"East meets West" - a new paradigm for veterinary teaching in Hong Kong

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Introduction
City University, in collaboration with Cornell University’s College of Veterinary Medicine has established a School of Veterinary Medicine (SVM) in Hong Kong in 2014. The intention is to lead veterinary research/teaching in major themes, such as Food Safety, Veterinary Public Health, Emerging Infectious diseases and Aquatic Production.

Background
Hong Kong has hitherto not had a veterinary school. Students intending to study veterinary medicine had to go abroad, mainly to the UK, the US and Australia, meaning that students’ learning may have lacked a focus on locally pertinent issues. This may be a deficiency when these students return home to practice in Hong Kong, or the region.

Materials and Methods
SVM was established by City University of Hong Kong with an initial focus on postgraduate courses and relevant research. Opportunities exist for students now to pursue PhD studies in conjunction with Cornell, or a Master of Science degree in Aquatic Production and Veterinary Health, as well as a Veterinary nursing Diploma.

Results
13 students have already been enrolled in the PhD program in Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences with joint-supervision provided both, in Hong Kong and at Cornell. The MSc in Aquatic Production and Veterinary Health is expected to commence in the autumn of 2016 with an initial intake of 25 students. The School is offering the Veterinary nursing diploma from 2016 onwards and is active in the provision of Continued Professional Development, locally and in the region.

Acknowledgements
Staff and management at the School of Veterinary Medicine at City University of Hong Kong and Cornell's University’s College of Veterinary Medicine for their ongoing support to make this project happen.