THE 2007 ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING, A SUCCESS!!!

The 2007 Annual Scientific Meeting took place on November 12th and 13th at the Airport Holiday Inn, in Montréal. The meeting was a success indeed, with a record attendance of over 90 researchers, students, technicians, partners, and practitioners.

Numerous high quality oral presentations were given during the meeting, summarising results of the hard work achieved in all CBMRN projects over the past year. Our guest speaker, Dr Stephen Oliver from the University of Tennessee, presented the latest information on an important environmental mastitis pathogen, *Streptococcus uberis*.

Our future mastitis experts, the students, were well represented at the meeting. They presented fifteen posters and gave ten oral presentation. Four $500$ scholarships to attend an international meeting were awarded to four students that were judged to have the best poster. The winners were Heba Atalla (left, University of Guelph), Signe Andersen (center, University of Prince Edward Island), Marianne Allard (right, Université de Sherbrooke), and Chris Luby (not pictured, University of Saskatchewan). Congratulations to all for winning the poster session awards!

2008, A Year of Change!

This year, the CBMRN Annual Scientific Meeting will be held jointly with the Mastitis Research Workers Conference (MRWC) in Toronto from November 3rd to November 6th 2008. All CBMRN researchers and MRWC participants are welcome to attend all or part of the meeting. The first two days will be feature elements of the typical CBMRN meeting and the next two days will follow the format of the MRWC. This session will be limited to researchers and students. The Transfer and Scientific Committee meetings will be held on the first day as well as a possible training workshop. Day 2 will include our Network project reports, a partner’s workshop, a keynote speaker with a related workshop, and student poster presentations. We highly encourage CBMRN researchers and students to participate in the scientific discussions of the MRWC on days 3 and 4. The joint CBMRN-MRWC meeting is definitely an event not to be missed!
DEVOTED COORDINATORS!

An important element of the Core Research Platform of the CBMRN is the National Cohort of Dairy Farms, which represents the main source of data for the ten research projects of the Network. Just like Rome, this Cohort was not built in one day! A team of highly motivated individuals under the direction of regional coordinators is necessary for its continued success.

The mandates of regional coordinators

The first mandate of the coordinators was to produce a reference manual that includes all protocols and timetables for acquiring milk samples from cows in order to meet the needs of the Network’s research projects. With the manual in hand, they toured the Canadian countryside in the fall of 2006, recruiting 91 dairy farms to form the National Cohort.

The main task of coordinators is to ensure that the protocols and policies in the reference manual are strictly followed. This is done to standardize the collection and processing of samples and data in all regional centers. This also ensures that all needs for data collection are fully met for each Network research project. The coordinators actively transfer information among participating farms and their respective veterinarians; such as providing advice for the prevention and control of mastitis.

Each coordinator is attached to one of four regional centres located in the Universities of Calgary, Guelph (Campus Kemptville), Montreal (Campus Saint-Hyacinthe), and Prince Edward Island. All samples collected from farms in the Cohort are routed through their respective regional centres.

Brave technicians and students

The coordinators are supported by one or two courageous technicians, who are in turn assisted by highly qualified students. The techs and students take part in sampling cows during work-intensive periods, when producers don’t have enough arms and time to collect all of the samples. The technicians also process some of the on-farm data.

Finally, the coordination of the whole operation such as sample transport, updating protocols and policies, is under the direction of Kristen Reyher, the Operation Coordinator. She reports directly to Daniel Scholl, the Manager of the Core Research Platform. All this teamwork enables the Network’s researchers to gain access to high quality data from farms across the nation!

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A Baby Boom at the CBMRN

We are please to announce the birth of two beautiful healthy babies within the CBMRN!

On November 25th at 20h02, Julie Baillargeon, the Transfer Manager, gave birth to a handsome little boy named Florent.

A few days latter, on November 30th at 20h26, Annik L'Espérance, the Network Manager gave birth to a sweet little girl named Camille.

The entire team would like to congratulate Julie and her husband Michel Loiselle as well as Annik and her husband François-Hugues Bernier. We wish them all the best.

