

*American Embryo Transfer Association  
Canadian Embryo Transfer Association*



**2021 AETA & CETA/ACTE  
JOINT VIRTUAL CONVENTION  
REGISTRATION BROCHURE**



*October 15 & 16, 2021*

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## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

### Friday, October 15

12:01 AM	All pre-recorded sessions available for viewing
8:45 AM – 9:00 AM	Welcome & Sponsor Announcements
9:00 AM – 10:10 AM	<b>Session 1: Strategies to simplify in vivo and in vitro embryo production in beef donors; competing or complementary techniques?</b> Presented by Dr. Gabriel Bo
10:10 AM – 12:00 PM	AETA Session
10:10 AM – 12:00 PM	CETA/ACTE Annual General Meeting
12:00 PM – 1:10 PM	<b>Session 2: Complications associated with equine transvaginal ultrasound-guided follicle aspiration</b> Presented by Dr. Katrin Hinrichs
1:10 PM – 2:20 PM	<b>Session 3: Disease control around Embryo Transfer</b> Presented by Dr. François-Xavier Grand
2:20 PM – 3:30 PM	<b>Session 4: Control of the estrous cycle among embryo transfer recipients using the 7&amp;7 Synch protocol</b> Presented by Dr. Jordan Thomas
3:30 PM – 4:40 PM	<b>Session 5: Gametes and embryos from stem cells: status and applications in animal reproduction</b> Presented by Dr. Pablo Ross
4:40 – 5:50 PM	<b>Session 6: Periconceptual environment impact on gametes and embryo epigenetic legacy.</b> Presented by Dr. Marc-André Sirard
5:50 PM	Day 1 closing remarks

### Saturday, October 16

8:45 AM – 9:00 AM	Welcome and Sponsor Announcements
9:00 AM – 10:40 AM	<b>Session 7: OPU and lab considerations in providing IVF services</b> Presented by Dr. Jon Schmidt & Patti Anderson, MS
10:40 AM – 11:50 AM	<b>Session 8: Calves from calves: accelerating genetic advancement.</b> Presented by Dr. Hernan Baldassarre
12:00 PM – 1:00 PM	AETA Business Meeting (election of new officers)
12:00 PM – 1:00 PM	CETA/ACTE New Board of Directors

Please note that the convention is on central daylight time

*Schedule of Events continued...*

**Saturday, October 16** *continued...*

1:10 PM – 2:20 PM	<b>Session 9: Practitioners Forum</b> <b>Embryo Debris:</b> Presented by Dr. Gabriel Couto <b>Practitioner Challenges: Preparing for IVF Transfer Day:</b> Presented by Dr. Brad Lindsey <b>Fresh IVF transfer on Day 6.5 post fertilization:</b> Presented by Dr. Cody Bailey
2:20 PM – 3:30 PM	<b>Session 10: Small Ruminant Embryo Transfer: A Pandemic Impact</b> Presented by Dr. Tad Thompson
3:30 PM – 4:40 PM	<b>Session 11: Progesterone supplementation: When does it increase reproductive efficiency in cattle?</b> Presented by Dr. Angelika Stock
4:40 PM – 5:50 PM	<b>Session 12: The cow's genital tract in postpartum period: Update</b> Presented by Dr. Réjean Lefebvre
5:50 PM	Convention Closing Remarks and BOD Election Results

Please note that the convention is on central daylight time

## CONVENTION SESSION INFORMATION

The convention will feature pre-recorded sessions.

Pre-recorded sessions will be made available via a link on the AETA convention page at 12:01 am (CDT) on Friday, October 15. During the times on the schedule, speakers will be available to chat via Zoom about their presentations and answer any questions you may have.

All sessions will have a quiz that participants must pass with a score of at least 70% to receive continuing education (CE) credits (see below).

Please note that speakers will only be available for discussion during their scheduled time.

Register before October 15 to get access to the live virtual meeting from October 15-16 and access to the convention recordings and RACE quizzes until December 31.

Register between October 17-December 1 to get access to the convention recordings and RACE quizzes until December 31.

Please note that registration will be closed during the live virtual meeting from October 15-16.

## CONTINUING EDUCATION (CE) HOURS

The scientific program of the 2021 AETA and CETA/ACTE Joint Virtual Convention has been approved for 14.5 CE hours from RACE.

**Please note that due to the nature of the virtual annual meeting, participants will earn CE credits per session that they view and quiz they pass (you must pass by answering at least 70% of the questions correctly). A quiz link will be available on the AETA convention page for each session.**

NOTE: If all sessions are viewed and each quiz is passed with at least a 70% score, the total number of CE hours/credits obtained would be:

- 14.5 for AETA members (including the AETA certification session)
- 12.5 for CETA/ACTE members

For AETA and CETA/ACTE Certification purposes, the 2021 AETA & CETA/ACTE Joint Virtual Convention will equal 10 CE credits.



