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Want to learn more?
Visit Connections online in the Knowledge Center: www.NYSVMS.org

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SAVE THE DATE

New York State Spring Veterinary Conference

May 13-15, 2016
Hilton Westchester
Rye Brook, NY

HOSTED BY
New York State Veterinary Medical Society
& Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine
As we look back at the many NYSVMS achievements in 2015, I am amazed at all we accomplished this year. We were really able to tackle the major areas of our strategic plan, while also laying the groundwork for 2016 and beyond.

Personally, I am most proud of the organizational changes made to our governance structure. In 2015, we revised the committee structure to streamline our operations and ensure multiple species are represented throughout the association. One of our signature priorities in the history of the Society has been restructuring the organization to comply with the current laws by forming two corporations: a not-for-profit corporation with 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status, NYSVMS Educational Fund Inc. which will perform educational and charitable work and a new New York not-for-profit entity to perform our advocacy and lobbying activities, a 501(c)(6) NYSVMS.

The Management Relations Committee (MRC), chaired by Surinder Wadyal, DVM, was tasked with the challenging job of analyzing the Society’s current and future needs for legislative and legal services. The MRC meticulously reviewed proposals, and interviewed several firms, over most of this year. The surge of engagement by members in just the last three years has positioned NYSVMS to need more and more human capital resources to tackle intensely complicated and technical issues. The Board ultimately voted to engage the firm Wilson Elser Moskowitz Edelman & Dicker to provide both legislative and legal services beginning in January.

And finally in April, we completed a strategic plan that will provide a roadmap for the next three years and beyond. This plan focuses on five strategic areas: advocacy and government relations; member service and value; professional development and education; marketing and communications and state society structure. It’s hard to imagine that today’s first-year veterinary students will be graduates at the conclusion of this strategic plan, in the year 2020!

So, what does all of this mean to you as the member? It means we have set the proper course for the Society for the future. And the future is bright, promising and exciting! It means a better and faster delivery of services starting in 2016 and expanded legal and legislative resources to meet your needs. And finally in April, we completed a strategic plan that will provide a roadmap for the next three years and beyond.

While much has been accomplished, the work is not done! There are still many issues that need to be addressed including encroachment of veterinary services from outside organizations; crippling student debt, compounding medication legislation; animal guardianship and proposed legislation attempting to mandate medical procedures, to name a few. But I feel that NYSVMS is in a great position now to tackle these issues and more heading into 2016. I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone on the Executive Board, Committee chairs and members, Regional officers, Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine faculty and staff and YOU the members for an incredible year as president. I am confident as I pass the presidential gavel to Susan Wylegala, DVM that we are in great shape to LEAP to even higher heights.
Fundraiser to Benefit
Cornell Veterinary Student Scholarships and the NYSVMS Political Education Committee (V-PEC)

Saturday, May 14, 2016, 5-7 pm
New York State Spring Veterinary Conference | Hilton Westchester, Rye Brook, NY

Funds raised during the Silent Auction benefit NYSVMS legislative advocacy through the Veterinary Political Education Committee and the NYSVMS Scholarship, awarded annually to a veterinary student at Cornell. Established in 1994 as a permanently-endowed scholarship, it provides tuition assistance to New York State residents who are third or fourth-year students and show interest in organized veterinary medicine.

The Silent Auction will once again feature the popular wine wall. Donate a bottle of wine valued at more than $25 dollars to the Wine Wall. Attendees will purchase a ticket to receive a gift-wrapped surprise bottle. Many of the bottles won are valued between $50 and $100!

Popular Donation Items Include: gift baskets, wine and beer baskets, overnight stays, artwork, jewelry, sporting event tickets, electronics and historical veterinary objects.

Contact NYSVMS headquarters and let us know what YOU CAN DONATE!

I wish to donate an item to the Silent Auction _____ and/or Wine Wall _____

Donor Name: __________________________________________________________
Organization Name: _______________________________________________________
Mailing Address: __________________________________ City: ___________________ State: _____ Zip: ___________
Phone: ___________________ Fax: ___________________ Email: ___________________

How will you deliver item: □ Directly to conference □ Ship to NYSVMS □ Other _______________________

Describe the item you are donating (please be as descriptive as possible): _______________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________________________

Approximate Retail Value: $_________________________

Please fax this form to (518) 869-7868 or email the form to Dory Fisk, dfisk@nysvms.org
NYSVMS, 100 Great Oaks Blvd., Suite 127, Albany, NY 12203
NYSVMS continuously receives questions from members about writing prescriptions for controlled, versus non-controlled, substances. Below are some general guidelines provided by the NYSVMS legal counsel. More information is available in the Knowledge Center on the NYSVMS website.

With the passage of the Prescription Drug Reform Act of 2012 (which included I-STOP), additional information was required on prescriptions for controlled substances. This additional information is necessary in order to provide all the information required by DOH when the prescription is filled, and entered in the prescription monitoring registry.

