

## VPC Members

### **Professor Malcolm Bennett BVSc, PhD, MRCVS, FRCPath, FHEA**

Specialism: Chairman

Declared interests: none

Professor Bennett qualified as a veterinary surgeon from the University of Liverpool in 1983. He is currently professor of zoonotic and emerging infections in the School of Veterinary Medicine and Science, University of Nottingham. His research interests include infectious diseases, especially zoonoses and infections of companion animals and wildlife.

### **Mrs Helen Ballantyne**

Specialism: Veterinary Nurse

Declared interests: none

Helen graduated with a degree in Pharmacology in 2002, qualifying as a Registered Veterinary Nurse (RVN) in the UK in 2005. She has worked nationally and internationally, gathering experience in referral medicine and surgery, charity practice, emergency nursing and exotics.

In 2013 she qualified as a human centred nurse, initially working in cardiothoracic intensive care. Currently she works as a Specialist Transplant Nurse. Day to day she supports living kidney donors through the process of donation. She also holds an on call role, managing the logistics of matching, retrieving and transplanting abdominal organs from deceased donors.

Helen remains a RVN and has developed a strong interest in the principles of One Health and is the current chair of the UK One Health Coordination Group. She is particularly interested in elements of nursing that might be shared between the veterinary and medical sectors.

Her first textbook, Veterinary Nursing Care Plans: Theory and Practice was published in 2018. She completed a MSc in Healthcare Management in 2021 and is thinking hard about her next big project!

### **Dr Rachel Bennett MA VetMB, PhD, CertVA, DACVAA MRCVS**

Specialism: Pharmacology

Declared interests: Vetcare Ltd (drug patent)

Rachel Bennett qualified from Cambridge Veterinary School in 1991. She spent a year in small animal first opinion practice prior to becoming the Elise Pilkington Equine Anaesthesia resident at the Animal HealthTrust in Newmarket. She gained the RCVS Certificate in Veterinary Anaesthesia in 1994. She then moved to UC Davis, USA in 1995 to continue her anaesthesia training, becoming a diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Anesthesiology and Analgesia in 1999. She returned to the UK in 1999 where she subsequently spent six years working as a Clinical anaesthetist and Lecturer in Veterinary Anaesthesia at Cambridge Veterinary school. Between 2007 and 2009 she was a consultant anaesthetist at Newmarket Equine Hospital. From 2009 to 2015 she worked at UCD, Ireland, where she was a Lecturer in Veterinary Anaesthesia. During this time, she was taught both 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> year veterinary undergraduates. She also supervised postgraduate students training for the ECVAA diploma. Whilst at UCD she undertook a PhD in the Clinical Pharmacology of the  $\alpha_2$ -adrenoceptor antagonist MK-467, which she successfully defended in 2017. She has been a visiting Lecturer in Large Animal Anaesthesia at the New Bolton Center, Pennsylvania USA and a visiting Professor in Veterinary Anaesthesia at Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine, St Kitts and Nevis in the West Indies. Since 2016 she has worked as a Clinical Anaesthetist at Anderson Moores Veterinary Specialists in Hampshire. Rachel is interested in pharmacogenetics and its role in anaesthetic drug sensitivity and analgesic drug efficacy.

### **Dr Mark Bowen**

Specialism: Veterinary Surgeon (Equine)

Declared interests: BEVA, Bova UK (consultancy), Horserace Betting Levy Board Member  
Mark graduated from the Royal Veterinary College in 1996 and stayed there in a number of post-graduate and clinical roles in equine medicine. He obtained RCVS certificates in veterinary anaesthesia and equine internal medicine. He completed a residency in equine thoracic medicine and a PhD in equine cardiology, both funded by the Horserace Betting Levy Board. He was appointed as a lecturer in equine cardiology and internal medicine. He moved to the University of Nottingham as founding member of the school of Veterinary Medicine and Science in 2006. In that role he led on multiple education projects and continued his research interests in equine cardiology, becoming Professor in Veterinary Medicine in 2016.

