

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2015 – Pre-conference Day

- 11:15 – 12:45 pm** **Chronic Kidney Disease: Making the Most of Early Diagnosis**, *Dr. S. Dru Forrester and Dr. Jane Robertson*
 This presentation provides an evidence-based update on early diagnosis and treatment of chronic kidney disease in cats. It will include a review of new research findings supporting early diagnosis, and practical tips and strategies to consider for successful implementation of nutritional management.
- 1:00 – 2:00 pm** **End of Life Issues in Feline Medicine**, *Dr. William Folger*
 Significant advances in veterinary diagnostic and treatment modalities have been introduced into our practice regimens allowing elegant and sophisticated techniques to be readily available for treatment of our patients. Just a few decades ago it was very common for the veterinarian to routinely recommend euthanasia for a constellation of chronic, debilitating conditions many cats suffer at the end of their lives. Because the emotional bond between the owner and patient is so strong, and the clinical situation so confusing, the owner is unwilling or incapable of critically evaluating the suffering that the patient may be experiencing or that a treatment modality might produce. These situations are also a principle contributory factor in compassion fatigue experienced by the attending veterinarian. These concepts will be examined in this presentation.
- 2:00 – 3:00 pm** **Death & Dying: Feline Euthanasia in the Clinical Setting**, *Dr. Elizabeth Colleran*
 Euthanasia is an act to end suffering, not an act to end life. For many complex reasons, the emotional attachment that many humans develop with their pets not only equals but also frequently transcends the emotional attachment that they form with humans. This makes the responsibility of the veterinarian who presides over important decisions regarding quality of life and quality of death quite considerable. Using the experience of veterinarians who are experts on end of life, data from human therapist studies, and years of experience of a house call euthanasia veterinarian, we will examine how the client experiences end of life decisions. Managing the unexpected, techniques for improving outcomes, and the challenges of compassion fatigue will all be examined.
- 3:30 – 4:30 pm** **Controversies Surrounding Protein in Feline Nutrition**, *Dr. Margie Scherk*
 As obligate carnivores with a different set of nutritional requirements than the omnivorous canine, understanding more about feline nutrition is a valuable component in caring for cats. It is critical to feed cats not just enough calories, but enough calories from protein. Controversy exists especially when discussing feeding cats with kidney diseases, but also the role of protein in managing diabetes mellitus and weight loss.
- 4:30 – 5:30 pm** **Emerging Infectious Diseases**, *Dr. Susan Little*
 Emerging infectious diseases are those that have increased in incidence in the last two decades for a variety of reasons, including changes in pathogens and expanded ranges. This lecture focuses on several important emerging diseases in the cat, such as new manifestations of streptococcal infections, invasive aspergillosis caused by a newly recognized species, new viral infections (morbillivirus, influenza A), and more.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2015

- 8:10 – 8:35 am** **C Recent Compelling and Clinically Relevant JFMS Updates**, *Dr. Margie Scherk*
 This session will summarize a selection of topical papers published in the *Journal of Feline Medicine & Surgery* over the past two years. Get ready for a speedy, stimulating presentation!
- 8:35 – 10:00 am** **C Feline Pain Management Guidelines**, *Dr. Michael Petty and Dr. Ilona Rodan*
 Great advances in pain management, especially in the field of feline degenerative joint disease, have occurred in the past few years. Pain management consists of both pharmacologic and non-pharmacologic modalities, with the latter including environmental modifications to allow the cat to perform its normal behaviors. Changes in the cat's normal behavior(s) are the key to recognizing pain. Awareness and recognition of both acute and chronic pain have greatly increased, and validated feline pain scores are now available. Pain management is a team approach with the client playing a central role due to the awareness of their individual cat's normal behaviors. A continuum of care is required which includes anticipation of pain, early intervention, and evaluation of the individual patient's response to therapy.
