



Newsletter

December 2019

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Happy Holidays Everyone!

Please join us at the BCVMA Holiday Party on Wednesday December 4, 2019 at 7 pm at the Coral Ridge Yacht Club. We thank our generous sponsorship which include the BCVMA, MWI, Purina, TD Bank, Pet Sutures and more. It will a memorable night of great dinner, dancing and drinks. Get tickets online at <https://2019bcvmaholidayparty.eventbrite.com>.

As the new year approaches, we will have a new BCVMA board. We welcome Dr. Claudia Valderrama and Dr. Jason Horgan who will be joining our board. Dr. Stephanie Jones has been our amazing Social Chair and will now become the next BCVMA president. And we are so fortunate to have Dr. Armando Villamil and Dr. Dylan Buss staying on the board as the current Newsletter and Secretary positions. We are still looking for help in Continuing Education to fill the CE chair position that Dr. Lloyd Meisels faithfully performed for the last decade. Board membership is both social and rewarding since we meet, discuss, and plan events and current affairs involving Broward county veterinarians. Please let me know if you or any veterinarians you know would be interested in joining the board.

Happy Holidays and Happy New Year,

Lisa Feinstein DVM



Newsletter

December 2019

COME AND EXPERIENCE THE DIFFERENCE WITH



Vet Directory

Please visit
www.BrowardCountyVMA.com and
click on "Vet Directory" to view our
compendium of local resources. If
you'd like to add your information to
this list, please contact Alicia Gordon
at bcvma@mail.com

Membership Information

Enjoy the camaraderie and top-notch
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We offer five great CE meetings per year, a
newsletter, and the best Holiday Party in
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We look forward to seeing you!



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drstefni@gmail.com

2019 State of Florida DBPR Veterinary Board Meetings

The Board of Veterinary Medicine meets throughout the year at different locations throughout the state.

Attending any of these meetings will earn you up to five CE law credits and will teach you what really transpires in Disciplinary Procedures that the Board considers. You will benefit by learning how to abide by state DBPR regulations and how to avoid being disciplined because of a violation.

Friday, December 13, 2019 at 9:00 am

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2019 Veterinary Conference Schedule

The Gulf-Atlantic Veterinary Conference

December 5-8, 2019

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Veterinarians Give Back to the Community :

Pets Help the Heart Heal



Meet Dr. Stephanie Jones, CEO and founder of Pets Help the Heart Heal and Dr. Marilyn Moles, Vice President. Pets Help The Heart Heal's mission is to improve the physical, social, and emotional health of youth through the human-animal bond. The nonprofit organization incorporates veterinary medicine, veterinary care, animal industry career exploration and the human animal bond in an event provided to underserved and underprivileged youth. Watch the video to learn more. You can also follow on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

Refer Your Clients to a Company That Supports the AAHA Guidelines on Canine Behavior ...

"The guidelines strongly endorse positive behavior modification techniques, such as rewarding correct behaviors and removing rewards for unwanted behaviors. Never use aversive techniques, such as shock or prong collars, cattle prods, alpha rolls, or beating, which harm the human-animal bond, problem-solving ability, and health of the pet.

— American Animal Hospital Association



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Out with the Old and In with the New:

The “How” and “Why” of Stereotactic Radiation Therapy

By Pedro Dominguez, DVM, DACVR(Radiation Oncology), DACVIM (Oncology)

In recent years radiation therapy has evolved further than in the last decade with advances in treatment planning and delivery. Therapy has changed into a faster, safer and more effective delivery of high radiation doses while maintaining the same goal as before, maximize tumor control and minimize patient side effects. But, how and why?

