This year’s annual Dermatology Chapter meeting is again held during Science week at the Gold Coast, Queensland, which remains a fabulous forum for presentation and discussion of new and exciting areas of research and the most up-to-date knowledge in a range of veterinary specialties. In the Dermatology stream this year we have two full days of presentations so well done Linda on working so hard on obtaining such world class speakers.

The first day covers immune-mediated skin disease with a focus on Pemphigus and Basement Membrane Zone (BMZ) diseases, exploring similarities and differences between manifestations in people and our feline and canine patients. Our major speakers include Dr Lizbeth Intong from Sydney’s St George Hospital who is specialist human dermatologist with research interests in this area and the well known veterinary international dermatologists Dr Toshiroh Iwasaki and Dr Peter Hill (although we now claim Peter as Australian!). Together they have a wealth of knowledge and experience in the diagnosis and management of immune mediated skin diseases in people and animals respectively. They will present current ideas on pathogenesis and interesting research data on disease management. An exciting list of supporting local veterinary dermatologists, small animal medicine specialists and residents will cover therapeutic options of glucocorticoids, azothioprine, chlorambucil; with a good dose of clinical pharmacology thrown into the mix. Special thanks to Dr Graham Swinney for crossing into the cutaneous realm for an update on an internists approach.

The second day commences with Erythema Multiforme EM (the great masquerader), Toxic Epidermal Necrosis TEN (a nasty disease), Stephens-Johnson Syndrome SJS (perhaps a new name for some) including the latest information about diagnosis and management. Again Dr Intong will speak of her experience in humans, and Drs Bell and Hill will present their veterinary dermatologist experiences in dogs and cats. The remainder of day two is dedicated to newer therapeutic options such as IV immunoglobulin therapy and non-steroidal anti-inflammatory therapy. A team of veterinary dermatologists will chair the open forums on both Days 1 and 2 focusing on formulations, protocols, dose refinement, monitoring and challenges. These are always great interactive discussions.

Once again we are very excited about this year’s presentations, bringing together an array of experts from different fields to expand our knowledge and stimulate new ideas in these areas. We expect our program will appeal to dermatologists and medical specialists in veterinary referral practice, dermatology or small animal medicine residents in training and any veterinary practitioner with an interest in practical and useful take home information about the diagnosis and management of immune mediated skin diseases in their patients.

With thanks
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Linda Vogelnest
Peter Hill
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Acknowledgement: We would like to extend our sincere gratitude to Mandy Burrows for her contribution in organising sponsorship for the scientific programme and Rebecca Basset for passing on the wisdom of a previous Science Week organiser