- 10:45 – 11:35 am** **A Thoracic Ultrasound: Feline Thoracic Disease**, *Dr. Livia Benigni*
 This lecture will review the use of ultrasound for investigation of thoracic disease in cats. In some cases thoracic ultrasound may prove a better alternative to radiology. The advantages and limitations of this imaging modality will be discussed.
- B Feline Thoracic Radiographs: Interpretive Principles & Normal Variations**, *Dr. Lorrie Gaschen*
 In this session the participant will learn to review the feline thorax from the ground up, where to start and how to prioritize the importance of certain findings. The pitfalls of interpretation and discussion of normal variants will be presented with numerous case examples.
- 11:40 – 12:30 pm** **A Ultrasound of Feline Gastrointestinal, Hepatic, & Pancreatic Diseases**, *Dr. Livia Benigni*
 This lecture will review the role of ultrasound in the diagnosis of feline gastrointestinal, hepatic, and pancreatic diseases. In particular it will focus on differentiation between inflammatory and neoplastic disease. The use of ultrasound guided biopsy techniques will be discussed.
- B Improve Your Radiographic Interpretation of the Feline Abdomen**, *Dr. Lorrie Gaschen*
 This session will emphasize how to assess the abdomen from the ground up using a systematic approach. The use of positional radiography and easy-to-do techniques like compression will be shown so that the veterinarian can immediately apply these in their daily practice.
- 12:45 – 1:45 pm** **Lunch & Learn: Updates in Pain Management**, *Dr. Michael Petty*
 Do you feel comfortable with your current understanding of acute and chronic pain managements for your feline patients? There will be an update on old products, new products, and a sneak peek at some products in the pipeline. We will also discuss some off-label protocols of these pain drugs; protocols that manufacturers cannot tell you.



FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2015 continued

- 2:00 – 2:50 pm**
- A Imaging: Feline Urinary Tract Disease, Dr. Livia Benigni**
 This lecture will review the role of contrast radiology and ultrasound in the diagnosis of feline urinary tract disease with particular emphasis on urolithiasis and neoplastic diseases.
 - B Obstructed or Not? Get the Most from Abdominal Radiographs, Dr. Lorrie Gaschen**
 This session will emphasize a systematic assessment of the gastrointestinal tract in the normal cat to underscore how to interpret every part of the gastrointestinal anatomy. Numerous examples of abnormal bowel from the stomach to the colon will be shown. You will be shown techniques to best assess the GI tract for obstructive and infiltrative disease.
- 2:55 – 3:45 pm**
- A Dental Radiography Updates, Dr. Brook Niemiec**
 This lecture will initiate a discussion of new equipment and options for dental radiology. Following this discussion will be a presentation on how to create quality full mouth dental radiographs in cats focusing on the hard to get images (extraoral view for maxillary premolars and the apices of the mandibular third molar). Finally, we will troubleshoot common errors.
 - B Improve Your Interpretation of Radiographic Pulmonary Patterns in the Cat, Dr. Lorrie Gaschen**
 This session will review how to diagnose air space, air way (bronchocentric), interstitial, and complex pattern of the feline lung. Emphasis will be on how to create a plan of action based on the lung abnormalities and how to best arrive at a diagnosis using numerous case examples.
- 4:15 – 5:05 pm**
- A Feline Bones: Musculoskeletal Review, Dr. Zoe Lenard**
 Cats are not small dogs! Diseases affecting the feline musculoskeletal system have elements that are species-specific but get less space allocated in radiographic textbooks. This lecture will review diseases of feline bones using case-based examples, including neoplastic disease, degenerative disease, metabolic disease, and juvenile disease.
 - B Radiographic Interpretation of Heart Disease in Cats, Dr. Lorrie Gaschen**
 This session will review the normal feline heart and show many examples of the abnormal that can and cannot be diagnosed radiographically. The limitations of radiography will be shown in case examples as well as how secondary findings are important in the diagnosis of heart disease in cats.
