

ISDVMA Symposium Schedule

Friday, September 28, 2012

Welcome to the 11th biennial ISDVMA meeting and symposium! –

- **8:00 am: President's welcome** – *Caroline Griffitts, DVM, ISDVMA President, Loveland, Colorado, USA*

The sled dog shoulder joint and scapulo-thoracic synsarcosis –

- **8.00-9.00 am: In-depth shoulder anatomy and function, pulling dynamics, and the diagnostic exam** – *Jerry Vanek, MS, DVM, CCRT, Grand Marais, Minnesota, USA*
- **9.00-10.00 am: An overview of important shoulder injuries, arthroscopic evaluations, and treatment considerations seen in a busy referral orthopedic surgery practice** – *William Liska, DVM, DACVS, Houston, Texas, USA*
- **10.00-10:15 am: Break**
- **10.15-11.00 am: An overview of important shoulder injuries, arthroscopic evaluations, and treatment considerations, continued** – *William Liska, DVM, DACVS, Houston, Texas, USA*
- **11.00-11.30 am: Physiotherapy of the injured sled dog shoulder; post-op and conservative management** – *Jerry Vanek, MS, DVM, CCRT, Grand Marais, Minnesota, USA*
- **11.30 am-12.00 pm: An update on orthopedic research along the Iditarod Trail** – *William Liska, DVM, DACVS, Houston, Texas, USA*

ISDVMA membership meeting, board report, & special guest presentation –

- **12.00 pm: Luncheon buffet followed by meeting updates** – *Caroline Griffitts, DVM, ISDVMA President, Loveland, Colorado, USA*
- **12.00-1.30 pm: Into the teeth of the Yukon: Surviving the wilderness with only a shirt pocket of tools** – *Stuart Nelson, Jr., DVM, Bonners Ferry, Idaho*

The sled dog shoulder joint and scapulo-thoracic synsarcosis, continued –

- **1.30-3.30 pm: 4 concurrent 30-minute hands-on shoulder laboratory rotations** –
 - **Anatomic representations** – *Group study*
 - **The forelimb diagnostic exam** – *William Liska, DVM, DACVS, Houston, Texas, USA*
 - **Physiotherapy I** – *Veronica Devall, DVM, CCRT, CVA, CAC, Calgary, Alberta, Canada*
 - **Physiotherapy II** – *Jerry Vanek, MS, DVM, CCRT, Grand Marais, Minnesota, USA*
- **3.30-3:45 pm: Break**

Dryland sled dog racing around the World –

- **3:45-5:45 pm: An introduction to, survey of, and the veterinarian's role in dryland mushing around the world** – *Monica Pacheco Duran, DVM, Madrid, Spain*

The evening is free for you to enjoy Banff

Saturday, September 29, 2012

Sled dog physiology –

« 2011 Dr. Roland “Doc” Lombard Student Research Award winner »

- **8.00-8.30 am: Associations between kilocalorie intake and lean body mass in relation to serum biomarkers of skeletal muscle metabolism** – *Molly Yazwinski, 2011 winner, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York*
- **8.30-9.45 am: Gastritis/gastric ulcers in canine athletes** – *Michael Davis, DVM, PhD, DACVIM, DACVSMR, Stillwater, Oklahoma, USA*
- **9.45-10.00 am: Break**
- **10.00-11:15 am: Metabolic adaptations to sustained strenuous exercise in dogs** – *Michael Davis, DVM, PhD, DACVIM, DACVSMR, Stillwater, Oklahoma, USA*
- **11.15 am-12.15 pm: Sled dogs as a model for nutritional and physiological adaptation in the circumpolar North** – *Kriya Dunlap, PhD, Fairbanks, Alaska, USA*
- **12.15-1:30 pm: Lunch on your own**

