



We made it!

It is finally happening! After many years of planning and development and countless person-hours of hard work on the part of many, many people, the Canadian Bovine Mastitis Research Network research program is finally got underway on April 1st, 2006. Many of you have invested heavily into this effort and I look forward to the next five years and beyond.

Daniel Scholl, Network Scientific Director

NEWS

NETWORK AGREEMENT SIGNED

The Network Agreement covers Network governance, undertakings of Network partners, intellectual property, and procedures for implementing partnership changes.

The Network Agreement was signed by all research institutions (McGill U., U. Guelph, U. Laval, U. Montréal, U. Prince Edward Island, U. Saskatchewan, U. Sherbrooke, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, and Public Health Agency of Canada) and private partners (Alberta Milk, Canadian Dairy Network, Dairy Farmers of Canada, Dairy Farmers of New Brunswick, Dairy Farmers of Nova Scotia, Dairy Farmers of Ontario, Dairy Farmers of Prince Edward Island, and Novalait inc.) and came into effect on March 3, 2006.

We would like to thank Kim Francoeur and Guillaume Roy, from the Research Office of Université de Montréal, for their support and their relentless work in drafting the Agreement and leading negotiations.

THE NETWORK WEBSITE HAS A NEW LOOK



The CBMRN website has undergone major changes to allow for easy and rapid

information access. Users can click on one of 4 tabs to find out more about organisation of the Network, research and training programs, and publications. We can post announcements on the website in the students section for researchers looking for students and postdoctoral fellows. You are welcome to visit the website and to send us your comments.

COMMITTEES

STEERING COMMITTEE

With the transition of the Network to the national level, the Management Committee has evolved into the national Steering Committee.

Composition

Voting Members:

James Bellamy University of Prince Edward Island	Barron Blois Dairy Farmers of Nova Scotia
Hans Borst Dairy Farmers of Manitoba	Julian Davies University of British Columbia
Pierre-Richard Gaudreault Université de Sherbrooke	Pierre Lampron FPLQ
Andrew Potter VIDO - University of Saskatchewan	Danielle Rivard Novalait Inc.
Guillaume Roy Université de Montréal	Louise Savard McGill University
Ron Versteeg Dairy Farmers of Ontario	Alan Wildeman University of Guelph



Non-voting Members:

Eileen Jessop
NSERC

Annik L'Espérance
CBMRN

Daniel Scholl
Université de Montréal

Non-voting Observers:

Christian Pellerin
Université Laval

Jacques Surprenant
Agriculture and Agri-
Food Canada

Main Mandates

- 1) Manage the CBMRN in compliance with the Network Agreement and approve memberships of the committees;
- 2) Act on the Scientific Committee's recommendations for scientific programming and the annual budget for research, training, and networking;
- 3) Approve new research, governmental and private partners, and affiliation requests to the Network for specific projects.

Meetings

The first meeting of the Steering Committee was held on March 9 in Montréal. Several email exchanges and discussions took place in March and April. The Committee approved scientific, networking, training, and transfer activities, the budget for Year 1, and the Scientific Committee's composition. Mr. Pierre Lampron, from the *Fédération des producteurs de lait du Québec (FPLQ)*, was elected as the chairman of the Committee.

The next meeting will be held in September 2006 by conference call.

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

The composition approved by the Steering Committee is similar to the previous composition, except that we have new dairy producer representatives and a new external expert, Dr. Steve Oliver.

Composition

Voting members:

Scientific Director
Daniel Scholl, Université de Montréal

Theme Leaders
Herman Barkema, University of PEI
Pierre Lacasse, DSRDC – AAFC

CBMRN Investigators (3 year rotation)
Émile Bouchard, Université de Montréal
David Kelton, University of Guelph
Andrew Potter, VIDO
Xin Zhao, McGill University

Dairy Producers' Representatives (3 year rotation)
Bruce Beattie, Alberta Milk
Barron Blois, Dairy Farmers of Nova Scotia
Élise Gosselin, Novalait inc.
Doug Morrison, FPLQ
Ron Versteeg, Dairy Farmers of Ontario

External Experts (3 year rotation)
Steve Oliver, University of Tennessee
Ynte Schukken, Cornell University

Non-voting Members:

Julie Baillargeon, CBMRN
Eileen Jessop, NSERC
Annik L'Espérance, CBMRN
Grant Tomita, Université de Montréal

Main Mandates

- 1) Recommend research orientations and annual budget allocations for research, training, and networking to the Steering Committee;
- 2) Conduct an annual scientific review of research projects to take appropriate actions;
- 3) Annual evaluation the CBMRN's Training Plan;
- 4) Organize Annual Scientific Meetings;
- 5) Report the CBMRN's research, networking, and training progress to the Steering Committee.



Meetings

The next meeting will take place by the Internet CentraOne System on June 26, 2006, at 14h00 (Eastern Time).

TRANSFER COMMITTEE

The Scientific and Steering Committees are re-evaluating the mandates of the Transfer Committee. To communicate your recommendations, please contact Julie Baillargeon.

KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER ACTIVITIES

After having tested several activities and having talked with dairy producers across Canada, the Network Transfer Manager is currently working on an updated version of the Network transfer plan which focuses on the needs of the industry. As you will see from the overview below, many of the described activities will require the help of Network experts so don't be surprised to get a phone call from Julie in the upcoming months.

