ISCAID
International Society for Companion Animal Infectious Diseases

Submission

Abstract submission for the 2024 ISCAID Symposium in Vancouver, BC, Canada will be available **from Monday 22nd January 2024**. Abstracts must be emailed to submitted as a .doc or .docx file using the submission form here. **The deadline for receipt of the abstracts is 23.59 GMT Monday 1st April 2024**. Corrections (e.g. to text or co-authors) cannot be received after the deadline. You will be informed about the decision around 1st May 2024.

Acknowledging successful submission

When your abstract is successfully submitted, you will receive an acknowledgement by email within 10 days. Please re-send the abstract if you do not receive this confirmation.

Submitter Requirements

- Anyone can submit abstracts to be considered in the research abstract category.
- Any undergraduate or postgraduate students including house officers and clinical fellows (as well as those having completed such a programme within 6-months of submission) may be eligible for an abstract award. Requirements for award consideration:
  - Active resident in an approved ECVIM/ACVIM clinical training program, intern, PhD student or veterinary/science undergraduate student
  - Abstracts will be judged on the quality of both the research and oral or poster presentation
  - Eligibility for an award must be made apparent at time of submission

Two types of research abstract communications will be available:

- **Abstracts will be considered for both oral and poster presentation**. Submitting authors should indicate at the time of abstract submission whether an oral or poster presentation is preferred; but it should be recognised that it is not always possible to accommodate these preferences.
- **Oral presentation**, depending on the content, oral abstracts will be assigned to a 15 or 20 minute slot in the programme (this includes five minutes for questions and changeover). Notification of the duration will be made when the final programme timetable is made, as soon after acceptance of the abstract as possible.
- **Poster**, available for viewing throughout the meeting. During specified periods the poster MUST be attended by one or more of the authors to answer specific questions.
- Decision is final and not subject to discussion.

Full ISCAID Symposium registration is not included and no honorarium is paid. Students and trainees are eligible for a reduced ISCAID registration fee as indicated on the ISCAID Symposium registration website. To register please go to: http://www.iscaid.org/2024-symposium

Submissions will be reviewed according to their scientific content, their structure and clarity, and their relevance to companion animal infectious disease advancements.

- Abstracts should describe research in the field of companion animal infectious disease
- Single case reports will only be considered if they are of exceptional nature
- Reviews will not be accepted
- Abstracts which describe data as pending will not be accepted
- Abstracts describing studies deemed to include unethical treatment of animals will not be accepted
- Abstracts that have been previously published/presented in current or substantially similar form at an international meeting will not be accepted

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Disclosures Statement

All abstracts must include a statement at the bottom of their abstract, headed **Disclosures**, on behalf of all co-authors, regarding any disclosures for their work. This enables congress attendees to determine whether or not there may have been bias or the perception of bias. This can occur when any of the authors (or someone related to the authors e.g. family member, spouse, friend) has a relationship with any entity that has an interest (direct or indirect) related to the submission. Examples include:

- Any form of support (financial or otherwise) for the study described in the abstract.
- Any form of support **for other work** that that the authors are involved in.
- Financial relationships (**which may be unrelated to the subject matter of the abstract**) whereby the individual or relative benefits by receiving a salary, royalties, consulting fees, speaker honoraria, ownership interests (e.g. stock or stock options), or other benefits.
- Indirect benefits i.e. where the author, or author's institution, benefits from the results of the study. An example would be where the author (or their institution) runs a laboratory service, which performs an assay that is discussed in the abstract.

Please note that it is best to practise 'full disclosure' and err on the side of caution; if in doubt, please include the item. If accepted for oral presentation the speaker must display their disclosures on the second slide of their presentation (i.e. immediately following the title slide), and similarly, disclosures should be listed on posters.

Abstract Guidelines

Abstracts that do not fit within the following guidelines will be rejected based on formatting. Please see below for an example of a correctly formatted abstract.

All abstracts must be composed in **Microsoft Word** using: Arial, 10-point, black font; **single spaced**; a **US Letter** page layout (21.59cm x 27.94cm, 8.5 in x 11in), with margins of 2.54cm/1 in top and bottom and 3.17cm/1.25 in left and right; and full justification such that text is flush with both left and right sides.

The title must be **15 words maximum** and clearly indicate the nature of the investigation. Abbreviations should be avoided in the title. **CAPITALIZE AND BOLD THE ENTIRE TITLE**.

Following a line space, enter the author names as shown in the example e.g. Christopher R. Helps. The presenting author should be in **bold.**

Following a line space, the institutional affiliations (including city and country) of each author is stated e.g. Bristol Veterinary School, University of Bristol, Bristol, United Kingdom. If no institution is involved, give the city and country. Alphabetical superscripts (e.g. ^{ab}) are used to link the author names to addresses.

