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Our Guest Speakers



Jon Hall



Joe Higgins



Ian Self



Corinne Flynn



Thomas Mignan



Greg Dunlop



Lauren Hargrave



Carly Blann



Jill Macdonald
& Julie Dugmore

Speakers' Biographies



[For Vets](#)

Common Surgeries

[For Vet Nurses](#)


Neurology Nursing
Neuro-surgery

[For both Vets & VNs](#)

Team-based veterinary care
Implementing Schedule 3 in a busy practice

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AVSPNI

SPRING
CONFERENCE

Europa Hotel, Belfast

17th & 18th April 2026

FRIDAY 17th April				
Time	VETS 1	VETS 2	VET NURSES	Time
08.45 - 9.30	Arrival and vet & nurse registration			08.45 - 9.30
09.30 - 10.15	Pre-anaesthetic assessment & pre-meds		<i>Ian Self</i> Neurosurgical instrumentation	<i>Thomas Mignan</i> 09.30 - 10.15
10.15 - 11.15	Monitoring & fluid therapy <i>Ian Self</i>	Lump removals Margins, mapping & restraint <i>Jon Hall</i>	A nurses' guide to seizure management <i>Corinne Flynn</i>	10.15 - 11.15
11.15 - 11.45	BREAK			11.15 - 11.45
11.45 - 12.45	A vision or a necessity? Strengthening the role of veterinary nurses in team-based veterinary healthcare An RCVS-led session for both vets and vet nurses <i>Jill MacDonald & Julie Dugdale</i>			11.45 - 12.45
12.45 - 13.30	Pain - Part 1 Acute surgical/trauma pain assessment and treatment <i>Ian Self</i>	Canine ovariohysterectomy - common mistakes and alternative approaches <i>Jon Hall</i>	Head trauma nursing <i>Corinne Flynn</i>	12.45 - 13.45
13.30 - 14.30	LUNCH			13.45 - 14.45
14.30 - 15.15	Pain - Part 2 Chronic pain treatments for long term management <i>Ian Self</i>	Enterectomy and GDV - decision-making before, during and after surgery <i>Jon Hall</i>	Teamwork makes the dream work A team-based approach to consultations <i>Carly Blann & Lauren Hargrave</i>	14.45 - 15.45
15.15 - 16.00	Critical care techniques Advanced surgical management including arterial lines, central venous lines, neuromuscular blockade etc. <i>Ian Self</i>	Cruciates - The basics The basics - presentation and diagnosis <i>Joe Higgins</i>	BREAK	15.45 - 16.15
16.00 - 16.30	BREAK			16.15 - 17.15
16.30 - 17.15	Surgical complications <i>Jon Hall</i>	Cruciates - Differential Surgical Techniques <i>Joe Higgins</i>	Neurological toxicities and how to deal with them <i>Thomas Mignan</i>	16.15 - 17.15
19.00 - late	PARTY NIGHT! Drinks Reception with NI Vet Community Awards Ceremony followed by Dinner & Dancing to The Merchants Dress code—Black Tie with a touch of glitz. Spot prizes will be awarded for glitter, glimmer, shimmer, sequins and sparkle			19.00 - late
SATURDAY 18th April				
09.45 - 10.45	Femoral head and neck plus limb amputations <i>Joe Higgins</i>		Nursing the non-ambulatory patient <i>Corinne Flynn</i>	09.45 - 10.45
10.45 - 11.15	BREAK			10.45 - 11.15
11.15 - 12.00	TECA-BO and VBO <i>Jon Hall</i>	Teamwork makes the dream work A team-based approach to surgery and procedures <i>Carly Blann & Lauren Hargrave</i>		11.15 - 12.15
12.00 - 13.00	Digit amputations, tail amputations & eye enucleations <i>Joe Higgins</i>	Anal saccullectomy - from inflamed to invasive mass <i>Jon Hall</i>	Bladder management of the neurological patient <i>Corinne Flynn</i>	12.15 - 13.15
13.15 - 14.15	LUNCH			13.15 - 14.15
14.15 - 15.00	Perineal hernia <i>Jon Hall</i>	Electrosurgery From simple monopolar & bipolar cutting and coagulation to vessel sealing energy devices and harmonics - safe and cost effective use in everyday practice. <i>Greg Dunlop</i>	Anaesthesia for neurosurgery <i>Thomas Mignan</i>	14.15 - 15.00
15.00 - 15.45	Patellar luxation <i>Joe Higgins</i>	Common neurosurgeries an overview, including complications and how the surgeon and nurse can work together <i>Thomas Mignan</i>		15.00 - 15.45
15.45 - 16.00	BREAK			15.45 - 16.00
16.00 - 16.45	Discharge without the discharge—the simplest, high impact interventions to reduce SSI ‘Care packages’ or SOPs for theatre and surgery greatly improve outcomes in the NHS. They are eminently suitable for team-based veterinary care too, for all surgery types. <i>Jon Hall</i>			16.00 - 16.45

Our programme may be subject to minor change