



2025 NORTH AMERICAN VETERINARY REGENERATIVE MEDICINE CONFERENCE

September 16-19, 2025
Banff, Canada



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1. Bertone, Ishihara, Zekas, Wellman, Lewis, Schwarze, Barnaba, Schmall, Kanter, Genovese, et. al. Evaluation of a single intra-articular injection of autologous protein solution for treatment of osteoarthritis in horses. American Journal of Veterinary Research. Feb 2014.

2. Bosch, Schie, Groot, Cadby, Lest, Barneveld, Weeren, et. al. Effects of Platelet-Rich Plasma on the Quality of Repair of Mechanically Induced Core Lesions in Equine Superficial Digital Flexor Tendons: A Placebo-Controlled Experimental Study. Journal of Orthopaedic Research. Feb 2010.

3. Alvarez, Boone, Braim, Taintor, Caldwell, Wright, Wooldridge, et. al. A Survey of Clinical Usage of Non-steroidal Intra-Articular Therapeutics by Equine Practitioners. Frontiers in Veterinary Science. October 2020.

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WELCOME *to the 2025 NAVRMA Conference*

Dear colleagues and fellow pioneers in the field of veterinary regenerative medicine,

It is with great pleasure and excitement that we welcome you to the 2025 North American Veterinary Regenerative Medicine Association (NAVRMA) Conference in the breathtaking mountain setting of Banff, Alberta.

As the crisp alpine air carries the scent of pine and the rugged peaks rise around us, we gather here to explore, discuss, and celebrate the remarkable strides we have made — and the limitless possibilities that lie ahead — in veterinary regenerative medicine.

This year's conference continues to capture the core principles that drive our profession. As dedicated scientists, engineers, and clinicians, we know the profound impact that innovation and collaboration can have on the health and well-being of our animal companions and, by extension, our communities. The challenges we face require us to harness the power of creative thinking, cutting-edge research, and interdisciplinary partnerships — and this meeting provides the perfect forum to do just that.

Over the next few days, our program will immerse you in a world of discovery. From thought-provoking keynote addresses by leaders in the field to oral abstract presentations and enlightening poster sessions, every moment promises to inspire fresh ideas and strengthen our collective commitment to excellence.

We are also delighted to host the highlight of our social program, the **Gala Dinner** on the evening of **Wednesday, September 17, 2025**. This evening will offer an opportunity to connect, unwind, and celebrate our collective achievements against the backdrop of the majestic Canadian Rockies.

Beyond the conference halls, we encourage you to take time to explore Banff National Park — from its turquoise glacier-fed lakes to its vibrant town center — and to savor the flavors of local cuisine. Whether you venture onto a hiking trail, ride the Banff Gondola, or simply enjoy the panoramic views, this unique setting offers inspiration at every turn.

On behalf of the organizing committee, we extend our sincere gratitude to all participants, sponsors, and partners whose support makes this event possible. Your dedication to advancing veterinary regenerative medicine is truly commendable, and we are honored to have you as part of this remarkable gathering. Let us embark on this adventure together, embracing the spirit of innovation and collaboration that defines our field. May the connections we make, the knowledge we share, and the memories we create during this conference inspire us to push boundaries, drive progress, and shape a brighter future for veterinary medicine.

Welcome to the 2025 NAVRMA Conference in Banff, Alberta, Canada!

— *The NAVRMA 2025 Organizing Committee*

CONFERENCE *at a glance*

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

3:00 pm – 5:00 pm	Registration
5:00 pm – 7:00 pm	Welcome Reception

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

7:00 am – 8:00 am	Breakfast
8:00 am – 8:15 am	Opening Remarks: Michael Kallos, PhD, PEng – NAVRMA 2025 Chair
8:15 am – 9:00 am	Keynote Lecture: Jeff Biernaskie, PhD
9:00 am – 9:05 am	Sponsor Talk: Dechra
9:15 am – 10:30 am	Session 1: Selected Oral Presentations
10:30 am – 10:45 am	Morning Break
10:45 am – 11:00 am	Sponsor Talk: Zoetis
11:00 am – 11:45 am	Keynote Lecture: Natalia Vapniarsky, DVM PhD DACVP
11:45 am – 12:30 pm	Session 2: Selected Oral Presentations
12:30 pm – 1:30 pm	Lunch Break
6:00 pm – 7:00 pm	Poster Session and Cocktails
7:00 pm – 9:00 pm	Gala Dinner

