

## THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2021 – PRE-CONFERENCE DAY

- 9:30 – 10:45 am** **Providing for the Behavioral Needs of Each Cat**, *Dr. Valarie Tynes*  
 Many behavior problems in cats develop due to our failure to provide them with their behavioral needs. This presentation will review the social structure of the cat and why multi-cat households can be so stressful. Recognizing these signs of stress and how to avoid their development will also be covered. In addition, a variety of tips for meeting the environmental and behavioral needs of the cat will be reviewed.
- 10:50 – 11:45 am** **The New Cat Parent: How to Exceed their Expectations for Feline Healthcare & Wellbeing**, *Dr. Natalie Marks* **LS**  
 In this lecture, we will discuss and dissect a new feline pet parent's expectations (especially Millennials) for their journey with the veterinary team. This starts at home with the hospital's digital presence, the desire for communication and resources, and how to provide enrichment and emotional wellbeing. There will also be guidance on what preventive wellness strategies are (such as pet insurance and exam schedules) and how they should be given as resources. As we travel to the hospital, we will discuss how to remove stress and anxiety from both our patients AND their parents, and what the pet parent's expectation is for the exam itself.
- 12:15 – 1:15 pm** **To Cut or Not to Cut: Incorporating New Technologies & Avoiding the Pitfalls in the Treatment of Feline Uroliths**, *Dr. Jody Lulich* **LS**  
 This seminar will reveal common mistakes in the diagnosis and prediction of urolith composition. We will introduce an app to help and provide the real significance of crystalluria. Then we will present simple steps to successful struvite dissolution. The seminar will end with a discussion of more nonsurgical methods to remove urocystoliths in cats.
- 1:30 – 2:20 pm** **ISCAID Antimicrobial Use Guidelines: Which Antimicrobial, What Dose, & For How Long?**, *Dr. Jane Sykes* **LS**  
 This session will provide an update on antimicrobial use guidelines as they relate to cats. Judicious use of antibiotics, including drug, dose, and duration of treatment for common conditions of cats, will be covered. The ISCAID guidelines for respiratory disease and urinary tract disease will be reviewed, as well as rationale for recommendations. Practical approaches to cases will also be described.
- 2:20 – 3:15 pm** **Current Concepts in Feline Vaccination**, *Dr. Jane Sykes* **LS**  
 Recently revised Guidelines for vaccination of cats were published by the AAFP/AAHA. This talk will review the recommendations in the Guidelines. Evidence to support the recommendations will also be discussed. Vaccine types, vaccination frequency, duration of immunity, and adverse effects as they relate to current vaccines will be covered, as well as vaccine selection based on lifestyle. Frequently asked questions as they relate to vaccination of cats will be reviewed.
- 3:45 – 4:35 pm** **Is a Positive Really Negative? Interpretation of Diagnostic Tests for Infectious Diseases**, *Dr. Jane Sykes* **LS**  
 Recently there has been an expansion in the number and types of diagnostic tests for infectious diseases, and interpretation of these tests can be confusing for veterinary practitioners. This talk will provide a framework for proper selection and interpretation of diagnostic tests for better patient care. Advantages and disadvantages of different test types will be described, as well as how test methodology and sampling can influence test results.
- 4:35 – 5:30 pm** **Update on Feline Viral Infections: Pearls of Wisdom**, *Dr. Jane Sykes* **LS**  
 This session is designed to update the practitioner on new knowledge about FeLV infections, FIV, FIP, feline respiratory viruses, and other emerging feline viruses including SARS-CoV-2. Important aspects of diagnosis, antiviral drug therapy, and prevention will be highlighted. Case material will be used to illustrate concepts.

## FRIDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2021

- 8:15 – 9:15 am** **C** **The Intertwine of Fear & Pain: A Spinning Wheel with Implications for Cats & Their Caregivers**, *Dr. Tamara Grubb* **LS**  
 Pain can cause fear, anxiety, and stress (FAS). Unfortunately, FAS can exacerbate pain. This combination of events can negatively impact the health, welfare, and behavior of the patient and can damage the human animal bond. In this session, attendees will explore the FAS/pain interaction. The attendees will leave this session with pharmacologic and nonpharmacologic options for prevention and treatment of FAS/pain and tips for owner education.
- 10:45 – 11:35 am** **A** **Purrfecting Your Acute Pain Assessment Skills**, *Dr. Sheilah Robertson* **LS**  
 Our ability to assess acute pain in cats has improved greatly in recent years. By creating tools based on behaviors of non-painful and painful cats, careful validation and testing, we can be more objective. The Glasgow Composite Measure Pain Scale (GCMPs) uses observation and interaction to determine a pain score and provides a suggested intervention level. The Feline Grimace Scale involves scoring of 5 action units: four on the face plus the position of the head. It correlates well with the GCMPs, is a rapid screening tool, and can be used when interaction is not possible, for example with unsocialized cats. Attendees will learn how to use these tools through the use of images and videos.
- B** **Having the Nerve: Local Anesthetic Techniques You Should be Using - Part 1** *Dr. Mark Epstein* **LS**  
 During this lecture the audience will learn about the rationale and safest, highest, and wisest use of local anesthetics, with an emphasis on local and loco-regional techniques suitable for any clinician to master. Techniques in this session will include incisional, field, and cavity blocks, and methods to extend duration of local anesthetics. The learning objectives are to gain understanding of adjunctive LA mechanisms of action, learn potential toxicities and safe use of LA, and understand clinical use of various LA techniques for soft tissue and abdominal surgery.

