

BRITISH VETERINARY ASSOCIATION

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Headquarters activities

Officers' diary

The BVA Officer team's activities in the week ending May 31 included the following:

- The past-president attended a meeting of the BVA Remuneration Committee.
- A meeting of the BVA Board.
- A BVA Congress 2008 planning meeting, at which matters discussed included nominations for this year's Chiron Award.
- A BVA coordination and planning meeting. Matters discussed included arrangements for the divisional presidents' day, the recent briefing meeting at Westminster for BVA Honorary Associates, and joint officer meetings with a number of BVA divisions and other representative bodies.
- The President and president-elect attended a meeting of the BVA Ethics and Welfare Group. Matters discussed included the Association's policy brief on the use of animals in research, obesity in companion animals, religious slaughter and the production of a series of briefing documents for MEPS.
- The President attended a Core Stakeholder Group meeting at DEFRA's Nobel House to discuss the roll-out of the bluetongue vaccination plan.

DIARY

Divisional events

JUNE

12 (Thurs) Essex Veterinary Society
 Meeting, Postgraduate Medical Centre, Colchester General Hospital, 19.45.

An extensive list of forthcoming courses and events appears in the Events calendar on *The Veterinary Record/In Practice* website at www.bvpublications.com

DEATHS

Dr R. Wardley

IN tribute to Richard Wardley (*VR*, April 26, 2008, vol 162, p 562), Rosalind Gaskell, Christopher Gaskell, Stephen Martin, Paul Snelling and Paul Gibbs write: Richard Wardley qualified from Bristol veterinary school in 1970 and, after marrying Sonia, began a year-long internship at the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine in Philadelphia, USA. Richard and Sonia then returned to Bristol, where he undertook a PhD on feline viral respiratory disease. These were exciting times in veterinary virology – the viruses that cause respiratory disease in cats had not long been discovered, and Richard was instrumental in delineating the epidemiology of feline calicivirus – specifically, the crucial role of carriers.

After completing a postdoctoral fellowship on the immunology of virus infections at the Western College of Veterinary Medicine in Saskatoon, Canada, Richard accepted an appointment at the Animal Virus Research Institute at Pirbright (later to become the Institute for Animal Health). There he worked on the immune responses of animals to a number of exotic diseases, including rinderpest and African swine fever. He also collaborated with the Meat and Livestock Commission to define the danger of Aujeszky's disease for the British pig industry. His epidemiological and immunological work provided the basis for the decision to control this emerging disease by diagnosis, eradication and reimbursement as opposed to vaccination. His studies, with others, on the immunological responses of sheep to different serotypes of bluetongue viruses provided the underpinning for vaccination against bluetongue – a topic of great relevance to veterinarians and farmers in the UK when bluetongue was confirmed in the country in late summer 2007.

Richard and his family left Pirbright in 1986 for the USA, where he took a post with Upjohn to harness the potential of biotechnology to revolutionise veterinary medicine. He continued to work in Kalamazoo for the remainder of his career, even as the company changed names to Pharmacia & Upjohn, then Pharmacia, and then Pfizer. Among his achievements, he was a key player in the development and licensing in the USA of one of the first recombinant, gene-deleted, modified live virus vaccines, along with an accompanying diagnostic test. This was a vaccine for the protection of pigs against Aujeszky's disease. Over his 21 years in industry, Richard built and led a large, diverse group of scientists who applied cutting-edge science to veterinary vaccines, parasiticides, anti-infectives, cancer, pain and inflammation.

Richard had an uncanny ability to take abstract research concepts and catalyse



Veterinary virologist Dr Richard Wardley – practised 'One Health' throughout his career

their analysis, evaluation and subsequent progression into viable medical products. A concept, no matter how abstract, was brainstormed. If it survived, it would be highly likely that experiments would be underway within the week. In this regard, his group recognised Richard as epitomising the 'just do it' approach to evaluating new ideas.