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

7:00 am – 8:00 am	Breakfast
8:00 am – 8:15 am	Sponsor Talk: eQCell
8:15 am – 9:00 am	Keynote Lecture: Satya Dandekar, PhD
9:15 am – 10:30 am	Session 3: Selected Oral Presentations
10:30 am – 11:00 am	Morning Break
11:00 am – 11:45 am	Keynote Lecture: Li-Fang (Jack) Chu, PhD
11:45 am – 12:30 pm	Session 4: Selected Oral Presentations
12:30 pm – 1:30 pm	Lunch

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

7:00 am – 8:00 am	Breakfast
8:00 am – 8:15 am	Sponsor Talk: PetVivo
8:15 am – 9:00 am	Keynote Lecture: Karin Allenspach Jorn, DMV, PhD, DECVIM-CA
9:15 am – 10:30 am	Session 5: Selected Oral Presentation
10:30 am – 11:00 am	Morning Break
11:00 am – 12:00 pm	Panel Discussion
12:00 pm – 12:30 pm	Closing remarks
12:30 pm – 1:30 pm	Conference Conclusion and Awards (lunch to go)

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CONFERENCE *Program*

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

3:00 pm – 5:00 pm	Registration	KC 100 Galleria South
5:00 pm – 7:00 pm	Welcome Reception	KC 205

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

7:00 am – 8:00 am	<i>Breakfast</i>	Vistas Dining Room
8:00 am – 8:15 am	Opening Remarks	KC 103
	Michael Kallos, PhD, PEng - NAVRMA 2025 Chair	

SESSION 1: MECHANISMS OF TISSUE HEALTH & REGENERATION

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8:15 am – 9:00 am	Keynote Lecture	KC 103
	Jeff Biernaskie, PhD: Why do mammals form scar? Using reindeer to understand the mechanisms that drive regenerative versus fibrotic healing	
9:00 am – 9:05 am	Sponsor Talk - Dechra	KC 103
	Introduction by Tiago Afonso, DVM, PhD, DACVIM (LA)	
9:15 am – 10:30 am	Selected Oral Presentations	KC 103
	Narman Mortagy	MicroRNA Signatures in Synovial Fluid as Indicators of Equine Joint Health
	Jordan L. Parker	mRNA Expression Changes in Equine Mesenchymal Stem Cells Under Inflammatory Stimulus
	Ross Fitzsimmons	Multi-Omic Profiling of Equine Tendon Development to Inform Novel Therapeutic Strategies for Tendon Injuries
	Jordan L. Parker	Ex Vivo Modeling Equine Bone Marrow Mesenchymal Stem Cell Homing in Response to Common Distal Limb Inflammatory Mediators IL-6 and TGF- β 1

Gabrielle Peckham Extracellular Vesicle Mediated
Communication in the Porcine
Spermatogonial Stem Cell Niche

10:30 am – 10:45 am

Morning Break

KC 200 Galleria Central

SESSION 2: NOVEL THERAPIES AND GENETIC ENGINEERING

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10:45 am – 11:00 am

Sponsor Talk - Zoetis

KC 103

Bobby Cowles DVM, MS, MBA Managing Veterinarian,
Equine Technical Services, Zoetis: Comprehensive Management
of Equine Lameness; Highlights from New Studies of Interest

11:00 am – 11:45 am

Keynote Lecture

KC 103

Natalia Vapniarsky, DVM PhD DACVP: Match-Making and
Genetic Immuno-Engineering in Regenerative Medicine

11:45 am – 12:30 pm

Selected Oral Presentations

KC 103

T. Connor McCorkell Intraarticular microRNA-181a-5p
Antisense Oligonucleotides in Clinically
Normal Equine Fetlock Joints Are Safe
and Well Tolerated: Advancing a One
Health Approach for Osteoarthritis

Erica Secor Comparison of Hydrogels, Hyaluronic
Acid and Triamcinolone on Cytokine-
Stimulated Nitric Oxide and
Glycosaminoglycan Release in Equine
Cartilage Explants

Jennifer Cassano Comparing the Benefit of Intra-Articular
Autologous Protein Solution Versus
Corticosteroid for Treatment of Distal
Interphalangeal Joint Osteoarthritis

