

PRELIMINARY SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM



TIME	SESSION / TITLE	SPEAKER
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WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

4:00-8:00 PM Registration / Check-in

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

7:00 AM Continental Breakfast

7:45 Welcome / Introductions / Announcements Dr. Jenni Rizzo

8:10-10:00 AM Session 1: Keynote Addresses

8:10-9:10 The history of *Wolbachia* and heartworm Dr. Laura Kramer

9:10-10:00 Anesthesia for dogs with heartworm disease Dr. Jane Quandt

10:00 AM-12:20 PM Session 2: Doxycycline and *Wolbachia*

10:00-10:30 AM Break

10:30-10:45 Efficacy of reduced doxycycline dosage on inflammatory and stress responses in dogs with heartworm disease Dr. Elena Carretón

10:45-11:00 Effect of doxycycline on *Wolbachia* levels in *Dirofilaria immitis* worms from five canine heartworm cases: immunohistochemical staining analysis Dr. Elena Carretón

11:00-11:30 Effects of doxycycline dose rate and pre-adulticide wait period on heartworm-associated pathology, adult worm mass, liver enzymes, and *Wolbachia* levels Dr. Tom Nelson

11:30-11:45 A peek at the results of the Brazil doxycycline-*Wolbachia* study Dr. Doug Carithers

11:45- 12:00 Blocking of *Dirofilaria immitis* transmission by treatment of heartworm microfilaremic dogs with doxycycline Dr. John McCall

12:00-12:20 Speaker Panel Q&A

12:20-2:00 PM LUNCH - Noontime Knowledge (Preregistration Required)

Heartworm disease management for shelter populations Drs. Angele Bice & Uri Donnett

Lies and fake news: The truth about feline heartworm disease Drs. Tom Nelson & Mark Cousins

Diagnostic conundrums: Is the animal positive or not? Drs. Lindsay Starkey & Andrew Moorhead

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TIME	SESSION / TITLE	SPEAKER
	Presentation matters: Tools and tips for improving client acceptance of prevention and treatment recommendations	Drs. Blue Brawner & Chris Duke
	Twists and turns: How to handle necessary deviations in heartworm treatment	Drs. Jenni Rizzo & Chris Adolph
1:50-5:30 PM	Session 3: Treatment and Staging	
1:50-2:20	Systemic arterial dirofilariasis: a review	Dr. Hillary Hammond
2:20-2:50	Clinical approach to class 4 heartworm disease: Caval syndrome	Dr. Aliya Magee
2:50-3:20	HOCUS-POCUS - The myth of heartworm	Dr. Marisa Ames
3:20-3:40	Speaker Panel Q&A	
3:40 PM	Break	
4:10-4:25	Evaluation of NT-proBNP as a biomarker for pulmonary hypertension in heartworm-infected dogs undergoing adulticide treatment	Dr. Elena Carretón
4:25-4:40	Clinical evaluation of the efficacy of prolonged macrocyclic lactone treatment in dogs with heartworm disease treated in Germany	Dr. Imke Maerz
4:40-4:55	Clinical outcome of adulticide treatment with melarsomine in 283 heartworm-positive dogs in Germany	Dr. Imke Maerz
4:55-5:10	Right ventricular dysynchrony measured for echocardiography in dogs during <i>Dirofilaria immitis</i> infection	Dr. Rodrigo Jose de Lavalley
5:10-5:30	Speaker Panel Q&A	
7:00-9:00 PM	Opening Reception Sponsored by Boehringer Ingelheim	
	 Boehringer Ingelheim	
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 5		
7:00 AM	Continental Breakfast	
7:55 AM	Announcements	

