



Name:	Veronica Brewster		
Project title:	Towards eradication of <i>Mycoplasma hyopneumoniae</i> from the UK pig herd		
Institute:	Royal Veterinary College		
Start date:	July 2009	Finish date:	January 2014

Lay summary of project (*in your own words*)

M. hyopneumoniae the causal agent of enzootic pneumonia (EP), a widespread respiratory disease. EP-like lung lesions are regularly identified at slaughter but without further testing, the exact cause is unknown. Accurate diagnosis is therefore necessary. Enzootic pneumonia has been successfully eradicated from other countries, but would it be possible in the UK?

This project aims to:

- Develop Immunohistochemistry (IHC), which allows visualisation of *M. hyopneumoniae* within lung tissue, confirming enzootic pneumonia.
- Estimate on the cost of EP and its impact on production parameters.
- To assess the feasibility of eradication from the UK.

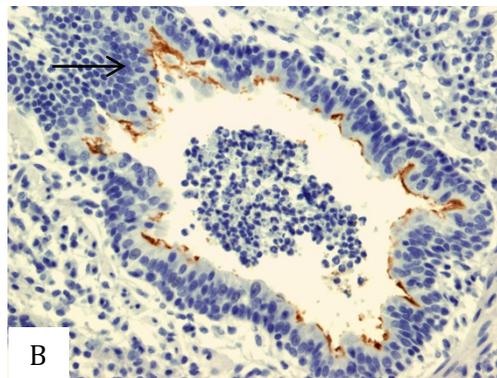
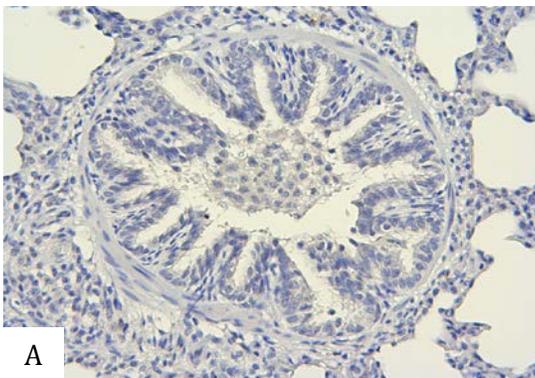
A bit about yourself (*one paragraph*)

I graduated from Hartpury College in 2004 with a degree in Animal science and after a short stint in an office I left for Kenya. I spent 3 months there volunteering on a research project on colobus monkeys and dolphins, developing many skills including tracking and distance sampling methods. In 2006 I started work as a research assistant at the RVC working on several livestock projects including *M. hyopneumoniae* and paratuberculosis, before beginning my PhD in 2009. I have always enjoyed doing research work on pigs, especially diseases and hope to remain in the industry when I complete my PhD.

What you hope to get out of your PhD

I hope to improve my laboratory and time management skills and to gain confidence presenting my research. I would also like to further my knowledge of the pig industry.

A photograph of your work



Microscopic section of a pig lung.



Figure A. Lungs without EP-like lesions
Figure B. Lungs with EP like lesions. Brown IHC staining indicates lung positive for M. hyopneumoniae.

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