

ISEOI Symposium Program – Program Chair: Pouya Dini

Wednesday 14 October 2026 - Main Auditorium, BMCC

08:00 Breakfast, offered by IMV Technologies and NIFA Technologies

09:00 Maximizing Efficiency: The Donor Mare **Chair: Tom Stout**

- State of Commercial OPU-ICSI in 2026: Where Are We Really? – **Peter Daels & Pouya Dini**
- The Steroid Profile of the Donor Mare: Implications for OPU-ICSI Efficiency – **Dragos Scarlet**
- Follicular Growth and Atresia at the Time of Oocyte Aspiration Affects In Vitro Embryo Production in Mares – **Pouya Dini**
- The Impact of Follicle Size on Equine Oocyte Quality and Embryo Development After ICSI – **Andrés Gambini**
- Follicles and Oocytes: A Numbers Game - The Clinical Perspective – **Juan Cuervo-Arango**
- Questions from the audience

10:30 Break

11:00 Maximising Efficiency: Optimising the OPU-ICSI Workflow **Chair: Ryan Ferris**

- A Retrospective Analysis Ranking the Variables Affecting Results: Focus on Mare Cycle Stage, Stallion Choice and OPU Repetition and Interval – **Vilceu Bordignon**
- Peri-procedural medication: Does Peri-Procedural Phenylbutazone Affect OPU-ICSI Outcomes? Clinical Evidence and Practical Recommendations – **Rob Foss**
- Peri-Procedural Medication: Antibiotics After OPU: Evidence, Practice and Antimicrobial Stewardship – **James Crabtree**
- Optimizing Oocyte Recovery by Fine-Tuning the OPU Procedure: Tweaking your Technique – **Juan Cuervo-Arango**
- Questions from the audience

12:45 Lunch

14:00 Recipient Mare Strategies that Reduce Loss & Increase Live Foal Rates **Chair: Pouya Dini**

- Timing and Causes of Pregnancy Failure and Loss: In Vivo versus ICSI Embryos – **Tom Stout**
- Viability of Vitrified-Warmed versus Fresh Transferred ICSI Embryos – **Rob Foss**
- Effect of Embryo Biopsy for Gender Determination on Embryo Viability: a Retrospective Field Study – **Carlos Ramires Neto**
- Preimplantation Genetic Testing in Horses: Biopsy of Piezo-ICSI Embryos for Sex, Coat Color, and Disease Alleles – **Maria Barandalla**
- Commercialising Equine Genetics: Legal Challenges in the Era of Cloning and Advanced Reproduction - **Elise Sasha Leverett**
- Questions from the audience

15:50 Break

16:20 Sedation, Analgesia & Welfare: Evidence-Based Protocols for OPU **Chair: James Crabtree**

- Social License: Where Do We Stand Today? – **Niamh Lewis**
- Ethical Monitoring of Ovum Pick-Up Procedures in Domestic Horses – **Avery Ronan Elijah Indovina and Barbara de Mori**
- Post-Procedural Pain in OPU Mares – **Soledad Martin-Pelaez**
- An Overview of Sedation, Analgesia and Post-Procedural Protocols Reported by Large OPU Centres – **Babiche Heil**
- Objective Assessment of Pain in Mares: Acute vs. Chronic Pain Assessment Tools – **Stijn Schauvliege**
- Pharmacology of Sedation and Analgesia in Mares - The Sequel – **Stijn Schauvliege**
- Questions from the audience

19:00 Reception and Dinner at Brewery De Halve Maan, offered by Genetech Europe

ISEOI Symposium Program – Program Chair: Pouya Dini

Thursday 15 October 2026 - The Foyer (third floor), BMCC

09:00 The Future of Equine IVP

Chair: Peter Daels

- Welcome – Peter **Daels**
- From Cloned Horses to Rescued Rhinoceroses: Three Decades of Innovation in Reproductive Biotechnology – Cesare **Galli**
- The Next Generation of Equine Embryology: From OPU-ICSI, over Cloning to Precision Reproduction – **Andrés Gambini**
- Questions from the audience

10:30 Break

11:00 Building a High-Performance ICSI Laboratory

Chair: Alejandro de la Fuente

- Starting an ICSI Lab: What I Would Do Differently if I Built an ICSI Laboratory Today? – **Andrés Gambini**
- Quality and Risk Management in the IVF Lab – Marc **van de Bergh**
- Troubleshooting the IVP Laboratory – **Lotte Stroebech**
- Questions from the audience

12:30 Lunch

14:00 The Oocyte

Chair: Andres Gambini

- Controlling the Laboratory Environment: A Practical Approach – **Rob Foss**
- Equine Oocyte Metabolism in the ART Setting: Current Knowledge and Clinical Significance – **Niamh Lewis**
- Effect of Different Holding Media and Vial Types on ICSI Outcome – **Rob Foss**
- Lessons Learned from Vitrification – **Rob Foss**
- Questions from the audience

