

Dr. Jennifer Pradel, Coordinator of the Caribbean Animal Health Network CaribVET, invited to be keynote speaker for RUSVM/Phi Zeta Research Day 2017

Dr. Jennifer Pradel, CIRAD Scientist and Coordinator of CaribVET, the Caribbean Animal Health Network, will serve as Keynote Speaker for RUSVM/Phi Zeta's Research Day 2017.

Jennifer is a veterinarian specialized in tropical veterinary medicine, epidemiology and medical entomology. She has worked in Guadeloupe, French West Indies, since 2010 for the French Agricultural Research Center for International Development, CIRAD, from where she coordinates CaribVET.

During her veterinary studies at the University of Toulouse in the south of France, Jennifer discovered her passion for epidemiological surveillance while serving as a voluntary trainee, coordinating field operations



for a West Nile virus bird surveillance program between 2001 and 2003. After completing her veterinary studies, she enrolled in a Master degree program in Environment and Health at the University of Science, Technology and Health of Grenoble, France to study the epidemiology of West Nile virus in Guadeloupe during 2005. She then received a grant for a 4 year PhD program at the same university in Grenoble to study the impact of environmental and climate change on mosquito bio-ecology. Her doctoral work was conducted in a mixed human and animal health research unit "Environment and Prediction of Health Populations" made up of researchers from the medical faculty of Grenoble and the veterinary faculty of Lyon. During this time she provided lectures on zoonoses to students in human medicine.

Jennifer's main mission at CIRAD is to coordinate and further develop CaribVET through research partnerships addressing the priority needs of official veterinary services from the Caribbean countries and territories, with a view to improve disease surveillance in the region. With other regional experts, she is developing a Caribbean health monitoring initiative to improve regional preparedness, including development of an early alert system to enable quicker decisions at the regional level based on a brand new epidemic intelligence tool developed by French colleagues that provides real time information on disease outbreaks worldwide.

Jennifer shares her time between coordination of CaribVET, surveillance of vector-borne diseases in the French Antilles, research on epidemiology, network engineering, capacity and tool development, and socio-economics of the regional animal health network. She has co-supervised a PhD student and supervised 3 post-doctoral fellows, 9 Master students and 5 young scientists on various topics including tick ecology and modeling, spatial epidemiology and tick-borne diseases epidemiology, economics in animal health, sociology, risk mapping, medical entomology and mosquito bio-ecology, acaricide resistance in ticks, scientific communication and communication strategy. She also participates in research activities conducted by other partners in the Caribbean on rabies, leptospirosis, etc.

As part of her work, Jennifer participates in regional and international fora and meetings with end-users and professionals as well as information days to promote scientific activities to the general public.