He completed a master's in medical education and a further residency in large animal internal medicine, becoming a Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine in 2013. He is a principal fellow of the Higher Education Academy (Advance HE) and a Diplomate of the European College of Equine Internal Medicine and a defacto Diplomate of the European College of Veterinary Sports Medicine and Rehabilitation. He has been involved in the British Equine Veterinary Association for many years and authored their responsible antibiotic use toolkit (Protect ME) and was President in 2015. He continues to contribute to their Health and Medicines Committee and to the Equine Disease Coalition with a particular interest in responsible antibiotic and anthelmintic use

He has been a clinically active specialist in equine internal medicine and has a particular interest in equine cardiology. He taught undergraduates and postgraduate students (PhD, Interns and Residents) at the University of Nottingham, working in each of its partner practices before leaving in 2021 to establish his own business as a clinical consultant in equine medicine. He is also Director of Education for the European Board of Veterinary Specialisation. He is a Trustee of the Horse Trust and chairs its translation and impact committee.

### **Dr Yu-Mei Ruby Chang**

Specialism: Epidemiology/Statistics

Declared interests: None

Yu-Mei Ruby Chang completed her B.S. at Tung-hai University in Taiwan and gained her M.S. degree in Statistics and PhD in Quantitative Genetics from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Upon completing her PhD, she was appointed to the post of Computational Geneticist in the Dairy Science Department, University of Wisconsin-Madison, where she provided statistical and computational assistance to students and faculty staffs, and she also participated in collaborative research in the area of statistical modelling and algorithm development with application to dairy cattle improvement programs. She joined the Section of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, Leeds Institute of Molecular Medicine, University of Leeds as a Research Fellow in 2006. She allied with scientists and clinicians on the genetic and epidemiological data analysis of melanoma studies. Ruby joined the Royal Veterinary College as Lecturer in Statistics in 2009 and was promoted to Senior Lecturer in 2015. She has been a Chartered Statistician (CStat) of the Royal Statistical Society since 2012.

### **Mr Michael Clark MA, VetMB, MBA, FHEA, MRCVS**

Specialism: Veterinary Surgeon (Poultry)

Declared interests: Boehringer Ingelheim Animal Health UK Ltd (consultancy)

Mike Clark graduated from Cambridge Vet School and then spent 4 years in mixed practice in the Cotswolds. From there he moved to Minster Veterinary Practice in York.

It was not long before he made the shift from mixed practice to 100% poultry and gamebird work. In 2000 he set up the Minster poultry office in Hereford and became a partner in the business. On the move again, he then established the Minster poultry office at Sutton Bonington and became involved in poultry teaching at Nottingham Vet School; latterly becoming an honorary associate professor in poultry medicine. In 2011 he completed an MBA at Nottingham Vet School. For the last 4 years Mike has been a consultant poultry veterinary adviser at Boehringer Ingelheim. He is clinical associate professor in poultry medicine & agribusiness at Nottingham Vet School, where he is sub-dean for veterinary public health and veterinary pathology. Mike has been involved in various committees including the Animal Health and Welfare Board of England (AHWBE), BVPA (currently junior vice-president), the Poultry Vet Study Group of the EU, the Poultry Disease Group and the APHA Avian Expert Group.

### **Dr Kannan Ganapathy**

Specialism: Veterinary Surgeon (Poultry and novel vaccines)

Declared interests: none

Dr Ganapathy qualified as a veterinary surgeon in 1991 and became a member of RCVS in 2004. He has been a RCVS-recognised specialist in poultry medicine and production since 2009 and a diplomate of European College of Poultry Veterinary Science since 2011. For the last 10 years, he has occupied the role of meeting secretary for the British Veterinary Poultry Association. He has also acted as a trustee for BVPA Trust and Gordan Memorial Trust and serves as section editor for British Poultry Science journal.

Since completion of his PhD in 1997 at the University of Liverpool, Ganapathy specialised in diagnosis, control and prevention of poultry diseases, specifically those related to respiratory and egg losses. Areas of research include immunopathogenesis, diagnosis, epidemiology, vaccinology and control strategies. He has acted as an independent research grant assessor for UK and international applications. Dr Ganapathy's research output includes impact-case submission for REF2021, and publication of a number of peer reviewed papers in international journals on poultry infectious diseases and the use of vaccines.