The regulations adopted for controlled substance prescriptions (for Schedule II, III, IV and V substances; provisions that apply to Schedule II only are indicated) require that the prescription shall contain the following:

1. Name, sex (Schedule II only), address and age of the ultimate user for whom the substance is intended, or, if the ultimate user is an animal, the species of such animal and the name and address of the owner or person in custody of such animal;
2. The printed name, address, Drug Enforcement Administration registration number, telephone number and handwritten signature of the prescribing practitioner. The printed name of the prescriber who has signed the prescription shall be imprinted or stamped legibly and conspicuously on the prescription, shall appear in an appropriate location on the prescription form and shall not be entered in or upon the space or line reserved for the prescriber’s signature. The imprinted or stamped name shall not be a substitute for or fulfill any legal requirement otherwise mandating that the prescription be signed by the prescriber;
3. Specific directions for use including but not limited to, the dosage and frequency of dosage and the maximum daily dosage.
4. The date upon which such prescription was prepared and actually signed by the prescribing practitioner. A prescription shall be dated as of, and signed on, the date it is issued.
5. The quantity of dosage units prescribed and the number of times the prescription may be refilled. On an official New York State prescription, the quantity of dosage units shall be indicated...
in both numerical and written word form. For Schedule III, IV and V prescriptions, which may be refilled (Schedule II may not), the prescription shall also contain the number of times the prescription may be refilled, in both numerical and written word form.

(6) An electronic prescription shall contain the information described above (1-5) except such prescription shall contain an electronic signature and shall be transmitted and received by electronic means. Such electronic signature shall meet the signature requirements set forth in regulations.

(7) A prescription generated on an electronic system and printed out or transmitted via facsimile is not an electronic prescription and shall be manually signed.

(8) A section wherein prescribers may indicate whether an individual is limited English proficient, as defined in New York State Education Law Section 6829; and if the patient is limited English proficient, a specification of the preferred language indicated by the patient. Failure to include such indication on the part of the prescriber shall not invalidate the prescription.

(9) Except as provided for certain prescriptions that may be written for a three month supply, no such prescription shall be made for a quantity of substances which would exceed a 30-day supply if the substance were used in accordance with the directions for use, specified on the prescription. No additional prescriptions for a controlled substance may be issued by a practitioner to an ultimate user within 30 days of the date of any prescription previously issued unless and until the ultimate user has exhausted all but a seven days’ supply of that controlled substance provided by any previously issued prescription.

The required information for non-controlled substance prescriptions is slightly different, and are summarized in the Practice Guidelines for Veterinary Medicine:

All written prescriptions should include the following information:

1. The name, address, telephone number, license number and signature of the prescribing veterinarian;
2. The name and address of the client;
3. The species and name, number or other identifying information for the animal;
4. The name, strength and quantity of the drug(s);
5. Directions for use including, if applicable, withdrawal time;
6. Date of issue;
7. Number of refills; and
8. Dispense-as-Written box.

In addition, effective March 30, 2013, prescriptions should also contain a section wherein prescribers may indicate whether an individual is limited English proficient, as defined in New York State Education Law Section 6829; and if the patient is limited English proficient, a specification of the preferred language indicated by the patient. However, the law requiring this information also provides that failure to include such indication on the part of the prescriber shall not invalidate the prescription.

Prescriptions for non-controlled substances must also be written on official New York Prescription Forms.

Barbara Ahern, Esq.,
NYSVMS Legal Counsel
As this fiscal year ends, it is more important than ever to fully understand your accounts receivable, and make a plan for creating positive cash flow for the first quarter. Where should you make changes now to keep your cash flow healthy through the New Year and beyond? Check out these top tips that you can use today, with comments from NYSVMS members who have successfully utilized them:

1. **Eliminate Alienation:**
   Your clients and patients are so valuable to the health of your practice, so it’s vital to maintain your relationships, even through a debt scenario. With early, professional contact provided by a neutral third party, your practice can continue servicing your clients without fear of uncomfortable financial discussions. Here’s what TekCollect client Lisa Lafferty, DVM of Latham Veterinary Hospital has to say: “Our previous agencies were getting decent results, but we were saddened to hear about our clients being treated harshly throughout their debt situations. Our experience since switching has been extremely positive! We’re placing accounts earlier than ever, and our collection rates have jumped. We love how our clients are treated because it fits our practice’s philosophy on customer service.”

2. **Free Up Your Staff:**
   You’ve chosen your staff members for their unique talents in practice management, as well as their ability to wear several hats. With A/R management becoming more and more important to a businesses’ bottom line, it’s critical that you are working smart, as well as working hard. Are your employees trained to handle collections conversations? Are they aware of the latest laws and strategies for recapturing lost income? If not, it’s time to examine whether an outside party could handle your delinquencies more efficiently. Check out what Anthony Ciccarelli of Steele and Associates, another TekCollect client, says: “Even with a contingent agency working for us, we still had an employee spending two to three days a week on collections, not to mention my own involvement. We needed a change. Thanks to our partnership, I now only spend about four to six hours a month on A/R management, because I know it is being taken care of more efficiently than we could accomplish in-house.”

