



Vol. 27, No. 3

SUMMER 2004

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DR. DWIGHT WOLFE

# ...from the president

## 2004 – The Silver Anniversary of the Society for Theriogenology!

This year marks the 50th Anniversary of the formation of the Rocky Mountain Society for the Study of Breeding Soundness in Bulls. Much has changed since that time both in our society and in our knowledge of animal reproduction. The organization was born of necessity to address future fertility in bulls suffering severe scrotal frost-bite following a severe blizzard in the west. That organization is now the Society for Theriogenology and has grown to a membership of over 2500 and today addresses reproduction in many animal species. We owe our founding members a huge thanks for forming this wonderful organization. Each of us benefits many ways from what The Society for Theriogenology stand for and its mission to advance the science and practice of animal reproduction. Reproduction is often the first reason a client seeks veterinary care whether to assist with reproduction in the farm animal and purebred companion animals or to limit reproduction in pets.

### Ever Growing!!

The Society for Theriogenology is alive and well. The Annual Conference in Lexington was a huge success and very well attended. Dr. Charles Franz and staff did an excellent job of planning for the conference and attracting a large number of exhibitors. The scientific program was outstanding. Small animal sessions had the greatest attendance ever. Hats off to Drs. Ana Adams and Jane Barber, Small Animal Session Chairs, for arranging a program that was very informative and profitable for attendees. Thanks also to Dr. Jim Brendemuehl, Equine Session Chair, for an outstanding program on equine reproduction. Dr. Gary Warner organized a program on the economics of bovine reproduction. These sessions provided economic data that food animal veterinarians will find very helpful in addressing cattle reproduction decisions. Dr. Jon Todd, Small Ruminant Session Chair arranged a very informative program on small ruminant reproduction techniques that attendees will readily implement in their practices. All programs were designed to address clinical needs and add value to veterinary practice. Symposia on small animal and equine neonatology were an overwhelming success. The first ever Student Case Competition chaired by Dr. Jimmy Alexander was extremely popular. The room was packed as veterinary students made their case presentations. Pictures of the student winners are on the SFT web site. Including students in this year's program is an appropriate addition to continue another 50 years of SFT.

The Theriogenology Educator's meeting was renewed at the conference this year and there is now an email listserv established for interested members to discuss Theriogenology education. Additionally, there are discussions for Dr. Doug Freeman and others to present a white paper on Theriogenology needs and education to the Deans at the AAVMC meeting this fall. The Society for Theriogenology and the American College of Theriogenologists remain committed to furthering advances in the science and practice of animal reproduction.

This year's conference was very family oriented and Lexington, KY, was a great location to celebrate SFT and spend time with family and renewing friendships. Many participants, spouses and family took advantage of historic horse country tours. The Friday night dinner at the Red Mile Track had a large attendance and everyone enjoyed excellent Kentucky barbecue in a historic carriage house and an opportunity to try their luck at the track or visit with friends in a very relaxed environment. Thanks to Dr. Walter Zent for arranging an evening of fun and fellowship.

Following the gains made under the leadership of Dr. Fred Lehman last year The Society for Theriogenology continues to grow stronger each year. The past 3 years annual conferences have been well attended and we are beginning to regain sound financial footing. With the excellent leadership of your officers, Board of Directors, committee chairs and the outstanding guidance of Franz Management, the future of SFT has never been brighter. Our focus remains on adding value to your practice and our education so that we may better serve our clients. We will soon have informative client education brochures available cour-



**2004 SFT/ACT CONFERENCE and SYMPOSIA RAN ITS OWN DERBY**

# In Beautiful Lexington, Kentucky

## Dr. Jerry Rains Memorial Abstract Competition

The scientific abstract competition provided a glimpse into the high caliber of research being conducted in the discipline of theriogenology. In response to a call for abstracts, 13 graduate students or people in a clinical residency program submitted abstracts in the competitive category before the March 15 deadline.

The abstracts were scored for scientific content by a 4-member committee chaired by Dr. Stuart Meyers, and the competitors with the top 8 scores were invited to present their abstracts at the SFT meeting in Lexington. The oral presentations were also scored, and the aggregate score for the written abstract and oral presentation was used to determine the top 4 finishers.

Winners of the Dr. Jerry Rains

Memorial Abstract Competition sponsored by Intervet were Dr. Bruce W. Christensen, Gainesville, Fla., "Influence of age, time of year, and sociosexual status on serum testosterone concentration in captive black rhinoceros (*Diceros bicornis*)," first place (\$1,000); Dr. Kevin McSweeney, Fort Collins, Colo., "Effects of human chorionic gonadotropin on conception rates of synchronized first-service lactation Holstein and Jersey cows," second place (\$750); Dr. David Christiansen, Mississippi State, Miss., "A novel approach to alleviate ergot alkaloid toxicosis of mares in early gestation," third place (\$500); and Dr. Leonardo F. C. Brito, Saskatoon, SK, Canada, "Effects of restricted nutrition during calthood on sexual development in beef bulls," fourth place (\$250).



Dr. Craig Smith, ACT Diplomate with Competitive Abstract Winners (left to right) Dr. Bruce W. Christensen, Dr. Kevin McSweeney, Dr. David Christiansen and Dr. Leonardo F.C. Brito

Check out the SFT Web site ([www.the-rorio.org](http://www.the-rorio.org)) for information on next year's competition, or contact the SFT Association Office, PO Box 3007, Montgomery, AL 36109; phone (334) 395-4666; fax, (334) 270-3399; e-mail, [charles@franzmgt.com](mailto:charles@franzmgt.com).

## 2004 Student Case Presentation Session

At the 2004 SFT annual conference five students were selected to compete in the student case presentation session. These students showed the membership what we have to look forward to in the future. They presented their cases like veterans both with case abstracts and the presentations. This session alone was worth my trip to



Congratulations to the Veterinary Student Case Presentations (left to right) Ms. Anna White (4th), Ms. Kellie Smith (5th), Ms. Niki Parrott (1st), Mr. Patrick Ford (2nd) and Ms. Jennifer Feiner (3rd).

Lexington, Kentucky. It proved to be a great addition to an already outstanding conference.

Nikki Parrot from Auburn was awarded first place and \$450.00 for her case abstract and presentation on Dorsal Nerve Paralysis in a Bull.

Patrick Ford from Pennsylvania was awarded second place and \$375.00 for his case abstract and presentation on Aortic-Iliac Thrombosis Resulting in Ejaculatory Dysfunction in a Stallion.

Jennifer Feiner from Pennsylvania was awarded third place and \$300.00 for her case abstract and presentation on Hydrops Allantois in a Mare.

