

*CANADIAN EMBRYO TRANSFER ASSOCIATION
AMERICAN EMBRYO TRANSFER ASSOCIATION*



2009 JOINT CONVENTION REGISTRATION BOOKLET



*September 17-19, 2009
Hilton Bonaventure Montréal
Montréal, Québec, Canada*

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Canadian Embryo Transfer Association (CETA/ACTE)

Box 2000, 595 County Road #44
Kemptville, Ontario
Canada K0G 1J0
Tel: 613-258-5944 (Ext. 313)
Fax: 613-258-3719
E-mail: ceta@ebi.ca
Web site: www.ceta.ca



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American Embryo Transfer Association (AETA)

2441 Village Green Place
Champaign, Illinois 61822
Tel: 217-398-2217
Fax: 217-398-4119
E-mail: aeta@assochq.org
Web site: www.aeta.org



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{as of June 9, 2009}

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INFORMATION ON MONTRÉAL, QUÉBEC

Montréal is an island city and is one of Canada's most unique and lively cities, offering a perfect blend of the old and new. Montréal features modern facilities and attractions against a backdrop of European history and charm. Between Mount Royal and the mighty St. Lawrence River, the downtown core and historic Old Montreal shine year-round with international festivals and events.

Montréal is easily accessed by land, water and air. The convention hotel "*Hilton Montréal Bonaventure*" is located in downtown Montréal which is 20 minutes from the airport, and is not only where people work, it's also where they live, play and display their unique *joie de vivre*. Visitors will find this compact island city great for walking, and can easily explore its vibrant neighbourhoods on foot, at any time of the day or night. Montréal is also multicultural, boasting more than 80 ethnic communities, and enjoys an outstanding reputation worldwide for gourmet dining.

Public transit is not only affordable, it's also a great way to get around the city. Quick, safe and clean, the metro connects downtown to major tourism attractions, as well as to numerous bus stops and train stations. In addition, cycling enthusiasts enjoy 350 kilometres of bicycle paths, many of which lead to major tourist areas. The number of museums located in and around the city is daunting, and includes notable names like the McCord Museum of Canadian History. Other historically significant sites around Montreal include the Notre-Dame Basilica, one of the largest cathedrals in North America. You will experience a plethora of delights in music, theatre, dance, art exhibits, nightlife, cuisine, shopping and more...all merging in an exciting mix of traditional and avant-garde. With so much to discover, you don't want to miss Montréal!

In September, the temperature is on average around 15°C or 60°F – The time zone is: Eastern Daylight Time

For more information on Montréal, please visit the Montreal Tourism web site at:

<http://www.tourisme-montreal.org>

For attractions and things to see and do, please visit:

<http://www.tourisme-montreal.org/What-To-Do/Attractions>



Don't forget to ensure you have a valid passport at all times, and in some cases, a visa. American citizens returning home should also be aware that there are new customs requirements in effect.

For more information, visit the Web sites of:

Citizenship and Immigration Canada (<http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/index.asp>)
and the U.S. Department of State (http://travel.state.gov/travel/cbpmc/cbpmc_2223.html)

CONVENTION REGISTRATION INFORMATION

(Please refer to the Convention Registration Form)

Early Registration Deadline date is: Wednesday, August 5, 2009

- **DELEGATE REGISTRATION:** *(for Members & Non-Members of CETA/ACTE & AETA)*
Included in the delegate registration fee are: Scientific sessions on Friday and Saturday, continental breakfast & lunch on Friday and Saturday, Banquet on Friday. **(NOTE: Thursday seminar is not included)**
- **TECHNICIAN REGISTRATION:** *(For individuals employed as a technician & working with a veterinarian)*
Included in the technician registration fee are: Scientific sessions on Friday and Saturday, continental breakfast & lunch on Friday and Saturday, Banquet on Friday. **(NOTE: Thursday seminar is not included)**
- **STUDENT REGISTRATION:** *(For Full-time Students)*
Included in the student registration fee are: Seminar on Thursday, Scientific Sessions on Friday and Saturday, continental breakfast on Friday and Saturday. **(NOTE: Lunch on Friday & Saturday and Banquet on Friday are not included)**
- **COMPANION REGISTRATION:** *(For non-practitioner companions attending the convention but not attending the scientific sessions.)* Included in the companion registration fee are: Breakfast buffet on Friday & Saturday in the hotel restaurant and Banquet on Friday.
- **SEMINARS:** Two (2) seminars are being offered on Thursday afternoon: ET 101: Basics of Embryo Transfer and ET 201: Advanced Techniques, please refer to the included program outline for further details on these seminars. **(Note: There is a separate registration fee to attend the seminars, please indicate on the Convention Registration Form your seminar of choice.)**
- **SPLIT SESSIONS:** Saturday morning two (2) sessions will be offered simultaneously from 8:00-10:30 AM. A session for those interested in Small Ruminants and Porcine embryo transfer and for those interested in bovine the 'Practitioner's Forum'. **(Note: There is no extra fee to attend either of these sessions, but please indicate on your convention registration form which session you wish to attend).**

CANCELLATION POLICY: To be eligible for a refund of meeting registration fees, requests must be received in writing before the following dates:

- On or before August 19, 2009 – Full refund of registration fee
- After August 19, 2009 – **NO REFUND**
- The cancellation dates apply only to the meeting registration fees
- Please refer to the '**Convention Registration Form**' for additional information.