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## THE CONVENTION SPEAKERS

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### **Dr. Gabriel Bó**

Dr. Gabriel Bó, is President of the Instituto Reproducción Animal Córdoba (IRAC) and Professor at the National University of Villa Maria in Argentina. He obtained his DVM in Argentina in 1985, and his M.V.Sc. (1991) and Ph.D. (1995) from the University of Saskatchewan, Canada. He has published extensively on fixed-time AI, superovulation and embryo transfer. He is Past-President of the International Embryo Technology Society (IETS; elected twice in 2004 and 2011) and founding member and Past-President of the Argentine Embryo Technology Society (SATE). Dr. Bó is a member of the National Academy of Agricultural and Veterinary Sciences of Argentina, and he has also received several awards including the IETS Distinguished Service Award, Scientist of the Year of the Brazilian Embryo Technology Society (SBTE), honorary membership of the American College of Theriogenologists and the 2020 Simmet Prize for Assisted Reproduction, given by the International Congress on Animal Reproduction (ICAR).

### **Dr. Katrin Hinrichs**

Dr. Katrin Hinrichs is the Harry Werner Endowed Professor of Equine Medicine and Chair, Department of Clinical Studies at New Bolton Center at the University of Pennsylvania. She obtained her DVM from the University of California, Davis and her PhD from the University of Pennsylvania. Dr. Hinrichs has pioneered research into equine assisted reproduction, producing the first cloned horse in North America and developing the first successful program for equine intracytoplasmic sperm injection (ICSI) and in vitro embryo production in the US. Her research has led to new methods for shipment of immature oocytes and for biopsy and cryopreservation of equine embryos, now utilized worldwide. Dr. Hinrichs' honors include Theriogenologist of the Year from the American College of Theriogenologists, the Research Award of the American Association of Equine Practitioners and the Simmet Prize for Assisted Reproduction from the International Congress of Animal Reproduction.

### **Dr. François-Xavier Grand**

François-Xavier Grand is the corporate veterinarian of Semex. Dr Grand was born and raised in France, where he received a degree in veterinary medicine from University of Toulouse. He completed an internship residency MSC program in large animal theriogenology at University of Montreal. He became a Diplomate of the American College of Theriogenologists in 2011. Dr Grand has been with Boviteq - Semex since 2011. His initial focus has been on bovine IVF embryo production from young donors, including oocyte donors management, sanitary aspect of IVF embryo production, embryo transfer, satellite oocytes collection training of more than 30 teams, regulatory aspects in regards to IVF embryo export. Dr Grand has been Boviteq embryo team veterinarian since 2011, overseeing accreditation by the Canadian Food and Inspection Agency for the embryo export approval program. Dr Grand has been an active member of the Canadian Embryo Transfer Association since 2012 and has served as a director on the board of directors. Dr Grand has been an active IETS member since 2013. As corporate veterinarian, Dr Grand also manages 1200 bulls housed in three AI centres in Canada under the regulation of the AI manual of the Canadian Food and Inspection Agency. In addition to being the center veterinarian of one of these centers, Dr Grand oversees sanitary practices and protocols across the three centers, in the area of bull housing, semen collection and processing, semen storage and distribution/export (80% of the semen produced being exported). Dr Grand has been responsible for leading foreign countries audits and inspections for Semex.

### **Dr. Jordan Thomas**

Jordan Thomas is an Assistant Professor and State Beef Reproduction Specialist in the Division of Animal Sciences at the University of Missouri. Dr. Thomas is a Missouri native and University of Missouri alumnus, having earned his Ph.D. in Animal Sciences with an emphasis in Reproductive Physiology in 2017. Dr. Thomas maintains an active applied research program in reproductive management of beef cattle, coordinates the breeding program for cattle across the University of Missouri Agricultural Experiment Station Research Center herds, and serves as program advisor to the Show-Me-Select Replacement Heifer Program. The primary research focus of the Thomas lab is control of the bovine estrous cycle, specifically to facilitate use of reproductive technologies such as timed artificial insemination and embryo transfer.



**Dr. Pablo Ross**

Pablo Ross is the Chief Scientific Officer at STgenetics, a company specialized in livestock genetics and reproductive services, including sex-sorted semen, embryo production and genomic testing. Dr. Ross was born and raised in Argentina, where he received a Degree in Veterinary Medicine from La Plata National University and an MS in Animal Science from Mar del Plata National University/INTA Balcarce. He obtained a PhD in Animal Science from Michigan State University in 2007 and held a Research Assistant Professor position at that institution. Between 2010 and 2020, Dr Ross was a Professor of Reproductive Biology at the Animal Science Department in the University of California, Davis. He was also department Vice-Chair for 3 years. Dr. Ross academic work was aimed at understanding the mechanisms of epigenetic remodeling and transcriptional reprogramming that occur during preimplantation embryo development. Work at the Ross laboratory also related to developing gene editing approaches and embryo and pluripotent stem cell technologies for use in agriculture and biomedicine.

