2008 Annual Scientific Meeting
A BOUNTIFUL HARVEST!

It was with a “harvest” theme that our fourth Annual Scientific Meeting was held last November in Toronto, Ontario. Over 100 scientists, dairy farmers, students and partners of various backgrounds attended the presentations on the progress of CBMRN research work - a record crowd! And one of the highlights of this gathering was, without a doubt, the valued presence of the scientists from the Mastitis Research Workers Conference (MRWC), whose annual meeting was combined with ours; four days of formal and passionate discussions on a single subject: mastitis!

Everyone enjoyed the workshops
Four workshops were organized for students and scientists. The goal was to present possible new uses of our research work and to find out more about new technologies. Thus, two workshops dealt with the use of the National Cohort of Dairy Farms database, while the other two had to do with molecular techniques and immunogenetics. In addition, a workshop organized for our private partners allowed an exploration of possible avenues to ensure the continuation of the Network when the current research program comes to an end in 2011.

Knowledge transfer in the spotlight
Two speakers emphasized the importance of transferring the new knowledge coming from the research. Dr. Theo Lam, Director of the Dutch Udder Health Centre (UGCN) in the Netherlands, presented his organization’s philosophy on this subject and the various methods used to reach Dutch dairy producers and influence their practices. Also, Julie Baillargeon, Transfer Manager at the CBMRN, explained the meaning of knowledge transfer and how to effectively determine and reach the targeted users. She described the wide range of activities and methods used by the CBMRN to inform its intended clientele in Canada as well as in the 97 other countries that visit the Network’s website!

An Excellent Master of Ceremonies!
It was with great panache that Dr. Ken Leslie, professor and scientist at the University of Guelph, acted as Master of Ceremonies for the CBMRN’s scientific presentations. His vast knowledge of the subject, along with that of the participants, allowed him to overcome those inevitable computer glitches!
And the winners are...

Network students and other collaborators presented a total of 18 posters over the four-day period of the meeting. Four of the Network’s students each won a $500 scholarship to help cover expenses when presenting their research results at a national or international scientific conference. They were Chris Verschoor of the University of Guelph, Christian Lebeau-Jacob of the Université de Sherbrooke, Chris Caloway of the University of Prince Edward Island and Simon Dufour of the Université de Montréal (absent in the photo). Congratulations to the winners and sincere thanks to the three judges for their difficult work: Jay McClure of the University of Prince Edward Island, Jean-Philippe Roy of the Université de Montréal and Trevor DeVries of the University of Guelph.

From left to right: Jay McClure, Chris Verschoor, Christian Lebeau-Jacob, Chris Caloway and Jean-Philippe Roy.

End of sampling for the National Cohort of Dairy Farms

The on-farm collection of data ended in December 2008, following two years of intensive collection on 91 farms, spread over six Canadian provinces. The success of this colossal task was made possible through an excellent level of coordination, motivated human resources and enforced compliance with standard operating procedures. Sincere thanks go to the regional coordinators, the laboratory managers and to all the field and laboratory technicians!

Four regional centres, located in Alberta, Ontario, Quebec and Prince Edward Island, coordinated and/or collected nearly 135,000 milk samples from over 9,000 dairy cows in Canada. A central databank contains the culture results of these samples, as well as various information such as herd management practices, udder condition and milk production data from CanWestDHI and Valacta. In addition, 690 DNA samples, taken from hair samples, are stored in the DNA bank and 17,000 mastitis bacteria, isolated from the cows’ udders and from bulk tanks, are archived in the Mastitis Pathogen Culture Collection. One interesting and unique characteristic of this Culture Collection is that each bacteria is linked to the data of the cow-host, to the farm management data and, for many of them, to the cow’s DNA.

The majority of the Network’s research projects depends on this data and has also led to five other projects conducted with external CBMRN collaborators. During the up-coming year, a large portion of this data will give rise to new knowledge, which will be circulated to dairy farmers and other stakeholders in the dairy sector.
Mastitis Training On-Tour

Hear Ye! Hear Ye! A big first for the Network! A mastitis training session, prepared from the knowledge obtained from the CBMRN research, is on tour across Canada during the months of March and April. In Ontario, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Alberta, Quebec – mastitis has no borders! First offered to the some 100 Canadian farms included in the National Cohort of Dairy Farms (NCDF), this training session brings together theory, practice and research results. In addition, the analyses of the 135,000 milk samples during 2007 and 2008 brought to light the major issues regarding mastitis in the Canadian provinces and for each of the participating farms.

Thanks to additional financial support from the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC), this training session entitled “A return on your investment,” was organised to meet the following three objectives:

⇒ To keep NCDF participants up-to-date regarding on-farm mastitis management;
⇒ To directly transfer to dairy farmers the knowledge and solutions acquired from research done by the CBMRN on the problem of mastitis;
⇒ To thank the NCDF participants for their collaboration in the CBMRN research program.