CONTINUING EDUCATION (CE) HOURS

This course has been submitted (but not yet approved) for 14.5 hours of continuing education credit in jurisdictions which recognize AAWSB R.A.C.E. approval; however participants should be aware that some boards have limitations on the number of hours accepted in certain categories and/or restrictions on certain methods of delivery of continuing education.

Call 217-398-2217 or E-mail: kathyr@assochq.org for further information.

HOTEL INFORMATION

ACCOMMODATIONS

The 2009 CETA/ACTE & AETA Joint Convention will be held at the **Hilton Montréal Bonaventure**, Montréal, Québec, Canada. Rooms are being held at a group rate of \$189 CAD per night for single/double occupancy. Reservations must be made prior to **August 16th, 2009**. After this date, reservations will only be accepted upon availability and at the current rack rate. The convention rate will not apply for reservations after **August 16th, 2009**. Please give the hotel the group name (**CETA / AETA Joint Convention**) when making a reservation. For reservations, please call: 514-878-2332 or reservations can be made on-line from either the CETA/ACTE web site at: <http://www.ceta.ca/convention.htm> or the AETA web site at: <http://www.aeta.org/2009/index.asp>

Hilton Montréal Bonaventure
900, rue de La Gauchetière
Montréal, Québec, Canada H5A 1E4
Tel: 514-878-2332
Standard (Single/Double): \$189 CAD/night
Self-Parking per day is \$17 CAD
Valet-Parking per day is \$25 CAD
Convention Rate is available until **August 16th, 2009**

For more information on the Hilton Montreal Bonaventure, please visit: <http://www.hiltonmontreal.com/>

*****RESERVE YOUR ROOM NOW*****

HOW TO GET THERE

BY AIR:

You will arrive in Montreal at the **Montréal–Pierre Elliott Trudeau International Airport**
Distance from the airport to the hotel is ~12 km, the drive time is around 20 minutes (*depending on traffic*)
TAXI COST: approximately ~\$38 CAD

IF DRIVING:

From Toronto take Hwy 401 east, continue on 20 East to Auto. Ville-Marie. Exit #4 at de la Montagne N and turn right on St. Antoine then make a left on Mansfield.

From Ottawa take Hwy 40 East to Hwy 15 South/ Decarie. Then take Hwy Ville Marie Centre Ville. Exit #4 at de la Montagne St., turn right on St. Antoine St. and then turn left on Mansfield.

From Quebec take Hwy 20 West-Champlain Bridge exit #58 Centre Ville. Highway will become University St. Turn left on de La Gauchetiere and left again before next traffic light into hotel plaza.

From Vermont take I-89 to border. At the border I-89 becomes Hwy 133. Follow Hwy 133 towards Montreal until it becomes Hwy 35. Continue towards Montreal (Hwy 10 Ouest). Follow the directions for Pont Champlain (Bridge), Once you are on the bridge, keep to your right and take exit 58 towards Montreal/Centre-Ville/Downtown. The highway becomes University Street. From there, make a left after the 5th traffic light on De La Gauchetiere St. The hotel entrance is located at 900 De La Gauchetiere(corner Mansfield).

From New York take the I-87 North. After the border I-87 becomes Hwy 15 North. Follow the signs for 10 West. Exit right for Champlain Bridge/ Autoroute Bonaventure and then take exit #58 Centre Ville. This automatically becomes University St. Turn left on de La Gauchetiere and left again before next traffic light into hotel plaza.

SOCIAL EVENTS – THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

GOLF TOURNAMENT at *Golf La Prairie* Best Ball Tournament

6:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Sponsored by **Partnar Animal Health & Reproduction Resources**

Please meet in the hotel lobby at 5:45 AM

Golf La Prairie has been redesigned and completely transformed. The architect Claude St-Pierre has respected the initial approach of Howard Watson who built La Prairie golf course in 1963.

Already considered one of the most beautiful public golf courses in Quebec, Golf La Prairie is proud to offer you an exceptional golf experience. The design is daring, the landscaping spectacular and the playing conditions truly remarkable.

Dress Code: Players must wear proper attire on the golf course property. Acceptable attire consists of slacks or tailored golf shorts and golf shirts with collars for men. Slacks, skirts or proper golf shorts for the women. Unacceptable attire includes: blue jeans, halter, tank or tube tops, muscle shirts, t-shirts, multi-coloured or short shorts, cut-offs, sweat shirts, rugby pants. No metal spikes permitted.

Club Rentals: If you require golf clubs, you **must** reserve the clubs in advance, to reserve rental clubs, please contact the golf course directly at: Tel: 514-877-5520 (*approximate cost \$40.00 CAD plus taxes*)

For additional information, please visit the Golf La Prairie web site at: www.golflaprairie.com

DINNER IN TOWN

5:30 PM – 10:00 PM

The Thursday evening social called “Dinner in town” is being organized so delegates can experience the charm of Old Montreal. Participants will gather in the Exhibit room for a cocktail reception during which you can sign up for a restaurant and reservation time. After which groups will be transported to ‘Old Montreal’ and will walk a very short distance (2-3 minutes) to their restaurant of choice. Small groups will dine at various restaurants throughout ‘Old Montreal’, group size will range from 15 to 45 people. Some of the restaurants will have entertainment, some will provide a group menu and some will be individual menu’s. Price range for meals is approximately \$35-\$60 CAD plus taxes and gratuity. Transportation to and from ‘Old Montreal’ will be provided, however the meal (dinner) will be each participants responsibility, individual billing has been arranged. Sign up early to avoid disappointment. {*Dress code is casual, jeans are fine but no shorts please.*}



SOCIAL EVENTS – FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

BANQUET

6:00 PM – 10:00 PM

Banquet sponsored by: Bioniche Animal Health

The evening will begin with a cocktail reception in the Exhibit room from 6:00-7:00 PM with a cash bar. The banquet will begin at 7:00 PM followed with awards and entertainment by Alain Choquette.

