FROM THE DESK OF OUR DIRECTOR

Dr. Scott Weese

DVM, DVSc, Guelph; Dipl ACVIM
Professor and Director of the Centre for Public Health and Zoonoses, University of Guelph

Last year, I wrote about the emergence and impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, expecting that 2021 would be the recovery year. Unfortunately, we’ve continued to see the challenges posed by emerging infectious (and zoonotic) diseases and the profound impacts on public health and society as a whole. Looking back, few of us are surprised that a novel coronavirus emerged, but I think it’s fair to say very few of us pictured the damage that this latest emerging zoonotic disease would cause. As I write this in December 2021, we are entering an unknown period caused by the Omicron variant. While our focus is on what is happening now, we need to look both forward and back. That continues to lead to the importance of zoonotic disease, public health systems and public awareness. While not downplaying the tremendous impact of the pandemic, we also need to reflect on the next one and how we can better prevent or mitigate it.

COVID-19 has been horrible. However, imagine if the much more transmissible Delta or Omicron variants were the first strains to emerge. The impact would be even more overwhelming. This isn’t doomsday scenario creating or hyperbole. It’s recognition that SARS-CoV-2 is not only a new pathogen in circulation in a reservoir and that it’s probably not the more transmissible or virulent threat. Whether the next threat is milder or worse, or emerges in 1 or 100 years, we need to be better prepared. We need to improve health systems. We need to improve public health systems. We need to improve communication across the myriad components of One Health and scientific outreach to the general public. We need to figure out how to stress our planet less.

Those are daunting challenges but are clearly needed. Even a small Centre like CPHAZ has an important role to play. There won’t be a single solution to this current pandemic, nor will there be a simple solution to preventing the next one. We need many incremental changes by many different and diverse groups, working alone and collaboratively, to address the underlying problems and future threats. I ended 2020’s note on an optimistic tone and I’ll basically repeat it. The timeframe has shifted but the overall thoughts haven’t. We look forward to 2022 with some trepidation as COVID-19 continues to challenge but we approach it with hope and optimism. Let’s hope that the devastation that SARS-CoV-2 has brought will be accompanied by long-lasting improvements in medical research, public health, communications, scientific literacy, care of elderly and marginalized populations, increased thought about how we interact with animals and the environment, and myriad other related issues.
**CPHAZ DIRECTOR**

**DR. SCOTT WEES**
Scott Weese is a veterinary internal medicine specialist with a focus on infectious diseases. In his roles as CPHAZ Director, a Professor at the Ontario Veterinary College and Chief of Infection Control for the Ontario Veterinary College Health Sciences Centre, Scott focuses on a range of infectious disease issues of animals and humans, including antimicrobial resistance, antimicrobial stewardship, emerging infectious diseases and infection control. He also writes and speaks extensively about infectious (and often zoonotic) diseases, particularly on Worms and Germs Blog.

**CPHAZ STEERING COMMITTEE**

**DR. KATIE CLOW**
Katie Clow is an Assistant Professor in One Health in the Department of Population Medicine. Her research focuses on the epidemiology and ecology of endemic and emerging vectors and vector-borne zoonoses in Canada.

**DR. MAYA GOLDENBERG**
Maya Goldenberg is an associate professor in the Department of Philosophy. Her research is in Philosophy of Science and Medicine, Public Health Ethics, and Biomedical Ethics. Her current focus is on vaccine hesitancy and its relationship to public trust and democracy.

**DR. CLAIRE JARDINE**
Claire Jardine is an associate professor in the Department of Pathobiology and regional director of the Canadian Wildlife Health Cooperative for Ontario and Nunavut. Her research interests include rodent and vector borne zoonotic diseases, the ecology of zoonotic diseases in wild animal populations, and wildlife health.

**DR. ANDREW PAPADOPOULOS**
Andrew Papadopoulos is a professor in the Department of Population Medicine and the coordinator of the Master of Public Health program. Currently, his research focuses on public health policy, interventions, and administration as well as student health.