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TIME	SESSION / TITLE	SPEAKER
8:00-9:45 AM	Session 4: Resistance	
8:00-8:20	Current issues in heartworm chemotherapy	Dr. Timothy Geary
8:20-8:35	Investigating <i>Dirofilaria immitis</i> infecting dogs and the susceptibility/resistance to macrocyclic lactones in Missouri	Dr. Peggy Fisher
8:35-8:50	Forty years of macrocyclic lactones against <i>Dirofilaria immitis</i> in a historically endemic area: Success or emerging challenge?	Dr. Marco Genchi
8:50- 9:05	Surveillance of single nucleotide polymorphisms correlated to macrocyclic lactone resistance in <i>Dirofilaria immitis</i> from client-owned dogs across the United States	Dr. Emily Curry
9:05-9:20	Updates on genotyping ML-resistant and ML-susceptible <i>Dirofilaria immitis</i> isolates and its use in athymic nude mice as a mouse model for <i>D. immitis</i> infection	Dr. Crystal Fricks
9:20-9:45	Speaker Panel Q&A	
9:45-10:45 AM	Session 5: Pathology	
9:45-10:15	Heartworm disease – An incomplete picture of its pathology	Dr. Steve Jones
10:15-10:45 AM	Break	
10:45 AM-12:20 PM	Session 6: Cell Biology / Molecular Biology	
10:45-11:00	How old are canine heartworms? What does population genomics reveal about the origin of <i>Dirofilaria immitis</i> ?	Dr. Jan Slapeta
11:00-11:15	Host immunity and macrophage roles in the nonpermissive response of Mongolian gerbils to <i>Dirofilaria immitis</i>	Dr. Elyssa Campbell
11:15-11:30	The role of two recombinant proteins of <i>Dirofilaria immitis</i> excretory/secretory antigens in the angiogenic process on endothelial cells: Proteomic study	Dr. Rodrigo Mórchon García
11:30-11:45	Proteomic study about the effect of <i>Dirofilaria immitis</i> excretory/secretory and somatic antigens on the expression of angiogenesis-related proteins as a survival mechanism	Dr. Rodrigo Mórchon García

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TIME	SESSION / TITLE	SPEAKER
11:45-12:00	Tissue-targeted approaches to resolving secretory and genetic determinants of host-parasite compatibility	Dr. Mostafa Zamanian
12:00-12:20	Speaker Panel Q&A	
12:20-2:00 PM	LUNCH - Noontime Knowledge (Preregistration Required)	
	Managing complications of severe heartworm disease	Drs. Marisa Ames & Aliya Magee
	A vet tech's perspective: Understanding heartworm disease	Paola Dominguez-Lopez, CVT, & Julie Legred, CVT
	Twists and turns: How to handle necessary deviations in heartworm treatment	Drs. Jenni Rizzo & Chris Adolph
	Heartworm disease management for shelter populations	Drs. Angele Bice & Uri Donnett
	Lies and fake news: The truth about feline heartworm disease	Drs. Tom Nelson & Mark Cousins
	Presentation matters: Tools and tips for improving client acceptance of prevention and treatment recommendations	Drs. Blue Brawner & Chris Duke

This afternoon has been scheduled as free time for you to enjoy exploring Fort Worth.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

7:00 AM Continental Breakfast

7:55 AM Announcements

8:00-9:50 AM Session 7: Shelter Medicine

8:00-8:15	Comparisons between the 2019 and 2024 American Heartworm Society and Association of Shelter Veterinarians' heartworm management practices survey	Dr. Uri Donnett
8:15-8:30	Comparative efficacy of injectable moxidectin and melarsomine protocols for canine heartworm treatment	Dr. Ta-Li Lu
8:30-8:45	A retrospective comparison of 2-dose and 3-dose melarsomine protocols in 1,248 shelter dogs with heartworm disease, in the era of macrocyclic lactones and doxycycline	Dr. Linda Jacobson
8:45-9:00	A randomized, controlled, prospective study of 2-dose and 3-dose melarsomine protocols in dogs with heartworm disease: Description and preliminary findings	Dr. Linda Jacobson

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TIME	SESSION / TITLE	SPEAKER
9:00-9:15	Low complication rates in 1,011 heartworm-infected shelter dogs undergoing spay-neuter surgery prior to melarsomine treatment	Dr. Jessie Dyer
9:15-9:30	Clinical and anesthetic monitoring parameters of heartworm positive dogs undergoing spay-neuter surgery	Dr. Brian DiGangi
9:30-9:50	Speaker Panel Q&A	
9:50-10:30 AM	Break	
10:30-11:50 AM	Session 8: Transmission	
10:30-11:00	Here to stay or coming our way? Heartworm vectors in a landscape of change	Dr. Lyric Bartholomay
11:00-11:15	Using a heritable bacterium to block heartworm transmission by mosquitoes	Dr. Michael Povelones
11:15-12:00	Current risk of transmission of <i>Dirofilaria</i> spp. in the United States of America and its future projection under climate change scenarios	Dr. Rodrigo Mórchon García
11:30-11:50	Speaker Panel Q&A	
11:50 AM-1:30 PM	Business Lunch	
1:30-4:30 PM	Session 9: Diagnostics	
1:30-1:45	Evaluation of diagnostic techniques for early detection of heartworm in experimentally infected dogs: identification of <i>Dirofilaria immitis</i> -derived microRNA in the initial 28 weeks post-inoculation	Dr. Daniel Felipe Barrantes Murillo
1:45-2:00	Comparative performance of the novel, point-of-care Pluslife mini dock <i>Dirofilaria immitis</i> / <i>Dirofilaria repens</i> detection test with the modified Knott's test in dogs	Dr. Gui Verocai
2:00-2:15	Assessing the performance of truRapid heartworm antigen test for early detection in experimentally infected dogs in comparison to other point-of-care tests	Dr. Pabasara Weeraratne
2:15-2:30	Evaluation of the truRapid FOUR® Heartworm Antigen Test: A reliable point-of-care diagnostic tool for heartworm detection in dogs	Dr. Chinta Lamichhane
2:30-2:45	Fluorescence videography for the rapid and automated in-clinic detection of microfilariae	Dr. Paul Sluarewicz

