

1<sup>st</sup> October 2019

Dear Members,

**Invitation to our PVS Autumn Meeting, 13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> Nov 2019, Leeds**

I am delighted to be able to invite you to our Autumn meeting when we return to Oulton Hall in mighty Yorkshire! We are very grateful to Bayer Animal Health for generously sponsoring this meeting and look forward to their presentation regarding innovations in coccidiosis and iron deficiency anaemia control on the first day.

The scientific programme has been organised by Dr Jill Thomson, ably assisted by Michael Putt. Venue arrangements and liaison with MYT, our meetings organisers, have been coordinated by Allison Kirwan. I am very grateful to them all for pulling together what will be an excellent meeting.

We live and work in interesting times! New Codes of Practice for the Welfare of Pigs have very recently been laid before Parliament and are likely to become law early in the New Year. Pig welfare therefore continues to dominate much of the society's business and this is reflected in our first session, covering the related topics of proposed new RT Pigs standards, retailer standards and an update on pig welfare assessments, by our very own Duncan Berkshire. Whilst the new Codes now provide us with reasonable clarity, much now depends on interpretation. Duncan will hopefully be able to update all members on how these crucial elements of interpretation will affect our daily work and the advice we are able to give our clients.

Some of the more 'senior' members of the society pick up the mantle in the second session and have agreed to pass on some of their considerable knowledge relating to the 'legal case minefield'. I am sure this will be a very interesting and stimulating session for all in the audience.

The ever-popular Clinical Club (CC) will take a slightly new form at this meeting due to absence by our longstanding CC chair. In David's absence, Michael Putt will chair this session, which will be given over to presentations from some of our younger members. We are also very grateful to Dr Stan Done for introducing our new PVS image bank - this has been a real 'labour of love' and will be a hugely useful resource for the society.

The second day will kick off with an update on Hepatitis E virus which, although not considered a significant pig pathogen, is of zoonotic concern. We are honoured to have Prof Nicolas Rose from France to discuss the approach to mitigating the Hepatitis E risk in French cuisine involving raw pork product.

Delivering negative messages to clients can be challenging for pig vets, but there are situations when this is required. Roger Blowey will introduce a discussion session on this subject based on many years of experience. This will be a chance for colleagues to share difficult situations and solutions for successful outcomes.

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Our final session regarding Swine Dysentery is obviously very timely and provides an insight into recent research on *B.hydysenteriae* typing and its practical use. Disease control and requirements for reporting outbreaks will also be discussed; both subjects being highly pertinent. The current challenges we face may have the potential to affect national antibiotic usage figures for the year. Hopefully some of the learning and discussion here will help us to make sure the current challenges are just a 'blip', and that we can maintain the downward direction of travel in terms of antibiotic use of the last few years.

Finally, a couple of quick reminders regarding registration and our meeting formats. All registrations are via the PVS website, although if you experience any problems, please contact Liz Van Hee on [webmaster@pigvetsoc.org.uk](mailto:webmaster@pigvetsoc.org.uk).

Please note Early Bird Registration closes 2 weeks before the meeting and if you wish to benefit from the substantially cheaper registration (and help our meetings organisers immeasurably) it is wise to get registered before this time.

Our meetings are members-only, closed events. We wish the current format to be maintained whereby all members can benefit from both the science, and opinion, discussed at our meetings, and indeed feel free to contribute openly. Sharing of presented material on social media should not be done without express, advanced permission of the presenter and meeting organisers. Non-members are welcome to attend by prior agreement – requests should be made to [president@pigvetsoc.org.uk](mailto:president@pigvetsoc.org.uk).

I look forward to seeing as many of you as are able to attend in Yorkshire in November.

Your sincerely

Richard

**Richard Pearson MRCVS**  
**PVS President 2019-20**

*The Pig Veterinary Society (PVS) is a specialist division of the British Veterinary Association. The membership of PVS includes veterinary surgeons and scientists who work in the pig sector, and the Society aims to assist its members in their professional lives by ensuring they have access to the latest information with regards pig health and production. PVS also represents the membership at a national level, making sure that pig welfare is a priority considering the latest research with regards health and management on farm.*