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PEI hosts symposium on aquatic animal health

he maritime province of Prince Edward Island, Canada is hosting this year's International Symposium on Aquatic Animal Health (ISAAH), marking only the second time the symposium has been hosted in the country since the inaugural conference in Vancouver, BC, in 1988.

It will be held at the PEI Convention Centre from September 2–6, 2018, in Charlottetown, PEI.

Choosing PEI to host the 8th edition of the symposium was an easily accomplished task for organizers — the Atlantic Veterinary College (AVC) and the Prince Edward Island BioAlliance — and their co-host,

the American Fisheries Society-Fish Health Section. PEI is home not only to AVC, which at the time it started in 1985 had the largest fish-focused program, but also to giant aqua health specialist Elanco Aqua.

"It's a little-known fact that PEI has the highest number of aquatic animal health professionals per capita and per square kilometre than anywhere else in the world. Everything built on the arrival of those two aquaculture institutions in the mid-80s," said Dr David Groman, local chair of the 2018 ISAAH. "This is an excellent networking opportunity for people studying aquatic animal health as well as those working in the field."

PEI BioAlliance official Rory Francis agreed that PEI is an ideal location for the symposium. "PEI is home to more than 30 entities involved in aquaculture production, health and nutrition product development, and contract services. Researchers, including the Canada Excellence Research



Local chair of this year's symposium Dr David Groman (third from left) with Dr Greg Keefe, dean of the Atlantic Veterinary College and Rory Francis, exec director of the PEI BioAlliance. Groman says PEI, host of the symposium, has the world's highest number of aquatic animal health professionals per capita

Chair in Aquatic Epidemiology and Canada Research Chairs in Integrated Health Research for Sustainable Aquaculture and Epi-informatics at AVC, provide support and innovative solutions for the industry," he said.

Held every four years, this year's edition will discuss R &D, trends and outlook for the aquatic animal health industry. The symposium's theme is "Integrating Biotechnology in the Advancement of Aquatic Animal Health."

Students and post-doctoral fellows studying aquatic animal health are welcome to participate. Pre-conference workshop topics include Diagnostic Test Evaluations, Publication of Scientific Papers, Phlebotomy & Blood Analysis for Fish and Shellfish, Shellfish Necropsy & Disease Detection, and Uses of Virtual Microscopy.

Early bird registration for the conference ends on July 13. For more information, visit https://isaah2018.com/

