University of California - Davis
November 16-17, 2019
# 2019 FIP Symposium: PURRsuing FIP and WINNing
November 16-17, 2019 | UC Davis

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Saturday, November 16, 2019</strong></td>
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| 7:30 am – 8:30 am | Registration and Continental Breakfast  
|                | Gladys Valley Hall 1020, UC Davis  
|                | Gladys Valley Hall (GVH) Lobby                                         |
| 8:30 am – 8:40 am | Welcome and Introduction, MC: Steve Dale  
|                | Dr. Drew Weigner, President, Winn Feline Foundation                  |
| 8:40 am – 9:40 am | Overview of FIP and Current State of FIP  
|                | Dr. Niels Pedersen                                                    |
| 9:45 am – 11:15 am | Round Table Discussion: Diagnosis of FIP  
|                | Moderator: Dr. Leslie Lyons                                           
|                | Dr. Emi Barker                                                        
|                | Dr. Gregg Dean                                                        
|                | Dr. Katrin Hartmann                                                   |
| 11:15 am – 11:30 am | Break                                                                |
| 11:30 am – 12:00 pm | Veterinary Drug Development  
|                | Dr. David Bruyette                                                    |
| 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm | Lunch                                                                 |
| 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm | Round Table Discussion: Treatment Options of FIP – Facts vs. Myths  
|                | Moderator: Dr. Leslie Lyons                                           
|                | Dr. Katrin Hartmann                                                   
|                | Dr. Yunjeong Kim                                                      
|                | Dr. Al Legendre                                                       
|                | Dr. Brian Murphy                                                      
|                | Dr. Niels Pedersen                                                    
|                | Dr. Gary Whittaker                                                     |
| 2:30 pm – 3:00 pm | Break                                                                |
| 3:00 pm - 4:30 pm | Round Table Discussion: Prevention and Management of FIP  
|                | Moderator: Dr. Elizabeth Colleran                                     
|                | Dr. Gregg Dean                                                         
|                | Dr. Leslie Lyons                                                       
|                | Dr. Gary Whittaker                                                     |
| 4:30 pm – 5:00 pm | Q&A and Closing Remarks – Dr. Drew Weigner                           |
## Sunday, November 17, 2019

<table>
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<th>Event</th>
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| 7:30 am – 8:00 am | Registration and Continental Breakfast  
Gladys Valley Hall (GVH) Lobby |
| 8:05 am – 8:10 am | Welcome and Introduction, MC: Steve Dale  
*Dr. Drew Weigner, President, Winn Feline Foundation* |
| 8:10 am – 8:20 am | Aeris Film Trailer: Aly Miller |
| 8:20 am – 8:30 am | Overview of the Bria Fund: Susan Gingrich |
| 8:30 am – 10:30 am | Roundtable Discussion: My Cat Has FIP. Now What? Is there Hope?  
Personal Experiences with FIP  
Moderator: Dr. Leslie Lyons  
*Peter Cohen*  
*Dr. David Bruyette*  
*Susan Gingrich*  
*Dr. Glenn Olah*  
*Dr. Niels Pedersen*  
*Deb Roberts* |
| 10:30 am – 10:45 am | Break |
| 10:45 am – 12:00 pm | Roundtable Discussion: Prevention – Or Is that Possible? Do Genes Matter?  
Does Husbandry Matter?  
Moderator: Dr. Drew Weigner  
*Dr. Gregg Dean*  
*Anthony Hutcherson*  
*Dr. Leslie Lyons*  
*Dr. Gary Whittaker* |
| 12:00 pm – 12:45 pm | Lunch |
| 12:45 pm – 2:00 pm | Roundtable Discussion: Techniques to Limit FIP in a Shelter or Foster Home Environment. Prevention Tips for Adopters  
Moderator: Dr. Vicki Thayer  
*Dr. Heather Kennedy*  
*Dr. Kate Hurley*  
*Katie Ingram*  
*Dr. Barbie Laderman-Jones* |
| 2:00 pm - 2:30 pm | Q&A and Closing Remarks - *Dr. Drew Weigner* |
Diagnosis of FIP

