



## Vetqas® Customer Newsletter No.3 May 2013

Welcome to the third Vetqas newsletter, which forms part of our commitment to you, as customers, to keep you informed of who we are and how we can help you.

In this issue we introduce three new members of the team and talk to Paula Johnson, Head of Quality Assurance Unit about her invite to an international conference and visit to a veterinary laboratory in China. We also include details about some new accredited PT schemes and good news on courier charging.

Vetqas is the Proficiency Testing service of AHVLA Scientific, offering 95 PT schemes designed specifically for the needs of veterinary laboratories. The majority of the PT schemes are accredited to ISO/IEC 17043:2010 which specifies the general requirements for the competence of providers of PT schemes.

### Three new members join the Team

#### Neil Briggs

'I worked for two years as a Pharmaceutical Microbiologist following my graduation at the University of Birmingham. I then joined the Civil Service in 2003 working in the Post Mortem room at the then Veterinary Laboratories Agency at Sutton Bonington. I gained promotion in 2004, working in the Bacteriology, Serology and Parasitology laboratories and carrying out Gamma Interferon testing for Bovine TB. I was then promoted to manage the day to day running of the ACDP Category 3 laboratories and associated Bovine TB work. Having gained a wide range of experience, in April 2012 I applied to join the AHVLA's Quality Assurance Unit, which is on the same site as the Regional Laboratory and I am really enjoying the new set of challenges posed by the job.'



#### Gail Markey

'I have 30 years' experience of working in the Veterinary field including six and a half years as a Registered Veterinary Nurse in a Small Animal Hospital from where I joined the Agency at Sutton Bonington, working in the laboratory carrying out diagnostic testing for 10 years. I spent the next seven years working in the Quality Assurance Unit before moving to the Quality Management Group where I undertook the role of ISO 17025 Group Quality Manager for the AHVLA, co-ordinating the Quality systems of the largest UKAS multisite accreditation in the UK. I re-joined the QA Unit in June 2012, where I am now responsible for the management and use of resources for the serology PT schemes.'



#### Anne Bollard

'I have worked as a Research Scientist in Academia & Industry for over 20 years mainly on musculoskeletal and respiratory inflammatory diseases. I also have a BSc in Animal Physiology & Nutrition from Leeds University, MPhil in Applied Immunology at Liverpool Veterinary School and a PhD in Cell Biology at Royal Veterinary College. My role within the QA Unit is Deputy Scheme Co ordinator and includes ensuring that the operations and delivery of the Vetqas PT Schemes meet our customer requirements and comply with ISO/IEC 17043, the international standard for PT providers'.





## Paula Johnson visits China

Paula Johnson, Head of the AHVLA's Quality Assurance Unit, was honoured to be invited to give a presentation at the International Conference on Animal Quarantine Laboratory Quality Control in Guangzhou, China by the Animal and Plant Quarantine Committee and the Chinese National Accreditation Service (CNAS). This was the inaugural annual conference and organised by Professor Lin, Director of Animal Quarantine Laboratories, Guangdong Inspection and Quarantine Technology Centre. Professor Lin opened the conference by welcoming the 60 delegates and outlined the conference programme, which covered a wide range of topics including the collaboration with AHVLA and other veterinary organisations around the world.



Paula gave a presentation on the purpose of Proficiency Testing (PT) and the benefits of participation, together with investigations following any incorrect PT results. She also spoke about the work of the AHVLA and AHVLA Scientific products including the Vetqas schemes. Kailang Lu from Adgen Biotechnology (China) Ltd from Beijing attended the conference and acted as translator for Paula. (Adgen Ltd is the agent in China for the Vetqas PT schemes).

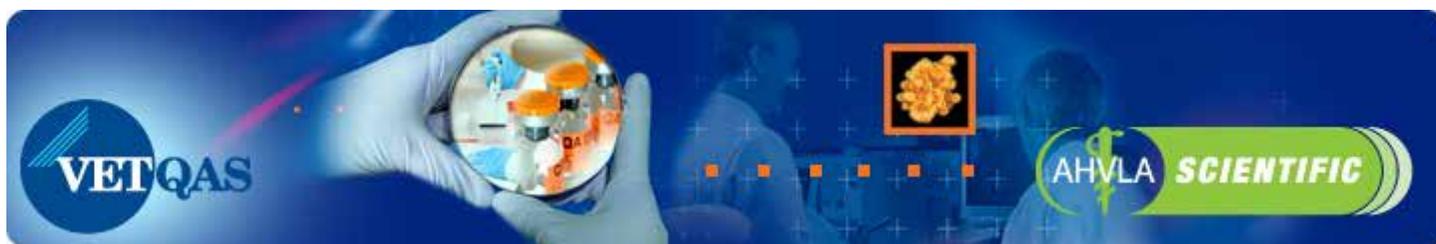
Representing the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine (AQSIQ) of the Peoples Republic of China (P.R.C.) at the conference was Feng Xueping, Deputy Director of the Department of Animal and Plant Inspection and Quarantine. Mr Feng talked about the latest requirements on management of veterinary laboratories, especially in the bio-safety field. Xiao Liang, Director of Department of Laboratory and Testing Supervision, representing the Certification and Accreditation Administration CNCA of P.R.C. spoke about the latest requirements on Qualification of Veterinary Laboratories. Tang Danzhou, the Director of Laboratory Accreditation, reported on the latest requirements on accreditation of Veterinary Laboratories and Tao Yufeng, Animal and Plant Quarantine Committee Secretariat and Project Manager of Animal Laboratory Accreditation, gave an informative presentation on quality control of accreditation for testing laboratories in China.