3. **Improve Your Ongoing A/R Health:**
   As a vet, you’re probably preaching preventative maintenance to your clients, with regular check-ups, shots and cleanings to stave off illness down the road. The same principle applies to cash flow management. Making a plan for tracking and pursuing receivables, as well as protocols for those that become past due, can make a huge difference in overall business health. Practices that make solid commitments to an A/R management plan have reported up to a 75 percent reduction to the number of delinquencies that eventually become write-offs. TekCollect client Chris Brockett, DVM of Saratoga Veterinary Hospital has this to say: “Our practice has really benefited from the systems put in place through TekCollect. The price is so reasonable for the services you receive, and the return on investment makes it a complete win. Our clients know what to expect when working with us, and our A/R is in excellent shape.”

4. **Being Proactive, Not Reactive:**
   With the end of the year almost here, you may be experiencing an influx of clientele due to factors like the holidays and weather change. You’ll be busy, your staff will be busy, and it’ll be easier to let things slide through the fourth Quarter. That puts you at a crucial disadvantage going into 2016. Before your operations are inundated, make a pledge to stay ahead of the curve on your cash flow. NYSVMS, Executive Director, Jennifer Mauer, CAE, says: “Like many medical professionals, veterinarians are fantastic scientists, but often are not strong business people. With their small staff, they often end up getting behind in their A/R, and the result is a reactive approach rather than proactive. That’s why a planned approach is so important. We at the NYSVMS strongly recommend a trusted and effective accounts receivable management partner, such as TekCollect, to stay ahead of the curve.”

Maximize your year-end opportunities to create positive cash flow in your practice. Utilizing any combination of the above will not only relieve pressure on your staff and customers but will also secure greater financial health for 2016.

Check out this Veterinary Client Testimonial to learn more: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4U6kglyLP2U&feature=youtube.

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**Tim Olesky, Division Vice President, TekCollect**

TekCollect provides the most advanced accounts receivable, collections, and client retention services available. To learn more about us, visit our website (http://www.tekcollect.com/Frontend/Content/Home.aspx) and follow us on Facebook (https://www.facebook.com/TekCollect?fref=aymt_homepage_panel) and Twitter (https://twitter.com/TekCollect). As a NYSVMS Affinity Partner, TekCollect provides discounted, customized services to NYSVMS members.
As we celebrated the 125th anniversary of the New York State Veterinary Medical Society, this year proved to be one of transition and explosive growth. The board, members and staff worked symbiotically to advocate on behalf of the members on a variety of issues to expand member benefits, organize two successful veterinary conferences, streamline the governance structure and plan strategically for the future. Here are just some of the many accomplishments this year.

**Legislative Victories**
NYSVMS scored several legislative victories in 2015—the most significant was preventing the declaw legislation from appearing on the Assembly Agriculture Committee meeting agenda. This prevented the bill from advancing to the full Assembly floor for debate and a possible vote. Our Grassroots Legislative Network (GRLN) started a local community campaign to educate lawmakers on the Committee, as well as the Assembly Majority leaders, about how this legislation would adversely affect animals and their owners. And it worked! This bill saw no other action through the end of the legislative session.

NYSVMS has voiced opposition for years about legislation banning canine devocalization. The bill proposed prohibited devocalization, except when the procedure is medically necessary to treat or relieve an illness, disease, or injury, or correct a congenital abnormality suffered by the animal. The bill required veterinarians, performing allowable procedures, to report to their municipal clerk prior to performing devocalization surgery and to the Board for Veterinary Medicine once they finished. The Government Relations Committee’s efforts stalled the movement of this bill, and will offer alternative solutions in 2016.

While opinions may differ about these medical procedures, we all agree that no legislative body should be allowed to ban a medical treatment procedure. We cannot allow governments to mandate what is best for our patients. The NYSVMS Government Relations Committee and the GRLN are fiercely committed to protect your right to choose the best treatment for your patients.

**NYC Legislative Victory**
Wilson Elser Moskowitz Edelman & Dicker joined the NYSVMS government affairs team in July to proactively address a series of
New York City legislative issues which affect the profession.

Our prominent success was halting legislation to require the mandatory installation of automatic sprinkler systems in animal hospitals, kennels, pet shops and veterinary clinics where animals are sheltered on a 24-hour basis. New York City Council Member Corey Johnson introduced legislation last year for the purported purpose of reducing the possibility of fires within animal service facilities. In light of concerns raised by NYSVMS and VMA-NYC, Councilman Johnson amended the legislation to exempt both animal service facilities in operation prior to Dec. 31, 2016, equipped with an automatic smoke detection system, and those which provide 24-hour in-person supervision of the animals and are equipped with smoke alarms. NYSVMS and VMA-NYC withdrew their opposition in response to these changes. In August, the City Council passed the legislation, and is expected to be signed by the mayor soon.