Richard had a very humble approach to science, happy to admit he was not the expert. Consequently, it was not unusual for him to set up an external evaluation team, which consisted of the world leaders in that area, often from human medicine, to examine an idea. His open mind and constant curiosity led him and his group to evaluate the potential of new scientific ideas long before they were described in either veterinary or human medicine. A good example of this relates to the first commercially available genomic library of *Drosophila*. Pharmacia was one of the major pharmaceutical companies that obtained a licence to look for drug targets within this new database. Richard's group recognised the potential and quickly identified, patented, cloned and expressed unique signalling genes. Through this work they were able to develop assays for novel parasiticides. This was before their human health colleagues had even begun to explore the potential of this tool. Richard was also a great advocate of animal models of disease to accelerate the development of new human medicines. Although his human health colleagues were originally sceptical, he showed them, frequently by doing their studies in his own time, that the naturally occurring, spontaneous diseases in species of veterinary importance were excellent tools for evaluating a concept's practicality before testing on a human disease. He was the classic example of a veterinarian who practised 'One Health' for his entire career.

Richard was a remarkable man – he was a very able and effective scientist, and inspired others through a real enthusiasm and interest in his work. He had a quiet, understated manner and a dry wit, which belied an insightful and inquiring mind. This spirit of inquiry surfaced not only in his profession but also in his personal

life. Richard never did anything casually, whether it was virology, running or cooking. He had charming idiosyncrasies; for example, he ran his age in miles during the week of his 60th birthday, and only on 'casual Fridays' did he wear a tie. At one time, he refused to tie his shoelaces because he thought it was a waste of time. Whereas some men might enjoy cooking the odd dish, Richard's skills allowed him to take a course tailored to semi-professional chefs; dinner with the Wardleys was always something special! Shortly before he retired, he and Sonia had redesigned their kitchen with two preparation areas so that they could cook creatively together.

Sadly, in late 2007, when Richard was just about to retire, he was diagnosed with an unusual type of primary liver cancer. The surgery was considered successful and Richard was given a favourable prognosis. Although he quickly recovered from the surgery – and enjoyed short recuperative holidays in Florida and the UK – further complications set in, and he died unexpectedly in early April.

Richard and Sonia were looking forward to a busy and full retirement, including travelling, spending more time with their grandchildren, and living for several months a year in Cornwall. To Sonia, their children, Zoe and Marcus, their grandchildren, Richard's mother,

and the extended family, we extend our deepest sympathy for such an untimely loss. Richard will be sorely missed by many friends and colleagues.

Hill On April 21, Desmond Hayward Hill, DVM, MRCVS, CBE, of Ulshaw, Middleham, Leyburn, North Yorkshire. Professor Hill qualified from Toronto and was admitted to the RCVS in 1960.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF VETERINARY SURGEONS

Disciplinary committee meeting

A MEETING of the Disciplinary Committee of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, as constituted under the Veterinary Surgeons Act 1966, will be held at the RCVS, Belgravia House, 62-64 Horseferry Road, London SW1P 2AF, on:

Monday, June 16, at 10.00, and, if necessary, June 17, 18, 19 and 20, at 10.00, to hear an inquiry into Mr Marius Rudolf Louw, BVSc, MRCVS, of PO Box 103,

Derdepootpark 0035, South Africa, and Mr Marthinus Ryk Botes, BVSc, MRCVS, of Companion Care Veterinary Surgery, Pets At Home, Unit 1B East Kent Retail Park, Westwood Road, Broadstairs, Kent.

Members are reminded that the hearings are in public and, subject to limitations of space, any person may attend.

RCVS Day 2008

THIS year's RCVS day will be held on Friday, July 4, at One Great George Street, London SW1P 3AA. The arrangements are as follows:

- 10.00** Annual general meeting.
- 11.00** Presentation of awards, President's address and induction of the new President, Mrs Jill Nute.
- 10.00** Talk by Mr Steve Leonard, who will discuss his experiences filming wildlife documentaries around the world for the BBC.
- 12.30** Drinks reception and lunch.

All members of the profession are welcome to attend. To apply for tickets, please contact Fiona Clark at the RCVS, telephone 020 7202 0773, e-mail: f.clark@rcvs.org.uk

Obituaries and other items for the Gazette can be submitted by fax to 020 7908 6329 or e-mail: gazette@bva-edit.co.uk