

**11th INTERNATIONAL  
VETERINARY EMERGENCY & CRITICAL CARE SYMPOSIUM  
DRAWS 2700!**

The 11th International Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care Symposium (IVECCS 2005) was held September 7 – 11 at the Hyatt Regency Atlanta and drew 2700 attendees. The symposium was conducted by the *Veterinary Emergency & Critical Care Society* (VECCS) in alliance with the *American College of Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care* (ACVECC) and the *Academy of Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care Technicians* (AVECCT). Even though this was the week that Hurricane Katrina ravaged the Gulf Coast, nearly 2000 veterinarians and technicians participated in the four and one-half day progressive CE program. (See attendance figures below). This year’s international symposium focused on “Sepsis and Septic Shock” and combined over 450 hours of lectures with 45 wet labs, dry labs, workshops and small group seminars. IVECCS 2005 served as the Annual Meeting for VECCS and also hosted the annual meetings of the ACVECC, AVECCT and the Academy of Veterinary Technician Anesthetists (AVTA). A highlight of the meeting was the keynote lecture on “Canine Sepsis: The Past 25 Years” by Dr Charles Natanson, National Institutes of Health (NIH).

**Registration Summary:**

Veterinarians	1,240
Technicians	656
Students	90
Guests	297
Exhibitors	420
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,703</b>

**Knowles Memorial Keynote Lecture – General Session**

The 2005 Knowles lecture was presented by Charles Natanson, MD, Professor of Medicine at George Washington University and Professor of Anesthesia at University of Maryland. He has been an active researcher at NIH for 25 years investigating the pathogenesis of and new therapeutic regimens for sepsis. He presented a thought provoking and state-of-the-art paper on evaluating the current research and treatment approaches to sepsis. He discussed the appropriate use of animal models and the common errors in interpreting research data from clinical trials.

**Scientific Program Highlights**

- **126 speakers presented over 450 hours of cutting-edge CE**
  - 35 hours of CE credit was available
  - CPR Training course for veterinarian-technician teams and technician teams alone.
  - Invited lectures by Drs Natanson and Mitchell Fink, internationally acclaimed experts in sepsis and human critical care, reviewed current protocols and recent advances in septic shock management.
  - One full day of State-of-the-art presentations featured discussions on molecular approach to treatment of sepsis
  - 1 ½ days devoted to exotic animal EM/CC with an additional two ½ day wet-labs
  - Conducted over 40 labs and Small Group Discussion sessions; 80% were sold out.
  - Audience Response (keypad interactive) system was utilized in three days of the program.
  - Abstracts program included over 20 papers with Resident and General Small Animal Sessions.
- **Technician program with 4 ½ days of lectures and labs**
  - Over 650 techs attended, making it one of the largest tech meetings in North America.
  - One-half day devoted to a Nurse Managers Workshop
  - A Rehabilitation Therapy Workshop was conducted
  - The AVTA conducted a special one-half day program
  - Several hands-on labs focusing on monitoring, vascular access, nursing care, catheter management and CPR.
- **Equine Medicine program – Over 50 equine oriented veterinarians attended**
  - Equine Abstracts featured 19 papers
  - Three days devoted to equine critical care with focus on equine sepsis, multiple organ dysfunction and toxicology.
- **Management program - Two and one-half days**
  - Included panel discussions on facility design, computer software in emergency and referral practices.
  - Commonly encountered management issues addressed by working practice managers.

## IVECCS AWARDS

**Ira M Zaslow Distinguished Service Award:** VECCS highest award was presented to Dr Marc Raffe, one of the



*Ira M Zaslow  
Distinguished Service  
(L-R) Dr Dennis Burkett, Dr Ira  
Zaslow and Dr Marc Raffe*

leaders in the development of the VECCS and ACVECC. Dr. Raffe is a Charter Diplomate and Past-President of ACVECC, has been lab coordinator for IVECCS for over 10 years, was a member of the ACVECC Exam Committee for 6 years and has served as professor on the faculty at both the University of Minnesota and Illinois. He has lectured and written extensively on emergency and critical care medicine, particularly on the subjects of analgesia and anesthesia for the critically ill. He currently is a Senior Veterinary Specialist for Pfizer Animal Health. He was cited for his exceptional commitment and dedicated service to the specialty spanning over 20 years.



*Hill's Dr Jack  
Mara ACVECC  
Achievement  
Dr Cindy Otto*

Research and Management of Sepsis. Dr Cindy Otto (University of Pennsylvania) was selected. For her many outstanding accomplishments and contributions through research, teaching and publishing in the area of sepsis, septic shock and Systemic Inflammatory Response Syndrome (SIRS). (Award sponsored by Hill's)

**Hill's Dr Jack Mara ACVECC Achievement Award:** This award is given annually by ACVECC to a veterinarian(s) in recognition of his/her exceptional contribution in a particular specialty area. The 2005 award was for outstanding achievement in the area of



*Award sponsored by Hill's  
(L-R) Dr Ken Drobotz  
accepting award for  
Dr Cindy Otto from  
Dr MaryBeth Leininger*

**Resident's Abstract Award:** sponsored jointly by VECCS/ACVECC and Novartis, was presented to Dr Amanda



*Resident Abstract Award  
(L-R) Dr Amanda Boag  
and Dr Tony Mann*

Boag from the Royal Veterinary College, London, England. (See Photo) Her paper was "Methicillin Resistant *Staphylococcus Aureus* in a Small Animal Intensive Care Unit." Her abstract was part of the ACVECC Residents Forum on September 8<sup>th</sup> and a \$500 stipend from Novartis accompanied the award.