12:30 pm – 1:30 pm

Lunch

Vistas Dining Room

1:30 pm – 6:00 pm

Free afternoon to explore Banff

6:00 pm – 7:00 pm

Poster Session and Cocktails

KC 203 205

7:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Gala Dinner

KC 203 205

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

7:00 am – 8:00 am

Breakfast

Vistas Dining Room



SESSION 3: CELL-BASED THERAPEUTICS, ACTIVATION, AND LICENSING

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8:00 am – 8:15 am	Sponsor Talk - eQCell	KC 103
	Thomas Koch DVM, PhD, Founder, Chief Executive Officer & Chief Scientific Officer at eQcell Inc.: Developing life-improving and life-saving stem cell therapies for horses, dogs, and cats	
8:15 am – 9:00 am	Keynote Lecture	KC 103
	Satya Dandekar, PhD: Mesenchymal Stem Cells at the Crossroads of Immunity and Infection	
9:15 am – 10:30 am	Selected Oral Presentations	KC 103
	Jennifer Cassano	Autologous Intra-Articular Mitotherapy Did Not Have an Effect on Cytology, Cytokine Protein Expression, or Gene Expression in an Induced LPS Model of Synovitis
	Kazuto Kimura	Development of a Canine-Specific Cardiomyocyte Differentiation Platform for Precision Modeling of Dilated Cardiomyopathy
	Atsushi Yamazaki	Establishment of an In Vitro Synovitis Model for Canine Osteoarthritis and Evaluation of the Therapeutic Potential of Mesenchymal Stem Cells
	Luca Melotti	Advancing Veterinary Wound Healing with Sustainable Marine Collagen Dressings: Marine Collagen-Antioxidant Dressings Enhance Skin Repair
	Bob Harman	Manufacturing, Characterization and Regulation of a Veterinary Allogeneic, Leucoreduced, Lyophilized Platelet-Rich Plasma Product for Intraarticular Injection
10:30 am – 11:00 am	Morning Break	KC 200 Galleria Central

SESSION 4: DISEASE MODELING AND DEVELOPMENT

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11:00 am – 11:45 am	Keynote Lecture	KC 103
	Li-Fang (Jack) Chu, PhD: Species-specific developmental clock models derived from pluripotent stem cells	

11:45 am – 12:30 pm	Selected Oral Presentations	KC 103
	Emilie Gysel Horsepower at the Cellular Level: Non-Integrating Reprogramming of Equine Cells Daisuke Kamiya Generation of Mesenchymal Stem/Stromal Cells From Canine iPSCs and Verification of Their Immunomodulatory Function In Vitro and In Vivo Hiroko Sugisaki Investigation of Culture Media and Substrates for Optimization of Feline iPSC Culture Conditions	
12:30 pm – 1:30 pm	Lunch	Vistas Dining Room
	<i>Free afternoon to explore Banff</i>	

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

7:00 am – 8:00 am	Breakfast	Vistas Dining Room
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SESSION 5: INNOVATIVE MODELS FOR PRE-CLINICAL AND CLINICAL TESTING OF REGENERATIVE THERAPEUTICS

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Animal Health

8:00 am – 8:15 am	Sponsor Talk - PetVivo Animal Health	KC 103
	Kirsty A. Husby, DVM, MS, DACVS (LA) Sr. Technical Service Veterinarian, PetVivo Animal Health Innovative tools for Osteoarthritis	
8:15 am – 9:00 am	Keynote Lecture	KC 103
	Karin Allenspach Jorn, DMV, PhD, DECVIM-CA: Canine Organoids: A Bridge for Dual-Species Drug Development	
9:15 am – 10:30 am	Selected Oral Presentations	KC 103
	Aadhavan Balakumar Development and Characterization of Canine Cortical Organoids as a Platform for Modelling Neurodevelopment and Neurological Disease Lauren Richardson Modeling Oxidative Intestinal Injury Through NSAID-induced Intestinal Dysfunction in Equine Organoids Anja Elsenhans Engineered Culture Approaches to Facilitate the Long-Term Maintenance of Porcine Testicular Organoids In Vitro Yoko M. Ambrosini Establishment and Characterization of Canine Pancreatic Organoids	

Maggie Rusteika

Generation of Canine Induced Pluripotent Stem Cells and Characterization of Their Pluripotent State and Capacity for Multi-Lineage Differentiation

10:30 am – 11:00 am

Morning Break

KC 200 Galleria Central

SESSION 6: COMMERCIALIZING REGENERATIVE MEDICINE - WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO GET FROM AN IDEA TO HELPING PATIENTS?

11:00 am – 12:00 pm

Panel Discussion

KC 103

Moderator: Tracy Webb DVM, PhD, Associate Professor,
Colorado State University

Panelists: Thomas Koch DVM, PhD, Founder, Chief Executive Officer & Chief Scientific Officer at eQcell Inc. and Full Professor in the Department of Biomedical Sciences, Ontario Veterinary College, University of Guelph, Canada

Paul Dick DVM, MSc, Founder and President, Paul Dick & Associates Ltd.