15:45 Break

16:00 The Embryo and Semen

Chairs: Dragos Scarlet and Bart Leemans

- Abnormal Cleavage Patterns in Equine In Vitro-Produced Embryos Lead to Higher Early Pregnancy Loss – **Soledad Martin-Pelaez**
- Beyond Morphology: AI-enabled Embryo Assessment – **Cara Wells**
- Sperm Capacitation and IVF: Opportunities and Challenges for Clinical Application – **Soledad Martin-Pelaez**
- How to Recognize Sperm Capable of Fertilizing an Oocyte: Is this possible? – **Bart Leemans**
- The Production of Equine ICSI Embryos Using Sex-Sorted, Frozen/Thawed Stallion Sperm - **Juan Samper**
- Use of Sex-Sorted semen for ICSI in a Commercial ART Program in Argentina - **Fernando Riera**
- Questions from the audience

18:00 Reception and Walking Dinner in the Expo Hall

ESER Main Symposium Program – Program Chairs: Peter Daels & Pouya Dini

Thursday 15 October 2026 - Main Auditorium, BMCC

08:00	Registration and welcome coffee in the Expo Hall	
09:00	The Future of Equine IVP • Welcome – Peter Daels • From Cloned Horses to Rescued Rhinoceroses: Three Decades of Innovation in Reproductive Biotechnology – Cesare Galli • The Next Generation of Equine Embryology: From OPU-ICSI, over Cloning to Precision Reproduction – Andrés Gambini • Questions from the audience	Chair: Peter Daels
10:30	Break	
11:00	Seasonal and Post-Partum Management • Management of the Transition Period: Non-Hormonal Strategies – Peter Daels • Management of the Transition Period: Hormone Therapy – Kristina Lu • Uterine Involution and Endometrial Function in the Postpartum Mare: When Can I Start Breeding Her? – Christine Aurich • Questions from the audience	Chair: Jenny Sones
12:30	Lunch	
13:50	The Estrous Cycle and Behavior • Developmental Origins of Equine Health and Disease and/or Iodine Insufficiency: Is it a Problem in the Equine Industry? – Claire Card • The Aging Broodmare: Where Fertility Is Lost and How Clinical Management Should Change – Charlie Scoggin • Decoding the Moody Mare Syndrome: Retrospective Study and Tiered Diagnostic Framework – Maria Kareskoski • Updates on PPID and MS in Breeding and Pregnant Mare – Jenny Sones • Questions from the audience	Chair: Christina Aurich
15:30	Break	
16:00	Physiology and Nutrition • Knowledge as our first ingredient: From Science to Stable – Peter Bollen • Optimizing Fertility through Adapted Nutrition – Wendy Wambacq • Nutrition of the Late Pregnant and Lactating Mare – Wendy Wambacq • Duration of Endometrial Edema in Recipients and Broodmares: Does it matter? – Juan Cuervo • Ultrasound Confirmation of Ovulation in Mares: A Normal Corpus Luteum or a Haemorrhagic Anovulatory Follicle? – James Crabtree • Blocked oviducts: An Update on Diagnosis and Treatment – Ryan Ferris • Questions from the audience	Chair: Margo MacPherson
18:00	Reception and Walking Dinner in the Expo Hall @ BMCC	

ESER Main Symposium Program – Program Chairs: Peter Daels & Pouya Dini

Friday 16 October 2026 - Main Auditorium, BMCC

09:00	Insemination	Chair: Clair Card
	• GnRH Vaccination and Reversing the Blockade in Competing Mares and Stallions – Jean-François Bruyas • Personal Perspective: Pre-Ovulation Insemination of Frozen Semen Increases Some Stallions' Pregnancy Rates – Sandra Willscher • Diagnosis and Treatment of Ovarian Abnormalities – Jutta Sielhorst • Questions from the audience	
10:30	Break	
11:00	Ovarian and Uterine Pathology	Chair: Juan Cuervo-Arango Lecina
	• Management of Mares for Chilled or Frozen-Thawed Semen AI – Tom Stout • Can Short-Acting GnRH Agonists Be Used to Induce Ovulation? – Laurent Mangold & Jean-François Bruyas • Correct Preparation and Manipulation of Shipped, Chilled Semen: Are We Ignoring the Details? – Bart Leemans • Questions from the audience	
12:30	Lunch	
13:30	Uterine Health and Endometritis	Chair: Karen Wolfsdorf
	• Factors Predisposing to Persistent Breeding-Induced Endometritis in Warmblood Mares – Tom Stout • New Diagnostic and Treatment Strategies for Endometritis – Kristina Lu • Post-Breeding Magics! PBIE - New Clinical Approaches – Ryan Ferris • Management and Fertility of the Mare after high-risk Pregnancy and Abortion – Jutta Sielhorst • Use of Ozone Therapy in The Treatment of Endometritis in Mares in Practice – Marco Livini • Questions from the audience	
15:30	Break	
16:00	Uterine Health and Endometritis	Chair: Karen Wolfsdorf
	• How to Use Gram Stain Guided Point of Care Treatment for Endometritis in Mares – Claire Card • Biofilm and Antimicrobial Combinations – Ryan Ferris • Fungal Endometritis: Everybody's Nightmare – Kristina Lu • Questions from the audience	
17:15	End of the ESER 2026 conference	