By popular demand – extra sessions added!
Supplementary sessions are planned on the training tour’s calendar later this year. In fact, the CBMRN is looking for capable organizations to dispense this training to dairy producers in their regions. Available in both English and French, the training package consists of a conference manual and PowerPoint presentations. Many of the presentations are also accompanied by a recording. Any organization interested in obtaining additional information on this subject should contact Anne-Marie Christen at the CBMRN, either by e-mail at anne-marie.christen@umontreal.ca, or by telephone at (450) 773-8521 ext. 18621.
INFORMATION FOR CBMRN RESEARCHERS

Introduction of a new program:
Visiting Researchers
(For CBMRN researchers only)
The objective of this new program is to support renowned international researchers to visit one or more of the CBMRN laboratories for a period from one to three months. Six awards of $5,000 each are available for the 2009-2011 period. For further information, please contact Annik L’Espérance.

Awards available for CBMRN Scientists
Networking exploration award
(Last chance!)
The objective of this award is to explore the possibilities of collaboration in research, training and knowledge transfer with other international research groups. These awards of $3,500 each are granted to help cover travel expenses.

International students internship award
(Last chance!)
This award is aimed at facilitating exchanges between students and scientists of the CBMRN and other international research groups. These awards of $3,000 each are given for the travel costs of international students on internship visits of up to four months at one of the CBMRN laboratories.

For further information, you may consult the website www.mastitisnetwork.org or contact Annik L’Espérance.

Publication Acknowledgement Policy
All scientific publications that report on projects funded within the framework of the CBMRN must acknowledge their association with the CBMRN and the support from NSERC, private partners and other funding organizations.

This is the sentence that should appear in the Acknowledgements section 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.” This acknowledgement of the CBMRN in your publications allows us to compile the publication in the CBMRN indicators of impact.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Departure of the Scientific Assistant
Grant Tomita, the CBMRN Scientific Assistant since April 2003, left his position last December 4. Dr. Tomita has returned home to take on new challenges with the Hawaii Department of Agriculture. We wish him success in his new functions!

We are in search of a new Scientific Assistant. Are you interested? Please consult the website www.mastitisnetwork.org for further information.

New research member
Nathalie Bissonnette joined the CBMRN last November. Ms. Bissonnette is a research scientist at Agriculture and Agri-food Canada’s Dairy and Swine Research and Development Centre in Lennoxville. She is presently working with Bonnie Mallard and Niel Karrow, two CBMRN members, on immunogenetic research. We welcome her to the CBMRN!
Personnel changes
Our Network Manager, Annik L’Espérance returned from her maternity leave last November 17. We wish to thank Eliane Auger and Anne-Marie Christen who replaced her during her absence. We are pleased to announce that Anne-Marie will continue working with us on various transfer projects.

Congratulations!
Our congratulations go to Herman Barkema and his team for having obtained a five million dollar grant to study Johne’s disease.

INFORMATION FOR CBMRN STUDENTS

CBMRN students are privileged since they have access to numerous advantages. Here are two grant programs available to them only:

Grants to attend international meetings
Two students, Signe Andersen and Kristen Reyher of the University of Prince Edward Island, won a $1,000 CBMRN scholarship to attend an international meeting. The next competition will be held in June 2009 – we invite as many students as possible to participate.

Grants for interlaboratory exchanges
We encourage our students to participate in an interlaboratory exchange of up to four months in another CBMRN laboratory, or elsewhere if justified. Grants of $4,800 each ($800 for travel expenses and $1,000/month for living expenses) are continuously available. For further information, visit www.mastitisnetwork.org or contact Annik L’Espérance.

COMMITTIÉE NEWS

Scientific Committee
The Scientific Committee met on November 3, 2008 in Toronto, on February 12, 2009 in St-Hyacinthe and on March 9, 2009 by conference call. The main subjects were the departure of the Scientific Assistant, the approval of a request for collaboration, the affiliation of a new researcher, the future partnership for 2011-2016 and the addition of a new program for Network researchers: Visiting Researchers. Members also evaluated the research progress for Year 3 and recommended objectives and budgets for Year 4. The next meeting is scheduled for June 2009.

A new member was named to the Scientific Committee – Greg Keefe from the University of Prince Edward Island, replacing David Kelton from the University of Guelph. Andrew Potter of University of Saskatchewan, Wim Ruysch of Alberta Milk and Doug Morrison of the FPLQ had their mandates renewed until 2011.

Transfer Committee
Members of the Transfer Committee met in Toronto on November 3, 2009 during the Network’s Annual Scientific Meeting. Two CBMRN projects were presented to the Committee with the aim of preparing them for transfer activities:

1. Identification of bacteria causing mastitis at the farm by Greg Keefe.
2. Incidence and monitoring of new udder infections by Ian Dohoo.