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## FRIDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2021 continued

- 11:40 – 12:30 pm** **A** **A Pain Most Malicious: Understanding, Preventing, & Treating Maladaptive Pain**, *Dr. Tamara Grubb* **LS**  
 Physiologic or ‘adaptive’ pain is normal and important for survival as a protective mechanism. Maladaptive or ‘pathologic’ pain is not normal and serves no biologic purpose – it is pain beyond what is needed for protection. Maladaptive pain has a major negative impact on the patient’s health, behavior, and welfare. The attendees will leave this session with a thorough understanding of maladaptive pain and knowledge of prevention/treatment strategies, including drug dosages and nonpharmacologic options, for patients with existing or developing maladaptive pain.
- B** **Having the Nerve: Local Anesthetic Techniques You Should be Using - Part 2**, *Dr. Mark Epstein* **LS**  
 During this lecture the audience will learn about the rationale and safest, highest, and wisest use of local anesthetics, with an emphasis on local and loco-regional techniques suitable for any clinician to master. Techniques in this session will include sacrococcygeal (caudal epidural), retrobulbar, orofacial and regional nerve blocks. The learning objectives are to understand clinical use of various LA techniques for limb/digit surgery, understand clinical use of retrobulbar regional blocks, understand clinical use of various LA techniques for orofacial surgery, and understand clinical use sacrococcygeal blocks for perineal or tail surgery.
- 12:45 – 1:45 pm** **Lunch & Learn #1: What the Guidelines Say on Identifying, Evaluating, & Managing Feline Hypertension**, *Dr. Mark Aciermo*  
 Hypertension in cats tends to be caused by systemic disease or illness. This session will examine the epidemiology of hypertension in cats, review recommendations for evaluating suspected hypertensive patients, and show how to obtain the most clinically useful blood pressure measurements in practice. The interpretation, classification, and effects of hypertension, including target organ damage that the condition can cause, will be discussed, as will goals of therapy and feline-specific treatment protocols.
- Lunch & Learn #2: What is Your Patient Telling You? Integrate All the Moving Parts**, *Dr. Guillermo Couto*  
 A senior cat comes in for a second opinion; they are experiencing weight loss, anorexia, vomiting, diarrhea, or combinations thereof. As we all know, these clinical signs are shared by most of the diseases we see in cats of that age group, including hyperthyroidism, chronic kidney disease (CKD), inflammatory bowel disease (IBD), gastrointestinal lymphoma, pancreatitis, cholangiohepatitis, triaditis, etc. How do we collect, collate, and analyze this information? What is relevant and what is not? In this lecture, Dr. Couto will use cases to illustrate how to get to his destination integrating the clinical data with the results of the CBC, chemistry, and urinalysis, placing more emphasis on the hematologic changes. Basically, he will be thinking out loud as he evaluates each patient.
- Lunch & Learn #3: Don’t Stress! Practical Management of Feline Lower Urinary Tract Disease**, *Dr. Jessica Markovich*  
 In this presentation, attendees will learn practical management techniques for feline patients with lower urinary tract disease with a special focus on nutritional strategies, and the role they play in a multimodal approach to disease management. Specifically, we will address nutritional supplements, methods to enhance water consumption, feline dietary preferences, and weight loss. We will end with practical options for owners to monitor for disease recurrence at home.
- Lunch & Learn #4: Identifying & Treating Chronic OA Pain: Help is on the Way!**, *Dr. Elizabeth Colleran*  
 Identifying and managing feline pain can be a challenge, to say the least! As we know, cats don’t tend to be cooperative when we’re looking to objectively measure chronic osteoarthritis pain. Even when we can diagnose OA, treatment options are wide-ranging, and getting them into the cat can be frustrating. This session will discuss new tools to help identify signs of chronic pain and review valid treatment options, including pharmaceutical and non-pharmaceutical methods.
- 2:00 – 2:50 pm** **A** **I’m Old, Painful, & My Mouth Hurts: Dental & Other Protocols for Patients with Pre-existing Pain**, *Dr. Tamara Grubb* **LS**  
 The potential presence of preexisting pain should be considered when designing protocols undergoing painful procedures like dental extractions. However, responses to drugs may be altered in senior patients with age-related changes. The attendees will leave this session with a thorough understanding of acute-on-chronic pain and the impact of aging on drug choices/doses. Specific anesthesia/analgesia protocols, including doses, will be provided.
- B** **Feline Pain Management Beyond Opioids & NSAIDs: Part 1**, *Dr. Mark Epstein* **LS**  
 During this lecture the audience will learn about non-NSAID, non-opioid pain modifying analgesic drugs (PMAD), and their use in cats. Examples include, but are not limited to, parenteral medications such as alpha-2 agonists, subanesthetic ketamine CRI, maropitant, and anti-NGF Monoclonal Antibody. The learning objectives are to gain understanding of adjunctive PMAD mechanisms of action, learn patient populations that would most benefit – or not benefit – from various adjunctive PMADs, and understand clinical use of various PMADs.
- 2:55 – 3:45 pm** **A** **Anesthesia & Analgesia for Cats with Cardiac and/or Airway Comorbidities**, *Dr. Tamara Grubb* **LS**  
 Cats with cardiac and/or airway comorbidities can be challenging to safely anesthetize. The attendees will leave this session with anesthesia/analgesia techniques/tips and drug dosages for cats with hypertrophic cardiomyopathy, asthma, and other cardiac/respiratory comorbidities.
- B** **Feline Pain Management Beyond Opioids & NSAIDs: Part 2**, *Dr. Mark Epstein* **LS**  
 During this lecture the audience will learn about non-NSAID, non-opioid pain modifying analgesic drugs (PMAD) and their use in cats. Examples include but are not limited to oral medication such as tramadol, gabapentin, amitriptyline, SSNRIs, CBD, and non-pharmacologic intervention. The learning objectives are to gain understanding of adjunctive PMAD mechanisms of action, learn patient populations that would most benefit – or not benefit – from various adjunctive PMADs, and understand clinical use of various PMADs.

