

The Department of Ecosystem and Public Health together with the Department of Production Animal Medicine at the University of Calgary Faculty of Veterinary Medicine (UCVM) are seeking a PhD student interesting in investigating the epidemiology of *Mycobacterium avium* spp paratuberculosis (Map) in wildlife.

Map is the causative agent for Johne's disease and has previously been detected in various wildlife species, including caribou and bison. The strains and specific transmission patterns within and among host species are unknown. The focus of the graduate student research will be to study the prevalence, host and geographic range, and transmission dynamics of Map in northern ungulates. The student will gain advanced skills in laboratory procedures in microbiology and molecular biology and epidemiology. The candidate will also maintain contacts with the biologists in the field and possible assistance in field collections may be included. .

The candidate will be integrated in the Johne's research group of Dr De Buck, where several projects are running, including a large challenge trial to determine the age/dose-susceptibility of dairy cattle, pathogenesis studies and early disease marker discovery. . Also collaborations with the wildlife groups of Dr Kutz will be encouraged.

The UCVM has a strong research group focused on Map and has USDA-accreditation for detection of Map . UCVM also has a strong wildlife health and ecology research group. UCVM's Mission is to meet the veterinary, animal and public health needs of Alberta through:

- excellence in delivery of a comprehensive undergraduate veterinary medical education, emphasizing the production animal health, ecosystem and public health, equine health, and investigative medicine;
- excellence in clinical, diagnostic and professional teaching and service, in collaboration with our partners in a Distributed Veterinary Learning Community;
- excellence in the creation and distribution of new knowledge through research, graduate veterinary education, and continuing education in animal health and disease, and its relation to human health.

Applicants with a DVM are preferred, however, exceptional applications with skills in molecular techniques or other laboratory experience are encouraged to respond.

The salary will be commensurate with the level of education.

Review of applications will begin June 10th , 2009 and will continue until suitable applicants are identified. Interested individuals should submit a current curriculum vitae and an outline of his or her areas of research interest along with the names of three referees to:

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