Day two of the conference began with a Q&A session chaired by Mr Ma Gui Ping, Head of Animal Quarantine Group of Animal and Plant Quarantine Technical committee of CNAS and Head of AQSIQ BSE Laboratory. Mr Ma has a specific area of expertise in TSE having worked at Institute of Animal Health (IAH) Compton UK with Jim Hope, who is now Head of TSE at the AHVLA. The session proved to be very useful for all, as the discussion topics included test validation and verification, record keeping, accreditation, monitoring for collusion, Histopathology PT schemes and the production and Quality Control of microbiological PT samples.

On the final afternoon, Paula, along with the other delegates, was taken on a tour of Mr Lin's impressive laboratories in Guangzhou where they were shown a wide range of tests being carried out covering a variety of animal diseases.

Paula felt the visit to the conference and the laboratory had been really worthwhile and informative and she added 'Our business in China is growing and to date the Chinese veterinary laboratories have achieved excellent results using the PT schemes. More than 100 veterinary laboratories are accredited to ISO 17025 and the AHVLA looks forward to continuing to work with CNAS and laboratories across China'.





## Seven newly accredited schemes

We are pleased to announce that a further seven Vetqas PT Schemes have recently been granted accreditation by UKAS to ISO/IEC 17043: 2010 Conformity assessment – General requirements for proficiency testing.

They are:

- PT0026** Staphylococci - including MRSA - Culture & ID sim.clinical specimen
- PT0128** Contagious Bovine Pleuro Pneumoniae (CBPP) - cELISA/CFT/IBT serum
- PT0138** Bluetongue - ELISA serum
- PT0140** Small Animal Microbiology - Isolation & ID of small animal pathogens
- PT0155** *Neospora caninum* - ELISA / FAT serum
- PT0166** Cellular Pathology Technique (CPT) - Staining technique
- PT0167** Immunohistochemistry (IHC) - Staining technique



One other scheme is in the process of assessment for accreditation:

- PT0139** Foot and Mouth Disease (Eurasian strains) - ELISA/VNT serum

## Good news on courier charges.

The price of couriers for the shipment of PT samples will remain unchanged in this new contract year. We understand the difficulties faced by many laboratories during these times of financial hardship and hope this will help a little.

NB. Please check the expiry date on your Import Permits so that when required a current permit can be provided to the QA unit well in advance of the parcel postage date.

## STOP Press

If you are seeking accreditation for your laboratory, a list of national and international accreditation bodies can be found at [www.fasor.com/iso25](http://www.fasor.com/iso25).

## Health and Safety

Please Note – ALL PT SAMPLES should be handled and disposed of with the relevant attention required for material of an unknown status in compliance with your laboratory risk assessments and procedures.





## Whats on!

Vetqas will be exhibiting at the

XVI International Symposium  
of the World Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians,  
Berlin, Germany  
June 5-8, 2013,

[www.wavld2013-berlin.com](http://www.wavld2013-berlin.com)

### Protein in Animal Feed PCR

We have some PT material available that may be of use to some laboratories for the validation of new tests and / or training of new staff.

We are able to supply sets of samples comprising of Negative, Avian, Porcine, Ovine, Bovine and Bovine/ Avian samples each of 40grams. at £150 per set (plus p+p).

If you would like further information regarding this material please contact: [vetqas@ahvla.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:vetqas@ahvla.gsi.gov.uk)

### Potential New PT Schemes

Vetqas are investigating a number of new schemes that may be available later this year:

*Fasciola hepatica* – ELISA serum  
*Fasciola hepatica* – ELISA milk  
BVDV - PCR testing of ear tissue.  
*Babesia gibsoni* – staining

## REAL recommend Vetqas

Renewable Energy Assurance Limited (REAL) owns a Certification Scheme for companies that produce compost on a commercial scale. Participating compost producers are required to send compost samples for testing only to laboratories approved by REAL and those approved laboratories are recommended to join the Vetqas Composting PT scheme (PT0164) for the isolation of Salmonella and *E.coli* and enumeration of *E.coli*. This scheme is suitable for those laboratories testing compost containing both Animal By-products and non-Animal By-products. For further details please see the Vetqas website.

You can find more information about REAL certification scheme for quality composts at:  
<http://www.organics-recycling.org.uk/category.php?category=992&name=Compost+PAS+100>