- 5:10 – 6:00 pm**
- A Do Cats Have 9 Lives? Imaging in Cases of Feline Trauma, Dr. Zoe Lenard**
 Cats have a remarkable ability to survive and bounce-back from serious trauma but understanding accurately the extent of the problem early in the work-up is vital. This lecture will review the imaging approach to trauma, from selecting the best initial test (radiography, ultrasound, CT) to monitoring treatment. Examples covered include spinal trauma, urinary tract trauma, subtle fracture disease, and managing imaging in the dyspneic feline.
 - B Special Sonographic Features of the Feline Abdomen, Dr. Lorrie Gaschen**
 This session will review the sonographic techniques for the veterinarian to improve their sonographic skills by looking beyond the big organs and learning how to find the small parts. The technique to find the pancreas, lymph nodes, adrenal glands, ileum and cecum, and pylorus will be shown with numerous cases.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2015

- 8:15 – 12:15 pm**
- L Feline Dental Radiology Masterclass and Hands-on Lab #1, Dr. Brook Niemiec**
 Get the most out of dental radiology in your practice. There is something for everyone in this program; from novice new graduates to seasoned practitioners. This program will begin with a discussion on indications for dental radiographs and a case based lecture on the importance of dental radiology in small animal veterinary patients. This will include recommendations on how to improve client acceptance of dental radiology. Following this will be a detailed presentation on achieving high-quality dental radiographic images. Utilizing the “simplified technique” supported by educational videos, attendees should be able to expose full mouth radiographs. No more trying to determine bisecting angles, we have done the hard work for you! We will also cover the difficult-to-get images of the maxillary premolars in cats with the near parallel and extraoral techniques. Next we will fully cover interpretation. In an energetic and highly interactive session, practitioners will learn how to read dental radiographic images. This will begin with a discussion on determining what teeth were imaged. After this we will interpret actual clinical radiographs of classic as well as unusual pathology. The second half of the class will be devoted to a hands-on laboratory where attendees will practice and perfect exposing full mouth dental radiographs. After this presentation, attendees should be comfortable with all facets of veterinary dental radiology while increasing their financial return from their investment and quality-of-care.
- 8:30 – 9:20 am**
- A Imaging of Round Cell Neoplasia in the Cat, Dr. Zoe Lenard**
 Some round cell tumors (e.g. lymphoma) are common in cats; other round cell tumors (e.g. mast cell neoplasia, plasma cell tumors) are rare. All can have a varied appearance with imaging. This lecture will focus on a clinical review of imaging findings (XR, US, CT/MR) of these types of tumors with practical tips to help confirm which disease is present.
 - B MRI & CT for Feline Practitioners, Dr. Livia Benigni**
 This lecture will provide an introduction to basic reading of MRI and CT images, and give practical information about the importance of these techniques in feline veterinary medicine. When and how to refer a clinical case for advanced imaging will be discussed.
 - P Understanding the Cat & Feline-friendly Handling: Part 1, Dr. Ilona Rodan**
 Feline fear surrounds the veterinary visit, and is a major cause of decreased veterinary care and a subsequent increase in health problems in cats. During veterinary visits, feline fear can complicate examination and sample collection, and a healthy cat may have abnormal findings due to the stress response. Fear does not start at the veterinary practice, but rather surrounds the entire visit. We think of the visit as the short period of time the cat is at the practice, but the client often thinks about it for weeks before and after the appointment. The cat's fear and anxiety often escalates at subsequent appointments. Addressing all sources of fear – the owner's stressed behavior, the carrier and car ride, the smells, sounds and sights at the veterinary practice, the handling, and the environment – is not only possible but is the answer to these major issues. Feline-friendly handling is based on an understanding of the cat and its fears, and provides methods to prevent fear and make veterinary visits in your practice more positive for feline patients, clients, and the veterinary team.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2015 continued

- 9:25 – 10:15 am**
- A CT of the Feline Head, Dr. Zoe Lenard**
Complex anatomy and small size of the feline head makes imaging this area a challenge. Radiographs can be particularly difficult to obtain and confusing to interpret. This case-based presentation will review clinical conditions where CT is superior to other tests and show how to get the most from the scan. Diseases covered will include nasal cavity disease, orbital and retrobulbar disease, nasopharynx/laryngeal disease, and diseases of the ear.