Alain Choquette is a renowned comedic magician who has entertained and delighted audiences for a quarter century. He has dazzled people with simple card tricks and spectacular feats such as the Disappearing Dozen, later performed by David Copperfield. At his shows everyone feels like they are at a party among friends, so plan on attending an evening filled with laughter and wonder.

COMPANION TOURS

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18TH – MONTREAL CITY TOUR BY BUS *(lunch is not included)*

9:00 AM – 12:00 PM (NOON)

****Please meet at the convention registration desk at 8:45 AM****

Discover Montreal's multi-cultural heritage and cosmopolitan blend of old and new.

On this bus tour of Montreal, your guide will provide information and insight into the city's rich architectural and historical legacy and such highlights as:

- Old Montreal and the Old Port
- the financial district
- the elegant residential areas of Outremont and Westmount
- the downtown area and underground city
- leading museums, cultural and performing arts centres
- the Olympic Park *(site of the Montreal Botanical Garden, Biodome, and Olympic Stadium)*
- Jean-Drapeau Park *(site of La Ronde amusement park, the Stewart Museum and Fort, the Biosphere and the Gilles Villeneuve racing track)*
- Mount Royal park and St. Joseph's Oratory
- ...and so much more!



Learn about cultural and ethnic influences, gastronomy, night life, and why Montreal has been dubbed the city of one hundred church steeples... for example!

This tour includes two stops:

- Tour of Notre-Dame Basilica *(a stunning example of Neo-Gothic architecture and masterpiece of decorative art)*
- Photo stop at the summit of Mount Royal – for a panoramic view of the city

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19TH – BOTANICAL GARDEN & BIODOME *(lunch is included)*

9:30 AM – 3:30 PM

****Please meet at the convention registration desk at 9:15 AM****

Founded in 1931, the Montreal Botanical Garden ranks as one of the largest collections of flora in the world. It comprises 180 acres with over 22,000 species of plants and flowers, displayed in more than 30 thematic settings and 10 exhibition greenhouses.

The Insectarium, opened in 1990, has intrigued visitors with its fascinating and colourful collection of insects – creatures that are often misunderstood and wrongfully feared and despised!

Our tour of the garden will begin with a 35-minute tram-ride for an overview of all the areas to see (the tram-ride is commented in English and French). Then, you may follow your guide or explore on your own.

Across the street, is the Biodome, an eco-museum built in the former Velodrome complex of the Olympic Park. Opened in 1992, the Biodome is a combination zoo, aquarium and botanical garden, recreating 4 separate eco-systems; a Tropical rainforest, a Laurentian forest, the St. Lawrence Marine world, and the Arctic and Antarctic polar worlds.

The natural habitat, including temperature, seasons, light, humidity, etc. has been recreated in each eco-system to sustain the native flora and fauna. This living museum is designed for self-guided tours, so you may explore on your own or choose to stay with our guide. Keep your eyes open! Some of that wildlife is hard to catch in action (the sloth in the tropical rainforest



moves so slowly that you might actually miss it!).

CONVENTION PROGRAM OUTLINE

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16 TH	
8:00 AM - 11:00 AM	MEETING: CETA/ACTE Certification Committee Meeting
9:00 AM – 4:00 PM	MEETING: AETA Board of Directors Meeting
11:00 AM - 6:00 PM	MEETING: CETA/ACTE Board of Directors Meeting
1:00 PM – 5:00 PM	EXAM: CETA/ACTE Certification Exam (<i>for initial certification</i>)
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17 TH	
6:00 AM – 2:00 PM	SOCIAL: Golf Tournament at <i>Golf La Prairie</i> SPONSORED BY: Partner Animal Health & Reproduction Resources
9:00 AM – 12:00 PM	EXAM: AETA Certification Exam (<i>for initial certification</i>)
12:00 PM – 4:00 PM	Exhibit Set-up
12:00 PM – 5:00 PM	REGISTRATION
2:30 PM – 5:00 PM	SEMINAR: ET 101: Basics of Embryo Transfer <i>Presented by: Dr. John Hasler, Laporte, Colorado</i> SPONSORED BY: Pfizer Animal Health Embryo Transfer 101, with an emphasis on laboratory procedures. Embryo morphology, embryo handling, freezing procedures, media considerations, cryopreservation procedures, equipment sterilization and issues involving possible sources of toxicity will be covered.
2:30 PM – 5:00 PM	SEMINAR: ET 201: Advanced Techniques SPONSORED BY: Pfizer Animal Health <i>TOPICS:</i> i) Ways to improve ova/embryo yield, What AETA & CETA/ACTE statistics are telling us and Different techniques used to recover missing embryos. <i>Presented by: Dr Brad Stroud with Dr. Marc Déry, ETE inc., Batiscan, QC & Dr. Albert Mills III, Portable Embryonics, Zachary, LA</i> ii) Ultrasound: a central tool in Embryo Transfer <i>Presented by: Dr Brad Stroud, Stroud Veterinary Embryo Services, Weatherford, TX</i>
5:30 PM – 10:00 PM	SOCIAL: Cocktail hour in Exhibit Room <i>followed with ‘Dinner in Town’</i>
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18 TH	
7:00 AM – 5:00 PM	REGISTRATION
7:00 AM – 7:00 PM	Exhibits Open
7:00 AM – 8:00 AM	Continental Breakfast in Exhibit Room
9:00 AM – 12:00 PM	Companion Tour – <i>Montréal City Tour by Bus</i>
8:00 AM – 8:15 AM	Welcome and Announcements
FERTILITY SESSIONS	
8:15 AM – 9:30 AM	SESSION: Embryonic losses in cattle <i>Presented by: Dr. Patrice Humblot, U.N.C.E.I.A., France</i> This talk will describe the different categories of embryonic losses, their frequencies and methods than can be used today to discriminate between them in the perspective of phenotyping for fertility. This will be completed by recent results from large scale epidemiological studies aiming to characterize the

