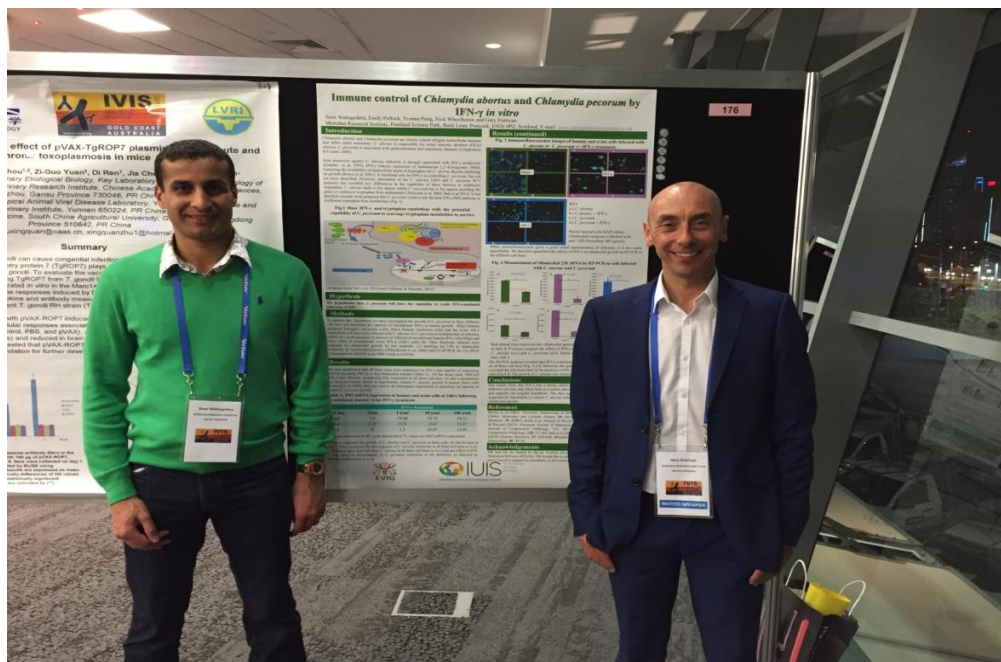


## Meetings Report for the IVIS 2016 by Sean Wattegedera

The IVIS meeting was held in the Gold Coast Convention Centre, just minutes from the stunning location of Broadbeach popular with coffee shop/ bar/restaurant areas. The quality of the scientific programme more than matched the glorious surroundings. The opening ceremony for the symposium included a very powerful 'acknowledgement to country' including a mixture of music and dance from Luther Cora and Yugambah Dance troupe preceding the opening lecture by **Sam J Thevasagayam**. He discussed the role of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) in finding solutions to infectious disease in livestock and the focus in dealing with problems affecting people with the most urgent needs, especially the small holding farmers. This lecture set the scene for the BMGF Grand Challenge Workshop to follow the next day led by **Paul Wood** and **Nick Juleff**. The conference participants were invited to roundtable discussions on 'barriers to progress' in areas including 'induction of memory' and 'cross-protective immunity' relating to vaccine design. It was really inspiring to be discussing these topics in an informal setting and listening to the discussion facilitators summarise areas in need of crucial investigation.

I was fortunate to be selected to give a talk and poster in the Bacteria concurrent session. The session featured three talks on aspects of host-pathogen research on different chlamydial species.



Here is a picture of myself with **Gary Entrican** beside our poster.

Within the VIC Tools Workshop, led by **Joan Lunney**, **Jayne Hope** and **Matthew Bruce**, there were a number of presentations and comments about how as a community we improve the offering of validated reagents. **Gabriela Simonova** discussed her work in developing multiplexing CBA technology for sheep. A number of groups acknowledged their activities in this area and barrier was a lack of unified searchable database for each veterinary species.

**Serge Muyldermans** was the recipient of the Distinguished Veterinary Immunologist Award and gave a very inspirational talk on his discovery of natural single-domain antibodies in Camelids (nanobodies) and their commercial application. Finally, during the Conference dinner a fantastic talk was given about Australia's deadly wildlife and this convinced me to pay close attention to my surroundings. This picture is one of the more sedate native animals at the local Lone Pine Koala Sanctuary, Brisbane.



I would like to thank IUIS Veterinary Immunology Committee (VIC) and the European Veterinary Immunology Group (EVIG) for their financial support to enable my attendance at this meeting. It has enabled me to develop further links with groups developing technologies for cytokine measurement (one of my research interests) and play a significant role in the dissemination of validated information on reagent availability for ruminant immunology.