Anna White from Mississippi State was awarded fourth place and \$225.00 for her case abstract and presentation on Neonatal Isoerythrolysis.

Kellie Smith from Mississippi State was awarded fifth place and \$150.00 for

her case abstract and presentation on Macerated Fetus in a Texas Longhorn Female.

I would personally like to thank Jim Brendemuehl, Milan Hess and Craig Smith for serving as our judges for this session. Their help was greatly appreciated. I would like to give a special thank you to the faculty advisers that helped these students put the cases together and prepare for competition. I think this session was enjoyed by all that participated.

The stars of this session were the students. They should all be proud of a job well done. The future of the SFT and the veterinary profession is brighter than ever because of these outstanding young professionals. I hope to see these super students and others at the Student Case Presentation session next year in Charleston.

Jimmy Alexander

**2004 CONFERENCE COMMITTEE**

Dr. Jane Barber, Dr. Jim Brendemuehl,  
 Dr. Ana Adams, Dr. Jon Todd,  
 Dr. Karen Wolfsdorf, Dr. Gary Warner,  
 Dr. Peggy Root Kustritz,  
 Dr. Dwight Wolfe (Chair)



Incoming ACT President Dr. Margo Macpherson (left) presents Outgoing ACT President, Dr. Doug Freeman with Presidents Plaque.

StringTown  
**ENTERTAINMENT** at Family Night



# 2004 CONFERENCE MEMORIES



Outgoing SFT President Dr. Fred Lehman (left) presents *NANDI* to incoming President Dr. Dwight Wolfe.

**EXHIBITS**



Dr. Donald Schlafer



Equine Wet Lab



**SPEAKERS**



Dr. Bonnie Beaver, President of AVMA



Congratulations to Dr. Sue McDonnell—  
 2004 ACT Honorary Member

## Attention to all SFT student members!

### SFT/ACT



### CONFERENCE & SYMPOSIA *Charleston*

**AUGUST 9-13, 2005**

Francis Marion Hotel  
Charleston, South Carolina

The SFT Program Committee is pleased to announce the call for submission of student theriogenology case presentation at the annual conference in Charleston, South Carolina. The competition will be held on Thursday, August 11, 2005.

The purpose of this competition is to promote student interest in SFT, to encourage your investigative and communication skills and allow students greater participation in our annual meeting. All SFT

student members are qualified to enter the competition.

This competition will give the SFT membership a look at future leaders and participants of the SFT. Five presentations will be selected for presentation at the annual conference competition. Do you have a CPC presentation you have given or that you are preparing? You can submit it, as long as it is on theriogenology.

A copy of the guidelines and submission instructions can be obtained from the SFT office, your SFT faculty Liaison, or Dr. Alexander. We will require manuscripts to be submitted by February 15, 2005. A panel of practitioners and academicians will select five manuscripts for presentation in Charleston and

notify the students by March 30, 2005. The students will be responsible for making their own travel arrangements and accommodations.

Please be aware that this is a competition. The contestants will be judged on both the quality of their investigation and the quality of the presentation. Therefore you must attend the meeting in Charleston to be eligible for the awards. The SFT will award five cash prizes:

First place	\$ 450
Second place	\$ 375
Third place	\$ 300
Fourth place	\$ 225
Fifth place	\$ 150

More than one student may be involved with the presentation of a case or research project, however only one prize will be awarded per presentation.

Please refer to the "Guidelines for Application Submission" for preparation of your manuscript. Each presentation will be 15 minutes in length. Time has been allotted for questions after each presentation.

Please contact your SFT faculty Liaison for more information and for assistance in preparing your manuscript. You may also contact Dr. James H. Alexander at the address below. We hope you will participate in this event. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,  
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### CALL FOR ARTICLES/STORIES FROM STUDENTS

#### LET US HEAR FROM YOU!

If you have news from your SFT Student Chapter, or College of Veterinary Medicine, that you would like to share with SFT members, please send it to [charles@franzmgt.com](mailto:charles@franzmgt.com). Please make sure to put "SFT Newsletter Article" in the subject line of your message.

The SFT Office has copies of the 2002 & 2003 proceedings for sale for \$25.00 each. If you would like to purchase a copy of either the 2002 or 2003 proceedings you may either call the SFT office at (334) 395-4666 or you may go to [www.therio.org](http://www.therio.org) and place your order.

*Make sure to  
mark your calendar,  
for SFT's Future Meetings*

**CHARLESTON, SC  
AUGUST 9-13, 2005**

**ST. PAUL, MN  
AUGUST 16-19, 2006**

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## SFT-Elsevier Theriogenology Journal Proposal

An exciting opportunity has developed. Elsevier is willing to provide a special "online" subscription for the Theriogenology Journal for \$25 per member, if the SFT signs up all of its members. The current printed journal reduced rate for SFT members is \$150 (which is more than 50% off the current individual subscriber rate for non-members), and Elsevier is willing to reduce the printed rate for SFT members to \$80. Elsevier would promote the Theriogenology journal as the "Official journal of the Society for Theriogenology" and print this designation on the cover, website, etc., and would also be willing to print the annual proceedings at a reduced cost compared to our current supplier. The SFT would be allowed to use up to 5 pages in each issue of the Theriogenology journal to promote its activities.

At the SFT annual meeting, the proposal was discussed by the board of directors: It was felt that the journal had an excellent reputation, the website was superb, and the Theriogenology journal merged very well with goals of the SFT (to promote education and provide the leading clinical "Therio" resource and information as we go forward into the 21<sup>st</sup> century).

In reviewing the proposal, I visited the

website and found it was very professional and beautifully laid out. Obviously, Elsevier has spared no expense in making the website a showcase for medical information and education. The high-resolution graphics are first rate and the search capabilities are excellent: there is every conceivable way to search, and options to search just Therio or other Elsevier journals, or Pubmed and Medline as well at the same time. The entire text is searched, not just the titles and keywords, and the results are highlighted in yellow. There are multiple options on how the articles can be displayed on the screen, depending on your personal preference and the resolution of your monitor. All papers are available in either HTML or PDF files. The HTML files are small and download fine on my slow dialup (28k), and the PDF files are excellent and ready to print. I would strongly advise SFT members to visit the Elsevier site and explore it for themselves at: <http://www.journals.elsevierhealth.com/periodicals/the>

One of my early concerns was that, as an equine practitioner in the field, there might not be very many articles in Theriogenology that would interest me. However a quick search of the last year showed me that I was mistaken: Not only were there some good topics, but the

articles were also very well written.

The initial feedback from the ACT has been very positive for three reasons:

The Theriogenology journal has an excellent, international reputation and a worldwide circulation.