In the past, radiation therapy prescriptions were developed and manipulated considering several factors including tumor type, organs at risk, patient's need, intent of treatment and basic radiobiologic principles (repair, redistribution, reoxygenation, repopulation). This led to fractionated protocols where treatment would be divided into as many fractions as reasonably possible to deliver a high enough dose that would control tumor within three to four weeks. In our veterinary patients, this involved daily anesthetic events for an extended period. While today there are still applications of fractionated therapy especially in the microscopic disease setting, its use in gross disease settings has fallen by the wayside. Nowadays, with the use of highly sophisticated treatment planning software and improved linear accelerators most tumors are treated with hypofractionated protocols of which stereotactic radiation therapy is most common.

What is stereotactic radiation therapy?

Stereotactic radiation therapy is simply a radiation delivery technique which uses special immobilization devices to precisely deliver a very high dose of radiation to a tumor while sparing normal tissue within a few days. This high dose is usually delivered in one to five fractions. There are several forms of stereotactic radiation therapy including radiosurgery (SRS), stereotactic radiotherapy (SRT), stereotactic body radiotherapy

(SBRT) and stereotactic ablative radiotherapy (SaBR). They all involve hypofractionation, they all deliver very high doses of radiation, they all are highly conformal treatments, they all have steep dose fall off, they all spare normal tissues! Dose are delivered via intensity modulation (IMRT), image guidance (IGRT), volumetric arc therapy (VMAT) or conformal 3D (4pi). Virtually any tumor can be treated with SRT applications but most commonly brain, nasal, lung, heart base, prostate and bone tumors. But there are four factors that must be present or available for SRT:

1. There must be a “target”, in other words there must be gross tumor present which can be clearly identified via advanced imaging
2. A treatment planning CT Scan is a must! This ensures patient is positioned in the exact position which must be repeatable for every treatment (ie. Immobilization device)
3. Treatment planning software which allows for dynamic treatment and collimation (allows for IMRT, IGRT, VMAT, 4pi)
4. Linear accelerator with dynamic multi-leaf collimator or gamma knife (on board imaging is preferred).

But why would we use SRT applications?

In recent years, studies have shown that in many cases where gross tumor is present, SRT applications result in comparable outcomes as conventional fractionated therapy. Therefore, it is clear that minimizing anesthetic events and delivering an effective dose of radiation therapy within just a few days is safer which decreases the chance of comorbidity as well as maintain a better quality of life for most of our patients. Not to mention that most pet owners prefer it! It minimizes hospital visits, driving and waiting time which we all know can be quite overwhelming in South Florida!



Out with the Old and In with the New:

The “How” and “Why” of Stereotactic Radiation Therapy

By Pedro Dominguez, DVM, DACVR(Radiation Oncology), DACVIM (Oncology)

Are we ignoring all radiobiologic principles?

The answer is no! While there is a different biologic effect of SRT applications, some of the radiobiologic principles are in play. For example, SRT will create tumor DNA damage that impairs tumor cell's ability to repair and impair its reproductive integrity which causes tumors to shrink. SRT effects tumor blood vessels causing stabilization for improved oxygenation, but at the same time close off some vessels depriving tumor cells of oxygen and nutrients, which causes tumors to slow down their growth and shrink. However, the effects of SRT are a little more complex. Within minutes of SRT, the acid sphingomyelinase (ASMase) is activated, catalyzing the generation of ceramide which then initiates apoptotic signaling which leads to tumor cell death, which makes tumors shrink! It is hypothesized that there are many other effects of SRT have still not been elucidated but that contribute to tumor cell death and tumor shrinkage.

It is evident that stereotactic applications have become popular and useful in the treatment of veterinary cancer patients. Stereotactic applications result in comparable tumor control and outcome as conventional therapy while greatly minimizing overall treatment time and side effects. Even though several factors must be present for SRT, advances in imaging, treatment planning and delivery systems has allowed for the use of SRT in the treatment of wider array of tumors in veterinary patients.

