



THE CORNER INFORMER

The Newsletter of The Southeastern Michigan Veterinary Medical Association

Volume 28 Issue 1 March 2022

OUR PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

Welcome to the new year all my fellow SEMVMA members! 2022 is a much-needed hopeful breath of fresh air. While we are all still dealing with the pandemic, I am hopeful to see a light at the end of a long tunnel this year. I'm sure many of you reading this are like me, exhausted and struggling to get through the day-to-day life that is veterinary medicine right now. Angry clients, frustrated staff, and toxic work culture, as a result, are all too real for many of us. To help lighten the mood and give us an invigorating start to the new year, I reached out to social media superstar, Georgia native Walter Brown, LVT, VTS(ECC), and he agreed to come to Michigan on his birthday. We were able to offer our annual membership celebration in person and it was a night to remember for many of us. For the first time, we allowed technicians to attend, for a cost, and it was fantastic to see so many of them in attendance. SEMVMA awarded three practitioners awards, both Dr. Tim Duncan and Dr. Tari Kern received the award for contribution to SEMVMA, and Dr. Karen Michalski received the award for contribution to the community. We awarded scholarships to technician students and for the first time ever, awarded two recent graduates \$5,000 towards their student loans. We enjoyed great food, drinks, and seeing each other in person. Walter ended our evening with much-needed laughter and helped us all to remember why we do this job. If you don't already follow him on social media, check out his Facebook, Water Brown Skinni Go Live. He has

many fun videos of the evening including staying at the Townsend Hotel and seeing black squirrels - apparently those are not a thing in Georgia!

I also want to thank Dr. Nicole Grube for her service as the 2021 SEMVMA president. She did an amazing job navigating working full time, getting her four children to sporting events, and attending meetings both in person or online (sometimes from her car because life is crazy). I am very thankful for having met her and getting to know her better!



Michelle Meyer, DVM

I am looking forward to serving as your president this year. I am extremely honored to continue working with the SEMVMA council and getting to know my fellow colleagues. The council has been hard at work planning our hybrid CE meetings for this fall and next spring. The meeting counts towards our state-required CE hours and will offer practical high-level education with nationally renowned speakers. Look for upcoming mailings with finalized dates for these meetings as well as other upcoming events. I am looking forward to a busy year, but hopefully our world will be taking some steps towards a semblance of normal. I am president of two organizations this year. AAFP got delayed due to COVID as I was supposed to be president in 2021, but this gives me a unique opportunity that allows me to meet even more speakers and get more ideas that will only help SEMVMA. I am looking forward to serving as your 2022 SEMVMA president!

– *Michelle Meyer, DVM*

**Southeastern Michigan
Veterinary Medical
Association**

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IN MEMORIAM

Dr. John Richardson passed away January 1, 2022 at the age of 88. He graduated from Michigan State University, CVM in 1957. He joined the SEMVMA in 1960 and became a Life Member upon his retirement in 2004. Dr. Richardson established Plaza Veterinary Hospital in 1961 and was determined to become an AAHA facility. He had the attitude that if something was worth doing, then it was worth doing well and instilled this value in his staff. Dr. Richardson made sure that all of his employees understood that his office had an open door policy if we ever needed to talk with him. Everyone felt that we weren't just workers for him, but rather his work family. He encouraged us all to better ourselves through continuing education and learning new skills at work. Dr. Richardson was a very well respected veterinarian in the area and worked hard to earn and keep that reputation. Dr. Richardson loved being a veterinarian, but also loved spending time with his family. He lived life to the fullest, and traveled the world. He would bring a black plastic camera film holder full of sand from each country that he visited, and he kept these on a shelf in his office. Doc once took a ski trip, but not just any ski trip...he had a helicopter drop him off on top of a mountain and skied down it. That's just the kind of guy he was! He will be missed.

-2021 ACADEMY MEMBERS-

Kaitlin Bahlmann, DVM – Exclusively Cats Veterinary Hospital
Steven Bailey, DVM, DABVP – Exclusively Cats Veterinary Hospital
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Nicole Cichon, DVM – Serenity Animal Hospital
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Molly Lynch, DVM – Ann Arbor Cat Clinic
Michelle Meyer, DVM – Serenity Animal Hospital
Karen Michalski, DVM – Serenity Animal Hospital
John S. Parker, DVM – Briarpointe Veterinary Hospital
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Julie Sherman, DVM – Serenity Animal Hospital
Dave Smith, DVM – Leader Dogs for The Blind
Sandy Smith, DVM – Animal Health Clinic of Fenton
Emily Socks, DVM – Oakland Hills Veterinary Hospital
Stephanie Tallis, DVM – Animal Medical Center of Troy
Laura Van de Grift, DVM – Oakland Hills Veterinary Hospital

The Southeastern Michigan Veterinary Medical Association developed the SEMVMA Academy to celebrate the commitment of veterinarians to the continual improvement of their professional knowledge and competence achieved through continuing education. The Academy is the first institution in the State of Michigan to recognize and reward veterinarians for their commitment to advance their continuing education. Academy members must have earned at least 50 hours of continuing education.