### **Mr Mark Jelley BSc (Hons), PG Cert (Distinction) Sustainable and Efficient Food Production**

Specialism: Working farmer

Declared interests: none

Mark Jelley graduated with a BSc (Hons) in Agriculture from Harper Adams University College in 2002 and holds a postgraduate certificate with distinction in Sustainable and Efficient Food Production. Shortly after his studies he returned to work on the family farm in Long Buckby, Northamptonshire. The farm ran a 250 head sheep flock along with 75 suckler cows and a beef finishing enterprise, as well as 250 acres of arable cropping. Changes in structure on the farm have since resulted in an end to the sheep enterprise and an increase in the beef herd to its current 98 head of suckler cows. The finishing unit has also grown to accommodate the increase in calves being born on farm. Mark has worked extensively with Eblex (now AHDB Beef & Lamb) hosting meetings on farm and featuring in best practice publications and also joined the first Progressive Beef Group formed by Eblex in 2011. In 2014 Mark was invited to join the steering group of COWS (Control of Worms Sustainably) and currently sits as a farmer member. In 2015 Mark graduated from Aberystwyth University with a Post Graduate Certificate (Distinction) in Sustainable and Efficient Food Production before joining the Veterinary Products Committee as a Working Farmer in 2016.

### **Mrs Fiona Kidd**

Specialism: Suitably Qualified Person (SQP)

Declared interests: Bimeda Animal Health (employee)

A qualified R-SQP, Fiona works in a sales support role for Bimeda Animal Health in the North of England. She attended both Newton Rigg Agricultural College and Lancashire Agricultural College in the 1980's. Coming from a farming background and currently working in a farming partnership on the family sheep farm in Cumbria. She has worked in the Animal Health industry for nearly 40 years in ruminant and equine roles. In addition, Fiona also is North of England regional advisor for the Moredun Institute. Interests outside work include breeding horses and following National Hunt racing.

### **Dr David Killick BVetMed PgCE-LTHE PhD CertSAM DipECVIM-CA (Onc) MRCVS**

Specialism: Veterinary Surgeon (mixed/small animal)

Declared interests: Qbiotics, Chemopet (consultancy)

David qualified as a veterinary surgeon from the Royal Veterinary College (RVC) in 2003. He then worked in mixed and then small animal practice before starting specialist training in veterinary oncology at the University of Liverpool in 2007. After completing the training programme he returned to the RVC to study for a PhD identifying novel targets for anti-cancer immunotherapy. In 2014 he was appointed Senior Lecturer in Veterinary Oncology at the University of Liverpool.

David holds the RCVS certificate in small animal medicine (2008), the European College of Veterinary Internal Medicines (ECVIM) diploma in veterinary oncology (2011) and a PhD (2014).

He is a RCVS and European Board of Veterinary Specialisation recognised specialist in veterinary oncology. David is current Chair of the ECVIM education committee for oncology and BSAVA PetSavers grant awarding committee and a member of the RCVS ethical review panel.

### **Dr Elizabeth Kubiak BSc, MB BS, MRCPPath, LLM**

Specialism: Medical/clinical Microbiology

Declared interests: none

Dr Elizabeth Kubiak is Consultant Microbiologist and Infection Control Doctor (joint) in the Royal Gwent Hospital, Newport, South Wales.

After qualifying in Medicine from the University of London in 1984, Dr Kubiak trained in Medical Microbiology and Virology in Bristol, London and the West Midlands, before moving to Wales in 1994 to take up her current post. Dr Kubiak is an honorary Clinical Teacher to the Academic Department of Medical Microbiology in the University of Wales College of Medicine, and Educational Supervisor to the Specialist Microbiology Registrars on their rotation to Newport. She has examined for the Royal College of Pathologists, sat as a member of the Welsh Council of the College from 2005 to 2008, and is currently the Royal College regional reviewer of Consultant Medical Microbiologist Job Descriptions for Wales.

Among her special interests she includes diagnosis and treatment of infections in Intensive Care patients, paediatric infections, serious eye infections, mycobacterial infections, and antimicrobial resistance and control. From 2003, Dr Kubiak studied part-time at Cardiff University for a Masters degree in Legal and Ethical Aspects of Medical Practice, which was awarded in 2006.

Dr Kubiak currently serves on the Research Risk Review Committee and the Antimicrobial Working Group of the Aneurin Bevan Health Board. She is a member of the Microbiology Standing Specialist Advisory Group (MSSAG) to the Welsh Government and is the MSSAG representative to the Disinfection, Antimicrobial Resistance and Healthcare-associated Infection (DARHAI) committee.