Publishing the proceedings papers in a refereed journal would assist their academic careers.

Many ACT members already subscribe to the Theriogenology journal at a much higher rate, so this would be more cost effective way to subscribe.

The question of whether to roll the SFT newsletter into the Theriogenology journal was discussed, and it was felt that the newsletter has been well received in its current form. It was feared that it might not be as well read if it became part of the journal. Therefore, it is proposed that the newsletter will continue to be sent out independently.

The SFT board would like to invite the membership to please provide us with feedback on your thoughts on the proposal. Please contact either our executive director Dr. Charles Franz through the SFT office, or Dr. Patrick Hearn at [patrick.hearn@on.aibn.com](mailto:patrick.hearn@on.aibn.com).

Patrick Hearn DVM, MSc.

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## Ever Growing!! *continued from page one*

tesy of a grant from Pfizer Animal Health. Dr. Jimmy Alexander continues to ride herd on the Bull Breeding Soundness Task Force and the long awaited instructional CD should soon be available. Dr. Peter Chenoweth's Student Membership committee has developed a student recruitment brochure which is being distributed to all colleges of veterinary medicine in North America. Dr. Walter Zent, Program Chair for the 2005 annual conference in Charleston, SC., is hard at work on that meeting. He has appointed Session Chairs and Chairs for the Symposia at that meeting. Charleston is a very interesting and visitor friendly city rich with history. We look forward to another excellent conference and opportunity to network with colleagues next August.

Dr. Patrick Hearn and Dr. Charles Franz have developed a user friendly and valuable WEB site. Check out [www.therio.org](http://www.therio.org). The site is updated regularly and there are valuable links to numerous resources to assist your practice. I encourage you to log on to this site and to make [www.therio.org](http://www.therio.org) your homepage to keep abreast of Theriogenology news. One new feature is the ability to purchase books from Elsevier through links from our site. Dr. Franz is exploring additional web-based opportunities to enhance member value on our Society as well as potential partnerships to provide journal subscriptions at drastically reduced rates for our membership. We will report on progress with these negotiations in upcoming newsletters.

I am humbled to gaze at Nandi atop my desk. For those unfamiliar with Nandi, the

bull on the logo of the SFT, a little history is in order. Years ago Dr. Don Walker purchased a bronze replica of Nandi while visiting India. Upon returning to the United States he donated the statue to the SFT to travel with the President each year. The inscription reads "*Nandi, the symbol of perfect masculinity and fertility in ancient India*". The list of names of former presidents is indeed a list of Who's Who in Theriogenology. Ironically, I now sit at the desk once used by Dr. Walker. I am deeply honored to have the opportunity to serve you this year and hope you will contact us with ideas or suggestions on how we may better serve you.

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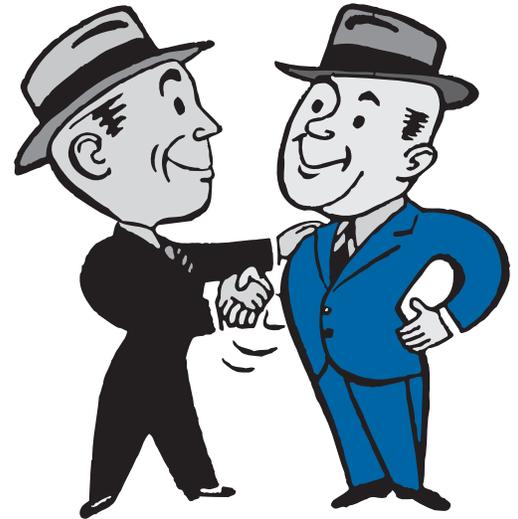
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One of the highlights at the annual meeting is the installation of new officers and directors for the SFT. It is great to see such a wonderful mix of veterinarians overseeing the SFT who bring with them their unique perspectives from experiences in private, public corporate and academic practice. During my time on the Board, I was always intrigued to see how such a diverse group of professionals could so effectively and cohesively work in molding the SFT to be the organization it is today. The work and foresight of the multiple volunteers over these many years has made the SFT one of the larger veterinary organizations in North America, currently just shy of 2,500 members. As an added benefit, such a large membership pool affords the Society with a tremendous resource of future directors and officers. I encourage each and every member to actively consider contributing their perspectives and experiences through the many volunteer opportunities at the SFT. It's as simple as contacting the association office today!

— Gary Althouse, Past President, SFT

# SPONSORS AND EXHIBITORS

*The SFT & ACT would like to thank our Sponsors and Exhibitors for their continued support of our Annual Conference and Symposia.*

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PRN Pharmacal

Pyramid Software Developers

Reproduction Resources

Sound Technologies

Steuart Labs

Stone Manufacturing & Supply Co., Inc.

Synbiotics Corporation

Webvet.biz, LLC

Wickliffe Pharmacy



## WINNERS *Good As Gold Drawing SFT Annual Conference*

### 2005 Annual Conference Registration Voucher

**Donated by SFT**

Dr. Mike Thompson

Dr. Shirley Quillen

### Collasate Postoperative Dressing

**Donated by PRN**

Dr. Bruce Christensen

Dr. Katherine Gardner

### PRN Wound Dressing

(2-20 oz jars & 12-4 oz jars)

**Donated by PRN**

Dr. Emma Jane Lackey

### Case (10 pack) Heartgard Plus

**Donated by Merial**

Dr. Rebecca Kestle

### Reliabull Scrotum Tape

**Donated by Lane Manufacturing**

Dr. Brian Keith

Dr. Allen Strecker

Dr. Gail DeMarcus

Dr. Joseph Massey

Dr. Jon Todd

### Equine Fetal Sexing Tape w/ Model

**by Dr. Richard Holders**

**Donated by Aloka**

Dr. Kevin Fenton

### Manual of Equine Reproduction

(Second Edition)

**Donated by Elsevier**

Dr. Nicole Eller-Medina

### Color Atlas of Reproductive Pathology

**Donated by Elsevier**

Dr. Paul Motter

### Equine Internal Medicine

**Donated by Elsevier**

Dr. Todd Anderson

### Canine & Feline / Endocrinology &

**Reproduction**

**Donated by Elsevier**

Dr. Barbara Pepin

# Congratulations to Dr. Maarten Drost, *Winner of the 2004 Bartlett Award*

**M**aarten Drost was born in the Netherlands and moved to Iowa when he was a teenager. He graduated from Iowa State University in 1962 after which he served a stint in the army and a short time in private practice. He then moved to UC Davis, worked with the Theriogenology group there and performed experimental surgeries to determine the role of the fetal pituitary-adrenal axis in the initiation of parturition. In 1977, he was requested to start a Department of Theriogenology at the fledgling school of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Florida. Dr Drost put together a strong team of clinicians and researchers that remained as a group for

20 years. Dr Drost is renowned for his teaching skills, his compassion for students and ability to train residents. He has won numerous teaching awards at the college and university level. He has served as the associate Editor for Theriogenology for over 25 years and was President of the American College of Theriogenologists in 1982-83. He was a pioneer in bovine embryo transfer and although he is a retired professor emeritus, continues to hold a Bovine Embryo Transfer Workshop yearly. While at Florida he teamed up with Dr Bill Thatcher and produced monumental work on the effects of heat stress on embryos in lactating dairy cows. He has



New SFT President Dr. Dwight Wolfe (right) presents the David Bartlett Award to Dr. Maarten Drost.

been married to his lovely wife Joan for over 42 years and they have 4 beautiful children of which 2 are veterinarians.

