



ABN: 26 936 504 338

**Fenner Conference on the Environment
Wildlife Health Workshop Invitation
Monday 11 July 2005. The Shine Dome, Canberra.**

Dear Colleague,

Please join us at the Fenner Conference on the Environment, Wildlife Health Workshop on Monday 11 July 2005 at the Shine Dome, Australian Academy of Science, Gordon St, Acton (between the city and ANU).

The objective of the Wildlife Health Workshop is to inform and engage a larger community about wildlife health and diseases that affect the three areas of biodiversity and wildlife management, human health, and agriculture throughout Australia. We need to build links between departments and groups working in these areas, develop policies, and increase funding to further strengthen Australia's wildlife health system.

Speakers from the International Wildlife Disease Association Conference in Cairns provide the opportunity to identify features from overseas models of ecosystem health and management that may be relevant to developing policies for Australia. In addition, key speakers have been invited to outline Australia's wildlife health system and provide background for recommendations for future development and directions. If you wish to make suggestions or recommendations for future developments before the Workshop, or you are unable to join us, please send these to Pam or Tim. Wildlife Conservation International produced The Manhattan Principles on One World-One Health at a meeting in New York on 29 September 2004 (<http://www.oneworldonehealth.org/>) and the Australian Wildlife Health Network (see below) has principles and objectives for Australia. We are also interested in specific policies and actions that will build Australia's wildlife health system in states and nationally, and strengthen links between these jurisdictions.

The Fenner Conference on the Environment, Wildlife Health Workshop on Monday 11 July follows the **International Wildlife Disease Association Conference**, 26 June-1 July, in Cairns. <http://www.rainforest-crc.jcu.edu.au/events/WDAConf.htm> The mission of the **Wildlife Disease Association (WDA)** is to acquire, disseminate, and apply knowledge of the health and diseases of wild animals in relation to their biology, conservation and interactions with human and domestic animals. The Australasian Section of the WDA is organizing the Cairns conference. <http://www.wildlifedisease.org/index.html>

Speakers at the Fenner Conference on the Environment, Wildlife Health Workshop are:

Dr Ted Leighton from the Department of Veterinary Pathology, University of Saskatchewan, is Executive Director of the **Canadian Cooperative Wildlife Health Centre (CCWHC)** which was established in 1992. The CCWHC is a university-based, inter-agency partnership through which Canada's four colleges of Veterinary Medicine, government agencies at all levels and non-government agencies pool their resources and expertise to reduce the economic and ecological costs and impacts of wild animal diseases in Canada. The CCWHC undertakes wildlife disease surveillance, information services, education and wildlife disease response and management. Total financial resources are C\$1,476,088 and major supporting agencies are Health Canada, Provincial Health Departments, Parks Canada, Environment Canada, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Governments of Saskatchewan, Northwest Territories, Nunavut, and Ducks Unlimited Canada. http://wildlife1.usask.ca/ccwhc2003/CCWHC_home.php

Dr Ian Barker is Professor of Pathology & Wildlife Diseases and Director of the Ontario/Nunavut Region of the **CCWHC** in the Dept of Pathobiology, Ontario Veterinary College, University of Guelph, Ontario, Canada. He participates in offering a 3-year DVSc residency program in zoo animal medicine and pathology with Toronto Zoo. Ian did his PhD and became a wildlife pathologist at The University of Melbourne. He was part of the team that identified the reasons for annual die-offs of male Antechinus, described recrudescing herpesvirus infections of the prostate in dasyurid marsupials, investigated mortalities of Eastern Grey Kangaroos from coccidiosis (protozoan intestinal parasite) and investigated the coevolution of coccidia with their macropod hosts, described other coccidia in wombats, and Klossiella species (protozoan parasites of the kidney) in numerous marsupials, and described poxvirus infections in Australian wild birds.

Dr Mike Samuel is Associate Professor of Wildlife Ecology who has undertaken wildlife disease research at the **USGS-National Wildlife Health Center (NWHC)**, Madison, Wisconsin, USA and Wisconsin Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit, University of Wisconsin since the mid 1980s. Mike works collaboratively with various State, Federal, and International agencies and has expertise in biostatistics, modelling, epidemiology, and disease ecology (complex interplay among the disease agent, the environment, and host ecology). Mike will be talking about Chronic Wasting Disease (a transmissible spongiform encephalopathy, related to 'Mad cow disease') in white-tailed deer, and Avian Malaria and Pox in Hawaiian forest birds.

The **USGS-National Wildlife Health Center (NWHC)** was established in 1975 and provides information, technical assistance, research, education, and leadership on national and international wildlife health issues. NWHC themes are: Wildlife disease and ecosystem function; zoonosis and wildlife health, human, domestic animal and wildlife interactions; and environmental health and degradation. Its objectives are: Advanced Disease Detection, Control, and Prevention; Wildlife Disease Dynamics, Risk Analysis, Surveillance, & Effective Sampling; and Innovative and Cutting-Edge Science and Communication Education.

<http://www.nwhc.usgs.gov/>

Dr Rupert Woods is National Coordinator of the **Australian Wildlife Health Network (AWHN)** a National initiative of the Commonwealth Government managed under the Wildlife Exotic Disease Preparedness Program (Australian Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry). The AWHN was established in 2002. Its mission is to promote and facilitate collaborative links

across Australia in the investigation and management of wildlife health in support of human and animal health, biodiversity and trade. Its vision is for a nationally integrated wildlife health system for Australia. <http://www.wildlifehealth.org.au/AWHN/home.aspx> Rupe is Regional co-ordinator for Australasia for the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, Species Survival Commission Veterinary Specialists Group, sits on the National Animal Disease Surveillance Steering Committee, Chytridiomycosis Threat Abatement Team, and represents the Australian wildlife community to the National Animal Health Information System (Animal Health Australia). He is ex-president of the Australian Association of Veterinary Conservation Biologists, a special interest group of the Australian Veterinary Association and is interested in disease impacts, expression, quantification and management in wild populations of animals.

Dr Karrie Rose undertook the 3-year DVSc residency program in Zoo Animal Medicine and Pathology with Toronto Zoo and University of Guelph then worked in New Zealand on wildlife health for 16 months. Since 1998 Karrie has been Veterinary Pathologist for the Zoological Parks Board of NSW and managed the **Australian Registry of Wildlife Health**, Taronga Zoo, Sydney. The Registry was established in 1985 to contribute to the preservation of Australia's biodiversity through increased understanding of the interactions among animals, the environment and disease agents. <http://www.zoo.nsw.gov.au/content/view.asp?id=122>

Dr John S. MacKenzie is Professor of Tropical Infectious Diseases, Curtin University of Technology, Perth, Western Australia and member of the Australian Biosecurity Cooperative Research Centre for Emerging Infectious Diseases (<http://www1.abcrc.org.au/index.aspx>) where he has been working on the emergence and spread of vector-borne viral diseases and the role of wildlife in disease emergence (especially bats and rodents). John is Secretary-General for the Executive Board of the International Union of Microbiological Societies and is Plenary session speaker on Emerging Virus Diseases at the 13th International Congress of Virology, San Francisco, later in July 2005.

We all recognise and appreciate the generosity and wisdom of **Professor Frank Fenner and his late wife Mrs Bobbie Fenner** who made possible the **Fenner Conference on the Environment of the Australian Academy of Science** since 1987. Professor Fenner is recognised internationally for his work on myxomatosis, fundamental research in virology, leadership in the eradication of smallpox, and was a founding member of the Australian Conservation Foundation.

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