

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2017 – PRE-CONFERENCE DAY

- 8:00 – 10:00 am** **L Feline-Friendly Handling Lab, Dr. Ilona Rodan**
 This hands-on lab will begin with a short summary presentation on unique feline behaviors. Dr. Rodan will then demonstrate feline handling techniques, followed by attendees having an opportunity to break out into small groups to apply those techniques utilizing live cats. This session requires separate registration.
- 10:00 – 11:15 am** **Healthy People, Healthy Practices: Wellness & Compassion Satisfaction, Dr. Laurie Fonken**
 In this interactive session, through a combination of didactic presentation and experiential activities, attendees will gain knowledge useful in recognizing early signs and contributing factors to distress and begin to identify challenges to mental and physical health. In addition, participants will learn and practice skills and strategies to manage and promote wellbeing both personally and professionally.
- 11:45 – 12:45 pm** **Feline Fitness, Fatness, & Feeding: Maximizing Comfort & Mobility, Dr. Robin Downing**
 Obesity and arthritis are common problems that can affect quality of life in our feline patients. This lecture will explore how to optimize patient comfort and mobility by leveraging nutritional tools.
- 1:00 – 2:00 pm** **Pain Physiology & Feline Neuropathic Pain Conditions, Dr. Mark Epstein**
 This session will review normal pain pathways, receptors, and processing, with an emphasis on targets of pain modification. Further discussion will be aberrant, maladaptive pain processing, and concluding with a discussion of suspected neuropathic and/or neurogenic pain syndromes encountered in cats.
- 2:00 – 3:00 pm** **Update on NSAIDs & Opioids in Feline Pain Management, Dr. Mark Epstein**
 This session will review contemporary and emerging concepts of NSAID and opioid neuropharmacology, and discuss highly used and wisest use of these drug classes in cats.
- 3:30 – 4:30 pm** **Updates on Adjunctive Pain Modifying Drugs in Cats, Dr. Mark Epstein**
 The session will discuss neuropharmacology and current evidence of alpha-2 agonists, subanesthetic ketamine CRI, tramadol, gabapentin, amitriptyline, and other non-opioid, non-NSAID drugs in cats.
- 4:30 – 5:30 pm** **Local Anesthesia & Loco-regional Techniques in Cats, Dr. Mark Epstein**
 As the recent AAHA-AAFP Pain Management Guidelines suggest local anesthetics (LA) should be utilized with every surgical procedure, this session will review common LA medications and their utility, with an emphasis on common techniques within the scope of any clinician (or technician!) to master.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2017

- 8:15 – 9:10 am** **C Risk Factors Affecting the Incidence of FIP in Dense Multi-cat Environments, Dr. Niels Pedersen**
 This session will include review of feline coronavirus, biotypes of feline enteric coronavirus (FECV), and feline infectious peritonitis virus (FIPV), as well as environmental factors that increase FIP incidence.
- 9:10 – 10:00 am** **C Use of Novel Anti-viral Drugs to Treat Cats with Naturally Occurring FIP, Dr. Niels Pedersen**
 This session will include clinical forms of FIP and how they are influenced by host immunity, as well as prevention and treatment of FIP.
- 11:00 – 12:15 pm** **C Feline Zoonosis, Dr. Michael Lappin**
 In this session, an overview of the upcoming AAFP Zoonoses Guidelines will be presented. Emphasis will be placed on “What you can catch at work.” We will discuss the zoonotic diseases associated with gastrointestinal disease, respiratory disease, skin disease, urinary disease, and the vector borne diseases with an emphasis on the importance of controlling fleas and ticks.
- 12:30 – 1:30 pm** **Lunch & Learn #1: Feline Emergency Room Procedures You Must Know, Dr. Justine Lee**
 In this lecture, Dr. Lee will review the top 5 most common emergency procedures that you must know for your feline patients. In this video-based lecture, Dr. Lee will review how to treat the poisoned feline patient (including how to induce emesis and administer activated charcoal easily), how to treat feline urethral obstruction, how to perform a coccygeal block, how to perform a life-saving thoracocentesis, and more!
