Welcome SVECCS Members! A letter from NSVECCS president Joseph D’Abbraccio

SVECCS Members,

I hope the new academic year has started on a good note for everyone. This year marks my second term as the National SVECCS President. This past year has been an amazing experience! The ability to network with some of the profession’s top intellectuals has been very gratifying. I have also developed a great appreciation for the relationships I have developed with students from all over the world. The National Board has been diligently working on various projects in the past 12 months to improve our organization. Some of our accomplishments this past year have included:

- Re-structuring and distribution of our ECC Externship Database
- Complete overhaul of our website (soon to go live!)
- Development of a new listserv system through our partnership with VIN
- Expansion of the Student Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care Proficiency Award (Thanks to VECCS and Abbott Animal Health)
- Overhaul to “Vital Signs”

All of these improvements could not have been accomplished without the hard work and dedication of our outgoing board members. I would personally like to express my greatest appreciation and thank them for their efforts. Although their departure is bittersweet I am eager to begin working with the new officers, and returning officer, Heather Napolitano (SMU). The new executive board has truly hit the ground running, making the transition seamless between board members. I can assure you that our team is devoted to further improvement of SVECCS.

Some of the areas we are targeting for improvement include communication between the National Board and the individual chapters. It is our hope by launching the SVECCS Listserv that communication between all SVECCS members will be much easier then ever before. It is also our hope that we will be able to begin to offer financial grant programs for chapters that offer community service projects as well as educational events for chapter members.

It is my goal to keep our momentum going and continue to develop SVECCS into an even greater entity then it currently is. Please keep an eye out for emails from your chapter officers as we begin to distribute information regarding these programs and improvements. Check out our website (www.sveccs.org) as there is a wide array of information present there. I look forward to serving as your National SVECCS President and welcome members to contact me with any questions or comments regarding SVECCS.

Respectfully,

Joseph D’Abbraccio

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Introducing the 2011-2012 National SVECCS Board Members!

"The Who, What, Where" of the National Board: Before introducing you all to the members of the national board, I thought I would take the time to tell you a little more about the national board itself, our purpose and what we do – so that if you’d like to become more involved in SVECCS, that you’ll know how (and importantly who to contact)! As per our website, the national board is defined as: “[functioning] to oversee student chapter activity, disseminate relevant, and the most current information within the field of Emergency and Critical Care Medicine to affiliated SVECCS chapters, develop useful resources to support fellow veterinary students, and to unite SVECCS chapters nationwide.”

Essentially, we’re here for YOU! We want to connect you with all things Emergency and Critical Care, to provide SVECCS members with information, opportunities and tools to become more involved in this area of veterinary medicine. We are all SVECCS student members, and we’re not shy – so if you have ANY questions, concerns or comments we’d LOVE to hear from you!

Cheers,
Anne

Joseph D’Abbraccio – President. St. Matthew’s University
NSVECCS@gmail.com

“I have recently begun my second term as the National Student Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care Society President and have enjoyed every minute of my tenure. My interest in emergency and critical care initiated when I began working as a veterinary assistant at a local emergency clinic in Orange County, NY. Soon after that I pursued a degree in Veterinary Science Technology and later obtained licensure as a veterinary technician. Ever since then I’ve been hooked! All aspects of emergency and critical care are of interest to me but in particular, trauma and emergency gastrointestinal surgery. National SVECCS has allowed me to network and work with folks from all over the world all with a common interest in emergency and critical care. National SVECCS has gone through a major stage of growth and further development in the past year, and I welcome the continued process.

In a few short months I will return to New York State to practice as a mixed animal practitioner (general and emergency) in addition to a faculty position at a local veterinary technician program.

Sarah Smith – Vice President. Michigan State University
SVECCSVP@gmail.com

“I am involved with NSVECCS to represent MSU and our view on emergency medicine. It is also a great chance to network and meet with others, and gain exposure to the many ‘tricks of the trade’ from others nationally. I want to be current on new issues that face veterinary emergency medicine, especially for small/exotic patients.

My interests after vet school is either to pursue a ACVECC certification and/or AVBP (avian) but I have MANY others! Once I retire...if I do...I would love to open a raptor rehab and/or large cat rehab center, or join one that is already well established. My favorite interests include (because I could not choose just one)...trauma, transfusion medicine and auto immune diseases.”

(Continued...)
Heather Napolitano – Secretary. St. Matthew’s University
SVECSSSEC@gmail.com

“Emergency and Critical Care is important whether small or large animal, exotic or zoo as well as wildlife medicine. The first few hours of a serious injury are important clinically as well as environmentally for the animal. Involvement with National SVECCS provides me with the opportunity to keep current on the latest in technology and philosophies. Additionally it provides me with the opportunity to network with my future colleagues, learn from their mistakes and gain from their experience.

After graduation I plan to involve myself in global medicine. Ultimately I would like to participate in rehabilitation of zoos in developing nations. Although this may not seem like the traditional emergency route, knowing how to treat animals in a stressed situation is what ECC is all about. My experience is that when wildlife, zoo or exotic animals begin to show signs of distress, they are already in an emergent situation. National SVECCS will expose me to the network base, skill set and cutting edge technology to take with me as I proceed towards the alternative emergency career I desire.”