Moderator: Dr. Leslie Lyons

Panelists: Dr. Emi Barker, Dr. Gregg Dean, & Dr. Katrin Hartmann

Feline infectious peritonitis (FIP) is a coronaviral disease that can affect cats of any age but is most prevalent among cats < 3 years of age and especially from 4 to 16 months of age. FIP occurs commonly in catteries (pedigreed cats), shelters, kitten foster/rescue facilities and dense free-roaming colonies. The mortality is extremely high once clinical signs appear, although some cats can live with the disease for weeks, months or, rarely, years. The diagnosis of FIP is based on signalment, including the cat’s age, origin, clinical signs and physical examination. Cats 4 – 36 months of age from high-density environments that manifest a persistent but undulating antibiotic unresponsive fever are immediate suspects for FIP. Abdominal distension with ascites, dyspnea with pleural effusion, jaundice, hyperbilirubinuria, discernible masses on the kidneys and/or mesenteric lymph nodes, uveitis and a range of neurological signs associated with brain and/or spinal cord involvement are all common in cats with either the effusive (‘wet’) or non-effusive (‘dry’) form of FIP. The signalment and these clinical signs indicate a reasonable certainty of a diagnosis of FIP. Definitive, direct tests for FIP are limited and further indirect tests may cause more confusion than support of diagnosis. Besides postmortem and histopathologic findings for FIP cats, this workshop will review the available indirect tests, such as complete blood count, albumin, globulin and bilirubin, serum protein electrophoresis, examination of the effusions, antibody tires, and PCR-based tests currently available for FIP to further clarify diagnosis of the disease.

Treatment Options of FIP – Facts vs. Myths

Moderator: Dr. Leslie Lyons

Panelists: Dr. Katrin Hartmann, Dr. Niels Pedersen, Dr. Brian Murphy, Dr. Yunjeong Kim, Dr. Al Legendre, & Dr. Gary Whittaker

Feline infectious peritonitis (FIP) is a disease caused by coronavirus infection in felines. FIP virus (FIPV) arises from specific mutations in feline enteric coronavirus (FECV), which is common and ubiquitous in cats worldwide and not an important pathogen. Mutants of FECV capable of causing FIP are probably generated in large numbers during this initial infection, when levels of FECV replication are extremely high. However, only a small proportion of cats exposed to the mutant viruses develop FIP. Resistance to FIP is complicated and involves genetic susceptibility, age at the time of exposure and a number of stressors that occur at the same time as infection and have a negative impact on the ability of the infected
cat to eliminate the virus. As with other viral infections, much of the treatment is supportive care until the infection resolves. In the case of FIP, the mortality is extremely high once clinical signs appear, thus usually a death sentence for a cat. The three typical approaches for viral diseases include; 1) the use of drugs that specifically inhibit viral replication, 2) inhibition of key aspects of the inflammatory response, and, 3) non-specific stimulation of the immune system in the hope it will be able to overcome the infection. This workshop will review the various treatments and remedies that have been publicized for the treatment of FIP in cats. Vaccine studies, drug treatments such as interferon, polyprenyl immunostimulant and chloroquine, as well as newly developing antiviral drugs and protease inhibitors will be reviewed.

Prevention and Management

Moderator: Dr. Elizabeth Colleran

Panelists: Dr. Gregg Dean, Dr. Leslie Lyons, & Dr. Gary Whittaker

Feline Infectious Peritonitis (FIP) is a devastating, fatal disease of cats that often defies understanding. Diagnosis is still problematic, and treatment options remain limited. In these circumstances, prevention becomes paramount. Understanding how FIP is transmitted, which infected cats manifest disease, and how FIP contaminates the environment are fundamental questions. This moderated panel will look at these and other issues to determine the state of the art in preventing this tragic disease. Because the cost of treatment can be quite dear and not readily available, prevention remains a primary focus. There are numerous factors that are implicated in frequency of disease including housing strategies, husbandry, disinfection, and routes of transmission. There appears to be some evidence that the fecal oral route long believed to be the only route of transmission of Corona virus is not the only method by which potential infection is transmitted. Understanding the significance of various routes of transmission affects any strategy of prevention regardless of the circumstances in which cats are housed.
My Cat Has FIP. Now What? Is there Hope? Personal Experiences with FIP

Moderator: Dr. Leslie Lyons

Panelists: Dr. David Bruyette, Dr. Glenn Olah, Peter Cohen, Susan Gingrich, Dr. Niels Pedersen, & Deb Roberts

