

## 2007 CSAS Award Winners

### 1. Pfizer Young Scientist Award

**Winner:** Dr. Kendall Swanson

**Name of nominators:** Drs. Kees de Lange, John Cant and Steve Leeson

Dr Swanson was appointed as assistant professor of ruminant nutrition at the University of Guelph in April 2004, after short post-doctoral fellowships at the USDA Meat Animal Research Centre in Nebraska and the University of Kentucky. He received his Ph.D. in ruminant nutrition in 2000. In his short academic career Dr. Swanson has established himself as one of the leading researchers in beef cattle nutrition and metabolism. In his research he is applying advanced molecular based methods, including gene expression and proteomics, to explore animal genotype and diet composition effects on the regulation of nutrient utilization and energy expenditure in metabolically active tissues. In particular his research on the control of pancreatic function and starch utilization in ruminant animals has gained him a strong scientific reputation. In close collaboration with meat scientists and geneticists he has been instrumental in establishing a large multi-disciplinary research program and a new beef cattle research unit at the University of Guelph. Facilities in the new research unit allow automated measurement of productivity of individual beef cattle housed in groups and to relate whole animal performance and various aspects of meat quality to a wide range of indicators of metabolic activity in individual tissues. Currently the group lead by Dr. Swanson is exploring the genetic and physiological bases of residual feed intake in beef cattle, as well as other relevant topics in beef cattle research such as improving meat quality and the use of novel co-products as feed ingredients in beef production. He has co-authored 18 peer-reviewed scientific publications and book chapters, 35 abstracts that have been presented at scientific meetings, and numerous research reports.

## **2. Technical Innovation and Production of Safe and Affordable Foods**

**Winner: Dr. Allan Schaefer**

**Nominator: Dr. Jennifer Aalhus**

Dr. Allan Schaefer is a leader in the area of developing and applying physiological testing procedures to enable the production of safe and affordable food. Food safety is determined at many points along the gate to plate continuum and Dr. Schaefer has been instrumental in development of ante-mortem strategies to mitigate animal disease risk, and in so doing, directly impacting on animal welfare, the safety of animal products, lean yield, meat quality and ultimately the affordability of animal products. Significant research areas for which Dr. Schaefer has contributed include (1) The non invasive measurement of transport and handling stress in domestic animals (2) The attenuation of transport and handling stress for the improvement of animal welfare, meat quality and safety (3) The early, non-invasive detection of disease onset in domestic animals (4) The measurement and attenuation of stress in diversified livestock and (5) The non-invasive measurement of animal growth efficiency and tissue composition. Dr. Schaefer has authored or co-authored in excess of 95 scientific papers, 10 book chapters/authoritative reviews, over 200 conference presentations and over 400 technology transfer articles. Dr. Schaefer is as an Adjunct Professor in the Department of Agricultural, Food and Nutritional Sciences at the University of Alberta and has nationally/internationally supervised or co-supervised 8 Ph.D. and 2 M.Sc. students and has guest lectured at the undergraduate level in meat science and animal welfare. Dr. Schaefer has also worked with or conducted collaborative research with over 75 companies and is named as a co-inventor on 7 patents. In essence, Dr. Schaefer is a true leader in research and implementation of technical innovation for enhancing the production of safe affordable food.

### **3. Award Excellence in Nutrition and Meat Science**

**Winner: Dr. Erasmus Okine**

**Nominator: Dr. John Kennely**

Dr. Erasmus Okine is a worthy recipient of the Canadian Society of Animal Science award for “Excellence in Nutrition and Meat Sciences” based on his contribution to the animal industries of Canada in teaching, research and technology transfer over the past 18 years. His publications include over 130 scientific publications, conference/ book chapters and 115 abstracts in scientific journals. As a teacher Erasmus has supervised and co-supervised the graduate thesis programs of 13 MSc and PhD students. He currently supervises and co-supervises 2 PhD and 5 MSc students and has been a member of the supervisory and examination committees of 11 PhD and 6 MSc students. His extension/technology transfer activities includes 80 invited presentations, 50 extension articles for magazines, such as Cattlemen, Alberta Beef, and Western Producer, 20 fact-sheets in book and reference binders such as the Alberta Feedlot Management Guide, and over 15 radio interviews. In addition, Erasmus has been instrumental in the development of CowBytes, a decision making- tool in nutrition for cattle producers and a teaching tool used in agricultural colleges and universities. Erasmus is Chair of the Department of Agricultural, Food and Nutritional Science (AFNS), has served on the executive of the CSAS as Western Director, Awards Chair, Vice-president, President and Past-President of the society. He has also served as a reviewer for many granting agencies including AARI, DFC, BCRC, NSERC and CABIDF and he has served as Assistant and Associate Editor of the Canadian Journal of Animal Science.

#### **4. Award for Excellence in Extension and Public Service**

**Winner: Dr. Kim Ominski**

**Nominators: Drs. W. Guenter and Kees Plaizier**

Dr. Kim Ominski received her Ph.D in 1994. She joined the University of Manitoba as Assistant Professor in Beef Production Systems in 1999. In 2006 she obtained the position of Associate Professor at this University. Dr. Ominski has proven herself as an effective Faculty member in research, and her contributions to extension, technology transfer, and teaching have been outstanding. She is well recognized by the livestock industry as the “resource person” to contact at the University of Manitoba. Her research is funded by the Dairy Farmers of Manitoba, Manitoba Cattle Producers, Canadian Cattleman Association, Beef Cattle Research Council, Manitoba Livestock Manure Initiative, and other industry groups. In 2001, she also received the “Innovation Team Award” for her systems approach to research and problem solving. She has been serving on the Manitoba Grazing School Organizing Committee as a founding member since its inception in 1997. The Grazing School continues to be one of the largest annual producer meetings in the province and has become an effective technology transfer tool, providing grazing and pasture information to over 450 producers annually.

Dr. Ominski has proven herself as an excellent teacher whose capabilities have been recognized with teaching awards that includes the Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences Teacher of the Year Award, 2006 for which she was selected by the 2006 graduating class, the Merit Award, University of Manitoba in 2004, and the Teaching Award of Merit from the North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture (NACTA), 2004. Thus, Dr. Kim Ominski is the most worthy candidate for the Animal Industries Award in Extension and Public Service of CSAS.