Get hands-on at Congress

Congress 2020 sees the return of the extremely popular series of practical sessions, small groups, and wetlabs. Each session is run by dedicated experts and designed to give you confidence in key areas so you can return home inspired to use new skills in practice. This is a rundown of the practical sessions on offer during Congress 2020 and we’d encourage you to book early to avoid disappointment!

**Derm 101: Cytology in practice**
Tim Nuttall

**KEY LEARNING OBJECTIVES**
- Cytology sampling and staining techniques.
- Effective microscope use.
- Algorithmic approach to interpreting cytology samples.

Cytology, more than any other technique, is a vital diagnostic tool in the diagnosis of bacterial and other infections, inflammatory lesions, and tumours. Sampling is quick, easy and cheap. Cytology can confirm the diagnosis, identify the likely organisms, guide the need for bacterial culture and susceptibility testing and/or other diagnostic steps, help you choose appropriate antimicrobials, and help monitor the treatment efficacy.

**Thursday 2 April 2020**

10:00–12:00 and 13:30–15:30
Cost: £100

**Don't wing it – update your surgical and anaesthetic considerations in chickens**
Molly Varga and Craig Tessyman

**KEY LEARNING OBJECTIVES**
- How physical anatomy relates to pathological changes.
- How to place crop tubes and how to perform ingluviotomies.

Thursday 2 April 2020
10:00–12:00 and 13:30–15:30
Cost: £100

**Rabbit anatomy refresher**
Emma Keeble and Martyn Lewis

**KEY LEARNING OBJECTIVES**
- How to achieve intravenous access in chicken patients.
- How to achieve intravenous access in chicken patients.

Increasingly, vets are being presented with backyard chickens and their owners are requesting treatment for animals that are on the edge of production versus pet animals. This practical session will cover clinically relevant anatomy of the chicken, with an emphasis on assessing the anatomy during physical examination, versus post mortem, understanding the structure and function of the crop, and how to obtain intravenous access.

**Friday 3 April 2020**

09:30–12:00 and 13:30–16:00
Cost: £100

**Wetlabs**

Venue: Birmingham Medical School

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**Available in the BSAVA Library:** DOI: 10.22233/20412495.1219.18
Be confident with the normal thoracic and abdominal anatomical features of the rabbit; and describe and perform neutering techniques and abdominal wall closure in the rabbit.

This practical class is ideal for veterinarians who wish to brush-up on their laparoscopic clinical anatomy and review relevant anatomical features for clinical practice. Aimed at qualified veterinary surgeons and veterinary students who feel they would like a refresher course in rabbit anatomy, this wetlab will take you through rabbit specific anatomical features, with a focus on clinically relevant anatomy. This session will offer you the chance to review rabbit dentition, practice incisor removal and dental nerve blocks and cannulation of the nasolacrimal duct. Thoracic and abdominal anatomical features specific to the rabbit will also be identified and their clinical relevance discussed during the class, including identification of the sacculus rotundus and appendix and revision of neutering techniques and abdominal wall closure.

Friday 3 April 2020
09:30–12:00 and 13:30–16:00
Cost: £100
Surgery of the small intestine
Rachel Hattersley, Benito de la Puerta and Pablo Lopez

KEY LEARNING OBJECTIVES
- How to perform safely an enterotomy and enterectomy using sutures.
- Safe use of surgical stapling equipment for resection and Anastomosis of the intestinal tract.
- Tips and tricks to prevent complications with intestinal surgery.

Gastrointestinal surgery is commonly performed in both first opinion and referral practices. There are a number of common indications for gastrointestinal surgery including neoplasia, mechanical obstruction (due to neoplasia, intussusception or a foreign body), abnormal positioning (e.g. gastric dilatation and volvulus) or failure of motility (e.g. megacolon).

This practical will focus on surgery of the intestines looking at preoperative management, surgical technique and post-operative complications. We would be looking at how to perform enterotomies and enterectomies, using sutures as well as stapling techniques.
Thursday 2 April 2020
Venue: Exec Room 1, The ICC
09:45–12:45
Cost: £40

Approach to oncological imaging
David Killick and Tim Trevail

KEY LEARNING OBJECTIVES
- Know which imaging modality or combination of modalities are required to identify and stage the common tumours of canines and felines.
- Know the best techniques for image-guided sampling of suspected primary tumours and possible metastatic lesions.
- Understand the relevance of the imaging findings in the cancer patient with regards to treatment options for the more commonly encountered tumours of canines and felines.