The holy grail for FIP diagnostics is a simple blood test that would detect FIPVs associated with active disease and not FECVs or mutants of FECV that are not yet capable of causing FIP. No effective treatment for FIP exists and mortality is extremely high. However, rarely, a few cats can make a spontaneous recovery with good supportive care thus, lead owners often try a number of alternative therapies that are propagated by social media and have little to no scientific support. In addition, many of these therapies are expensive and come with a high emotional burden. These treatments need to be adequately tested on an adequate number of cats with confirmed disease and in a randomized, placebo controlled and double blinded manner, providing scientific data and allow peer-review of the procedures. Drugs that specifically target viral proteins important in viral replication are the likely best strategies for FUIP treatments. Coronaviruses have large genomes with many potential target genes and hopefully safe and effective antiviral drugs will be developed. This workshop will broadly examine the treatments of FIP, their financial and emotional costs, and the current reality of effective treatments. Commentary from the participants will be encouraged to broaden the view of the effects of FIP treatments on individuals and the overall impacts of cat management programs.

Prevention – Or Is that Possible? Do Genes Matter? Does Husbandry Matter?

Moderator: Dr. Drew Weigner

Panelists: Dr. Gregg Dean, Anthony Hutcherson, Dr. Leslie Lyons, & Dr. Gary Whittaker

Feline Infectious Peritonitis (FIP) is a devastating, fatal disease of cats that often defies understanding. Diagnosis is still problematic, and treatment options remain limited. In these circumstances, prevention becomes paramount. Understanding how FIP is transmitted, which infected cats manifest disease, and how FIP contaminates the environment are fundamental questions. This moderated panel will look at these and other issues to determine the state of the art in preventing this tragic disease.

Learning Objectives:
Techniques to Limit FIP in a Shelter or Foster Home Environment. Prevention Tips for Adopters

Moderator: Dr. Vicki Thayer

Panelists: Dr. Heather Kennedy, Dr. Kate Hurley, Dr. Barbie Laderman-Jones, & Katie Ingram

Managing the spread of infectious disease and improving the welfare of cats in shelters is a major focus of shelter medicine programs. This panel will discuss how the effective use of foster programs can decrease diseases such as feline infectious disease (FIP) in kittens and cats. In addition, shelters are determining which environmental enrichment features of housing and decreasing stressors predispose to the development of FIP and other infectious diseases. With increased focus on the concept of “Capacity for Care” (meeting the needs of each cat admitted to a shelter, whether feral or friendly, stray or owner surrendered, young or old) improves the outcomes for more cats to find a ‘forever home’. This can include not mixing different age groups of cats in the shelter along with not housing short-stay kittens with long-stay cats together, increasing the exposure to feline coronavirus (FCoV) and later development of FIP.

Winn Feline Foundation improves the health and welfare of cats by funding cat health studies. Since 1968 when Winn was formed by the Cat Fanciers’ Association, research to find answers about FIP has been an important part of its mission. For the past two years, funding research associated with feline shelter medicine has received significant attention by the Foundation.
Speaker Biographies

Emi Barker, BSc (hons) BVSc (hons) PhD, DECVIM-CA, MRCVS
Dr. Emi Barker graduated from the University of Bristol with a bachelor’s degree in veterinary science with honors in 2003. As an undergraduate she intercalated in Veterinary Pathology at the Royal Veterinary College in 2000-2001, with a research project on canine respiratory mycoplasmas. Shortly after graduating Emi became an Intern in Small Animal Veterinary Studies at Glasgow University School of Veterinary Sciences. She then worked as a first opinion small animal vet first in Suffolk, Somerset and Wiltshire. She was awarded a PhD from University of Bristol in June 2011 for research into hemotropic mycoplasmas, an infectious cause of anemia in animals (including humans). Following a Senior Clinical Training Scholarship at Bristol Vet School she gained European Veterinary Specialist in Small Animal Internal Medicine status in 2016. She is currently a referral clinician in Small Animal Medicine with clinical and research interests in infectious disease, particularly feline infectious peritonitis and hemoplasmosis.

