Programme for the Conference

Friday 3rd May

0800 — Conference registration

Vet Lectures

0930 — Acute Kidney Injury (AKI) versus Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) - Diagnosis and Staging
AKI represents a wide spectrum of acute insults to the kidney that mandate prompt recognition, diagnosis and treatment. Unsuccessful management of acute renal failure can be the cause of CKD. In addition to the routine blood work & urinalysis commonly employed to diagnose renal disorders, Rory will discuss various biomarkers and function tests, including the International Renal Interest Society (IRIS) guidelines, to facilitate earlier recognition, accurate staging and evidence-based treatment strategies.
Rory Breathnach

1030 — Tea, Coffee and Danish Pastries
in the Trade Exhibition Hall

1115 — Urogenital imaging male & female cats & dogs
Urogenital problems form a very important part of small animal practice. Investigating these is a challenge because of the need to interpret investigation results and sometimes the lack of positive findings. Martin will focus on how to carry out simple imaging studies that can be applied in general practice and illustrate their value when compared to cross sectional imaging (CT)
Martin Sullivan

Vet Lectures / Discussion Forum

1215 — Surgical urogenital disorders
This session will be a refresher on some common abnormalities encountered in the urinary tract including blocked cats and urolith management.
Poppy Bristow

Student Selection
Are we recruiting the right students into the profession? Do farmers' sons and daughters make better farm vets? Come along and discuss these and more issues pertaining to student selection and preparedness for work. Discussion led by **Professor Ewan Cameron and a panel of prominent veterinary opinion leaders**

1315 — Lunch in the Trade Exhibition Hall

Vet Lectures / Discussion Forum

1415 — A letter of complaint has arrived . . . What next?
Taking a complaint from initial response through to a civil claim and beyond. How best to manage complaints, how to avoid them and provide the most robust defence against a claim. Illustrated with scenarios frequently encountered by the VDS.
Peter Attenburrow

1500 — Canine pododermatitis
The clinical features, aetiology and diagnosis of this common & frequently debilitating inflammatory disease of the pedal skin of dogs. Rory will pay particular regard to the appropriate use of Immuno-modulatory therapy to control clinical signs.
Rory Breathnach

Extra-mural studies
Does the current model for EMS still work for both practices and students? Can practices continue to afford to give EMS places to overseas students who may never work in the UK? Would improved communication between the vet school and the EMS supervisor help all parties get more from the experience?
Discussion led by **Professor Ewan Cameron and a panel of prominent veterinary opinion leaders**

1545 — Tea, Coffee and Mini Scones
in the Trade Exhibition Hall

1615 — Incontinence investigation
The presentation will focus on the interpretation of imaging studies towards supporting clinical findings, and hence management options.
Martin Sullivan

1700 — Urinary incontinence: A surgeon's approach
We will cover the investigative steps for urinary incontinence and current recommended techniques and management of these disorders.
Poppy Bristow

Nurse Lectures

0930 — Introduction
This introductory session will be interactive and case based to give you a flavour of what is to come; you will be able to vote on what actions you would take in particular case scenarios that will be re-visited throughout the conference lectures. To take part in this session you will need a smart phone or tablet, easy to follow instructions will be given at the start of the session.
Claire Defries

1015 — Tea, Coffee and Danish Pastries
in the Trade Exhibition Hall

Nurse Lectures / Advanced Nursing

1100 — Diagnostic techniques
An introduction to diagnostic techniques supported by vet nurses; how to obtain good quality radiographic and ultrasound images, stress free blood sampling & other techniques such as BAL. Claire will also look at diagnostic tests for the cardiac patient, e.g. obtaining good quality ECGs for interpretation by the vet.
Claire Defries

A dedicated programme for the experienced nurse, with themes developed over the course of nearly 3 hours

An introduction to change management
From something as simple as changing clinical diet supplier to major changes such as a new rota system, understanding the change management process helps Senior Nurses reduce the stress of implementing change and manage the process more effectively.