- 12:30 – 1:30 pm** **Lunch & Learn #2: Managing Appetite in Feline CKD, Dr. Jessica Quimby**
 Poor appetite is a major quality of life concern for cats with CKD. This presentation will discuss possible pathophysiologic mechanisms of inappetence in CKD as well as new research exploring the pathology associated with feline CKD. Recent research on management of nausea and inappetence in CKD cats will also be reviewed.
- 1:45 – 2:35 pm** **A Feline Flea & Tick Associated Illnesses: Part 1, Dr. Michael Lappin**
 In these two lectures, the infectious disease agents associated with fleas and ticks will be discussed. It is now known that the agents associated with illness in dogs also occur in cats. Emphasis will be placed on the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of these agents. Updates on *Anaplasma* spp., *Bartonella* spp., *Borrelia burgdorferi*, *Cytauxzoon felis*, *Ehrlichia* spp., the hemoplasmas, and more will be provided.
- B Otitis Media: It's Not All Polyps, Dr. Karen Moriello**
 Not all cats with signs of otitis media have polyps. Not all cats with otitis media have otitis externa. This presentation will discuss the diagnostic approach to cats with suspected otitis media with a focus on the ‘non-polyp’ causes. Specific recommendations for myringotomy and middle ear irrigation will be discussed.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2017 continued

- 2:40 – 3:30 pm** **A** **Feline Flea & Tick Associated Illnesses: Part 2, Dr. Michael Lappin**
 See Part 1 Abstract on previous page
- B** **Bacterial & Yeast Overgrowth: An Under-recognized Cause of the ‘Unkempt Look,’ Dr. Karen Moriello**
 Cats DO get superficial pyoderma and yeast overgrowth skin disease that can contribute to many skin problems including, but not limited to, failed flea control, the chronically itchy cat, the ‘scaly cat,’ the ‘rough hair coat cat,’ and the ‘excessive shedder.’ This presentation will highlight useful diagnostics and appropriate treatment with an emphasis on good antimicrobial stewardship.
- 4:10 – 5:00 pm** **C** **Dermatophytosis: Evidence-Based Medicine for Treatment & Debunking Ringworm Folklore, Dr. Karen Moriello**
 This presentation will focus on what science has to say about popular myths associated with the diagnosis and treatment of feline dermatophytosis. Leave with the most current information on the diagnosis, treatment, monitoring, and cleaning recommendations and evidence-based facts to stomp out the folklore and ringworm treatment worries.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2017

- 8:30 – 9:20 am** **C** **Starting on the Right Paw: Preventive Healthcare for Kittens, Dr. Susan Little**
 Kittens and young cats make up a significant proportion of the patient population in small animal practices. The need for frequent visits during the first months of life is an opportunity to lay the foundation for a long and healthy relationship between the pet owner and hospital staff. This presentation will focus on how to design a successful preventive healthcare program in the first year of life.
- 9:25 – 10:15 am** **C** **Anesthesia & Analgesia for Elective Surgical Procedures in Kittens, Dr. Tammy Grubb**
 When compared to adults, pediatric patients have numerous physiologic differences that impact anesthesia choices and techniques. The focus for the anesthetist should be not only drug selection but also monitoring and support. This discussion will focus on anesthesia and analgesia for healthy pediatric patients.
- P** **Kitten Kindy Classes, Dr. Kersti Seksel**
 The early socialization of kittens and the education of their owners are important in helping prevent issues with a kitten’s behavior and decreasing the chances of future relinquishment. Having owners have realistic expectations of their new kitten and its behavior is one of the key aspects of the classes. Although fewer people run kitten socialization classes than puppy classes, they are just as valuable for kittens and their owners. Additionally, the classes are a great public relations tool for the practice. This session will provide you with a step by step guide to help you run successful classes.