Sled dog physiology, continued –

- **1.30-2.30 pm: La Grande Odyssee, an alpine staged-style sled dog race and its physiological specificities for dogs** – *Dominique Grandjean, DVM, PhD, HDR, Maisons-Alfort, France*
- **2.30-3:30 pm: The utility of cardiac echography in sled dogs, with examples from La Grande Odyssee** – *Vassiliki Gounis, DVM, PhD, DECVIM-cardiology, Maisons-Alfort, France*
- **3:30-3:45 pm: Break**
- **3.45-4:45 pm: New developments on stamina-induced inflammation in racing/working dogs** – *Delphine Clero, DVM, MSc, Maisons-Alfort, France*

« 2012 Dr. Roland “Doc” Lombard Student Research Award winner »

- **4:45-5:15 pm: Leptospirosis in Iditarod Sled Dogs: Seroprevalence, urinary shedding, and renal colonization** – *Greta Krafsur, 2012 winner, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Colorado*
- **5:15-5:30 pm: Lombard Award winners Q&A wrap-up** – *Molly Yazwinski, 2011 winner, & Greta Krafsur, 2012 winner*

ISDVMA Biennial Grande Banquet at Banff Fairmont Chateau Lake Louise –

- **6.00 pm: Social Hour**
- **7.00 pm: Dinner**
- **8.00-11:00 pm: Casino on the Rocks** – *An evening of funny-money family fun gambling with fantastic prizes provided by our supporters*

Sunday, September 30, 2012

- **8.00-9:00 am: Pathology of sled dogs** – *Randall Basaraba, DVM, PhD, DACVP, Fort Collins, Colorado, USA*
- **9.00-10:00 am: Mercury levels in salmon-fed sled dogs; the potential risks and benefits of subsistence diets** – *Kriya Dunlap, PhD, Fairbanks, Alaska, USA*

- **10.00-10.15 am: Break**

Panel discussion: Applying all we've learned to the future of mushing –

- **10:15 am-10:30 am: A brief survey of styles of current veterinary diaries from the major sled dog races –** *Jerry Vanek, MS, DVM, CCRT, Grand Marais, Minnesota, USA*
- **10:30 am-12:15 pm: Sled dog care guidelines –** *Drs. Richard Long, Stony Plain, Alberta; Jaime Martinez, Barcelona, Spain; Kathleen McGill, Gahanna, Ohio; and Stuart Nelson, Jr., Bonners Ferry, Idaho*

Adjournment –

- **12:15 pm: Concluding remarks, adjournment, and we'll see you in 2014!! –** *Caroline Griffitts, DVM, President, Loveland, Colorado, USA*

Continuing Education: Total of 20 CE Credit hours

REGISTRATION:

Full conference registration –

Includes a copy of the proceedings, all presentations, breaks, and luncheon buffet & speaker

Full conference registration for members: \$375

Full conference registration for nonmembers: \$450

Full conference registration for students: \$75

Single-day registration –

Includes a copy of the proceedings, presentations, and breaks (no luncheon buffet or speaker)

One-day registration for members: \$225

One-day registration for nonmembers: \$275

One-day registration for students: \$45

Friday noon Meeting, Luncheon Buffet, and Speaker – Single-day registrants and guests: \$50 per person

Saturday evening Grande Banquet and Casino on the Rocks – \$125 per person

Contact – Dr. Ron Svec, Secretary, at secretary@isdvma.org, or fax registrations with credit card information (Visa or MasterCard) to 1-802-257-0649

Accommodations – [The Fairmont Banff Springs](#). We have special rates arranged for our attendees for the hotel and shuttle services. Remember when registering for the conference to request the discounted rate for the meeting by stating that you are with the ISDVMA group.

Also, when you register for the conference, we recommend that you sign up for the Fairmont President's club (it's free). This provides free internet at the hotel, use of the fitness centre, and discounts at the spa (10%), gift shops (15%), and more, so it is well worth signing up. If you wish to reserve time at the spa, you should do so 4-6 weeks before the conference to be guaranteed a spot.

If you are flying into Calgary, rental cars or shuttle services are available to reach Banff. If you wish to take a shuttle from the airport, please book through Banff Airporter at 1-888-449-2901 or www.banffairporter.com and reference the ISDVMA group to receive the group rate.