Your dues dollars were directly invested in the coordinated efforts of NYSVMS, VMA-NYC and Wilson Elser Moskowitz Edelman & Dicker to protect the interests of our NYC members.

Expanded Member Benefits

NYSVMS continues to sharpen communication tools to deliver members the latest news in a timely matter. All members receive the weekly Thursday e-newsletter, as well as the bi-monthly Connections magazine. This Spring, NYSVMS received a 2015 APEX (Awards for Publication Excellence) Award. With over 1500 entries from all over the world, NYSVMS is pleased to offer members a nationally recognized publication. Members also received digital alerts throughout the year on such issues as: the canine influenza outbreak with a fact sheet to post; compounding; Fairness to Pet Owners Act and international ketamine rescheduling.

The Knowledge Center is consistently updated with new resources and articles to educate you and your staff. Here are just some of the reference materials that were added this year: H3N2 Canine Influenza Fact Sheet; LVT/Unlicensed Personnel Duties; Vet Tech Student Internships; LTVs Performing Laser Therapy; Animal Massage; Standards for Breeder Wellness; Microchipping Policy; Tips on Addressing Cyberbullying and Electronic Prescriptions.

You also receive discounts from a host of Affinity Partners. The Society negotiated with these companies to provide a plan that will benefit practices and save you money!

- Insurance broker: USI Affinity
- Energy provider: Energy Plus
- Accounts receivable: Tek Collect
- Healthcare credit card: Care Credit
- Credit card processing: Bruneau Saxton.

To read the benefits you receive from each of these businesses, go to the NYSVMS Affinity Partners page on our website.

Two Successful NYS Veterinary Conferences

For the second year, two NYS Veterinary Conferences hosted by NYSVMS and Cornell University were held this Spring. Dr. John Sykes was just one of the many presenters during the Hall of Veterinary Health at the NYS Fair this summer.

Robin Sturtz, DVM (left) and Rebecca Goodale, DVM, members of CLA presented to Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine students in November. (Photo by: Rebecca Goodale)
College of Veterinary Medicine were held in the spring and fall. With doubled attendance and sold out, standing room only classrooms, the NYS-VC Spring was a tremendous success. Over 65 seminars on a variety of topics held the attention of DVMs and LVTs from NYS and other states around the US. An expanded, sold out trade show offered veterinarians and LVTs the chance to view the latest products and services. The Welcome Reception included a book signing by keynote speaker, Alexander de Lahunta, DVM, PhD, DACVIM, DACVP. The Purple Party, Silent Auction and Wine Wall raised over $10,000, a record total that will again benefit the Veterinary Medicine to the public. Long Island VMA organized an educational forum for the horse-owning community in conjunction with Cornell Ruffian Equine Specialists in Elmont. Northern NY VMA used the grant to fund two programs—the Northern Adirondack Central School’s Ag/FFA program in Ellenburg for supplies and workbooks for the veterinary science class and Canton Central School’s Ag/FFA in Canton for the annual FFA awards dinner which recognizes students, alumni and supporters as part of National Agriculture Week. The following members attended 2015 fundraisers and NYSVMS thanks them greatly: Lawrence Bartholf; Anthony Beane; Victoria Bentley; Christopher Brockett; Marlene Button; Ed Chapman; Lisa Esposito; Cathy Heiber; Linda Jacobson; Laurel Kaddatz; Art Kronfeld; David Leady; Lincoln Lee; Walter McCarthy; Susan McClellan; Kenneth Rotondo; John Sangiorgio; Jessica Sciller-Smith; Dean Snyder; Robert Sofarelli; Linda Tintle; Surinder Wadyal; Robert Weiner; Frank Welcome; Mark Will; Susan Wylegala and James Zgoda. (Mark Chmielewicz and Doug Aspros due to their positions on the Board for Veterinary Medicine are currently not permitted to attend any fundraisers). Thank you to everyone who donated to PEC! You helped keep veterinary medicine and animal welfare issues at the forefront of NYS politics.

Tackling the Accreditation Issue
NYSVMS continued to push for changes to the AVMA Council on Education this year, an initiative that began in 2012. Positive steps forward have been made including: the COE no longer allows AVMA board members to be included on site visits to veterinary schools; funding was secured to hire outside, independent legal counsel to the COE; and the composition of the COE changed to comprise three at-large members, instead of...
appointed representatives from the AVMA Board of Directors and the House of Delegates.

Planning for the Future

NYSVMS leadership embarked on a two day retreat in April to update our LEAP strategic plan. The result is a comprehensive plan focusing on five strategic areas: advocacy and government relations; member service and value; professional development and education; marketing and communications and state society structure. This plan builds on the progress made over the previous three years, and serves as a visionary roadmap for the year 2020.

The Management Relations Committee analyzed the Society’s legislative and legal needs as it grows by leaps and bounds. After a very comprehensive, nearly yearlong process to review proposals, the Executive Board voted to retain Wilson Elser Moskowitz Edelman & Dicker to provide legislative and legal services to the Society beginning January 1, 2016.

