



Commonwealth Veterinary Association e-Newsletter

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CVA rabies diagnostic laboratory gets OIE twinning status

The CVA is delighted to announce that the dedicated rabies diagnostic laboratory, which was established by the CVA at the Bangalore Veterinary College, Bangalore, India in 2013 has now received OIE twinning status. It has now been twinned by OIE with the Centre for Disease Control (CDC) Atlanta, USA and Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA), United Kingdom.

The CVA rabies laboratory at the Bangalore Veterinary College, is a key laboratory in the region, led by a dynamic and highly respected technical expertise, already with an international profile and with strong support from the national government. A crucial ingredient to the success of rabies control would be the empowerment of local veterinary and laboratory services. The OIE twinning will contribute to this by providing adequate training, tailored to suit the needs of not only India but other countries of the region. Ultimately, this should contribute to the development of national or regional epidemiological surveillance systems. With this, the effective communication would be a key to controlling rabies, by facilitating the exchange of information between countries, as well as standardising vaccination and diagnostic procedures. The twinning programme will also aim to promote and strengthen the technical expertise in the region, which in turn could contribute significantly to control rabies in both human and animals through multipronged approaches.

The CVA is enthusiastic about the opportunities that this twinning with APHA, as an OIE reference laboratory, and CDC Atlanta will bring, both in greater efficacy in this goal and collaborations with other groups, hitherto unexplored.



Report on the Australian Veterinary Association Annual Conference

By Dianne Phillips, CVA Councillor Australia

It was an honour and pleasure to represent CVA President Peter Thornber at the annual Australian Veterinary Association conference in May 2016 in Adelaide. The program was crammed with experts and interesting presenters in many streams of veterinary science including small animal medicine, surgery, behaviour, dentistry, welfare, practice management, public health, education, large animal medicine, surgery, welfare and wildlife and conservation biology. If you're exhausted by reading that list, it's even harder to choose which seminar to attend in person!

In addition to the academic program I met with the AVA executive on various occasions to participate in discussions and proposals to address key platforms representing the AVA's focus. This primarily revolves around how best to maximise AVA's relevance to all its members in the varied streams of veterinary professionals and to be seen as a national authority on animal welfare and health issues for its members, industry stakeholders and government. There was also a chance to discuss future opportunities to collaborate

and promote activities which support the CVA and how best to develop these plans.

At the AVA Annual General Meeting the representatives of the CVA, New Zealand AVA, American Veterinary Medicine Association and the Federation of Asian Veterinary Associations made presentations about their organisations and exchanged symbolic gifts with the president of the AVA, Dr Robert Johnson. It had been a rewarding and fulfilling week!



12th African Dairy Conference and Exhibition

Very many greetings from the Rwanda veterinary association. This is to inform all that from 31st August to 2nd September 2016, the Rwanda National Dairy Platform (RNDP) in collaboration with the Eastern and Southern Africa Dairy Association (ESADA) will host the 12th African dairy conference and exhibition. The event will take place in Kigali's new state of the art "Convention Centre" managed by Radisson Blu Hotels. The conference will attract about 800 participants including nationals and 120 exhibitors from across the world. For those who may wish to attend this event visit the ESADA website for online registration and hotel booking for both the conference and the exhibition. The deadline for registrations is the end of July. Therefore, we urge you to inform dairy companies in your countries that may have an interest in exhibiting their products and services to do so now since space for the exhibition is limited to only 130 booths. You may also directly enquire by tel; +250-788308986 / 738308986 or by email to dairywanda.rndp@gmail.com For the first time

in the conference's history, the conference and exhibition has attracted dairy exhibitors from every part of the world. Don't miss this opportunity. For those of you who may wish to extend your stay we could facilitate you to join others in the annual event of naming baby gorillas in the Virunga mountains, which will take place immediately after the conference. We have arranged a number of field visits as well as tourist attraction destinations. Few slots are remaining for speakers. If you wish to make a presentation on dairy related issues, this is the only moment you have to register.



CVA Country Councillor Profile – Dr Sylvia Baluka of Uganda

Q1. Tell us about you, your family and where you live?

