

Infectious Diseases: A Comprehensive, Evidence-Based Update and Debunking Diagnostic Myths
Live Virtual Course | Date: August 25-26, 2026

Sponsored by



AGENDA DAY 1 Tuesday, August 25, 2026		
Time (Mountain Time)	Topic	Presenter(s)
8:00 – 8:15 am	Welcome and Introductions	<i>Dr. Petra Cerna</i>
8:15 – 9:15 am	Seeing the Signal Through the Noise: Making Sense of Infectious Disease Diagnostics • Apply a clinical framework to select appropriate antigen vs antibody tests based on disease physiology, stage of infection, and patient factors. • Interpret diagnostic test results in light of diagnostic performance in case-based scenarios. • Recognize common pitfalls and limitations of infectious disease diagnostics.	<i>Dr. Krystle Reagan</i>
9:15 – 10:15 am	Group Discussion on Infectious Disease Testing (Including PCR Panels) • Review the indications, limitations, and interpretation of infectious disease diagnostic testing in cats and dogs, including PCR-based assays. • Differentiate between positive test results associated with active infection vs positive serology etc. • Apply evidence-based decision-making to select appropriate infectious disease testing strategies based on clinical presentation, and risk factors.	<i>Dr. Jane Sykes</i> <i>Dr. Krystle Reagan</i> <i>Dr. Michael Lappin</i> <i>Moderator: Dr. Petra Cerna</i>
10:15 – 10:30 am	Break	
10:30 – 11:30 am	FIV/FelV	<i>Dr. Julie Levy</i>

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AGENDA DAY 1 (cont.) Tuesday, August 25, 2026		
Time (Mountain Time)	Topic	Presenter(s)
11:30 – 12:30 pm	Vaccinations – Different Vaccination Types • Compare the mechanisms, advantages, and limitations of major vaccine platforms used in companion animals. • Identify clinical circumstances in which vaccine selection may differ from routine or standard recommendations. • Describe emerging vaccine platforms and their potential applications in veterinary medicine.	<i>Dr. Terza Brostoff</i>
12:30 – 1:30 pm	Lunch	
1:30 – 2:30 pm	Parasites and Resistant Hookworms • Define the strengths and limitations of common parasitology diagnostic tests including fecal flotation, antigen detection, and PCR. • Relate reports of resistance in canine hookworm, heartworm, and flea tapeworm. • Assess strategies to identify, treat, and confirm efficacy against resistant parasites in dogs.	<i>Dr. Susan Little</i>
2:30 – 3:20 pm	FIP Treatment Update on Guidelines • Summarize current guideline recommendations for FIP treatment. • Develop monitoring plans and criteria for treatment success or failure. • Recognize and manage relapse or treatment complications.	<i>Dr. Petra Cerna</i>
3:20 – 3:30 pm	Break	

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AGENDA DAY 1 (cont.) Tuesday, August 25, 2026		
Time (Mountain Time)	Topic	Presenter(s)
3:30 – 4:30 pm	Antiviral MOA and Resistance - Describe the mechanisms of action of key antivirals used in the treatment of feline infectious peritonitis and the molecular mechanisms by which resistance can arise. - Explain how insights from SARS-CoV-2 antiviral use and resistance inform our understanding of AMR in veterinary virology. - Apply principles of antiviral stewardship and resistance mitigation to clinical decision-making in feline practice.	<i>Dr. Sally Coggins</i>
4:30 – 5:00 pm	Panel Discussion: FIP - Discuss current approaches to the diagnosis of feline infectious peritonitis (FIP), including interpretation of clinicopathologic findings, imaging, and molecular diagnostics. - Evaluate current treatment recommendations and monitoring strategies for cats with FIP, including management of relapses, neurologic or ocular disease, and concurrent comorbidities. - Integrate current evidence and clinical experience to improve prognosis and long-term management of cats with FIP.	<i>Dr. Petra Cerna</i> <i>Dr. Sally Coggins</i> <i>Dr. Krystle Reagan</i> <i>Moderator: Dr. Amber Graham</i>