The committee also reviewed the Transfer Program and the budget for the next year.
Training Committee
The Training Committee met by conference call on February 24 to decide on the winners of the grants for participating at international meetings and to discuss the training workshops to be held for students in 2009.

TRANSFER OF KNOWLEDGE

Udder Health Improvement Kit
This new practical tool, initially designed in the Netherlands by the UGCN, is intended for practitioners, to help them in their on-farm monitoring and knowledge transfer. A Canadian version of the kit in French is almost completed. After having worked on the development of the binder’s contents, members of the two revision committees, composed of faculty members and private practitioners, are now working on the validation of the calculation tools and on the electronic slide presentations, which will be included on a CD in the kit.

With the support of the Fédération des producteurs de lait du Québec, a provincial program on improving udder health was launched by the Association des médecins vétérinaires practiciens du Québec, in close collaboration with the CBMRN, the FMV of the Université de Montréal and Valacta. Specifically, this program includes training on mammary health in three components: first, for veterinarians, then for sector stakeholders and finally, for dairy producers. The kit, adapted by the CBMRN, will become the cornerstone for the veterinarians’ training sessions, to be given in the fall of 2009.

A translation of the kit is almost completed and the CBMRN will proceed in the near future with a revision/distribution plan in other Canadian provinces.

A video on CMT is in the making
The CBMRN transfer team is currently preparing a short video of about seven minutes about CMT on the farm. This new educational material is a step-by-step description of the procedure to follow to correctly interpret the test. It is a useful tool to promote the use of the CMT in conjunction with a management program for mammary health in the herd.

The video, entitled “CMT: a simple and practical tool!” will soon be available in English and French on the CBMRN website. Until then, it will be shown first in the training sessions organized for Cohort producers in March and April 2009.

Mastitis Columns publications
A list of Mastitis Columns that have appeared since the last edition of the Bulletin.

In Le Producteur de lait québécois:


In The Milk Producer:

**CBMRN Press Review**

*Collecting «Clean» Milk Samples*

*Pourquoi le risque de mammité est-il plus grand au tarissement?*

*A Practical Look at Contagious Mastitis*
DFNS Newsletter, Vol. 9, No. 6, Janvier 2009.

*Le Réseau canadien de recherche sur la mammité bovine*

*The Canadian Bovine Mastitis Research Network*
Action+, Dairy Farmers of Canada, Activity Report, Spring 09, p. 11-12.

*What to Expect from Postmilking Teat Disinfection?*
*For an Efficient Teat Dip*
*Clean Environment for Clean Cows!*
*How to Prevent Transfer of Pathogens among Cows during Milking?*
BC Milk Blast, Vol. 5, Issue 1, March 2009

### TRAVEL LOG

**Across the country**

Over the past several months, our Transfer Manager, Julie Baillargeon, has attended dairy producer meetings in several regions of Canada. In November 2008, she set up her information booth at the annual meeting of Alberta Milk in Red Deer, Alberta. In December 2008, she attended the *Colloque sur la santé des troupeaux laitiers* as a member of the organizing committee, as well as manning the booth. Also in December, Dr. Greg Keefe, an active CBMRN scientist from the University of Prince Edward Island, kindly represented us at the annual meeting of the Dairy Farmers of New Brunswick.

In January, Julie moved her booth to the foot of the CN Tower in Toronto, where she met the Dairy Farmers of Ontario at their annual general meeting.

**Around the world**

Following this, Julie was in good company at the annual meeting of the National Mastitis Council (NMC) from January 25 to 28 in Charlotte, North Carolina. Every year, this meeting brings together some 400 participants from around the world, all interested in improving milk quality. Dozens of conferences dealing with mastitis are presented along with a poster session. Training workshops are also held in the evening for participants, making this an event not to be missed for anyone working closely with dairy production.

Seven CBMRN researchers and students presented a conference and six posters at this NMC event.

### COMING EVENTS

For all you globetrotters, here are some dates to put on your calendar:

**2009 July 7-9**
International Conference on Bovine Mycoplasma
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan
Call for posters: 2009 June 1st
([www.bovinemycoplasma.ca](http://www.bovinemycoplasma.ca))

**2009 July 12-16**
ADSA-CSAS-ASAS Joint Conference
Montréal, Québec
([www.csas.net/nav_conference.htm](http://www.csas.net/nav_conference.htm))
2009 August 10-14
International Symposium on Veterinary
Epidemiology and Economics
Durban, South Africa
(www.isvee.co.za)

2010 March 10-14
IDF Mastitis Conference
Christchurch, New Zealand
Call for abstracts: 2009 August 1st
(www.idfmastitis2010.com)

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