**DR. HEATHER MURPHY**
Heather Murphy recently joined the department of Pathobiology in September 2020 as a Canada Research Chair in One Health. She is an environmental engineer by training and has over 17 years of experience working in developed and developing countries on waterborne diseases using interdisciplinary methods. After her doctoral degree, she left academia and worked for UNICEF and the Public Health Agency of Canada before joining Temple University in 2015 as an Assistant Professor in their College of Public Health.

**DR. JANE PARMLEY**
Jane Parmley is an associate professor in the Department of Population Medicine. Her research focuses on infectious diseases of production animals, with primary focus on swine health, viral diseases, emerging diseases and zoonoses.

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**DR. PETER KIM**
Peter Kim’s research focus is in gastro-intestinal diseases, in particular Clostridiodases difficile infection (CDI). Using a novel fecal microbiota transplantation (FMT) treatment he aims to understand it’s efficacy by sequencing patient metabolome, microbiome and virome pre- and post-FMT. Along with patient health surveys he wishes to understand the gut-brain axis pathway in clinical resolution of CDI using FMT.

**DR. ZVONIMIR POLJAK**
Zvonimir Poljak is an Associate Professor in the Department of Population Medicine. His research focuses on infectious diseases of production animals, with primary focus on swine health, viral diseases, emerging diseases and zoonoses.

**CPHAZ STAFF**

**JULIA LUC**
Julia Luca has been a part of CPHAZ since September 2020. Julia graduated in 2016 from McMaster University with an Honours Bachelor of Science degree and she later completed a Master of Science with a Neuroscience Specialization degree from the University of Guelph in 2019. In her role as a CPHAZ Program Coordinator, Julia promotes and organizes annual CPHAZ events. Additionally, she helps foster communication between CPHAZ collaborators and stakeholders for ongoing initiatives. She manages the CPHAZ website and social media platforms, administrative tasks, lab operational and maintenance duties. In her free time, she loves to travel and explore hiking trails with her boyfriend, Matthew, and their 2.5-year-old German Shepherd/Bernese Mountain Dog, Raina.

**FUNDING IS PROVIDED BY THE ONTARIO MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS THROUGH THE ONTARIO AGRI-FOOD INNOVATION ALLIANCE VETERINARY CAPACITY PROGRAM.**

**JOIN US**
**MAY 25 & 26, 2022**

The Centre for Public Health and Zoonoses (CPHAZ) Symposium took place on May 20, 2021, this year as a one-day, virtual event that brings together all pillars and forms of public health and zoonotic disease work and research. This year, topics ranged from COVID-19 pandemic, antimicrobial resistance, zoonotic diseases, One Health, Lyme disease surveillance, food safety, water-borne diseases, and more. A total of 4 keynote speakers, 31 research presenters, and 272 local, regional and international registrants participated during the symposium. We appreciate all those who attended and presented during this very educational day!

**2022 Keynote Speakers**

We look forward to planning this year’s **2022 CPHAZ Symposium**! The symposium will be a two-day, virtual event from May 25th to May 26th, 2022.

They keynote speakers featured this year are Dr. Maya Goldenberg, an Associate Professor of Philosophy at the University of Guelph and a leading voice in vaccine hesitancy research, and Dr. Angela Rasmussen, a virologist at the Vaccine and Infectious Disease Organization (VIDO) at the University of Saskatchewan.
The One Health Institute (OHI), established in June 2019, has a mission to enhance and promote academic, research, and outreach programs to propel the University of Guelph to the forefront of One Health scholarship internationally.

**Community of Practice**

There are over 140 affiliated One Health faculty members across all seven colleges of the University of Guelph. Many faculty have been highlighted with research spotlights and/or delivered One Health research seminars, available through the UG One Health YouTube channel. On-going communications include the biweekly newsletter, website, and active accounts on social media (LinkedIn, Twitter and Instagram). In 2021, the One Health Institute released a report of One Health activities on campus.

**Bachelor of One Health (BOH) Undergraduate Program**

The University of Guelph is launching a first-of-its-kind Bachelor of One Health degree program in fall 2022. The program will examine health problems from a holistic perspective, considering interactions between animal, human and ecological systems. The One Health degree is offered by a team of departments across the U of G campus that provide expertise from both the scientific and socio-cultural perspectives. Students may choose one of four areas of emphasis from which to dive deeper into the uses and application of a One Health approach: Disease, Complexity and Health; Environment, Food and Health; Policy, Economics and Health; Culture, Society and Health.