Contact us at ISDVMA@isdvma.org with any other inquiries or questions, or for general information.

ISDVMA Symposium Speakers



Randall Basaraba, DVM, PhD, DACVP is a board certified veterinary pathologist and associate professor in the Department of Microbiology, Pathology, and Immunology at the College of Veterinary Medicine at Colorado State University. He has more than 20 years experience in diagnostic anatomic pathology and infectious disease research, with a primary interest in host response to infection and the role of oxidative stress and antioxidant therapy in disease pathogenesis, especially during strenuous exercise, such as sled dog racing.

Dr. Basaraba received his BS in Animal Nutrition and his DVM from Washington State University, after which he practiced mixed animal medicine and surgery in Chugiak, Alaska, before returning to WSU for his residency and PhD. He is a board member of ISDVMA and chairman of the Dr. Roland “Doc” Lombard Student Research Award Scholarship Committee. For 15 years, he has served as trail veterinarian and official pathologist for the Iditarod as well as once for the Yukon Quest.



Delphine Clero, DVM, MSc, is a veterinarian at the K9 Breeding and Sports Medicine Unit at the Alfort National School of Veterinary Medicine in Paris, France. She also is pursuing a PhD in working dog nutrition management under Dominique Grandjean, where she is investigating the relationships among stamina, oxidative stress, inflammation, and performance.

Dr. Clero is a captain and veterinarian with the Paris Fire Brigade, where she specializes in search and rescue dogs as well as serving as Technical Cynotechnic Advisor. Along with her colleges, she is working to improve the efficiency of search and rescue teams through the prevention of stamina-related pathologies such as dehydration.

Dr. Clero has practiced canine sports medicine since 2008 and La Grande Odyssee since 2010. This year, she was the Chief Veterinarian for La Grande Odyssee.



Michael Davis, DVM, PhD, DACVIM, DACVSMR graduated from Texas A&M University College of Veterinary Medicine in 1988 and earned his PhD in physiology at Johns Hopkins University in 1999. A diplomat in both veterinary internal medicine and veterinary sports medicine and rehabilitation, Dr. Davis now occupies the Oxley Endowed Chair in Equine Sports Medicine in the Department of Physiological Sciences at the Center for Veterinary Health Sciences, Oklahoma State University. Dr. Davis’ work with sled dog physiology spans more than a decade of research into their muscular, respiratory, and gastric physiology, immunology, and hematology.



Veronica Devall, DVM, CCRT, CVA, CAC, resides in Calgary, Alberta, where her veterinary practice emphasizes canine physical rehabilitative medicine and includes acupuncture and chiropractic therapies in treating primarily performance agility dogs and retired geriatrics.

Dr. Devall graduated in 1989 from the Western College of Veterinary Medicine and she has focused her veterinary career on pain management and rehabilitation. She is a Certified Canine Rehabilitation Therapist (CRI) and she also holds certifications in Veterinary Acupuncture (IVAS), Veterinary Spinal Manipulative Therapy/Animal Chiropractic (AVCA), Traditional Chinese Veterinary Herbal Medicine (IVAS/Chi), and as a Veterinary Pain Practitioner through the International Veterinary Association of Pain Management. She also is an instructor for the Canadian Veterinary Acupuncture Association.

She has been involved with sled dog races for over 15 years, including the Yukon Quest, Rocky Mountain Stage Stop, and many Iditarods. The world of performance sled dogs is what has led her to choosing rehabilitation practice.

Dr. Devall enjoys winter skijoring and summer hiking with her 2 beautiful Siberian huskies, Willow and Elim, both from Karen Ramstead's North Wapiti kennels in Alberta.

As a native of the area, Dr. Devall is honored to serve as our Facilities Chair along with Dr. Long for this year's ISDVMA meeting in Banff. Welcome to all!