BIOGRAPHY

Dr. Pedro Dominguez obtained his veterinary degree from the University of Wisconsin, School of Veterinary Medicine in 2000. After three years in private practice in Puerto Rico, Dr. Dominguez pursued additional specialized training, completing a one-year internship in small animal medicine and surgery at VCA West LA, followed by residencies in Medical and Radiation Oncology at Michigan State University. Dr. Dominguez is married and his household includes a golden retriever named Franco and two cats, Coco and Yscha. In his free time he enjoys cycling. He is the Director of Radiation Oncology at [Animal Cancer Care Clinic](#). He can be reached at: drpedro@animalcancercareclinic.com

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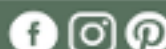
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FVMA Update from Dr. Marta Lista

FVMA District 6 Representative

The FVMA continues to work hard on behalf of its members. Your voice is not a solitary voice as long as our associations are strong and advocating for veterinarians. Bills are being introduced now for the 2020 legislative session and our state and local VMAs will be there to ensure we are protected. Thus far topics being discussed are CBD, declawing of cats, prescription mandates, mandatory abuse reporting and the definition of the veterinary client patient relationship. I encourage you to participate and donate to the FVMA PAC. We do a lot of work in Tallahassee, but we need your support financially as well as participation. Become an advocate for veterinary medicine by joining us for legislative action days on January 22 & 23.

Are you happy with your career choice? Well-being is a big concern in our profession. The recent statistics on our professions' mental health are startling. Reports say female veterinarians are 3.5 times more likely to die by suicide than the general population and one in 10 U.S. Veterinarians might suffer from serious psychological distress. Our beloved profession is facing an epidemic. The FVMA recognizes this and has made wellness a priority. The FVMA Professional Wellness and Wellbeing Committee, chaired by Dr. Phillip Richmond, has many resources available for us to help manage the stressors we face and provide awareness to recognize a problem early.

As part of the FVMA's commitment to our members, high quality post graduate education will be expanding to more locations and more offerings. Our next event is the 7th Annual Gulf Atlantic Veterinary Conference at the Waldorf Astoria in Boca Raton, December 5-8. Enjoy the best conference in Florida with over 300 hours of CE and hands on wet labs located in a luxury resort. Conference attendees also enjoy access and transportation to the nearby beach club and yacht club.

Let's take care of ourselves and one another. If you would like more information on the FVMA programs or how to get involved contact me at listamp@yahoo.com.

Warmest wishes, Marta



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5K Run Benefits Shelter Animals

It's time to lace up those running shoes and start stretching for the 2nd annual Pawsitive Strides 5K, benefiting the Humane Society of Broward County. The fun will take place at TY Park in Hollywood on Sunday, January 12, 2020. There will be a chip timed start/finish, and all participants will receive a race bib with RFID timing tag, custom commemorative medal, Dri-Fit event t-shirt, and personalized race certificate. Awards will be presented to the top three overall runners; custom certificates will go to the top three in each age group.

Registration opens at 7:00 a.m., and the run begins at 8:00 a.m. Runners are encouraged to register early and receive a special discount. The entry fee for all pre-registered participants will be \$35; an additional discount will be available for teams with four or more runners. Entries purchased on the day of the event will be \$45. To register online visit <https://victorysportsmgt.com/event/pawsitive5k> or for more information, call 954-266-6845. Please note that this 5K is for humans only. We kindly ask that you leave your four-legged friends at home.

The Humane Society of Broward County is a private, non-profit organization supported by donations from people and companies who want to support the programs and services the shelter offers. The HSBC is not part of any local or national organization with a similar name.



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This newsletter is published bi-monthly by the Broward County Veterinary Medical Association, Inc., 2801 E. Commercial Blvd., Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33308.

Editorial Guidelines: Letters and articles are welcome. All submissions must be signed and the author's name will be published. Entries must be received 7 days prior to the publication date.

Display Ads: Please e-mail all submissions to Lcarran@gmail.com. Views and opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of the officers of the BCVMA. Products and services advertised herein are not necessarily endorsed.

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