

Aquatic Veterinary Board Certification & Specialisation Programs



Richmond Loh



BSc, BVMS, MANZCVS (Aquatics),

MPhil (Vet Path), MANZCVS (Pathobiology), CertAqV

Hon. Secretary, Aquatic Animal Health Chapter – ANZCVS
<http://www.anzcv.org.au>

(http://TheFishVet.com.au)

NOVICE International Conference, October 4-5, 2012. Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Bucharest, Romania



Need for Advanced Training & KSEs in Aquatic Vet Medicine

Out with the adage of

- “There’s not much known about fish”.
 - Significant specialised knowledge and technology is available.
- “Veterinarians know nothing about fish.”
 - Veterinarians interested in this field need to be fast-tracked, or risk the whole profession being left behind.



Existing Programs

- **American College of Zoological Medicine - Board Certification in Zoological Medicine**
 - Qualifying exam (20% each of aquatics, avian, herpetile, mammal, wildlife)
 - In the aquatics, it is ~50% fish & ~50% aq. Mammals
 - Certifying exam (100% of the chosen subgroup).
 - DipACZM

Presentation Objectives

Using the ANZCVS Member & Fellow Programs:

- Compare & contrast different programs for advanced training, recognition and credentialing **highly advanced knowledge, skills, experience (KSEs)** in aquatic veterinary medicine (equivalent to Board Certification).
- Stimulate workshop discussion for establishing global networks for expanding & harmonising advanced aquatic veterinary credentialing.



Existing Programs

- **American College of Zoological Medicine - Board Certification in Zoological Medicine**
 - 1st author ≥ 5 refereed papers
 - ≥6 years zoo medicine experience
 - ≥2 years approved post-graduate program
 - ≥1 year supervision by a Diplomate



Existing Programs

- **Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons(UK)**
- **Certificate in Fish Health and Production (CFHP)**
 - Total 2 awarded <1997 & none since.
 - Replaced by Modular Qualifications provided by university, accredited by RCVS (but none approached).
- **Diploma in Fish Health and Production (DFHP)**
 - None enrolled.
 - Phased out in favour of European Diploma.



The Australian & New Zealand College of Veterinary Scientists

AU/NZ College Objectives

[Home](#) | [Latest News](#)

- Seeks to serve the veterinary profession and reward excellence.
- Invite more international participation and global recognition of the Membership (MANZCVS) & Fellowship (FANZCVS) programs.

The Australian & New Zealand College of Veterinary Scientists

Aquatic Animal Health Chapter

[Home](#) | [Latest News](#)

- Acknowledges the diversity of species and environmental niches for the study of fish diseases.
- Purely fish, crustacea and mollusc (others around the world include marine mammals).

The Australian & New Zealand College of Veterinary Scientists

Why Choose ANZCVS?

[Home](#) | [Latest News](#)

- It is the highest level of specialised exams in fish.
- Two levels of qualification:
 - **Memberships** - no formal course work involved; self-paced study with a mentor.
 - **Fellowships** - formal training program needs to be negotiated to fulfil the requirements.

The Australian & New Zealand College of Veterinary Scientists

Membership Requirements & Recognition

[Home](#) | [Latest News](#)

- Signifies that a veterinarian demonstrates a high level of interest and competence in a given area of veterinary activity.
- Admission by examination (written and oral/practical) with a pass mark of $\geq 70\%$.
- ≥ 4 years post-graduate experience as a veterinarian & ≥ 2 years experience in the field.
- Examinations held every 2 years.

The Australian & New Zealand College of Veterinary Scientists

College Members

[Home](#) | [Latest News](#)

- Members by examination of the Aquatic Animal Health Chapter (since 2001, all veterinarians):

– Ian Anderson	– Paul Hardy-Smith
– Rachel Bowater	– Rob Jones
– Alistair Brown	– Matthew Landos
– Richard Callinan	– Richmond Loh
– Roger Chong	– Colin Johnston
– Kevin Ellard	– Stephen Pyecroft
– Judith Handlinger	– Frances Stephens
	– Wendy Townsend

The Australian & New Zealand College of Veterinary Scientists

Fellowship Requirements & Recognition

[Home](#) | [Latest News](#)

- Signifies that a veterinarian meets the prerequisites for registration as a Veterinary Specialist in Australia and/or New Zealand.
- Standards for Aquatic Animal Fellowship recently established.
- Collect a case log & sit examinations.

The Australian & New Zealand College of Veterinary Scientists

Fellowship Requirements

Home | Latest News

Summary of minimum requirements (designed by candidate, approved by College):

- Compile a credentials document.
- 96 weeks - 40h week directed training by a Fellow or fellow-equivalents.
- 600 cases (pathobiology).
- 3 primary publications.
- 7 learning objectivesstreams.
- Demonstration of 'depth' as well a 'breadth' of expert knowledge.
- 8 weeks of externship learning at an institution other than those of your teaching team.
- Examination fee ~AUD\$4,000-5,000.
- Cost probably about >AUD\$25,000 all up with externships etc. costs of travel.

New Programs

- European College of Aquatic Veterinary Medicine
 - Aquatic Veterinary Board Certification
- USA
 - Board Certified Fish Veterinary Medicine

Pros & Cons of Highly Advanced Credentialing

Pros

- The learning process.
- Networking.
- Who will benefit?
 - Clients, industry, government, veterinary profession.

Cons

- Is there a demand?
- Aquatic field is too diverse.
- Who will examine?
- Who will recognise the credential?

How to get involved, contribute & networking opportunities

- World Aquatic Veterinary Medical Association.
- NOVICE (Europe).
- Aust. & NZ College of Veterinary Scientists.
- Fish Veterinary Society (UK).
- Canadian Association of Aquaculture Veterinarians.
- Eastern Aquaculture Veterinary Association.
- Association Francaise des Veterinaires Aquacoles.
- Sociedad Chilena de Medicos Veterinarios Especialistas en Acuicultura.

Websites

- **Diploma in Fish Health and Production**
- <http://www.rcvs.org.uk/education/postgraduate-education-for-veterinary-surgeons/diplomas/#fish>
- **American College of Zoological Medicine**
- http://www.aczm.org/content.aspx?page_id=22&club_id=366916&module_id=49001
- **Australian & New Zealand College of Veterinary Scientists**
- http://www.anzcv.org.au/info_assets/documents/Membership%20Guidelines/Aquatic%20Health%20Guidelines%202007-f%20Reformatted%20Dec%202011.pdf



The Australian and New Zealand College of Veterinary Scientists

<http://www.anzcv.org.au>