Abstract submission for the 6th ISCAID/IFRRS Symposium

Submission

The 6th ISCAID/IFRRS Symposium in Glasgow, UK is open for the submission of abstracts. Abstracts submitted for the original deadline of 1st June 2020, prior to postponement, will be considered for presentation at the meeting in September 2021. Abstracts must be submitted via Oxford Abstracts **here**. **The deadline for receipt of the abstracts is 23.59 GMT Tuesday 1st June 2021**. Corrections (e.g. to text or co-authors) cannot be received after the deadline. You will be informed about the decision around **1st July 2021**.

Acknowledging successful submission

When your abstract is successfully submitted, you will receive an acknowledgement by email containing a reference number for your submission. If you have any queries please email: iscaid2020@outlook.com

Submitter Requirements

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

Two types of research abstract communications will be available:

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

Full ISCAID/IFRRS Forum registration is not included and no honorarium is paid. Students are eligible for a reduced ISCAID/IFRRS registration fee.

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

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

Disclosures Statement

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

- Any form of support (financial or otherwise) for the study described in the abstract.
- Any form of support **for other work** that that the authors are involved in.

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

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

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

All abstracts must be submitted through the Oxford Abstract submission system.

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

Abstracts **MUST be between 200 and 250 words in length** (excluding title, author details/addresses, disclosures statement, word count, presentation preference and abstract award eligibility). The abstract should contain information on the following, using these as subheadings in bold: **Background, Aims, Methods, Results and Discussion/Conclusions**. A statement that "the results will be discussed" is **not** acceptable.

Please include a Disclosure statement in the text box on the submission form in the '**Disclosures**' section.

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

Oral presentations
Electronic slides should be organised in a Microsoft PowerPoint presentation (4:3 format). The symposium organizer will supply the required audiovisual equipment, such that personal laptops are not needed. Please ensure you adhere to the time you are allotted for your oral presentation.

Your complete PowerPoint presentation must be sent to iscaid2020@outlook.com **BEFORE 1st September 2021**, preferably via a DropBox link.

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

Questions?
Contact Vicki Grant (iscaid2020@outlook.com) or Emi Barker (emi.barker@bristol.ac.uk).

Correctly formatted abstract example:

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

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

Disclosures: C.A.E.H. holds a PhD studentship funded by BBSRC and Zoetis Animal Health.
Word count: 248
Preference: Oral presentation
Abstract award: Eligible (PhD student)