Anne S. Hale DVM, Veterinary Medical Director, Zia Pet Hospital

12:00 pm – 12:30 pm

Closing Remarks

KC 103

12:30 pm – 1:30 pm

Conference Conclusion and Awards (lunch to go)

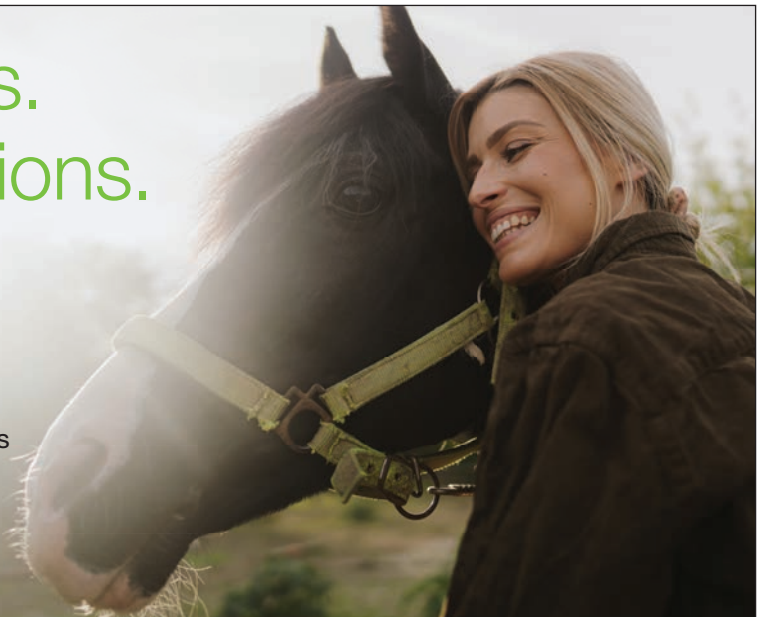
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KEYNOTE *Speakers*



JEFF BIERNASKIE

Dr. Biernaskie completed his BSc in Neuroscience at the University of Lethbridge. He earned a PhD in Neuroscience at Memorial University with Dr. Dale Corbett studying the effects of focused rehabilitation on brain plasticity following stroke. He completed postdoctoral training with Freda Miller and David Kaplan studying skin and neural stem cell biology at the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto. In 2009, he joined the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Calgary, where he is currently a Professor in Regenerative Medicine.

He is a member of the Alberta Children's Hospital Research Institute and Hotchkiss Brain Institute and he holds the Calgary Firefighters Burn Treatment Society Chair in Skin Regeneration and Wound Healing. In 2019, he was elected as a member of the Royal Society of Canada, College of Scholars, Artists and Scientists. He is the recipient of the 2021 Till and McCulloch award for outstanding contributions to research in regenerative medicine and was named 2024 Killam Professor for excellence in scientific discovery and mentorship.

His research program is focused on understanding the cellular and molecular mechanisms that promote fibrotic versus regenerative healing with the goal of developing treatments to limit scar and better restore organ function following injury or disease. His group is also interested in how skin and brain stem/progenitor cells are regulated during homeostasis and how factors like injury, aging and the immune system impact their function.



NATALIA VAPNIARSKY

Dr. Natalia Vapniarsky is a veterinary pathologist with a PhD in biomedical engineering from the University of California, Davis. She received her bachelor's degree from the University of Haifa, Israel, and her veterinary degree from the University of Szent Istvan in Budapest, Hungary, in 2004.

After several years of general veterinary practice in Israel, she continued her education at the University of California, Davis, where she completed a residency in anatomic veterinary pathology and a PhD. Her laboratory explores the relevance of immunological compatibility in regenerative medicine. Specifically, her lab is investigating the immunological interface between the donor and recipient of single-cell therapies or engineered tissues. The overarching objective is to offer patients more effective and long-lasting tissue regeneration options.



SATYA DANDEKAR

Dr. Satya Dandekar is the Distinguished Professor and Chair of the Department of Medical Microbiology and Immunology at the School of Medicine, University of California, Davis. Her research program is focused on infectious diseases with specific emphasis on mucosal pathogens and mucosal immunity. Dr. Dandekar provided leadership in building vibrant program on mucosal infections and immunity at UC Davis. As a Core Scientist at the California National Primate Research Center, she contributes to translational non-human primate research. Her contributions extend to organizing scientific conferences, serving on grant review panels, and participating in the graduate and undergraduate education. She is an elected American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) Fellow and American Academy of Microbiology (AAM) Fellow, ASM. She is a recipient of the NIH MERIT Award.

