PDS
PRAIRIE DIAGNOSTIC SERVICES INC

Annual Report 25/26

Email
pds.info@usask.ca

Phone
(306) 966-7316

Address
52 Campus Dr. Saskatoon,
Saskatchewan Canada S7N 5B4

Prairie Diagnostic Services
Annual Report 25/26

Contents

Annual Report

Overview of PDS

Our Passion

Empowering clients with world-class laboratory services and expertise

Our Core Values

Integrity
Teamwork
Innovation
Client-Centred
Always Improving

Our Strategic Goals

Generate value for members
Maximize impact on animal and One Health sectors
Emerge as a first choice for clients and employees

Our Accreditations

Standards Council of Canada (SCC) to ISO/IEC 17025 standard for specific tests

Fully accredited by the American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians (AAVLD) for all species

Board of Directors

Mr. Lee Whittington
Chair
Chief Executive Officer
Four Oaks Investments

Dr. Betty Althouse
Vice-Chair
Former Saskatchewan Chief Veterinary Officer and Veterinarian (Retired)

Dr. Trent Wennekamp
Veterinary Practitioner
Mixed Animal Practice
Lloydminster Animal Hospital

Mr. Robert Pentland
Executive Director
Corporate Services
Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture

Dr. Chris Bell
Executive Director and Equine Surgeon
Elders Equine Veterinary Service
Adjunct Professor – Equine Surgery (WCVM)

Dr. Alex McIsaac
Animal Health Veterinary Officer
Canadian Food Inspection Agency (Retired)

Ms. Tammy Lucas
Chief Operating Officer
Veterinary Medical Centre
Western College of Veterinary Medicine

Mr. Pat Pitka
Chief Financial Officer
Genome Prairie Inc.

Dr. Shannon McCreary
Veterinary Practitioner & Ag Producer
McCreary Land & Livestock Ltd.
Regina Humane Society

Mr. Venkata Vakulabharanam
Executive Director
Livestock Branch
Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture

Dr. Nicole Fernandez
Associate Professor
Department of Veterinary Pathology
Western College of Veterinary Medicine

Dr. Jim Fairles
Client Service Veterinarian (Retired)
Animal Health Laboratory

Message from the Board Chair

Mr. Lee Whittington

Chair

Our Vision remains: Empowering Clients with World-Class Laboratory Services and Expertise.

At Prairie Diagnostic Services (PDS), we continue to view organizational success through the image of a four-legged table. Operations, Finance, Sales & Marketing, and Human Resources form the four essential legs. Strategy ties these areas together as the tabletop, while culture provides the floor on which everything rests.

During 2025–26, PDS strengthened each part of this table. Three themes stand out: client satisfaction, excellent financial performance, and the renewal of our people and equipment.

The most important word in this Vision is “clients.” Scientific excellence is essential, but being world-class also requires understanding what clients need and how they experience our services. Timely, accurate diagnostic results, practical interpretation, responsive communication and dependable service all contribute to client satisfaction.

For food animal and companion animal practitioners, our work supports informed and often time-sensitive decisions. For livestock producers and industry partners, it contributes to animal health, food safety and economic sustainability. For the Government of Saskatchewan and the University of Saskatchewan, it provides surveillance expertise, teaching support, research capability and core laboratory services. Although their needs differ, each must have confidence that PDS will be knowledgeable, responsive and dependable.

Client satisfaction is the result of the entire organization working together. It reflects the quality of our science, the efficiency of our processes, the clarity of our communication and the professionalism of our people. During the year, PDS continued to improve the client experience, including work toward more convenient account and payment processes.

I am pleased to report that PDS achieved excellent financial results in 2025–26. Total revenue reached approximately $13.9 million, up 7 percent from last year's outstanding results.

These results reflect strong demand for PDS services, including increased work for producer clients, clinical testing and University of Saskatchewan research. They also demonstrate careful financial management by our CEO, management team and staff. As a not-for-profit organization, profitability is not an end in itself. Positive results give PDS the capacity to renew equipment, develop people, respond to emerging animal health issues and sustain the specialized services our clients and partners depend upon.

A portion of the surplus arose from professional positions that were vacant during part of the year. While this contributed to lower personnel costs, it also reinforces the importance of renewing and strengthening our workforce. Our future success depends on recruiting, developing and retaining skilled pathologists, scientists, technologists, administrative professionals and operational leaders. The Board is pleased that all the positions have now been filled.

