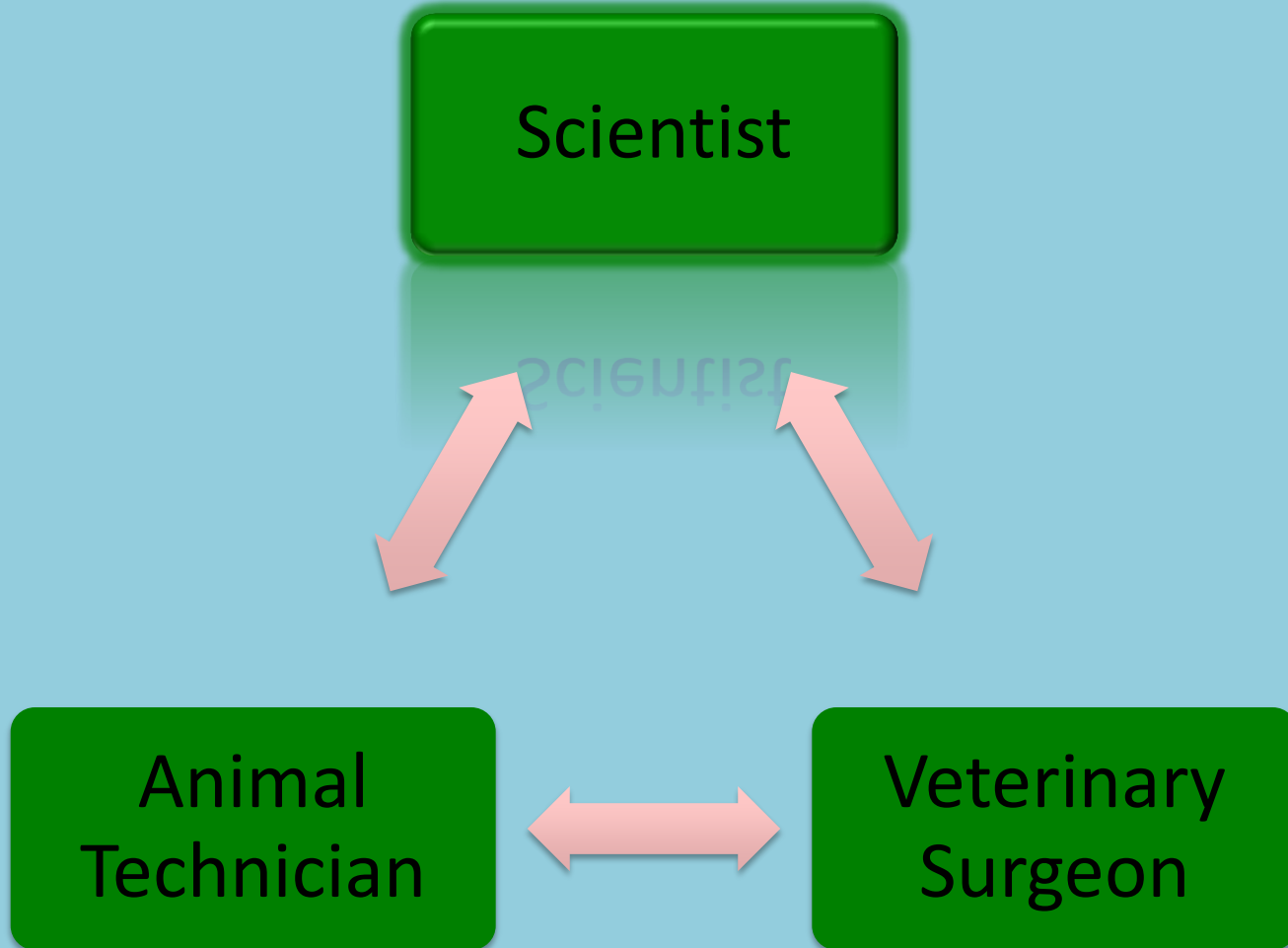


# Annual Animal Science Meeting 2013

**Improving Communication  
Biologist perspective**

**Dr Clive DaCosta (Principal Scientific Officer at LRI)**

# People Who Are Involved in Animal Welfare



# Responsibilities of the relevant parties

- Design and conduct of research
- Appropriate consideration to the 3Rs
- Adopt a culture of care
- Ensuring the animals are afforded high levels of welfare and protection

# Scientist

- Establish a working relationship with the technicians and vets involved in the studies
- Good understanding and obligation toward the animal and their welfare
- Understanding of animal technicians and veterinary surgeons roles to contribute to improve the animal welfare

# Minimal Information Flow

- Breedings with a brief description of the genes involved.
- Purpose of the cross, ie where is gene deleted, Knockin, constitutively active etc.
- Expected phenotype
- Anticipate Unexpected Phenotype
- Clear instructions if animal is sick

# Communication failure

- Cross with known phenotype
  - tumours at 3 months of age
  - further gene crossed in (potential tumour promoter)
  - predicted earlier onset of tumour burden
  - details given and regular physical checks expected with this cohort to pick-up early stage tumours
  - what happened: visual checks once a day
  - result: early stage tumour formation missed

# Resolution

- Communication, training and knowledge gap
- Senior animal house staff and scientist generated a plan of action
- 1-2-1 training and observation of staff involved
- Scoring system developed to encompass known/expected/unexpected phenotypes with close adherence to project licence parameters (severity limits)

# Scientist's Engagement

- Short talks to animal staff (2-3 x per year)
  - experimental crosses with a brief description of the genes involved
  - purpose of the cross, ie where is gene deleted, knockin, constitutively active etc.
  - expected phenotype, animal passport
  - anticipate unexpected phenotype
  - clear instructions if animal is sick, humane killing in adherence with project licence
  - aims of the lab (project licence)