Microbiological interactions in bovine respiratory diseases

Bovine respiratory disease (BRD) is a cause of major economic loss in the beef and dairy industries affecting young stock particularly during the housing period. A complex of viral, bacterial and nematode pathogens including BRSV, PI3, BHV-1, BVDV, Mycoplasma sp., Mannheimia haemolytica (MH), Pasteurella multocida (PM), Histophilus somni (HS) and Dictyocaulus viviparous are regularly identified in UK BRD cases. The project will investigate interactions among key pathogens identified in naturally occurring cases of bovine respiratory disease in calves on farms in Southwest England through use of a combination of classical culture methods and state-of-the-art molecular approaches such as real-time PCR.

This project would well suit a student with either a veterinary or biomedical sciences background, although any candidate with a broad-based biological sciences background would be considered.

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