

# Pet Blood Bank UK

## The Hospital for Small Animals now hosts donation days for Pet Blood Bank UK.

Pet Blood Bank UK is a nationwide charity which collects and processes blood from donor dogs for life-saving transfusions. One unit of blood collected can help up to four dogs.

We act as a collection point for donors in the Edinburgh and Borders area, so if you

feel you have a client who may be interested, please ask them to contact Pet Blood Bank UK [www.petbloodbankuk.org/pet-owners/](http://www.petbloodbankuk.org/pet-owners/) or if you would like to support the charity by providing information to your clients, we can provide you with leaflets. E-mail the Hospital at [vet.services@ed.ac.uk](mailto:veter.services@ed.ac.uk) and we'll be happy to send you some.

## The Dick Vet - Clinical Club CPD 2017

We invite all clinicians to the monthly Dick Vet Clinical Club CPD, held at 7:30pm on the first Wednesday of every month. For full information, or to book a free ticket, go to [www.ed.ac.uk/vet/BookClinicalClub](http://www.ed.ac.uk/vet/BookClinicalClub)

<b>1st February</b>	Prof Danielle Gunn-Moore	Optimising the management of chronic kidney disease in cats
<b>1st March</b>	Geoff Culshaw and Yolanda Martinez-Pereira	Canine mitral valve disease: EPIC results, EPIC changes
<b>15th March</b>	Tobias Schwarz	Cardiac Imaging: There is more than Echocardiography!
<b>5th April</b>	Dr Patrick Burns	Practical Approach to Pain Assessment
<b>3rd May</b>	Spela Bavcar and Magdalena Parys	The fight against cancer – from diagnosis to treatment
<b>7th June</b>	Dr Emily Thomas	What can we learn from pre-hospital emergency care in people?
<b>5th July</b>	Katarina Varjonen	An update on canine demodicosis
<b>2nd August</b>	Dr Katia Marioni-Henry	Seizures and other involuntary movements in cats.
<b>6th September</b>	Dr Dylan Clements	Fracture complications
<b>4th October</b>	Dr Tim Nuttall	Antimicrobial Stewardship – CARS and GRAM; what does this mean for practice?
<b>1st November</b>	Dr Silke Salavati	An update on canine chronic enteropathy
<b>6th December</b>	Paola Cazzini	The blood smear whisperer - what a blood smear can tell you about your patient?



THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH  
The Royal (Dick) School  
of Veterinary Studies

# 07

The newsletter from the **Edinburgh Veterinary Teaching Hospitals** | Issue 07

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Dr Patrick Burns

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## Welcome



**Welcome to our first newsletter of 2017. I hope that you all had a happy Hogmanay and have had a good start to the year.**

2016 was a year of change for everyone, including here at the Hospital for Small Animals. I have taken over the reins as Director of the Hospital for Small Animals,

whilst Dr Richard Mellanby took up the role of Head of Companion Animal Sciences. Mr Kevin Brady, who previously worked at Inglis Vets, has recently joined the team as our Practice Manager.

The HfSA will continue to strive for excellence in clinical service, teaching and research. As an anaesthetist, one of the principles behind my general approach will be to optimise patient safety and their well-being within the hospital.

For your continuing professional development needs, the clinical club programme is included for 2017 and I am sure that the programme provides something for everyone. The Cardiopulmonary Service is keen to provide support in the understanding of the outcomes of the EPIC study and we hope many of you will be able to make it along to the special sessions in March.

The coming year brings many new opportunities for the HfSA to further support the activities of colleagues in primary care practice. Our staff are looking forward to working with you in providing the best outcomes for all our patients.

I look forward to bringing you further updates in the future.

With best regards

**Dr Patrick Burns**  
Hospital Director of Hospital for Small Animals



The Hospital for Small Animals  
The Royal (Dick) School of  
Veterinary Studies  
The University of Edinburgh  
Easter Bush Campus  
Midlothian EH25 9RG

## Canine Mitral Valve Disease - Epic Results, Epic Changes



The results from the "Evaluation of Pimobendan In dogs with Cardiomegaly caused by preclinical mitral valve disease" (EPIC) study were published at the end of 2016 (JVIM 2016;30:1765-1779). This remarkably well designed study involved cardiologists from all around the world and demonstrates that dogs with myxomatous mitral valve disease (MMVD) benefit from treatment with pimobendan at an earlier stage than previously recommended (American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine consensus statement, JVIM 2009;23:1142-11150).