FELINE OCULAR DISEASE: HERPES UNTIL PROVEN OTHERWISE

Barbra Easton, DVM

Veterinary Vision of Rochester

Veterinary professions often hear the phrase “when you hear hoof beats, think horses not zebras.” These words of wisdom are an excellent approach for the most common ocular diseases in our feline patients. The most common presenting conditions of feline patients to Ophthalmology specialty practice are conjunctivitis, followed by ulcerative keratoconjunctivitis, uveitis and glaucoma. The primary cause of conjunctivitis and ulcerative keratitis in cats is Feline Herpes Virus type one (FHV-1), followed by Calicivirus. Other common causes of conjunctivitis are Chlamydomphila felis and Mycoplasma felis.

FHV-1 is the most common cause of conjunctivitis and keratoconjunctivitis because of the endemic nature of FHV-1 within the feline population as well as the neuronal latency within the trigeminal ganglion following a primary infection. The phrase “herpes is forever” is very true for our feline patients. FHV-1 has been shown to be present in the ocular tissue (especially the cornea) of clinically normal feline patients.

The clinical signs of FHV-1 are due to the cytopathic effects of the virus on epithelial cells. The conjunctival and corneal epithelium, as well as the epithelium of the upper respiratory tract are the most common cells affected by FHV-1. It is because of this that we typically see conjunctivitis, ulcerative keratitis and mild upper respiratory signs with active infection, whether primary or recrudescent. FHV-1 has also been shown to affect the epidermis (facial dermatitis) as well as the corneal stromal and uveal tissue.

Conjunctivitis is most often characterized by conjunctival hyperemia, chemosis (swelling), and increased serous and purulent ocular discharge. Corneal disease is most often noted as dendritic ulcers, which are considered to be pathognomonic for FHV-1. The second most common corneal presentation for FHV-1 is geographic superficial ulceration often seen with loose adjacent epithelium. This is followed by nonulcerative keratitis characterized by superficial corneal neovascularization that may have

associated cellular infiltrates. Less common corneal diseases associated with FHV-1 are corneal sequestrum and eosinophilic keratitis. These conditions are seen in patients with chronic disease. Chronic FHV-1 disease may be seen clinically as unilateral or bilateral conjunctivitis, keratoconjunctivitis, corneal sequestrum and eosinophilic keratitis. Remember to keep FHV-1 on your rule out list if only unilateral ocular disease is present.

Diagnosis of FHV-1 is most commonly based on clinical signs, though several tests are available including PCR, virus isolation and fluorescent antibody staining. PCR testing is the most common test performed; however it is important to note that false negatives are very common. A positive PCR in conjunction with clinical signs confirms a diagnosis of FHV-1; a negative test in the face of clinical signs is worthy of treatment with antiviral therapy. In our practice, we recommend performing in-house conjunctival and/or corneal cytology as well as a feline PCR conjunctivitis panel to patients that present with suspected FHV-1.

Cytology for early infection FHV-1 is most often seen as neutrophilic inflammation. Chronic cases will show mixed inflammation with neutrophils, lymphocytes and plasma cells. Cytology can also be helpful in determining if secondary or primary bacterial infections are present that require treatment. PCR samples are typically both ocular and oropharyngeal, however the type of swab and transport container recommended may vary by the lab performing the testing. We currently send our samples to Idexx Laboratories: Conjunctivitis RealPCR™ Panel—Feline (3551). Directions for this test are to acquire deep pharyngeal swab (with visible organic material on swab; please rub firmly) and a conjunctival swab (wipe eye clean, swab inside of eyelid), in the same tube using dry plastic-stemmed swabs, without transport media, in an RTT or a WTT (plain plastic tube); keep refrigerated. Samples should be collected prior to administering antibiotics. One drop of proparacaine is recommended one minute prior to sample collection from the conjunctiva. Antech has the FHV-1 PCR available in the feline upper respiratory PCR panel. They require three swabs (combination

or ocular and oral pharyngeal) with one swab placed into a gel and the other two dry swabs placed into WTT (plain plastic tube). Michigan State University has a FHV-1 PCR (test number 80028) available that requires nasal and conjunctival synthetic swabs placed in a viral transport system. You can contact MSU, Idexx and Antech for supplies needed for PCR testing.