# Session Abstracts

Schedule is in Mountain Standard Time  
(same as Pacific Daylight Time over these dates)

**KEY:** **A** TRACK A  
**B** TRACK B  
**C** COMBINED TRACK

**LS** LIVE STREAMED  
**NOD** NOT AVAILABLE  
ON-DEMAND

## FRIDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2021 continued

- 4:40 – 5:30 pm** **A** **Anesthesia & Analgesia for Cats with Endocrine Comorbidities**, *Dr. Tamara Grubb* **LS**  
Cats with some endocrine comorbidities can be challenging to safely anesthetize. The attendees will leave this session with anesthesia/analgesia techniques/tips and drug dosages for cats with thyroid, pancreatic, and other endocrine comorbidities.
- B** **Is your Anesthetized Patient in Trouble?**, *Dr. Sheilah Robertson* **LS**  
An essential part of anesthesia is knowing which vital signs to monitor, how to monitor them, and knowing when and how to intervene if values stray from an acceptable range. Perioperative monitoring covers the time from admission to discharge. Using real cases, attendees will learn how to logically address hypotension, hypoventilation, changes in heart rate, inadequate depth of anesthesia, and prolonged or rough recovery from anesthesia. Most anesthetic deaths occur three hours after the end of anesthesia and tips for preventing problems during this critical period will be shared.

## SATURDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2021

- 8:00 – 9:00 am** **C** **The Whole Package: Anesthesia & Surgery Tips for Common but Sometimes Tricky Cases**, *Drs. Sheilah Robertson & Bryden Stanley* **LS**  
Feline urethral obstruction is frequently encountered in general and emergency practice. Dependent on the time of the obstruction to the time of presentation, clinical signs vary from mild to severe. Rapid triage is required to determine life-threatening issues due to severe electrolyte (hyperkalemia) and acid–base imbalances. Choosing the right drugs and techniques for sedation, analgesia, or anesthesia is important for a good outcome. Tips and tricks for relieving the obstruction will be shared, along with decision making about performing a cystotomy, or a perineal urethrostomy in repeat offenders.
- 9:05 – 10:00 am** **C** **Intestinal Anastomosis: Tips to Make it Easier**, *Dr. Howard Seim* **LS** **NOD**  
When performing an intestinal resection and anastomosis by yourself (i.e., no assistant to help), we will discuss several tips that may make the procedure easier for you. There are a number of alternative techniques that you can consider incorporating that will likely make this common procedure easier and more predictably successful. Video of clinical cases will be used to illustrate these techniques.
- 11:00 – 11:50 am** **A** **Making End of Life Decisions**, *Dr. Sheilah Robertson* **LS**  
One of the most common questions we are asked is “when will I know it’s time?” Despite wide usage, the term Quality of Life (QOL) with respect to animals does not have a universally consistent or accepted definition which has hampered our ability to measure it. Helpful working definitions which include physical and mental health will be discussed. Cats cannot self-report therefore we, and their owners, are their proxy. Attendees will learn about disease specific QOL tools and more generic tools that can be used for cats with comorbidities. Attendees will also learn about anticipatory grief and how to conduct a structured patient-centric conversation under difficult circumstances.
- B** **Visceral Organ Biopsy**, *Dr. Howard Seim* **LS** **NOD**  
This seminar will illustrate a variety of biopsy techniques of abdominal visceral organs. Discussion will include biopsy techniques used to acquire diagnostic samples of liver, pancreas, and small intestine. Video will be used to illustrate surgical techniques.
- 11:55 – 12:45 pm** **A** **The Last Appointment: How to Navigate Smoothly Through Euthanasia Appointments**, *Dr. Sheilah Robertson* **LS**  
There are multiple steps involved in the euthanasia process and each one must be well coordinated. Communication within the team and between the team and owner is essential. Regardless of where the appointment takes place there are some simple tips to create the best possible environment for the cat, owner, and veterinary team. Pre-euthanasia sedation or anesthesia is strongly recommended, and attendees will learn which drugs, or drug combinations can be used, including non-injectable options. Attendees will learn about alternative routes for administration of euthanasia drugs if intravenous access is not possible.
- B** **Surgery of the Pancreas, Liver, & Biliary System**, *Dr. Howard Seim* **LS** **NOD**  
Occasionally patients require surgical management of pancreatic masses as well as disorders of the liver and biliary system. This session presents several cases with pancreatic and hepatobiliary disorders and describe in detail the surgical management used to treat each case. Video of clinical cases will be used to help illustrate surgical techniques used.
- 1:00 – 2:00 pm** **Lunch & Learn #1: Monitoring the Difficult Diabetic Cat: Role of Continuous Glucose Monitoring**, *Dr. Catharine Scott-Moncrieff*  
This lecture will discuss the best approach to monitoring glycemic control in cats with an emphasis on more challenging diabetic cases. The advantages and logistics of incorporating continuous glucose monitoring into case management will be discussed.
- Lunch & Learn #2: Enhancing Compliance & Reducing Stress: A Modern Perspective on Feline Parasite Protection**, *Dr. Robert Lavan*  
This course will examine consumer compliance and investigate the drivers behind cat owner product purchasing while demonstrating how extended duration products are beneficial to pets and pet owners. The session agenda will include why feline parasite protection is important, what professionals recommend, what pet owners are actually doing, enhancing compliance with convenience, how cat owners actually deliver medication doses (the gaps), and how to reduce stress for the cat AND the cat owner.

# Session Abstracts

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**KEY:** **A** TRACK A  
**B** TRACK B  
**O** ORAL ABSTRACT

**LS** LIVE STREAMED  
**NOD** NOT AVAILABLE  
ON-DEMAND

## SATURDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2021 continued

- 1:00 – 2:00 pm** **Lunch & Learn #3: Digital Cytopathology: Real-time Expert Help in Your Everyday Practice**, *Dr. Eric Morissette*  
Become familiar with recommended diagnostic modalities to be utilized during routine wellness and sick animal examinations. Then test your chemistry, cytology, and hematology skills in this interactive case-based session. We will take a closer look at some common vs. oddball clinical scenarios, highlighting tips for interpretation of blood work, urine, and the utility of a point-of-care digital system that gives you real-time access to a board-certified veterinary clinical pathologist. You don't have to go it alone.
- 2:15 – 3:05 pm** **A** **Creating a Culture of Perioperative Safety in Your Clinics**, *Drs. Sheilah Robertson & Bryden Stanley* **LS**  
Improving morbidity and mortality statistics related to anesthesia and surgery is an essential part of our job. Assessing risks, adequate patient stabilization and preparation, and ensuring that equipment is available and functional are essential tasks. The data supporting the use of comprehensive checklists as a way to prevent accidents is robust and should be part of every clinic's culture. Attendees will learn how to create checklists that fit their caseload and how to initiate these and achieve "buy in" by everyone on the team. Real life data demonstrating the positive effect on adverse events before and after using checklists will be shared.
- 2:15 – 2:40 pm** **B** **Wound Management Secrets**, *Dr. Howard Seim* **LS** **NOD**  
Can you force a wound to continue to contract...oh yes you can! Attendees will learn how to 'stretch' skin in order to close chronic non-healing wounds.
- 2:40 – 3:05 pm** **B** **Managing Feline Ear Polyps**, *Dr. Howard Seim* **LS** **NOD**  
Polyps originating from the nasopharynx, ear canal, and middle ear of young cats is occasionally encountered in practice. This session will include techniques for removing polyps from the nasopharyngeal region, external ear canal, and middle ear. Video of clinical cases will be used to illustrate surgical technique.
- 3:10 – 4:00 pm** **A** **The Whole Package: Anesthesia & Surgery Tips for Common but Sometimes Tricky Cases in Kittens & Young Cats**, *Drs. Sheilah Robertson & Bryden Stanley* **LS**  
Kittens do not always land fully on their feet and may suffer from several congenital or trauma linked problems early in life. These include but are not restricted to rectovaginal fistulae, anal atresia, pectus excavatum, umbilical and body wall hernias, cleft palate, ruptured diaphragm, and fractures. Kittens have unique physiologic features that must be accounted for when creating an anesthesia, analgesia, and surgery plan. The attendees will "walk through" real cases with the presenters to learn tips and tricks to ensure a good outcome in our pediatric patients.
- 3:10 – 3:35 pm** **B** **Feline Subtotal Colectomy**, *Dr. Howard Seim* **LS** **NOD**  
Subtotal colectomy for the treatment of megacolon in cats is no longer considered a salvage procedure. This session is designed to describe, in detail, the authors' preferred technique for subtotal colectomy. Video of a clinical case will be used to illustrate the authors' tricks on how to make the technique easier to perform and more predictably successful.
- 3:35 – 4:00 pm** **B** **Colopexy for the Treatment of Recurrent Rectal Prolapse**, *Dr. Howard Seim* **LS** **NOD**  
Patients that present with chronic recurrent rectal prolapse can be difficult to medically manage. Permanent reduction of the rectal prolapse can be performed by suturing the colon to the body wall. This session will describe a technique that results in a permanent fibrous connective tissue scar between the colonic wall and body wall. Video of a clinical case will be used to illustrate the technique.
- 4:05 – 4:25 pm** **O** **False Positive FeLV ELISA Results in Cats With Hemolytic Disease**, *Dr. Matthew Kornya* **LS**  
Feline leukemia virus is a devastating, contagious disease that causes a wide variety of hematologic and neoplastic conditions. Diagnosis is much more complex than was previously believed even with the wide variety of tests at our disposal. This presentation will discuss a series of cats with hematologic disease demonstrating discordant results by two commonly available tests as well as possible implications and explanations.
- 4:05 – 4:45 pm** **Why Being a Cat Friendly Practice Matters**  
We will discuss the impact being a Cat Friendly Practice has on your practice, client relationships, and cats. We will be collecting your questions prior to the meeting and answering them during the presentation. We encourage anyone thinking about becoming a CFP, those who may be stuck in the process, and even current Cat Friendly Practices to attend the session. Many times we often have the same questions, so please join us to learn from your colleagues.