 - B Choosing & Using Radiology & Ultrasound Equipment, Dr. Livia Benigni**
The market is full of different radiography systems and ultrasound machines. This lecture will help the practitioner choose radiology and ultrasound equipment that are appropriate for a feline veterinary practice.
 - P Understanding the Cat & Feline-friendly Handling: Part 2, Dr. Ilona Rodan**
See Part 1 Abstract Above
- 10:45 – 11:35 am**
- C Managing the Feline Cancer Patient: Part 1, Dr. Erika Krick**
Unique aspects of diagnosing and treating cats with cancer will be discussed. Case examples will be presented to illustrate general concepts about feline oncology and the specific challenges that arise when treating cats with cancer. Particular attention will be paid to the value of communicating effectively with owners of cancer patients and supportive care options for these patients.
 - P Kitties in Crisis: Emergency Care for Cats, Ms. Erica Mattox**
Care of felines presenting in emergent situations can be particularly challenging. This presentation provides an overview of some of the various disease processes which can result in the need for felines to receive emergent care. This will include discussion regarding the clinical signs of these disease processes including shock.
- 11:40 – 12:30 pm**
- C Managing the Feline Cancer Patient: Part 2, Dr. Erika Krick**
See Part 1 Abstract Above
 - P How to Survive the Hospitalized Cat: Feline Patient Care, Ms. Erica Mattox**
Stabilization and treatment for feline patients often requires hospitalized care for an extended period of time. Care of hospitalized feline patients should promote wellness and recovery from illness or injury and address the patient's physical and emotional wellbeing. This presentation will discuss the challenges of the hospitalized feline and tips to help veterinary technicians be successful in providing patients with excellent care.
- 12:45 – 1:45 pm**
- Lunch & Learn: Update on Feline Anaplasmosis, Dr. Michael Lappin**
In the lecture, Dr. Lappin will talk about clinical features, diagnostics, and management of feline anaplasmosis in cats that may be common in regions with *Ixodes* spp. of ticks.
- 12:50 – 1:20 pm**
- ABVP: Is It For Me?**
The American Board of Veterinary Practitioners will offer a short informational presentation exploring the benefits of getting Board-Certified in Feline Practice. Find out why the 90 Board Certified Feline Practitioners on Planet Earth stand out from the rest!
- 1:30 – 5:30 pm**
- L Feline Dental Radiology Masterclass and Hands-on Lab #2, Dr. Brook Niemiec**
See Lab #1 Abstract Above
- 2:00 – 2:50 pm**
- A Oral Tumors in Cats: Hope for the Future, Dr. Annette Smith**
Squamous cell carcinomas are the most common tumors in cats, with few treatment options. Identification of targets in these tumors may provide new directions for more successful therapy. Diagnosis of these tumors, a plan for reasonable diagnostics in staging, current treatment options and success rates, and the potential for future treatments will be presented.
 - B Feline Lymphoma, Dr. Erika Krick**
What's new, lymphoma cats? This talk will focus on new information about diagnosis, prognostic factors, and treatment recommendations for feline lymphoma. Histopathological classification, immunohistochemistry, and PARR testing for feline lymphoma as well as an update on small cell lymphoma will be discussed. Treatment approaches such as vinblastine chemotherapy and radiation therapy and the role of body weight, body condition score, and supportive care in the treatment of cats with lymphoma will be discussed.
 - P Kitties vs. Kidneys: Feline Kidney Disease, Ms. Erica Mattox**
Renal disease is a commonly encountered presentation to the veterinary hospital for feline patients. This session will discuss the normal anatomy and physiology of the feline renal system and the pathophysiology. The technician's role in treatment will also be addressed.