- 10:45 – 11:35 am** **A** **Anesthesia & Analgesia for Urgent/Emergency Surgical Procedures in Kittens, Dr. Tammy Grubb**
 In addition to physiologic changes caused by age, patients admitted for urgent/emergency procedures often have pathologic changes caused by trauma or disease, both of which can have a major impact on anesthesia choices and techniques. This discussion will focus on anesthesia and analgesia for compromised pediatric patients.
- B** **Important Stages in Feline Development: Why They Matter, Dr. Kersti Seksel**
 There are several periods of development that have been documented in cats. The prenatal, neonatal, transitional, socialization, juvenile, adult, and senior periods have been recognized and each period has an influence on the behavior of cats. Most focus has been on the socialization period as this is when kittens are weaned, often go to their new owners and may be neutered so there are many stresses on the kitten. So is early age spay/neuter a potential problem as that may occur in the one of the sensitive periods of development?
- P** **Taming the Cantankerous Cat, Ms. Ellen Carozza**
 Learn some tricks of the trade by an all-feline technician! We will discuss how to handle difficult cats at the office, and how you can utilize towels and carriers to your advantage WITHOUT the need for gloves, muzzles, and masks. Safe sedation is an important aspect of a proper exam for many cats, and this lecture will help you be more confident in understanding the reasons why we need to stop stressing our patients out and utilizing sedatives to your advantage for higher quality care at your clinic.
- 11:40 – 12:30 pm** **A** **What’s New with Old Viruses? Feline Retrovirus Update, Dr. Susan Little**
 Retrovirus infections are common in cats worldwide. Veterinary practices should adopt thoughtful and practical protocols for testing and management based on guidelines published by expert panels. This presentation will cover recent information on prevalence of these infections, disease associations, diagnostic testing, and approaches to management of infected cats.
- B** **Problem Intervention: When & Why During Kitten Development, Dr. Kersti Seksel**
 Recognizing the difference between normal behaviors that are unacceptable to the owner but appropriate for the cat, and behaviors that are abnormal for the cat as well as unacceptable for the owner, is one of the key challenges for veterinarians. However, explaining the difference to owners and giving advice on when it is best to intervene is often the most difficult as owners often feel that the kitten “will grow out of it.” This session will help guide you through these challenges.
- P** **Troubleshooting Fading Kitten Syndrome, Ms. Ellen Carozza**
 Fading kitten syndrome can be one of the most frustrating problems in the neonate patient for the rescuer, especially when we feel we do not have the resources to help. We will go over symptoms, prevention, treatment, the use of blood products, and much more! Caring for the complicated neonate does not have to be complicated or expensive when you are set up for success!

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2017 continued

- 12:45 – 1:45 pm** **Lunch & Learn #1: Improving the Diagnosis & Management of Kidney Disease in Hyperthyroid Cats**, *Dr. Jane Robertson*
 The clinical findings and diagnostic tools available to more reliably diagnose kidney disease in hyperthyroid cats will be reviewed. Treatment options and management goals for cats with concurrent chronic kidney disease (CKD) and hyperthyroidism will be emphasized. A clinical case will illustrate how SDMA guided diagnosis and management of the hyperthyroid patient with concurrent CKD.
- 12:45 – 1:45 pm** **Lunch & Learn #2: Fifty Years of Advances in Feline Medicine**, *Dr. Margie Scherk*
 Fifty years ago, an idea was born. The Winn Feline Foundation was created: an idea with meaningful, long-lasting, and far-reaching consequences. This not-for-profit organization has provided the means for research and education to improve the health of cats. This presentation will provide a brief history and overview of some of these advances, both the discoveries as well as the innovative ideas and techniques they sourced.
