

Dear Sir or Madame,
Atlantic Veterinary College, Department of Health Management
University of Prince Edward Island
Charlottetown, PEI
Ref: www.upei.ca/hr/competition/03a18

January 29, 2018

Dear Selection Committee,

I would like to submit my application for the Infectious Disease Epidemiologist position (competition 031A18) for the Department of Health Management at the Atlantic Veterinary College (AVC). I am a veterinarian with a PhD in epidemiology recently awarded by the University of Prince Edward Island. I am currently working as a Postdoctoral Research Fellow for the Canada Excellence Chair in Aquatic Epidemiology at the AVC in the same University.

Although I have been in academia for a short time, for the past 18 years I have been involved with the salmon industry in Chile. I started as a diagnostics laboratory technician but soon moved to a field job in the same company. Since then, I have worked as a field veterinarian in several companies, and have been involved in various aspects of salmon farming, from eggs to harvest. I have designed and implemented strategies to prevent the occurrence and spread of disease, and minimize the use of antibiotics. I have been involved in the management and control of a budget, and I have also managed small teams of veterinarians and field technicians.

Over the years, I have witnessed the devastating effects that infectious disease outbreaks and environmental changes can have over the sustainability of the industry. I switched to academia with the objective of producing high-quality research to find solutions for these issues and assist the industry and authorities in their transition towards an evidence-based decision-making process.

The advertised position requires an applicant with strong abilities in applying and developing quantitative methods. As such, I want to highlight my experience in modeling antibiotic treatment failure and the effect of fallowing over the occurrence of piscirickettsiosis in Chile. Although I used classical methods to assess these effects in our studies, I have used a novel approach by controlling for spatiotemporal factors in my analyses. I have also participated in a project where the risk of introduction and the risk of spread of infectious diseases between hatcheries in a company were estimated using a risk analysis tool. I am currently involved in the study of disease transmission between seawater farms using simulation modeling, and will be participating in an international research project commissioned by the fishing and aquaculture authority in Chile to improve the control of piscirickettsiosis.

I have published three articles and recently submitted two manuscripts to peer-reviewed journals. I have assisted my supervisor in the teaching of an aquaculture course, and I have presented the findings of our studies at two international conferences and several local meetings in Canada and Chile, where some of our suggestions are currently being implemented. I believe I have the ability to work efficiently as a member of a multi-disciplinary team and make significant contribution to the scientific community.

My short-term goals are to further improve my modeling and programming skills, to develop my teaching abilities, and to consolidate as an independent researcher. My long-term career goals are to make a significant contribution to the field of veterinary epidemiology and to contribute to the sustainability of aquaculture.

I am excited about the prospect of working at your prestigious institution. Please let me know if you need any additional information. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely yours,

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Enclosed: CV Derek Price