Peter J. Cohen
Twelve cats, two humans, and five Roombas®—that is the population of Peter Cohen’s House of Nekko. In 1988, when Peter and his brother purchased a house in Santa Barbara, CA, they noticed that two cats—known only as the Black One and the Gray One—had already made their home in the backyard. Tragically, on two separate occasions, both cats were hit by cars. The Gray One survived, and Peter took in his first rescue. In order to keep his new indoor-only friend company, Peter adopted two more cats, and the House of Nekko—which means House of Cats in Japanese—was born. Inspired by a book called “Tiny Cat House” by Bob Walker, Peter decided to transform his home into a Zen-like sanctuary for cats—a place where cats could play while also feeling safe and secure. An experienced contractor, Peter installed intricate, colorful catwalks around his home along with a koi pond and a kitty relaxation room. Peter was inspired by cats’ Zen-like nature and wanted to share his joy of cats with other cat-lovers and also encourage them to transform their homes into spaces where cats and humans could live together in harmony. Peter and his partner established ZenByCat as a way to share The House of Nekko and their love of feline-friendly design with people around the world. What began as a hobby became a labor of love when one of his cats, Miss Bean, was diagnosed with FIP in 2016. He had known about the deadly disease from a previous adoption and believed that there was no hope for her. That was when Smokey came into Peter’s life. Smokey had also
been accepted into the UC Davis trial, but his owners were unable to make the 12-hour-round-trip journey. Desperate to save this young kitten, Smokey’s owners reached out to Peter. The House of Nekko adopted him to give him a fighting chance at life. Smokey’s journey was not without its setbacks, including a suspected relapse, which, thankfully, turned out to be a false alarm. Then, Smokey underwent surgery to remove calcified scar tissue caused by the 186 injections that he endured during the 12-week course of treatment. But Smokey, like the true FIP Warrior that he is, overcame these hurdles, and remains in complete remission and is considered to be cured of FIP, proving that a cure is possible. Peter learned that Dr. Pedersen’s team needed funding to continue their groundbreaking research. Since losing Miss Bean, he wanted to do everything in his power to help prevent people from losing their furry friends to this dreaded disease. He realized that a one-time donation would not be enough; a sustainable funding source was required. Therefore, Peter turned ZenByCat into a non-profit organization dedicated to raising money to help end FIP. Between 2017-2018, Zen By Cat raised a total of $30,000 dollars for FIP research—$15,000 each to SOCK FIP and The BRIA Fund, respectively. Their goal for 2019 is $40,000. The House of Nekko is now home to 26 cats (and counting.) When Peter adopted his first two cats, he believed he was saving their lives. Over the years, he has realized that his furry friends have actually saved his. His cats help him survive in a brutal, unjust, and inequitable world. Every day, Peter experiences “cat therapy” when he wakes up and is greeted by his 26 feline friends. Peter’s lively and playful interactions with his cats can be seen on YouTube and other social media platforms. He has also been featured on Animal Planet and HouzzTV. Peter works tirelessly to bring awareness to FIP through ZenByCat.org. It is not enough to end FIP for some; his mission is to end FIP for all.

Elizabeth Colleran, DVM, DABVP
Dr. Elizabeth Colleran is a Diplomate ABVP Feline Specialist, founder and CEO of Chico Hospital for Cats, Inc. After the sale of a second feline practice, she has been teaching feline medicine around the world. By developing and teaching feline internal medicine and behavior, she hopes to assist, however modestly, in improving the care cats receive in general practice and raising awareness of how differently cats experience the world. Her publications include book chapters for feline texts, articles for peer reviewed journals and pieces for cat caregivers.
Gregg A. Dean, DVM, PhD, DACVP
Dr. Gregg Dean is Professor and Department Head in the Department of Microbiology, Immunology, and Pathology, College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO, Dr. Dean completed his DVM and clinical pathology residency at Colorado State University. While at CSU, he also earned his PhD in experimental pathology then completed a post-doctoral fellowship at the Center for AIDS Research in the Department of Medical Pathology at the University of California, Davis School of Medicine. Dr. Dean established an independent research program at UC Davis as a faculty research virologist then moved to North Carolina State University where he spent 15 years as a clinical pathologist. In that role, he provided service, teaching and resident training. Throughout, he maintained an NIH funded research program that focused on the immunopathogenesis of HIV/FIV/SIV. While at NC State he directed the Center for Comparative and Translational Research and established a T32-supported training program. He is currently head of the Department of Microbiology, Immunology and Pathology at CSU. It is a large department with 85+ faculty. They have an undergraduate major in microbiology and a large graduate student program. They contribute extensively to the DVM training program and are home to 4 residency programs. The faculty provide service to the diagnostic laboratory, clinical pathology and clinical immunology. Their research portfolio is based in infectious diseases with a major emphasis in mycobacterial diseases, vector borne diseases, prion and protein misfolding diseases, and HIV. His current research is focused on mucosal immunology and vaccine development with an emphasis on lentiviruses, human rotavirus and feline coronavirus. Current major projects include: 1. Developing an orally delivered mucosal vaccine against human rotavirus using the commensal organism, Lactobacillus acidophilus, as a vaccine platform, 2. Investigation of the interaction between intestinal microbiome, host mucosal immune responses and vaccines, and 3. Determining the mucosal immune correlates of protection against feline enteric coronavirus infection.