Renewal involves welcoming new people, supporting existing employees, transferring knowledge and preparing the next generation of leaders. It also means ensuring employees have the tools, systems and working environment needed to perform at the highest level.

Renewal extends equally to our laboratory equipment. Modern diagnostic medicine depends on sophisticated, reliable and evolving technology. During 2025–26, PDS invested approximately $1.1 million in capital assets, strengthening our ability to provide timely, accurate and innovative diagnostic services. These are investments in service quality, scientific capability, employee effectiveness and the long-term resilience of PDS.

PDS remains a distinctive Canadian model. By bringing together the strengths of the Government of Saskatchewan, the University of Saskatchewan and the broader livestock and veterinary communities, PDS bridges public service, academic expertise and industry needs.

The livestock and veterinary sectors continue to change rapidly. Emerging diseases, new technologies and changing client expectations require PDS to remain adaptable. Our Advisory Group continues to provide valuable external perspective and identify opportunities to strengthen our services.

I wish to recognize Dr. Yanyun Huang for his leadership as Chief Executive Officer. His scientific knowledge, operational understanding and commitment continue to guide PDS through a period of growth and renewal. I also thank the management team and all PDS employees. The year's strong results reflect their expertise, adaptability and dedication.

As Chair, I extend my appreciation to the Board of Directors for their thoughtful governance and commitment to the long-term success of PDS. I also thank our partners, clients and industry stakeholders for their continued trust and collaboration.

The accomplishments of 2025–26 provide a strong foundation. Our challenge now is to build upon it by listening to clients, renewing our people and equipment, investing strategically and protecting the culture that supports our success.

Together, we will ensure that Prairie Diagnostic Services remains a trusted, innovative and world-class resource for animal health in Canada.

Lee Whittington
Chair of the Board
Prairie Diagnostic Services

Message from CEO

Dr. Yanyun Huang

CEO

> *Innovation remained central to our work.*

The 2025–26 fiscal year was one of meaningful progress for Prairie Diagnostic Services. It demonstrated that our continued focus on client-centred service and innovation is producing tangible results—for our clients, our organization, and the broader animal health system we support. Our innovation strategy focuses on meeting real-world needs.

During the year, PDS achieved its highest fee-for-service testing volume since 2018, with growth across several areas, including serology, molecular biology, endocrinology, toxicology, poultry services, and specialized ocular pathology. These results reflect the trust that veterinarians, livestock producers, researchers, government agencies, and industry partners continue to place in PDS.

We recognize that this trust must be earned through every interaction. Our clients depend on us not only for accurate laboratory results, but also for timely service, practical diagnostic support, and a willingness to listen and respond to their changing needs. Throughout the year, we continued to strengthen our client relationships, improve testing frequency and turnaround times where possible, and develop services that address identified gaps in animal disease diagnosis.

Innovation remained central to our work, with our research and development efforts guided by the needs of our clients. PDS introduced a significant number of new and improved tests and services during the year. We also strengthened our laboratory capabilities through investments in technologies supporting bacterial identification, digital pathology, clinical pathology, genomic sequencing, and feed and forage analysis.

Our research and development program continued to distinguish PDS as more than a testing laboratory. Projects involving genomic sequencing panels, the development of a field screening test for anthrax risk, and research into nutritional deficiencies associated with bovine reproductive loss are designed to solve real problems faced by veterinarians and producers. These initiatives demonstrate how diagnostic expertise, applied research, and innovation can be combined to create meaningful value for the sectors we serve.

PDS also continued to play an important role in disease surveillance and emergency response. Our work supported the detection or exclusion of significant animal health threats, including highly pathogenic avian influenza, chronic wasting disease, Q fever, anthrax, and porcine epidemic diarrhea, among others. This work demonstrates the importance of maintaining strong regional diagnostic capacity to protect animal health, public health, food production, and the economy.

None of these achievements would have been possible without the commitment of our employees. Laboratory diagnostic work is technically demanding, often time-sensitive, and frequently conducted behind the scenes. I am grateful to our staff for their professionalism, adaptability, teamwork, and dedication to serving our clients. We also continued to make progress in strengthening our organizational culture, leadership capacity, technical expertise, and opportunities for professional growth.