Dr. Dandekar's current research is centered on developing biotherapeutic approaches to accelerate the repair/renewal of virally inflamed gut mucosa, with extended impact on the gut-brain axis. Her group identified the gut lymphoid tissue as an early and critical target of HIV and SIV infections. They elucidated mechanisms of gut mucosal immune disruption and demonstrated novel regenerative potential of mesenchymal stem cells in restoring gut lymphoid follicles, enhancing anti-viral immunity, and promoting viral clearance.



LI-FANG (JACK) CHU

Dr. Chu received his PhD in cell and molecular biology from Baylor College of Medicine. His doctoral training focused on investigating the relationship between early embryogenesis and pluripotent states in vitro. He trained as a postdoc and scientist with Dr. James Thomson at the Morgridge Institute for Research, University of Wisconsin-Madison, where he became interested in studying developmental timing.

Dr. Chu joined the Department of Comparative Biology & Experimental Medicine as an Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine in August 2020. He currently holds a Tier II Canada Research Chair in Cellular Reprogramming and is affiliated with the Alberta Children's Hospital Research Institute (ACHRI). His research interests focus on using pluripotent stem cells to model development and disease, and to identify novel therapeutic strategies for regenerative medicine.



KARIN ALLENSPACH

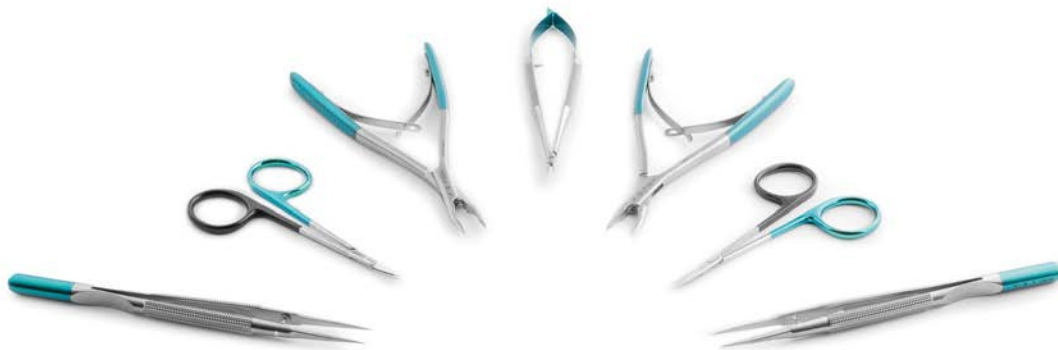
Karin Allenspach is a clinician-scientist and Diplomate of the European College of Veterinary Internal Medicine. She is currently employed as Professor of Comparative Medicine at the University of Georgia, Athens, GA, and is a PI of the SMART Translational Medicine Lab at the University of Georgia, which focuses on the development and culture of adult stem cell-derived organoids from dogs.

Dr. Allenspach has successfully supervised 16 PhD students, 23 MS students and numerous veterinary and undergraduate students in her lab. Her goal is to contribute to the reduction of live animal use in drug discovery by replacing some of the pre-clinical screening with canine organoids.

Her latest efforts have resulted in the founding of a start-up company (3D Health Solutions, Inc.) with the goal of commercializing assays for drug screening based on organoid methods.



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A large graphic on the right side of the banner features a blue silhouette of a horse's head in profile, facing right. The head is enclosed within a circular frame that resembles a magnifying glass, with a thick blue handle extending from the bottom right. The background of the banner is a soft-focus image of a horse's head in similar colors.

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Please follow us on social media and check in at www.navrma.org for information and updates about NAVRMA and our next conference.

About NAVRMA

As an independent, nonprofit organization, NAVRMA encourages professional improvement and the exchange of knowledge and ideas among people interested in veterinary regenerative medicine. The organization seeks to achieve the following goals:

- Increase the knowledge of veterinary regenerative medicine through encouragement of basic and applied research
- Enhance the professional development of workers in this discipline
- Develop and exchange expertise in veterinary regenerative medicine through periodic meetings and publications
- Encourage and foster collaborative efforts and clinical trials in the field of veterinary regenerative medicine
- Help support research and clinical dissemination of information on veterinary regenerative medicine within North America and beyond
- Encourage training of young veterinarians and research scientists in veterinary regenerative medicine
- Consider and make recommendations on policies and regulations pertaining to veterinary regenerative medicine as necessary
- Interact in an appropriate manner with other scientific organizations as required