Susan E Gingrich, MHS
Susan Gingrich resides in Loudon, TN where she and her husband relocated after retiring from state government in 2015. Currently, she is a freelance writer and leader of a community political group. A professional nurse and executive, her last position was Director of Housing for the PA Department of Public Welfare. Previous professional experience included private industry and governmental health care administration. During her career, she also was a small business owner of a communications company involved in business writing, training and publishing. Susan is a member of the National Birman Fanciers, and she and her husband, Jim Shurskis, are currently owned by four cats. Following the death of their nine-month-old Birman kitten in 2005, Susan and Jim founded the Bria Fund for FIP Research, in coordination with the Winn Feline Foundation. She continues to lead it and the Bria Fund Supporters.
Katrin Hartmann, Prof., Dr. med. vet., Dr. habil. (LMU University of Munich, Germany), DECVM-CA (Internal Medicine)

Dr. Katrin Hartmann graduated from the College of Veterinary Medicine at the LMU University in Munich, Germany, in 1987, completed her doctoral thesis in 1990 and her habilitation thesis on antiviral treatment of FIV in 1995. She stayed as a clinical instructor and Assistant Professor at the Clinic of Small Animal Medicine until 2001. From 2001 to 2003, she worked as Associate Professor of Internal Medicine at the Department of Small Animal Medicine at the College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Georgia, Athens, USA. Since 2003, she is Head of the Clinic of Small Animal Medicine at the LMU University in Munich, Germany, with the rank of Full Professor. From 2009 to 2016, she additionally was Director of the newly founded Centre for Clinical Veterinary Medicine at the LMU University in Munich. Professor Hartmann is author or co-author of many papers, proceedings, abstracts, and book chapters. She has lectured at numerous international meetings and congresses. Katrin Hartmann is a Diplomate of ECVIM-CA (Internal Medicine) Her research is concentrated on infectious diseases in cats and dogs, with a special focus on virus infections in cats.

Kate Hurley, DVM

Dr. Kate Hurley is the director of the UC Davis Koret Shelter Medicine Program. Dr. Hurley began her career as an animal control officer in 1989. After graduation from the UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine in 1999, she worked as a shelter veterinarian in California and Wisconsin. In 2001, she returned to UC Davis to become the first in the world to undertake a residency in Shelter Medicine. Following completion of the residency, Kate became the director of the UC Davis Koret shelter medicine program. Two of her proudest achievements are co-authoring the “Association of Shelter Veterinarians’ Guidelines for Standards of Care in Animal Shelters” and co-editing the textbook “Infectious Disease Management in Animal Shelters”. She loves all things shelter-related, but her particular interests include welfare of confined dogs and cats, humane and effective strategies to manage community cats, infectious disease, and unusually short dogs. She loves shelter work because it has the potential to improve the lives of so many animals and the people who work so hard to care for them.

Anthony Hutcherson

A lifelong passion for cats, especially fascinated by highly patterned wild cats, Anthony Hutcherson began a Bengal Cat breeding program to create his ideal “ocelot–looking” cat in high school when no such domestic feline existed in 1992. He currently serves as a Director on the Board of The International Cat Association (TICA), Chair of the Bengal Cat Breed for TICA, Past President of The International Bengal Cat Society while still raising and showing his Bengal Cats. Anthony is breeder and owner of the highest achieving Bengal Cats in the world. Anthony Hutcherson studied Animal Science at the University of Maryland and is a member of the American Society of Animal Sciences and the
International Society for Animal Genetics. In 2018 he collaborated with Katie Lytle, DVM of Wisdom Health/Mars to screen 1000 pedigreed cats for 40+ genetic diseases and continues to work with Chris Kaelin, PhD of Stanford University & Hudson Alpha Institute in the identification of new genetic variants in cats related to pigment and pattern. Currently, Anthony is a freelance producer, meeting planner and speech writer in Washington, D.C. Anthony has shared his love of cats on NPR, The TODAY Show, The Martha Stewart Show and in the New York Times, Washington Post, the New Yorker as well as other media. He is especially proud of authoring “All Kinds of Purrfect” a coloring book about the beauty of all cats for TICA in 2016.

