

25/03/2015	Early Career Vaccinologist Network Teleconference	
Location	Via Telephone Conference Call	
Date/Time:	25 th March 2015 13:00 – 14:00	
Attendees:	Madeleine Clark	PI
	Nick Lyons	PI
	Robin Flynn	Nottingham
	Alexander Corbishley	Roslin
	Cosmin Chintoan-Uta	Roslin
	Andrew Broadbent	PI
	Lucy Duncombe	APHA
	Carol McNair	Stirling
	Sophie Morgan	PI
Apologies	Sean Monaghan	Stirling
	Nilantha Jayasuriya	Stirling
Action Points for Everyone	Promote the website, linkedIn and ECVN within institutes Please send any news articles, published papers or public engagement blog posts to MC for uploading on to the website MC to form a draft proposal for the workshop and pass around for discussion	
Introductions		
MC explained background to the network and formation of the Early Career Vaccinologist Network (ECVN) based on the Veterinary Vaccinology Network (VVN) deliverables and support for research career pathways. It was decided that rather than ‘Young Vaccinologist Network’ it would be named ‘ Early Career Vaccinologist Network ’		
Introductions from the Group		
Madeleine Clark (MC): Veterinary Vaccinology Network Coordinator based at The Pirbright Institute, also works on other Multidisciplinary Scientific grants Nicholas Lyons (NL): Research Fellow in Veterinary Epidemiology at The Pirbright Institute Andrew Broadbent (AB): Research Fellow at The Pirbright Institute (Compton). Research programme looking at Infectious Bursal Disease Virus(IBDV). Alexander Corbishley (AC): <i>Escherichia coli</i> O157:H7. Ruminant immunology and vaccinology Cosmin Chintoan-Uta : Research on Anti-Campylobacter vaccines in poultry at the Roslin Institute Robin Flynn (RF): Research on host-parasite interactions. Research on Fasciola hepatica Carol McNair (CM): Parasitologist, research on Vaccine development against sea lice at the University of Stirling.		

Lucy Duncombe (LD): works on Brucellosis at the APHA

Sophie Morgan (SM) (Joined midway through the conference): Post-doc in Swine Influenza at The Pirbright Institute

Young Vaccinologist's Steering Group Strategy

MC explained that the ECVN needs a strategy of what it hopes to achieve and how the VVN can support it. Strategy topics up for discussion were emailed before the meeting and were added to the agenda.

AB highlighted his topics for consideration:

a. Improving links between people working in the lab and people working in the field

Action: incorporate into Workshop proposal

b. Enhancing career development: Quicker access to job adverts

Inside information on companies or positions

Action: MC to create a focused ECVN Page on the website

Ask Web developers to add LinkedIn on to the website

c. Improving links between people working in industry with people working outside of industry

d. Forming a LinkedIn group

Action: MC to send round link and add to website

e. A Webinar series

Having a mechanism of putting presentations from institutes on the website was proposed. It was suggested that the steering group ask their relevant institutes if they is a mechanism of getting a hold of seminar presentations to put on the VVN website.

- Bryan Charleston (BC) has said the website should just include presentations from VVN. Therefore no need to ask institutes. This is something the network will organise to do for future workshops and annual conferences. At a recent EUFMDV meeting members from RVC were able to organise this. BC provided Nadia Rumich as a contact at EUFMD who may be able to help with this.

Action: MC will get in touch with Nadia, RVC and talk to TPI ICT to organise this for future workshops/conferences

Action: Anyone who has papers to add to the website please send them to MC

f. An online journal club

There was great interest in hosting journal clubs between Early Career researchers via skype. This will be advertised on the network website and newsletter and will be organised amongst the Early Career Researchers.

Action: AB to organise content and structure of first journal club and to liaise with MC regarding organisation and promoting it via website and newsletter

g. Representatives from different sectors invited to discuss their career paths

It was decided this would be of use in a Network organised workshop.

Veterinary Vaccinology Network Funded Workshops

An Early Career Research Training Workshop was suggested as one of the topic specific workshops

for this year.

The workshop should include:

How to write grants with a vaccine focus training: what successful grants look like; how to write specific parts of the grant i.e. finance, impact, pilot study details. This could also be tailored as case study sessions.

It was proposed that Principle Investigators could be invited to the Workshop to give presentations on their career pathways. Longer talks (of half an hour duration) with Q&A sessions and/or case study sessions as seen at the VVN conference (Feb 2015) would aid in being an interactive workshop of which useful information can be gained.

Representatives from funding bodies are warranted at Early Career Researcher Workshops. Early Career researchers do not have the links with funding bodies such as BBSRC. It would be useful to see what funding bodies want from grants (i.e. Criteria list, the structure of science and grant in general). It was suggested that people who sit on committees such as Panel A/known reviewers should be invited to the workshop to present/discuss what well written grants look like and what they are judging grants against.

The workshop would like to include structured networking sessions for the Early Career Researchers. Speed networking exemplified at the MRC Novel Tools and Technologies Workshop (Dec 14) was identified as a good way of structuring such an event. Participants are given directions and move around tables presenting themselves in 1 minute to the whole table.