1200 — Scope care
A focus on nursing support for patients undergoing endoscopic procedures. How to reduce risk through effective planning and preparation. This session includes a practical element with endoscopes, as well as the theory of how to obtain the best images whilst maintaining patient safety.
Claire Defries

Managing yourself through change
Change can be stressful, however understanding the process and challenging your own thought process can help you manage yourself through change and help lead others
Fiona Andrews

1300 — Lunch in the Trade Exhibition Hall

1400 — Coughing dog
This lecture will look at the more common reasons why a dog will present to the practice with a cough, ranging from the chronic to the acute. It will discuss beneficial diagnostic tests and possible treatment options.
Charlotte Pace

Knowing yourself
Knowing your own communication style and working out the communication style of others can help you communicate effectively through change.
Fiona Andrews

1445 — Nursing of diaphragmatic hernia patients
This lecture will cover the diagnostic steps including stabilisation for patients that have sustained a diaphragmatic rupture. Poppy will discuss the treatment of these cases, covering important precautions to be taken during the peri-operative and post-operative management including with anaesthesia.
Poppy Bristow

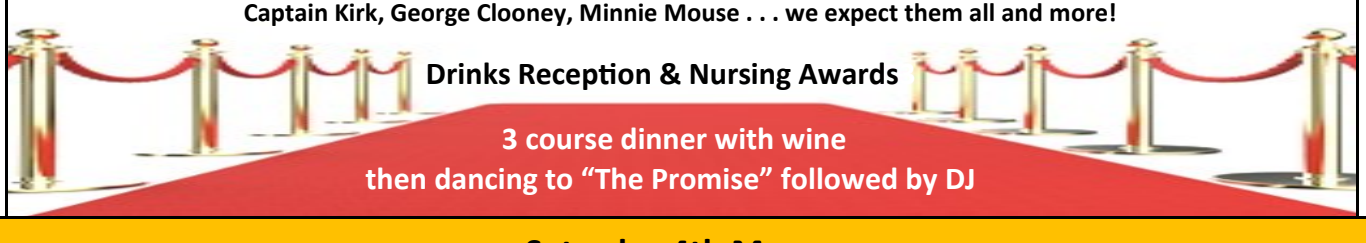
1530 — Tea, Coffee and Mini Scones
in the Trade Exhibition Hall

1600 — The developing role of the RVN
In this presentation Wendy will discuss how the role of the RVN has grown over the span of her own career so far and also how we are shaping the future of the profession, and how all nurses can be involved in those discussions.
Wendy Nevins

1700 — Feline heart disease
The types of heart disease diagnosed in cats. Cats often show no clinical signs of heart disease until they present in heart failure or with a painful blood clot at the distal aorta. Nursing care of these patients will be discussed.
Charlotte Pace

1800 — Free Time

1930 - late — FILM THEMED PARTY NIGHT!
Charlie Chaplin, Wonder Woman, Han Solo, Marilyn Monroe, James Bond, Brad +/- Angelina, ET, Anna from Frozen, Captain Kirk, George Clooney, Minnie Mouse . . . we expect them all and more!



Drinks Reception & Nursing Awards
3 course dinner with wine
then dancing to "The Promise" followed by DJ

Saturday 4th May

0830 — Conference registration

Vet Lectures / Advanced Vet Lectures / Vet Nurse Lectures

0915 — Chronic vomiting and diarrhoea
Common causes of chronic gastrointestinal (GI) disease include pancreatitis, inflammatory bowel disease and GI tract obstructions. Rory will cover the logical diagnostic approach and case work-up for dogs and cats with chronic v & d, the pros and cons of various therapeutic trials (e.g. diet) along with the sensitivity/specificity of diagnostic techniques including blood tests, imaging and endoscopy. He will also consider selection of pharmacological agents to control inflammation and motility in the GI tract.
Rory Breathnach

Surgical liver diseases
This session will focus on liver abnormalities seen in dogs and cats, such as liver masses and portosystemic shunts. Poppy will discuss recent updates in the shunt literature and how best to manage cases and complications that can be encountered.
Poppy Bristow