The body of the abstract should follow another line space, and **MUST be between 250 and 400 words in length** (excluding title, author details/addresses, disclosures statement, word count, presentation preference and abstract award eligibility). The abstract should contain information on the following, using these as subheadings in bold: **Background, Aim(s) of the work, Methods, Results and Discussion/Conclusions**. A statement that "the results will be discussed" is **not** acceptable. Tables, graphs and figures are NOT allowed.

The Disclosure statement must follow the main text of the Abstract and be headed as '**Disclosures**'.

A word count headed as '**Word count'** should following, stating the number of words in the body of the abstract (excluding title, author details/addresses, disclosures statement, word count, presentation preference and abstract award eligibility).

A line headed '**Preference**' must be stated in which the authors disclose any preference for oral or poster presentation if the abstract is accepted. State no preference if the author does not mind. If an oral presentation is required for training purposes, this can be stated in this section.

A line headed '**Abstract award**' must be included if the author is eligible for an abstract award; and the reason for the eligibility stated (e.g. PhD student, ECVIM resident).

Save the abstract file in .doc or .docx format.

Proof-read your submission carefully as the abstract will appear EXACTLY as submitted; excessively poor grammar or clarity of writing will not be accepted.

Oral presentations
Electronic slides should be organised in a Microsoft PowerPoint presentation using ISCAID templates for title pages and speaker disclosures. The symposium organizer will supply the required audiovisual equipment, such that personal laptops are not needed. Please ensure you adhere to the time you are allotted for your oral presentation.

Your complete PowerPoint presentation must received **BEFORE 6th October 2024** by uploading the file to a link that will be provided to you by the organizing committee.

Posters
Abstracts accepted for poster presentations must be displayed in the poster area of the conference centre. There will be a specific poster session during the Forum and authors are expected to attend their posters to answer questions of delegates. Poster size will be for portrait (horizontal) display and must fit to A0 (118.9 x 84.1cm, 46.81 x 33.11 inches). Attachment of the posters to the available boards (e.g. by Velcro tape) is the responsibility of the presenting author.

Questions?
Contact Scott Weese (jsweese@uoguelph.ca) or 2024symposium@iscaid.org

Correctly formatted abstract example:

IMMUNOLOGICAL PARAMETERS OF PROTECTIVE IMMUNITY AGAINST INFECTION WITH A PATHOGENIC HEMOTROPHIC MYCOPLASMA

Chelsea A. E. Hicks[a]; Barbara Willi[bc]; Barbara Riond[b]; Marilisa Novacco[b]; Marina L. Meli[bd]; Christopher R. Stokes[a]; Christopher R. Helps[a]; Regina Hofmann-Lehmann[bd]; Séverine Tasker[a]

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Background: Haemoplasmas are emerging and potentially zoonotic mycoplasmal pathogens, which are not consistently cleared by antibiotic therapy. *Mycoplasma haemofelis* is the most pathogenic feline haemoplasma species.
Aim(s) of the work: The aim of this study was to characterize the immune response following *de novo M. haemofelis* infection and to determine how previously infected *M. haemofelis* cats, that had recovered, reacted when re-challenged with *M. haemofelis*.
Methods: Five SPF-derived naïve (Group A) and five *M. haemofelis* recovered cats (Group B) were inoculated subcutaneously with *M. haemofelis*. Blood *M. haemofelis* loads were measured by quantitative PCR (qPCR), antibody response to heat shock protein 70 (DnaK) by ELISA, blood lymphocyte cell subtypes by flow cytometry and cytokine mRNA levels by reverse-transcriptase qPCR.
Results: Group A all became infected with high bacterial loads and sero-converted, whilst Group B were protected from re-challenge; thus providing the unique opportunity to study the immunological parameters associated with a protective immune response against *M. haemofelis*. Firstly, a strong humoral response to DnaK was only observed in Group A, demonstrating that an antibody response to DnaK is not important for protective immunity. Secondly, pro-inflammatory cytokine IL-6 mRNA levels appeared to increase rapidly post inoculation in Group B, indicating a possible role in protective immunity. Thirdly, an increase in IL-12p35 and p40 mRNA, and decrease in Th2/Th1 ratio, observed in Group A suggest that a Th1 type response is important in primary infection.
Discussion/Conclusions: This is the first study to demonstrate protective immunity against *M. haemofelis* infection and provides important information for potential future haemoplasma vaccine design.

Disclosures: C.A.E.H. holds a PhD studentship funded by BBSRC and Zoetis Animal Health.
Word count: 257
Preference: Oral presentation
Abstract award: Eligible (PhD student)