	influence of various factors on embryonic mortality.
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Convention Program Outline continued...

Friday, September 18th continued...

9:30 AM – 10:30 AM	<p>SESSION: The Diagnosis and Treatment of Postpartum Endometritis in Dairy Cattle. <i>Presented by: Dr. Colin Palmer, Saskatoon, SK</i></p> <p>A presentation of data from studies comparing techniques used to diagnose clinical and subclinical endometritis including transrectal palpation, vaginoscopy, ultrasonography and cytobrush and lavage cytology. There will also be a presentation of data showing the prevalence of endometritis, the effect of this disease on reproductive performance and the benefits, or in some cases, harmful effects of various treatments.</p>
10:30 AM – 11:00 AM	Break in Exhibit Room
11:00 AM – 12:30 PM	MEETING: AETA Annual Business Meeting
11:00 AM – 12:30 PM	MEETING: CETA/ACTE Annual General Meeting
12:30 PM – 1:30 PM	Lunch SPONSORED BY: Professional Embryo Transfer Supply, Inc. (PETS)
12:30 PM – 1:30 PM	MEETING: CETA/ACTE New Board of Directors Meeting
SEMEN SESSIONS	
1:30 PM – 2:30 PM	<p>SESSION: Technologies applied to evaluate fertility of bull semen: fresh, frozen & sexed <i>Presented by: Dr. Mathieu Boilard, l' Alliance Boviteq, St-Hyacinthe, QC</i></p> <p>Semen quality evaluation is critical for industries that are using assisted reproductive technologies (ART) for animal breeding. Cell biology techniques like proteomics and flow cytometry can be used to better evaluate semen quality. These techniques are becoming clinical-like tools to study bovine spermatozoa and predict the success of ART.</p>
2:30 PM – 3:00 PM	<p>SESSION: Field results using sex semen: Italian experience <i>Presented by: Dr. Pierluigi Guarneri, Italy</i></p> <p>Based on field results, I will compare data on the number of fertilized embryos vs total eggs collected using conventional vs sexed semen and the pregnancy results on fresh and frozen embryos. The age of the donors will be analyzed, so will be the variation among sires, number of AI breedings etc. Finally, I will conclude with breeder's observations on the use of sexed semen.</p>
3:00 PM – 3:30 PM	Break in Exhibit Room
ENDOCRINOLOGY SESSIONS	
3:30 PM – 4:30 PM	<p>SESSION: Alternative Approaches to Superovulation in Cattle <i>Presented by: Dr. Gabriel Bó, IRAC, Argentina</i></p> <p>Although progress has been made over the past few years, there is still a great need in the industry to simplify superstimulation programs with an improvement in the number of transferable embryos per donor cow. Protocols that control follicular wave emergence and ovulation had provided a simple approach to superstimulation of donor cows without the need for estrus detection, with no decrease in the numbers of transferable embryos. However, the most commonly used treatment, estradiol, cannot be used in many parts of the world and mechanical removal of the dominant follicle requires the use of specialized equipment and trained technical staff. GnRH or pLH are alternatives, but the efficacy of this treatment in groups of randomly cycling animals is variable. An alternative approach is to increase the response to GnRH by inducing a persistent follicle and initiating FSH treatments during follicle wave that emerges after ovulation. To further simplify superstimulation, FSH can be mixed with a slow-release formulation and administered as a single intramuscular injection without adversely affecting the number of transferable embryos. Finally, recent experiments have shown that it may be possible to increase the number and quality of embryos by the addition a small dose of eCG near the end of the FSH treatment protocol. These alternative approaches could provide new and more efficient ways of facilitating widespread application of embryo transfer technologies.</p>

Convention Program Outline continued...

Friday, September 18th continued...

