

| Name:          | Thomas Eley                                                                                              |              |               |
|----------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|---------------|
| Project title: | Residency: Production animal pathology with a research component and specialisation in porcine pathology |              |               |
| Institute:     | Royal Veterinary College                                                                                 |              |               |
| Start date:    | January 2014                                                                                             | Finish date: | December 2017 |

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

A residency is a fixed term programme where I undergo supervised, specialist training in veterinary anatomic pathology of all species. Anatomic pathology is the study of disease, and it uses post mortem examination of carcases, and microscopic examination of tissues to determine the underlying disease process The programme is based at the Royal Veterinary College, with some additional placements focusing on porcine pathology at the Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency (AHVLA) and Scotland's Rural College (SRUC). By the end of the residency I will be competent in post mortem examinations and microscopic evaluation of biopsy and post mortem tissue sections from all species, with an aim to gaining specialist national and international pathology qualifications by examination. During this period, I will also complete a porcine focused research project that will lead to a Masters in Veterinary Medicine. I will attend and present at British and European pig meetings throughout the four year programme.

## A bit about yourself (one paragraph)

I am a veterinary surgeon who qualified from the RVC in 2008, having taken an intercalated BSc in veterinary pathology as part of the veterinary degree. I worked in 100% farm animal practice in the south east of England for 5 and a half years before returning to take up my current post. Since taking a specialist intercalated degree, pathology was always a strong interest of mine as it plays such a key role in disease monitoring for agricultural species.

## What you hope to get out of your residency

Pathology is a key skill required for effective disease monitoring in the pig industry both on farm and in the abattoir. Effective monitoring and surveillance is essential for the early detection of disease as well as measuring the health and welfare of animals along the production chain. There is currently a shortage of porcine specialist veterinary pathologists in the UK. Training pathologists to a contemporary specialist standard is vital for the contribution they can make to disease monitoring and surveillance throughout the pig industry.

## A photograph of your work



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