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AGENDA DAY 1 (cont.) Tuesday, August 25, 2026		
Time (Mountain Time)	Topic	Presenter(s)
5:00 – 6:00 pm	Fungal Testing and Treatment • Understand the diagnostic utility of fungal antigen tests and/or serum antibody tests in the early stages of diagnostic investigation for suspected invasive fungal infection and be able to interpret the cytological and histological reports of suspected invasive fungal infections and order appropriate special stains to order to confirm their presence. • Be able to recommend advanced tests so as to confirm the species identity of diagnosed fungal pathogens and recommend the best practice treatment strategy. • Apply an understanding of the different classes of antifungal drugs and their spectrum of activity in order to recommend treatment strategies for the most common invasive fungal infections of dogs and cats.	<i>Dr. Vanessa Barrs</i>
6:00 pm	Close Day 1	<i>Dr. Petra Cerna</i>

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AGENDA DAY 2
Wednesday, August 26, 2026

Time (Mountain Time)	Topic	Presenter(s)
8:00 – 9:00 am	Update on ISCAID UTI Guidelines • Know the diagnostic criteria for presumptive pyelonephritis in cats and dogs. • Describe which diagnostic tests are useful for establishing a diagnosis of pyelonephritis. • Know the difference between strong and conditional recommendations and the underlying criteria. • Know the rationale behind the preliminary management recommendations in pyelonephritis in cats and dogs.	<i>Dr. Lisbeth Jessen</i>
9:00 – 10:00 am	Antimicrobial Stewardship – Update • Understand recent updates in veterinary antimicrobial stewardship resources, including availability of guidelines, professional organizations, and veterinary literature. • Increase awareness of antimicrobial resistance trends in veterinary pathogens and understand the implications for animal and human health. • Recognize the role of veterinarians as a key member of a stewardship team that relies on interprofessional collaboration and effective communication between veterinarians, veterinary nurses, and clients.	<i>Dr. Madeleine Stein</i>
10:00 – 10:15 am	Break	
10:15 – 11:15 am	Panel Discussion: Antimicrobial Stewardship • Describe the principles of antimicrobial stewardship and their application in small animal clinical practice. • Identify strategies to optimize antimicrobial selection, dosing, duration, and de-escalation while minimizing antimicrobial resistance. • Apply diagnostic testing, culture and susceptibility results, and infection control principles to support judicious antimicrobial use in veterinary patients.	<i>Dr. Madeleine Stein</i> <i>Dr. Lisbeth Jessen</i> <i>Dr. Fergus Allerton</i> <i>Moderator:</i> <i>Dr. Petra Cerna</i>

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AGENDA DAY 2 (cont.)
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Time (Mountain Time)	Topic	Presenter(s)
11:15 – 12:15 pm	Zoonotic Infections - Recognize the major direct zoonoses of dogs and cats. - Discuss how to optimize interactions with the family physician to provide optimal care to owners and their dogs and cats. - Learn optimal prevention strategies to lessen risk of direct zoonoses to people. - Discuss how to avoid direct zoonoses while concurrently lessening the impact of parasiticides and insecticides on the environment.	<i>Dr. Michael Lappin</i>
12:15 – 1:15 pm	Lunch	
1:15 – 2:15 pm	Emerging Infections - Know the definition of an emerging infectious disease. - Know factors that lead to disease emergence. - List major emerging infectious diseases in companion animals and their geographic distribution.	<i>Dr. Jane Sykes</i>
2:15 – 3:15 pm	Updated ACVIM Consensus Statement on Leptospirosis in Dogs - Be able to identify suspect cases of leptospirosis in your practice. - Understand risk factors for leptospirosis. - Understand how available diagnostic tests perform and how to apply them in your practice; to know the safety, efficacy, and new recommendations on frequency of administration for current vaccines against leptospirosis and handling precautions.	<i>Dr. Jane Sykes</i>
3:15 – 3:30 pm	Break	

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Time (Mountain Time)	Topic	Presenter(s)
3:30 – 4:30 pm	Updates in Canine and Feline Vector-Borne Infectious Diseases • Integrate current epidemiologic trends in canine and feline vector-borne diseases into regional risk assessment and clinical decision-making. • Critically interpret diagnostic test results across species, distinguishing exposure from clinically relevant infection. • Develop evidence-based management and prevention strategies for dogs and cats, including navigating areas of limited evidence.	<i>Dr. Jessica Pritchard</i>
4:30 – 5:30 pm	Artificial Intelligence: The Next Infectious Disease Specialist? • Describe current and emerging applications of AI in infectious disease diagnosis and management. • Evaluate the strengths and limitations of AI tools in clinical decision-making.	<i>Dr. Krystle Reagan</i>
5:30 pm	Close Day 2	