

UPEI NewsRELEASE

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For Immediate Release:

May 14, 2004

Two Atlantic Veterinary College, UPEI Professors Awarded Research Funding by Canada Foundation for Innovation

Charlottetown, PEI – Two researchers at the Atlantic Veterinary College at UPEI were awarded a total of \$126,708 in research funding by the Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI) during a ceremony in Charlottetown today.

“The promotion of an innovation culture is a priority for the Atlantic Veterinary College and UPEI,” said Dr. Tim Ogilvie, Dean of the AVC at UPEI. “Our world-class researchers are a very talented group that are committed to benefiting society through contributions to both animal and human medical research. The investment of foundations like CFI helps strengthen the research we are able to carry out right here in Prince Edward Island.”

“The CFI investment helps research facilities like the University of Prince Edward Island and the Atlantic Veterinary College to capitalize on research opportunities that benefits all Canadians, ” said the Hon. Shawn Murphy, Member of Parliament for Hillsborough. “Our support of cutting-edge research will help secure Canada's position as a global leader in innovation”.

Dr. Herman Barkema of AVC's Department of Health Management was awarded \$70,645 for research equipment required to establish a culture capacity for *Mycobacterium paratuberculosis*. This will eventually aid in the prevention and control of Johne's disease in cattle, and assist in determining if Johne's disease has any potential association with Crohn's disease in humans. Dr. Barkema's testing facility at AVC is the only one of its kind in Canada.

Dr. Chris Riley, also of AVC's Department of Health Management, was awarded \$56,063 for the establishment of a Fourier Transform Infrared Spectroscopy capacity for comparative biomedical research at AVC. Dr. Riley proposes to use this technology in an innovative way to assess arthritis in horses and monitor the effects of drugs on horses. Dr. Riley and his international team, which is made up of collaborators from the University of Colorado and the University of Guelph, will be the first in the world to use this technology in this manner.

“These awards represent a strategic boost to the research capabilities of the University of Prince Edward Island,” said Ms. Carmen Charette, Interim President and CEO of the CFI. “These projects were selected following a thorough assessment process and will help ensure that researchers and graduate students at UPEI's Atlantic Veterinary College have access to a world-class facility and training environment.”

The CFI's New Opportunities Fund enables eligible universities to provide research infrastructure for newly-recruited faculty members, in their first full-time academic appointment in Canadian degree-granting institutions, so that these researchers can undertake leading-edge research. The fund also enables institutions to recruit new faculty members in the areas of research identified as priorities in their strategic research plans.

A complete list of New Opportunities Fund projects, by university, can be found at: www.innovation.ca.

The Atlantic Veterinary College at UPEI is committed to excellence in teaching, research and service.

CFI is an independent corporation created in 1997 by the Government of Canada to fund research infrastructure. The CFI's mandate is to strengthen the ability of Canadian universities, colleges, research hospitals, and other non-profit institutions to carry

out world-class research and technology development that will benefit Canadians.

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