Dr Kubiak has a small flock of rare-breed poultry (Pekin bantams) for domestic egg production and two dogs, who are family pets.

### **Dr David Mackay BVetMed MSc PhD MRCVS**

Specialism: Veterinary Immunology

Declared interests: none

David Mackay qualified as a veterinary surgeon in 1981 and worked in general veterinary practice before obtaining postgraduate degrees in immunology from the universities of Birmingham and London. He pursued a research career in exotic viral diseases of livestock culminating as Head of the Pirbright Laboratory of the Institute for Animal Health. Dr Mackay subsequently moved into the regulatory area, starting at the Veterinary Medicines Directorate in the UK before moving to the European Medicines Agency as Head of Veterinary Medicines. He retired from the EMA in 2018 and now provides independent advice to governmental and non-governmental bodies in relation to regulation and use of veterinary medicines. During his career Dr Mackay has published in peer reviewed journals on infectious disease of animals, veterinary vaccinology and regulatory affairs, particularly in relation to immunological veterinary medicinal products.

### **Mr Ronnie Soutar BVM&S, MSc, MRCVS**

Specialism: Veterinary Surgeon (Fish)

Declared interests: None

Mr Ronnie Soutar is a practicing veterinary surgeon working in aquaculture. He graduated from the Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies in 1980 and has worked in general veterinary practice and management as well as fish farming. He holds an MSc in Aquatic Veterinary Studies from Stirling University and is a Past-President of the Fish Veterinary Society. He is also involved in a variety of equestrian activities, runs a smallholding with sheep and cattle and is Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Scottish SPCA.

### **Mr Jonathan Statham**

Specialism: Veterinary Surgeon (large animal)

Declared interests: Bimeda, Boehringer Ingelheim, CEVA, MSD, Zoetis (research & development/consultancy)

Jonathan M E Statham graduated from Cambridge University Veterinary School in 1996. He is a cattle vet and partner in Bishopton Veterinary Group, a 27 vet practice in Ripon, North Yorkshire (a member of XL Vets) and is director and Chief Executive of RAFT solutions Ltd (an innovative veterinary research, advanced breeding, consultancy and knowledge exchange company). He is Past-President of the British Cattle Veterinary Association (BCVA) and has sat on the GB 'Cattle Health & Welfare Group' (CHAWG), the Veterinary Policy Group (VPG) of the British Veterinary Association (BVA) served on the Veterinary Residues Committee of the Veterinary Medicines Directorate and is a past director of Cattle Health Certification Standards (CHeCS). He is the external examiner for the University of Liverpool, member of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS) Advanced Practitioner Panel, a member of the Nottingham Dairy Herd Health Group & the 'Farmskills' steering group. He currently sits on the steering group for the national AgriTech 'Centre for Innovation & Excellence in Livestock' (CIEL). Main veterinary interests include reproductive technologies, nutrition, mastitis control and progressive herd health & production management. He has published a wide range of papers, articles and book chapters and is a co-author of textbook 'Dairy Herd Health'. He holds the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS) Diploma in Cattle Health & Production, is a RCVS recognised specialist in Cattle Health & Production and was Dairy Vet of the Year 2015.

### **Ms Andrea Tarr**

Specialism: Pharmacist

Declared interests: none

Andrea Tarr qualified as a pharmacist in 1984 and has an MSc in evidence-based pharmacotherapy. She began her career in hospital pharmacy, specialising in medicines information, then worked in the pharmaceutical industry, in product information and in sales. For the next 20 years she was an editor on an independent medical publication, the *Drug and Therapeutics Bulletin*, which produced independent evaluations of treatments, for doctors and pharmacists. She has written medicines evaluations for the WHO essential medicines list. She is the founder and a director of *Veterinary Prescriber*, which produces online CPD on medicines for vets, vet nurses, SQPs and pharmacists. She works part time as a community pharmacist at an independent pharmacy, which is owned by a doctors' dispensing practice, and which serves a local veterinary referral hospital.

