



In this CVERA e-zine, we provide a brief overview of some of the recent and ongoing work conducted by CVERA staff in collaboration with a wide range of national and international institutions. More in-depth information can be found at <http://www.ucd.ie/cvera/>, noting the role of CVERA to provide high quality independent scientific research and advice to support national evidence-based policy-making in animal health & welfare and public health and related matters.

### **PhD research positions to support bovine TB eradication in the Republic of Ireland**

The Quantitative Veterinary Epidemiology group in the Wageningen Institute of Animal Sciences, in association with Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM) and CVERA, is recruiting two PhD candidates to support the eradication of Bovine Tuberculosis (bTB) in the Republic of Ireland. The roles include a modeller with an interest in infectious disease modelling (based in Wageningen) to work on spatial modelling of bTB multi-host dynamics, and an epidemiologist/biologist (based in Dublin) with good quantitative skills to analyse the spatial heterogeneity in bTB transmission with and without vaccination of badgers. The closing date for applications is the 18<sup>th</sup> February 2019 and further details can be found at <https://www.wur.nl/en/Jobs/Vacancies/Show/Two-PhD-positions-Research-to-support-bovine-TB-eradication-in-Ireland.htm>.

### **Oireachtas Joint Committee on Agriculture, Food and the Marine**

Prof Simon More will appear shortly before the Oireachtas Joint Committee on Agriculture, Food and the Marine to discuss general issues relating to bovine tuberculosis. Details of the work conducted by the Joint Committee can be found at <https://www.oireachtas.ie/en/committees/32/agriculture-food-and-the-marine/>.

### **A review of Johne's disease in dairy herds**

Dr. Conor McAloon from the Herd Health & Animal Husbandry Section in the School of Veterinary Medicine has written several review papers in *The Veterinary Journal* on paratuberculosis in dairy herds with emphasis on epidemiology and on-farm control. In addition, Conor has written a key paper in *Preventive Veterinary Medicine* on the low accuracy of Bayesian latent class analysis for estimation of herd-level true prevalence under certain disease characteristics. The results of this study raise questions about the accuracy of published estimates for the herd-level true prevalence of paratuberculosis based on serological testing, using latent class analysis. CVERA contributed to these studies.

*The Veterinary Journal* -

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.tvjl.2019.01.010>

*The Veterinary Journal* -

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.tvjl.2019.01.009>

*Preventive Veterinary Medicine* -

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.prevetmed.2018.11.014>

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### **Scientific work in support of the national JD control programme**

Detailed work has recently been published to support surveillance and control options for Johne's Disease in Ireland. This work, led by international consultants Evan Sergeant and Ann Meyer with support from colleagues in CVERA, UCD and Animal Health Ireland (AHI), has proved central to the design of the national JD control programme. The papers are published in the *Journal of Dairy Science* and can be found:

*Journal of Dairy Science* - <https://doi.org/10.3168/jds.2018-14883>

*Journal of Dairy Science* - <https://doi.org/10.3168/jds.2018-15696>

### **CVERA welcome a new member to the team**

We would like to welcome Jamie Madden to CVERA in his role as biostatistician. Jamie worked as a postdoctoral researcher in the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland on pharmaco-epidemiology studies where he was exploring the relationship between population drug exposures to breast cancer outcomes. He completed a PhD in Health Services Research (biostatistics and epidemiology) where his thesis involved the modelling of circadian blood pressure patterns. Jamie will be working on a wide range of projects relating to animal health & welfare and public health.

This e-zine, and previous news items, can be found at: <http://www.ucd.ie/cvera/news/>

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