The environment in which PDS operates continues to change. Diagnostic laboratories face increasing technological demands, rising costs, workforce pressures, aging infrastructure, and growing competition. Client expectations are also evolving. These realities require us to remain disciplined, responsive, and innovative.

At the same time, I cannot overstate the importance of the funding and support provided by the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture and the University of Saskatchewan. Their contributions make it possible for PDS to maintain essential regional diagnostic capacity and carry out the vital work described throughout this report.

Looking ahead, PDS will continue to focus on the areas where we can provide the greatest value. Our priorities include strengthening client relationships, expanding relevant diagnostic services, maintaining the quality and accreditation of our laboratory, modernizing our information systems, and advancing applied diagnostic research.

I am proud of what the PDS team accomplished in 2025–26, and I am confident in our ability to build on this progress. On behalf of PDS, I thank our employees, clients, funding members, Board of Directors, and partners for their continued trust and support.

Yanyun Huang
Chief Executive Officer
Prairie Diagnostic Services Inc.

Client Services Information

PDS continued to strengthen client relationships through meaningful engagement, responsive communication, and ongoing collaboration with the veterinary community. Throughout the year, our team worked closely with veterinary clinics to understand their evolving needs, provide technical support, and deliver timely diagnostic results.

We maintained an active presence at veterinary and industry conferences, providing valuable opportunities to connect with clients, exchange knowledge, and remain informed about emerging trends and advances in animal health. These interactions continue to strengthen partnerships and support the delivery of high-quality laboratory services.

Our client newsletter remained an important communication tool, offering regular updates on new and enhanced testing services, laboratory developments, educational resources, and operational announcements.

As we look ahead, PDS remains committed to fostering strong partnerships, enhancing the client experience, and continuing to support veterinarians through accessible, reliable, and high-quality diagnostic services.

Year at a Glance

$1,101,904
Equipment Investment

145,933
Tests Conducted

16,449
Tests for Regulated Diseases

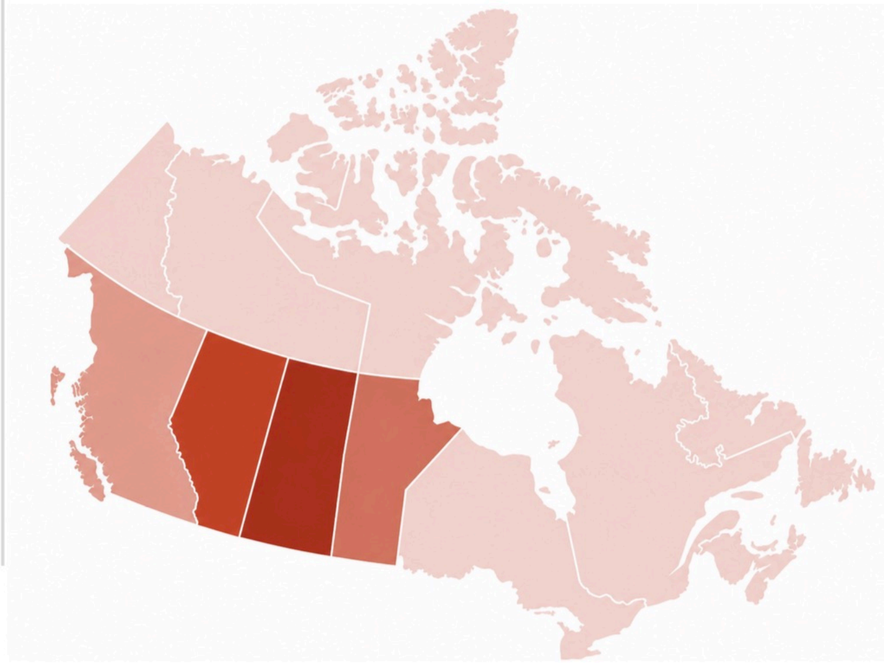
25
Tests Developed or Improved

7
Peer-Reviewed Publications

Diagnostics

Test Breakdown by
GEOGRAPHICAL AREA

Between May 2025 and April 2026, PDS received more than 36,000 cases and conducted almost 146,000 tests. The prairie provinces (Saskatchewan, Alberta, and Manitoba), comprising 95% of the total submissions, continue to be the main geographical areas that PDS serves. PDS also occasionally supports other Canadian provinces and conducts small numbers of digital pathology internationally.