A new Information Agent joins the Administrative team

In early December, Hélène Poirier joined the Network’s administrative team as an Information Agent. Hélène will assume very specific duties in connection with the additional financing of 400 000 $ we received from NSERC during fall 2007. In the short term, her mandate will be to create a directory of international researchers working on mastitis as well as a directory of mastitis related research by research groups around the world. The directories will help developing the section entitled Mastitis Around the World on the Network’s website.

In the longer term, Helene is responsible for the organization of the veterinarian training workshops on the control and prevention of mastitis, which is scheduled for fall 2008. From reference material and knowledge garnered through the workshops, veterinarians will be able to communicate with producers in an interactive way on various topics related to mastitis prevention and control. These workshops will be modelled on those offered by the UGCN, an organization of the Dutch Centre on Udder Health. Other tasks that Helene will pursue include the addition of more practical tools for the control and prevention of mastitis in the Tool Box section of our website and writing various papers.

Hélène graduated in 1990 with a Bachelor of Science degree in agriculture from Laval University. At the beginning of her career, she worked in the field of animal nutrition, particularly in the dairy sector, and then took on teaching duties. She is very familiar with organizing informational agriculture farm tours on various subjects related to marketing.

You can contact Hélène by e-mail at helene.poirier@umontreal.ca or by phone at (450) 773-8521, ext. 10195.
New research member

Dr. J. T. McClure has joined the CBMRN this last November. Dr McClure is an associate professor at the Atlantic Veterinary College of the University of Prince Edward Island. He is currently working with Dr Herman Barkema on a CBMRN research project titled: “Association Between Antimicrobial Usage in Mastitis Treatment and Control, and Antimicrobial Resistance”.

We wish him a warm welcome to the CBMRN!

Acknowledgement policy in publications

All scientific publications covering CBMRN funded projects must cite the association with the CBMRN, NSERC, private partners, and other funding agencies.

Here is the suggested citation that should appear at the end of your article: "This research was financed by NSERC, Alberta Milk, Dairy Farmers of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Ontario and Prince Edward Island, Novalait Inc., Dairy Farmers of Canada, Canadian Dairy Network, AAFC, PHAC, Technology PEI Inc., Université de Montréal, and University of Prince Edward Island through the Canadian Bovine Mastitis Research Network."

Technical contributions must be specifically recognized as well as the National Cohort if data or original material has been utilized in a research project.

Researchers must submit their publications to the CBMRN Administrative Center when they first submit the manuscript to a journal. An interpretive summary for dairy producers must also be submitted to the Administrative Center.

Steering Committee

Members of the Steering Committee met on December 3rd to devise plans to ensure the durability of the Mastitis Pathogen Culture Collection and to establish guidelines for future collaboration with the National Cohort of Dairy Farms. The Committee will meet again on March 20th to finalize Year 3 activities and budgets.

Scientific Committee

The Scientific Committee met on November 12th during the Annual Meeting to establish procedures for funds distribution for different projects made possible by the Strategic Network Enhancement Initiative (SNEI) grant. Projects include training activities and the joint CBMRN-MRWC meeting. The Committee also accepted a request for collaboration by Dr. John Middleton from the University of Missouri and by Dr. J. T. McClure from the University of Prince Edward Island. Dr. McClure’s recommendation for membership in the Network was also accepted by the Committee. The Scientific Committee met again on February 11th to discuss and recommend Year 3 research project activities. The recommendations will be presented to the Steering Committee on March 20, 2008.

Transfer Committee

Members of the Transfer Committee met on November 12th during the Annual Scientific meeting. Its main activity was preparing the transfer plan of the results from the pilot study entitled “Assessment of the mastitis situation in Canada”, This study was conducted by Dr. Richard Olde Riekerink under the direction of Dr. Herman Barkema. A new questionnaire form for the evaluation of project information was also evaluated by the committee. This form will be used to determine the method of information dissemination from research projects. Members also approved the Knowledge Transfer budget for Year 3 and took note of new activities to be carried out with additional monies obtained from the SNEI. The next meeting of the Transfer Committee will take place in November 2008 in Toronto.
TRANSFER OF KNOWLEDGE

Mastitis Columns
List of Mastitis Columns published since the last bulletin:
In ‘The Milk Producer’:

CBMRN Press Review
Alberta Milk Supports Mastitis Research
S. Mason
Milking Times, September 2007

