

Vital Signs

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Welcome from your 2011 National President



Dear SVECCS Member,

I would like to take the opportunity to introduce myself and inform you of some of the goals that the executive board has planned. I am a 6th semester student at St. Matthew's University School of Veterinary Medicine located in Grand Cayman, BWI. I am also the President and co-founder of my SVECCS chapter at SMU. I have a strong interest in small animal emergency medicine and I also enjoy equine emergency medicine too.

The other newly elective officers consist of: Amanda Moon Vice-President (MSU), Cynthia Fichtner Secretary (SMU), Diya Sharma Member-at-Large (OVC), and Heather Napolitano Member-at-Large (SMU).

This team of individuals is a very energetic, dedicated, insightful group that I welcome you as a member to contact with suggestions, concerns, guidance, and friendship.

On behalf of the newly elected board I would like to thank the past board for all their hard work and initiative especially in securing a traveling grant from Abbott Animal Health. That said grant allowed every chapter that sent a member to IVECCS to receive a \$500 stipend. I would also like to applaud the past board for their efforts at implementing the "SVECCS Communication Initiative" which we plan to build on.

At IVECCS the incoming executive officers of SVECCS met with the outgoing officers to discuss past goals in efforts to formulate new goals and objectives for the next year. The groups talked in great length about the survey results that were collected this past June. The survey served as a benchmark as well as a compass, pointing us in the direction to address some areas of improvement while building others. Our goals for this year include:

**Increase a free flow methodology of communication between the National SVECCS board to the individual chapters as well as inter-chapter communication*

**Continue to develop grants/funds through fundraising and industry partners*

**Broaden the scope of awards to individuals at all veterinary schools*

**Establish a better externship network of emergency & critical care centers to include international options*

**Redesign the SVECCS website*

**Create an online master calendar of events so all chapters can be shared among the association*

**Develop a case challenge presentation in which the designated winner would be asked to present at the next IVECCS with a Q & A session*

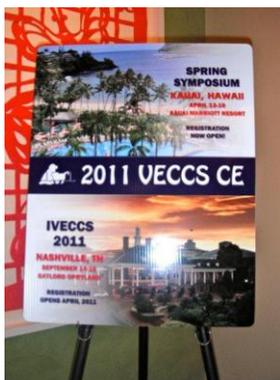
Our list of goals for this year may be vast, but I feel that these are crucial for open communication among chapters as well as promoting SVECCS as well as the emergency and critical care profession.

I look forward to working with the new officers as well as the individual chapters in the next year. I welcome any suggestions that you may feel would better the progression of SVECCS as well as please share what your chapter has done. Feel free to contact me at any time!

Respectfully,
Joseph A. D'Abbraccio
National SVECCS President
St. Matthew's University
School of Veterinary
Medicine



"Abbott provided a \$1000 award to the SVECCS chapter that had the most students in attendance".



IVECCS Symposium 2010 San Antonio, TX

This year, the symposium was located at The Grand Hyatt Hotel in downtown San Antonio. Attendance consisted of over 3,000 attendees, including students.

The theme of IVECCS 2010 was Delivery of Emergency and Critical Care in Today's World. Lectures covered topics such as "The Psychology of Animal Pain Management," "In the Line of Duty-Combat Injuries,"

"Diagnostic Imaging of Exotics," "Controversies Over Snakebite Therapy," and "Running Your ER in Today's World".

Please visit iveccs.org for more information.

Specialty Wet and Dry Labs were tailored to the clinician and technician, in addition to workshops that fine tuned skills and highlighted new and advanced techniques.

A hearty thank you goes out to Diamond Sponsor Abbott who provided a \$1000 award to the SVECCS chapter with the most students in attendance, in addition to a \$500 travel stipend to each chapter in attendance. Ross University won the award with nine attendees. Tuskegee University and UC Davis ran a close second with eight in attendance.

IVECCS 5K, SVECCS Receptions and More!

The objective of IVECCS is not only continuing education and networking, but to also have fun. Lifelong professional and personal relationships are formed during the variety of activities VECCS organizes.