Canine heart disease
This lecture will cover acquired heart disease in dogs, from dogs at risk of heart disease to those with refractory heart failure. Nursing care and treatment will also be discussed.
Charlotte Pace

1015 — Imaging – Nasal
Nasal problems in the dog and cat can largely be split into those that generate a significant nasal discharge and those that lead to obstruction. Martin will mainly focus on the radiographic interpretation of skull radiographs, with contribution on where CT and MR do provide information.
Martin Sullivan

Advanced urogenital surgeries
This will be an interactive session on more advanced urogenital conditions such as urethral ruptures, prostatic disorders with reviewing of images and case discussion.
Poppy Bristow

CPR
Whether an emergency consult or a routine anaesthesia or hospitalised patient found non-responsive in a kennel, any resuscitation attempt needs a well-planned team approach to identifying precipitating events and the steps needed to resuscitate and stabilise the patient. Laura will cover the key role nurses have in such efforts
Laura Cole

1100 — Tea, Coffee and Danish Pastries
in the Trade Exhibition Hall

1115 — Tea, Coffee and Danish Pastries
in the Trade Exhibition Hall

1145 — Nursing the heart failure patient
Looking at the mechanisms involved with heart failure, the patient presenting with acute life-threatening heart failure and the patient with chronic heart failure. Charlotte will cover simple and practical nursing care.
Charlotte Pace

1200 — Approach to the emergency abdomen
This lecture will cover the acute abdominal emergency including diagnostics, stabilisation and surgical treatment tips and tricks.
Poppy Bristow

Getting started with endoscopy
Case-based presentations, interactive discussion on interpreting presented material (diagnostic/ treatment). Practical tips for using equipment will also be available throughout the weekend in the Trade Hall.
Rory Breathnach

1245 — Lunch in the Trade Exhibition Hall

1300 — Lunch in the Trade Exhibition Hall

1400 — CPR
Understanding why a patient may suddenly deteriorate or arrest is key to achieving a positive outcome in any resuscitation. We will review the approach to such a case, some potential causes and the steps needed to initiate resuscitation.
Laura Cole

Endoscopy - going further
Rory Breathnach

1345 — ECGs & more
Suitable for all, this interactive session will help improve confidence when approaching the ECG trace.
Charlotte Pace

1500 — Tea, Coffee and Tray Bakes in the Trade Exhibition Hall

1530 — Resuscitation practicals
See description in the corresponding panel in the right hand column.
Laura Cole, Paul Crawford, Claire Defries, Charlotte Pace

Film reading
In order to gain most from this session we recommend you bring your own laptop enabled with a DICOM viewer installed (Radiant for PC and Horos for Apple). The images will also be displayed via projector & screen.
Martin Sullivan

Resuscitation practicals
Working in mixed vet and nurse groups you will rotate through a series of scenarios aided by experienced facilitators to decide what you might do next with a range of emergency situations.
Laura Cole, Paul Crawford, Claire Defries, Charlotte Pace

1730 — Close of Conference

Please note: This programme may be subject to minor alteration

AVSPNI CONFERENCE

La Mon Hotel, County Down
3rd & 4th May 2019

Words of welcome from AVSPNI President Paul Crawford

I would like to invite you to attend our Spring (Small Animal) Conference. The Association of Veterinary Surgeons Practising in Northern Ireland (AVSPNI) is returning to the La Mon Hotel and Country Club on the 3rd and 4th May 2019. As with previous years we will have a full 2 day programme for both vets and nurses though this year the nurse programme is expanded to feature a second stream for experienced nurses focusing on professional development.

The programme of lectures for vets and nurses focuses on a range of aspects including urogenital imaging, advanced urogenital surgery, incontinence investigation, nasal problems, acute abdominal emergencies, canine & feline heart disease, laparoscopy and more… with high calibre speakers such as Rory Breathnach, Martin Sullivan, Poppy Bristow and Charlotte Pace to name a few.

We will have some practical elements in the programme this year - Endoscopy and CPR as well as Film reading sessions will allow a much greater interaction and hands on learning experience.

