

10<sup>th</sup> February 2020

Dear Members,

**Invitation to our PVS Spring Meeting, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2020, Edinburgh**

I am delighted to be able to invite you to our Spring meeting when we return to Scotland. We are very grateful to Boehringer Ingelheim Animal Health for generously sponsoring this meeting and look forward to their presentation regarding innovations in vaccination, particularly in relation to parvovirus.

The scientific programme has once again 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.

Our first session once again kicks off with matters Welfare. At the time of writing, crucial meetings between PVS, NPA, APHA, Defra and other stakeholders to clarify implementation of the new Codes of Practice for the Welfare of Pigs remain to happen, and indeed these elements of tertiary legislation remain sitting before Parliament, pending becoming law. This is however (finally!) expected to happen before our Spring meeting. Duncan Berkshire will update us on crucial aspects of implementation of the new Codes based on these meetings. Anita Hoofs from Wageningen will then speak on the Dutch experience of free-farrowing systems which will be very interesting bearing in mind the government's stated direction of travel in the new Codes.

With African Swine Fever now unfortunately poised on the very border of Germany, the EU's biggest pig producer, it seems very timely for our second session to be devoted to this topic. Our UK and international speakers of John Carr, Nanfang (Avery) Zeng and Myriam Logeot will update us on the latest situation in E Europe/ SE Asia, China and Belgium respectively with first-hand experience and evaluation of control measures employed to date. After the break Susanna Williamson will conclude the session with a presentation looking at differentials for both ASF and CSF. This promises to be a sobering and extremely useful session for all members.

David Chennells returns to chair our ever-popular Clinical Club- if you have any interesting, perplexing, or just 'downright odd' piggy cases, please share them with the society.

The second day starts with presentations on developments in phage technology. Pressure to reduce the use of antibiotics in pig production will continue and we face other challenges with the likely removal of therapeutic zinc in 2022. Hansjorg Lehnerr from Germany and Anisha Thanki from University of Leicester will explore potential application of phage in the control of post weaning diarrhoea, MRSA and salmonella.

Topical medicines issues complete our programme with David Bartley from MRI covering off the principles of anthelmintic resistance, something none of us must take for granted in the pig sector. PRRSv is another incredibly important topic at the moment with the PRRS RDPE initiative currently out to tender, and the virus itself proving ever more elusive to control.

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Jean-Pierre Frossard from APHA will share up-to-date information on what is happening with the virus and explore how it appears to be interacting with vaccines. Lastly, yours truly would like to share an update on potential paths forward with antibiotics in the pig sector and seek a wider view on our sector submission into the next round of target setting for the pig sector- RUMA Target Task Force 2.

Our societies' AGM will also be held during this meeting- please try and attend! It is a great opportunity to learn more about what the society has been doing in the last year and help formulate plans for the future. At this AGM we will be seeking to elect 2 new exec members, a new Treasurer and our next JVP. My thanks to Laura Hancox, John Cottney, David Strachan and Duncan Berkshire respectively for their service to the society. Becoming more involved with the work of the society is a great learning experience, a chance to put something back into the sector that supports us all and, I would heartily encourage you to consider a role with PVS. The future of the society also depends on it! Please get in touch if you would like to learn more about the available roles before our AGM.

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 PVS Webmaster: [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 or other 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 Edinburgh this Spring.

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.*