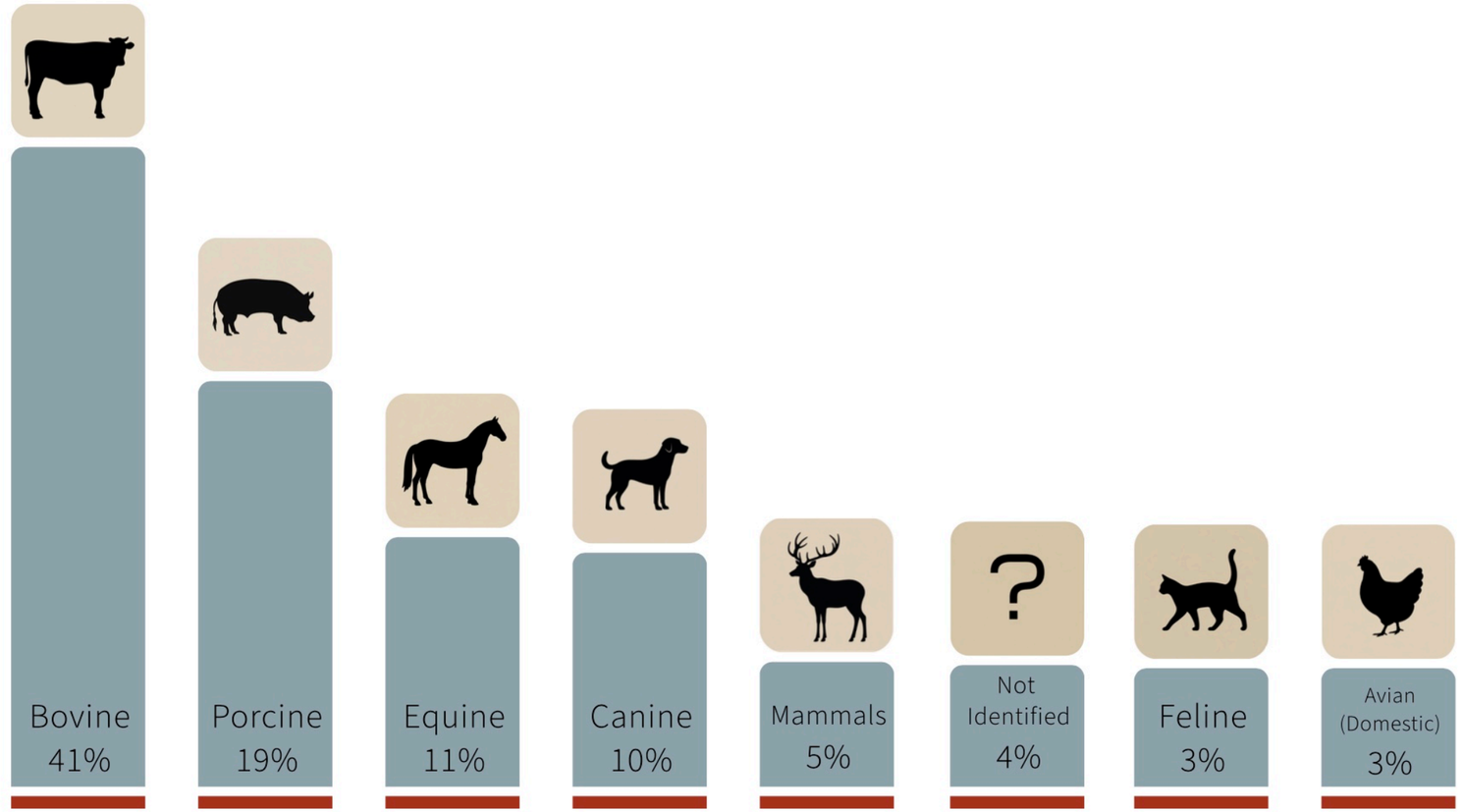


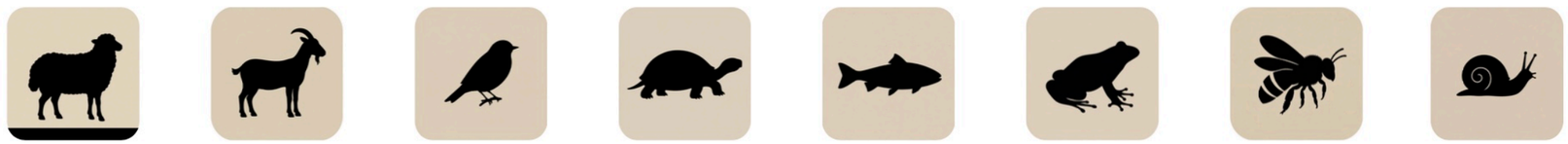
- Saskatchewan 67% - 79,039
- Alberta 21% - 25,217
- Manitoba 7% - 8,550
- British Columbia 2% - 1,956
- Ontario 1,582, Yukon 470, Quebec 448, Northwest Territories 250, Atlantic Provinces 97, International 48, United States 40, Unknown 7

Test Breakdown by

SPECIES

PDS continues to provide diagnostic services for all species to veterinary communities. The top four species PDS serves are bovine, porcine, equine and canine, comprising a total of 81% of samples.





±4% of total cases

Innovation and Applied Research Highlights

Rapid Salmonella PCR

Innovation is part of our commitment to clients. As a not-for-profit diagnostic laboratory, PDS is committed to remaining at the forefront of diagnostic science and adapting our testing methods whenever doing so can provide greater value to those we serve.

One notable example this year was the implementation of a rapid Salmonella PCR test for the poultry industry. Traditionally, obtaining a negative result—required before certain products could be moved—took at least four days. Our team identified and implemented a new PCR method and workflow that bypassed several time-consuming steps, allowing a negative result to be reported as early as the following day.

This improvement was strongly supported and appreciated by Saskatchewan Egg Producers, which also generously contributed funding toward the purchase of specialized equipment required for the new test. This collaboration demonstrates how innovation, industry partnership, and client-focused service can work together to deliver faster and more practical diagnostic solutions.

Bovine Abortion Studies

With support from the Saskatchewan Agriculture Development Fund (ADF) and the Beef Cattle Research Council, PDS conducted extensive studies of bovine abortion and developed a state-of-the-art genomics-based diagnostic tool, **BovReproSeq**.

17+ Pathogens associated with bovine abortion can be simultaneously detected by BovReproSeq.

>75% Diagnostic success when a comprehensive package is used.

- Histopathology
- Necropsy
- Bacterial Culture
- BovReproSeq
- Mineral Testing
- Vitamin Testing

~90% Diagnostic success when placenta is submitted and the full diagnostic package is used.