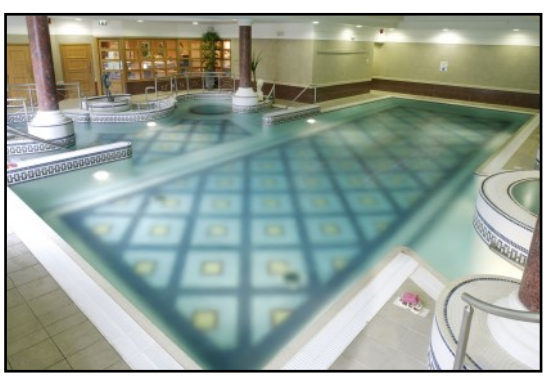
The Trade Hall is already filling up with a wide range of exhibitors.

Tying in with the CPR and thanks to the generosity of HeartSine/Stryker we are have a HeartSine Connected SAM 500P automated defibrillator (AED) as the prize in our special charity raffle which will be launched at Conference and drawn at our Autumn Cardiology Meeting held in partnership with NIVA.

Paul Crawford
AVSPNI President

Our Conference Venue

La Mon Hotel & Country Club is an outstanding family owned 4 Star Hotel. It is conveniently located 15 minutes from Belfast city centre, yet nestled away in the beautiful countryside and has undergone an extensive (and expensive!) refit recently! It is the perfect venue for the AVSPNI Spring Conference as it offers one of the largest state of the art conferencing & events suites amongst hotels in Northern Ireland. AVSPNI Spring conference 2018 was held at La Mon and with its manicured gardens, spacious and comfortable rooms and a fantastic Country Club, we are looking forward to returning! Come along and see for yourself!



Booking Accommodation

Book rooms at the La Mon Hotel & Country Club by calling their reservation team Tel: +44 (0) 2890 448631
or email: reservations@lamon.co.uk

All rooms are held at a specially negotiated rate on the Friday night so you MUST tell the hotel you are attending the "Vet Conference" to secure a room. We expect all rooms to be filled quickly, particularly on Party Night (Friday) so book early to avoid disappointment. Rates are:

£92 Single **£112 Double/twin**

Rooms must be booked directly with the hotel before 5th April to receive the special conference rate.

Our conference speakers

Fiona Andrew

Fiona is an RVN with over 15 years clinical experience in roles from clinical nursing, Head Nurse, through to a training & development manager for a national charity and a major pet food manufacturer. Fiona currently works as a Business Support Manager for a large corporate. She spent 8 years on The BVNA Council and was President in 2015. Fiona was responsible for instigating and managing a complete governance review of BVNA over 2 years as Senior Vice President. On completion and implementation of the recommendations of the governance review Fiona was appointed Chair of the BVNA Advisory Board. Fiona's interests now lie in developing the role of the RVN through personal development skills such as change management and developing senior roles in nursing other than the traditional head nurse.

Peter Attenburrow

Having started his practicing career as an equine and small animal vet, Peter drifted over to small animal practice and then orthopaedics. For over ten years he provided a referral service in the South West of England in Small Animal Orthopaedics and joined the VDS in 2017. He is now a full time Claims Consultant for the Veterinary Defence Society.

Rory Breathnach

Rory qualified from the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine (UCD) in 1986. Following an internship in small animal clinical studies in Dublin, he obtained an MSc in drug toxicology from the University of London. After 4 years in small animal practice, he returned to the Dublin Vet School in 1991 as a lecturer. His PhD was obtained in UCD and involved a study of the immunopathogenesis of idiopathic pododermatitis in the dog. Rory currently teaches various aspects of small animal internal medicine, toxicology and dermatology. In addition, Rory is a member of the Advisory Committee on Veterinary Medicines (Health Products Regulatory Authority) and the Committee for Veterinary Medicinal Products (CVMP, European Medicines Agency). Rory is the Chair of the Scientific Advice Working Party

Poppy Bristow

Poppy is lecturer in Small Animal Surgery and Fellow in Cardiothoracic Surgery at the Royal Veterianry College. She is part of the Soft Tissue Surgery Service and is particularly interested in cardiothoracic surgery and portosystemic shunts. She has a particular interest in progressing our understanding of mitral valve disease in dogs. Poppy is also interested in the therapeutic options and management of congenital heart diseases.