### **Mr Enrique Vega**

Specialism: Veterinary Surgeon (public health) and Food Safety Risk Assessor

Declared interests: none

Enrique qualified as a Veterinary Surgeon in 1993 and has a further qualification in Business Management. He has a wide range of experience in veterinary public health and food safety, sales – purchasing and management. After working as an Official Veterinarian and Area Veterinary Manager for 7 years in the UK, he then moved to a Purchasing Director role at ESCA Food Solutions, a multinational company working in close relationship with McDonalds, managing a budget of 48 million euros, with responsibilities in meat purchasing and evaluation and contract management of suppliers.

After this Enrique joined Hall Mark in 2004 as a Veterinary Director, responsible for service delivery of the contract with the Food Standards Agency, managing teams across England and Wales. Roles at Hall Mark have included board member, Veterinary Director (England and Wales), and ISO Quality Manager (development and maintenance of Hall Mark ISO 17020 system). These roles have required significant liaison with a wide variety of Stakeholder groups including all those represented on the FSA stakeholder group on current and future meat controls. They have also provided the opportunity to contribute in many working groups (both operational and technical) for policy formulation within FSA giving experience of the complex, cross disciplinary political environment in which Official Controls are delivered.

After leaving Hall Mark in March 2017, Enrique has also worked at the Food Standards Agency (FSA), as a Veterinary Adviser providing support to both the Policy Division and the Science, Evidence and Research Division, being involved in food safety risk management and a wide range of veterinary public health policy issues.

Enrique is a member of several veterinary associations such as Council member of the Veterinary Public Health Association, Member of the UK One Health Coordination Group and Member of the British Veterinary Association.

### **Prof Jason Weeks BSc (Hons), PhD, FRSB, CBiol, EurProBiol, MIEEnvSci, CEnv, CSci, CMIEEM MInstKT**

Specialism: Environmental scientist

Declared interests: Boehringer Ingelheim Animal Health UK Ltd (consultancy)

Jason Weeks gained a PhD in marine ecotoxicology in 1990. He spent 4 years in Denmark as a Royal Society Research Fellow and then associate professor at Odense University. Returning to the UK in 1994, to lead the newly created soil ecotoxicology team at the then Institute of Terrestrial Ecology (now CEH). After eight years he joined

WRc plc as chief scientist. Jason was Professor of Environmental Risk Analysis at Cranfield University until recently when he joined IEH Consulting. Prior to 2013, he was Director of the Aquatic Veterinary Pharmaceutical Programme at Cefas. During his ten years at Cefas, he was responsible for the development of aquatic veterinary medicines as treatments for aquaculture production and fish vaccine development. Jason has over 25 years' experience as an international development consultant with extensive experience in the environmental and aquaculture sectors and has been instrumental in the successful delivery of significant international aid funded project work, including periods in-country (Latin America, SE. Asia; Australasia, Canada, Central and Eastern Europe, Central and Middle Asia, the Caribbean, Korea and Africa). He has published in excess of 120 peer-reviewed scientific papers on a broad range of subject areas mostly pertaining to environmental health and risks. He chaired the European Medicine Agency's Ad hoc Expert Group and was a co-opted member of the Committee for Medicinal Products for Veterinary Use (CVMP).

**Mr Mark E C White BVSc LLB DPM FRCVS**

Specialism: Veterinary Surgeon (Pigs)

Declared interests: none

Mark White is a Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons recognised specialist in pig medicine working as a clinical veterinarian who qualified from University of Bristol in 1981. Following a spell in general practice in Oxfordshire, he moved to East Yorkshire in 1983 to develop his interests in pig medicine where he remained for 30 years. During that time he provided first and second opinion advice to commercial pig farms with a particular emphasis on health management and control. He obtained the Certificate in Pig Medicine from the RCVS in 1987 and became the first to go on and then obtain the Diploma in Pig Medicine (1993), both by examination. Consultancy work for pig breeding and pharmaceutical companies led to overseas work as well as expanding within the UK. Following retirement from Practice in Yorkshire Mark relocated to Herefordshire from where he now runs an independent pig consultancy business. He has served as Pig Veterinary Society President twice, chairs the medicines subgroup and has sat on BVA Council, Veterinary Policy Group and Medicines Group. He was veterinary advisor (pigs) to the 2017 Targets Task Force charged with reducing antibiotic usage in the pig sector. He has sat on the Farm Animal Welfare Committee since 2011.