4:30 PM – 5:00 PM	<p>SESSION: Opportunities for the Production of Recombinant Gonadotropins for Assisted Reproduction and Embryo Transfer <i>Presented by: Dr. Dragan Rogan, Bioniche Animal Health, Belleville, ON</i></p> <p>The most important biopharmaceuticals used in animal reproductive technology are the pituitary glycoprotein hormones which include: follicle-stimulating hormone (FSH), luteinizing hormone (LH) and thyroid-stimulating hormone (TSH), and chorionic gonadotropin which is produced exclusively by the equine (eCG) and human (hCG) placentae. The veterinary products currently available on the commercial market are all produced by extracting and purifying the desired hormones from pituitary tissue. The collection of pituitary glands is labour-intensive and the extraction procedure does not guarantee purity; usually FSH is contaminated with LH which may have undesirable effects on follicular wave growth and maturation, and oocyte quality if the ratios of FSH to LH are not adequate. There may also be contamination with other pituitary hormones, such as ACTH and TSH. Pituitary hormones are glycolized, which means in order for these hormones to be produced recombinantly, they require an expression system that will mimic glycolization and post-translation modification similar to that produced by the pituitary gland. Mammalian cells remain the preferable method of in vitro production for these hormones. Various expression systems, alternatives, problems and opportunities in the production of recombinant gonadotropins will be addressed.</p>
4:45 PM – 5:30 PM	MEETING: AETA New Board of Directors Meeting
6:00 PM – 7:00 PM	SOCIAL: Cocktail hour in Exhibit Room
7:00 PM – 10:00 PM	<p>SOCIAL: Banquet with Entertainment by Alain Choquette SPONSORED BY: Bioniche Animal Health</p>

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19TH

6:30 AM – 7:30 AM	AETA Past Presidents / Board of Directors' Breakfast
7:00 AM – 2:00 PM	Exhibits Open
7:00 AM – 8:00 AM	Continental Breakfast in Exhibit Room
7:00 AM – 4:00 PM	REGISTRATION
9:30 AM – 3:30 PM	Companion Tour – <i>Botanical Garden & Biodome</i>

SPLIT SESSIONS

8:00 AM – 10:30 AM	<p>BOVINE SESSION</p> <p>SESSION: Practitioner's forum Moderator: <i>Dr. Reuben Mapletoft</i> <i>WCVM, Saskatoon, SK</i></p> <p>SPONSORED BY: Merial Canada Inc.</p>	<p>SMALL RUMINANTS & PORCINE SESSION</p> <p>SESSION: Small Ruminants Embryo Transfer: Techniques, donor and recipient management <i>Presented by: Dr. Hernan Baldassarre</i> <i>Pharmathene Canada Inc., St-Telesphore, QC</i></p> <p>Protocols and points to consider when planning and executing embryo transfer programs based on in vivo and in vitro embryo production in sheep and goats will be reviewed with a practical approach aimed at maximizing reliability and repeatability of results.</p> <p>SESSION: Clinical Utilization of Embryo Transfer for the International Movement of Swine Breeding Stock <i>Presented by: Dr. Claire Plante</i> <i>Genesafe Technologies Ltd. Guelph, ON</i></p> <p>A presentation on the use of swine embryo transfer for the management of international genetic exchange and the elimination of specific pathogens from breeding populations. Particular emphasis will be</p>
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given to the presentation of field data and the evaluation of embryo associated technologies for the control of pathogen transfer in swine.

Convention Program Outline continued...

Saturday, September 19th continued...

10:30 AM – 11:00 AM	Break in Exhibit Room SPONSORED BY: Pfizer Animal Health
11:00 AM – 12:30 PM	CETA/ACTE SESSIONS: Information Session Embryo Export: getting all official documents ready <i>Presented by: Melanie Atkinson, Embryobec, St-Louis de Gonzague, QC</i> A discussion focusing on the steps involved in obtaining documentation necessary to certify embryos for international export. Point of view for a Canadian Export Company <i>Presented by: Dann Brady, Semex Alliance, Guelph, ON</i> We look to provide insight into the procedures, challenges and opportunities of exporting embryos for both ourselves as a company and the industry as a whole. Explore the ideas of how together as a group we can be uniform in our information provided.
11:00 AM – 11:15 AM	AETA SESSIONS: USDA/APHIS Updates
11:15 AM – 11:30 AM	Cooperator Committee & USLGE Updates
11:30 AM – 12:30 PM	AETA Exam (<i>for members renewing certification</i>)
12:30 PM – 2:00 PM	Lunch & final time in Exhibit Room (<i>Note: there is no afternoon break</i>) SPONSORED BY: Intervet/Schering-Plough Animal Health
12:30 PM – 1:30 PM	MEETING: Joint Convention Committee Meeting (<i>CETA/ACTE & AETA</i>)
GENOMIC SESSIONS	
2:00 PM – 2:45 PM	SESSION: Genomic Selection in Dairy Cattle <i>Presented by: Dr. Jacques Chesnais, Semex Alliance, Ottawa, ON</i> Genomics is starting to have a considerable impact on dairy cattle selection. One approach in particular, genomic selection, provides an opportunity to increase the rate of genetic progress for currently selected traits by 60% or more. It also opens the door for gene discovery, and for improvements in new areas such as cow health and product quality.
2:45 PM – 4:30 PM	SESSION: Genomic potential from bovine embryo biopsies <i>Presented by: Dr. Christian Vigneault, l' Alliance Boviteq Inc., St-Hyacinthe, QC</i> L'Alliance Boviteq (LAB) created a new molecular biology laboratory offering clients innovative opportunities as to the genomic information relating to bovine embryos. As an initial technology, LAB is developing a state-of-the-art real time PCR technology to sex embryos from a small embryo biopsy. Moreover, LAB is exploring the possibilities to develop similar technologies to identify other candidates such as the gene responsible for the Red Factor and determine if it is also possible to identify SNPs from the same biopsies. SESSION: Experience with embryo genotyping from in vivo embryo <i>Presented by: Dr. Patrice Humblot, U.N.C.E.I.A., France</i> Results of genotyping from biopsies of in vitro and in vivo embryos will be described together with results following transfer in recipients of previously biopsied in vivo embryos. The interest of embryo genotyping will be discussed in relation with the recent development of genomic selection in the perspective of multicausal selection.

