Scotland’s Professor Julie Fitzpatrick OBE recognised for outstanding contribution to veterinary science

Professor Julie Fitzpatrick OBE was today (Thursday) announced as the recipient of the British Veterinary Association’s (BVA) prestigious Chiron Award.

The award, which marks outstanding contributions to veterinary science or for outstanding services to the profession, judged in either case as being of a calibre commanding international or inter-professional recognition, was presented to Julie during the Awards Ceremony at the BVA Members’ Day in Manchester today.

Julie was described by the award selection committee as a creative, innovative, academic and dynamic leader, who has made an exceptional contribution to veterinary science through her clear vision and impact on veterinary research. Her passion for research, development and knowledge exchange, and her dedication to improving livestock health and welfare through science and education has benefitted veterinary and farming communities across the world. With her high international profile, Julie is an outstanding ambassador for British veterinary medicine.

Julie qualified from Glasgow in 1982, graduating as the McCall Award winner for most outstanding veterinary student throughout the course. After five years in mixed practice in Northumberland, she did her PhD at Bristol and returned to Glasgow where she established herself as a dedicated veterinary teacher and researcher. For the past ten years, Julie has been the Scientific Director of the Moredun Research Institute and Chief Executive of the Moredun Group. She also holds a Chair in Food Security in the College of Medical, Veterinary and Life Sciences at the University of Glasgow.

Julie’s research interests focus on livestock health and disease in the UK and in developing countries. She was Vice-Chair of the Board of GALVmed, and Chairman of the Technical Subcommittee of GALVmed, a public private partnership focusing on supporting the development of biologicals and therapeutics for neglected diseases in developing countries, for six years.

Julie’s close involvement with BVA was as a member and then Chair of BVA’s Veterinary Policy Group between 2003-2007. She was also President of the Association of Veterinary Teachers and Research Workers.

She was a member of the Wellcome Trust’s Veterinary Fellowship Panel from 2007 until 2012. She has been appointed to the Research Excellence Framework (2013) Panel to
assess veterinary, agricultural and food science areas in the higher education institute sector. She is a member of the BBSRC’S Food Security Strategic Advisory Panel and is a member of the board of Quality Meat Scotland.

Julie’s international work also involves her Co-Chairmanship of the Southern African Centre for Infectious Disease Surveillance, funded by the Wellcome Trust. She plays a major role in knowledge exchange and this is reflected in her presentations to numerous research, educational and end-user audiences. In 2003 she was awarded the G Norman Hall Medal for research into animal diseases by the RCVS Trust, she was awarded a degree of Doctor of Science by Heriot-Watt University in 2013, and subsequently recognised for her contribution to animal medicine and research through an OBE in 2014.

On hearing that she was to receive the Chiron Award, Julie commented:

"I was absolutely delighted to hear the news that I was to be the recipient of the Chiron Award from the BVA in 2014. I am very grateful indeed for the recognition and support of so many individuals and groups from across the breadth of the BVA membership. I accept this award on behalf of my colleagues at the Moredun Research Institute and the University of Glasgow, in addition to myself. The work we have undertaken in research, development, education and knowledge exchange is very much down to team effort and I have been fortunate to be involved in leadership of so many talented and committed people. I have enjoyed working on a number of BVA committees over the years and am particularly honoured to receive the Chiron Award from the Association".

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Notes to Editors

1. The Chiron Award is presented by the British Veterinary Association for outstanding contributions to veterinary science or for outstanding services to the profession, judged in either case as being of a calibre commanding international or inter-professional recognition. This award is made in recognition of a lifetime’s achievements. The Chiron Award was first presented in 1992.

2. High and low resolution photographs of Professor Julie Fitzpatrick can be downloaded from http://www.bva.co.uk/News-campaigns-and-policies/Newsroom/Picture-gallery/

3. For further information please contact the BVA Press Office on 020 7908 6340 (or 07503 190247) or media@bva.co.uk