

From the Horserace Betting Levy Board (HBLB), Annie Dodd affirmed that, in addition to the continuing Infectious Disease Surveillance Programmes, the new activity supported included six Major Research Projects, six Small Research Projects and three scholarships. The project titles and host institutions are:

Major projects:

Royal Veterinary College (RVC)	Harnessing deep learning methods for improved fracture detection in Thoroughbreds
Edinburgh	Exploring novel stem cell tools to combat equine infection - towards the reduction of antibiotic usage and antimicrobial resistance
Surrey	Next Generation Probiotics - 'Omics-based Identification of candidate bacteria
RVC	A periosteal cell therapy for the treatment of equine osteochondritis dissecans
RVC	Defining the contribution of microvascular cells to tendon health and ageing
Warwick	Adaptive modelling for emerging equine vector borne viruses

Small projects:

RVC	Exploring inertial sensing technology to quantify gait symmetry in Thoroughbred foals before and after corrective trimming for angular limb deformities
Lincoln	Validation and development of molecular tools to identify specific equine strongyle species and associated anthelmintic resistance markers
Edinburgh	Applying novel-omic approaches to investigate equine airway immunity
Liverpool	Can MSC-derived extracellular vesicles rescue the joint phenotype in an advanced 3D <i>in vitro</i> model of equine osteoarthritis?
Lincoln	Can peptides derived from Equine Herpesvirus-1 proteins act as competitive inhibitors of viral replication by blocking essential protein-protein interactions?
Rosswales	Prevalence of acute infectious and persistent breeding induced endometritis in UK Thoroughbred mares post cover

Scholarships

Newcastle	Drug discovery targeting horse respiratory pathogens <i>Antibacterial agents and new targets to treat bronchopneumonia in foals</i>
RVC	Tendon Inflammation; Epigenetics; and Regenerative Medicine <i>Do horse tendon cells become primed to inflammation?</i>
Edinburgh	Multi-omics investigation of the >30kDa putative causal neurotoxin present in serum/plasma from horses with acute equine grass sickness.

HBLB is very grateful for the valued contributions being made to the programme by The Racing Foundation, the Thoroughbred Breeders' Association (TBA), the Gerald Leigh Charitable Trust and the British European Breeders' Fund. In addition, both the TBA and Racehorse Owners Association (ROA) contribute towards the essential Equine Infectious Disease Surveillance work.

The HBLB's Veterinary Advisory Committee is presenting its recommendations for new work, to start from April 2024, to the Board on 14 December. The outcome will be announced in the New Year.