THE CONVENTION SPEAKERS

Melanie Atkinson:

Since being employed by Embryobec in 2005, Melanie has been responsible for preparing embryos for international export certification. In the past four years, there have been many developments and changes in documentation protocol, especially after an audit by European Union officials in 2006. Maintaining good communication lines between CFIA officials, exporters, and breeders have been the key to successfully preparing embryos for export.

Dr. Hernan Baldassarre:

Dr. Baldassarre has worked in the field of assisted reproduction technologies in small ruminants (sheep and goat) for the last 20 years. He joined Nexia Biotechnologies in 1998 where he had substantial contribution to outstanding achievements including the first transgenic livestock produced in Canada. Prior to joining Nexia, he spent 12 years working on research with main areas of interest being semen and artificial insemination, superovulation and embryo transfer, ovum pick-up and in vitro embryo production. He has over 60 publications in peer-reviewed journals and current research interests are focused on maximizing the reproductive and milk production efficiencies of transgenic goats.

Dr. Gabriel Bó:

Dr. Gabriel Bó, D.V.M., M.V.Sc., Ph.D. is currently President and Director of Research and Post-graduate training of the Instituto de Reproducción Animal Córdoba (IRAC). Dr. Bó was born in Argentina in 1962 and received his veterinary degree from the Facultad de Ciencias Veterinarias, Universidad Nacional de Rosario in 1985 and he received his M.V.Sc. (1991) and Ph.D. (1995) degrees in the Department of Herd Medicine and Theriogenology, Western College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Saskatchewan. Dr. Bó has been working on applied research and his main interests are follicular development, superovulation, recipient management, estrus synchronization, and embryo development and freezing. He is not only involved with research and teaching, as IRAC is a client-focused research and service institute (through the company Biogen Argentina SA) he practices embryo transfer and has been involved in the development of large scale fixed-time artificial insemination programs in the Central and North part of Argentina. The programs developed under the supervision of Dr Bó, have been regarded as one of the major contributions to the application of fixed-time artificial insemination programs in Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay, Colombia and other countries. In 2008 Dr Bo obtained the “Taurus Award” in recognition of his scientific and academic contribution to the field of Bovine Reproduction. Dr Bo has been President of the International Embryo Transfer Society (IETS) in 2004 and President of the Argentine Chamber of Reproductive Biotechnology and Artificial Insemination (CABIA) in 2001-2003. Dr. Bó has lectured in several short-courses on advanced reproductive technologies in several countries around the world. He is presently directing the First Course of Specialization in Bovine Reproduction given to practitioners from many Latin American countries. He has been an invited speaker and has participated in workshops at several meetings around the world, including the International Embryo Transfer Society, International Congress of Animal Reproduction (ICAR) and the World Buiatrics Congress. He is the program chair of the International Embryo Transfer Society Annual meeting, to be held in Cordoba Argentina in January 2010.

Dr. Mathieu Boilard:

Dr. Boilard obtained his bachelor degree in Biology from l'Université Laval in Québec city in 1998. This is where he met Professor François Pothier from the Centre de Recherche en Biologie de la Reproduction (CRBR). Dr. Pothier offered Dr. Boilard a work experience in his laboratory as an undergraduate student and convinced him to join the CRBR as a graduate student. Dr. Boilard undertook his PhD studies under the supervision of Drs. Marc-André Sirard and Pierre Leclerc. He completed his thesis entitled “Implication of chaperone proteins in bovine sperm-oviduct interactions” in 2004. He was then hired as a post doctoral fellow by the University of Massachusetts Medical School to work on the proteins involved in sperm-oocyte interactions. In 2005, he obtained a post-doctoral fellowship from the National Science and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) to work at L'Alliance Boviteq Inc., the research arm of SEMEX Alliance. His research was dedicated to the development of

new media for sperm dilution and freezing. Today, Dr. Boilard still works at l'Alliance Boviteq as the supervisor of the semen research laboratory.

The Convention Speakers continued...

Dann Brady:

As Manager of the International Embryo Sales, Dann has developed the Semex's embryo program into a reliable, world-class service. The program offers genetics to Semex distributors and customers as a complement to semen sales and is a dependable, hassle-free service for Canadian breeders. Under Dann's management, the sale of embryos reached a milestone of \$1.5 million in 2008.

Since joining the Semex Alliance in 2004 as a Product Support Specialist, Dann has worked extensively within the marketing department, focusing on introducing Semex's mating program, Promate, internationally and marketing Canadian embryos to dairymen worldwide.

Dann is a graduate of the University of Guelph with a diploma in agriculture. Dann was born and raised on his family's registered Holstein farm, Brady View Farms in eastern Ontario. Dann has always been involved in showing and marketing his family farm's genetics by collecting All-Canadian Nominations, marketing animals and embryo's around the world, and participating in Holstein Canada's judging schools.