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## SUNDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2021

- 8:30 – 9:20 am** **C** **Detecting, Diagnosing, & Monitoring Feline OA Pain: A Practical Approach**, *Dr. Duncan Lascelles* **LS**  
 The steps involved in diagnosing DJD-associated pain in the feline patient can be summarized as owner education, facilitating a visit to the clinic, understanding the signalment of feline OA, observation, hands-on examination, radiography, and assessing impact of OA-pain. This presentation will discuss all of them except hands-on examination.
- 9:25 – 10:15 am** **C** **NSAIDs for Chronic Pain Control in Cats: An Update**, *Dr. Duncan Lascelles* **LS**  
 Updates regarding the use of NSAIDs in cats for the control of long-standing musculoskeletal pain will be provided and discussed. Practical recommendations regarding the long-term use of NSAIDs in cats will be given.
- 10:45 – 11:35 am** **A** **How to Perform a Successful Orthopedic Examination**, *Dr. Duncan Lascelles* **LS**  
 The steps involved in diagnosing DJD-associated pain in the feline patient can be summarized as owner education, facilitating a visit to the clinic, understanding the signalment of feline OA, observation, hands-on examination, radiography, and assessing impact of OA-pain. This presentation will discuss hands-on examination using a combination of videos and illustrations.
- B** **Perineal Urethrostomy & Other Options in Cats with FUS**, *Dr. Bryden Stanley* **LS**  
 Perineal urethrostomy (PU) in cats is a commonly performed procedure in feline practice, but the indications for the procedure must be clearly understood, and the procedure itself can carry significant complications. However, when performed correctly and meticulously, outcomes are excellent, with full continence. The slightly increased incidence of urinary tract infections seen following PU is likely not due to the procedure, but rather the underlying uropathy. Several suggestions and recommendations arising from experience and the literature are discussed to optimize outcomes when performing PUs, including some alternative techniques.
- 11:40 – 12:30 pm** **A** **Anti-NGF mAbs for Chronic Pain Control: The Science**, *Dr. Duncan Lascelles* **LS**  
 This presentation will discuss the difference between the disease of osteoarthritis and the whole-body deterioration resulting from osteoarthritic pain, detail emerging treatment options for OA, present the science behind nerve growth factor (NGF) and its role in the control of pain resulting from osteoarthritis, and outline and discuss the evidence for anti-NGF monoclonal antibody strategies in the cat, and comparison to other species.
- B** **Revisiting Halsted's Principles (But Not His Habits!): Tips to Better Surgery**, *Dr. Bryden Stanley* **LS**  
 Following graduation, we climb a steep learning curve as we adjust to the demanding lifestyle of the practicing veterinarian. It is often a few years before we feel at ease with our career. Without doubt, mistakes will be made, and there will be stressful times. However, we strive to learn from our mistakes, and as our career specializes into a specific discipline or interest (such as feline medicine and surgery), and our experience grows, we develop a personal set of standards and protocols. Starting with Halsted's Principles of Surgery, I present a list of tips that I have learnt over many years that will minimize complications, maximize your competence, decrease panic, and enhance confidence in the surgical arena.
- 12:40 – 1:40 pm** **Lunch & Learn #1: Update on the Management of Stress Associated Illness in Cats**, *Dr. Michael Lappin*  
 A variety of clinical problems are exacerbated by stress in cats. Notable examples include recurrent respiratory or ocular disease from FHV-1, diarrhea, and feline interstitial cystitis. Both syndromes can be difficult to manage and can result in relinquishment of the cat. In this lecture, Dr. Lappin will update the audience on recent studies using stress relief to aid in the management of common clinical problems associated with stress in cats. Emphasis will be placed on a new study documenting use of a probiotic that lessened stress in FHV-1 infected cats, resulting in decreased clinical signs of reactivated infection compared to the placebo group.
- Lunch & Learn #2: Procedural Sedation & Analgesia in the Cat**, *Dr. Brad Simon*  
 Procedural sedation and analgesia (PSA) describes the process of depressing a patient's conscious state to perform unpleasant, minimally invasive procedures (e.g. ultrasound, phlebotomy, or bandage changes), and is often part of the daily routine in feline practices. Decision-making with respect to drug choice and dosage regimen, taking into consideration the cat's health status, behavior, co-morbidities, and the need for pain management, can be complicated and represents an everyday challenge in feline practice. While PSA is commonly perceived to be uneventful, complications can occur and on occasion may be life-threatening. An overview of, and rationale for, building a PSA protocol, and the advantages and disadvantages of different classes of sedatives and anesthetics, is presented in a clinical context supported by an evidence-based approach and clinical experience.
- Lunch & Learn #3: Stem Cell Therapy in the Domestic & Exotic Feline: Could This be the Answer to Your Difficult Cases?**, *Dr. Robert Harman*  
 This presentation is designed to cover the basics about adipose-derived, autologous stem cell therapy in veterinary medicine and how it may be applied to feline medicine. The objectives of this course are to discuss the potential mechanisms of action, efficacy, safety, and present guidelines on how to use stem cell therapy for the treatment of some of the most complex feline ailments such as chronic kidney disease, gingivostomatitis, and inflammatory bowel disease. Dr. Harman will cover the VetStem process from tissue collection to stem cell injection as well as treatment protocols for multiple feline disease processes. Referencing clinical findings, Dr. Harman will explore the many uses of adipose-derived stem cell therapy in domestic and exotic felines.



