



ComPath News



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OCTOBER 2017

> ANZLAA CONFERENCE WRAP UP

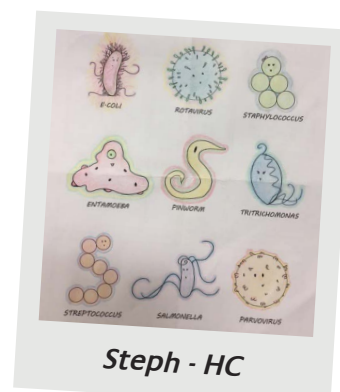
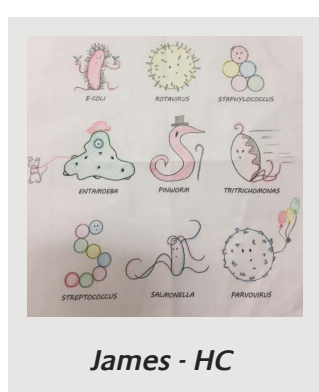
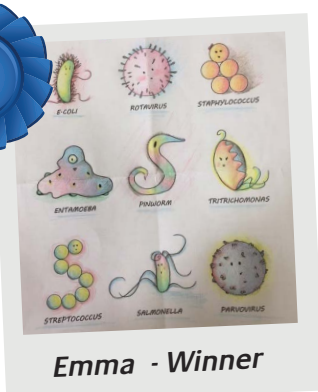
It was great to catch up with so many of you at the annual ANZLAA Conference this year in Sydney. This year's theme, "Emerging Technologies", was particularly relevant to ComPath as we continue in our efforts to bring you the latest in health monitoring technological advances. It was also great to catch up with PCR guru, Ken Henderson, from Charles River Laboratories (CRL) to hear the latest from his lab. ComPath has a longstanding relationship with CRL having used their serology reagents (both EIA and IFA) as our primary screen for almost a decade.

One of the hot topics at ANZLAA was utilising PCR technology to help replace sentinel monitoring or compliment soiled-bedding sentinel programs with alternate sample types. Our R&D work into validating non-animal/alternative samples such as plenum filters/swabs is in full swing and we expect to be able to offer our first alternative sample PCR panels in 2018. Now is the chance to have your say in what pathogens you would want featured in such panels.

Please email info@compath.com with your requests.

Another hot topic for the conference was Germ-Free and Microbiome research. With more and more facilities setting up Germ-Free colonies we are looking at providing both germ-free QA testing and a microbiome monitoring service, so watch this space! Please contact the lab at info@compath.com for more information. Expressions of interest for both services would be helpful.

Finally, congratulations to Emma Jamieson from Malaghan Institute for winning the ComPath Colouring Competition! We were blown away by the quality and inventiveness of the entries, thanks to all who participated - you certainly brought colour to our booth. The latest instalment of the Larry Comic as well as a copy of the bugs for colouring are available to download at the Coffee Break section on the Resources tab of www.compath.com.au



> PATHOGEN UNDER THE MICROSCOPE

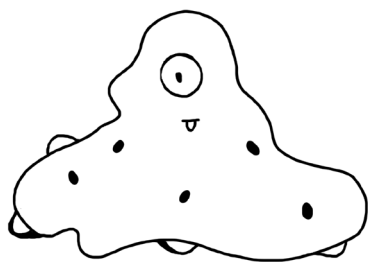


Illustration: Marianne Lim

Entamoeba muris

Entamoeba muris is a protozoan parasite of the order Amoebozoa, family Entamoebidae. It is the only amoeba found in laboratory mice with the prevalence in laboratory and wild populations ranging from 5-55%. Although there are over 20 *Entamoeba* species infecting a range of hosts (including humans), *E. muris* is the only species to infect rodents and has not been reported to infect other hosts.

E. muris undergoes four life stages- trophozoite (mature adult), precystic (small amoeboid shape formed prior to encystment), cyst (infective stage) and metacyst (excysting stage giving rise to trophozoites). Trophozoites inhabit the caecum and colon and cysts are passed in the faeces. Transmission is via the faecal-oral route by the ingestion of cysts.

E. muris is considered non-pathogenic and infection is subclinical. Interference with experimental design or reproducibility has not been reported although little is fully understood about this parasite. Diagnosis is made by direct microscopy examination of the faeces and intestinal contents for cysts and trophozoites. PCR assays are also available.

The stability of *E. muris* in the environment is unknown and chemotherapeutic elimination has not yet been reported but generally a thorough cleaning and elimination of faecal matter and including the use of a sterilant or disinfectant is recommended. Maintaining regular health monitoring of supplier populations and employing strict sanitation control is necessary to exclude this organism from the facility.

