



## 2026 International Conference on Veterinary and Comparative Clinical Immunology Call for Abstracts

### Submission

Abstract submission for the 2026 VCCIS Conference in Kalamazoo, Michigan is now open. The submission site will be available until May 15, 2026.

Abstracts must be in an online form at: <https://www.vccis.org/abstract-submission-form/> When your abstract is successfully submitted, you will receive an acknowledgement via email. If you do not receive an acknowledgement, check your spam or junk mail file first, please enquire about your submission prior to the abstract deadline on May 15, 2026, 11:55 pm Eastern.

### Abstract disposition

You will be informed about the decision around July 1, 2026. If earlier notification is required for funding or visa purposes, please notify us by email at [admin@vccis.org](mailto:admin@vccis.org). We will not be able to confirm the type of presentation (oral vs poster) but can provide an early acceptance decision.

### Submission Requirements

- Anyone can submit abstracts to be considered in the research abstract category. The submitter must be able to attend the conference to present the abstract.
- Abstracts will be considered for both oral and poster presentations. Submitting authors should indicate at the time of abstract submission whether an oral or poster presentation is preferred, or if only a poster presentation is being recognized.
- Submissions will be reviewed according to their scientific content, their structure and clarity, and their relevance to comparative clinical immunology advancements.
- Abstracts should describe research in the field of comparative clinical immunology. This includes evidence syntheses and case series. Single case reports will only be considered if they are of exceptional nature. Narrative reviews will not be accepted.
- Abstracts that describe data as pending will not be accepted.  
Abstracts describing studies deemed to include unethical treatment of animals will not be accepted.
- Abstracts that have been/will be presented in current or substantially similar form in the preceding 6 months are eligible but this must be indicated as part of the submission process. Data that are published (excluding preprints) or in press at the time of abstract submission are not eligible.
- Conference registration is not included and no honorarium is paid. Students and trainees are eligible for a reduced VCCIS registration fee as indicated on the VCCIS Conference registration website.

To register please go to our website at [www.vccis.org](https://www.vccis.org) and follow the link to the registration form.

## **Disclosures Statement**

All abstracts must include a statement at the bottom of their abstract, headed Disclosures, on behalf of all co-authors, regarding any disclosures for their work. This enables conference attendees to determine whether or not there may have been bias or the perception of bias. This can occur when any of the authors (or someone related to the authors e.g. family member, spouse, friend) has a relationship with any entity that has an interest (direct or indirect) related to the submission. Examples include:

- Any form of support (financial or otherwise) for the study described in the abstract.
- Any form of support for other work that the authors are involved in.
- Financial relationships (which may be unrelated to the subject matter of the abstract) whereby the individual or relative benefits by receiving a salary, royalties, consulting fees, speaker honoraria, ownership interests (e.g. stock or stock options), or other benefits.
- Indirect benefits, i.e. where the author, or author's institution, benefits from the results of the study. An example would be where the author (or their institution) runs a laboratory service, which performs an assay that is discussed in the abstract.

Please note that it is best to practice “full disclosure” and err on the side of caution; if in doubt, please include the item. If accepted for oral presentation the speaker must display their disclosures on the second slide of their presentation (i.e. immediately following the title slide), and similarly, disclosures should be listed on posters.

## **Abstract Guidelines**

- Abstracts that do not fit within the following guidelines will be rejected based on formatting.
- All abstracts must be composed in Microsoft Word using Arial, 10-point, black font; single spaced; a US Letter page layout (21.59cm x 27.94cm, 8.5 in x 11in), with margins of 2.54cm/1in top and bottom and 3.17cm/1.25 in left and right; and full justification such that text is flush with both left and right sides.
- The title must be no more than 15 words and clearly indicate the nature of the investigation. Abbreviations should be avoided in the title.
- **CAPITALIZE AND BOLD THE ENTIRE TITLE.**
- Following a line space, enter the author names as shown in the example e.g. Christopher R. Helps. The presenting author should be written in bold.
- Following a line space, the institutional affiliations (including city and country) of each author is stated e.g. Bristol Veterinary School, University of Bristol, Bristol, United Kingdom. If no institution is involved, give the city and country. Alphabetical superscripts (e.g. ab) are used to link the author's names to addresses.
- The body of the abstract should follow another line space and MUST be no more than 400 words in length (excluding title, author details/addresses, disclosures statement).
- The abstract should contain information on the following, using these as subheadings in bold: Background, Aim(s) of the work, Methods, Results and Discussion/Conclusions. A statement that “the results will be discussed” is not acceptable. Tables, graphs and figures are NOT allowed.
- The Disclosure statement must follow the main text of the Abstract and be headed as ‘Disclosures’.
- A word count headed as “Word count” should follow, stating the number of words in the body of the abstract (excluding title, author details/addresses, disclosures statement, word count, presentation preference and abstract award eligibility).

## **Questions?**

Contact us at [admin@vccis.org](mailto:admin@vccis.org) and your email will be forwarded to the Abstract Review Committee.



Correctly formatted abstract example:

## IMMUNOLOGICAL PARAMETERS OF PROTECTIVE IMMUNITY AGAINST INFECTION WITH A PATHOGENIC HEMOTROPHIC MYCOPLASMA

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**Background:** Haemoplasmas are emerging and potentially zoonotic mycoplasmal pathogens, which are not consistently cleared by antibiotic therapy. *Mycoplasma haemofelis* is the most pathogenic feline haemoplasma species.

**Aim(s) of the work:** The aim of this study was to characterize the immune response following de novo *M. haemofelis* infection and to determine how previously infected *M. haemofelis* cats, that had recovered, reacted when re-challenged with *M. haemofelis*.

**Methods:** Five SPF-derived naïve (Group A) and five *M. haemofelis* recovered cats (Group B) were inoculated subcutaneously with *M. haemofelis*. Blood *M. haemofelis* loads were measured by quantitative PCR (qPCR), antibody response to heat shock protein 70 (DnaK) by ELISA, blood lymphocyte cell subtypes by flow cytometry and cytokine mRNA levels by reverse-transcriptase qPCR.

**Results:** Group A all became infected with high bacterial loads and sero-converted, whilst Group B were protected from re-challenge; thus, providing the unique opportunity to study the immunological parameters associated with a protective immune response against *M. haemofelis*. Firstly, a strong humoral response to DnaK was only observed in Group A, demonstrating that an antibody response to DnaK is not important for protective immunity. Secondly, pro-inflammatory cytokine IL-6 mRNA levels appeared to increase rapidly post inoculation in Group B, indicating a possible role in protective immunity. Thirdly, an increase in IL-12p35 and p40 mRNA, and decrease in Th2/Th1 ratio, observed in Group A suggest that a Th1 type response is important in primary infection.

**Discussion/Conclusions:** This is the first study to demonstrate protective immunity against *M. haemofelis* infection and provides important information for potential future haemoplasma vaccine design.

**Disclosures:** C.A.E.H. holds a PhD studentship funded by BBSRC and Zoetis Animal Health.

**Word count:** 257