

Dear Pig Veterinary Society Members,

Invitation to our Pig Veterinary Society Spring Meeting May 10th - 11th 2017, East Midlands

I am very pleased to invite you to join colleagues at the Hilton East Midlands Airport Hotel for our spring meeting which is set to be a full and productive one. We are very grateful to Zoetis, for generously sponsoring this meeting and look forward to their presentation on the first day.

The scientific programme has been organised by David Strachan and Martin Smith. As you can see, they have chosen an excellent range of topics which are highly relevant to the Pig Veterinary Society membership and I am very grateful to them for their work putting the programme together.

Investigation of the effect of mycotoxins on pig health can be frustrating and we welcome an expert update on these toxins at the start of the first day, followed by presentations relating to lameness and mycoplasmal arthritis, particularly relevant to veterinary practitioners and diagnosticians. In the second session, we look forward to hearing about less familiar, or orphan, viruses infecting pigs and the therapeutic potential of bacteriophages (viruses infecting bacteria) prior to our sponsor's slot from Zoetis which is followed by our unmissable Clinical Club.

On the second day, we hear about an interesting study on pig zoonoses in Africa and then, reflecting the ongoing concerns about African Swine Fever (ASF) in Eastern Europe, we have experts to provide a timely reminder of the features of disease due to ASF and the latest on surveillance. The final session keeps us abreast of recent and current projects. Since the joint PVS-BVPA November meeting, at which the CVO updated us on the Government's response to the O'Neill report on antimicrobial resistance, the PVS medicines subcommittee has been very active, in particular providing input into the RUMA target task force and responding to the recommendation to the European Commission from the Committee for Medicinal Products for Veterinary Use of the European Medicines Agency to withdraw marketing authorisations for products containing zinc oxide. A slot in the final session provides an important opportunity for an update and discussion on antimicrobial target setting for the pig sector. Ensuring good water quality and water delivery is integral to pig health and also to efforts to reduce antimicrobial use and will be reviewed. Finally, we look forward to learning about the EU PiG project which began in 2016 from the project's coordinator at AHDB Pork.

We are very fortunate to have invited speakers and colleagues with extensive expertise to speak to us on these various issues and thank them in advance for agreeing to come and share their experience.

We are offering several free student registrations at this meeting, in return for their assistance with microphones and other general tasks, so please spread the word amongst students you know who have an interest in pigs and ask them to contact me on the email address below.

If you know of non-members who would like to attend this meeting, they need a PVS member to request approval on their behalf by contacting me on the email address below so that their registration can be arranged as non-members via the PVS booking on-line.

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible in May.

Yours sincerely,

Susanna Williamson

Dr Susanna Williamson BVetMed, PhD, MRCVS, President Pig Veterinary Society

email: president@pigvetsoc.org.uk <http://www.pigvetsoc.org.uk/>

The Pig Veterinary Society is a specialist division of the British Veterinary Association. The Pig Veterinary Society exists to assist its members to care for pigs, through dissemination of knowledge about health, disease, the pig's welfare and its management. PVS, as a society, is a champion for pig welfare while maintaining balance with the need to maintain viability.