## SFT 2005



DR. WALTER ZENT  
2005 CONFERENCE CHAIR

**N**ow that the 2004 SFT conference is over it is time to plan for the 2005 meeting in Charleston, South Carolina. We are staying in a charming older hotel that has undergone an extensive renovation and should provide an interesting and comfortable venue. The theme of the conference will be genetics and the plan-

ning committee has found some very interesting and knowledgeable speakers to bring the general membership up to date on recent developments in this very important area for all species. In addition to genetics other topics of recent interest will also be discussed. All of the planners are leaders in their respective fields and will have an interesting array of qualified speakers. In addition to the main conference there will be three symposia, covering topics in assisted reproductive techniques in the horse and dog and another in reproductive pharmacology for all species.

In addition to the scientific program

we will continue to try and make our meeting more of a family affair with a social evening at a plantation and some free time factored into the meeting to enjoy the historic sights of Charleston. So let's plan on meeting in Charleston August 9<sup>th</sup> for the SFT Annual Conference and the SFT/ACT Symposia and hope that the hurricanes stay away. We can have enough excitement on our own.

— Walter Zent, DVM, President-Elect and 2005 Conference Chair

**EXTRA!  
EXTRA!**

## READ ALL ABOUT YOUR NEW SFT WEBSITE!

We are encouraging all of our Society for

Theriogenology members to check out the new website.

Go to [www.therio.org](http://www.therio.org) and select "Member login". Enter your first name and last name without any spaces and for the password type in SFT (You can use lower case). After you have entered this information you will be asked to change your "Member Profile and Password." If any of the information regarding your address,

phone number, etc., is not correct you may change it at this screen. You may also from this screen change your password to something that may be easier for you to remember.

Take a moment to look at the great stores in the "Member Mall" section of the SFT website; we have companies like Amazon.com, Dell Computers and many more. When you shop through the "Member Mall" on the SFT website you get the same great prices that are available by going directly to the store's website, and SFT will receive a rebate every time you place an order. You will also notice on the home page of the SFT website that we are now offering some of the most popular books on reproduction from Elsevier, Saunders and Mosby. You will receive

these books at the same price as you would if you went directly to their website and SFT receives a rebate from the publisher as long as you link to their site from SFT's website. So, when you are in need of great books on reproduction or if you need to order a new computer for your office, look at the SFT website before you order, and know that a portion of the dollars that you spend will be coming back to the Society for Theriogenology.

If you have any questions about the website or encounter any problems with login, please let me know.

Tammy Wallace (334)395-4666  
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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE...

The annual conference for the Society of Theriogenology this year in Lexington, KY was a resounding success. The organizing committee and SFT Board members are commended for their excellent effort and an informative educational forum.

This meeting was also a busy one for the American College of Theriogenologists. Of particular note was the successful completion of the certifying examination by seven candidates this year. Twenty-four candidates sat the examination out of 28 total applicants. The breakdown of the candidates by species interest were 11 candidates in multi-species (5 successful), 9 candidates in equine (1 successful), 3 candidates in bovine (1 successful), and 1 candidate in small animal (0 successful).

Congratulations and a warm welcome to the Diplomate Class of 2004: Drs. Leonardo F.C. Brito, Hannah Gallatino-Homer, Kristina Lu, Tracy Murchie, Jack Smith, Mary Stanton and Christian Steenholdt.

The dedicated members of the examination committee put forth tremendous effort toward constructing an examination that was both fair and challenging. This committee is clearly the most demanding, and most important committee in our College. The members sacrifice hours of personal time when writing this examination. Development of each examination begins with a review of the previous year's examination. The committee members work together electronically to design new questions. The members then spend a week together each winter constructing the examination, finalizing questions and testing for accuracy and difficulty. Administration of the examination is the final marathon when multiple choice questions are electronically scored and essay questions are scored by multiple members. I cannot emphasize enough the commitment of this group toward providing a quality examination that fairly tests the applicant's knowledge in the field of Theriogenology. On behalf of the ACT, I thank each member of the examination committee for ensuring the high caliber of our College through your efforts.

Other highlights of the meeting included the induction of a new Honorary Member, Dr. Sue McDonnell. Dr. McDonnell is a specialist in equine behavior at the University of Pennsylvania's New Bolton Center. Dr. McDonnell's research interests have focused on reproductive behavior in horses, and she has contributed significantly to our current under-

standing in this important field. Dr. McDonnell is an accomplished research scientist, speaker and strong supporter of young scientists and clinicians interested in reproductive behavior. Welcome to the ACT, Dr. McDonnell!

Dr. Don Schlafer was honored at the annual meeting in Lexington with the 2004 Theriogenologist of the Year Award. Dr. Schlafer has been a long-standing and enthusiastic contributor in the field of reproductive pathology. Don is a consummate teacher and has been a favorite with SFT attendees for years. For his presentation, Don provided an excellent historical perspective regarding the placenta, complete with a demonstration using a preserved human placenta. If only we could have traveled with Don as he explained to security what was packed in his carry-on bag! We congratulate Don on his much deserved selection as Theriogenologist of the Year.

In addition, the members of the ACT Executive Board, with the leadership of President Dr. Doug Freeman, deserve recognition for their work in the past year. Specific goals of the Board this year included addressing issues raised by the American Board of Veterinary Specialists (ABVS) who is the governing body of all specialty colleges. One of the more important requests by the ABVS was to gather data to determine if the ACT was effectively meeting the demands of our current job market. Through the efforts of Dr. Carole Miller and committee members, a survey was drafted using a template from other specialty colleges. Dr. Freeman and Board members launched the ACT job analysis survey on the World Wide Web this past spring with a good response from Diplomates. Regrettably, some Diplomates experienced difficulty submitting the survey using this medium, so an alternative means for distributing this tool is being investigated. Data from the job analysis survey will be used at an upcoming strategic planning session. Thanks to all Diplomates who participated in this important survey. Additional thanks are due Dr. Carla Carleton who was instrumental in helping the ACT pass the ABVS review with flying colors.