- 2:00 – 2:50 pm** **A** **How to Treat the Small & the Sick: Part 1**, *Dr. Susan Little*
 The time from birth to weaning is only a few weeks, but it is a time of critical adjustments and development. Neonatal and pediatric physiology differs from the adult animal in critical ways that influence the physical examination, diagnostics, and treatment approaches. This lecture will concentrate on assessment and management of the feline pediatric patient, starting with identifying and managing clinical problems during labour and delivery as well as diagnosing and treating common pediatric problems such as hypothermia, hypoglycemia, hypoxia, sepsis, and dehydration.
- B** **Feline Socialization**, *Dr. Kersti Seksel*
 The socialization period is thought to last from approximately three to about seven weeks of age, although some authors suggest it could be as late at nine weeks of age. It's considered to be one of the most sensitive periods in a cat's development. It has been suggested that the timing of this period may vary according to the individual, the breed, and experiential factors. It's during this period the kitten becomes more independent and this is usually the time that a kitten might go to its new home. So the stressors for the kitten during this stage of development are great. What is the veterinarians role in minimizing the stress?
- P** **The Secret to Increasing Pet Health Insurance in Cats**, *Mr. John Volk*
 Research shows that the majority of veterinarians wish all their clients used pet health insurance. Research also shows that clients with insured cats spend 81% more annually on veterinary medical care. This session outlines the 10 "best practices" that you can use to successfully increase the number of insured pets.
- 2:55 – 3:45 pm** **A** **How to Treat the Small & the Sick: Part 2**, *Dr. Susan Little*
 See Part 1 Abstract Above
- B** **Feline Vaccinology: Science to Inform Protocols**, *Dr. Annette Litster*
 This talk will present a review of the published peer-reviewed literature on the immune response to vaccination in cats. Additionally, information on possible causes of vaccine failure, adverse reactions to vaccines, injection site sarcoma, and antibody titer testing will be presented. There will be an emphasis on practical evidence-based information from recently published studies.
- P** **New AVTCP Feline Specialty: Criteria & Qualifications of the Feline Technician**, *Ms. Ellen Carozza*
 Thinking about obtaining your VTS in Feline Technology? What makes the Feline VTS different from the current Canine/Feline VTS? Is it the right path for you? Are you ready to jump in with both feet and just do it? We will go over our core values, eligibility, and where to start to help you become the best feline advocate you can be in practice.
- 3:50 – 4:40 pm** **Cat Friendly Practice: Where to Start & How to Keep it Going**
 Whether you are considering becoming a Cat Friendly Practice (CFP) and want to learn more, or you are a CFP and are interested in learning ways to continually integrate cat-friendly strategies, this interactive session is for you. Join us and you will receive some practical advice from Cat Friendly Practices who have already gone through the designation process, implemented tactics to keep excitement and standards high, and can answer your questions.
- 3:50 – 4:50 pm** **Making a Clear Recommendation**, *Dr. David Gosche*
 This seminar will help the attendee develop clear, concise language for some of the most common recommendations that are made in the veterinary office. With a goal of increasing client compliance, we will discuss keys to successful medical recommendations, and address how to deal with some of most common objections from our pet owners. The sessions will also include videos of veterinarian and client interactions for audience review. Feedback and audience interaction is appreciated but not required.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2017

- 8:30 – 9:20 am** **C** **Infectious Diarrhea in Kittens & Cats: Diagnosis**, *Dr. Craig Webb*
 As a foundation, attendees will learn the critical role that Positive Predictive Value plays in their clinical practice; in both the choice of diagnostic tests and the interpretation of those results. Clinical cases will be used to demonstrate the appropriate placement and potential pitfalls of specific diagnostic tests in cases of feline diarrhea thought to have an infectious etiology. These principles will be especially highlighted in cases of kitten diarrhea where the prevalence of infectious causes of diarrhea make it particularly relevant.