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## SUNDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2021 continued

- 1:45 – 2:35 pm**
- A** **Anti-GGF mAbs for Chronic Pain Control: The Evidence**, *Dr. Duncan Lascelles* **LS**  
This presentation will outline and discuss the evidence for anti-NGF monoclonal antibody strategies in the cat, and comparison to other species.
  - B** **Chylothorax: An Update**, *Dr. Bryden Stanley* **LS**  
“Idiopathic” chylothorax in both cats and other species is a serious condition for which the underlying etiology and even pathophysiology is still poorly understood. Although further research is indicated to fully characterize the condition, a number of recent therapeutic interventions and management options have clearly improved outcomes. Various lymphangiographic procedures can outline the highly variable anatomy of the cisterna chyli and thoracic duct. We now have the ability to identify collateral vessels and also have improved means to not only obliterate the pathway into the pleural cavity, but also to provide long-term, minimally-invasive drainage.
- 2:40 – 3:30 pm**
- A** **Wearables for Diagnosis & Monitoring of Pain: Where Are We?**, *Dr. Duncan Lascelles* **LS**  
The future of improved diagnosis and monitoring will be the integration of varied and rich data sets in real-time. Wearable and implantable sensors have been garnering more attention as they offer opportunities to access such continuous, real-time data across multiple varied dimensions. However, with the high-frequency longitudinal data generated comes the challenge of managing this data, and interpreting the biological meaning. While some simple summary values may be of use in certain circumstances, the future lies in analyzing and interpreting patterns. As an example of the challenges and opportunities, the measurement of pain in cats via monitoring activity will be discussed. The presentation will focus on two aspects: 1) understanding activity of cats in health and disease; 2) the handling, analysis, and interpretation of data to generate biologically useful information.
  - B** **Atypical Cutaneous Infections in Cats**, *Dr. Bryden Stanley* **LS**  
Veterinarians do not see the large number of chronic, non-healing wounds that our human counterparts attend to, largely due to the lack of comorbidities such as obesity, alcoholism, chronic diabetes, and cardiac disease. Cat wounds often heal without complication. Their skin also has a laxity that allows contraction to play a larger role in healing than in species with a tighter skin. However, there are occasions when a wound does not seem to be healing as expected. In such cases, the cat may have a mycobacterial infection, which may go unrecognized for months. These chronic infections of the subcutis and panniculus layer can be persistent and challenging to diagnose. Macerated tissue culture (rather than surface swab) is indicated, and specific request for mycobacterial culture requested (aerobic, anaerobic, fungal cultures, and histopathology can also be performed). Mycobacterial wounds generally respond to resection and long-term, appropriate systemic antibiotic therapy.