- 2:55 – 3:45 pm**
- A Management of Feline Large-cell Lymphoma Updates, Dr. Annette Smith**
Recent papers provide evidence that chemotherapy protocols for cats with large-cell lymphoma should be re-examined. The various approaches to treatment through a review of the literature will be presented. The latest protocols for cats will be recommended.
 - B Neoplastic Effusions, Dr. Erika Krick**
What did I just pull out of this cat's chest? Common causes of neoplastic effusions, such as lymphoma and carcinomatosis, from diagnosis to treatment and prognosis will be discussed. Case examples will be used to highlight specific diagnostic techniques and treatment options.
 - P Trouble in the Urethra: Feline Lower Urinary Tract Disease, Ms. Erica Mattox**
Feline lower urinary tract disease (FLUTD) describes a collection of conditions that can affect the bladder and urethra of cats. This presentation will discuss the normal anatomy and physiology of the feline urinary tract and the pathophysiology associated with FLUTD. The technician's role in treatment will also be addressed.
- 3:50 – 4:45 pm**
- Cat Friendly Practice Forum**
This will be an informal open discussion about tips and creative solutions for implementing the AAFP's Cat Friendly Practice checklist items. Please bring specific questions you'd like to ask or advice you would like to share.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2015

- 8:30 – 9:20 am**
- A** **Secrets to Improve Quality-of-Life for Cats with Cancer, Dr. Greg Ogilvie**
Throw away the dog books when dealing with the unique needs, physiology, behavior, and response to therapy of cats with cancer. Come join this dynamic, interactive lecture where we will discuss the latest advice on effective, practical ways to improve quality-of-life for the cat with cancer by relieving pain, nausea, diarrhea, anorexia, etc. with compassionate care. We will also focus on supporting the families that go through this difficult fight. This lecture applies to all patients...not just cats with cancer!
 - B** **Chemotherapy Drugs, Dr. Erika Krick**
From the tried and true classics, to the modern era, indications, and side effects of chemotherapy drugs will be presented. Evidence (or lack thereof) for using certain chemotherapy drugs for specific cancers and expectations of response will be discussed. Special focus will be given to the use of tyrosine kinase inhibitors in cats.
- 9:25 – 10:15 am**
- A** **Care Beyond a Cure: Diagnostic Secrets & the Cancer Patient, Dr. Greg Ogilvie**
This fun, interactive case-based presentation will explore the latest findings on recent advances on the most effective, practical, and important staging, grading, and diagnostic techniques in cats. Along the way, we will explore new knowledge about unique cat cancers and methods to enhance quality-of-life: Cats are NOT small dogs! Included will be important prognostic indicators for predicting response to therapy and survival. We are in the midst of a brave new world of molecular diagnostics including flow cytometry, PARR, PCR, PCNA, AgNOR, alpha-1-AG and biopsies with Temno instruments, Jamshidi needles, etc.
 - B** **Less Common Cat Cancers, Dr. Erika Krick**
This talk will focus on cats with cancer that do not have lymphoma. Some less common cancers in cats include mast cell tumors, injection site sarcomas, mammary carcinoma, and other solid tumors. Tips and techniques for diagnosis and staging will be presented along with an evidence-based analysis of treatment recommendations and controversies.
- 10:45 – 11:35 am**
- A** **Injection Site Associated & Other Soft Tissue Sarcomas: New Advances for 2015, Dr. Greg Ogilvie**
Soft tissue sarcomas are very common with a very high recurrence rate. The reality is that most are curable if treated appropriately. Join this practical, interactive presentation as we discuss the biggest problem our profession has to face: inducing cancer with a preventive vaccine. This hits at the very center of the bond centered practice as we have all heard and been taught "above all, do no harm." Come hear how we can turn this problem into a great opportunity to develop a practice focused on the bond.