Acknowledgements

We want to thank Barbara Ahern, Esq., general counsel, for her years of service and dedication to NYSVMS. She provided the Society with immeasurable guidance and advice to members, LVTs, regulatory agencies, staff and consumers. She wrote legal columns for the magazine on everything from controlled substances to the VCPR and countless documents that populate our Knowledge Center. She answered a barrage of emails with questions from members about all aspects of veterinary medicine. She represented NYSVMS before the Board of Veterinary Medicine. It is due in part to all of her hard work that we have grown to where we are today.

We would also like to recognize Frank Nemeth and Tom Gosdeck, Esq. of Hill, Gosdeck & McGraw for their years of service to NYSVMS as legislative counsel. There are too many legislative victories to list, but the most significant achievement was passage of the legislation that included animal dentistry in the Veterinary Medicine Practice Act. NYSVMS worked for five years to make this a reality and could not have done this without the guidance and knowledge of Tom and Frank. They worked tirelessly with the Government Relations Committee and GRLN to craft an aggressive legislative agenda. They served as a resource and guiding light to legislators and their staff.

While much has been accomplished this year, there is still much more work to be done. The groundwork has been laid and NYSVMS will continue to leap forward in 2016!

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The U.S. Food and Drug Administration placed into effect the Veterinary Feed Directive (VFD) October 1, 2015, an important piece of the agency’s overall strategy to promote the judicious use of antimicrobials in food-producing animals. This strategy will bring the use of these drugs under veterinary supervision so that they are used only when necessary for assuring animal health. The VFD final rule outlines the process for authorizing use of VFD drugs (animal drugs intended for use in or on animal feed that require the supervision of a licensed veterinarian) and provides veterinarians in all states with a framework for authorizing the use of medically important antimicrobials in feed when needed for specific animal health purposes.

“The actions the FDA has taken to date represent important steps toward a fundamental change in how antimicrobials can be legally used in food-producing animals,” said Michael R. Taylor, FDA deputy commissioner for foods. “The VFD final rule takes another important step by facilitating veterinary oversight in a way that allows for the flexibility needed to accommodate the diversity of circumstances that veterinarians encounter, while ensuring such oversight is conducted in accordance with nationally consistent principles.”

Essentially, the Veterinary Feed Directive (VFD) rule ends performance enhancement uses of feed grade antimicrobials. Some of the same products, however, are labeled for prevention or control of disease and the VFD rule places those applications under the control of a licensed veterinarian. According to FDA, medically important antibiotics are those that are of therapeutic importance in human medicine and there is a risk of microbial resistance development if they are used in an injudicious manner.

It must be emphasized that a veterinarian can only legally authorize a VFD or prescription within the context of a veterinary-client-patient relationship (VCPR). New York State utilizes the Federal definition of a VCPR which basically means the veterinarian must:

- Engage with the client to assume responsibility for making clinical judgement about patient health.
- Have sufficient knowledge of the patient by virtue of patient examination and/or visits to the facility where patient is managed.
- Provide for any necessary follow-up evaluation or care.

For this purpose, the VCPR does not mean the veterinarian is simply acquainted with the client and the client’s animals. The veterinarian cannot provide clients with VFD drugs without filing the VFD documents. Producers can feed the VFD drugs to animals only after receiving a lawful VFD issued by a licensed veterinarian. The client is obligated to use the VFD feed as indicated on the VFD and as specified on the product’s label. Labels for VFD drugs will include a cautionary statement saying “Federal law restricts medicated feed containing this VFD drug to use by or on the order of a licensed veterinarian.” Information that is required on a VFD is:

1. Veterinarian and client information
2. Premise information, where the animals specified in the VFD are located
3. Date of VFD issuance
4. Expiration date of the VFD
5. Name of the VFD drug(s)
6. Species and production class of animals to be fed the VFD feed
7. Approximate number of animals to be fed the VFD feed by the expiration date of the VFD
8. Indication for which the VFD is issued
9. Level of VFD drug in the feed and duration of use
10. Withdrawal time, special instructions and cautionary statements
11. Number of reorders authorized
12. Statement: “Use of feed containing this VFD drug in a manner other than as directed on the labeling is not permitted”

13. An affirmation of intent for combination VFD drugs as described in 21 CFR 558.6(b)(6)
14. Veterinarian’s electronic or written signature
15. Three copies of the VFD will be issued by the veterinarian: one for their own records, one for their client and one to the client’s VFD feed distributor. Recordkeeping for VFD can be either written or electronic and must be retained for 2 years. VFD’s can be generated and handled electronically.

More information on VFD, VCPR, ELDU and drug residue avoidance will be offered in informational meetings around the state over the next year by NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets through a FDA cooperative agreement. Date and times for veterinary CE meetings will be announced through NYSDAM and NYSVMs.