- 9:20 – 10:10 am** **C** **Infectious Diarrhea in Kittens & Cats: Treatment**, *Dr. Craig Webb*
 The step from a positive diagnostic test result to a table of antibiotics with their doses seems simple enough, but this presentation will emphasize complexities that may impact that seemingly simple decision. Recent studies suggest that the dysbiosis (alterations in the fecal microbiome) created by antibiotic use in the young can have significant long-term consequences. The expanding list of treatment modalities beyond antibiotics that can be helpful in cases of feline infectious diarrhea will be discussed.
- 10:45 – 11:35 am** **A** **Upper Respiratory Infections: Prevention & Diagnostics**, *Dr. Michael Lappin*
 In this session, an update on the diagnosis of URI in cats will be presented followed by the new information on prevention of bacterial and viral causes of URI.
- B** **What's New with the Old: Panleukopenia, Heartworm and Sinonasal Aspergillosis**, *Dr. Annette Litster*
 This presentation will review the most recent information on feline panleukopenia virus, feline heartworm disease and feline sino-nasal/ sino-orbital aspergillosis. Data from recently published peer-reviewed journal articles will be the focus of this talk. There will be an emphasis on the relevance of published evidence to feline clinical practice.
- 11:40 – 12:30 pm** **A** **Update on Infectious Disease Diagnostic Tests**, *Dr. Michael Lappin*
 Optimal use of infectious disease diagnostic tests will be discussed. Emphasis will be placed on molecular diagnostics and how to best use these techniques for GI, respiratory, and blood borne infections.
- B** **Treatment of Infectious Upper Respiratory Tract Disease: An Evidence-Based Approach**, *Dr. Annette Litster*
 This presentation will review the available treatments for the most common viral and bacterial causes of feline upper respiratory tract disease. Information from published clinical trials and recently published peer-reviewed journal articles will be the focus of this talk. There will be an emphasis on the relevance of published evidence to feline clinical practice.
- 12:40 – 1:40 pm** **Lunch & Learn: Obesity Management in Cats: Incorporating Behavior & Feeding Practices**, *Dr. Maryanne Murphy*
 Obesity is commonly encountered in veterinary medicine and while effective weight-loss measures have been described, it has proven challenging to maintain that success long-term. Feeding plans need to be individualized not only for each cat, but must also take into account the needs of the cat's owners. Specific consideration of the environment and feeding practices to help encourage weight loss and successful healthy weight maintenance will be discussed.
- 1:45 – 2:10 pm** **A** **Clinical Brief - Clinical Uses of Probiotics**, *Dr. Michael Lappin*
 Recently, there have been several studies showing the clinical utility of probiotics in management of feline diseases. The use of probiotics or in the management of acute or chronic diarrhea in cats, in the management of antibiotic induced diarrhea, and as immune modulators will be discussed.
- B** **Clinical Brief - Fecal Transplantation: What's Coming Down the Pipeline**, *Dr. Craig Webb*
 Although fecal transplantation (FT) could be thought of as the ultimate probiotic, the use of this therapy in human medicine is quite narrow and specific. The established use of FT and the theory behind its expected impact will be briefly reviewed. The basic components of current FT protocols will be described. The very limited evidence-based use of FT in veterinary patients will be reviewed. Finally, areas of potential benefit for the use of FT in felines will be presented.
- 2:15 – 3:05 pm** **A** **Emerging Feline Pathogens Summary: The Weird & Wonderful**, *Dr. Michael Lappin*
 There have been a number of new feline pathogens studied in the recent past. The objective of this lecture is to present new information on a number of agents including gammaherpesvirus, feline foamy virus, Leptospire in cats, and more!
- B** **Contaminated Wounds: Infectious Reasons Healing is Delayed**, *Dr. Catriona MacPhail*
 In this session, the investigation of underlying causes of nonhealing wounds in cats will be discussed with particular attention being given to infectious causes. The diagnosis and management of fungal and atypical bacterial infections will be reviewed including discussion of advanced modalities of wound care, such as negative-pressure wound therapy, antimicrobial-impregnated beads, and stem cell therapy.