

## Veterinary Pathology 'Pub Quiz' Hosts 2023



Hosts of the 2023 Veterinary Pathology Virtual 'Pub Quiz': Anatomic Pathologist, Sandra Dawson BSc BVMS FRCPath MRCVS (left) and Professor of Veterinary Microbiology and Pathology, Professor Roberto La Ragione (right).

### **Anatomic Pathologist - Sandra Dawson BSc BVMS FRCPath MRCVS**

Sandra is a graduate of Aberdeen and Glasgow Universities, gaining a BSc in agriculture with honours in animal science in 1991 and her veterinary degree in 1995. She moved from working in mixed practice in 1997 to take up a residency in veterinary pathology at Edinburgh University, latterly lecturing in reproductive pathology. After 5 years in industry, where she gained her FRCPath, Sandra joined Nationwide Laboratories in May 2006. In 2011 Sandra was appointed to the Royal College of Pathologists board of examiners in the speciality of small domestic animals. She enjoys teaching and mentoring and is an active STEM ambassador. Sandra works with surgical biopsies and fine needle aspirates. She can advise on all aspects of histopathology in a wide range of species.

### **Professor Roberto La Ragione – Professor of Veterinary Microbiology and Pathology, School of Veterinary Medicine and Head of the School of Biosciences, University of Surrey**

Roberto graduated in 1995 and then went on to study for a post graduate degree in veterinary microbiology at the Royal Veterinary College (University of London). In 1996 he moved to the government Veterinary Laboratories Agency to undertake a PhD on the pathogenesis of *E. coli* in poultry. On completion of his PhD he commenced a post-doctoral position at Royal Holloway (University of London), studying *E. coli* virulence factors and vaccine development.

In 2005 Roberto was appointed head of pathogenesis and control at the AHVLA (now the APHA) and in 2010 he was appointed Professor of

Veterinary Microbiology and Pathology at the University of Surrey. Roberto gained the FRCPath in 2010 and in 2012 was appointed the Associate Dean for Veterinary Strategy in the new School of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Surrey. In 2014 he established the Surrey Veterinary Pathology Centre and was the Director until 2020. He was the Head of the Department of Pathology and Infectious Diseases and Deputy Head of the School of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Surrey until 2021. Roberto is currently Professor of Veterinary Microbiology and Pathology in the School of Veterinary Medicine and Head of the School of Biosciences.

Roberto is the current Chair of the Royal College of Pathologists Veterinary Pathology Specialty Advisory Committee, Chair of the Humanimal Trust, a Trustee of the Houghton Trust, a member of the APHA Science Advisory Board, a member of the FSA ACMSF AMR sub-committee, a BSI committee member and contributes to associated ISO working groups. Roberto is the past president of the Med-Vet-Net Association and the Veterinary Research Club. Roberto is an Associate member of the European College of Veterinary Microbiology (AECVM). In 2020 he was awarded Honorary Associateship of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (HonAssocRCVS).

Roberto's research has largely focused on the analysis of colonisation, shedding and transmission of *E. coli*, *Campylobacter*, *Salmonella* and other zoonotic bacterial pathogens by all farmed animal species. He has led a number of commercial, BBSRC, EPSRC, MRC, Defra, Innovate and EU projects, and published over 200 peer reviewed publications in the area of host-microbe interaction, with a particular emphasis on foodborne pathogens and endemic diseases of poultry. His current research focuses on AMR transmission and the pathogenesis of foodborne pathogens, with a particular interest in the development of rapid diagnostics and intervention strategies, including vaccines and pre and probiotics for the control of bacterial pathogens in animals.