Anne Kelman – Member at Large. Ontario Veterinary College
SVECCSML1@gmail.com

“I've been working in an emergency veterinary clinic since 2005 and have always had a strong interest in emergency medicine - upon coming to vet school, and realizing that there was a club devoted to emergency and critical care medicine, I knew I had to become more involved! I'm really interested in the treatment and stabilization of the trauma patient. Presently I'm planning on applying for an internship after graduation and from there - who knows? Potentially an ECC residency, or maybe I'll venture into small animal general practice for a while.”

Erika Fauth – Member at Large. Louisiana State University
SVECCSML2@gmail.com

“I got involved with SVECCS because before veterinary school, I was a member of VECCS (our parent org) when I was a CVT in Pennsylvania. I worked in both the Emergency Room & ICU and fell in love with it. I also learned I loved to teach, and SVECCS allows me to help other students gain valuable experiences while still in vet school. I like sharing my love for the profession with other students that are just as eager to help the specialty grow and thrive. I hope to go on to do an internship and residency in either Emergency & Critical Care or Cardiology after vet school graduation. My favorite subject areas include Cardiac Emergencies and Toxicities.”

Dr. Gary Stamp – DVM, MS, Diplomate ACVECC
SVECCS National Board Advisor
New SVECCS website goes LIVE

This past year has been a busy one for members of the NSVECCS team who have been hard at work revamping and updating our website: sveccs.org. The site has now officially gone live and boasts features such as updated information on various veterinary externship positions, SVECCS events, IVECCS conference information and a library containing past editions of “Vital Signs”.

One of the most exciting aspects of the site, the updated externship database provides information to students about potential externship placements all across the United States, Canada and even some international locations!

The site also provides many resources for SVECCS chapters, including the NSVECCS constitution and bylaws, SVECCS chapter contact information, sample chapter constitution, and information on becoming an active SVECCS chapter.

There are also links for SVECCS Members to provide feedback to the NSVECCS team, as well as links to the SVECCS merchandise provided by Everyday Apparel.

Welcome to the homepage of the Student Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care Society. We are here to promote the education and involvement of veterinary students in all aspects of emergency and critical care medicine. We are the second largest student organization in many veterinary colleges, often designated for our wet lab activities. Here you will find information about specific SVECCS student chapters, educational and employment opportunities in emergency and critical care medicine, links and reference materials, as well as a number of other sources of information.

Thank you for visiting us, and welcome to SVECCS!

Coming soon to: www.SVECCS.org
IVECCS 2011 Nashville:

**Lectures, Interactive Sessions and a little bit of country music!**

This past September veterinarians, technicians and students alike gathered in Nashville TN for several days jam-packed with useful emergency and critical care information. The theme of the conference this year was “The Role of The GI tract in Emergency and Critical Care”.

This year, Abbott Animal Health generously donated $500 to active chapters to help offset student travel costs. SVECCS members who chose to attend had the opportunity to gain free admission to the conference in exchange for 2 half-day volunteer sessions. These volunteer opportunities allowed students to gain first-hand access to some invaluable seminars and lectures. In addition to the lectures and laboratories offered, SVECCS members had a chance to meet and network with other SVECCS members.

If you’re interested in this fantastic opportunity please do not hesitate to contact any of the NSVECCS members for more information. IVECCS 2012 will be held in San Antonio – We’d love to see you there!

VIN and SVECCS:

**A partnership to help improve SVECCS communication**

As many of you know, the Veterinary Information Network provides a plethora of valuable information to veterinarians and technicians worldwide. From Message boards to Rounds, Continuing Education, Simulators and Calculators and Client Education Handouts – VIN seems to have it all - and now, we can add SVECCS to the mix!

With over 30 active chapters across the United States (and a few chapters up here in Canada too) SVECCS members, while numerous, are relatively widespread. This presented itself as a slight road-block to the National Board as we would ultimately like to provide SVECCS members with as many opportunities as possible, and obviously, communication plays a huge role!

The creation of SVECCS Member exclusive message boards on VIN will hopefully bring us all a little closer together, and allow easier communication, and networking between chapters, that distance previously hindered.

There is a specific message board dedicated to SVECCS Chapter presidents, and an additional message board open to all SVECCS Members. These boards are organized into various sub-folders, such as extern and internships and chapter management, event planning and fundraising.

Ultimately we hope to provide a venue for open communication between SVECCS chapters and members – so that we can share ideas and opportunities with one another.

In addition, we’ve been given access to the corresponding listserves for those message boards – allowing SVECCS members to receive “daily digests” – enabling you to check up on all things SVECCS related by just checking your email! From there you can respond directly, start a new discussion, or link directly to VIN.