**Dr. Marc-André Sirard**

Directeur, Centre de Recherche en Reproduction, développement et santé intergénérationnelle Chaire de Recherche du Canada en Reproduction et Génomique Laval University, Quebec  
Dr Sirard spent all his professional life working in IVF. Over the last 3 decades. He came back to Québec in 1987 and obtained an industrial chair to work on oocytes and sperm in 1990. He founded the Centre de Recherche en Biologie de la Reproduction in 1995 which has grown to include more than 100 people today. He obtained a senior Canadian Research Chair in 2000 on genomics applied to reproduction and has created an international effort to define the normal genomic program in early mammalian embryos which became an NSERC strategic network, EmbryoGENE in 2008. He has published over 300 scientific papers and has been invited to give over 75 invited lectures in international meetings. His current research activities are focused on the influence of the ovarian environment on oocyte quality in human and large animals.

**Dr. Jon Schmidt**

Trans Ova Genetics, Sioux Center, Iowa

Jon Schmidt was raised on a diversified grain, feedlot, and swine farm near the town of Ireton in Northwest Iowa. He received his BS in Animal Science (2000) and DVM (2004) degrees from Iowa State University. Upon graduation, Dr. Schmidt went to work for Trans Ova Genetics as a Technical Services Veterinarian, performing in clinic and on farm embryo transfer work in Iowa and the surrounding states. He continues to perform embryo transfer and in vitro fertilization procedures throughout the upper Midwest, focusing his technical work in South Dakota. Outside of the chute Jon has served in leadership roles of Director of Professional Services, Midwestern Operations Manager, Chief Operations Officer, and has played an active role on numerous committees and task forces. He is an active member of AABP, IETS, and AETA, which he served as President in 2015. Jon's current focus is serving as Chief Technical Officer where he is responsible for a team driving continuous improvement and consistency in process and results. Dr. Schmidt and his wife Amy are raising two sons and a daughter at their residence in Orange City, Iowa. They also operate Deep Roots Cattle where they raise percentage Simmental replacement and show heifers.

**Patti Anderson, MS**

Trans Ova Genetics, Richland, Washington

Patti Anderson grew up in Northern California and has lived in several states following her passion of serving clients in the reproductive technologies industry. Patti received a BS in Animal Science from Cal Poly State University, San Luis Obispo (2005) and her MS degree in Animal Physiology from Iowa State University (2009). She is currently serving as the IVF Lab Director for Trans Ova Genetics. She is directly involved in the daily production of the Washington IVF lab and is active in collaborating with other Trans Ova IVF labs, troubleshooting embryo production results, and consults with embryo transfer practitioners using Trans Ova Services across the United States. She has been with the team for 10 years has served in several leadership roles at Trans Ova Genetics including IVF Lab Manager (WA), IVF Embryologist, Professional Service Embryologist Manager, and On-Farm IVF Embryology Coordinator in Sioux Center, IA. Patti and her husband, Jeff and daughter, Kate live in Richland, WA.

**Dr. Hernán Baldassarre**

Dr. Baldassarre graduated as a veterinarian from University of Buenos Aires in Argentina and obtained his PhD in Animal Science from McGill University in Canada. He has >30 years' experience in the field of assisted reproduction technologies in ruminant species. For the last 10 years he has held a part-time researcher/lecturer position at the Department of Animal Science of McGill University and he also has a private practice/consulting in his field of expertise. Before that he was Vice President & General Manager at PharmAthene Canada (previously known as Nexia Biotechnologies) where he was a key player in the development of a farm of >1000 transgenic goats producing human pharmaceuticals in their milk (1998 to 2011). Prior to joining Nexia, he spent 12 years doing research & development at the Centro de Investigaciones Reproductivas Perez Companc in Buenos Aires (1984-1996), with main areas of interest being semen technologies and artificial insemination, superovulation and embryo transfer, ovum pick-up and in vitro embryo production. Has >100 publications in peer-reviewed journals and current research interests include in vitro embryo production in bovine and buffalo calves, assisted reproduction technologies in small ruminants (sheep, goats and deer), the development of animal models for the study of human disease, and reproductive technologies applied to wild animal conservation.

**Practitioners Forum: Dr. Gabriel B. Couto**

Gabriel Couto DVM, graduated in Veterinary Medicine from the Federal University of Minas Gerais, Brazil in 1999. He moved to Quebec to pursue a Master of Science in reproduction and a Residency in Theriogenology at the University of Montreal. Upon graduation, he worked as a clinician at the same university. In 2010, Gabriel moved to BC to work as a specialist in reproduction in the dairy industry. In 2014 he integrated the Kirkton Veterinary Clinic team in Southwest Ontario.

