

VLA Press Release

29 September 2008



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## **Veterinary Laboratories Agency hosts the Brucellosis 2008 International Research Conference**

The Brucellosis 2008 International Research Conference, organised by the Veterinary Laboratories Agency (VLA), took place at Royal Holloway College, University of London from 10 to 13 September 2008.

The meeting, co-sponsored by the Veterinary Laboratories Agency, Defra, the World Health Organisation and the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (ACP-EU), attracted over 300 delegates from some 60 countries reflecting the fact that brucellosis remains one of the world's most important zoonotic diseases.

With a broad scope the meeting covered many areas of current understanding of brucellosis ranging from applied aspects of surveillance and control programs through to the latest cutting-edge research helping understand the biology of the bacterium causing brucellosis.

Reflecting both this, and the substantial economic and social impacts of the disease in large areas of the globe, the meeting attracted a wide audience of scientists, veterinarians, clinicians and government and international regulators.

Dr Adrian Whatmore of the VLA and Chair of the meeting said:

"We are delighted to have attracted such a diverse audience sharing the ultimate goal of the control of this insidious disease.

It was an opportunity to establish or renew contacts, particularly between delegates from the developing world and those who have already had some success in controlling the disease.

We hope this will help in the development of future work advancing the fight against brucellosis."

### **Notes to Editors**

VLA is an Executive Agency of the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra). It is a regional network of 16 veterinary laboratories including a central facility near Weybridge in Surrey.

VLA provides a wide range of applied research and consultancy on livestock diseases and surveillance of new and emerging diseases for the Government and animal health industry. It is the National Reference Laboratory for Brucellosis, an OIE Reference Centre and FAO/WHO Collaborating Centre for Brucellosis.

[http://www.defra.gov.uk/vla/science/sci\\_brucell.htm](http://www.defra.gov.uk/vla/science/sci_brucell.htm)

### **Further information**

Dr Adrian Whatmore, OIE Brucellosis Reference Centre, VLA.

[a.whatmore@vla.defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:a.whatmore@vla.defra.gsi.gov.uk).