Katie Ingram
Katie Ingram has been the Animal Services Manager at Placer County Animal Services in Auburn since November 2016. Since joining the Placer County team, she has been responsible for the opening of the new, state-of-the-art animal shelter, increasing community engagement and developing new and progressive shelter programs. Through creative and unique approaches, Placer County Animal Services currently saved nearly 93% of the 2,500 animals that it took in last year. Katie has worked in the Animal Sheltering industry for the past 12 years coordinating volunteers, implementing public education/outreach programs and working with rescue organizations as the Assistant Director for OC Animal Care in Orange, CA.

Heather Kennedy, DVM
Dr. Kennedy is the Director of Feline Operations at KC Pet Project in Kansas City, Missouri. Her role at KC Pet Project encompasses all aspects of feline operations including animal care, health and enrichment, behavior, and feline fostering. Her career helping cats started as an experienced cat trapper, colony caregiver, and foster caregiver before attending U.C. Davis School of Veterinary Medicine, where her singular commitment to cats earned her numerous scholarships, as well as the AAFP Outstanding Scholar Award. In 2017, after 4 years in feline-only private practice, Dr. Kennedy decided to focus on the welfare of shelter cats by working first at FieldHaven Feline Center in Lincoln, California, and now in the newly created role of Director of Feline Operations at KC Pet Project. Dr. Kennedy’s is recognized as an expert on the humane care of feral cats and is currently sits on the AAFP Committee on free-roaming cats and speaks at national conferences on the work that she is doing in sheltering. She was mentored by Dr. Niels Pedersen, a nationally recognized expert on Feline Infectious Peritonitis, and she often provides consults to other veterinarians on the diagnosis of the disease. She managed the Alley Cat Allies emergent shelter after Hurricane Katrina and was instrumental in helping Santa Barbara County become no-kill through TNR (Trap Neuter Return) and RTF (Return To Field). She started and managed a feral cat clinic in Yolo County where she mentored students on TNR and the humane care of feral cats.
Yunjeong A. Kim, DVM, PhD, DACVM
Dr. Yunjeong Kim is an associate professor in the Department of Pathobiology and Diagnostics in College of Veterinary Medicine at Kansas State University. She received her DVM degree from Seoul National University and PhD in Veterinary Preventive Medicine from the Ohio State University. She completed a clinical rotation at Cornell University Hospital for Animals as a prerequisite for obtaining a US veterinary license and then worked in general practice. She also worked as a visiting postdoctoral fellow in HIV drug resistance program and Basic research lab at NIH, where her research focused on the viral replication and pathogenesis of human T-cell leukemia virus type 1. She is board certified in Veterinary Microbiology (ACVM) and a virologist with interests in antiviral drug development and viral pathogenesis. Most of her research has focused on human and animal coronaviruses, including development of protease inhibitors of feline infectious peritonitis virus or Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus, and other viruses that have a significant impact on animal health such as canine and feline paroviruses and porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome virus. She has published more than 62 articles, reviews and book chapters.

Barbie Laderman-Jones, DVM, DABVP
Dr. Barbie Laderman-Jones graduated from the Atlantic Veterinary College in Prince Edward Island, Canada, in 2004. After graduation, she completed an internship at Massachusetts SPCA’s Angell Animal Medical Center and then completed a 3-year residency in Shelter Medicine at the University of California, Davis. She earned board certification in Shelter Medicine Practice from the American Board of Veterinary Practitioners in 2017 and serves on the Board of Directors for the Association of Shelter Veterinarians. She has previously worked with the East Bay SPCA, the Placer SPCA, and several high-volume, high quality spay/neuter clinics and non-profit clinics providing care for underserved pets. Currently, Dr. Jones serves as Director of Shelter Medicine for the San Francisco SPCA. Dr. Jones has also consulted with shelters across North America and around the world, including Brazil, Romania, Israel, and Papua New Guinea. Dr. Jones had a previous career as a high school teacher and previously served as a Peace Corps volunteer. She shares her home with her husband, their 12-year-old son, and multiple pets.
Alfred Legendre, DVM, DACVIM
Dr. Alfred Legendre is a professor emeritus from the College of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Tennessee. Over 45 years of clinical work and research in infectious diseases of cats and dogs with focus on fungal diseases, feline leukemia virus and FIP. ACVIM diplomate in internal medicine and oncology.