Cancer is unfortunately an all too common occurrence in companion animals. An understanding of tumour biology and the limitations and benefits of the various imaging modalities available in veterinary practice are essential to decide the optimum work-up for the cancer patient. This small group session will discuss the approach to obtaining a diagnosis of the more commonly encountered tumours in small animal practice, how to stage the cancer patient and how to use the diagnostic imaging results to plan treatment. The session will also include case-based examples to put the theory learnt into practice.

Thursday 2 April 2020
Venue: Exec Room 1, The ICC
14:00–17:00
Cost: £40

Diagnosis, management and treatment of portosystemic shunts: a team approach
Andrew Parry, Gerard McLaughlan and Benito de la Puerta

KEY LEARNING OBJECTIVES
- Choose the most appropriate imaging modality, devise the best approach to imaging and how to best acquire a diagnosis.
- Deciding which treatment option can be a bit confusing as there are many treatment options. The aim is to discuss these options and decide which is the best one for our practice.
- Develop an understating of new, minimally invasive options for treating portosystemic shunts in companion animals.

Diagnosis of Portosystemic Shunts;
Andrew Parry

Methods described for the imaging of congenital portosystemic shunts include ultrasonography, magnetic resonance angiography (MRA), computed tomography angiography (CTA), findings on intraoperative mesenteric portovenography (IOMP) direct gross observations at surgery and the examination of corrosion casts made post mortem. Using these imaging techniques it has proved possible to classify congenital portosystemic shunts (PSS) as either intrahepatic (left, right or central divisional) or with further subclassification of extrahepatic portosystemic shunts dependent on which portal vessel they leave and which systemic vein they enter. The mainstay of imaging shunts (ultrasound) has been largely superseded by CTA. IOMP remains important.

Surgical Treatment of Portosystemic Shunts;
Benito de la Puerta

Congenital portosystemic shunts; being intrahepatic or extrahepatic can be completely or partially ligated with nonabsorbable sutures or gradually attenuated with an ameroid constrictor, thin film banding, or hydraulic occluder.

Interventional procedures can also be used especially with intrahepatic portosystemic shunts. Gradual attenuation is preferred to reduce the risk of postoperative complications, which if occur can be life threatening. In the last published papers comparing ameroid ring with thin film banding it was concluded that residual shunting and subsequently revision surgery was more common when thin film banding was used, but both treatments achieved favourable long-term outcomes with minimum morbidity and mortality.

Medical and Interventional Management;
Gerard McLaughlin

The diagnosis of a portosystemic shunt relies on recognizing the various clinical signs associated with the condition, detecting the common abnormalities present on routine haematology, biochemistry and urinalysis alongside the interpretation of specific liver function tests. Following the diagnosis of a portosystemic shunt, medical management should be instigated prior to considering surgical or interventional approaches. Both emergency management of the acutely encephalopathic patient and the chronic medical management (both dietary and pharmacological) will be debated. Interventional radiology provides a new, minimally invasive option for treating intrahepatic portosystemic shunts in both dogs and cats. The technique, advantages and disadvantages of these approaches will be discussed and its comparison to traditional surgery debated.

Friday 3 April 2020
Venue: Exec Room 2, The ICC
08:30–11:30
Cost: £40

An advanced session on arrhythmias: integrating Holter and ECG results to improve treatment with mechanistic understanding
Sydney Moïse

KEY LEARNING OBJECTIVES
- An understanding will be gained of the value of the beat to beat patterning identified in Holter monitoring to assist in the diagnosis of difficult arrhythmias.
- Examples will be given of how finding clues to mechanisms from the ECG and the Holter can assist in treatment decisions.
- Decision-making processes concerning complex arrhythmia and the means to evaluate success will be detailed.

This session absolutely will be at an advanced level. Attendees who would benefit from this session include cardiology diplomats or cardiology residents during...
their latter years of training. This session will meet the needs of those with strong interests in electrocardiography, pacing, advanced diagnostic techniques and arrhythmia mechanisms.