Advanced Embryo Transfer Workshop – Program Chair: Pouya Dini

Saturday 17 October 2026 - Auditorium B, BMCC

08:00	Welcome Coffee, Tea and Pastry, offered by IMV and NIFA Technologies	
08:30	Improving Embryo Recovery Rates	Chair: Karen Von Dollen
	• How Does One Perform an Embryo Flush in Europe, North and South America? - Explained in 5 min or less – Fernando Riera, Anthony Claes, Ryan Ferris, Peter Daels • How to Maximise our Embryo Collection Rate? Lessons from Recent Experimental Studies – Juan Cuervo-Arango Lecina • Why Didn't I Recover an Embryo? - Analysis of Donor-Related Causes of Recovery Failure – Ryan Ferris • Embryo Recovery on Consecutive Days to Obtain Small Embryos for Vitrification – Sandra Wilsher • Questions from the audience	
10:10	Break in the Foyer	
10:30	The Embryo	Chair: James Crabtree
	• Embryo Grading of In Vivo Embryos: How do we do it and is it Useful? – Ryan Ferris • Embryo Pulsing: Repeated Expansion and Contraction of In Vivo Equine Blastocysts – Pouya Dini • The Role of AI in Assessing In Vivo-Derived Embryos: Capabilities, Challenges, and Opportunities – Cara Wells • (In Vivo) Embryos on the Move: Does Shipping Temperature Really Matter? – Denis Necchi • Embryo Transfer Technique Affects Pregnancy Rates in Recipient Mares – Anthony Claes • Vitricification of In Vivo Produced Equine Embryos: Size Really Does Matter! – Sandra Wilsher • How Does One Perform an Embryo Transfer using the Wilsher Forceps? - Explained in 5 min or less – Wim Degeneffe, Marco Livini, James Crabtree, Juan Cuervo-Arango Lecina • Questions from the audience	
12:30	Lunch in "The View" on the 4 th floor, offered by IMV and NIFA Technologies	
13:30	Embryo Transfer and Recipient Mare Management Beyond the Basics	Chair: Ryan Ferris
	• Revisiting the Concept of the "Perfect" Recipient Cycle: How Important Is Recipient Synchrony? – Juan Cuervo-Arango Lecina • When can We Start Using the Post-Partum, Lactating Recipient Mare? – José Cintra Cunha Neto • Recipient Mare Management after Transfer: What Treatments are Needed? – Tom Stout • Questions from the audience	
15:00	Break in the Foyer	
15:30	Transfer of In-Vivo and In-Vitro Produced Embryos	Chair: Tom Stout
	• Slow Frozen ICSI Embryos: A New Abbreviated Thawing Procedure – Giovanna Lazzarri • Vitricified ICSI Embryos: Transport, Warming and Transfer – Rob Foss • Choosing the Ideal ICSI Recipient Mare in A Recipient Herd – Karen Von Dollen • How to Evaluate on the Day of Transfer in "Trailor Appointment", Client-Owned ICSI Recipient Mares – Ryan Ferris • Questions from the audience	
17:00	End of the Workshop	

Advanced Stallion Management Workshop – Program Chair: C. Aurich

Saturday 17 October 2026 - Auditorium A, BMCC

08:00	Welcome Coffee, Tea and Pastry, offered by IMV Technologies and NIFA Technologies	
08:30	Management, Wellbeing and Housing of Stallions for Optimal Fertility	Chair: Clair Card
	• Current Advances and Future Directions in Semen Collection and Processing: How to Optimize Viability and Fertility – Tullis Matson • Raising the Roof: Managing Stallions with Large Mare Book Sizes – Charlie Scoggin • Improving Stallion Welfare: Housing, Social Environment, and Pretraining Stress Responses – Christine Aurich • Questions from the audience	
10:10	Break in the Foyer	
10:30	Semen Evaluation and Preservation	Chair: Christine Aurich
	• Ultrasound Evaluation of the Testes – Kristina Lu • Ultrasound Evaluation of the Internal Genitalia – Juan Samper • Semen Evaluation - What Parameters Really Matter? – Juan Samper • Quality Assessment of Frozen-Thawed Semen Assessment Using a Micro-Method – Claire Card • Questions from the audience	
12:30	Lunch in the Foyer, offered by IMV and NIFA Technologies	
13:30	Stallion Pathology 1	Chair: Kristina Lu
	• How to Manage EVA-Infected Stallions that are Shedders? Lessons Learned from an Outbreak in France. – Jean-François Bruyas • Seminal Vesiculitis – Kornelia Omyla • Blocked Ampulla and Accumulators – Juan Samper • Diagnosis of Cryptorchidism – Kornelia Omyla • Ejaculatory Dysfunction - A Multidisciplinary Approach – John Spenser • Questions from the audience	
15:20	Break in the Foyer	
15:40	Stallion Pathology 2	Chair: Bart Leemans
	• Managing Stallion Reproduction Emergencies in the Field – Kristina Lu • Case Discussion: How to Manage the Subfertile Stallion? – Claire Card, Bart Leemans, Charlie Scoggin, Kristina Lu, Juan Samper, and John Spenser	
17:00	End of the Workshop	