Réseau canadien de recherche sur la mammite bovine (RCRMB)
D. Scholl
Gestion et technologie agricoles, Le Courrier de St-Hyacinthe, Septembre 2007

Portrait de la mammite clinique au Canada
J. Baillargeon and H. Barkema
ACTION FAX, Octobre 2007

RESEAU CANADIEN DE RECHERCHE SUR LA MAMMITTE BOVINE
J. Baillargeon
ACTION+, Rapport d’activités, Fall 2007

Canadian Bovine Mastitis Research Network (CBMRN)
J. Baillargeon
ACTION+, Activity Report, Fall 2007

Réseau mammite : Un réseau de labos au service de la recherche
J. Baillargeon
AGRICOM, Novembre 2007

Un nouveau bulletin consacré à la mammite
L. Dufault
LAITB’DO, Fédération des producteurs de lait du Québec, Novembre 2007

Du lait propre, propre, propre
A. Morin
Le Soleil, samedi, 19 janvier 2008

TRAVERSELOG

Colloque sur la santé des troupeaux laitiers
On December 11th and 12th, our Transfer Agent participated in the 3rd Colloque sur la santé des troupeaux laitiers in Quebec City, Under the theme “Quand les décisions influencent la santé” (When Decisions Affect the Health), the program offered two conferences dealing with mastitis, to the 275 participants:

- La réalité de la mammite au Canada, où vous situez-vous? (The situation of mastitis in Canada, where do you stand?), by Dr. Herman W. Barkema, University of Calgary;
- Nouvelles approches pour le diagnostic de la mammite à la ferme (New approaches for the diagnosis of mastitis on-farm), by Dr. Jodi Ann Wallace, Clinique vétérinaire d’Ormstown, Quebec.

Nearly forty people attended a workshop entitled “Diagnostic rapide et traitement de la mammite clinique” (Rapid diagnosis and treatment of clinical mastitis) that was given by Drs. Wallace, Jean-Philippe Roy (Faculté de médecine vétérinaire de St-Hyacinthe), and Caroline Vézina (la Ferme Tranquility, Brownsburg-Chatham). The PowerPoint presentation of this workshop is available in the “Mammite: resources en ligne” section of our website: www.reseaumammite.org.
National Cohort of Dairy Farms – Quebec Section
On January 10th, Dr. Jean-Philippe Roy and Mr. François Dubois organized an informational meeting for Cohort farms in Quebec. There was a presentation of current research projects within the Network, and a presentation of a research project on the management factors that can have an effect on new intra-mammary infections that was led by Dr. Simon Dufour. The producers were then invited to participate in a research project on diagnostic tools at the farm where a practical demonstration took place. A mastitis quiz, organized by the Transfer Manager, was won by Mr. Stéphane Giard, from the Edgard Giard farm, St-Hyacinthe. He was presented a cheese platter for his efforts.

NMC’s 47th annual meeting
Our Transfer Manager, and several members and researchers of the Network attended the 47th Annual Meeting of the NMC that was held in New Orleans, Louisiana, from January 20th to 23rd. There were 431 participants from 20 countries that participated in various activities and committees at the meeting. The conferences were divided into five main themes:
- The use of antibiotics in dairy farms;
- Biosecurity and coping with major climate changes;
- Robotic milking from different angles;
- The training of milking teams;
- Litter management – recycling of manure.
Fifty scientific posters were on display, and 10 authors of these were invited to give an oral presentation of their results. The proceedings from the meeting are on sale on the NMC website – www.nmconline.org.

The NMC is an exchange forum for anyone who is interested in staying up to date on quality milk production and the control of mastitis. The NMC has a great website that offers various articles translated into both French and Spanish. These can be found under “Resources”. Add it to your favourite bookmarks!

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THE BULLETIN MASTITIS QUIZ

In your opinion, what is the percentage of people that practice teat disinfection (pre-dip) before milking in tie-stall barns?

a) 87 %      b) 64 %      c) 48 %

To find out the answer to this question, refer to the transfer sheet Assessment of the mastitis situation in Canada under the heading “Research results” in the section entitled “Mastitis: online resources” on www.mastitisnetwork.org.
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Une version française est également disponible.