

In Memoriam: Lorry Forbes

We are saddened by the recent passing on February 12, 2026, of fellow colleague and ICT member, Dr. Lorry Forbes. Dr. Forbes retired from his position as a research scientist at the Canadian Food Inspection Agency's Centre for Food-borne and Animal Parasitology (CFAP) in 2012 where, as evidenced by his many scientific publications and presentations, he was very active in *Trichinella* research and diagnostics, accruing particular expertise in quality assurance, *Trichinella* in wildlife and the prevention of trichinellosis in Canada's North.

While at CFAP, Lorry and colleagues developed a reliable method to produce proficiency testing (PT) samples containing known numbers of live encysted *Trichinella spiralis* larvae for use in quality assurance systems for digestion testing. These samples were used to validate Canada's official 'double separatory funnel' digestion procedure for *Trichinella* detection, and PT samples prepared in the same way continue to be used to this day to train and demonstrate competency in analysts performing such testing nationally and internationally. This also formed the basis for the first program to accredit external laboratories to perform this testing, which subsequently enabled another first: the post-slaughter detection of a *Trichinella*-positive (*T. murrelli*) horse imported into Canada. Lorry was a collaborator on the validation of a similar digestion method for walrus meat implemented in trichinellosis prevention programs in Canada's arctic. He also collaborated on another study assessing the infectivity of *Trichinella nativa* in igunaq (traditional fermented walrus or seal meat) that demonstrated that this method of preservation does not reliably inactivate the parasite. A review article by Lorry published in *Veterinary Parasitology* in 2000 entitled 'The occurrence and ecology of *Trichinella* in marine mammals' served as a much-referenced resource on the complex relationships between these parasites and their hosts in the circumpolar arctic.

Over the course of his career, Lorry participated in a number of ICT conferences and working group meetings. His work contributed significantly to some of the ICT's published recommendations, particularly those pertaining to quality assurance in *Trichinella* testing, and supported CFAP's role as a National and WOA Reference Laboratory for Trichinellosis. He was always happy to provide support, guidance and training to scientific colleagues and technical staff. Many of you will have known and collaborated with Lorry over the years. I was lucky to have worked with him at CFAP for the first 15 years of my own career as a parasitologist. He was a colleague, mentor, and friend who had an infectious scientific curiosity and enthusiasm for his work, and was always a pleasure to be around, especially at conferences and when exploring new locales after the meetings were done. He will be remembered for his significant contributions to the fields of *Trichinella* and food safety, and his cheerful and generous nature, keen intellect, great sense of humour and quick wit will be dearly missed.

Brad Scandrett
Secretary General, ICT