Melanie Hemenway, DVM, NYS Department of Agriculture & Markets, NYSCHAP Coordinator, Melanie. Hemenway@agriculture.ny.gov
Cancer Treatment Using the EWICO System

Cancer is a frustrating and difficult disease to treat. Surgery can be demanding on animals weakened by cancer; chemotherapy can greatly reduce appetite and vitality; radiation is restricted in its application. Many owners struggle to find successful therapeutic options that have no negative side effects. As veterinarians, we often struggle to find a balance for our clients to treat these diseases while still supporting our patient’s quality of life. We are continually searching for safe, yet effective treatment options. One such system involves the use of a specific acupuncture point stimulation using the EWICO (Embryo Containing Information of the Whole Organism) system. In April 2015, the New York Complementary and Alternative Veterinary Medicine Association (NY CAVMA) (www.nycavma.org) hosted Dr. Are Thoresen, a Norwegian veterinarian who specializes in cancer treatment, for a four-day seminar on cancer treatment using the EWICO system.

Before describing the EWICO system, a basic energetic explanation is needed. There is (almost) always an underlying deficiency or weakness which is the cause of all excessive conditions. In this example, cancer would serve as the excess condition. Typical cancer treatments ‘treat the excess’ by directly attacking the cancer cells, or by surgically removing the cancer. In contrast, the foundation of the EWICO treatment is to control the cancer by stimulating a specific acupuncture point that strengthens this underlying deficiency thereby stimulating an innate self-maintaining and self-repairing homeostatic bodily system.

Change is the ultimate law of all of life and nature. When young, a high degree of cellular activity is normal at a young age. At a certain state, cellular growth slows and finally stops; this is normal behavior. Our bodies have several mechanisms to prevent or regulate the growth and multiplication of cells. When these mechanisms are lost, cancer can occur. Using the EWICO system, these control mechanisms are regained.

Acupuncture is the most important method to regain this lost control. To use this treatment effectively, one must first receive training in the theory and practice of acupuncture, the location of acupuncture pathways, meridians (see figure 1), and one must be able to make an accurate acupuncture diagnosis. Currently in this country, there are two well recognized acupuncture training classes; the Chi Institute, in Reddick, Fla. (www.tcvm.com); and through the International Veterinary Acupuncture Society (IVAS) (www.ivas.org).

When approaching a patient using this system, one must aim to locate the primary site of the cancer (i.e., the tissue organ or meridian that shows cancer). It is very important to know the exact pathways where the cancer is located. Then knowledge of acupuncture theory is needed as then one must select and treat the best acupuncture point on the controlling cycle to bring control to the primary cancerous organ or tissue. If control is regained in the primary tissue, one may also expect good control over any metastasis.

To understand which meridian (acupuncture pathway) to treat, the practitioner must understand the Five Element (Phase) theory. In Chinese medicine, one aspect of the Five Element theory is called the Ko-cycle. This cycle describes which organ ‘controls’ another. It is using this Ko-cycle that the controlling meridian is found. For example, the mammary chain is located on the stomach meridian. The liver energetically controls the stomach. Therefore, for any primary mammary chain cancer, the key is to control the stomach meridian through strengthening the Liver.

Once the controlling pathway is discerned, the exact point must be chosen. Dr. Thoresen is now using points based on the ECIWO points. Ying Qing Zhang, a Chinese professor, published in 1981, a recently discovered ‘bio-holographic law’. Zhang had noted that many pathologic bodily processes manifested as tender points along the metacarpal/metatarsal bones. These areas along the metacarpal and metatarsal bones therefore reflect the entire body. The ECIWO systems are interconnected with intercommunication via the connective tissue. Soviet research has shown that this system uses chemiluminescence, which is transmitted through the connective tissue; not surprisingly located exactly where the Chinese described the location of acupuncture meridians. Dr. Bjorn Nordenstron has shown that this system is of vital importance in balancing body processes.
For example, one can use the ECIWO points on the liver meridian to control cancer of the spleen or stomach; and any tissue along the course of these meridians, like cancer of the lower medial tibia or mammary cancer. Dr. Thoresen has over 80 percent success rate in resolution of canine mammary cancer using only one acupuncture point!

It is a fascinating non-toxic, no adverse side-effect therapeutic method to treat cancer. Go to www.nycavma.org for more information. Dr. Thoresen will be returning to New York to continue his training classes with our members of the NYCAVMA in November 2016.

Cynthia Lankenau, DVM
Dr. Cynthia Lankenau is a 1981 graduate from Cornell’s College of Veterinary Medicine and a graduate of the International Veterinary Acupuncture Society certification class of 1991. She is currently in a private mixed animal practice that specializes in alternative therapies.