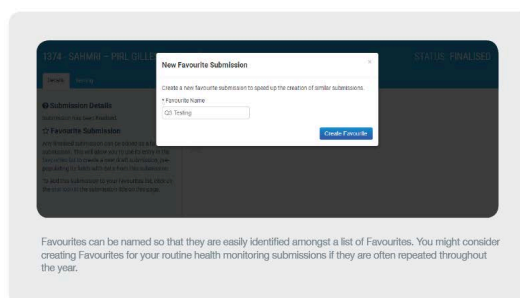
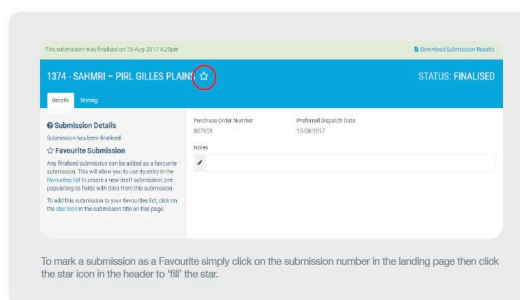
Elimination of *E. muris* from infected populations can be achieved by rederivation and strict protocols for barrier maintenance however infection with this agent is generally considered inconsequential, and control measures are usually not necessary.

> CORA UPDATES - FAVOURITE SUBMISSIONS

You asked, we listened! ComPath is excited to announce our new ComPath Online Reporting Application (CORA) feature, Favourite Submissions is now live! This feature gives you the ability to mark any finalised submission as a Favourite in order to copy its groups, tests and samples for future submissions saving you time and energy. We have added a guide on how to use this feature in the “Help” tab in CORA. If you have other questions please do not hesitate to contact us.

ComPath is a client-focused service, therefore feedback on how to improve processes is always welcomed. We will soon be sending out a link to a short survey by email which we hope you will take the time to complete as it will help guide our priorities on areas for improvement in the future.

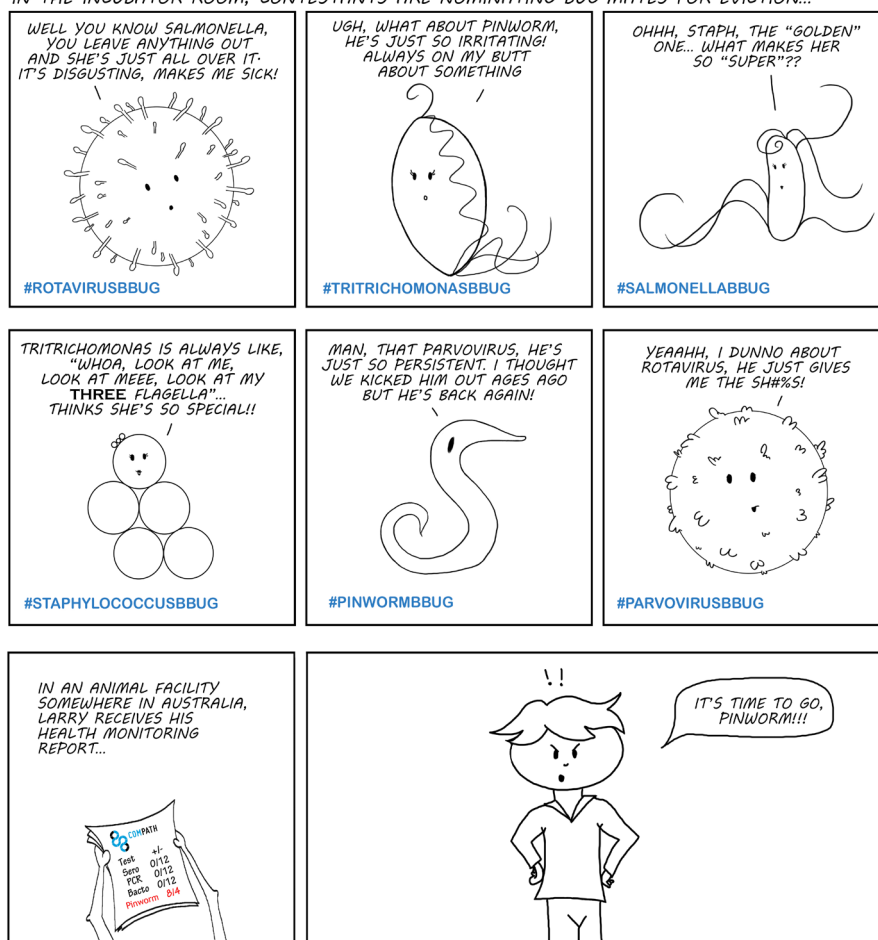
1 CREATE FAVOURITES FROM ANY FINALISED SUBMISSION



> ADVENTURES OF LARRY



IN THE INCUBATOR ROOM, CONTESTANTS ARE NOMINATING BUG-MATES FOR EVICTION...



SCRIPT: AMY GATHERCOLE ILLUSTRATIONS: MARIANNE LIM COPYRIGHT 2017 AMY GATHERCOLE & MARIANNE LIM

Until next time,

Best Wishes from the team at ComPath!