## On-demand Session Abstracts

### Miscellaneous

#### **Cats Gotta Scratch: The Case Against Feline P3 Amputation**, *Dr. Robin Downing*

Cats’ paws and toes play a critical role in their lives. They use them to communicate, for exercise, for escape, and for defense when needed. This session will help practitioners understand the reasons to reject amputating P3 in cats by understanding the pathogenesis of the chronic maladaptive and neuropathic pain that results, by understanding the pathologic changes in biomechanics that lead to other musculoskeletal issues, and by understanding the bioethical violations involved.

#### **Managing Chronic Pain Following P3 Amputation**, *Dr. Robin Downing*

Cats’ paws and toes play a critical role in their lives. Sometimes, however, we see cats in our practices who have had their P3s amputated. These cats, no matter how carefully their surgeries were performed, are subjected to the same nervous system aberrations that occur in humans post-amputation, which can result in chronic maladaptive, neuropathic pain in up to 80% of patients. This session will explore ways to “unwind” the peripheral and central sensitization that occurs in the wake of P3 amputation, both in the feet, and downstream from altered biomechanics.

#### **Environmental Needs for Cats with DJD: Preserve Access to Promote Comfort**, *Dr. Margaret Gruen*

In this presentation, we will discuss the environmental conditions that promote quality of life in cats. We will work through the natural history of cats, and how that affects their need for access to safe areas and 3-D space. We will also identify the accommodations that need to be made for cats with painful degenerative joint disease both at home and in the clinic.

#### **Feline-Friendly Handling & Interactions: Evidence-based Techniques**, *Dr. Ilona Rodan*

Benefits of feline-friendly handling and interactions include human safety, efficiency, better medicine, client loyalty, and preventing patient distress. Although veterinary care positively impacts quality and length of life, almost half of cats do not receive annual care, mainly due to stress surrounding the veterinary visit. Preparing the client and cat for veterinary visits reduces owner anxiety and feline negative emotions. How cats are handled can also impair their welfare, perhaps long-term. Fortunately, several studies help us recognize feline handling techniques and other methods to improve feline visits. The bonus is that these evidence-based techniques also increase human safety.

#### **Hands-Free Radiology: Strategy, Training, & Implementation Ideas**, *Dr. Dennis Keith & Ms. Carolyn Spivock*

Safely obtaining diagnostic quality radiographs is of paramount importance for your patient and for your hospital team. Capturing properly positioned radiographs, while minimizing exposure to radiation and reducing stress for our patients and team is the goal every time we enter the radiology suite. During the “Hands-Free Radiology: Strategy, Training and Implementation Ideas” session, we will discuss implementation ideas, as well as tools and resources, that can help you achieve this goal through an overall hospital team approach.

## Miscellaneous

### **What About Cats? Rehabilitation Techniques for Feline Patients, Dr. Kristin Shaw**

Prior to implementing a rehabilitation plan, a rehabilitation diagnosis must be established. This presentation will discuss the importance of performing a Feline Friendly examination in the context of the rehabilitation exam and review methods of minimizing stress during the clinic visit, particularly if the cat will be returning frequently for ongoing therapy. This presentation will then review the primary components of physical rehabilitation, including therapeutic exercise, hydrotherapy, acupuncture, manual therapy, and therapeutic modalities such as photobiomodulation ("laser therapy") and pulsed electromagnetic field therapy. We will also discuss how these techniques can be practically applied for feline patients. Several case examples will be presented, including post-surgical and nonsurgical patients.

### **Feline Histoplasmosis: Serology as a Non-Invasive Diagnostic Alternative, Dr. Mariana Jardim**

The objective of this study is to analyze the antigenic enzyme assay in urine and serum of domestic cats with a previous diagnosis of histoplasmosis.

## Technician

### **Management of the Emergent Feline Patient, Mr. Harold Davis**

The management of the emergent feline patient can be a challenging endeavor primarily because of the nature of the "beast." Aside from the obvious acute traumatic injury the cat is adept at hiding signs of illness. This discussion will cover the initial management of the emergent feline patient.

### **Nurse Management of the Urinary Obstructed Cat, Mr. Harold Davis**

This discussion will provide an overview of the patient with urinary obstruction. Having a basic understanding of the pathophysiologic and compensatory mechanism of this disease process will aid the veterinary technician in meeting therapeutic and monitoring goals.