TRANSFER SECTION OF THE CBMRN WEBSITE

The CBMRN website is the central element where all of the transfer activities converge. The Transfer section is currently under construction and so we will be able to tell you more about it in the next issue of the Bulletin.

THE MASTITIS COLUMN

The Mastitis Column consists of a series of articles written by Network researchers and collaborators about on-going research in the Network. The purpose of these articles is to keep Canadian dairy producers up-to-date on the results of their investment in research. Articles will be published both in French and in English in major Canadian dairy publications. The information will be presented in a way that producers can see how it can be applied on their farms.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ) AND MASTITIS-FLASHES

The goal of this activity is to provide objective and accurate answers to questions that dairy producers have about mastitis. We have already accumulated a list of questions that dairy producers would like to be answered by an expert. These questions are general and non-specific and will be answered in short articles that will be posted in the FAQ section of the website as well as in the Mastitis-Flashes that are published in regional agricultural publications across Canada (in French and in English).

TRANSLATION OF NMC DOCUMENTS

Information about mastitis is readily available on the Internet, but much of it is only accessible in English. The NMC website (www.nmconline.org) is certainly one of the most credible and useful source of mastitis information on the internet. In order to have this information available to the entire Canadian dairy industry, the NMC has allowed the Network to translate some of its material into French and has permitted the Network to publish that information on our website. A professional translator was hired and is currently in the process of translating documents selected by the Network Transfer Manager.

THE MASTITIS TOOLBOX

The goal of this activity is to provide dairy producers, practitioners and dairy professionals approved guidelines, protocols and templates to assist them with their work on the farm. For example, a dairy producer could use some of the protocols as Standard Operating Procedures to train employees or a practitioner could use an illustrated protocol as a visual support to show a dairy producer how to collect a milk sample for bacteriology. If any of you have such precious tools hidden on your hard drive, we would appreciate it if you could send them to Julie at julie.baillargeon@umontreal.ca.



There are many other activities planned in the transfer program of the Network and you will be kept informed of their development and progression in the coming months. Until then, here is a list of Network publications since the last Bulletin:

In the *Milk Producer*:

Riekerink, R.O., and H. Barkema. *Taking stock of mastitis*. February 2006.

In the *Producteur de lait québécois*:

Tomita, G. et K. Leslie. *Le vaccin : une réponse à mes problèmes de mammite clinique*. Février 2006.

Riekerink, R.O. et H. Barkema. *La mammite au Canada*. Avril 2006.

THE PICTURE NETWORK

We are currently working on a collection of pictures that are related to all aspects of mastitis and milk quality. Pictures taken on the farm or in the lab can be used to illustrate articles or the website. If you would like to share your pictures with us, send them to julie.baillargeon@umontreal.ca. We would greatly appreciate it. Please indicate the source of the pictures if you want it to be mentioned. A list of all pictures will be available on our website and we will send you pictures upon your requests.

NMC 2006 REGIONAL MEETING

The next NMC Regional Meeting will be held in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, on August 9 and 10. Detailed program and registration information are available at www.nmconline.org/meetings.htm. Herman Barkema, from University of Prince Edward Island, and Ken Leslie, from University of Guelph, will give a talk during the meeting.

WHERE WERE WE?

NATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Western Canadian Dairy Seminar, March 7-10, Red Deer, Alberta. Richard Olde Riekerink, University of Prince Edward Island Ph.D. student, presented a conference entitled "Mastitis: the Canadian perspective". Attendees were able to learn more about the Network with Julie Baillargeon at the Network booth. Many dairy producers entered a draw for a cheese board and a gift certificate at the Alberta Milk booth by participating to the Mastitis Quiz. The winner was M. Brian Livingston, a dairy producer from British-Columbia.

Dairy Focus, March 29-30, Wolfville, Nova Scotia. Again, attendees were able to learn more about the Network with Julie Baillargeon at the Network booth. Many dairy producers took part in the Mastitis Quiz. The winner of the cheese board was Mrs. Kara Irving, a dairy producer from Nova Scotia (see picture).



Forum Technologique Novalait 2006, May 30, Bécancour, Québec. Pierre Lacasse, DSRDC, Daniel Scholl, Université de Montréal, and Brian Talbot, Université de Sherbrooke presented their research at the conference. The Network also presented a scientific poster entitled "Facteurs de risque associés aux bactéries contagieuses de la mammite dans les troupeaux laitiers canadiens".

Annual Meeting – Fédération des producteurs de lait du Québec, April 12-13, Québec, Québec.



INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

NMC Annual Meeting, January 22-25, Tampa, Florida. Randy Dingwell, David Kelton and Ken Leslie from University of Guelph, Moussa Sory Diarra, Pierre Lacasse and Céline Ster from Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, and Herman Barkema and Richard Olde Riekerink from University of Price Edward Island presented posters.

WHERE WILL WE BE?

NATIONAL ACTIVITIES

NMC 2006 Regional Meeting, August 9-10, Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island (www.nmconline.org/meetings.htm).

INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

International Symposium on Veterinary Epidemiology and Economics, August 6-11, 2006, Cairns, Australia (www.isveexi.org).

If you have news, events, comments, or new ideas for the Bulletin, please send them to Annik L'Espérance at annik.lesperance@umontreal.ca. The Bulletin has to be a national and dynamic vehicle to inform members, collaborators, students, partners, and interested people about Network news, activities, committee meetings, etc.

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La version française est également disponible.