nicolas Guillemin obtained a PhD in molecular physiology and genetics at the National Institute for Agricutural Researches (INRA) in 2010, about beef meat tenderness. He set up a new Dot-Blot technique for fast protein quantification. He completed a post-doctoral fellowship at the University Laval, Canada, in 2013, where he set up a new methodology for SNP markers detection. He identified unknown SNPs related with fertility, and made genetic prediction models. Dr Guillemin integrated the ERA Chair team at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine of Zagreb in July 2015. He is responsible for genetics, genomics, bioinformatics and statistics . He collaborate with different teams to analyse datasets in different projects and thematics.

Milica Kovacevic Filipović

Milica Kovacevic Filipovic, DVM, PhD, graduated from the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Belgrade (FVMUB), Serbia, in 1993. Since 1994 she has been employed at FVM and since 2016 she has been holding a position of full professor at the Department of Pathophysiology. Domain of investigation: comparative view of hematopoetic and mesenchymal stem cells and development of clinical pathology service. She promoted use of proteomics in veterinary medicine through active participation in COST FA1002 action. She completed the total of 18 months of postdoctoral studies (research on stem cells) in France (Institute for Chemistry of Natural Substances, National Centre of Scientific Research, Paris and National French Institute for Blood,

Bordeaux). In last few years she organized several events: A week of popular science: promotion of FVMUB (2014), Belgrade workshop: Farm Animal Proteomics – gathering all Belgrade scientific institutes at FVMUB, Academic writing and publishing – gathering editors of different journals that covers fields of veterinary medicine, medicine and biotechnology.

Gordan Lauc

Gordan Lauc is the Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at the University of Zagreb, the Director of the National Centre of Scientific Excellence in Personalised Healthcare, and founder and CEO of Genos Glycoscience Research Laboratory. He is also honorrary professor at the University of Edinburgh and the Kings College London, as well as the member of the Johns Hopkins Society of Scholars. His research team is pioneering high throughput glycomic analysis and the application of glycan biomerkers in the field of precision medicine. By combining glycomic data with extensive genetic, epigenetic, biochemical and physiological data in a systems biology approach they are trying to understand the role of glycans in normal physiology and disease.

Professor Lauc co-authored over 150 research articles that are cited over 3,000 times. He is also listed as inventor on a number of patents, including GlycanAge – biomarker of biological age and DiabRisk, the biomarker for early prediction of type 2 diabetes

Silvia Martinez-Subiela

Dr. Martínez-Subiela is associate professor at Murcia University Veterinary School. She obtained a PhD degree in 2003 and during her studies she was awarded several scholarships for excellence: University of Murcia and National Excellence Awards for the best academic qualifications in Veterinary degree studies, University of Murcia Excellence Award for the best PhD thesis in Veterinary studies and The Veterinary Journal 2003 Junior scientist literary Prize. She is a member for the Service of Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory of Murcia University (accredited by European Society of Veterinary Clinical Pathology) giving routine service to the teaching hospital, external practitioners and private companies related with companion and large animals. She has 18 years of experience in the development and validation of immuno and spectrophotometric assays for biomarker quantification in serum and other fluids, mainly in the field of acute phase proteins, obesity and stress. She also has expertise on protein purification and antibody production. She has over 118 publications in high impact journals of this field with an H-index of 30 and has participated in 12 research projects. She is a member of the editorial boards of 2 veterinary journals and a regular reviewer of several journals.

Reinhard Mischke

Prof. Reinhard Mischke graduated in 1988 from the Hannover School of Veterinary Medicine (Germany). He became Dr in Veterinary medicine in 1991 and work as assistant professor at the small animal clinic from 1997 to 2003. He had habilitation 1997. In the same time Professor Mischke has become German Spezialist Degree („Fachtierarzt“) for Laboratory Medicine 1995, German Spezialist Degree („Fachtierarzt“) for Internal Medicine 1997, and finally Diplomate ECVIM-CA 1998. From 2005 he is University Professor of Small Animal Clinic, Hannover School of Veterinary Medicine. Also, in 2005, he became the head of clinical laboratory in Internal and Dermatology services. He has gotten several grants.

His main topics are hematology and transfusion medicine.

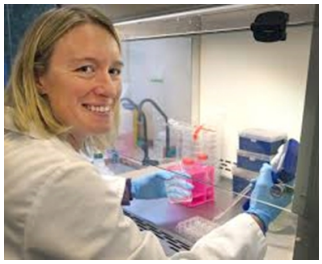
Mani Mudaliar

Mani Mudaliar graduated from Nagpur Veterinary College, India with a first-class degree in veterinary medicine (1997). Immediately after graduation, Mani set up a mixed-animal veterinary practice and ran it for about four years. He then joined the civil service in India as a veterinary clinician and worked there for 7 years. His immense desire to keep abreast in the cutting edge of drug discovery brought him to the UK to do an MSc in Applied Bioinformatics at Cranfield

University. He then joined the Pfizer-Translational Medicine Research Collaboration (TMRC) as a bioinformatics analyst before moving to the 'Data Analysis Group' led by Professor Geoff Barton at the University of Dundee. In 2012, he moved to the University of Glasgow where he initially worked as a bioinformatician with Glasgow Polyomics and then as the head bioinformatician with the Glasgow Molecular Pathology Node under Professor Mike Barrett and Professor Iain McInnes respectively. During his time at the University of Glasgow, he undertook a part-time PhD under Professor David Eckersall, Dr Pawel Herzyk and Professor Ruth Zadoks. Recently, Mani moved to Cambridge where he works as a principal scientist with Cerevance, a world-class neuroscience pharmaceutical biotech company.