The second annual 5K event continued to be a huge success. This year 150 registrants made their way through Brakenridge Park, a few minutes from

downtown San Antonio.

Several evening receptions were held along the historic San Antonio Riverwalk, sponsored by Abbott, Hills, VPI and Purina.

Diya Sharma, the Ontario Veterinary College Guelph, commented "It is truly amazing how much effort VECCS put into making this possible for everyone. After having met many student

veterinarians of SVECCS, I have to say that their charisma and talents are unmatched, and that the future for VECCS looks bright!"

Coupons were distributed to all attendees for a variety of events and attractions in the San Antonio area making the IVECCS symposium enjoyable and rewarding for everyone.

IVECCS 2011 September 14-18 Nashville, TN

IVECCS offers world-class CE featuring Small Animals, Exotics and Large Animals. IVECCS 2011 will be presented at Gaylord Opryland in Nashville, TN.

Although the cost of plane fare and hotel can be daunting on a student

budget, there are a variety of ways to finance your way to the conference. In addition to SVECCS fundraisers, check with your campus' SAAVMA chapter as they usually have student scholarship funds set aside to send students to conferences.

Additionally, volunteering at IVECCS will waive your attendance fee and provide daily lunches.

Registration begins mid April. Please visit www.iveccs.org for more details.

Fundraising for your SVECCS Chapter

All chapters need it, and although everyone has busy schedules, funds can be raised with minimal effort if the chapter pulls together.

Glynis McCorkle, President of RUSVM SVECCS, says their success is due to the fact that “our items are either unique, catchy, or required for a certain class or semester.” Their laundry list of sale items include: T-shirts, flip-flops, carabiners, penlights, and caduceus jewelry that appeal to all students. Some are required for certain semesters like wet labs for thoracocentesis, long line, and urinary

catheter placement. They also participate in campus bake sales with specialty themes such as Mexican Fiesta, and 4th of July.

With the money RUSVM SVECCS raises they are able to fully fund a few outstanding members for the IVECCS symposium each year. “It’s a great opportunity,” says Glynis. As long as members show dedication to the chapter, by either baking an item for the sale or working a sale shift, they can qualify to be sponsored with per diem for the conference.

MSU SVECCS chapter holds an Open House that attracts visitors statewide.

The SVECCS chapter features a “Teddy Bear Clinic”. Children choose a stuffed animal for \$5, which they take into an exam room for a check-up on their “new pet”. Children can bandage up their pet as well. “Kids love it,” says Kelly Cavanagh.

UC Davis has the unique opportunity to hold a large symposium every year which raises thousands of dollars for their chapter.

Please contact at braideefoote@gmail.com if you would like advice on how to start your own symposium!



Personalized flip-flops from Bagus Customs
www.baguscustoms.com

Contact Kathie Lively

2011 Goals for SVECCS

The most important goal for 2011 is to increase communication efforts between all SVECCS chapters. “One of our goals is to increase the awareness of experience and networking opportunities for students interested in pursuing Emergency and Critical Care Medicine,” says member-at-large, Diya Sharma. “We plan to accomplish this by updating our SVECCS database to contain the most current information regarding potential

internship/externship opportunities that not only stretch across the United States, but across North America. We will also be updating our SVECCS website so that the most current information is available for all the chapters to remain in contact with each other and share ideas.”

For the officers, the plan is to hold quarterly webcast meetings. “Our vision is to have SVECCS continue to grow by increasing communication and community as well as

expand to having even more chapters” says President Joe D’Abbraccio.

Featured Goal: Case Studies

It was also proposed to feature case studies in future newsletters and website with the potential to present the most outstanding case study at the IVECCS symposium. The VECCS board has approved SVECCS proposal, and is encouraging all chapters to submit at least one

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"...we want the veterinary community to be aware of the research that we are doing as vet students."

case study annually.

Featuring case studies in the quarterly newsletter provides the perfect opportunity to learn from our fellow colleagues as well as highlight those students who are taking initiative to make a difference in the veterinary community.