The speed networking session could include established investigators but it was also noted that there should be network events including speed networking limited to early careers researchers to aid in sustainable future collaborations.

RF suggested '*How to manage a research group*' as a workshop topic. The American Association of Immunology hosts successful presentations and networking events catering for career development with topics such as this one.

RF email notes also suggested presentations from ECRs, this could be formally included in the workshop as well as having poster sessions.

AB highlighted Bryan Charleston's suggestion of Summer Schools. BSI does a 3-4 day event which is structured as a scientific meeting including PhD, Post-Docs, re-entry into different sciences. This event includes lectures with key themes (This could be centred on the Network four themes). It also includes poster/networking opportunities and brings in international people.

- BC explained that the summer school should be a priority for VVN, but it is important to organise the one day workshop as a basis to build on for a summer school next year. The network has limited funds but it is thought that BBSRC may be able to help further with the 3 day event as part of their career development funding. This is something to question further and MC will be in contact with contacts at the BBSRC: Sadhana Sharma on the VVN steering committee and Michael Ball.

Action: MC to formulate a draft proposal for the one day workshop and email around for discussion to then take to VVN Steering Committee

h. A cross-University/Institute mentoring scheme

RF explained at Nottingham there is a large focus on Bacterial and Virological research but not on parasitology. He suggested it would be good to have people that are willing to provide advice and feedback from different institutes especially when considering writing bigger, multi-disciplinary grants that may have the potential to work on different scientific areas but may not have the expertise to hand.

This may be challenging to coordinate as PIs are busy and have their own students to look after. The Network Directory was highlighted as a first place to search for topics/people who may be able to help with questions. It was suggested that there may be a mechanism on the directory that allows certain people to be highlighted as people that are happy to be contacted to look over proposals etc.

A page on the website or newsletter dedicated to people asking questions/looking for information/advice may be another way of helping people with advice or collaborations.

Having a forum led page similar to research gate was another suggested idea, however there is currently no capability of doing this on the website.

APHA have 'Discipline champions' expertise in set topics.

It was also suggested there be mailing lists for particular topics or specifically for post docs/PI

Action: MC to set up a page on the website and newsletter dedicated as an area where emailed-in questions concerning advice, information and potential collaborations can be uploaded for members to contact others.

i. Engage with practices/practice networks i.e. those people using vaccines in the field

AC asked that there be a mechanism of improving links with those that work in the field, shifting the focus from research scientists alone but those that actually use Veterinary vaccines. This was identified as being important to see where the actual needs are in the field and not just opinion from companies. AB provided an example of putting research into a vaccine platform that may not be useful at all.

It was understood that Early career researchers would like more information on how the vaccine works in the field, how it fails and what constitutes a failure as well as engaging with users. This would be important in grant writing again.

It was suggested that there be links with LEVI boards – (cows and pigs) (BPEX EBLEX) and perhaps they could help sponsor workshops, as well as bring users to talk to Early career researchers/network in general.

Would it be worth having specific farmers' days to talk to them about vaccines and research as they are a different audience?

NL established the need for evaluating vaccines too and that vaccine failures are often internalised in companies. Further research into evaluating vaccines will aid in future collaborations between different disciplines and bigger grants.

- BC acknowledged these points and suggested Epidemiologist come and discuss Vaccine efficacy/effectiveness at the workshop to provide suitable understanding

AOB

Chairperson: RF agreed to chair these meetings, SM has also stated her willingness to help

How often do we want the meetings? Monthly, Quarterly – MC suggested VVN do quarterly but if we want to get things happening quickly i.e. the workshop perhaps we need to make this more regular – perhaps RF and SM can suggest further?

Post meeting notes:

SM highlighted that BSI do regional meetings, she suggested within institutes and as the network gets bigger that those in the steering committee become a point of contact for the ECVN in their established institutes and help raise the profile and organise regional meetings/journal clubs etc. if there is interest in it.

CCU: Further to the discussion about a summer school, there is a Europe-wide summer school in immunology also, hosted by ENII. I have copied a link below as inspiration for a possible structure. They combine lectures (which for the ECVN can be on the four research areas prioritised by the VVN), participant presentations, tutorial sessions and career development sessions. There is scope for us setting the components and proportion of them during a summer school, guided by the outcomes from the one day workshop to be organised later this year.

<http://www.enii.org/index.php?pageId=245>

Regarding the point raised by AC, another option of engaging with the farmers may be attending agricultural meetings and shows, such as the Royal Highland Show (we, The Roslin Institute, already have a presence at the RHS every year and it is well received). If VVN members from different geographical areas attended a variety of these shows we could raise awareness of what we do as researchers and the commitment of the government funding bodies towards veterinary vaccines. Farmers could be asked if they were willing to subscribe to a database to be contacted for collaborations in vaccine research of an epidemiological nature. There may be additional BBSRC funding through other schemes for public engagement.