The ACT has also continued to solidify its' relationship with the European College of Animal Reproduction (ECAR). In a reciprocal arrangement, a member of the Executive Board of each group is invited to attend the meeting of our sister organization. Dr. Doug Freeman attended the ECAR meeting this past fall in Copenhagen. Dr. Jörg Aurich provided useful

input to both the ACT and SFT executive board meetings while in Lexington this August. This relationship has proven to be mutually beneficial as we exchange ideas regarding training programs, certification processes and species specialization.

Sincere thanks are due to Dr. Doug Freeman for all of his terrific work this past year as ACT president. Doug is a natural leader and a great person to work with. One can always count on Doug to approach an idea with an open mind, a sense of fairness and a good dose of humor. Many thanks to our excellent board members: Drs. John Steiner (Vice President), Peggy Root Kustritz (Secretary), Don Sanders (Treasurer), Bill Ley, Barry Ball, and Pat Sertich (Directors), and Dale Paccamonti (Past-President) for their dedicated efforts. We have 3 "new" members joining the Board in 2004. Dr. Peggy Root Kustritz was selected by the membership for the position of Vice President, and Dr. Dirk Vanderwall was selected to fill the position of Director. Dr. Regina Turner will also be joining the Board to take the place of Dr. Barry Ball who resigned from his position due to a sabbatic leave overseas. The ACT Board has been graced with highly intelligent, motivated people who have the interests of the College membership at heart.

Of course the productivity of both the ACT and SFT boards has been exponentially increased with the management of Dr. Charles Franz and his crew. Charles has been instrumental in the implementation of our new web page, several listservs and generally keeping the Board members on their toes. Charles has a memory like a PDA which is a gift for someone with a limited capacity like mine. Many of you met Tammy and Pam at the meeting. These women are at the "front" of our organizations and do an exceptional job of helping us shine. Thank Charles, Tammy and Pam for all of your hard work.

As we move into the coming year one of our primary goals is to conduct a strategic planning session for the ACT. The SFT carried out a similar session in 2003 which they found very helpful in defining future goals for the organization.

*continued on back page*



DR. MARGO MACPHERSON  
ACT PRESIDENT



## Dr. Donald Schlafer named Theriogenologist of the Year for 2004

Dr. Donald Schlafer received the 2004 Theriogenologist of the Year award at the SFT/ACT Annual Convention in Lexington Kentucky. In a lively luncheon presentation, complete with a human placental demonstration, Dr. Schlafer presented *Placental Mythology, Folklore, and Superstitions: How Humankind has Viewed the Placenta Over the Millennia*. The award, presented by Monsanto and the American College of Theriogenologists, includes a plaque and honorarium.

Dr. Schlafer is known both nationally and internationally as an expert in reproductive pathology of domestic animals, with particular expertise in placental pathology. He received his DVM in 1974 from Cornell and continued his academic career by studying the effects of African swine fever on pregnant, fetal, and neonatal pigs, receiving his PhD in 1982 from the University of Georgia for



Dr. Donald Schlafer receives award from Dr. Tom Bailey of Monsanto.

this work. He became board certified not only in the ACT, but also in the American College of Veterinary Pathologists and the American College of Veterinary Microbiologists. His current activities at Cornell remain in the veterinary pathology service and research in reproductive pathology centered on placental disorders and diseases.

Dr. Schlafer has contributed to both ACT and SFT through committee membership and participation in educational programs. He has served as Treasurer and on the Examination Committee of ACT. His dedication to theriogenology and the College has been evidenced by his work, while on the Exam Committee, to reorganize the entire slide database for the practical exam. This cataloging then allowed for the computerization of the database to follow. He organized and was a major contributor to the SFT/ACT International Symposium on Reproductive Pathology presented in Montreal in 1997. He has served as a mentor for both academicians and practitioners seeking to take the ACT certifying exam.

Congratulations to Dr. Donald Schlafer as the sixth recipient of Theriogenologist of the Year.

## New list serv for Theriogenology Educators . . .

An informal meeting of Theriogenology educators was held immediately following the recent American College of Theriogenologists business meeting in Lexington, Kentucky.

40 people attended the meeting, which lasted about 90 minutes. I would like to thank all the attendants and in particular Drs. Peggy Root Kustritz, Bruce Eilts and Harry Momont for helping catalyze the discussion and Dr. Carla Carleton for making a list of all people who have attended this meeting.

Several colleagues pointed out that theriogenology educator meetings have been held in the past. There is a great need and interest in continuing the discussion on theriogenology education. Some of the topics raised for discussion:

- Theriogenology teaching survey by Dr. Peggy Root Kustritz
- Theriogenology: what should be core teaching?

- How to improve theriogenology image?
- Techniques in delivering theriogenology teaching
- Techniques for examination of students

The main recommendations derived from this meeting are:

1. Promote interaction amongst theriogenology educators through a list serv
2. Exchange Syllabi of theriogenology teaching from different colleges

Dr. Charles Franz has set up a list-serv for theriogenology educators. If you are interested in participating in this forum



please send me a direct e-mail (tibary@vetmed.wsu.edu) so that we may include you in the list.

Dr. Root Kustritz has forwarded to me the results of her survey. If you want an electronic copy please let me know by e-mail.

Sincerely,

Dr. Ahmed Tibary

# Delegate Report to the SFT

Carla L. Carleton, SFT Delegate to the HOD

I would like to present a few items for your consideration following the House of Delegates (HOD) and a successful AVMA convention in Philadelphia, PA in July 2004.

- For those of you who may not have made a recent visit to the AVMA website



([www.avma.org](http://www.avma.org)), I would encourage you to do so. The AVMA journals are now both accessible, including keyword and topic searches. In addition, a direct link ([www.capwiz.com/avma/home](http://www.capwiz.com/avma/home)) will make easier your involvement in the political process. At the capwiz site, click on *Elected Officials*, type in your zip code and you will identify your representatives (House & Senate) and be able to contact them via E-Mail, or have the proper address for a personal note. In our evolving world of communication, constituent E-Mails, especially those of an individual nature (not just forwarded spam) have value. The site has equally useful links for *Issues*, *Election*, and *Media*.

