



## Irish Veterinary Nurses Association Congress 2017

**The eighth annual IVNA Congress will be held on Saturday and Sunday, May 27 and 28, 2017, at the Radisson Blu Hotel, Galway, writes IVNA vice chairperson, Lorraine RVN VNDip OA Dip**

This year, the two-day congress has something for everyone, from medical to surgical to nursing plans and techniques. We have incorporated topics that will interest the newly qualified to the more senior nurses. Our Sunday practicals have been so popular in the last number of years that we have added a third practical session this year. The lectures are based on topics that IVNA members requested were presented at the congress. This year, the Saturday night gala dinner with award presentations has changed to a more relaxed atmosphere of a barbeque and a few drinks, with the award ceremony for Veterinary Nurse of the Year, Student Nurse of the Year and Support Staff of the year, each winning a trophy and a voucher. The IVNA is looking forward to welcoming local, as well as a host of international speakers.

### **SPEAKERS**

#### **KENICHIRO YAGI BS RVT, VTS (ECC, SAIM)**

Kenchiro currently works at Adobe Animal Hospital in California as an intensive care unit and blood bank manager. He is an avid lecturer, both within the US and internationally, with a keen interest in practical instruction on transfusion medicine, respiratory care, and critical care nursing. He is a member of the board of the Veterinary Emergency & Critical Care Society (VECCS), the Academy of Veterinary Emergency & Critical Care Technicians (AVECCT), the Veterinary Innovation Council, and is the National

Association of Veterinary Technicians in America (NAVTA) state representative chairperson. Ken's presentation is entitled: 'Shock has two faces'. He will also chair the International Veterinary Nurses and Technicians Association (IVNTA) discussion group.

#### **HILARY OPET MSCVETED BSC DIP AVN(SURGICAL) CERT ED FHEA DIPCABT RVN**

Hilary is the co-author of the 'Handbook of veterinary nursing', which is widely used in the training of veterinary nurses today in college. Hilary is a senior lecturer on the Foundation and BSc veterinary nursing degrees at the Royal Veterinary College. Hilary, along with her colleague, Andrea Jeffrey, developed the ability model of nursing care in 2007, which to date is currently the only published veterinary model of care in use. Hilary currently sits on the veterinary nursing council at the RCVS and will be giving us a look at evidence based nursing and a practical session on nursing plans and how they benefit patients.

#### **LOUISE O'DWYER MBA BSC (HONS), VTS (ANAESTHESIA & ECC) DIP AVN (MEDICAL & SURGICAL) RVN**

Returning to the congress again this year, is the very popular speaker, Louise O'Dwyer. In 2004, Louise received her Diploma in Advanced Veterinary Nursing (Surgical). Following this, she obtained her Diploma in Advanced

Veterinary Nursing (Medical) in 2007 and Veterinary Technician Specialist (Emergency and Critical Care) in 2011 and Veterinary Technician Specialist (Anaesthesia) in 2014. Last year, she was the recipient of the prestigious Bruce Vivash Jones Veterinary Nurse Award 2016, which is given in recognition of outstanding contributions to the advancement of small animal veterinary nursing. She was also awarded the Golden Jubilee Award in 2016 by the RCVS for her exceptional contribution to veterinary nursing. Louise is currently the clinical support manager at VetsNow. This year, Louise will give us an insight into nursing the acute kidney injury patient. She will also educate us regarding the provision of nutritional support to the trauma patient and how it can aid in their recovery. Her Sunday practical will be based on critical care patient techniques.

### **PAUL ALDRIDGE BVSC CERT SAS MRCVS (RCVS ADVANCED PRACTITIONER SA SURGERY)**

Paul graduated from Liverpool University. After a short spell in mixed practice, he moved to a surgical role in a small animal hospital in Manchester, where he obtained his RCVS Certificate. Paul has continued to work in the Manchester focusing on orthopaedic and soft tissue referral cases, and currently works at VetsNow Referral Hospital in Manchester. Widely involved in delivering continuing professional development, Paul has lectured to vets and nurses in the UK, Europe, and the US, and has written and contributed to numerous books. Paul will focus on stress-free Caesarean sections, helping us to make these surgeries easier for patients, prior and post-surgery. On Sunday, he will also give nurses the opportunity to practice their surgical skills.

### **KIERAN CORRY MVB**

A very popular topic nurses requested we cover at the congress is wildlife so, this year we have asked Kieran, who is well-known for his keen interest in treating wildlife. Once he graduated from University College Dublin in 2005, Kieran did voluntary veterinary work with Amazon Community Animal Rescue, Education & Safety in Peru, and Pilpintuwasi Wildlife Rescue – a wildlife rescue and temporary custody centre located on 20ha of land outside Iquitos, the largest city in the Peruvian Amazon. Pilpintuwasi is dedicated to protecting animals affected by the poaching and trafficking industry, which thrives in Iquitos. After moving back to Ireland in 2010, and spending time in Birmingham in a small animal practice to expand his skills in surgery, Kieran worked for six years in Dublin, and is now currently working for Campsie Vet Centre in Tyrone. His main wildlife workload involves surgical and medical treatment of traumatic injuries caused by humans. In his lecture, he will be covering the why, when and where of dealing with wildlife cases in practice.

### **INTERNATIONAL VETERINARY NURSE AND TECHNICIANS ASSOCIATION**

The IVNA Committee are delighted to announce that the International Veterinary Nurse and Technicians Association (IVNTA) will be present at the congress and a meeting will

be held with those present and via Skype for those in other countries. We will get the chance to discuss veterinary nursing roles, comparing nursing in Ireland to other countries and hopefully the opportunity to discuss the requirements of working outside of Ireland. Some nurses may not be familiar with this organisation, so the following is some useful information:

The IVNTA is a federation of national veterinary nurse/technician associations. It seeks to foster and promote links with veterinary nursing/technician staff worldwide by communication and co-operation, raise the international profile of veterinary nurses and technicians, and raise the standard of veterinary nurses and technicians internationally. The IVNTA exists to:

- Maintain contact with veterinary nurse and technician associations around the world;
- Provide a channel of open communication for members;
- Offer help and advice to enquirers.

Despite contrasts between veterinary nursing / technician training and conditions in member countries there are similarities which unite them:

- Veterinary nurses/technicians are a valuable part of the veterinary team;
- Veterinary nursing /technology is developing and progressing rapidly on a global basis;
- Many countries have established a professional body to represent veterinary nursing/technician staff with the aim of developing professional standards and career structure for VNs and VTs in their country;
- Veterinary nursing/technology is becoming increasingly valued worldwide.
- There are already permanent members in the IVNTA for example Australia, Canada, Ireland, New Zealand, UK and the US. Other countries are classified as associate members. These include Japan, Malta, Nepal, Norway, Pakistan, Spain and Turkey. For further information please visit their website on [www.ivnta.org](http://www.ivnta.org)

### **THINKING OF JOINING THE COMMITTEE?**

The IVNA committee is comprised of voluntary members, who also hold full-time jobs. We act as the voice of our members and aim to promote the veterinary nursing profession within Ireland.

We are the only representative organisation for veterinary nurses and support staff in the Republic of Ireland. We promote animal health, care and welfare, and foster a need to cultivate the highest standard of veterinary nursing through the continuing advancement of professional development and ongoing education.

Being a committee member involves attending scheduled meetings that usually take place Sundays in various locations throughout the country. We are in constant contact via electronic means between meetings and also we organise all the CPD events, such as roadshows and the congress. If anyone is interested or would like more information please do not hesitate to contact us at [secretary@ivna.ie](mailto:secretary@ivna.ie)