ABSTRACTS & PROGRAMME HANDBOOK

ANZLAA 2013

AUSTRALIAN & NEW ZEALAND LABORATORY ANIMAL ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL CONFERENCE

PERTH - WESTERN AUSTRALIA SEPTEMBER 4-6

THE BALANCING ACT:

Animal Welfare – Good Science – Cost

A.A.C.S
Australian Animal Care Systems Pty Ltd

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME: THURSDAY 5 SEPTEMBER

7.00 – 8.30	**Breakfast Workshops** Hammersley Room: **James Edwards (Hames Sharley)** 'Five Facilities – Case Studies and Lessons Learned' Goldsworthy Room: **Rebecca Pearce (World Courier)** 'Live Animal Transport: trends, challenges and solutions'		
SESSION 1			
8.30 – 8.35	House-keeping update		
8.35 – 9.05	**Matt Kemp** The Role of Animal Models in the Fight Against Preterm Birth.		
9.05 – 10.35	**Polly Taylor and Mike Dixon** Why is Pain Measurement So Difficult?		
10.35 – 10.40	**Conference Partner Presentation: Tecniplast**		
10.40 – 11.10	Morning Tea		
SESSION 2			
11.10 – 11.40	**Kim Saunders** Why it Matters Where You Pass Your Gas: A Survey of Waste Anesthetic Gas Management Among Researchers.	11.10 – 11.40	**Simone Vitali** Zoos and Conservation Medicine: Developing an Urban Zoo Conservation Medicine Programme.
11.40 – 12.10	**Mike McGarry** Animal Facility Excellence - Management by Plan B.	11.40 – 12.10	**Nahiid Stephens** Considerations for Cetacean Research
12.10 – 12.30	**Liz Chester** Sensitive Research and Social Media Reducing Risk.	12.10 – 12.40	**Hayley Dickinson** The Spiny Mouse - a Prococial Rodent for Perinatal Research.
12.30 – 12.50	**Michael Durrant** Leading the Way in Peer Training for Care and Use of Research Animals.	12.40 – 12.55	**Ali Drury** Evaluation of Visible Implant Tags and Fin clipping to Identify Zebrafish.
12.50 – 1.10	**Montip Gettayacamin** AAALAC International Accreditation - Harmonized System for Enhancing Animal Welfare and Good Science.	12.55 – 1.10	**Keren Muthsam** Improvements in Emu Housing at the University of Western Australia.
1.10 – 2.10	Lunch		
SESSION 3			
2.10 – 2.40	**Peter Mawson** Challenges in Developing Artificial Diets for Australian Native Species to Support Display and Captive Breeding.	2.10 – 3.05	**Laura Conour** SOP Writing: The Pain-Free Approach (No Aspirin Needed).
2.40 – 3.10	**Aisling McMahon** The Effects of Dietary Energy and Macronutrient Balance on Cardiovascular Health and Longevity in a Mouse Model of Ageing.		
3.10 – 3.25	**Morwenna Boddington** An Assessment of Simple Containers in the Provision of Specialised Diets to Rats.	3.05 – 3.25	**David Taylor** CO2 Euthanasia of Mice. Why the Difference?
3.25 -3.55	Afternoon Tea		
SESSION 4			
3.55 – 4.25	**Grant Morahan** The Gene Mine: a Powerful Resource for Medical Research.	3.55 – 4.10	**Jessica Sturrock** The Management and Maintenance of a "Clean" Breeding Colony During Re-Derivation to Eradicate Pathogens.
		4.10 – 4.25	**Leah Frazer** What You Find Depends On How You Look For It: Revisiting Hendra Virus in the Laboratory Mouse.
4.25 – 4.55	**Maike Dorn** Regulation of Scientific Use of Animals in Western Australia.	4.25 – 4.40	**Simone Ross** The Evolving Knowledge of the Importance of Enrichment.
		4.40 – 4.55	**Sarah Eastwood** H7N9 Influenza and the Emergency Disease Response: Resilience, Timeliness and Attention to Detail.
4.55 – 5.25	**Hani Al-Salami** The Applications of Bile Acids and Probiotics in Diabetes, Using Artificial Cell Microencapsulation.	4.55 – 5.15	**Nicholas Grainger** An Animal Model for the Training of Clinical Staff in the Can't Intubate, Can't Oxygenate Scenario.
7.00	Conference Dinner		

Considerations for Cetacean Research.

Stephens, N[1], Holyoake, C[1], Warren, K[1], Duignan, P[2], Coughran, D[3]: [1]Murdoch University, Perth, WA, [2]University of Calgary, Calgary, AB, Canada, [3]Department of Environment and Conservation, Perth, WA

N.Stephens@murdoch.edu.au

The study of disease in wildlife is increasingly being recognised as a priority area for research in order to better identify and manage threats to wildlife species. Wildlife may also act as vectors for, or the origin of many emerging infectious zoonoses. In particular, cetacean research can add much to our knowledge of the state of our oceans and waterways – for example, as long-lived and high-trophic level species, cetaceans can accumulate high levels of contaminants through bio-magnification. Disease may occur secondary to adverse parameters in water quality, with populations in urban waterways and estuaries being especially subject to anthropogenic impacts. Thus, they can act as biological sentinels of ocean and waterway health.

In addition, as charismatic mega-fauna they provide researchers with an engaging outreach and education tool, capturing the interest of stakeholders and the public. This often incites favourable responses and positive actions, which might otherwise have been hard to stimulate or implement.

There are a number of professional societies that have established standing Ethics Committees providing guidance on ethical issues for researchers; currently only the Society for Marine Mammology has made their guidelines for the ethical treatment of marine mammals in field research publicly available. Considerable debate still surrounds the use of certain methodologies, and the use of captive cetaceans (e.g. United States Navy Marine Mammal Program) and lethal studies for research are extremely controversial, with international laws varying greatly.

Additionally, there are many difficulties and considerations to be taken into account when conducting cetacean research. Many cetaceans are large and fieldwork often occurs in the animal's natural habitat, presenting particular challenges to minimising the risk to both the animals and researchers involved. Our health-based research thus far has focused on the opportunistic use of stranded cetaceans; as a consequence, euthanasia may occasionally prove necessary. This alone is no small feat, given the size of many cetaceans and the fact they often strand in remote locations.

This presentation will focus on the utility of cetaceans as biological sentinels and how such research may inform environmental management and conservation efforts, with discussion of some of the difficulties faced by researchers and the issues surrounding certain methodologies.