

Science Week 2007 Epidemiology Chapter Pre-Conference Workshop

Ecohealth Approaches for Veterinary Epidemiologists

Presenters: Peter Black and Hume Field

'We can't solve problems by using the same kind of thinking we used when we created them' Albert Einstein

The effects of environmental change manifest in many ways, including disease emergence and loss of biodiversity, with consequent health implications for wildlife, domestic animals and human populations — just think of recent diseases such as SARS, avian influenza and Nipah virus.

Society needs people who can address a wide range of interrelated health problems in many parts of the globe. This task requires exceptional skills in both analysis and synthesis. Most veterinary epidemiologists have had excellent training in the analysis portion of this equation through formal postgraduate studies in this discipline. However, few have had the opportunity to develop skills in the synthesis and integration needed to address the complex, real world problems that challenge both animal and human health.

Indeed, many veterinary epidemiologists are finding that they are ill-equipped to deal with some of the most pressing problems we face in the 21st Century. This is understandable as the tools and methods required to make a difference are evolving and demand a broader understanding of a range of other disciplines. Veterinary and human epidemiologists are increasingly turning to 'ecohealth approaches' to address complex problems such as emerging infectious diseases. These approaches recognise the critical linkages between human activity, ecological change, human and animal health, and sustainability — and aim to integrate relevant knowledge and skills from a wide range of disciplines.

Come along and equip yourself with some tools and methods that will assist you to make a real difference!

By the end of this two day workshop, participants will:

1. Have an understanding of ecohealth approaches and how veterinary epidemiologists can use them in their work.
2. Be aware of some of the perspectives (including formal futures-oriented perspectives) that inform health approaches.
3. Be familiar with some of the tools and techniques used in ecohealth approaches, including their application for detecting and responding to emerging and re-emerging diseases.
4. Have a knowledge of the networks and information sources that will inform the future development of ecohealth approaches.
5. Appreciate the linkages between concepts of sustainability and health.

Dates: Tuesday 3 July to Thursday 5 July 2007.

Venue: Gold Coast International Hotel (Moreton Room), Corner of Gold Coast Highway & Staghorn Avenue, Surfers Paradise, Queensland, 4217, Australia (<http://www.gci.com.au/>).

Cost (Australian dollars, incl. GST): \$390 (Epidemiology Chapter members); \$470 (non-members).

Inclusions in cost: Course materials, morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea.

Course participants: Maximum of 20.

Registration: Registration forms are available at <http://epicentre.massey.ac.nz/acvsc/> (click on link to 'Events').

Further information: Contact Cameron Bell by email (Cameron.Bell@dpiw.tas.gov.au) or telephone +61 (0)3 6233 5356.

REGISTRATION CLOSING 31 MAY 2007