



June 26, 2018

Greetings!

It's officially summer here, and with that comes our 6th International Symposium, July 22-24, 2018. We are less than a month away and have some exciting updates to share with you. If you haven't already, be sure to visit our [Symposium website](#) to see the [agenda](#), [speaker line-up](#), [field trips](#), and more. We are especially grateful to the 19 visionary organizations that are [Symposium sponsors](#). We hope to see you there!



6TH INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM
on Non-Surgical Contraceptive
Methods of Pet Population Control

ACC & D
BOSTON | JULY 22-24, 2018

Read on for more Symposium-related information and other updates on ACC&D's work.

Sincerely,

Joyce Briggs, President

Meet our Student Contest winners!

ACC&D's contest for graduate students to win an all-expenses-paid trip to our Symposium generated many strong candidates. Thank you to everyone who applied! Three veterinary students stood out and won complimentary registration, travel and lodging when they join us in Boston. These students are all at or near crossroads in their career, with a passion for this field, and we couldn't be happier to have them join us at the Symposium!



Julie Barnes just received her DVM from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville and has demonstrated a strong passion for veterinary reproductive research; she is looking for opportunities to advance our field and contribute to humane population management in the southern U.S.



Valerio Moccia, a veterinary student from Italy, has conducted research to better understand the health impact of hormonal changes in dogs after surgical sterilization: he brings passion from that work to advancing non-surgical alternatives.



Liat Morgan, a DVM/PhD student from Israel, has already helped influence national policy to shift to non-surgical sterilization for piglets in Israel, is part of a team evaluating a contraceptive vaccine for cats, and has surveyed veterinarians and pet owners about non-surgical options for cats and dogs.

We are thankful to the Kevin L Brown Memorial Scholarship for supporting this contest and making these trips possible! Learn more about our contest winners on [our website](#), and if you see them at the

Symposium, be sure to say "hi"!

Introducing our Symposium Keynote Speaker: Ricki Lewis

When we reached out to Ricki about being our keynote speaker she didn't know of our work, but responded promptly with, "Anything related to cats is worth responding to right away!" Ricki Lewis has a PhD in genetics and a knack for bringing the topic to life for those of us who may not be experts in the field. Her book, "The Forever Fix: Gene Therapy and the Boy who Saved it" is a fascinating view of an emerging field, including the story of an eight-year-old, nearly blind from a hereditary disorder, whose sight was restored through gene transfer. In her Keynote Address, Ricki will discuss gene transfer as a 'forever fix' that may apply to dogs and cats. An avid cat lover, Ricki fosters FIV positive cats.



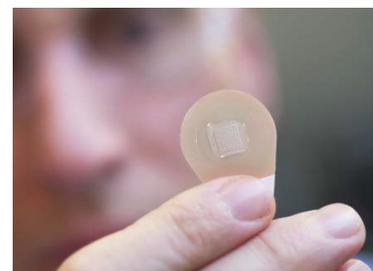
Volunteer spots available at the Symposium!



We're still accepting applications to volunteer at the upcoming Symposium. As a volunteer, you will help make the event run smoothly while benefitting from session participation, networking opportunities, and complimentary registration (a \$329 value). Click [here](#) for more information to help determine if this position is right for you. Email Symposium@acc-d.org with questions.

A potential new way to identify non-surgically sterilized dogs and cats

In past newsletters we've shared updates on our Flagship Initiative to develop a method of identifying animals who have been sterilized without surgery. We are currently exploring a new angle in an exciting collaboration with Dr. Mark Prausnitz at the Georgia Institute of Technology. Dr. Prausnitz conducts research on biophysical methods of drug delivery, including the use of microneedle patches. We are exploring use of this technology to administer tattoo ink into a dog or cat ear, a process that would be much more comfortable than a traditional tattoo. The goal is to be able to humanely deliver ink in a manner that depicts a clear, readable number, allowing for animals to be identified from a distance.



Microneedle patch displayed by hand. Photo courtesy of Mark Prausnitz

Last but not least: A special thank you to two funders renewing their support!



We are thrilled to share that the Petco Foundation, which first became a member of ACC&D's Council of Stakeholders in 2011, has renewed participation as a core funder of our organization for another three years. Our Council members share our vision of innovation to advance animal welfare and are essential to the success of our work. Thank you, Petco Foundation!

A huge thanks to the William & Charlotte Parks Foundation for a second year grant to support ACC&D's work to develop a "toolkit" on ethical decision-making for organizations conducting field-based projects with dogs and cats. This is our newest Flagship Initiative, borne from recognition that we as a field can do better in making ethical decisions around the work that we do. We'll unveil the guidance document at our Symposium!

Please click [here](#) to make a donation to support our work!