



ECVPH Residency Year 2 Report

This is a written explanation of my activities during the second year of my European College of Veterinary Public Health (ECVPH) residency training programme at the Royal Veterinary College (RVC), part funded by the RCVS trust. It is to be viewed in conjunction with the ECVPH appraisal Year 2 table & the timetable yr 1, 2 & 3 (pdf).

Aug-Sept 08 – Main project – Housing Order Project

August and September 08 were spent conducting the initial phases of a project looking at biosecurity measures taken during an outbreak of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza in the UK. This was a questionnaire based study with validation of responses.

The project was delayed by several weeks as ministerial approval had to be obtained before farmers could be contacted. The principal supervisor was Jane Gibbens DiplECVPH at Defra. The Time was spent on study design, questionnaire design & postage.

The study was presented as a poster at ISVEE XII Durban. A draft of the study report is being reviewed with co-authors and will be submitted for publication in the near future

Oct-Nov 08 – secondary Project – Scenario tree analysis of AI surveillance

During this period I undertook a project using scenario tree analysis to assess the performance of wild bird surveillance systems for avian influenza on Lake Constance, Switzerland. Approximately one month was spent at the Swiss Federal Veterinary Office for this project.

The project included

- Background reading
- Learning the technicalities of using scenario tree analysis
- Using appropriate software (Excel, Access & @RISK).

The study was presented as an oral presentation at ISVEE XII Durban. A draft of the study report is being reviewed with co-authors and will be submitted for publication in the near future

December 08 – Jan 09 – Ongoing project work

Validation farm visits and telephone validation were performed to assess the Housing Order project questionnaire responses. Further analysis for the AI surveillance project was performed.

Jan – March 09 – MSc Veterinary Epidemiology Lectures (RVC/LSHTM)

The following modules were taken:

- Applied Risk Assessment And Management (ARAM)
 - On top of the obvious aspects of Risk Assessment, study design and grant applications were also included in this course.
- Epidemiology and Control of Communicable Diseases (ECCD)
 - With the focus on generic skills with specific studies of several human diseases, this was a broad course that included covering factual and technical aspects of communicable disease epidemiology. A mock disease outbreak scenario was also played out.
- Animal Health Economics (AHE)
 - General and essential tools and concepts within this field were included, from welfare economics to benefit cost analysis.

April-May 09 OIE internship

Two months were spent at the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) headquarters in Paris. I was based with the international trade department under Dr Sarah Kahn. Whilst here my main focus was on conducting work to prioritise food borne diseases for future OIE standard setting, based on their impact on human health. This took the form of a consultation of expert. This was seen as the best way at producing something of use within the time available.

This work was performed with the cooperation of the WHO and included a visit to the WHO headquarters. Many other experts within food borne disease were consulted.

This work is to be completed in September 2009 and then presented at the FAO/WHO/OIE Animal Production Food Safety Working Group meeting in Nov 2009. The final report is intended for publication in the Review Scientifique et Technique of the OIE.

Whilst at the OIE I got to observe the annual General Session in Paris. This was thoroughly interesting and provided a real insight into activities, issues and practices within international animal health policies and politics.

Shortly after this I sat the final exam for the MSC Vet Epi.

June – August 09 – MSc Summer project – risk factors for targeting BVD surveillance

The summer was devoted to the MSc Vet Epi summer project. Over 10 weeks, a data analysis & literature review was to be performed and submitted as a 10 000 word report.

My project was on identifying risk factors for use in the targeting of Bovine Viral Diarrhoea (BVD) surveillance in Switzerland, where a BVD eradication programme is underway.

During this intense period, time was devoted to

- Conducting a literature review
- Learning to use R statistical software
- Data preparation
- Risk factor analysis
- Assessing and validating methods of targeting.
- Report writing

The work will be presented at the ECVPH annual conference at Leipzig and the study will be submitted for publication in a peer reviewed journal.

MSc Results to date

Modelling Assignment – B
Statistical Methods in Epidemiology – B+
Spatial Analysis – 10/10
Analysis of Cohort data – 7/10
Extended Epi test – 14/15
ARAM – 95%
ECCD – 5/5
AHE – 85%
Exam Result – Paper 1 – 72%

Conferences

- ISVEE XII, Durban South Africa, 2009 (poster & oral presentation).
- ECVPH conference, Thesonaliki, 2008 (poster).
- (Oral presentation of scenario tree work made by Katharina Stärk at Constanze Project Conference 2009.)

Courses

- Introduction to WinBUGS.

Future Work

- Food Science lectures & project

It is hoped that a visit to the Norwegian School of Veterinary Science will be arranged.

Resident – Theo Knight-Jones
RVC Supervisor – Prof. Katharina Stärk

RVC residency in Veterinary Public Health
27.08.09

- Official Veterinarian course

The OV course held at Bristol vet school will be attended. In addition time will be spent gaining experience or working at abattoirs.

- Finalise and submit publications

For the following:

Scenario tree work, Housing order project, OIE foodborne disease work and Swiss BVD risk factor work.