

# PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOP

## Veterinary Epidemiology and Public Health

GOLD COAST CONVENTION & EXHIBITION CENTRE  
THURSDAY 23 JULY 2026



ANZCVS

VET SCIENCE  
WEEK 2026

### Leaving $P < 0.05$ behind - Towards more thoughtful interpretation of results from controlled trials and observational studies



Thursday 23 July 2026  
8:30AM to 5:30PM



\$325 Members  
\$375 Non-Members  
\$250 Students

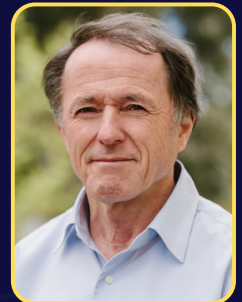


Gold Coast Convention  
& Exhibition Centre

Dr John Morton  
BVSc PhD



Professor  
Mark Stevenson  
MVSc PhD MANZCVSc



P-values are widely misused, often resulting in invalid conclusions. For many years, experts have called for better scientific reasoning when interpreting results of studies. This workshop teaches you a practical, no-math way to correctly interpret data from controlled trials and observational studies.

#### What You'll Learn

- Spot Common Mistakes: Identify misinterpretation of p-values and confidence intervals
- Context is King: Interpret p-values and confidence intervals using prior evidence
- Check for Bias: Describe how to use frameworks such as the ROBINS (risk-of-bias) tools for assessing the potential for important bias in results from a study.
- Think Critically: Better evaluate your own research and the work of others

#### Who Is This For?

Everyone - clinicians, researchers, and students. You don't need to be a math whiz - no prior statistical knowledge is required! All concepts will be sequentially introduced assuming no preceding knowledge. You will be able to immediately use these skills.



ANZCVS

VET SCIENCE  
WEEK 2026

# PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOP

## Veterinary Epidemiology and Public Health

### Leaving $P < 0.05$ behind - Towards more thoughtful interpretation of results from controlled trials and observational studies

#### Dr John Morton BVSc PhD

John works as a veterinary epidemiological consultant from Geelong, Victoria, Australia, providing epidemiological input into a wide range of research and development projects. Some of his current project areas are live animal export research, dairy herd milk quality monitoring, *Coxiella burnetii* in cattle, effects of genetic selection on survival in dairy cows, reproductive management and performance in dairy herds, and predictors of EIPH in race horses,

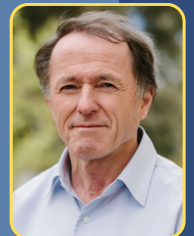
John previously worked as Senior Lecturer in Veterinary Epidemiology and Biometry at the School of Veterinary Science, University of Queensland, and in private and government veterinary services.



#### Professor Mark Stevenson MVSc PhD MANZCVSc

Mark Stevenson is Professor of Veterinary Epidemiology at The University of Melbourne where he leads a group working on applied veterinary epidemiological research with an emphasis on endemic and transboundary animal diseases such as bovine tuberculosis, foot-and-mouth disease, Q fever, and African swine fever.

Research interests are numerous but mostly concentrated on spatial epidemiology, infectious disease modelling and (lately) integration of antimicrobial use and resistance surveillance methodologies into systems that exist for endemic and exotic animal diseases. Endemic disease interests include reproductive performance and lameness in dairy cattle, tail biting in pigs, smothering in free range layer poultry and *Varroa destructor* in honeybees.





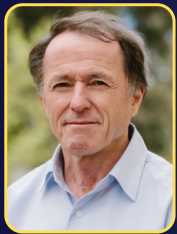
ANZCVS  
VET SCIENCE  
WEEK 2026

# Veterinary Epidemiology and Public Health

Leaving  $P < 0.05$  behind - Towards more thoughtful interpretation of results from controlled trials and observational studies



Dr John Morton  
BVSc PhD



Professor  
Mark Stevenson  
MVSc PhD MANZCVSc



Thursday 23 July 2026  
8:30AM to 5:30PM



Gold Coast Convention  
& Exhibition Centre



\$325 Members  
\$375 Non-Members  
\$250 Students

08:30-09:30	Introductions: Why this workshop? Context and the need for change; workshop aims; workshop structure outline (JM, MS)
09:30-10:30	How chance affects results (JM)
10:30-11:00	Morning Tea
11:00-12:00	What is wrong with " $P > 0.05$ = there is no effect"? What is wrong with " $P < 0.05$ = there is an effect"? How prior probability affects posterior probability (JM)
12:00-13:00	How to interpret p-values and confidence intervals given weak and strong prior evidence; exercise; the key concepts so far. (JM, MS)
13:00-14:00	Lunch
14:00-15:00	A framework to assess a study for potentially important bias. (MS, Caitlin Pfeiffer)
15:00-16:00	A framework to assess a study for potentially important bias. (MS, Caitlin Pfeiffer)
16:00-16:30	Afternoon Tea
16:30-17:30	Back to reality - putting all this into practice. (JM, MS)