**Graduate Scholarships**

In 2021, the One Health Institute established two new scholarships to support graduate students enrolling in thesis-based Masters, PhD or DVSc programs at the University of Guelph. U of G faculty members are eligible to apply for the awards to fund graduate students engaged in One Health research projects. The Social Sciences and Humanities for One Health award will stimulate collaborative academic activity between disciplines at the U of G and the One Health Graduate School, encouraging collaboration between the U of G and McMaster University, and/or the U of G and the University of Western Ontario. A total of two of each award type may be given each year. The value of each award is up to $25,000/year for 2 or 3 years for masters and doctoral students respectively.

**Introduction to One Health (ONEH1000)**

Fall 2021 registration in this introductory course approximately 50 students. These students were disciplinarily diverse, representing 6 colleges (CBS, CEPS, CSAHS, OAC, LANG, COA), and 6 different degree programs (BSc, BASc, BA, BLA, BCOM, BBRM). Due to high demand, ONEH1000 will be offered again in Winter 2022.

**Collaborative Specialization in One Health (CSOH)**

The CSOH program prepares future leaders for the complex challenges at the confluence of human, animal and environmental health. Graduate students conducting One Health research may apply to the CSOH in addition to their disciplinary program of interest. In the first two years, 15 students enrolled from 3 colleges. The program is continuing to grow in both numbers and disciplinary diversity, the 2022 cohort includes 14 students from 5 colleges.

**Doctor of Veterinary Medicine/Master of Public Health (DVM/MPH) combined degree program**

This program enables DVM students to complete their MPH degree in one year after completion of the DVM program. These students receive financial support from the One Health Institute during the program. The DVM/MPH program is highly competitive; 5 students per year may be admitted. The first cohort of students start in 2022.

one health

An update on One Health scholarship at the University of Guelph
The One Health Student Committee (OHSC) is the University of Guelph’s interdisciplinary, student-led organization in One Health (OH). Divided into three subcommittees responsible for event planning, community outreach and fundraising, and operations, the OHSC governing body consists of 24 students in undergraduate, graduate and veterinary programs. The team provides opportunities for individuals with an interest in OH to educate themselves and engage with others in the field.

Primarily, OHSC aims to:

- Increase awareness of One Health, locally and beyond
- Promote multi-, inter-, and trans-disciplinary studies and initiatives
- Provide experiential learning and educational opportunities in One Health
  - Encourage collaboration and mentorship between faculty and students in diverse fields
  - Network with One Health champions within the University of Guelph and externally
- Build relationships with other One Health organizations and promote relevant opportunities
- Raise funds for scholarship opportunities and to give back to communities/charities

In 2021 we hosted a variety of events including our What is One Health Seminar, Exploring One Health ship, fundraised for the Iqaluit Humane Society and other joint #nOHvember campaigns, and participated in the CPHAZ-OHI-OHSC outreach initiatives, posted educational OH social media studies and initiatives.

Our team looks forward to continuing to hold many events like this during the school year and expand our fundraising and community outreach initiatives.

**SYDNEY PEARCE - CO PRESIDENT**

Sydney Pearce is a PhD Candidate in epidemiology with a Collaborative Specialization in One Health (OH) from the Department of Population Medicine. Her work consists of a scoping review characterizing OH primary research, a qualitative study aiming to understand OH perceptions among students (veterinary, medical, environmental), a systematic review and meta-analysis of an antibiotic alternative’s efficacy for preventing dairy mastitis, and a knowledge translation-focused randomized-control trial identifying effective dissemination for dairy antimicrobial stewardship practices obtained via knowledge synthesis. Outside of her research in 2021, she participated in the development and review of the Public Health Agency of Canada’s Contact Tracing Training for public health workers worldwide. She also worked with Nourish by 10C to develop social enterprise that supports populations experiencing food insecurity in Guelph.