Dr. Sylvia Angubua Baluka was born in the 1970s to Mr. Koiti Muhaita Sylvester & Mrs. Koiti Agnes Katooko in Budaka district, Eastern Uganda during President Idhi Amin's era. Sylvia joined Makerere University (MAK) for a Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine in October 1993 and graduated with Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine, Makerere University on January 15, 1999. She holds a Master of Science in Food Safety, Michigan State University, USA, MBA, MAK, Post-graduate Diploma (Human Resource Management), Uganda Management Institute, Certificate in Integrated Pest Management & Food Safety, Wageningen University, Netherlands & PhD (Veterinary Medicine), MAK. She lectures in the College of Veterinary Medicine, MAK. She is an expert in Food Safety, Animal Health Economics, Epidemiology, Global Health, Veterinary Administration & Jurisprudence. I

have published several scientific papers in refereed journals, book chapters and motivational and guidance books for youths and a Food Safety Handbook. Sylvia has been married to Mr. Angubua Peter for the last 18 years. I am a mother to three sons (David Praise Angubua (16), Jonathan Divine Angubua (14) & Joshua Victor Angubua (12). I am a member of the Uganda Veterinary Association and Uganda Christian Veterinary Mission. I volunteer; as a community worker, in the church by offering pre-marital counselling to young couples preparing to get married and giving motivational and guidance talks to students in Primary and Secondary Schools. I would like to impact the youths by living as an exemplary model.

Q2. What is your favourite food?

My favourite food is 'Matooke + Fish + Beans + Nakati + Pineapple'.

Q3. Do you have any favourite music?

Not a music fan, my hobby is reading & writing. But I appreciate gospel / Christian music.

Q4. What is your favourite sport?

'Foot Ball' i.e. watching not

Q5. Tell up in a paragraph what your current veterinary position is.

Currently I am at the rank of Lecturer in the College of Veterinary Medicine, Makerere University and I am looking forward to my next promotion to Senior Lecturer at the end of this year.

Q6. What influenced you to become a veterinarian?

University students visited my Secondary School when I was in A'Level (S.5 – S. 6) and their leader was a Veterinary Student who spoke very well and positively about the Veterinary Course at Makerere University and the Veterinary Profession while introducing himself and I was impressed that it was the best Profession that I needed to join.

Q7. What do you enjoy most about being a veterinarian?

The sense of belonging to the Uganda Veterinary Association which is by far one of the most organized and solid Professional Organizations in my country makes me feel that I am in the right Profession.

Q8. What are some of the main challenges for you and your national veterinary association?

The main challenges that the UVA faces stems from the fact that we lack a substantive Ministry of Animal Industry in the country. Hence the Veterinary / Livestock sector seems to be ranked low in regards to national priorities and often underfunded which paralyzes the core activities in the Veterinary sector such as disease surveillance, mass vaccinations against epidemic transboundary animal diseases such as foot and mouth disease (FMD). Consequently many Veterinarians seem demoralized and discouraged which gives a negative image that may not attract young people into the Veterinary Profession if things continue like this.

Q9. How do you communicate to your organisation about the CVA and its activities?

My major channel of communication to the UVA about the CVA and its activities is via the emailing platform – the vetforumuganda and I attend all the UVA Executive meetings. In the near future, i plan to request for a time slot during the annual UVA Symposium and Annual General Assembly where I will provide briefs about CVA and its activities. This will help me to improve the visibility of CVA in Uganda. At the moment, many members of UVA are not conversant with what CVA stands for and how it benefits them.

Q10. How do you think the CVA can assist you in your Councillor Role?

CVA is already supporting me in my Councillor Role by sharing with me the News Letters and keeping me updated so that I also share with the UVA members in Uganda. In addition, the CVA can assist me in my role by sponsoring me to attend some relevant workshops and international conferences or visiting CVA Councillors in

other countries to enable me to benchmark how they are executing their duties. This can go a long way in helping to improve my performance and CVA's visibility in my country.



Recipes from the world – from Norfolk Island

Vegan and Gluten Free Coconut Quick Bread Recipe

low fat, gluten free, vegan, dairy free, egg free, nut free, low sugar

Ingredients:

- 1 cup (120g) gluten free self-raising flour
- 1 cup (80g) desiccated coconut
- 1/4 cup (50g) coconut sugar or brown sugar*
- 1 cup milk of your choice (we used unsweetened almond)
- 2 tbsp (30g) unsweetened applesauce (optional but recommended if you want a moister more cake-like bread)

Method:

Preheat your oven to 180C/350F.

Grease and/or line a small loaf tin and set aside.

Combine all your ingredients in a medium sized mixing bowl until just combined, then pour into your prepared loaf tin.

Bake for 1 hour or until your loaf is cooked through (you will likely need to cover the top with foil halfway through as it will brown on top before it's cooked all the way through). Test your loaf to ensure it's cooked by inserting a knife or skewer into the centre – you'll know it's cooked when it comes out clean and your loaf feels firm.

Allow to cool slightly before slicing and serving!

This bread will keep stored in an airtight container at room temperature or in the fridge for 2-3 days. Serve on its own, toast or spread with your favourite spread!

*If you want this to be sweeter, use up to half a cup