Our hope is to provide 4-5 case studies per year to Dr. Stamp and his team to vote on and be presented at the IVECCS conference.

Our career as VECCS begins while we are in vet school and we want the veterinary community to be aware of the research

and efforts we are exhibiting as vet students.

To submit a case study, please email:

sveccsml1@gmail.com

Please make sure to include your University's name and have your submission in by February 15th for the Spring Newsletter.

Increase Chapter Involvement

Getting involved just a few hours a month has many rewards. The SVECCS officers want to help provide ideas for everyone to get more involved in their chapter. When everyone comes together, only a small effort is needed. However we all know that when 2 or 3 of the same people are

always leading the pack they often get burned out and the chapter may eventually dissipate.

We invite each chapter to send us their success stories for increasing member involvement.

Additionally SVECCS would like to see more activity on the

Googlewave accounts. It is a great way for all chapters to easily reach out to one another. Please log on to your account and 'wave' today!

Please contact sveccsml1@gmail.com to have your story included in the next newsletter.

2012 Board Member Elections

Acting as a board member is rewarding in many ways. It is a great way to network with your future veterinarian community, keep current on the latest cutting edge technologies with a complimentary membership to JVECC, and solidify your spot at the annual IVECCS symposium.

This year we will start taking nominations as of February 1st. Previously voting happened during

the summer when many chapters are on break. Holding elections earlier in the year we hope will enable representation from all over the US, Caribbean and Canada.

We will close nominations as of April 15th to enable enough time to review and elect new officers. Ballots will be distributed to all chapters.

Newly elected officers will take office on July 1 and

terminate on June 30 of the next calendar.

Please have each nominee fill out the required form stating why they would like to hold an SVECCS office and remit your nominations to sveccsvp@gmail.com

For officer responsibilities please visit the SVECCS constitution at: www.sveccs.org

We will hold open nominations April 1-15, 2010.

Please submit your nomination to: sveccsvp@gmail.com

Proficiency Award in Emergency and Critical Care

The VECCS has, for the past several years, sponsored an award for Proficiency in Emergency and Critical Care at each of the participating universities.

VECCS proudly sponsors the award again this year and is happy to report that Abbott Animal Health will co-sponsor the award along with providing a cash stipend. This acknowledgement is intended for the 4th or 3rd year student who has demonstrated exceptional performance and commitment while caring for emergent and/or critical patients. As part of the criteria for this award,

strong consideration should also be given to students who currently are and have been active members of the local and or National SVECCS.

The award should be included in the CVM awards program and the recipient selected by the process utilized for other awards.

The board is hoping to increase the number of nominations this year. Please check with your Dean's office or email sveccsm1@gmail.com for more details.



Abbott Animal Health will co-sponsor the award with VECCS and will provide a cash stipend...

SVECCS Chapter Updates ~ SMU

St. Matthew's University SVECCS chapter has had an exciting fall semester. In addition to our meeting, we have had two labs this semester where our members gained hands-on experience in suturing and CPR. Our CPR Lab was lead by Dr. Juliana Figueiredo BVM, MS, DACVA where we she taught about the latest American Heart Association recommendations for CPR. Additionally, our members enjoyed a lecture about Gastric Dilatation and Volvulus by Dr. Thomas Gibson DVM,

DACVS from the Ontario Veterinary College at the University of Guelph. Dr. Gibson discussed presentation, surgical repair, and post-operative care for these cases. Our fall fundraiser will be a part of Cayman Islands Pirates Week and will benefit the local humane society.

~Melena McClure

Tell us what is going on in your chapter!

Respond prior to February 25, 2011 at: sveccsm1@gmail.com



Our fall fundraiser will be a part of Cayman Islands Pirates Week and will benefit the local humane society.

SVECCS 2011 OFFICERS

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Please visit our website
<http://sveccs.org> for more
information on sveccs
chapters.

Please contact your SVECCS officers at the posted email addresses for comments or concerns. Welcome to SVECCS and have a great year!