Treatment of FHV-1 clinical disease involves the use of appropriate antiviral therapy. We recommend that ocular FHV-1 diseases are treated with topical and/or systemic therapy. The primary topical therapy we recommend is Cidofovir 0.5% ophthalmic suspension one drop every 12 hours for 2-4 weeks. This is currently only available as a compounded medication and can be used safely for three to four weeks. Some patients may be treated for longer, however irritation has been noted in patients with chronic therapy beyond this time period. Our office recommends Stokes Pharmacy for this medication, but some of our clients have also used Wedgewood Pharmacy. Other topical antivirals shown to be effective in cats include idoxuridine 0.1% (compounded), trifluridine 1%, and ganciclovir 0.15%; these medications require treatments 5-8 times daily to be effective. The only systemic medication available is oral famciclovir, available in 125, 250 and 500 mg tablets. This medication has been shown to have inconsistent bioavailability in liquid suspension and as such liquid suspensions are not commonly recommended. Dosing varies from 40-90 mg/kg BID-TID; we have found that patients that do not respond to 40-50 mg/kg PO BID will often respond to 90 mg/kg BID-TID. Treatment with famciclovir is typically safe for 2-3 weeks, though longer therapy may be needed in some patients. In patients needing chronic therapy, caution should be used in those with renal dysfunction; monitoring of renal values is recommended. The most common side effect reported is diarrhea noted in 7% of patients, followed by polydipsia (5% of patients), as well as weight loss and vomiting (both seen in 1.7% of patients). In patients with chronic non-ulcerative keratitis or chronic conjunctivitis, topical nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory therapy may be beneficial in limiting active disease. We recommend diclofenac 0.1% SID-BID in these patients. Cyclosporine 0.2% topical SID-BID may also be effective in controlling active disease in these patients. Topical and oral steroids are avoided due to immune-suppression effects leading to FHV-1 recrudescence.

Other recommendations for treatment of FHV-1 have been shown to be inconsistently efficacious including treatment with L-Lysine supplementation and interferon (human $\alpha 2b$ and feline ω) therapy, though they may be recommended in some patients. Reducing stress and supporting normal immune system function often help limit flare up of disease in patients. Topical and systemic corticosteroids have been shown to consistently lead to relapse in ocular FHV-1 disease. As many of these patients require chronic steroid therapy for other diseases, these patients may need recurrent antiviral therapy to limit painful ocular disease. We will recommend owners consider Feliway diffusers, maintain up to date status on the FVRCP vaccine, immune system vitamin supplements, and referral for behavioral modification therapy in cases of suspected chronic stress.

FHV-1 is the most common ocular disease we see in feline ophthalmology, but it is also the most frustrating. Although rare, some patients continue to have chronic disease and ocular pain despite the above therapies and interventions. It is important that owners are educated on the chronic nature of the disease and the effect of stress on the feline immune system and thus FHV-1 flare-up of clinical disease.

Recommended additional reading:

1. Ocular manifestations of feline viral diseases. J. Stiles. The Veterinary Journal. August 2014; 201(2): 166-173
2. The Basics of Feline Herpes Virus-1 with Dr. Shelby Reinstein, DACVO | VETgirl Veterinary Continuing Education Blog
3. Herpes Viral Conjunctivitis: A Feline Problem. Client Education: Veterinary Partner, September 2021. Wendy Brooks

2022 MEMBERSHIP CELEBRATION

This year we were able to continue our annual membership celebration on January 12th at the Townsend Hotel. This was the first year we opened the invite to hospital support staff. This change was received well with the support staff that attended.

The celebration dinner was kicked off with incoming president Dr. Michelle Meyer presenting Dr. Nicole Grube with the Outstanding Service as President award. The awards for Outstanding Contribution to SEMVMA were given to both Dr. Tim Duncan and Dr. Tari Kern. The Outstanding Contribution to Community award was presented to Dr. Karen Michalski. We had 7 members receive lifetime SEMVMA membership with each one being a member of SEMVMA for over 25 yrs, many even over 30 years!

We continued our support of the Veterinary Technician program with our scholarship opportunity. This year's winners were as follows, 1st place to Tiffani Eis, 2nd place Rachel Bawden, and 3rd place Grace Darah. We also had our first recipients of our new debt reduction scholarship. Drs. Brad Schumaier and Nicole Cichon; both received \$5000 to pay down their student debt.