Laura Cole

Laura graduated from Cambridge University on 2011 and after working in a small animal hospital and completing a rotating internship at the Royal Veterinary College, she is now in her final year of training to be a specialist in Emergency Medicine and Critical Care. She is interested in all aspects of Emergency Medicine and Critical Care, although she is particularly interested in the management of acute kidney injury and the use of renal biomarkers.

Claire Defries

Claire qualified as a veterinary nurse in small animal practice in North London in 2001 and went on to work as a senior nurse at The Queen Mother Hospital for Animals. Whilst in this role she gained the Diploma in Advanced Veterinary Nursing (Medical), and worked mainly in anaesthesia and diagnostic imaging. During this time she was responsible for the endoscopy unit in the hospital and attended a human endoscopy technician's course to broaden her knowledge in this area. Later Claire was a head nurse at Wood Street Veterinary Hospital in North London and developed an interest in laparoscopic surgery as well as flexible endoscopy. She still works for the practice in a part time capacity as a locum RVN.
Claire always had an interest in VN training and education and having been a head nurse for a number of years moved into full time lecturing at a college in Staffordshire before joining The College of Animal Welfare in 2013 where she is now Programme Leader for the BSc (Hons) in Veterinary Nursing. Claire has achieved a Post Graduate Diploma in Veterinary Education at the Royal Veterinary College and is currently working towards an MSc in Veterinary Education.

Wendy Nevins

Wendy qualified as a veterinary nurse and worked in a large mixed practice in Yorkshire, progressing to head nurse. Following a move to Devon she started work at a two branch, small animal practice as a veterinary nurse, VN assessor and then practice manager. Moving to the North West in 2002, Wendy worked as a nurse in a s/a practice, before becoming the VNAC Co-ordinator at Myerscough College. Wendy started working in practice for the founder of The Webinar Vet in 2007, initially as nurse manager, then as practice manager before moving to The Webinar Vet as Operations Manager once it became well established. In this role, Wendy organised CPD for vets, nurses and SQPs. She also dealt with dermatology referral clients and spent at least one day a month working in practice. Wendy set up Malex Consulting Ltd in November of 2016 to help small business with their online presence. She locums as a Veterinary Nurse and is also President of the British Veterinary Nursing Association.

Charlotte Pace

Charlotte qualified as a veterinary nurse in 2003, whilst working in practice in London. In the same year she moved to the Royal Veterinary College to work as a medicine nurse. In 2006 she became the dedicated cardiology nurse for the Queen Mother Hospital for Animals. In 2010 she passed American veterinary technician exams and became the first nurse to hold the Cardiology qualification outside the US.

Martin Sullivan

Martin Sullivan graduated from Glasgow University Veterinary School in 1978, and is currently Professor of Soft Tissue Surgery and Diagnostic Imaging at Glasgow. He is both RCVS & ECVDI Diplomate in Diagnostic Imaging. He completed his PhD in 1993 for studies on gastric disease in the dog and has a particular interest in the use of diagnostic imaging tools to map disease in animals. His clinical interests also include nasal disease in the dog and cat.

Superb Charity Raffle!

Chest Heart & Stroke

FREEMAN HEART & LUNG TRANSPLANT ASSOCIATION FHLTA

Did you know …?
Portable defibrillators were invented in Belfast and continue to be developed and built here in Northern Ireland

Courtesy of HeartSine/ Stryker over the course of 2019 we are raffling a

HeartSine Connected SAM 500P automated defibrillator (AED)

The raffle is in aid of NICHS and the Freeman Heart & Lung Transplant Association and will be drawn on the 22nd October at the Joint Autumn Meeting

For additional information about this event and other CPD in Northern Ireland, please see www.vetni.co.uk
N.I. veterinary job vacancies and information about local veterinary associations are also listed on this website