**Friday 3 April 2020**  
**Venue: Exec Room 1, The ICC**  
**09:45–12:45**  
**Cost: £40**

The highs and lows of medical cannabis – OPEN TO ALL  
Stephen Cital

**KEY LEARNING OBJECTIVES**
- Understanding the endocannabinoid system.
- Understanding safety concerns.
- Understand which molecules can have psychotropic effects.
- What to look for in a product.

Cannabinoid molecules are a hot topic as of late with enormous protentional per pre-clinical, *in vitro* and now *in vivo* studies, not only in laboratory animals but companion animal studies. The utility of these products, while for the most part is safe, still needs a lot of research into their full mechanism of action and appropriate dosing. Pet owners are curious enough to try these products without discussion with veterinary staff – stressing the importance of our own education and harm reduction counseling. The safest and most useful molecule thus far studied has been cannabidiol (CBD). Together we will have an intimate conversation on the science behind this and other molecules of the hemp plant.

**Friday 3 April 2020**  
**Venue: Exec Room 1, The ICC**  
**14:00–17:00**  
**Cost: £40**

Dentistry: complications of extractions  
Andrew Perry

**KEY LEARNING OBJECTIVES**
- Appreciate what the most common complications of extraction are and why they occur.
- Learn to design, elevate and close surgical flaps appropriately.
- Techniques to extract challenging root fragments.

This small group session is for clinicians who wish to develop their theoretical knowledge of the common complications of extraction. The format will be more informal than classic lectures and be partly lead by the delegates. Small group, case-based clinical problems will also be used.

The presentations will include an in-depth review of extraction technique, including the creation of muco-peristomal flaps, tooth removal technique, bone management and soft tissue closure. The review will consider how to prevent complications and what action can or should be taken if complications are encountered.

**Saturday 4 April 2020**  
**Venue: Exec Rom 1, The ICC**  
**09:30–12:30**  
**Cost: £40**

Reconstructive surgery  
Benito de la Puerta

**KEY LEARNING OBJECTIVES**
- Have an understanding of the different reconstruction techniques for closing defects.
- Have the knowledge to decide which is the best technique for each case.
- Understand the complications and how to treat them.

During these lectures we will be looking at different surgical options to reconstruct traumatic or surgical wounds that we have created when performing oncological surgery.

We will be discussing a range of surgical options from a simple advancement flap to more complicated axial pattern flaps and skin grafts. Although a theoretical class, it would be made very practical by making the presentations case based with a whole set of pictures and step-by-step instructions of how to do the different procedures.

**Saturday 4 April 2020**  
**Venue: Exec Rom 1, The ICC**  
**13:30–16:30**  
**Cost: £40**

Thyroid disease in dogs and cats  
Robert Shell and Carmel Mooney

**KEY LEARNING OBJECTIVES**
- Be able to select the most appropriate thyroid tests in individual cases.
- Know the non-thyroidal factors that affect thyroid test results.

- Demonstrate enhanced interpretive skills for discordant test results.

Diagnosing hyperthyroidism and hypothyroidism can be challenging. Results obtained from thyroid function tests can be normal in animals with thyroid disease and abnormal in those without such disease. Reliable interpretation is dependent on knowing the factors that can influence the results including assay methodology, storage conditions, age, breed and sex, the thyroid pathology present and non-thyroidal diseases or drug therapies. Using case examples this small group session will cover these aspects allowing you to more reliably diagnose thyroid disease in dogs and cats.

**Saturday 4 April 2020**  
**Venue: Exec Room 2, The ICC**  
**13:30–16:30**  
**Cost: £40**

Lung patterns  
Anna Newitt

**KEY LEARNING OBJECTIVES**
- Recognizing normal anatomy of the lung and identifying artefacts which can mimic pathology.
- Understanding how lung patterns are formed radiographically.
- Differential diagnoses for lung patterns and how to proceed with the case.

We will review the normal anatomy of the thorax, particularly relating to pulmonary anatomy, with a review of the relationship of pulmonary vein, bronchus and artery and how this relates to understanding of lung patterns. We will also review ways in which thoracic artifacts or normal variant may mimic genuine pathology. We will also discuss the significant differentials for the lung patterns encountered and how the differentials may be narrowed down or ranked in accordance with their likelihood. We will also discuss appropriate further tests.

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