**GRACE NICHOL - CO PRESIDENT**

Grace Nichol is a PhD student in epidemiology in the Department of Population Medicine. She is also completing the Collaborative Specialization in One Health. As a member of Dr. Katie Clow’s lab, her research focuses on the range expansion of Dermacentor ticks in the western Canadian provinces. Her project will use passive surveillance data on tick distribution from the Canadian Pet Tick Survey, as well as field sampling data. Grace will use this data to create statistical and epidemiological models to explore the spread of Dermacentor ticks in the western North America. This project is funded by the Public Health Agency of Canada and brings together epidemiologists, virologists, entomologists, climatologists, geographers, and infectious disease modelers. Aims of the research are to conduct: (i) a CVV seroprevalence and risk factor analysis study in sheep flocks, (ii) spatiotemporal distribution of CVV-vectors to identify potential disease hot-spots, and (iii) risk maps to forecast the animal and public health risk of CVV disease in the context of climate change over the next century.

**MICHELE BERGEVIN – INTERNSHIPS TEAM**

Michele Bergevin is a PhD candidate in the Department of Population Medicine. Michele’s research uses a One Health approach to investigate the ecology and epidemiology of Cache Valley virus (CVV), a mosquito-borne zoonosis, in Ontario in the context of climate change. CVV can cause severe disease in humans but is predominantly known for causing fatal congenital defects and stillbirths in sheep. The virus has been isolated from over 40 mosquito species endemic to Ontario. Further, exposure to the virus has been demonstrated in people, wildlife, and livestock in North America. This project is funded by the Public Health Agency of Canada and brings together epidemiologists, virologists, entomologists, climatologists, geographers, and infectious disease modelers. Aims of the research are to conduct: (i) a CVV seroprevalence and risk factor analysis study in sheep flocks, (ii) spatiotemporal distribution of CVV-vectors to identify potential disease hot-spots, and (iii) risk maps to forecast the animal and public health risk of CVV disease in the context of climate change over the next century.

**SIMON JEEVES – VICE PRESIDENT OPERATIONS, OPERATIONS TEAM**

Simon Jeeves is a MSc student in the Department of Pathobiology working in the lab of Dr. Claire Jardine. His project involves surveillance of Ontario small mammalian wildlife for evidence of infection with SARS-CoV-2. Without question, the COVID-19 pandemic has evolved into an issue both of human and animal health. Simon’s work is some of the first of its kind taking place in Canada, and is very important with the emergence of several SARS-CoV-2 variants of concern which may have the ability to infect and cause disease in a broad range of North American wildlife. His project will also involve modelling and epidemiological analyses of infection results of several other zoonotic pathogens based on the life history traits of the wildlife sampled.

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Dr. Kelsey Spence is a recently appointed assistant professor in Epidemiology and One Health in the Department of Population Medicine at the Ontario Veterinary College, University of Guelph. She is an infectious disease epidemiologist with an interest in how disease outbreaks are influenced by societal factors, such as how people perceive and respond to health threats. The collaborative and interdisciplinary nature of her research is key to approaching complex health problems.

Dr. Spence's career path to One Health started at Trent University, where she received her BSc in forensic science and biology. While initially interested in the investigation side of forensics, she found her ideal fit for problem-solving in the field of epidemiology. She later went on to join the Department of Population Medicine at the Ontario Veterinary College as a doctoral student, where her thesis focused on the risk of disease spread as horses travel to different competitions. After receiving her PhD in 2017, she pursued postdoctoral training at the Royal Veterinary College in London, England, where her research focused on improving preparedness for emerging and exotic diseases in the British horse industry. In 2020, she moved back to Canada to support the COVID-19 pandemic response as a mathematical modeller for the Public Health Agency of Canada, before returning to the University of Guelph in May 2021 as a faculty member.

Dr. Spence's interest in One Health is rooted in solving complex health problems in new ways. In particular, she believes in taking a holistic view of One Health issues to devise integrated solutions that achieve better health outcomes for humans, animals, and the environment. Her new research program in the Department of Population Medicine will focus on motivators and barriers to using preventative measures for emerging and exotic diseases. By doing so, she hopes to better support the implementation of research findings into practice.