**Practitioners Forum: Dr. Brad R. Lindsey**

Dr. Lindsey has spent his entire professional career of 38 years specializing in the field of large animal reproductive physiology, embryo transfer, IVF and other advanced reproductive technologies. He has worked for, and consulted, numerous bovine ET service and supply companies providing his expertise in commercial ET services and in research & product development. Starting his own company, Ovitra Biotechnology, in 2005, Dr. Lindsey continues to provide commercial & contract ET services, technical support, consulting and training to domestic & international producers, ET firms, & research universities.

Dr. Lindsey is an active member of Texas Southwest Cattle Raisers, the International Embryo Technology Society and currently serves on the Board of Directors for the American Embryos Transfer Association. He and his wife, Mary, live in Midway, TX and are active in their church and community. They have two grown children (Grace Richardson, married, and Payton Lindsey, engaged), both graduates of Stephen F. Austin State University.

**Practitioners Forum: Dr. Cody Bailey**

Cody Bailey PhD • Director of Professional Services Technicians - A native of southwest Iowa (Creston), Cody received a BS from Iowa State University (2007) followed by a MS in Animal Science from Oklahoma State University (2009). Cody completed a PhD in Animal Science, Reproductive Physiology (2014) at Louisiana State University under the direction of Dr. Robert A. Godke and Dr. Ken Bondioli. While at LSU, his research involved the effects of donor nutrition on bovine oocyte and embryo lipids and implications on embryo cryotolerance. Cody started with Trans Ova in September 2014 and now serves as Director of Professional Services Technicians. Cody and his wife KP live in central Iowa (Indianola) with their 2-year-old son, Bryce; they are expecting baby boy #2 in October.

**Dr. Tad Thompson**

Dr. Tad Thompson is a 2006 graduate of Purdue University School of Veterinary Medicine. As part of his Purdue education Dr. Thompson traveled to Australia to spend 7 weeks working with Dr. David Osborn of Allstock Genetics with a focus on small ruminant reproduction. Dr. Thompson began his practice splitting time between equine reproduction, equine sports medicine and developing techniques in small ruminant reproduction. In 2012 Dr. Thompson and his wife Amanda started Reproduction Specialty Group Inc to focus all their attention on the small ruminant industry. Over the past 9 years RSGI has continued to grow, servicing customers in 28 states within the ovine, caprine and cervid industries.

**Dr. Angelika Stock**

Angelika Stock graduated as DVM at the Veterinary Faculty of the University of München, Germany in 1981. She received her doctoral degree (corpus luteum function in cattle) in 1984. She continued to work as a clinician at the bovine ambulatory clinic of the same faculty. She was then invited for a research project on bovine corpus luteum function and early embryo development at Cornell University in Ithaca, NY, USA, where she later finished a PhD in bovine and equine endocrinology, including embryo transfer studies in cattle. At the Faculty of veterinary medicine of the University of Montreal she pursued a residency in theriogenology and several years as a postdoctoral fellow. Establishing a canine semen bank in a small animal referral clinic in 1999 in Québec, she became board certified by the American College of Theriogenology with emphasis on small animal theriogenology in 2008. She also became CETA certified for bovine embryo transfer in 2013 when she started her work as a bovine clinician in Québec. Despite her passion for working in large animal theriogenology, she has decreased her workload in bovine embryo transfer this year but still works on a few farms. The lack of veterinary specialists in small animal reproduction in Quebec is calling for her to concentrate her future clinical work in small animal assisted reproduction at the DMV Center-South in Montréal.

**Dr. Réjean Lefebvre**

Dr. Lefebvre received his DVM in 1984 at the University of Montreal. He completed an Internship in Theriogenology at the University of Montreal in 1985 and a residency in Theriogenology at the University of Guelph in 1993. In 1996, he received his PhD in bovine reproductive physiology at the University of Cornell.

He was in veterinary practice with emphasis in bovine reproduction and embryo transfer between 1985 and 1991 and from 1996 to 2001, and research assistant at the University of Cornell from 1993 to 1996. He became board certified by the American College of Theriogenology in 1996. He is a professor of Theriogenology in the Department of Clinical Sciences at the University of Montreal since 2001. He has been involved in many research projects in reproduction including uterine health in transitional and cycling phases in dairy cows.

Dr. Lefebvre has received many rewards, including the Don Davis Memorial Fellowship award in 1991 from the University of Guelph, research fellowship from the University of Cornell in 1994, Hoescht Roussel Veterinary Fellowship from the American College of Theriogenology in 1994 and 1995, and the Pfizer Award for clinical research from the University of Montreal in 2008. At the moment, he is working on complementary and alternative reproductive medicine in the cow's genital tract.