We finished the evening with some much needed comic relief by our guest speaker, Veterinary Technician, Walter Brown. Walter put on a performance that was greatly appreciated during these unprecedented times.

If you were unable to attend this year's membership celebration, there is nothing to worry about, just be prepared to attend and enjoy the celebration next year in January of 2023. We look forward to seeing everyone there.



Our guest speaker, Walter Brown, RVTg, VTS(ECC).



Incoming President Dr. Michelle Meyer presenting Dr. Nicole Grube with the Outstanding Service as President Award.



New members of SEMVMA in attendance at the Membership Celebration, Dr. TJ Vernaci (Oxford Veterinary Hospital), Dr. Brad Schumaier (Orchard Lake Animal Hospital), Dr. Krysten Andrews (Oxford Veterinary Hospital), Dr. Kristin Donovan (Richmond Veterinary Hospital), and Dr. Leah Marszalec (Madison Veterinary Hospital).



Veterinary technician scholarship winners - first place - Tiffani Eis, second place - Rachel Bawden, and third place - Grace Darah.



Dr. Michelle Meyer presenting Dr. Tari Kern with the Outstanding Contribution to SEMVMA Award



Dr. Tari Kern presenting Dr. Tim Duncan with the Outstanding Contribution to SEMVMA Award.

SAVE THESE DATES! UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

August
10
2022

SEMVMA 28th Annual Golf Outing

Wednesday, August 10, 2022

Tanglewood Golf Course – 9:00 am shotgun start

Please note the earlier start time



July
15
2022

SEMVMA SUMMER PARTY

Saturday, July 15, 2023

Packard Proving Grounds

Additional Details To Follow

DETROIT INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY FOR YOUNG WOMEN

A lady pink panther performs with academic distinction through the Confidence, Perseverance, Resilience and Innovation of a Women. Detroit International Academy for Young Women, School of Biomedical Science and Veterinary Medicine, is the only all girls public school in the state of Michigan. Attending DIA means you have the opportunity to start your career in Biomedical, Veterinary and Agricultural Sciences while in grade school that prepares you for post-secondary education and field practice. We are the only school with this exclusive program and career pathway serving girls K-12. The best part is that you get to learn with young ladies from all over the world...

Through initiatives like One Health, our girls learn the importance of increasing the quality of life for humans, animals and the environment by taking care of them and innovating ways for improvement. At DIA we teach through experience. Many students do not know who they will become or even who they want to be. So we show them their potential with Real-World learning.

While taking a tour with over 40 young ladies to the Michigan Humane in Detroit, our girls watched both dental surgery on a feline and a canine being neutered. They raise broiler chickens, learn to cut nails including on our bearded dragons, run our 8 tank aquarium room which the girls use as a calming space, and this doesn't begin to scratch the surface of what they've experienced. With leadership chapters in both 4-H, FFA, and adding HOSA in the fall of 2022, the girls participate in leading and presenting both in local and state level workshops and conferences.

Lyric- past graduate, experienced working adoption and vaccination events. Work-Based learning opportunities like these allow the girls to collaborate with industry professionals ensuring that they are prepared for practice.

Christy- current 12th grader, works as a paid intern at the Michigan Humane during the second half of her school day. She also volunteers on the weekends.

Armani- current 9th grader, participated in our Summer Bridge program prior to starting her High School year, which prepared her for a successful entry as she overcame her fear of Canines, to now training and introducing our animals to our younger girls as they prepare to enter fields in Veterinary Science.

Shiri, Olivia and Shaela attended the DVM conference this year and learned to network with conference vendors, attended workshops and made connections with future employers.

20 Young ladies in our Select group will have the opportunity to attend the NABV conference this June.

With partners like Michigan State, Michigan Humane, the 4-H program, NABV, SEMVMA exposure support, grants from Purina and of course District support to name a few, we have a true pipeline which includes; early exposure to the field in grades K-8, High School State CTE certification, Dual Enrollment College courses, paid internships, experience portfolios, dedicated admissions support for MSU, and access to a network of job placement opportunities. Our partnerships and Career Advisory Council are key in ensuring our students at graduation are prepared, with a head-start, in obtaining future degrees in Veterinary Science and in medicine.

Currently located on Charles St. and Conant on the border of Hamtramck at 5161 Charles St. Detroit MI 48212 applications for the 2022-2023 school year are now open. If you are interested in applying for your child or joining our network of industry partners, please contact us at 313.873.3050 or email the Principal at sakina.bolden@detroitk12.org.

