

## Atlantic Veterinary College and PEI BioAlliance co-host 2018 International Symposium on Aquatic Animal Health



*Dr. Greg Keefe, Dean, Atlantic Veterinary College at UPEI joins Rory Francis, Executive Director, PEI BioAlliance, and Dr. David Gorman, past President of the FHS and Section Head for Aquatic Diagnostic Services at the AVC to discuss the 2018 ISA AH Conference. AVC and PEI BioAlliance are teaming up to host the International event in PEI in September 2018.*

UPEI's Atlantic Veterinary College (AVC) is proud to partner with the Prince Edward Island BioAlliance and the Fish Health Section of the American Fisheries Society (FHS) to co-host the eighth International Symposium on Aquatic Animal Health (ISA AH 2018). The 2018 event will be held at the Prince Edward Island Convention Centre from September 2 to 6 in beautiful Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, Canada.

The 2018 edition marks the thirtieth anniversary of the event, with the inaugural International Fish Health Conference having been held in Vancouver, British Columbia in 1988. The ISA AH occurs once every four years, and since 1994, has developed into a much-anticipated meeting of fish health professionals.

Dr. David Groman, past President of the FHS, Section Head for Aquatic Diagnostic Services at the AVC, and local chair of the 2018 Conference, said all groups involved are excited to be hosting this event on PEI.

"It's a little-known fact that PEI has the highest number of fish health professionals per capita and per square kilometre than anywhere else in the world. The PEI fish health community is proud to be playing host to this prestigious international aquatic animal health meeting," said Groman.

Aquaculture is the world's fastest-growing sector for animal food production. Rory Francis, executive director of the Prince Edward Island BioAlliance, said PEI is an ideal location for the ISA AH 2018. "Prince Edward Island is home to more than 30 organizations and leading-edge companies involved in

aquaculture production, health and nutrition product development, and contract services. PEI researchers, including the Canada Excellence Research Chair in Aquatic Epidemiology and Canada Research Chairs in Integrated Health Research for Sustainable Aquaculture and Epi-informatics at the Atlantic Veterinary College, provide support and innovative solutions for the global aquaculture industry. I know that delegates will be impressed by our people and our infrastructure,” said Francis.

The ISAAH typically attracts 300–400 fish health professionals from around the world and is the preeminent international meeting of fish health professionals. The 2018 meeting promises to provide a unique opportunity for rapid exchange of information on a global scale. For more information about the conference and how you can get involved, visit <http://www.isaah2018.com>.

The Atlantic Veterinary College at the University of Prince Edward Island, established in 1986, is committed to improving the health and welfare of animals and humans through education, research and service. The College is fully accredited by the American Veterinary Medical Association and the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association, and is recognized by the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons in the United Kingdom. AVC is recognized globally for its innovative research and expertise in aquatic animal health, veterinary epidemiology, comparative biomedical sciences, clinical medicine, animal welfare, infectious disease, and public health.

The Prince Edward Island Bioscience Cluster is the location of choice for companies engaged in the research, development, and commercialization of bioactive-based human, animal, and fish health and nutrition products. The PEI Bioscience Cluster consists of over 50 companies, several major research institutions, and over 1500 employees. The PEI BioAlliance facilitates the growth of the industry in the province, providing specialized programs and services for business incubation, commercialization support services, partnering, and conference and workshop planning and execution.

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**Media contacts:**

Rose FitzPatrick  
Manager, Marketing and Communications  
PEI BioAlliance  
(902) 367-4403  
[rose@peibioalliance.com](mailto:rose@peibioalliance.com)

Nicole Phillips  
Associate Director, Marketing and Communications  
University of Prince Edward Island  
(902) 566-0947  
[nphillips@upei.ca](mailto:nphillips@upei.ca)