

Veterinary Epidemiology – Future Challenges and Strategic Opportunities

Troy Laidlow¹, Allen Petry², Jenny-Ann Toribio³, Francette Geraghty-Dusan⁴, Peter Black⁵

¹University of Sydney, troy.laidlow@sydney.edu.au, ²Veterinary Public Health Chapter secretaryvph@anzcvs.org.au, ³University of Sydney, jenny-ann.toribio@sydney.edu.au,

⁴Charles Sturt University, Fdusan@csu.edu.au, ⁵Essential Foresight, peter@essentialforesight.com

Keywords: Veterinary, Epidemiology, Opportunities.

1. Background and Objectives

A plethora of recent reports discuss the future of veterinary epidemiology and related disciplines internationally and locally for Australia. In the Australian context, these discussions have largely been triggered by an increase in perceived risk to Australia; outbreaks of animal diseases (including zoonoses) have impacted countries in our region (e.g. Foot and Mouth Disease, Lumpy Skin Disease, African Swine Fever, Avian Influenza H5N1, Rabies) increasing the apparent likelihood of an incursion event, combined with a decrease in the availability of appropriately trained veterinarians in rural and remote areas, increasing the potential impact. The Epidemiology Chapter recognises the need for a strategic plan to guide funding decisions and activity prioritisation. This two-hour workshop will examine how the ANZCVS Veterinary Epidemiology Chapter can be more futures focused to: foster chapter growth; enhance collaboration with clinical colleagues; direct national discussion on training pathways; and advocate for improved application of epidemiology across private sectors, academia, and government.

2. Methodology

Two moderators and four panellists—representing academia, consultancy, and government—will share their diverse perspectives and insights with College members in an engaging two-way conversation. Each brings a deep understanding of current epidemiological practices, key challenges, and emerging opportunities within the field.

3. Expected Outcomes

- 3.1 Generate actionable ideas for enhancing the visibility and value of Membership and Fellowship in veterinary epidemiology across sectors.
- 3.2 Highlight priority areas for strategic development and cross-disciplinary collaboration to ensure veterinary epidemiology continues to meet societal needs over the next decade.

References

1. AVA Strategic foresight and animal health [Internet]. 2024 May 2 [cited 2025 May 22]. Available from: <https://www.ava.com.au/member-updates/from-the-desk-of-the-acvo/strategic-foresight-and-animal-health/>
2. Orr B. To evaluate programs designed to attract, recruit and retain veterinary professionals. Canberra: Churchill Trust; 2023 [cited 2025 May 22]. Available from: <https://www.churchilltrust.com.au/fellow/bronwyn-orr-act-2023/>
3. ANZCVS review of the current structure of Fellowship Programs, including examination processes. [no date].
4. Magouras I, Dürr S, Martínez-López B, Brookes VJ. Editorial: Insights in veterinary epidemiology and economics: 2023. *Front Vet Sci.* 2025; 12:1564068. doi:10.3389/fvets.2025.1564068