Sakina Bolden, Ed.S.
Principal

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Grade 9th-12th
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OPPORTUNITIES

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Looking for a fulfilling career with work/life balance? Creekside Animal Hospital is looking for you! Full or Part time Associate needed for established, privately owned, small animal hospital in Macomb, MI. New grads welcome. High standards for patient/client relationships and quality medicine, experienced support staff, family atmosphere, digital/dental x-ray, ultrasound, paperless. Competitive salary/benefit packages with production percentage, flexible scheduling (4 work days, 2 Saturday mornings a month) and no after hours, CE allowances, reimbursement for licensing and memberships, insurance, 401k matching and more. Email resume to creeksideah@outlook.com

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MedVet is seeking an Emergency Veterinarian to join our Commerce, MI hospital. The ideal candidate thrives in a fast paced environment and is dedicated to practicing the highest quality of emergency medicine and critical care. \$50,000 signing bonus! - \$25,000 paid at signing and \$25,000 paid at 1 year anniversary. For information about this opportunity with MedVet, please apply on our website, www.medvet.com To submit a confidential CV, please email Amanda Purcell at Amanda.Purcell@MedVet.com There are more positions listed on our website. Moving somewhere we don't currently have a posting? We still want to hear from you!

MedVet Commerce is seeking a Sports Medicine and Rehab specialist or an experienced Rehab Veterinarian (DVM with CCRP/CCRT and also CVA) to lead our well-established rehab department. For information about this opportunity with MedVet, please visit our website, www.medvet.com To submit a confidential CV for any doctor position, please email Carolyn Luther, DVM at Carolyn.Luther@MedVet.com There are more positions listed on our website. Moving somewhere we don't currently have a posting? We still want to hear from you!

CLINICS FOR SALE

Are you ready to buy or sell a veterinary practice? Valuations, consultations. Buying or selling, I can help. Call or text Dr. Fred Zydeck, Broker, at: 248-891-3934 or email: fzydeck@aol.com

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Charlevoix County, Michigan - Small Animal Veterinary Practice: 2,000 SF Facility. Includes real estate. Gross is up 38% through December 2021! Gross revenue over \$1.02M for 2021. (Code: M14) Contact PS Broker 800-636-4740 info@psbroker.com www.psbroker.com

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Delta County, Michigan - Small Animal Veterinary Practice: 1,100 SF Facility. Includes real estate. Gross revenue up 10% through December 2021! Gross revenue over \$1.06M for 2021. (Code M17) Contact: PS Broker 800-636-4740 info@psbroker.com www.psbroker.com

NEWSLETTER ADVERTISEMENT POLICY

In order to preserve the educational and informative purpose of the SEMVMA newsletter, the SEMVMA council adopts the following policy regarding advertising. Ads should be submitted to Barb at adminsemvma@semvma.com Practices or businesses with a common owner shall be treated as one business or practice for the purpose of this policy (referred to as "Common Owner Business or Practice"). A common owner is a person or entity which owns 5% or more of an entity or practice. Shareholders or sole proprietors of an entity or practice shall be considered an owner along with the entity that holds an interest in the business or practice. Corporate ¼ page ads are limited to one business, owner or corporation for each issue of the SEMVMA newsletter. This is in the interest of having the newsletter inform the association and not overwhelm them with ads. The SEMVMA council may modify or waive the application of this policy on a case by case basis at the discretion of the council.

Ads will run only once unless a request is submitted to the Administrative Secretary to run longer. Classified ads are \$15 for 60 words or less and \$25 for 61-100 words. Corporate ¼ page ads are \$135 per issue or \$500 for four issues. Payment is due at the time of the initial ad placement. SEMVMA Members interested in providing Relief Veterinary Services can advertise in the newsletter at no charge. The classified ads must follow the same guidelines regarding number of words and deadline restrictions as all other classified ads. If you are a SEMVMA member interested in placing a classified ad, please contact Barb at 888-SEMVMA-5 or www.adminsemvma@semvma.com. Newsletters are published quarterly: on March 15th, June 15th, September 15th and December 15th. All ads should be submitted to the SEMVMA office by the 15th of the month preceding publication.

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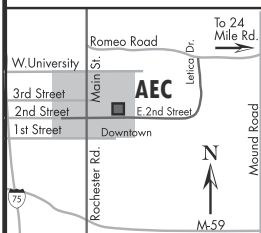
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