- As evidenced by the success in passing the MUMS (minor use minor species) bill this summer, our government relations division (GRD) has proven itself to be a very effective voice for veterinary medicine in Washington, D.C.
- COBTA and the Pesticide Use Policy: veterinarians' proper use of pesticides stems from the 1979 policy described in the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act. This has become a current issue because of recent findings of counterfeit pesticide, flea, and tick products. The policy exempts Certified Applicators from certification requirements, including veterinarians who use restricted-use pesticides in the course of professional practice. Repackaging generally categorizes an individual as a producer and with that come certain obligations. The EPA states that, as a matter of policy, it will not subject veterinarians who prescribe and dispense repackaged pesticides to the registration requirements imposed on producers, provided minimum conditions are met. The focus will be on label use of non-restricted pesticides, to include adequate and complete labeling, child-resistant packaging, case-by-case evaluation of pest and animal use, and veterinary-client discussions regarding such use. Special pesticide formulas, blends created solely for one's own use, or used in a veterinarian's presence will still require appropriate labeling. Lastly, the AVMA asked that if enforcement action is contemplated against veterinarians, that EPA will allow a sufficient period for education before enforcement begins.
- Actions on HOD resolutions can be reviewed in JAVMA.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding activities of the HOD, I encourage you to contact either me or Chet Rawson, your alternate Delegate.

Thank you, Carla L. Carleton ([carleto1@msu.edu](mailto:carleto1@msu.edu))  
SFT Delegate to the AVMA HOD

# ABVS Report to the ACT

Carla L. Carleton, liaison to ABVS

Dear Diplomates,

It was good to cross paths with many of you in Lexington. For those of you who couldn't attend the conference, what follows are three updates from ABVS activities that impact the ACT.

- Change in the designations of *Standard* versus *Alternate* route to certification for AVMA-recognized VSO's (veterinary specialty organizations). The ACT for decades has had distinct routes by which individuals arrived at the credentialing process to sit for the Certifying Examination. The *Standard* was for the academic route and the *Alternate* was for the practitioner route. While the designations may become less important, the proposed change will likely have little impact on the need for and importance of the ACT mentoring program to support candidates preparing to take our Certifying Examination.

While all AVMA-recognized VSOs (RVSO) are required to provide access to their Board/College to individuals from academia and practice, the nature of the requirements varies widely between specialties. ACVS (surgeons) elected no longer to designate *Standard* and *Alternate*, but instead to have *Approved* programs. An individual seeking board certification in ACVS presents a program for study/preparation. If that program is deemed acceptable (academic or practitioner background), the candidate then begins her/his *Approved* program. This latter designation was discussed, viewed as reasonable, and accepted.

- Pathways to credentialing for the ACT and ECAR. The ABVS responded to a letter sent by Drs. Freeman and Paccamonti and noted that, (1) there is nothing to prohibit the ACT from approving ECAR-approved training programs as a route to taking the ACT's Certifying Examination; (2) the ABVS assumes that the ACT electing to approve ECAR training programs, will not preclude its continuing to meet all other ABVS-RVSO requirements in order to maintain ACT's full recognition by ABVS; (3) interaction is encouraged with specialty organizations outside the United States/North America, but security of examinations must be maintained; (4) no RVSO has direct reciprocity with an international counterpart. In addition, at its February 2004 meeting, the ABVS formed an ad hoc International Relations Committee to develop a comprehensive AVMA position statement addressing VSOs and their international counterparts. A draft of this statement will be developed by February 2005 for discussion at the spring meeting, and if approved, will be forwarded to the AVMA Executive Board in the Spring 2005.
- The ABVS also approved a motion to form an ad hoc standards subcommittee to investigate how and whether the ABVS should modify its policies and procedures, to make certain that all RVSOs adhere to similar standards to ensure all certification and examination policies are legally defensible and psychometrically sound. Legal challenges from unsuccessful candidates should be expected to increase. From my experience, if not done on an annual basis, I would recommend that the ACT employ a professional examination consultant to review our exam and associated procedures at no more than a 5-year interval.
- With this report, I conclude my service as your representative on ABVS. It has been my pleasure to serve the ACT the past nine years and I thank you for your confidence and support. The Executive Board has appointed Dr. Dale Paccamonti as the next ACT ABVS representative.

Carla L. Carleton, ACT's representative and ABVS Chairperson, 2003-2004

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## DIPLOMATES



Dr. Leonardo F.C. Brito, Dr. Hannah Gallatino-Homer, Dr. Kristian Lu, Dr. Tracy Murchie, Dr. Mary Stanton, Dr. Jack Smith, Dr. Christian Steenholdt (not pictured)

Seven new diplomates have been welcomed by the American College of Theriogenologists following successful completion of the certification examination that was held in Lexington, Ky., in conjunction with the Society for Theriogenology annual meeting in August.

The newest board-certified diplomates in the ACT are Drs. Tracy Ann Murchie, Gainesville, Fla.; Mary Beth Stanton, Auburn University, Ala.; Jack D. Smith, Starkville, Miss.; Christian W. Steenholdt, Clovis, NM; Leonardo F. C. Brito, Saskatoon, SK, Canada; Hannah L. Galantino-Homer, Kennett Square, Pa.; and Kristina G. Lu, Bala-Cynwyd, Pa.



## THERIOGENOLOGIST OF THE YEAR AWARD CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

The American College of Theriogenologists is seeking nominations for "Theriogenologist of the Year," an award developed to recognize outstanding achievement in the field of reproductive research and clinical theriogenology. The award is accompanied by a plaque and monetary honorarium (\$1500). Selection is based on the merit of scholarly and/or professional endeavors and the significance of contributions to the veterinary community, as described in materials submitted by nominators and candidates.

Candidates must be ACT Diplomates in good standing and must be currently engaged in clinical animal reproduction. Candidates' scientific/professional achievements must be nationally recognized through books, journals, meetings, etc. Nominations may only be made by Diplomates of ACT or members of the Society for Theriogenology.

The ACT Executive Board encourages the nomination of ACT members in private practice, as well as Diplomates in academia and industry. Because of the tremendous diversity of professional activities among the members

of ACT, the award will alternate annually between candidates with expertise in basic reproductive science (odd-numbered years) and candidates with expertise in clinical animal reproduction (even-numbered years).

Nominations, including documentation outlined in the Award Nomination Form, will be accepted until December 15, 2004. Nominators must also procure letters of recommendation from two of the candidate's peers and submit them to the ACT office by December 15.

After December 15, candidates will be contacted for: (1) a current curriculum vitae; and (2) two or three manuscripts and/or documents validating their current scholarly activity. Candidates must have submitted all materials to the ACT office by January 15, 2005.

The Executive Board will review the candidates' qualifications and select the recipient. Selection of the recipient and concurrent notification will be made no later than 30 days prior to the ACT/SFT Annual Conference. The Award will be presented at the SFT/ACT annual conference in August, 2005.