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TIME	SESSION / TITLE	SPEAKER
2:45-3:00	Circulation of <i>Dirofilaria immitis</i> DNA in mosquitoes of the Emilia-Romagna Region (Italy): An alternative approach for completing the epidemiological data on heartworm diffusion in an endemic area	Dr. Alice Vismarra
3:00-3:30 PM	Break	
3:30-3:45	Heat treatment augments antigen detection of <i>Dirofilaria immitis</i> in apparently healthy companion dogs (3.8% to 7.3%): Insights from a large-scale nationwide survey across the United States	Dr. Daniel Felipe Barrantes Murillo
3:45-4:00	Prevalence and risk factors associated with <i>Dirofilaria immitis</i> infection in dogs from Mexico including serum pre-heat treatment for the dissociation of immunocomplexes	Dr. Samantha Hay-Parker
4:00-4:30	Speaker Panel Q&A	
4:45-6:15 PM	Poster Reception	
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SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7		
7:00 AM	Continental Breakfast	
7:55	Announcements	
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8:00-10:30 AM	Session 10: Feline Heartworm	
8:00-9:00	X-ray vision and heartworm hide-and-seek: Imaging the usual and unusual	Dr. Wade Won
9:00-9:15	Retrospective analysis of feline heartworm disease and feline asthma: A cohort study	Dr. Kennedy Mwacalimba
9:15-9:30	Assessing changes of feline heartworm diagnostic results among two cohorts of Florida shelter cats following updated AHS Feline Guidelines	Dr. Jeff Gruntmeir
9:30-10:00	AHS Feline Guidelines: What is new, and how we convey the importance of heartworm to our clients	Dr. Lindsay Starkey
10:00-10:30	Speaker Panel Q&A	
10:30-10:45 AM	Break	
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11:45 AM-12:50 PM	Session 11: Prevention	
10:45-11:00	Achievement of the collaborative investigation “check & protect” in Europe: Focus on heartworm disease screening in dogs and pet owner awareness	Dr. Ambre Sibari

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TIME	SESSION / TITLE	SPEAKER
11:00-11:15	Reducing heartworm prevalence through a medical quality focus	Dr. Carl Winch
11:15-11:30	Prevention and long-term outcomes of naturally occurring canine heartworm infection in primary care settings	Dr. Kennedy Mwacalimba
11:30-11:45	Cost and prevention of canine heartworm disease in the United States	Dr. Kennedy Mwacalimba
11:45-12:00	Efficacy of Credelio Quattro™, a combination tablet including moxidectin, for the prevention of heartworm disease caused by <i>Dirofilaria immitis</i> in dogs in laboratory and field studies	Dr. Lisa Young
12:00-12:15	Safety of Credelio Quattro™ (lotilaner, moxidectin, praziquantel, and pyrantel chewable tablets) in dogs infected with adult heartworms (<i>Dirofilaria immitis</i>)	Dr. Kari Riggs
12:15-12:30	Preventive efficacy of six-monthly doses of NexGard® Plus or Simparica Trio® against a macrocyclic lactone-resistant isolate (JYD-34) of <i>Dirofilaria immitis</i> and of a single dose of NexGard® Plus against a susceptible isolate	Dr. Liz Mitchell
12:30-12:50	Speaker Panel Q&A	

The Symposium program will be submitted for up to 24 hours of RACE CE.

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