Before EPIC, treatment of dogs with MMVD was not started until they had developed congestive heart failure. After EPIC, we now have evidence that administration of pimobendan to dogs with MMVD and cardiomegaly before they develop congestive heart failure prolongs their heart failure-free period by, on average, 15 months.

These ground-breaking results have implications for all veterinarians, not just cardiologists. MMVD is very prevalent amongst elderly dogs. Although most never progress to congestive heart failure, those with cardiomegaly usually do, and

those are the dogs that will benefit from pimobendan at an earlier stage. However, there is no evidence that treating dogs without cardiomegaly will confer any benefit. The challenge for the general practitioner is to identify which dogs will benefit and which ones won't. The role of the cardiologists is to assist in this process by applying the same criteria for measuring heart size as used in the EPIC study.

The Cardiopulmonary Service is preparing to launch the "EPIC screening clinics", to assist general practitioners with this mammoth task. This outpatient service will provide weekly appointments to clients of asymptomatic dogs with mitral murmurs (grade III/VI or louder). These patients will undergo a full physical examination, blood pressure measurement and echocardiographic examination. A report will be sent to the referring veterinarian on the day of the appointment with appropriate advice for treatment. The cost of this service will be approximately £240 + VAT.

## New staff at the HfSA

The Hospital for Small Animals attracts staff from around the world. Here we profile six recent arrivals. Full profiles are available on the Dick Vet website at [www.ed.ac.uk/vet/our-staff](http://www.ed.ac.uk/vet/our-staff)



**Emily Thomas**  
Lecturer in  
Emergency and  
Critical Care

Emily graduated from Cambridge Veterinary School and after a Residency in Emergency and Critical Care (ECC) at the University of Pennsylvania and working in the RVC ECC team, she joined the Dick Vet in 2016. Her clinical research interests include feline urethral obstruction and toxicology.



**Dr Silke Salavati**  
Lecturer in Internal  
Medicine

Silke graduated from Justus-Liebig University (JLU), Giessen and stayed to complete both a Rotating Internship and a Residency in Small Animal Medicine. She then undertook a PhD at the RVC in canine gastroenterology. She returned to JLU as a Junior Lecturer before joining the Dick Vet's Internal Medicine team. She is specifically interested in Inflammatory Bowel Disease, gastric motility and the use of probiotics.



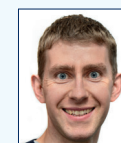
**Magdalena Parys**  
Lecturer in Oncology

Magdalena graduated from the University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn, Poland. After completing Internships and her Residency in Canada and the USA she joined the Dick Vet in 2016. She is interested in discovering new methods of controlling and eradicating cancer using radiation therapy and a multimodal approach.



**Dr Katarina Varjonen**  
Lecturer in Veterinary  
Dermatology

Katarina graduated from the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences and completed a Residency in Dermatology at the RVC. After working in private referral practices and Universities in both Sweden and in the USA, she joined the Dick Vet Dermatology Service in May 2016. She currently serves as a board member of the European Society of Veterinary Dermatology and on the exam committee of the European College of Veterinary Dermatology.



**John Ryan**  
Lecturer in Small  
Animal Orthopaedic

John qualified from University College Dublin, then completed a Rotating Internship at Glasgow and a Small Animal Surgery Residency at the Dick Vet. After working as a Lecturer in Dublin, he re-joined the Dick Vet in 2016. John has a particular interest in the management of osteoarthritis and in the development of models for teaching surgical skills.



**Emily Gorman**  
Veterinary Nurse  
- ICU

After qualifying as an RVN, Emily was the inaugural Glasgow University Vet School Nursing Scholar, completing a year's Nursing Internship. Following this, she specialised in exotics, gaining the Certificate in Nursing of Exotic Species. She has worked abroad with wildlife in areas of both conservation and welfare. Emily gained a Certificate in Emergency and Critical Care during her time working as a Specialist ICU nurse at Glasgow Vet School and joined the Dick Vet in 2016.