We are proud that, through this work, PDS has helped the cow-calf sector address one of the most persistent challenges in bovine reproductive diagnostics: determining the cause of abortion. An accurate diagnosis is essential for guiding treatment, management interventions, and preventive measures for a problem that causes substantial economic losses to producers in Saskatchewan and across Western Canada.

Diagnostic Highlights

Our people and laboratories were exceptionally busy this year. PDS's total fee-for-service test volume reached its highest level since 2018, marking the second consecutive year of record performance.

We conducted a record number of commercial poultry necropsies. This growth reflects changes within Saskatchewan's poultry industry and increasing confidence in PDS. We are pleased to support the industry with an increasingly comprehensive range of diagnostic services, which continues to expand.

The Prairie Ophthalmology Pathology Service (POPS) also received a record number of submissions. Through this specialized service, a veterinary ophthalmologist and an anatomic pathologist review cases together, providing clients with more than a morphological diagnosis by adding clinically relevant interpretation and guidance. The growth in POPS submissions demonstrates the value that specialized, collaborative services can provide to our clients.

In Microbiology, both PCR and serology reached record testing volumes. Clients are becoming more familiar with our diagnostic offerings and are increasingly incorporating these tests into their herd-health programs. This demonstrates that PDS contributes not only to disease diagnosis, but also to proactive animal-health management—creating value for both our clients and the industries we serve.

Our relatively new genomics services also reached an all-time high. The number of fee-for-service genomics tests conducted was nearly three times that of the previous year. This growth is a direct result of our sustained investment in test development, technology, and staff training.

In Clinical Pathology, endocrinology submissions continued to grow and reached their highest level to date. This achievement reflects several years of test development and research collaboration. It was also encouraging to see submissions in other clinical pathology areas stabilize following the disruptions experienced during and after the pandemic.