Mani has vast experience in bioinformatics analysis of genomics, transcriptomics, proteomics, metabolomics and clinical data for biomarker discovery, drug discovery and development. He contributed to the development of RNA-Seq-based diagnostic tests and predictive models to estimate treatment response for selecting appropriate biological disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs (DMARDs) in Rheumatoid Arthritis. He also contributed to the understanding of bovine mastitis from systems biology perspective, integrating proteomics and metabolomics data. Currently, he uses machine-learning-based bioinformatics approaches in target discovery, patient stratification, biomarker discovery in several central nervous system diseases and understanding the functioning of human brain and its several cell types.

Mandy Peffers



After graduating with a 1st Class Honours degree from the University of Leeds in Animal Science I graduated as a veterinary surgeon from the Royal Veterinary College in 1995. I then undertook an internship at the University of Glasgow. From 1997-2008 I worked for Genus as an embryo transfer veterinary surgeon. Together with my husband I set up small animal and equine first opinion practice in 2002 in North Wales. This expanded into a 10 vet practice on four sites and included a tier-3 small animal veterinary hospital.

I started my research career at the University of Liverpool with a Wellcome Veterinary Research Fellowship (Entry Level) in 2008 (MPhil). I then received a Wellcome Veterinary Integrated Research Fellowship in 2010 (completed PhD in 2013) and was awarded my PhD for my thesis on Proteomic and Transcriptomic Signatures of Cartilage Ageing and Disease. I currently have a Wellcome Trust Clinical Intermediate Fellowship 2015-2019. My research group studies age-related musculoskeletal diseases within the Comparative Musculoskeletal Biology Department of the Institute of Ageing and Chronic Disease (University of Liverpool) and consists of four PhD students and a research assistant. My biomarker related interests include using metabolomic and proteomic techniques to stratify osteoarthritis in the horse and small- non-coding RNAs as biomarkers of osteoarthritis.

Matilde Piñeiro

Dr. Matilde Piñeiro received her PhD in Sciences, Biochemistry, from the University of Zaragoza, Spain, where she initiates her scientific career. She has a long background in research on acute phase proteins, mainly in pigs but also in other species. It includes the development of novel species-specific analytical methods which had been put in the market. She worked as researcher in European project from the 5th framework “acute phase proteins in pigs”, which set the basis for the use of these biomarkers as animal health and welfare indicators. She was also member of the steering group of the European Concerted Action aimed to the standardization of acute phase proteins measurements in pig and cattle. She moved then to the company PigCHAMP Pro Europa, where she continued her research about the use of acute phase proteins in pig production, and acted as technical manager at the diagnostic kits area. She was responsible of the development of the first commercial assay for the quantification of the novel acute phase protein Pig-MAP, previously discovered at the University of Zaragoza. Matilde is currently R&D Director at Acuvet Biotech, a company specialising in the development, production and marketing of diagnostic kits

for the analysis of acute phase proteins in farm and companion animals. Acuvet has put in the market novel species-specific immunoassays, including the recent turbidimetric methods for Pig-MAP and CRP and canine CRP.

David Pritchard

Dr David Pritchard is Chief Technology Officer at Abingdon Health a company specialising in development and commercialisation of rapid assays in a number of areas including human diagnostics, veterinary diagnostics and plant disease testing. Prior to joining Abingdon Health in April 2017, David worked for 22 years at Axis-Shield Diagnostics (in latter years heading R&D), where he was responsible for development of over 30 assays. During his time at Axis-Shield, he worked on collaborations with most of the major diagnostic companies such as Abbott and Siemens. One of David's key areas of expertise is identification and evaluation of novel makers and translating these from a research setting to being launched as a commercially viable product.

David has a particular interest in converting early stage research in to commercial products and has advised both Scottish and United Kingdom governments on the academic : commercial interface and how collaborations could be improved. David chairs the Scottish Life Science Association Innovation Group, and is also a member of Industry and Scientific advisory groups for a number of universities. David has a PhD from University of Glasgow on development of multianalyte immunosensors, and has been an author on many papers and an inventor on numerous patents.

Kevin Slater

Dr Slater gained his PhD in 1988 from Nottingham Trent University for work on regulatory mechanisms of white blood cell proliferation in chronic myeloid leukaemia. Since then he has focussed on the development and application of biomarker assays for human and veterinary applications.

He formed LumiTech Ltd in 1996 to develop luminescence-based kits focussed on high throughput applications in cell biology. The resultant patents were commercialised via a number of products with trade names, ViaLight, ToxiLight, PKLight and MycoAlert.

LumiTech was sold to the Cambrex Corporation (USA) in 2000. Dr Slater remained with Cambrex for three years as Chief Executive of Cambrex Bioscience Nottingham Ltd, whilst gaining experience developing and launching assay kits internationally as part of a multinational organisation.

In 2004, he established PetScreen Ltd to apply new diagnostic technologies to veterinary medicine. PetScreen focused on the discovery (by mass spectroscopy) of novel biomarkers and their application to major veterinary diseases including cancer and inflammatory conditions such as pancreatitis. He worked with mathematicians at the University of Leicester on machine learning algorithms to improve disease specificity by combing biomarker measurements.

PetScreen was sold to the Animal Health division of Avacta plc in 2013. Dr Slater become their Chief Scientific Officer, and continued to guide the development new methods focused on their provision to veterinary clinics as multiple biomarker diagnostic tests. Recently, he has been involved in the discovery and commercialisation of novel tests to assist differentiation between

bacterial infection and other forms of inflammation to assist in the growing problem of antibiotic resistance.

In addition to establishing and exiting two life science businesses, Dr Slater has assisted in the commercialisation of early phase biotechnology university spin out companies. He also advises universities on assessment and commercialisation strategies for new biomedical products emerging from their patent portfolios.

In 2018 he co-founded Praecis Dx Ltd to develop novel biomarker-based point of care assays for veterinary applications.