We’re still in the process of adding permissions to the general SVECCS member board, but should you have any questions please email sveccsm11@gmail.com - see you on the message boards!
UC DAVIS: SVECCS CE Reaches New Borders!
The SVECCS chapter at UC Davis presented our first Continuing Education Webinar on the evening of October 25th. We were honored to have Dr. Matthew Mellema DVM, PhD, DACVECC, host a journal club and lecture discussing recent advances in understanding red blood cell storage lesions. Aside from hosting a number of students and local veterinarians at UC Davis, we broadcasted Dr. Mellema’s presentation online to over 50 guests. People all over the world, from Ireland to Australia, signed up for the event! Once they signed in to a website they were able to follow the slideshow presentation while listening to Dr. Mellema lead the discussion. Participants were able to pose questions to Dr. Mellema through a ‘chat’ function. They were very interactive and made the event a huge success! Not only did the webinar feature the opportunity to people all over the world, but many people enjoyed participating from the comfort of their home or hospital. We were very happy with the turnout for our first webinar. Continuing education is one way our club fundraises for our members. All proceeds from the CE events go to the club, so that we can provide our students with education outside the classroom, through rounds, journal clubs and wetlabs. We will be hosting another online CE at the beginning of next year and we are looking forward to it.
Written by Kristin Smith and Braidee Foote

Oklahoma State: Considering parasite-based emergencies and more!
A good emergency will keep you on your toes and actively engaged. SVECCS has taken this to heart with the same excitement from our fall schedule! Our first meeting of the year was jointly held with the student chapter of the AAVP (American Association of Veterinary Parasitologists). Dr. Chris Johnson, a practitioner with Oklahoma Veterinary Specialists in Tulsa, spoke on veterinary emergencies caused by parasites. Dr. Jeremiah Moorer, a small animal surgical resident, spoke to an enthusiastic audience for our second meeting. He discussed canine GDV; presentation, initial treatment, surgical intervention, post-operative care, and prognostic indicators. Our annual fall joint SVECCS/SACVIM tube-ology wet lab was an incredible hands-on opportunity for students. Participants gained experience placing IO catheters, performing bone marrow aspirations, epidurals, thoracocentesis, pericardial centesis and much more! We have a CPCR wet lab in the works for the spring semester and expect it to be an excellent hands-on experience as well.
Written by Candace Wimbish

LSU: Networking to provide ECC experiences without an on-staff criticalist
Dr. Justine Lee, DVM, DACVECC visited LSU in October and provided an exciting wet lab opportunity for SVECCS members and also a lunch meeting talk on “Common Mistakes in the ER”. The wet lab included tracheostomies, chest tube placement, thoracocentesis and much more. LSU currently does not have a criticalist on staff so it was an enjoyable and educational experience for all that attended. LSU SVECCS has also been busy with visiting a very busy emergency and referral center in Mandeville, Louisiana. Our next monthly meeting will include a lunch lecture about Emergent Dialysis Cases being presented by Dr. Mark Acierno DVM, DACVIM.
Written by Erika Fauth
Cornell: Large animals have emergencies too!

Cornell’s SVECCS chapter has had a busy and fun past year. Beginning in the spring, the club started hosting ECC rounds every other week, alternating between large and small animal cases, and we’ve had great turnouts so far. Rounds take place over lunch, so students bring their own lunches and we work through a case or two with one of the large or small animal clinicians. They’re always interactive, and we’ve covered a variety of topics so far, ranging from equine colics to dogs presenting in shock.

Other recent club activities include lectures and shadowing in both the large and small animal ERs, but the event people enjoy most is the “crash” simulator wet lab we hold each semester. We’re lucky enough to have a former bioengineer as one of our criticalists, and he’s revamped a CPR dummy dog to make it an interactive simulator that responds in real time to the procedures being performed. A variety of cases are programmed for it, which club members work through in groups of 4-5. The dog breathes, has a heartbeat and pulses (at least it did if we handled the scenario well...), could be hooked up to an ECG, pulse oximeter and capnograph, intubated, ventilated, given compressions, administered fluids and emergency drugs IV, and even defibrillated. One club member acts as the team leader for each scenario, and it is up to them to assess the situation and decide how to respond to it.

Meanwhile, the other group members work to establish an airway, maintain circulation and give whatever treatments are decided on. Depending on what steps are taken, and whether they are appropriate, the patient either improves or deteriorates. After each simulation the entire group talks about what worked, what didn’t, and what should have been done instead with input from the rest of the club members who watch on closed-circuit television.

New this year, we teamed up with the Cornell chapter of the American Association of Equine Practitioners to host an Equine Emergency Evacuation wet lab taught by Roger Lauze from the MSPCA at Nevins Farm. Members from both clubs learned and practiced evacuation techniques for down horses.

Additionally, we are planning to revive First Aid Day at Cornell! It will be a 4-5 hour event for the public, where SVECCS members and Cornell clinicians will give short lectures on topics such as common household toxins, what to do in an emergency, and how to make a first aid kit. We also plan to have a mini-lab to teach pet owners how to assess if their pet is having an emergency.

Written by Lisa Fiorenza

Running a SVECCS event? Have something you’d like to share with other SVECCS Chapters? Email sveccsml1@gmail.com to have it included in the next newsletter! (We’d also love to have feedback on the current issue)