Toxicology also achieved a record fee-for-service testing volume, driven largely by growth in feed-related and nutritional testing. As PDS continues to strengthen and expand its feed-testing services, we are establishing a stronger presence in the feed and livestock nutrition sector.

Overall, the year included many highlights across our diagnostic services. Our commitment to client-centredness and innovation—supported above all by the dedication and expertise of our staff—enabled PDS to meet growing demand and deliver meaningful value throughout a very busy year.

Surveillance Highlights

PDS continued to strengthen its contribution to animal disease surveillance across Western Canada. During the year, a growing number of PDS diagnostic professionals regularly participated in the Western Canadian Animal Health Network (WeCAHN). Their involvement reflects PDS's commitment to collaborative surveillance and strengthens the network by bringing additional diagnostic expertise, laboratory observations, and emerging disease information into regional discussions.

This collaboration helps ensure that unusual findings and changing disease patterns are shared across jurisdictions. It also allows PDS to contribute its laboratory perspective while remaining informed about animal health developments throughout Western Canada.

The importance of strong provincial diagnostic capacity was clearly demonstrated during the spring of 2026, when PDS detected the highest number of highly pathogenic avian influenza cases in domestic poultry in Canada. This level of activity was highly unusual for Saskatchewan and reinforced an important lesson: animal diseases do not respect provincial boundaries or predictable timelines.

Maintaining in-province testing capacity, appropriate laboratory infrastructure, and qualified personnel allows Saskatchewan to respond quickly when disease threats emerge. PDS staff were prepared to manage the increased testing demand, provide timely and reliable results, and support disease investigation and response efforts.

These activities demonstrate that effective surveillance depends on both collaboration and readiness. Through its participation in regional networks and its ability to respond to emerging disease events, PDS continues to support animal health, public health, and Saskatchewan's animal and agricultural sector.

Quality Assurance

PDS implements a Quality Management System in accordance with the current version of the ISO/IEC 17025 General Requirements for the Competence of Testing and Calibration Laboratories, Standards Council of Canada, and the current version of the standard AAVLD Requirements for an Accredited Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory, American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians, Inc. The laboratory participates in proficiency test programs, inter-laboratory comparisons, and in-lab assessments to ensure the standard of testing expertise is maintained.

The Standards Council of Canada conducted a three-day on-site assessment in November 2025 with the Microbiology Laboratory. The laboratory was audited based upon the technical and management requirements of the ISO/IEC 17025:2017 standard. Successful re-accreditation of the Prairie Diagnostic Services – Microbiology section was granted, and the Scope of Accreditation was updated in May 2026.

SCC Accredited LAB


The American Association
of
Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians
Accreditation Committee
certifies that
Prairie Diagnostic Services Inc.
University of Saskatchewan
Saskatoon Saskatchewan, Canada
Has met the standard for
Full Accreditation / All species
AAVLD
Joseph A. Kellum Jr., co-chair, Committee
Dave S. Kocsal, co-chair, Committee
Expires December 31, 2029

Looking Forward

Throughout this report, PDS's progress and accomplishments over the past year are evident. Our focus on core values—particularly client-centredness and innovation—has generated meaningful results across the organization.

At the same time, the environment in which we operate continues to evolve. The animal health and livestock sectors are changing, disease patterns are shifting, and the diagnostic landscape across Western Canada is becoming increasingly complex and competitive. These developments present PDS, as a not-for-profit animal health diagnostic laboratory, with both significant challenges and new opportunities.

To remain effective, we must stay closely connected to the sectors we serve, understand their emerging needs, and continually identify better ways to support them. We must remain at the forefront of diagnostic science, alert to changing pathogens and disease trends, while also improving efficiency and finding smarter, more sustainable ways to deliver consistently high performance.

We have a clear blueprint for meeting these challenges. By keeping clients at the centre of our decisions and pursuing innovation informed by both science and changing client needs, PDS can continue to strengthen its value and become the first-choice laboratory for clients, partners and employees.