An entrepreneur, Dann started his own website business, *www.holsteionline.com*, in 1998. Dann provided visitors with the most up-to-date information on show and sale results, bull proof information, press releases and provided a place for them to post their own classified ads all in one place - a first in the industry. In addition, he provided web design services and held Ontario's first online embryo auction with buyers from North America, Australia and Europe participating. Experienced in sales, Dann served as a Regional Sales Representative for both Alta Genetics and Foundation Sires in eastern Ontario area while still managing *www.holsteionline.com* in 2002.

In 2002 Dann accepted a position within Holstein Canada's marketing department. In this position Dann organized in-depth market research, tracking the Holstein industry as a whole in order to predict future trends.

Since January 2009, Dann's role at Semex as Manager, International Embryo Sales, is solely focused on embryo sales, benefiting Canadian breeders while supplying proven genetics to customers worldwide.

Dr. Jacques P. Chesnais:

Dr. Jacques P. Chesnais completed his graduate studies in France, where he joined INRA as a research scientist in 1974. He moved to the Animal Research Institute of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada in Ottawa in 1977, to work in dairy cattle research. In 1981, he became Geneticist and later Director of the Genetic Evaluation Division of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, which was responsible for the development and operation of genetic evaluation programs for livestock in Canada. In 1995, Dr. Chesnais became the General Manager of the Canadian Centre for Swine Improvement, an organization created by the Canadian pork industry to lead and coordinate the development of swine genetic improvement activities. He joined the Semex Alliance in January 2003, as Senior Geneticist. In this capacity he is responsible for providing scientific guidance to the company's selection program, and for directing its research and development activities in genetics and genomics.

Dr. Marc Déry:

Dr. Déry graduated from St-Hyacinthe Veterinary School in 1988. He performed an internship in theriogenology in 1988-1989 and worked as a clinician at the St-Hyacinthe Vet School from 1989 to 1991.

He worked for a general veterinary practice from 1991 to 1994 where he developed his own embryo transfer practice. He joined his embryo transfer practice with Dr Louis Picard's practice in 1994 forming their current practice, ETE Inc.

Dr. Pierluigi Guarneri:

Dr. Guarneri was born in Brescia (north of Italy) in 1969. After the scientific lyceum I graduated in Veterinary Medicine in 1995 with a graduation thesis about Embryo Transfer in dairy cattle. In 1998, he came to Canada to take a course on Embryo Transfer; this program was offered by the International Livestock Management School from Kemptville, Ontario. Two years later, he returned to Canada and visited Embryobec; it gave him the opportunity to learn about embryo splitting and embryo sexing. In 2001, with Dr. Patelli Antonio, he founded the Studio Veterinario Associato- Embryovet; they now have 4 vets offering clinical and reproduction assistance with ultrasound, surgery, emergency and embryo transfer to their clients. He is an affiliate member of CETA/ACTE and

since 2007 he has had the honour to serve as the president of the Italian Society of Embryo Transfer (Siet). Since 2001, he is married to Anna and is the father of 2 wonderful children!

The Convention Speakers continued...

Dr. John F. Hasler:

John F. Hasler received B.A. and M.A. degrees from the University of Missouri and a PhD from the University of Illinois. He served as a post-doctoral fellow and then as a lecturer at Colorado State University, following which he moved to Ontario and worked in embryo transfer for one year. He then moved to Pennsylvania and founded Em Tran, Inc. with his partner Dr. Alan McCauley. Dr. Boyd Henderson later joined them as a full partner in the business and Dr. Jimmy Webb became a partner in Em Tran West, Inc. in California. A number of ET practitioners were trained at Em Tran over the years and the company became a leader in providing new technology as it became available, including embryo cryopreservation, export of embryos, embryo splitting, embryo sexing, and IVF. Dr. Hasler was a founding member of the AETA and served on the first board of directors and has also served twice on the board of the IETS. Em Tran, Inc. was sold in 2001 and currently offers only cloning services, operating under the name of Cyagra. Dr. Hasler currently works out of his home in Colorado as a technical consultant for Bioniche.

Dr. Patrice Humblot:

Dr. Patrice Humblot, has been graduated in 1978 from the Veterinary School of Maisons Alfort (DVM), and following the course of studies in reproductive physiology, got the habilitation to lead research (HDR, post PhD grade) in 1999 from the University of Tours (Sources of variation of fertility and embryonic mortality in cattle).

He is since 1995 the scientific director of the Research & Development Department of UNCEIA (National Union of French AI cooperatives). His research has focused on definition of fertility or infertility phenotypes, epidemiological studies on fertility and use of reproductive biotechnologies in dairy cattle.

His present topics of interest concerns basic knowledge in reproductive physiology (especially relationships between nutrition and fertility / methods to prevent oxidative stress in sperm and embryos), use of advanced embryo technologies in combination for embryo typing, genomic studies on reproductive function and impact of genetic selection on reproductive performances.

Dr. Reuben John Mapletoft:

Dr. Reuben Mapletoft received a DVM from the University of Guelph in 1967, and MS (1975) and PhD (1977) degrees in Endocrinology and Reproductive Physiology from the University of Wisconsin. He joined the WCVM as Director of Clinical Research in 1977. He became Head of the Department of Herd Medicine and Theriogenology (now Large Animal Clinical Sciences) in 1998. In July, 2002, Dr. Mapletoft took a one year Leave of Absence to consult with Bioniche Animal Health, which has led to a 50% appointment with the University of Saskatchewan.