Leslie A. Lyons, PhD
Dr. Leslie Lyons is a Gilbreath McLorn Endowed Professor of Comparative Medicine in the Department of Veterinary Medicine & Surgery, College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Missouri – Columbia, Columbia, MO. Dr. Lyons was educated in human genetics at the University of Pittsburgh and her postdoctoral research at the National Cancer Institute developed genetic resources for comparative gene mapping across mammalian species. Her research focus is One Health, specifically on heritable diseases and traits in cats as biomedical models for human disease. Her laboratory has identified a variety of cat biomedical models including retinal degenerations, polycystic kidney disease, a model for osteoarthritis, several metabolism disorders and neuromuscular diseases, as well as models for axial-skeletal and craniofacial development. Overall, her laboratory has identified over 34 variants in 24 genes. An expectation of her research is to develop drug and gene therapies using the feline biomedical models for translational medicine applications. Dr. Lyons has supported the community by providing DNA studies for the first cloned domestic cat, wildcat, and Sand Cat, and the GFP transgenic cat. Her studies extend to wild felid conservation via genetic disease management species survival plans and also to forensic applications. She launched the 99 Lives Cat Genome Sequencing Initiative that produces whole genome sequences of cats with inherited diseases, which is a resource for the community. Dr. Lyons has several patents and over 130 peer-reviewed publications. An overall goal of her research is to bring Precision Medicine to domestic cats and other companion animals. Her genetic study on cat population dynamics and domestication was produced as a National Geographic Explorer episode “The Science of Cats” and she has worked with the BBC on several cat productions.
Brian Murphy, DVM, PhD, DACVP

Dr. Brian Murphy is an associate professor at the University California, Davis in the Department of Pathology, Microbiology and Immunology where he has interdependent research, instruction and diagnostic missions. He initially developed an interest in oral disease and orthopedics during eight years as a small animal practitioner near Seattle, Washington. A passion for teaching and a desire to discover eventually landed him in concurrent pathology residency and graduate training programs at Washington State University. After completing his residency and PhD in 2007, he began a career as an anatomic pathologist at the University of California, Davis. Dr. Murphy’s interests have focused on the nuances of oral and orthopedic pathology. He has research programs in FIP (pathogenesis and antivirals) and FIV (pathogenesis).

Aly Miller

Aly Miller is a filmmaker, writer and actress. She and Paul Castro created the short film "Aeris" in honor of their kitten who lost her life to FIP. She’s produced several short films and the feature documentary “Madonna and the Breakfast Club” that has had worldwide distribution including most recently Hulu. She is a co-creator/producer/writer/actress on a gaming series that’s currently working with a small content network. She co-wrote the drama screenplay “Barbie Boy” which was a finalist at Cannes for best drama screenplay and “Bolt from the Blue” a finalist last year at the Austin Film Festival for best comedy screenplay. She’s currently co-authoring a memoir.

Glenn Olah, DVM, PhD, DABVP

Dr. Glenn Olah is a practicing veterinarian at Albuquerque Cat Clinic in his home state of New Mexico. He is presently a board member of Winn Feline Foundation and served as Winn president for 4 years (2015-2019). He is board certified in feline practice with ABVP, was a member and former chairperson of the AAFP Research Grant Committee, chairperson of the Winn Research Committee, and is a board member of Felines and Friends, a cat rescue organization in Santa Fe, NM. Dr. Olah holds a PhD in Physics from Rice University in Houston, TX, and he focused on biophysical and structural biology research for a number of years. Eventually, he pursued his desire to work as a veterinarian, receiving his DVM degree at Oklahoma State University College of Veterinary Medicine. A published researcher and author, Dr. Olah still finds time to honor a number of professional commitments, including writing articles pertaining to feline medicine for veterinary magazines and helping feline rescue efforts in the Santa Fe area.
Niels Pedersen, DVM, PhD
Dr. Niels Pedersen earned his BS in 1965 and his DVM in 1967 from UC Davis, interned at Colorado State University 1967-1968, and earned his PhD in immunology and experimental pathology from the John Curtin School of Medical Research, ANU, Canberra, A.C.T., Australia in 1972. He returned to UC Davis SVM in 1972 and rose to the rank of Distinguished Professor before assuming active Emeritus status in 2013. Dr. Pedersen is a world authority on FIP and has over 50 major research publications and a number of book chapters on FIP in the veterinary literature. The emphasis of his current research remains on how FIPV causes disease, genetic and environmental factors affecting disease incidence, and most recently the use of specific antiviral drugs to treat cats with FIP.

