

## SESSION OVERVIEW

---

### Dr. John Verstegen

*Session presenters were Dr. Dominique Fellmann, Dr. Marc-Antoine Driancourt, Dr. Loretta Mayer, and Dr. Patrick Concannon (see separate documents for individual presenters' materials).*

The second session dealt with the new and forthcoming developments in contraceptive drugs. **Dr. Fellmann** presented information on the new hypothalamic regulatory pathways controlling GnRH secretion. The stimulatory kisspeptin and the new inhibitory gonadotrophin regulation offer new potential for the control of reproduction for the long-term.

**Dr. Driancourt** and **Dr. Concannon** summarized recent work on GnRH agonists and antagonists as they relate to control of reproduction. It was exciting to see that after several years of study, a GnRH agonist implant, inhibiting reproduction through a down-regulation of pituitary receptors, will finally be available soon on the European market and eventually in the United States. The GnRH antagonists, devoid of the first stimulatory effects of the agonists, still seem out of reach for our goal of population control because of cost and possible side effects.

Finally, **Dr. Mayer** presented convincing data concerning the potential use of 4-VHD to sterilize female dogs and cats. More data are needed to try to understand the mode of action of this drug and to demonstrate its safety. However, this is certainly one of the most promising methods, as it is an irreversible, easy to administer and efficacious drug.

The pharmacological approach to reproduction control is slow and expensive, particularly when dealing with safety trials. However, it remains one of the most interesting and promising approaches, especially considering that the only available alternative – surgical neutering – is not devoid of side effects (as demonstrated in Session I). New drugs are slowly becoming available and new pathways for potential reproduction control have been demonstrated, opening doors for further research and new, safe, easy, cost-effective control of unwanted reproduction in dogs and cats.