Dr. Mapletoft's research in reproductive biology and the application of assisted reproductive technologies in cattle spans more than 30 years. He is well known for his work in bovine embryo transfer, estrus synchronization and superovulation. His embryo transfer protocols have become the *de facto* standard for clinical use worldwide, and he has been instrumental in developing the embryo transfer industry in Canada and around the world. He is a Past-president of the International Embryo Transfer Society (IETS) and Founding President of the Canadian Embryo Transfer Association (CETA), and he was Chairman of the Import/Export Committee of the IETS for 10 years. He is currently a member of the Certification Committee of CETA and several IETS committees.

Much of Dr. Mapletoft's recent work has involved the manipulation of ovarian follicular function for superovulation, estrus synchronization and timed-breeding in cattle. He has also utilized *in vitro* fertilization to evaluate oocyte competence, the effect of sperm morphology on fertilization and zygote development, and the development of this model to study male factor infertility in humans. He is also investigating the use of non-biological additives for the culture and cryopreservation of spermatozoa, oocytes and embryos.

Dr. Mapletoft is also very active in technology transfer; he has given over 150 invited lectures in more than 30 countries and has trained graduate students from all over the world. He has contributed more than 300 papers to published conference proceedings, and authored more than 130 refereed publications. He has conducted over three dozen embryo transfer workshops for more than 200 veterinary professionals from around the world.

Dr. Albert C. Mills III:

Dr. Mills was born in Zachary, Louisiana where he presently resides. He first did non-surgical transfers and became interested in embryo transplant work with the late Dr. Charles K. Vincent as a student at LSU. In 1967 he received his B.S. in Zoology and in 1969 he received his M.S. in Reproductive Physiology, both at LSU.

At the University of Florida he worked on a Ph.D. under Dr. A.C. Warnick and Dr. F.W. Bazer until March, 1974 when he went to work for Ova 1 in Glasgow, Montana.

In October 1974, he returned to the University of Florida and completed his Ph.D. in Reproductive Physiology in May 1975. From then until March 1977, he set up operations, trained personnel in non-surgical collection procedures and did research for and with Saskatoon Embryo Transplants.

In March of 1977 he formed his own company, Portable Embryonics, doing non-surgical, on-the-farm work nationwide, which he continues today. Portable Embryonics is a charter member of the AETA and Dr. Mills served as Director from 1982-1984 and again from 1998-2002. He has been a member of IETS since 1974.

Dr. Colin Palmer:

Dr. Palmer, a 1992 graduate from the DVM program at the Atlantic Veterinary College, is an Associate Professor of Theriogenology at the Western College of Veterinary Medicine. Dr. Palmer began his career as a mixed animal practitioner in southern Ontario prior to completing a Master of Veterinary Science degree at WCVM and earning diplomate status with the American College Theriogenologists in 1995. Several more years were spent in mixed and large animal practice in British Columbia and Saskatchewan before returning to WCVM in 2000 where he is responsible for teaching a broad range of topics related to bovine theriogenology to undergraduate and graduate students. Dr. Palmer's research interests include the diagnosis and treatment of postpartum endometritis in dairy cattle and issues related to the assessment of the breeding potential of beef bulls.

Dr. Claire Plante:

Dr. Claire Plante is a managing director of Genesafe Technologies Ltd. of Guelph, Ontario. Genesafe specializes in the development and clinical utilization of reproductive technologies for use in international genetic movement and pathogen elimination in livestock species. Dr. Plante is a graduate of the Veterinary College of the University de Montreal. Following a residency in Theriogenology at Iowa State University, Dr. Plante completed her PhD at the University of Florida and a post-doctoral fellowship in reproductive pathology at OVC. Dr. Plante was a faculty member in the Department of Population Medicine at OVC until joining Genesafe in 2002.

Dr. Dragan R. Rogan:

Dr. Dragan Rogan is the Vice President of Research and Development at Bioniche Animal Health Canada. He holds a veterinary degree (D.V.M.) and a M.Sc. and Ph.D. in virology/immunology. His experience includes research in virology, bacteriology, protein purification, protein expression and drug discovery encompassing more than twenty years of involvement in the animal health industry and applied biotechnology in Canada and the USA. During this time, he has developed, scaled-up, and produced a number of viral and bacterial vaccines, produced several drugs for veterinary use, improved the production yield of numerous other biological products and developed innovative potency tests for both human and veterinary pharmaceuticals and biologics.

Dr. Brad Stroud:

Brad Stroud, DVM has been providing bovine embryo transfer (ET) services and applied reproductive specialty techniques at his clinic, Stroud Veterinary Embryo Services, Inc.(SVES), in Weatherford, Texas since 1980. Clients include beef and dairy producers from Texas and surrounding states.

Dr. Christian Vigneault:

Christian Vigneault obtained a Master's degree in Animal Sciences (2003) and a Doctorate degree in Animal Sciences (2008) at Laval University under the supervision of Dr Marc-André Sirard and studied transcriptome and genome activation of the bovine early embryos. Dr Vigneault then joined L'Alliance Boviteq as an Industrial Research Fellow to work at the creation of a new molecular biology laboratory and to transfer and apply modern

molecular biology techniques and possibilities to the industry. Part of his work also includes the development of new embryo culture media and the study of gene expression in embryos exposed to different conditions.