… the foundation of the EWICO treatment is to control the cancer by stimulating a specific acupuncture point that strengthens this underlying deficiency thereby stimulating an innate self-maintaining and self-repairing homeostatic bodily system.”
A new law in New York State will allow dogs on restaurant patios. Governor Andrew Cuomo signed the “dining with dogs” bill into law in October. States including California, Florida and Maryland already have similar laws. Dog lovers and many restaurant owners in New York support the idea, noting the animals would have to be leashed and restaurants could choose not to allow canines. Supporters noted the rules have long been ignored and that any ban could only encourage more dogs to be left in locked cars, risking their health.

Governor Cuomo also signed the Vet Mobility Act of 2015 in November. As a result of 2012 Super Storm Sandy and its aftermath, a bill providing limited licensing exemptions for specially trained, out-of-state veterinarians related to natural disaster response was introduced in 2013 in both houses of the legislature. These bills did not move in the concluding days of the 2014 Legislative session. AB6990 (Glick) and SB250 (LaValle) were reintroduced in 2015, with some amendments made in the last days of the legislative session. NYSVMS worked with advocates to insure the profession’s standards of practice were met and that the legislation applies only in circumstances of major catastrophic events.

Gov. Cuomo vetoed legislation that would have used public funds to support statewide trap, neuter, release (TNR) programs for feral cats. The decision came in October, after a lengthy public debate. Under the proposed legislation (A2778/S1081), up to 20 percent of the state’s Animal Population Control Program Fund, supported by dog license fees, could have been allocated to TNR programs and away from the fund’s original purpose: to support low-cost spay/neuter of dogs and cats for low-income owners.

In a public statement about his decision, the governor called the proposed bill “problematic” for a number of reasons, including evidence that shows TNR does not reduce feral cat populations and that feral cats have a major impact on wildlife, “including threatened and endangered species, habitats, and food sources for native predators.”

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Nearly 600 veterinarians and veterinary technicians attended the NYS Fall Veterinary Conference held October 16-18 at Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine featuring lectures on oncology, companion animal reproduction, exotic species, practical pharmacology, antibiotic resistance, wound management, controlled substances and general care of pet pigs.

Friday featured a specialized equine program and practitioner luncheon, a NYS required controlled substances law update seminar and a Cornell expansion hard hat tour. The fourth annual Clinical Investigators’ Day showcased CVM residents and interns research to the veterinary community at large. In addition to serving as a forum for the presentation of advances in veterinary medicine, the event promotes interaction among students, faculty, practitioners, and alumni.

The Welcome Reception with the exhibitors included a silent auction and a Finger Lakes wine and beer tasting.

A Floating Classroom Cruise on Cayuga Lake was offered for the first time to learn about harmful algal blooms affecting domestic animals and common causes of fish kills in the Finger Lakes.

The NYS-VC Celebration Dinner honored: NYSVMS Veterinarian of the Year: Laura Cook, DVM, Central NY member; NYSVMS Distinguished Life Service award Lauret Kaddatz, DVM, WRVMA member; NYS-VC 2014 Outstanding Speaker award: Ursula Krotscheck, DVM, DACVIM; Cornell University Hospital for Animals Outstanding Clinical Service award: John Randolph, DVM, DACVIM and Daniel Elmer Salmon Award for Distinguished Alumni Service: Paul Pion, DVM, DACVIM, founder and CEO of VIN. Joseph Kinnarney, DVM, President of AVMA offered an update on current AVMA activities.

Margret “Meg” Thompson, DVM, DACVR, Interim Director of Cornell University Hospital for Animals, was elected President-elect of NYSVMS for 2016; Walter McCarthy, DVM was elected to a four year term as AVMA Alternate Delegate and Allan Bregman, DVM was elected as Treasurer to replace Lawrence Bartholf, DVM who is retiring. Changes to the bylaws were also approved (http://c.ymcdn.com/sites/www.nysvms.org/resource/collection/6AC4D7D6-4DAE-4EAC-965F-B5EDFCCFDC57/bylawsrevised2015.pdf.)

Special thanks to the NYS-VC Fall Planning Committee and the NYS-VC Fall Sponsors: Simmons Northeast, Best Pet Rx, Merial Limited and Patterson Veterinary Supply. Save the date for the 2016 NYS-VC Spring May 13-15 at Westchester Hilton in Rye Brook.

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Special thanks to the NYS-VC Fall sponsors:

Save the date for the 2016 NYS-VC Spring May 13-15 at Westchester Hilton in Rye Brook.
Forty-three speakers presented on various subjects throughout the conference. (Photo by: Michael Carroll, Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine)

Attendees were able to participate in labs during the conference. (Photo by: Michael Carroll, Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine)

Laura Cook, DVM (right) accepts the NYSVMS Veterinarian of the Year award from Dean Snyder, DVM, President. (Photo by: Rene van Ee, DVM)

Laurel Kaddatz, DVM (left) accepts the NYSVMS Distinguished Life Service award from Dean Snyder, DVM, President. (Photo by: Rene van Ee, DVM)

Joseph Kinnarney, DVM, President, AVMA (left) with Paul Pion, DVM, DACVIM, recipient of Daniel Elmer Salmon Award for Distinguished Alumni Service. (Photo by: Rene van Ee, DVM)

Dancing the night away at the Celebration Dinner. (Photo by: Rene van Ee, DVM)
Last spring, I took a class on Nonconventional Imaging at Rochester Institute of Technology. One of the nonconventional techniques I was taught was x-ray photography. The class demonstrated techniques about how to colorize black-and-white images. I was excited, since I had access to an x-ray machine back home at my father James Zgoda, DVM’s veterinary office. When I was working at the hospital this summer, I gathered anything I thought would look interesting using x-ray.