**By December 15, 2004:** Please submit this form with a letter describing in detail the candidate's contributions; include current research and/or clinical activity, lists of refereed articles, books and presentations at national meetings, and any other relevant information regarding the candidate's professionalism and the significance of his or her expertise to our profession. Provide two letters of recommendation from the candidate's peers. Your nomination will not be considered if letters are not received by this deadline.

Candidate's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Candidate's Business Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Candidate's Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Candidate's e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Nominator's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Nominator's Business Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Nominator's Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Nominator's e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Send form and supporting documentation to:

**American College of Theriogenologists  
 Attn: Theriogenologist of the Year Award  
 P.O. Box 3065, Montgomery, AL 36109  
 334-395-4666 • 334-270-3399 (fax)**

# ABSTRACTS

Abstracts for this issue were provided by Drs. Craig Smith and Robert Youngquist. The Society for Theriogenology wishes to thank them for their contributions.

## Observations on the fertilization and development of preimplantation bovine embryos in vitro in the presence of *Tritrichomonas foetus*

BIELANSKI,A; GHAZI,DF; PHIPPS-TOOOD,B (2004) THERIOGENOLOGY, 61, 821-829.



*Tritrichomonas foetus*, a worldwide distributed parasitic protozoan is a cause of infertility and abortion. There is no documented information on the susceptibility of bovine embryos to the parasite. To determine the effect of *T. foetus* on fertilization and embryonic development of preimplantation bovine embryos, we added approximately 104/ml or 106/ml *T. foetus* (Belfast strain) to sperm

cells and oocytes prior to in vitro fertilization (IVF) or to presumptive zygotes 24 h post-fertilization. Light and scanning electron microscopy (SEM) revealed that exposure of oocytes or embryos at any stage of development to *T. foetus* caused rapid adhesion of the tri-

chomonads to the embryonic intact zona pellucida (ZP) and to trophoblastic cells of hatched blastocysts. Treatment of contaminated embryos with 0.25% trypsin for 3 min did not render them free from *T. foetus*. Motile parasites were not observed after 18 h incubation in IVF medium, or after 72 h in synthetic oviductal fluid (SOF) embryo culture medium. The percentages of cleaved zygotes, blastocysts and hatched embryos resulting from culture of experimental and uninfected control groups of embryos were not different ( $P > 0.05$ ). *Tritrichomonas foetus* was not detected in embryonic cells of ZP-intact or hatched embryos when examined by transmission electron microscopy (TEM). In conclusion, *T. foetus* has no detrimental effect on the fertilization and development of IVF embryos and the potential risk of transmission of trichomonosis is unlikely due to the limited survival of the parasite in IVF culture conditions.

## Influence of oral melatonin on natural and gonadotropin-induced ovarian function in the domestic cat

GRAHAM,LH; SWANSON,WF; WILDT,DE; BROWN,JL (2004) THERIOGENOLOGY, 61, 1061-1076.

Ovarian hyperstimulation after exogenous gonadotropin stimulation is believed to be a cause of poor success after artificial insemination (AI) in felids. The objectives of this study were to assess the effect of oral melatonin on endogenous ovarian activity in the domestic cat and subsequent eCG/hCG-induced ovarian activity. Serum melatonin concentrations peaked approximately 1 h after a single oral dose of 30 mg melatonin and remained elevated above endogenous day-time concentrations for  $> 8$  h. The calculated circulating half-life (mean  $\pm$  SEM) of oral melatonin was  $45.4 \pm 3.5$  min, and the elimination rate constant ( $k_{10}$ ) was  $55.2 \pm 4.2$  min<sup>-1</sup>. Oral melatonin (30 mg per day) administered 3 h before lights-off effectively and reversibly suppressed estrous elevations in fecal estrogens after 25 days of treatment. There was a progressive decrease in baseline estrogen concentrations from inter-estrous concentrations after 25 days of treatment to below

inter-estrous concentrations after 35 days of treatment. Oral melatonin treatment (30 mg per day for 30 days) prior to eCG/hCG administration only marginally reduced ancillary follicle development and had no significant effect on the quantity or quality of embryos produced by AI. Thus, oral melatonin effectively inhibited endogenous ovarian activity and had no adverse impact on embryo quality after AI in the domestic cat; however, this treatment was only marginally effective in minimizing eCG/hCG-induced ovarian hyperstimulation.



## Calving and calving management of beef cows and heifers on cow-calf operations in the United States

DARGATZ,DA; DEWELL,GA; MORTIMER,RG (2004) THERIOGENOLOGY, 61, 997-1007.



A national sample of cow-calf producers was contacted to participate in a study to describe selected calving management practices on operations throughout the United States. Information was gathered on calving season, frequency of dystocia, frequency of observation, timing of assistance, and calving facilities. Regional and herd size differences existed in all parameters evaluated. Most calves (63.9%) were born in

the months of February, March, and April. Overall, 16.7% of heifers and 2.7% of cows required some level of assistance in calving. Heifers and cows were checked an average of only 3.6 and 2.5 times per 24 h period during the calving season. Producers allowed heifers to labor for an average of 2.8 h prior to lending assistance in calving while cows were allowed an average of 3.5 h before providing assistance. In addition, only 39.6% of calvings took place in specialized calving areas presumably to allow increased observation frequency, timely intervention and protection from the elements. Collectively, these management practices illustrate that opportunities exist to improve calf survivability and increase reproductive efficiency in many cow herds.

# ABSTRACTS

## Uterine microbiology and antimicrobial susceptibility in isolated bacteria from mares with fertility problems

ALBIHN,A; BAVERUD,V; MAGNUSSON,U (2003) ACTA.VET.SCAND. 44, 121-129.



Uterine microbiology and antimicrobial susceptibility was investigated in 239 mares with fertility problems in a prospective study in Sweden. Uterine swab samples were collected with double guarded swabs and transported overnight before being cultured. The minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC) was determined for a panel of antimicrobials. From 152 of the 239

mares, at least one bacterial species was isolated, most frequently *E. coli* (104 isolates), beta-hemolytic streptococci (31), and fungi (16). Beta-hemolytic streptococci were more frequently ( $P < 0.01$ ) associ-

ated with clinical endometritis than with repeat breeding. The opposite was true for *E. coli* ( $P < 0.01$ ). Among beta-hemolytic streptococcal isolates, some resistance was noted for 4 of 11 tested antibiotics; however, all isolates were susceptible to the widely used penicillin G. Among *E. coli* isolates, enrofloxacin was the only one of the 10 tested antibiotics for which no resistance was noted. Resistance was most commonly noted to cephalothin (39% of the isolates), streptomycin (22%), trimethoprim/sulfamethoxazole (15%), and ampicillin (11%). In conclusion, we show that both *E. coli* and beta-hemolytic streptococci are frequently associated with fertility problems in mares and that antimicrobial resistance is a common feature of *E. coli* but also recognized for beta-hemolytic streptococcal uterine isolates.