 - B** **Top Oncology Mistakes & How to Avoid Them: Part 1, Dr. Sue Ettinger**
We will discuss the Do's and Don'ts for you and your cancer patients with an emphasis on the feline patient. This will cover the most common oncology mistakes - including diagnostics, surgery, chemotherapy, and radiation. Dr. Ettinger will give practical tips to help you avoid them in your practice. Cancer is not a death sentence, so please join me and learn how we can help our patients live longer and live well with cancer.
- 11:40 – 12:30 pm**
- A** **10 Best Kept Secrets for Treating Cats with Cancer, Dr. Greg Ogilvie**
This fun, case-based, video-enhanced, interactive presentation will capitalize on the experience of the audience and speaker to learn new, practical techniques for treating cats with cancer and associated disorders and diseases. What are the deep dark secrets of managing cats with respiratory, gastrointestinal, cardiovascular, and hematopoietic malignancies? Come and find out! This lecture will reveal many secrets described in the book, *Feline Oncology: A Comprehensive Guide to Compassionate Care for Cats with Cancer*.
 - B** **Top Oncology Mistakes & How to Avoid Them: Part 2, Dr. Sue Ettinger**
See Part 1 Abstract Above
- 12:40 – 1:40 pm**
- Lunch & Learn: Diarrhea Dilemma: What We Think We Know About Treatment of IBD, Dr. Susan Little**
IBD is an immunologically mediated chronic enteropathy. Given that we do not know the causes of this heterogenous group of disorders, treatment recommendations are empiric. Treatment decisions are complicated by the fact that we lack randomized controlled drug trials to evaluate the efficacy of therapies and clinical data is sparse for alternate therapies. This presentation will review the current state of knowledge about treatment options for feline IBD.
- 1:45 – 2:35 pm**
- A** **Kitty Oncologic Emergencies: HELP!!!, Dr. Greg Ogilvie**
Cancer is one of the most dynamic areas of veterinary medicine including in the critical care setting. This multi-media presentation will explore the most important and common emergencies, and share how even the worst cases can be saved with fast action and new treatments! Remember, we not only care for our kitties, but the frightened and bewildered families who bring their feline friends to us for care in crisis.
 - B** **See Something, Do Something. Why Wait? Aspirate,™ Dr. Sue Ettinger**
In veterinary medicine, most skin and subcutaneous tumors can be cured with surgery alone if diagnosed early when tumors are small. "See Something, Do Something" (SSDS) is Dr. Ettinger's cancer awareness program for lumps and bumps in dogs and cats that is launching in 2015. SSDS provides pet owners and veterinarians guidelines for evaluating superficial masses in dogs and cats. These guidelines will increase client awareness, promote early cancer detection and diagnosis, as well as early surgical intervention. Early detection saves lives.
- 2:40 – 3:30 pm**
- A** **The Secret Weapon: Polyunsaturated Fatty Acids & Cancer: Advances for 2015, Dr. Greg Ogilvie**
Our clients are reading and hearing about the new discoveries on how nutrition can be used to fight cancer and improve quality-of-life in people and in cats. They are also demanding the very best care for their cat with cancer and that includes nutrition. This interactive presentation will explore the most recent discoveries on how nutrition can be used in combination with other therapies to improve quality and length of life in the kitty cancer patient.
 - B** **Practical Take-home Tips for Managing Feline Cancer Patients in Your Practice, Dr. Sue Ettinger**
Whether you refer your feline cancer cases to a specialist or manage them in your practice, Dr. Ettinger will discuss her guidelines and tips for chemotherapy patients including: interpreting blood work before chemotherapy and the nadir CBC after chemotherapy, when to use antibiotics and which ones; how to manage chemotherapy-related side effects and tips to minimize them in the first place; appropriate monitoring and testing during treatment; tips for patients that choose palliative care only (like steroids for lymphoma); and new options for patients with advanced metastatic disease.