My dad helped me navigate the Cornerstone utility and set the right exposure. He used the preset Radius/Ulna RCC. I thought it would be interesting to photograph a piggy bank with change inside, however the exposure was incorrect, so the coins appeared as bright white circles. I colorized the image in Adobe Photoshop, using the quick selection tool and adding color gradients.

The turtle image was provided to me. Someone brought the turtle into my father’s office after she was hit by a car. She started laying eggs, so the staff decided to x-ray her. Her left front leg was missing when she arrived. I used Photoshop for this image as well, applying the same technique.

Using this colorizing technique on x-rays can assist veterinarians in distinguishing the different anatomy of an animal. It can highlight the issue, making it easier to interpret the image and determine proper care.

I am in my third year of the biomedical photographic communications program at RIT, which is the scientific side of photography. I plan to continue a career in Ophthalmic photography, but also have an interest in anything to do with animals. My father is a veterinarian of a small animal practice, located on the first floor of the house where I grew up, so I was always surrounded by animals.

Teri Zgoda
This article and photos were submitted by the daughter of NYSVMS member, James Zgoda, DVM.
George Poppensiek, Emeritus Dean, Cornell College of Veterinary Medicine

George Charles Poppensiek, VMD, emeritus dean of Cornell’s College of Veterinary Medicine from 1959 to 1974, passed away Sept. 8 in Ithaca, N.Y. He was 97 years old.

Dean Poppensiek matriculated at the Cornell College of Agriculture in 1936. He subsequently transferred to the University of Pennsylvania, where he completed his bachelor’s degree and earned his VMD. He joined the faculty of the University of Maryland (UM) and served as veterinarian for UM’s herds and flocks. He also assumed major responsibility for clinical and laboratory diagnoses of rabies during a serious outbreak in Prince George’s County, where UM is located. This led to a new post at Lederle Laboratories in Pearl River, N.Y., where Dean Poppensiek was responsible for veterinary virus vaccine production.

He returned to Cornell in 1949 as director of the Diagnostic Laboratory and to pursue advanced studies in virology, pathology and biochemistry. Dean Poppensiek was awarded an MS in 1951 and became a research associate in the Cornell College of Veterinary Medicine, where he was involved in studies on a combined vaccine for canine infectious hepatitis and distemper. He then spent four years as supervisory veterinarian for immunologic investigations at the USDA’s Plum Island Animal Disease Center.

When Dean Poppensiek again returned to Cornell, it was as dean of CVM. Among other achievements, he led the development of the Veterinary Research Tower and oversaw the doubling of the college faculty and a significant increase in research activity. When his term as dean ended, he was named the first James Law Professor of Comparative Medicine. He also spent two years as a professor of comparative pathology at Cornell’s medical college in New York City.

Dean Poppensiek retired in 1988. In honor of the occasion the university established the Poppensiek Lectureship, an annual event with distinguished guest speakers from around the world.

Dean Poppensiek was predeceased by Edith Marion, to whom he was married for 63 years, and his son, Neil Allen. He is survived by his daughter, Leslie Marion Howe, and five grandchildren.

Charles Gould ‘59

Charles Norman Gould, DVM of Bridgehampton died October 14 at age 80.

Born in Montauk to Abby and Norman Gould, who owned a dairy farm in East Hampton, on June 13, 1935, he was proud of his roots and liked to tell friends that his grandparents married at the Montauk Lighthouse. Known as Charlie, Dr. Gould graduated from East Hampton High School in 1953. He attended the New York State College of Agriculture and graduated from the New York State College of Veterinary Medicine at Cornell in 1959. He served in the U.S. Army Veterinary Corps before starting to practice in Connecticut.

He returned to the South Fork and founded the Olde Towne Animal Hospital in 1965. He retired in 1999; the practice is now owned by Dr. Claude Grosjean, Dr. Rick Altiere and Dr. Dawn Stelling, who recalled that Dr. Gould “mentored us all in so many ways. His goal was to work for the greater good. He always treated everyone fairly and to see the good side in all situations. He was a father to all of us.”

Aside from being a superb veterinarian, Dr. Gould will also be remembered for his great love of adventure. He was a skilled sailor who mastered the art of celestial navigation when he took up sailing in the early 1970s. He made round trips from Sag Harbor to the Caribbean annually before eventually building a house in Anguilla. He was a longtime member of the Sag Harbor Yacht Club, where he served as commodore.
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