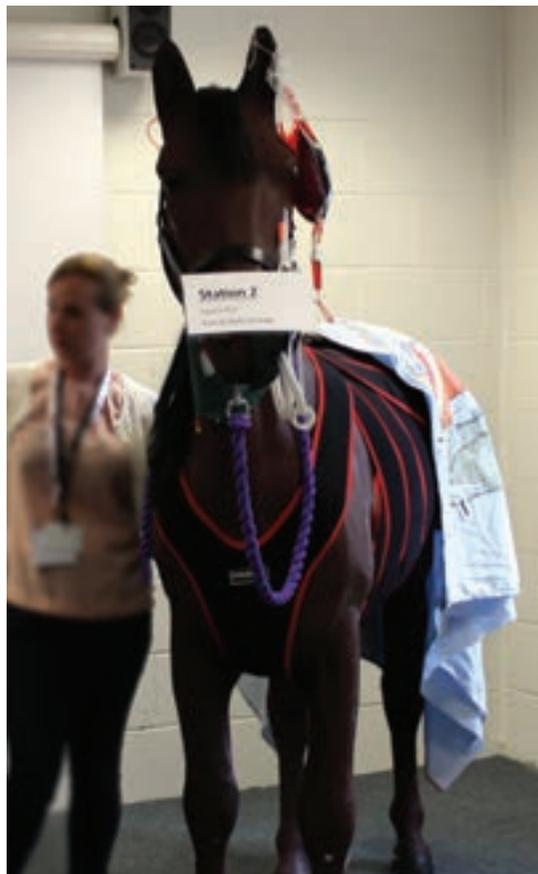


# Report from UCDEVH conference

*The abdomen was the focus for the nursing stream at the ninth annual University College Dublin Veterinary Hospital Conference, which was held in O'Reilly Hall, UCD, in July, writes Lorraine McDonnell*



**Figure 1: Equine practical session. Photo: Nicola Walsh, UCD.**

The first half of the day focused on theory, with many interesting topics covered, including colic, diseases and interventions, while the afternoon consolidated the theory gained from the morning session through practical work stations and demonstrations.

The first speaker of the day was Lisa Sheeran, currently a lecturer on the BSc in Veterinary Nursing in UCD, who introduced us to colic in horses. She emphasised the importance of diligent nursing and stressed that good communication is the key to excellent patient care. We were guided step by step from clinical exam, patient assessment, blood work, diagnostic tests, all the way to post-operative recovery, which included interesting photos of wound management and post-op complications. We switched from large animals to small with a presentation entitled "What's going on inside the abdomen? A medical report" by Caroline Beckett, senior veterinary nurse in small animal clinical studies in UCD. She discussed some of the diseases which lead to abdominal distension and pain, chronic diarrhoea and vomiting. She focused on ascites, lymphoma, inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) and pancreatitis. She emphasised



**Figure 2: Delegates making soaking catheters. Photo: Nicola Walsh, UCD.**

that while some of these symptoms are similar, patients suffering from ascites need to be stabilised prior to diagnostic testing. Accompanying her report were photographs of animals with ascites and also the different types of abdominal fluids that can be collected. Attention then turned to "Considerations for Abdominal Surgery" by Jackie Hudson, senior veterinary nurse in small animal surgery in UCD. Jackie emphasised that it was crucial that the patient is stable prior to surgery as this is invaluable in order to have a stable anaesthesia and a good positive outcome post-surgery.

It was also reiterated not to overuse antibiotics, and that each patient should be assessed individually, eg. if surgery is clean/contaminated, or if the patient is immune compromised with disorders such as diabetes, geriatric/paediatric or malnourished.

Practical tips were given to alleviate discomfort post-abdominal surgery, like ensuring the patient had the opportunity to urinate and defecate. Once anaesthetised, the bladder should be checked and emptied, if needed. We were guided from preparation to instrumentation required, post-operative care and complications. Laparoscopy was also highlighted as it is becoming more commonly used throughout veterinary medicine.

In the afternoon, delegates were divided into three groups and treated to three practical sessions.

The colic equine session, hosted by Jennifer Collins-Moody, senior veterinary nurse in equine surgery in UCD, and Siobhan Coleman, veterinary nurse in equine medicine in UCD, had an array of very informative stations including the equipment required for treatment of rectal exams, abdominocentesis, stomach tubing, post-operative complications and even a life-size horse illustrating the belly bandage.

## I NURSING

Georgina Self, anaesthesia nurse in UCD, demonstrated soaker catheters. Georgina discussed with the delegates all the indications and where best to use soaker catheters. As well as that, Georgina highlighted the complications involved and studies relating to their use. For the DIY enthusiasts, there was information on a make-your-own soaker catheter using supplies from around the practice and a lighter!