Debra Roberts, RN, BSN
Debra Roberts is an obstetrical RN, holding degrees in both Nursing (BSN) and Business. When her first Savannah cat, Luna, was diagnosed with FIP at 14 weeks of age, Debra couldn't accept losing her. After countless hours of internet research and contacting several universities with well-known veterinary programs, she connected with Dr. Pedersen and entered Luna into a clinical trial at UC Davis. Luna was the first cat in the EVO-984 drug trial and the first privately-owned cat to be cured with this drug. Today she spends much time conversing with and educating cat owners and breeders about FIP. She uses her blogging skills to write about her experience with FIP and the UC Davis clinical trial to help keep cat owners current with the latest data, as well as encouraging owners to donate to the research. Her FIP articles can be found here: https://www.runwyld.life/feline-infectious-peritonitis-fip
Vicki L. Thayer, DVM, DABVP
Dr. Vicki Thayer has a 40-year background in feline medicine. A graduate of Washington State University’s College of Veterinary Medicine, Dr. Thayer is board certified in feline medicine by the American Board of Veterinary Practitioners (ABVP) and was principal owner of Civic Feline Clinic. Located in Walnut Creek, CA, the clinic was the first exclusively feline veterinary practice in the Diablo Valley region of the state. She has considerable experience in organized veterinary medicine in the American Veterinary Medicine Association (AVMA) and American Association of Feline Practitioners (AAFP), as well as through other community activities. Dr. Thayer served on the board of AAFP for 20 years, and as president from 1996-1998. From 2004-2010, she was AAFP’s delegate to AVMA. She is also on the board of the largest private cat shelter in the Pacific Northwest, Cat Adoption Team of Sherwood, OR. Dr. Thayer joined the Winn Feline Foundation Board of Directors in 2008 and served as board president from June 2011 to June 2014, stepping into the position of Executive Director on July 1, 2014. She is retired from this role at the end of 2018 and is currently on the Board of Directors for the Foundation. She is also on the board of Cat Adoption Team of Sherwood, OR, the largest private cat shelter in the Pacific Northwest. She lives on a 40-acre heritage farm in the foothills of the Oregon Cascades with her husband, four cats and one dog, and also enjoying time with her two sons’ families.

Drew Weigner, DVM
Dr. Drew Weigner has been practicing feline medicine in the Atlanta area for more than thirty-five years. Dr. Weigner graduated in 1982 from the University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine. In 1987, he established The Cat Doctor, the first feline specialty practice in the southeastern United States, which became accredited by the American Animal Hospital Association in 1991. In 1995, Dr. Weigner became the first veterinarian to become board-certified in Feline Practice by the American Board of Veterinary Practitioners. He served as President of the Academy of Feline Medicine and as a board director of the American Association of Feline Practitioners for several terms. He is currently the President of the Winn Feline Foundation, the largest source of funds for feline research in the world. Dr. Weigner is the author of numerous scientific and consumer articles and is sought after as an expert in feline medicine by such organizations as CNN, Chicago Tribune, USA Today, and WebMD. He is dedicated to educating the public about feline issues and frequently appears in consumer magazine, newspaper, radio, television, and virtual publications.
Gary Whittaker, DVM, PhD
Dr. Gary Whittaker is a Professor in the Department of Microbiology & Immunology at Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine and a Section Chief of Infectious Diseases & Epidemiology in the Cornell Public Health program. Dr. Whittaker received a bachelor’s degree in Biochemistry and a Ph.D. in Microbiology from Leeds University in the U.K studying the molecular biology and biochemistry of equine herpesvirus. His postdoctoral training centered on the study of the cell biology of influenza virus replication in the laboratory of Dr. Ari Helenius at Yale University. Dr. Whittaker's research focuses on the structure and function of viral envelope protein, specifically how genomic mutations lead to changes in the envelope proteins and control viral pathogenesis, primarily for influenza viruses and coronaviruses including SARS-CoV, MERS-CoV and feline coronaviruses. His work also covers the development of novel vaccines and diagnostic tests. Dr. Whittaker is funded by research grants from the Winn Feline Foundation, the Cornell Feline Health Center and the National Institutes of Health.
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Thank you to the Winn Feline Foundation’s Education Committee for creating the 2019 FIP Symposium: PURRsuing FIP and WINNing and the opportunity to bring worldwide FIP experts together to provide the most up to date information and research available.

Winn Education Committee Members:
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Anthony Hutcherson
Susan Gingrich, MHS