Journal Publications

1. **Munasinghe, L., Kurukulasuriya, S.,** Yuen, T., Parker, D., & Lockerbie, B. “What Is Your Diagnosis? Blood Smear from a North American Beaver (Castor canadensis).” Veterinary Clinical Pathology, 2025. https://doi.org/10.1111/vcp.70068

2. **Karunarathna, R.,** Liu, C. C., Periyasamy, D., Berg, A., Ngeleka, M., & Trokhymchuk, A. “Towards Decentralization of Salmonella Serotyping and Risk Assessment in Poultry Production Environments with Nanopore Sequencing.” Frontiers in Microbiology, 16, 2025, 1669089. https://doi.org/10.3389/fmicb.2025.1669089

3. Donbraye, E., McLeod, L., Chai, Z., Lacoste, S. R., McCarthy, E. L., Hill, J. E., Erickson, N. E. N., **Huang, Y.,** et al. “Diagnostic Sensitivity and Specificity of Metagenomic Sequencing and qPCR for Detection of Viruses Associated with Bovine Respiratory Disease Estimated Using Bayesian Latent Class Models.” Frontiers in Veterinary Science, 13, 2026, 1704414.

4. Facciuolo, A., Aubrey, L., Barron-Castillo, U., Berube, N., Norleen, C., McCreary, S., **Huang, Y.,** et al. “Dairy Cows Develop Protective Immunity Against Reinfection with Bovine H5N1 Influenza Virus.” Nature Microbiology, 10(6), 2025, 1366–1377.

5. Wilson, D. J., Davies, J. L., **Huang, Y.,** Cowan, V. E., Rogers, L., & Wilhelm, B. J. “Emergence of Mortality Due to Centrilobular to Massive Hepatic Necrosis in Western Canadian Beef Calves.” The Canadian Veterinary Journal, 66(11), 2025, 1199–1205.

6. Kane, L. P., Field, C. L., Hortensius, L. M., Rios, C., McClain, A. M., Whitmer, E. R., Simeone, C., Dennison, S., **Zabrodski, M. W.,** & Duignan, P. “Anthelmintic Therapies for Parafilaroides decorus Pneumonia in California Sea Lions (Zalophus californianus).” Journal of Zoo and Wildlife Medicine, 56(3), 2025, 515–524. https://doi.org/10.1638/2024-0021

7. Emparanza, C., Ghersa, J., Arevalo, M., **Zabrodski, M.,** Uehlinger, F., & Card, C. “Toxicoinfectious Metritis with Fatal Complications Following Retained Fetal Membranes in a Mare.” Clinical Theriogenology, 18, 2026. https://doi.org/10.58292/CT.v18.13859

Conference & Poster Presentations

Conference Presentations

- **Yanyun Huang.** *"PanViroSeq and Swine Abortion Investigation."* Annual meeting of the Western Canadian Association of Swine Veterinarians. — Saskatoon, SK, October 2025
- **Yanyun Huang.** *"Two complicated diagnostic cases involving histology."* Annual meeting of the Western Canadian Association of Swine Veterinarians. — Saskatoon, SK, October 2025
- **Ruwani Karunarathna.** *"Metagenomics for a rapid and comprehensive Salmonella surveillance diagnostics in the poultry egg farming."* Egg Farmers of Canada, Provincial/National meeting. — Online, November 2025
- **Yanyun Huang.** *"What We Learnt from the Bovine Reproductive Failure Sequencing Panel (BovReproSeq) Study."* Annual meeting of the Western Canadian Association of Bovine Practitioners. — Calgary, AB, January 2026
- **Yanyun Huang.** *"Understanding the Impact of Coxiella burnetii on Saskatchewan Beef Herds and Ranchers."* 10th Annual Beef and Forage Research Forum. — Saskatoon, SK, February 2026
- **Yanyun Huang.** *"Bringing Broad Toxin Screening to Saskatchewan."* 10th Annual Beef and Forage Research Forum. — Saskatoon, SK, February 2026
- **Yanyun Huang.** *"A review of some less common porcine viruses."* Western Canadian Swine Health Intelligence Network Knowledge Exchange Meeting. — Calgary, AB, March 2026

Poster Presentations

- *"Effects of Discrepant ATPβ and IF1 Levels in Cancer Localized Neutrophils in Canine Hemangiosarcoma Cases."* Riley Lesyk, Carolina Rego Rodrigues, **Lilani Munasinghe,** Baljit Singh, Gurpreet K. Aulakh (Summer 2025 Research Poster Day U of S)

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Designed by

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