## Change of diurnal heart rate patterns during pregnancy and lactation in dogs (*Canis familiaris*)

OLSSON,K; LAGERSTEDT,AS; BERGSTROM,A; HAGGSTROM,J (2003) ACTA.VET.SCAND. 44, 105-110.

Pregnancy and lactation involve great demands on the cardiovascular system. The purpose of this study was to investigate how the heart rate and diurnal heart rate pattern change when dogs become pregnant or lactate. Five clinically healthy female beagle dogs were mated, and each delivered 3 to 7 healthy puppies. The heart rate was investigated with 24-hour ECG (Holter) once during anestrus, at 3, 5, 7, and 9 weeks of pregnancy, and at week 4 postpartum (lactation). However, at 9 weeks, the ECG could not be recorded for the full 24 hours in 4 of 5 dogs because labor started and the dogs then appeared disturbed by the recordings. The results for this date are not included in the statistical comparison. The heart rate increased progressively

during pregnancy and was still elevated at 4 weeks of lactation. During late pregnancy, the difference in heart rates between daytime and nighttime became smaller, but the heart rate was significantly higher in daytime in all periods. In conclusion, increased heart rates during pregnancy and lactation reflect increased demands on the cardiovascular system and may be important to consider in clinical practice.



## Routine castration in 568 draught colts: incidence of evisceration and omental herniation

SHOEMAKER,R; BAILEY,J; JANZEN,E; WILSON,DG (2004) EQUINE.VET.J. 36, 336-340.



**REASONS FOR PERFORMING STUDY:** Castration is one of the most common routine surgical procedures performed in the horse, from which a number of potential complications can arise. We undertook a prospective evaluation of short-term complications associated with castration of draught colts over a 3-year period (1998-2000).

**OBJECTIVES:** To compare castration complications in a large number of draught foals with previously published literature. **METHODS:** Five hundred sixty-eight draught colts, age 4 or 5 months, were castrated in field conditions. Foals were observed for complications for 24 hours after surgery. **RESULTS:** There was no significant difference in complication rates between open and

closed surgical techniques. Inguinal/scrotal hernia rate was 4.6% (26/568) prior to surgery, and evisceration of the small intestine occurred in 4.8% (27/568). Foals observed to eviscerate underwent immediate surgical correction with an overall survival rate of 72.2% (13/18). Omental herniation was seen in 2.8% (16/568) of colts. **CONCLUSIONS:** This study showed no difference between the closed and open techniques of castration and the rate of omental herniation or evisceration. The evisceration rate in combination with the omental and presurgical herniation rates approached 12.2%, which is high enough to warrant further examination. **POTENTIAL RELEVANCE:** Future investigation should help to assess predisposing factors for evisceration. Regardless of the technique employed, herniation appears to pose a significant risk to draught foals undergoing castration.

# ABSTRACTS

## Effects of leptin on fetal plasma adrenocorticotrophic hormone and cortisol concentrations and the timing of parturition in the sheep

YUEN,BS,J; OWENS,PC; SYMONDS,ME; KEISLER,DH; MCFARLANE,JR; KAUTER,KG; MCMILLEN,IC (2004) BIOL.REPROD. 70, 1650-1657.

We investigated whether leptin can suppress the prepartum activation of the fetal hypothalamus-pituitary-adrenal (HPA) axis and delay the timing of parturition in the sheep. First, we investigated the effects of a 4-day intravascular infusion of recombinant ovine leptin (n = 7) or saline (n = 6) on fetal plasma adrenocorticotrophic hormone (ACTH) and cortisol concentrations, starting from 136 days of gestation (ie, at the onset of the prepartum activation of the fetal HPA axis). The effects of a continuous intrafetal infusion of leptin (n = 7) or saline (n = 5) from 144 days of gestation on fetal plasma ACTH and cortisol concentrations and the timing of delivery were also determined in a separate study. There was an increase in fetal plasma ACTH (P < 0.01) and cortisol (P < 0.001) concentrations when saline was infused between 136-137 and 140-141 days of gestation. Plasma ACTH and cortisol concentrations did not rise, however, when leptin was infused during this period of gestation. When leptin was infused after 144 days of gestation, there was no effect of a 4- to 5-

fold increase in circulating leptin on fetal ACTH concentrations. In contrast, leptin infusion from 144 days of gestation suppressed (P < 0.05) fetal plasma cortisol concentrations by around 40% between 90 and 42 hours before delivery. There was no difference, however, in the length of gestation between the saline- and leptin-infused groups (saline infused, 150.2 ± 0.5 days; leptin infused, 149.8 ± 1.0 days). In saline-infused fetuses, there was a significant negative relationship between the plasma concentrations of cortisol (y) and leptin (x) between 138 and 146 days of gestation (y = 81.4 - 7.7x; r = 0.38; P < 0.005). This study provides evidence for an endocrine negative-feedback loop between leptin and the HPA axis in fetal life.



## ACT President's Message

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As the College examines important topics such as training programs, student education and the role of Diplomates in the workplace, we felt that an organized planning session would aid in developing a strong set of goals for the ACT. Information gained from the job analysis survey would be very useful for this planning session. We will use existing data and hope to add information from more Diplomates as we iron out the kinks with the survey. Ideally, we will also incorporate information gained from the Theriogenology Educator's Forum under the guidance of Dr. Ahmed Tibary. Please provide your input as Dr. Tibary gathers data about our educational programs both present and future. I strongly encourage your comments or concerns regarding the direction of the

College as we take on our strategic planning session. Many of us share the sentiment that the future of Theriogenology is ever-changing. To ensure our positive role in these changes please provide your input. Feel free to contact me at [macphersonm@mail.vetmed.ufl.edu](mailto:macphersonm@mail.vetmed.ufl.edu) with your ideas.

I look forward to a productive year for the ACT and am honored to have the opportunity to help guide this group. After each annual meeting, I marvel at what a wonderful group of people our colleagues in Theriogenology are. Thanks to all of you for helping our organizations thrive.

## CLASSIFIEDS

### Hudson – Walker Theriogenology Conference

Update on Bovine Reproduction

Lecture and Wet Lab

December 11th – 12th, 2004

Contact Dr. Gary Beard at (334) 844-3699

for registration info

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