In the final session, Sinead Sheerin, intensive care nurse in

UCD, demonstrated the different models of feeding tubes on the market. These include nasogastric, oesophageal feeding tube placement and percutaneous endoscopic gastrostomy (PEG) tube. Other stations included a variety of surgical drains. Sinead highlighted the daily care of the feeding tubes as well as the complications associated with them. Delegates were given the opportunity to practise these techniques, including abdominocentesis, on the various models.

## UPCOMING NURSING EVENTS

### IVNA ROADSHOW

This September/October, the yearly IVNA Roadshow, in conjunction with Royal Canin, will be held in the following colleges: Athlone IT, Letterkenny IT, Dundalk IT and St John's Central College, Cork. Last year's topic was obesity and we've had some great feedback and high attendance rates due to the evening start. This year's topic is "Diabetes and Client Information". With the increasing numbers of diabetes being diagnosed in practice, it is an important issue to address. Please refer to the IVNA website ([www.ivna.ie](http://www.ivna.ie)) for updates of venues and times. Details will also be sent via email to all IVNA members.

### FECAVA EUROCONGRESS

FECAVA Eurocongress commences if anyone wishes to travel to Munich, Germany. It is being held on November 6-9. Please refer to their website for more information: [www.fecava2014.com](http://www.fecava2014.com)

### MRSA/MRSP CPD EVENT

The IVNA is in the process of organising a CPD event on November 21, 2014. The topic is "MRSA/MRSP: What's is it all about?" and the venue is Athlone Institute of Technology. This will be a full-day event from 9.30am to 5.15pm. With an increase in cases being seen in practice, this event will help us to understand, try to prevent and, most importantly, protect ourselves from MRSA/MRSP. This is aimed at veterinary nurses both qualified and student, and anyone who works with animals. Please refer to [www.ivna.ie](http://www.ivna.ie) and our Facebook page for updates.

### CORK MINI-MARATHON

The Evening Echo Mini Marathon is running this September 28 in Cork. Some of the IVNA committee and members are taking part in aid of the Irish Horse Welfare Trust (IHWT), our charity of the year. Entry is €12. If you would like to join us all you have to do is enter online at [www.eveningecho.ie/minimarathon](http://www.eveningecho.ie/minimarathon) and also email Avril at [ivna.avril@gmail.com](mailto:ivna.avril@gmail.com) so we can arrange to meet on the day. This is an ideal opportunity to meet new people and also for some fun and laughs. We would love to see you there! However, if you are unable to take part you can sponsor us by going to [www.ivna.ie](http://www.ivna.ie) and clicking on the donate button.

### DUBLIN MINI-MARATHON

We, along with some IVNA members, participated in the 10K Flora Mini Marathon on June 2, 2014, in Dublin, with all the money raised going to straight to IHWT. A great and tiring day was had by all. We would like to thank all participants and all those who gave sponsorship.

### NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS

We are delighted to welcome our new members to the committee.

#### Jacinta Codd RPN RVN DipVN

Jacinta started her nursing career as a psychiatric nurse. Having grown up on a dairy farm she decided to make the change to veterinary nursing in 2008 when she started the Diploma in Veterinary Nursing in UCD. As a student she worked in Pet Vet in her native Wexford, where she gained great training and experience. She qualified in 2011, and moved to Dublin to work in Raheny Veterinary Hospital. Here she gained invaluable experience in all areas of veterinary nursing. In 2014 she moved to her current position in Anicare, based in Santry Veterinary Surgery.

#### Mairead Deacy DipAVN Dip HE CVN RVN

Mairead completed a two-year Diploma in Animal Care/ Applied Science in St John's Central College in Cork where she graduated in 2000. She continued to work in Gilabbey Veterinary Hospital, a small animal referral hospital in Cork. Mairead continued her education and graduated from UCD in 2007 with a Diploma in Veterinary Nursing. In 2012 she decided to pursue an advanced qualification and graduated from Myerscough College with a Diploma in Higher Education Clinical Veterinary Nursing in conjunction with an Advanced Diploma in Veterinary Nursing in 2013.

#### Corina Fitzsimons RVN

Corina graduated from Dundalk IT in 2012 after working in the financial industry for over 10 years. While in college she worked as a student veterinary nurse in All Pets in Drogheda. After graduation she became Assistant Manager (administration) in Dogs Trust for a year. She then moved into veterinary sales executive for Medray and after four months took up a position as market executive within the company.