One Health Poster Day is a collaborative event between CPHAZ and the One Health Institute at the University of Guelph and the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine at the Schulich School of Medicine and Dentistry at Western University. The poster day gives participants the chance to interactively learn about One Health and its real-world applications across diverse fields, as well as explore a cross-section of innovative and exciting research taking place at the interface of human, animal, and environmental health. This year’s virtual event brought together 23 presenters from University of Guelph, Western University, University of Waterloo, University of Ottawa, University of Georgia, and three international presenters from Nigeria, Iran, and Ethiopia. We also had over 100 registrants and welcomed 58 local, regional, and international active participants. We appreciate all those who attended and presented and look forward to continuing this collaboration again next year on Nov 3rd, 2022.

PLEASE VISIT THE CPHAZ WEBSITE TO VIEW THE 2021 ONE HEALTH RESEARCH POSTERS.

BE SURE TO JOIN US NOVEMBER 3, 2022 FOR OUR NEXT ONE HEALTH POSTER DAY.
With increasing awareness of the need for more integrated antimicrobial resistance/use/stewardship research and pending implementation of the Pan Canadian Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance, the University of Guelph is well positioned to continue to play a leading role in this area.

We are anticipating increasing opportunities for research and translation across different sectors and drawing on an interdisciplinary One Health approach. This means building on existing strengths and fostering new interdisciplinary, cross-College research to maximize our impact and funding success ability by collaborating across the life, medical, social, physical and environmental sciences.

At CPHAZ we have been gathering information pertaining to different fields of study and interest in collaborative research and knowledge translation as part of an initiative to increase communication and collaboration, build new relationships, and facilitate translation of expertise into the antimicrobial use/resistance/stewardship area.

In addition, CPHAZ and Ontario Veterinary College are sponsoring 2 undergraduate summer student positions for 2022. These will support the new interdisciplinary antimicrobial initiative that is aimed at increased cross-cutting work, particularly collaborations between life sciences, clinical sciences, social sciences and arts. Eligible project areas include research, surveillance, education and communication. In an effort to encourage research and translation across different sectors, proposals that include faculty from the Colleges of Social and Applied Human Sciences or Arts will be prioritized.

To help improve applied antimicrobial use in veterinary medicine, CPHAZ has teamed up with OVC and the CVMA to develop a smartphone app that will provide antimicrobial prescribing decision support to small animal veterinarians and students.

The Centre for Public Health and Zoonoses (CPHAZ) hosts a One Health Student Mentorship Series for any University of Guelph students interested in connecting with a variety of One Health professionals working in academia, public health, and research sectors. Students have had the privilege of networking with professionals from Public Health Ontario, Hamilton Public Health, Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health, OMAFRA, and Professors specializing in One Health related research from the University of Guelph, University of Waterloo, and University of Calgary.

**Featured Mentors – Winter 2021**

Katherine Paphitis (top left), Dr. Katie Clow (top centre), Dr. Maureen Anderson (top right), Dr. Jessica Morris (bottom left), Dr. Devon Metcalf (bottom centre), Dr. Danielle Julien (bottom right).

**Featured Mentors – Fall 2021**

Dr. Sue Kilborn (top left), Dr. Devon Metcalf (top centre), Dr. Heather Murphy (top right), Dr. Shannon Majowicz (bottom left), Dr. Kelsey Spence (bottom centre), Dr. Mackenzie Sifferz (bottom right).
An update on Public Health scholarship at the University of Guelph

by Dr. Andrew Papadopoulos

The Master of Public Health (MPH) program was created at the University of Guelph in 2008, in response to societal need and government reports that called for increased graduate-trained human resources in public health. The program was developed in compliance with the Core Competencies for Public Health and the Guidelines for MPH Schools, as published by the Public Health Agency of Canada. It was accredited by the Ontario Council for Graduate Studies in January 2009, as was the Type 3 Graduate Diploma in Public Health. The objective of this program is to ensure students are well prepared for employment in the public health sector.

