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!

Wetlabs

Venue: Birmingham Medical School

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

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.
- 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

Rabbit anatomy refresher

Emma Keeble and Martyn Lewis

KEY LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Describe normal rabbit dentition, perform dental nerve blocks and carry out extraction of the incisor teeth of rabbits.
- Carry out and describe nasolacrimal duct cannulation.

Available in the BSAVA Library: DOI: 10.22233/20412495.1219.18

- Be confident with the normal thoracic and abdominal anatomy 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 lagomorph clinical anatomy and review relevant anatomical structures 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.

Practicals

Venue: The Lodges, Austin Court

Thursday 2 April 2020
09:30–12:30
Cost: £100

An introduction to root canal therapy

IN ASSOCIATION WITH BVDA
SPONSORED BY iM3

Tom Williams and Megan Clark

KEY LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Identify suitable cases for root canal treatment or when to refer.
- Understand the basic concepts of root canal treatment.
- Be aware of complications and follow-up recommendations.

Most vets know and accept that a tooth with a non-vital or exposed pulp requires treatment but all too often the only option considered is extraction. As well as offering an interactive practical session demonstrating the basic concepts of root canal treatments, the tutors will talk you through how to recognize a tooth with a non-vital pulp and how to recognize which teeth are suitable candidates, or just as importantly, which teeth aren't. We will go through the recommended materials and equipment required along with some golden rules to ensure that treatment failures are identified and kept to a minimum.

Thursday 2 April 2020
14:00–17:00
Cost: £100

An introduction to composites

IN ASSOCIATION WITH BVDA
SPONSORED BY iM3

Alix Freeman and Andrew Perry

KEY LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- To understand the different types of composites available and methods for their use.
- Understand the indications for, and be able to place, an intraoral wire and acrylic splint to stabilize a mandibular symphyseal separation.
- Be able to understand the indications for, and place, a composite maxillomandibular fixation in a cat.

Helping you get to grips with commonly used resin composites and their applications in non-invasive jaw fracture repair in cats and dogs. We will review methods for stabilization of jaw fractures using the concept of restoration of occlusion to enable bone apposition and secondary bony healing. This dry lab is aimed at general practitioners and we would expect participants to be able to apply these techniques in practice upon completion of the lab.

Friday 3 April 2020
11:00–12:30, 14:00–15:30 and 16:00–17:30
Cost: £75

Flexible endoscopy

SPONSORED BY STORZ

Alix McBrearty, David Walker and Paul Higgs

KEY LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Learn how to select the most appropriate endoscope for the proposed procedure and hold and manoeuvre a flexible endoscope correctly.
- Recognize the various anatomical regions of the stomach endoscopically.
- To be able to introduce instruments into the working channel of the endoscope and manipulate the endoscope to take biopsy samples and to remove gastric foreign objects with instruments.

This practical session aims to give the novice endoscopist a brief practical introduction to endoscopy. Three internal medicine specialists experienced in endoscopy will be on hand throughout the session to assist delegates with their endoscopic technique. Models will be provided to practice gastrointestinal endoscopy and bronchoscopy along with a foreign body removal station.

Saturday 4 April 2020
09:45–12:45 and 14:00–17:00
Cost: £75

Fractures: a practical introduction to internal fixation

SPONSORED BY SYNTHES

Kevin Parsons and John Ryan

KEY LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Understand the principles of locking compression plate application.
- Experience the use of an intramedullary pin in combination with a plate in fracture fixation.
- Understand the principles and techniques involved in placing a tension band wire.

This practical session will discuss the theory behind various plating techniques and will introduce the concept of locking plate technology. Delegates will apply a compression plate to stabilize a transverse fracture and learn how to use a pin in combination with a locking plate to stabilize a comminuted fracture. There will also be a session on how to apply an effective pin tension band wire. This practical would be ideal for beginners who wish to get to grips with power tools and basic techniques, as well as more experienced surgeons who wish to expand their knowledge of locking plates.

Small Group Sessions
Venue: As below

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

Advanced ECG interpretation – VET NURSES

Ed Durham

KEY LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Be able to calculate a heart rate from the printed electrocardiogram with one of two methods presented.
- Recognize the difference between cardiac depolarization originating in the supraventricular tissue *versus* the ventricular tissue.
- Learn to calculate the Mean Electrical Axis of patients receiving electrocardiograms.

The electrocardiography (ECG) interactive session will help participants work through basic interpretation of the ECG. The session will begin with an overview of ECG theory, calculating a heart rate, progress through the Mean Electrical Axis, then conclude with the participants working through presented ECG's as a group. This will give participants an opportunity to put into practice the principles presented. The participants will have a packet of printed ECGs to take notes as the leader guides them through a stepwise system of interpretation. ECG's will get progressively more difficult as the session proceeds culminating with some challenging rhythm diagnoses.

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

Diagnosis, management and treatment of portosystemic shunts: a team approach

Andrew Parry, Gerard McLauchlan 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 intra-operative 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 sub-classification 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 diplomates 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-periosteal 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.