

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AHS Announces 16th Triennial Heartworm Symposium Program

Veterinary Professionals Have Prime Opportunity to Hear Latest Findings

Wilmington, Delaware—From heartworm prevalence and resistance to the potential for new diagnostic, preventive and treatment options, attendees of the 16th Triennial Heartworm Symposium in New Orleans will gain insights into heartworm disease management, both today and in the future. The symposium, entitled *Understanding Heartworm Disease: From Science to Solutions*, will be held September 8-11, 2019, at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel in New Orleans. The meeting is sponsored by the American Heartworm Society (AHS).

“Every three years, this symposium brings together some of the best minds in the world when it comes to understanding heartworm disease,” says AHS president Dr. Christopher Rehm. “Our agenda is packed with topics of significance to practitioners who see heartworm disease in their day-to-day practice.”

The Triennial Symposium draws hundreds of attendees from academia, veterinary practice, veterinary schools and industry. Both AHS members and non-members are eligible for reduced early-bird and regular rates (non-members can join the Society for a nominal fee), and special rates for veterinary students and veterinary technicians are also available. In addition, veterinarians can register for single-day attendance.

AHS symposium agenda encompasses wide range of topics

Attendees of the full conference will receive a projected minimum of 20 hours of continuing education credit. According to AHS Symposium co-chair Dr. Marisa Ames, projected topics will include:

- **Heartworm epidemiology and prevalence.** Attendees will learn about the global distribution and prevalence of heartworms, and gain a better understanding of mosquito vectors and *Wolbachia*. The impact of humans and weather events on mosquito habitat and distribution—and, therefore, heartworm prevalence—will also be discussed.
- **Diagnostic techniques.** New information on in-clinic assays and testing reagents will be presented along with information on factors that could affect heartworm diagnostics in the future.
- **Recent research on heartworm treatment protocols.** Current and proposed heartworm treatment protocols and options will be discussed in-depth, with discussion of the benefits and shortcomings of each. Practitioners will learn of the latest studies on doxycycline doses and doxycycline alternatives affecting the heartworm endosymbiont *Wolbachia*.
- **Heartworm pathology.** The damaging effects of heartworm infection that extend from organ systems to the cellular level will be discussed by experts in pathology and parasitology.
- **Heartworm prevention, immunology and resistance.** Attendees will gain new understanding of how macrocyclic lactone medications work and learn about new

findings on heartworm resistance and potential strategies to avert it. Studies on potential new medications will also be shared during this segment of the program.

Other presentations will cover issues associated with diagnosing and treating heartworm disease in the shelter and rescue setting, feline heartworm disease, and other filarial parasites in the Americas.

“We’re excited about this year’s program, and we strongly encourage practitioners to attend,” says Dr. Ames. “This is always a popular meeting with practitioners and academics alike, due to its mix of research and clinical topics. If practitioners are interested in the latest scientific information about heartworm management or have questions about preventive, diagnostic or treatment protocols, this is a meeting they won’t want to miss.”

The Triennial Heartworm Symposium will be held at the Ritz-Carlton hotel in New Orleans. Attendees who register by July 15, 2019, will be eligible for discounted rates. Further discounts are available for AHS members (non-members can join when they register for a nominal fee), veterinary students and veterinary technicians. Veterinary professionals who wish to attend the 16th Triennial Heartworm Symposium can register online at heartwormsociety.org/2019-triennial-symposium.

About the American Heartworm Society: The mission of the American Heartworm Society is to lead the veterinary profession and the public in the understanding of heartworm disease. Founded during the Heartworm Symposium of 1974, the American Heartworm Society aims to further scientific progress in the study of heartworm disease, inform the membership of new developments and encourage and help promote effective procedures for the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of heartworm disease.