Contained within the Ontario Veterinary College, the MPH program is seen as the leader in infectious and zoonotic disease in MPH education across Canada. The MPH enjoys a close geographical relationship with two Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) offices and the main office of the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Affairs. The Centre for Public Health and Zoonoses (CPHAZ), and Laboratory for Foodborne Zoonoses also offer research collaboration.

The University of Guelph Master of Public Health program prepares public health students and professionals for careers in which they will address the present and future needs of public health in Ontario, Canada, and internationally. We are committed to applied public health science and research, relevance of curriculum, lifelong learning, and issues of local relevance and international significance. Our graduates will emerge as influential local, national, and international leaders committed to improving quality of life by protecting and promoting the health of their communities and by anticipating and preventing disease from both a policy and a science perspective.

MPH Program Health Forum

The MPH Program held its 12th Annual Public Health Forum in November 2020. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this year’s Forum was held virtually for the first time. The day began with four breakout sessions where 30 students presented their summer practicum work. This was followed up with two sessions of 15 students each presenting their posters in two-minute segments. As usual, the Dr. Robert Clarke Poster Award sponsored by the OVC Alumni Association was awarded. This year’s winner was Robyn Haas, with Brianne Kinahan, Taylor Colengeli, and Sarah Martone finishing second, third, and fourth respectively.

Summer Practicum

During the summer of 2020, many students had their practicum placements interrupted due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Some students had their placements cancelled which resulted in many scrambling to find alternate work for the summer. The MPH program was able to work with the students and find suitable replacement work so that they could complete the requirements of the practicum placement. Many of the students engaged in research projects with faculty or external partners.

Class size

The targeted class-size for each MPH cohort is 25 students. The past two years have seen student acceptance rates increase which has resulted in classes of approximately 30 students each year. This is coupled with the ever-increasing number of applications to the MPH program.

Other Public Health Graduate Programs

The Department of Population Medicine added the field of Public Health to their PhD and MSc degrees. This field allows students to pursue research in the area of public health policy, public health interventions, health communication, and other areas that concentrate on improving population health. There has been one graduate from the PhD program with many enrolled in both PhD and MSc streams.
ABOUT THE CENTRE FOR PUBLIC HEALTH AND ZOONOSES

The University of Guelph has a strong tradition of excellence in research and education related to public health at the human-animal-environmental interface. Additionally, the university is located in close proximity to, and has close collaborative relations with numerous animal health and public health agencies and organizations. In recognition of these unique strengths, the Centre for Public Health and Zoonoses (CPHAZ) was established in 2006.

VISION

Through our engagement in research, education, and knowledge dissemination, members of CPHAZ will identify and solve problems and implement solutions in public health at the human-animal-environmental interface, contribute to rapid response to new and emerging zoonotic diseases, and highlight the societal relevance of veterinary medicine in public health. CPHAZ will create and support productive and effective working relationships between researchers in diverse fields, advance education related to zoonoses and public health and will forge new relationships with human public health activities.

CPHAZ MANDATE

There is an urgent need for public health research at the human-animal-environmental interface, and for interdisciplinary research approaches spanning from basic laboratory sciences to applied field studies, and from animals to humans.

The CPHAZ mandate is to provide focus and leadership for research, education, and knowledge dissemination in public health at the human-animal-environmental interface. Collaborations of our OVC members with external collaborators and partners is a key function of the operation of CPHAZ.

CPHAZ GOALS

RESEARCH

CPHAZ will communicate awareness of existing public health initiatives within OVC to public health communities and other interested persons.

CPHAZ will lead new public health research within OVC, with researchers from University of Guelph, other universities, and animal and human public health organizations.

CPHAZ will integrate across disciplines to solve complex problems and implement solutions related to public health at the human/animal/environmental interface.

EDUCATION

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KNOWLEDGE DISSEMINATION

CPHAZ will provide relevant and user-targeted research results and information on animal-related public health issues to a broad audience of public health stakeholders.

CPHAZ will host seminars by internal and outside speakers on cross-cutting topic areas.

CPHAZ will engage veterinary and public health communities through conference presentations and symposiums.

CPHAZ will make major contributions to the implementation of sound policy based on the insights and scientific discoveries made by CPHAZ scientists.