### **Anesthetic Monitors: Understanding Their Use & Limitations, Ms. Heidi Reuss-Lamky**

Technicians interpret data from anesthetic monitors on a routine basis. This presentation covers various monitoring modalities used in assessing the anesthetized cat, as well as common pitfalls and precautions that should be taken while interpreting the data. Monitoring modalities discussed include ECG, blood pressure (including Doppler), pulse oximetry, capnography, and temperature. The learning objectives are to explain physiologic process associated with each type of monitoring modality and identify various ways to measure them. (e.g., understand carbon dioxide physiology as relevant to measuring ETCO<sub>2</sub>; discuss various monitoring methods for ETCO<sub>2</sub>), develop skills to troubleshoot equipment, identify malfunction and avoid misinterpretation of the data, specifically, as how they impact monitoring anesthetized cats, and recognize normal physiologic parameters for anesthetized felines and identify minimum acceptable values for ECG, blood pressure, pulse oximetry, capnography, and temperature for anesthetized feline patients.

### **Who Needs an Anesthetic Plan? YOU DO!, Ms. Heidi Reuss-Lamky**

Every cat that enters your hospital is a unique biologic unit. Do you know how to develop an anesthetic plan that ensures their safe passage throughout the anesthetic episode? Careful pre-anesthetic assessments are essential to identify physiological, pathological, or drug-related factors that may complicate a feline patient's anesthetic management. Learn the components of developing an anesthetic plan and the steps necessary to optimize the surgical procedure and expected outcome for each and every patient. The learning objectives are to determine how organ function and feline specific diseases impact anesthetic protocols, pharmacologic interactions awareness with anesthetic drugs and the unique features of feline metabolism, and how to develop a feline friendly anesthetic plan.

### **Purr-fect Feline Anesthesia, Ms. Heidi Reuss-Lamky**

Anesthetizing felines can pose unique challenges for the veterinary technician. In addition to the fact that cats can be difficult to monitor under anesthesia, their small size, interesting metabolism, variable temperament, and propensity towards particular health problems can also prove problematic. During this presentation learn how to successfully address these challenges while avoiding the many pitfalls associated with anesthetizing felines. Feline handling techniques will also be discussed.

### **Anesthesia Mistakes Awareness, Ms. Heidi Reuss-Lamky**

The pressures facing anesthetists today are great; the anesthetist must fully understand physiology, pathophysiology, pharmacology, anesthesia equipment, and monitoring devices as well as recognize their limitations. Although the goal is to assure a successful surgical or procedural outcome while ensuring our feline patient receives the finest possible anesthetic care, mistakes can and do happen. Discover the most common causes of feline anesthesia-related errors as well as some insight on how to prevent them. The learning objectives are to enhance awareness of the most common sources of anesthesia mistakes unique to cats, identify characteristics of a great anesthetist, and develop ways to avoid or minimize anesthetic related errors surrounding feline patients.

### **Pain Scoring for Dummies, Ms. Heidi Reuss-Lamky**

Identifying the symptoms of pain in cats is an important but often times difficult part of a veterinary technician's job. Furthermore, differentiating acute pain signs from fear, anxiety, and stress (FAS) can be perplexing to even the most astute feline observers. We'll explore the pros and cons of a variety of pain scoring tools for both acute and chronic pain in cats. Interpreting feline body language as it relates to pain versus FAS will also be discussed. The learning objectives are to differentiate the body language of FAS vs. pain in cats, describe the limitations associated with pain scoring methods in cats, and describe the value of a validated pain scoring method for both acute and chronic feline pain.

### **Detecting Feline Chronic Pain, Ms. Alison Gottlieb**

Feline chronic pain is a multi-layer obstacle course, each hurdle difficult but possible with practice and determination. The first hurdle is admitting it exists; however, we cannot stop there. Detecting chronic pain is a team sport, requiring all cat caregivers to be aligned and educated. This session will focus on tools and techniques for detecting feline chronic pain.

### **Treatment of Chronic Pain, Ms. Alison Gottlieb**

Once feline chronic pain has been identified treatment can begin. This is a delicate balance of compromise, patience, and creativity. Our plan needs to be long-term, approved by the cat, and feasible for the owner as well. This session will focus on treatment options for all members of the cat care team.

### **Feline Chronic Pain: Getting Cat Owners on Board, Ms. Alison Gottlieb**

We have certainly come a long way, and followed the trajectory of recognition and treatment for these painful cats. However, all our education and discussion is mute if the primary caretaker is not educated as well. Cat owners are vital in every facet of alleviating chronic pain, and arguably the most important participant in the recognition and treatment process. Educating cat owners is truly a gift, providing them with information, resources, and support will be the focus.

### **Feline Nursing Care for the Hospitalized Patient, Ms. Alison Gottlieb**

We can all agree, the hospital is not an ideal place for cats. We can often compromise with them for a visit, however hospitalization is occasionally warranted. As cat advocates and caretakers, we can significantly improve this experience. Feline friendly handling, pharmacologic intervention, and creativity decrease stress, improve healing and appetite, and often shorten the length of hospitalization. We will discuss these tips and tricks for any hospitalized cat.