2020 SVMS Abstract Submission Guidelines

Please adhere to the following guidelines when writing, formatting, and submitting your abstracts. See the attached sample abstract. Contact Dr. Smith-Garvin at svms@uga.edu with any questions.

**Abstracts that do not adhere to the guidelines below will NOT be accepted**

Submission

Submit your abstract online as a word document named “last name, underscore, first name” (ie. Dawg_Harry.doc)

Online Submission Website: [2020 SVMS Abstract Submissions](#)
Submission deadline: 11:59 pm, September 14, 2020

Formatting and Content

**Formatting** – 11 point Calibri font (except 10pt for affiliations), 1 inch margins, left justify, leave one line space between each of the 4 sections below.

**Abstract Title** – Bold font. 200 character limit. Capitalize only the first word of the title and proper nouns. Avoid abbreviations.

**Authors** – Separate the authors’ names with commas; do not include academic degrees or specialty certification. Please underline the presenting author’s name.

**Affiliations** – 10 pt font. Enter the authors’ professional affiliations at the time of the study. For academic affiliations, include department, school or college, university, city, and state. Use superscript to match author to specific affiliation.

**Abstract Content** – 350 word limit. Include hypothesis, brief methods, summary of findings, and conclusions/impact. No subheadings, tables, or graphs. Abbreviations accepted by the JAVMA are suggested. Abbreviations otherwise not defined must be defined by the author in the text the first time they appear. Non-propriety (generic) drugs names are required the first time a drug is mentioned.
Example Abstract

A rapid, parasite-dependent cellular response to *Dirofilaria immitis* in the jird (*Meriones unguiculatus*)

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The Mongolian jird (*Meriones unguiculatus*) is recognized as a permissive host for the filarial parasite *Brugia malayi*. This is believed to result from the immunological characteristics of the species, as particular immunodeficient mouse models exhibit this same permissivity. Jirds are nonpermissive to the filarial parasite, canine heartworm (*Dirofilaria immitis*), so by elucidating differences in early response to infection, we hope to identify mechanisms involved in the species-specific clearance of the parasites.

We assessed the species-dependency of cell attachment in vitro. Cultures were prepared as groups: live *D. immitis* L3, live *B. malayi* L3, live co-culture of both parasites, heat-killed *D. immitis*, and heat-killed *B. malayi*. Each group was cultured with peritoneal exudate cells (PECs) of naïve jirds and paired with a media-only control. Host cell attachment and parasite survival was assessed microscopically after 20h incubation. In live conditions, cell attachment to *D. immitis* was 100%, while *B. malayi* was lower (mean = 5.6%), suggesting a strongly species-dependent response from which *B. malayi* could not confer immediate protection in co-culture. When we replicated these experiments with PECs derived from jirds subcutaneously infected with *B. malayi*, results were similar (99.4% and 4.7% of *D. immitis* and *B. malayi*, respectively, exhibited cell attachment). In heat-killed conditions, cell attachment to *D. immitis* was 71.8%, while *B. malayi* was reduced (mean = 16.7%), which may suggest that actively released/secreted products are involved with early immune recognition. Applying Wright’s stain, the attached cells were morphologically most consistent with lymphocytes, and the specific nature of this attachment is ongoing.