**Equine Resident Award,** was awarded to Dr. Amy Bentz (see photo) of the University of Pennsylvania New Bolton Center and Dr Ben Buchanan, of Knoxville, Tennessee, who shared the award. Dr Bentz' abstract was entitled "Prospective Evaluation of Coagulation in Critically Ill Foals." The topic of Dr Buchanan's paper was "Comparison of the Clinician with a Mathematical Model to predict Survival in Hospitalized Neonatal Foals." Mila International provided a \$500 cash stipend as part of the award.



*Equine Resident Award  
(L-R) Dr Ben Buchanan, Dr Pam  
Wilkins and Dr Amy Bentz*



*Best Case Report  
(L-R) Dr Jonathan Bach  
and Dr Liz Rozanski*

**Best Case Report Award:** Dr Jonathan Bach, ACVECC Resident at Tufts University, was selected as the winner of the case report presentation. Title of his case report was "Brain Abscess and Endocarditis in a Kerry Blue Terrier." Dr Bach received a stipend of \$300 from Veterinary Practice Insurance for the winning case report.

**Best Technician Case Report Award:** Ms Megan Brashear, Portland, Oregon, was recognized by an AVECCT Panel for presenting the Most Outstanding Technician Case Report. Her case was entitled "The Saga of Woody's Sock"



*Technician Case Report  
(L-R) Megan Brashear  
and Nancy Shaffran*

**ACVECC Research Grant Award:** The College (ACVECC) awarded grants to:

1. Michael Karagiannis, DVM at the Univ. of Missouri Project: *Comparison of a Dry Chemistry Portable Lactate Meter (Accutrend) and a Wet Chemistry Lactate Analyzer (i-STAT) for the Determination of Blood Lactate in Dogs*
2. Karl Jandrey, DVM, DACVECC at U.C. Davis Project: *Alterations of Platelet Function in Cats with Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy*
3. Bryan Jordan, MS, RN at Ft. Sam Houston, Texas U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research. Project: *A Comparison Between VO<sub>2</sub> by Indirect Calorimetry and Calculated Indices from the Reverse-Fick Equation and ScvO<sub>2</sub> in the Ovine Model: Can Central Venous Blood Serve as a Surrogate for a Pulmonary Artery Catheter in Emergency and Critical Care*

## VECCS Business

The VECCS General membership meeting was held Saturday, Sept 10. This being a non-election year the major agenda items were reports from the various committees and functional areas. The following reports were given (see VECCS homepage: [www.veccs.org](http://www.veccs.org) for more details):

- Executive Directors: Membership has grown to nearly 3350, which is 200 more than the same time in 2004.
- IVECCS 2005: Very successful Symposium with approximately 2000 attending. Hurricane Katrina had an impact on final registration numbers which were slightly less than for IVECCS 2004.
- Non-IVECCS programs: VECCS continues to coordinate programs at TNAVC, WVC, AAHA, ACVIM, AVMA, ACVS and WSAVA. This year two Spring Break meetings, Snowmass Ski meeting in February and Caribbean Cruise meeting in early April.
- Finance: IVECCS is 1.2 million dollar project. Fund balance as of Dec 31, 2004 was \$596,441 which reflected a net income of \$138,000 for 2004.
- New Business:
  - a) Established a Gulf Coast Disaster Relief fund through the Veterinary Emergency Critical Care Foundation;
  - b) Board will recommend a membership Dues increase effective for 2006. The last dues increase was 2002.

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## ACVECC Business

Board of Regents and the Diplomate Business Meetings were conducted at IVECCS. The complete Presidents Report will be posted on the ACVECC web page. A summary of significant actions/issues:

- Training Programs: In 2005 there were 6 Standard track programs, 12 alternate track, and 5 fellowship programs approved by RTC. There are 6 new residency training centers to add to our previous 38.
- The 2005 Exam included 43 SA candidates and 6 LA candidates
- New Officers and Regents: President – Tony Mann; President-elect - Jan Kovacic; Vice President – Marie Kerl; New Regent – Marc Raffé
- Dues Increase: The Regents approved a dues increase from \$275 to \$350/ year.

## AVECCT Business

The Academy of Emergency and Critical Care Technicians (AVECCT) met at IVECCS 2005 to administer their certifying exam and conduct business of the Academy.

- Approximately 35 candidates sat for the AVECCT certifying exam. A Pinning ceremony and reception were held for successful 2004 candidates.
- For information regarding AVECCT, the credentialing application, or the examination process:

The AVECCT Liaison  
Harold Davis, RVT, VTS (ECC, Anesthesia)  
email: [info@veccs.org](mailto:info@veccs.org)  
530-754-9109 (Work)  
[hhdavis@ucdavis.edu](mailto:hhdavis@ucdavis.edu)  
VECCS office by ph: 210-698-5575

## IVECCS FUTURE MEETING DATES

September 17–21, 2006: Marriott Rivercenter • San Antonio, Texas

September 26–30, 2007: Marriott • New Orleans, Louisiana

September 17–21, 2008: JW Marriott • Desert Ridge, Arizona

September 9–13, 2009: Hyatt Regency • Chicago, Illinois