Ms. Greta Krafsur is a fourth-year veterinary student at Colorado State University. Her interest in mushing arose during her time as a stay-at-home mom. Reading about sled dogs' use in the settlement of Alaska helped her maintain her sanity during the challenging years of raising three toddlers, including twins, only 18 months apart. Little did she anticipate that those great books would pave the way for her to volunteer on multiple Iditarod races beginning in 2005.

In addition to her work with the Iditarod, Ms. Krafsur has lived in Barrow, Alaska, working for the North Slope Borough Department of Wildlife Management. As an aspiring veterinary anatomic pathologist, she performs postmortem examinations on subsistence-harvested seals, walruses, whales, and other Arctic wildlife species critical to the survival of the Iñupiat culture. She conducts baseline histological health assessments of these Arctic species under the guidance of CSU diagnostic pathologists Terry Spraker and Colleen Duncan. Ms. Krafsur is surveying tissues collected from these animals for evidence of zoonotic pathogens, especially *Leptospira* spp., investigating the hypothesis that increased water temperatures and the loss of sea ice may permit the survival of the spirochete in the Arctic. She received the Dr Roland "Doc" Lombard Student Research Award to study the prevalence of leptospirosis in dogs competing in the 2012 Iditarod.

Ms. Krafsur has been the proud owner of two Siberian Huskies, Krunches and Nuiqsut Nanuk, and she hopes to expand her ownership of these beautiful, hardworking dogs into a recreational team.



Kriya Dunlap, PhD, is a 1998 graduate of Cornell University (BS) and the University of Alaska, Fairbanks Institute of Arctic Biology (MS, PhD), where she is an assistant professor of biochemistry in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry.

Dr. Dunlap grew up surrounded by her parents' kennel of world champion racing sled dogs in upstate New York and she is no stranger to the sport of sled dog racing as reflected by her research over the last decade in sled dog nutrition and physiology with respect to anti-oxidants, immune function, hormone levels, and heavy metal toxicants.



Vassiliki Gouni, DVM, PhD, DECVIM-Cardiology, is a faculty member in clinical cardiology at the Alfort National School of Veterinary Medicine in Paris, France where she is involved in four areas of clinical research: 1) validation of echocardiographic and tissue Doppler imaging techniques and derivatives; 2) evaluation of renal function associated with heart diseases; 3) retrospective studies of several congenital and acquired heart diseases in dogs and cats; and 4) cohort constitution in view of genetic analyses.

Dr. Gouni was a member of the veterinary team for La Grande Odyssee Savoie-Mont Blanc sled dog race, where she was head of the cardiology field research protocol analyses.



Dominique Grandjean, DVM, PhD, HDR, is professor and Head of the K9 Breeding and Sports Medicine Unit at Alfort National School of Veterinary Medicine in Paris, France. He also is Colonel of the Paris Fire Brigade, in charge of the K9 search and rescue teams.

Since 1981, he has taught small animal clinical nutrition in Alfort, but his passion quickly grew to include working dogs, in particular sled dogs and search and rescue dogs. For the last 25 years, he has also been Chief Veterinarian for many national and international competitions, including the European and World Championships, Alpirod, Alaska Come Back, Scandream, La Grande Odyssee, and 13 times on the Iditarod.

Dr. Grandjean has received two major awards in conjunction with his research work on sled dogs: The ISDVMA's Tom Cooley Memorial Research Award, for his research into canine sports medicine; and the PRIDE award, presented to him by an umbrella group for all the international sled dog organizations.

As a fire brigade veterinarian, he has specialized in search and rescue dogs, and he is a member of the National Cynotechnic Commission of the French Defense and Civil Security, and he is Technical Cynotechnic Advisor to the Defense Zone of greater Paris.

He has published 29 books, including 2 encyclopedias dedicated to dog nutrition and working dog breeding and medicine, and he runs research programs focusing on oxidative stress and anti-oxidant nutrients, and on chronic inflammation related to stamina.

Dr. Grandjean is a board member for the International Working Dogs Breeding Association, a former board member of ISDVMA, vice president for the European Society of Firefighters Emergency Medicine, and he was a founding member for the European College of Comparative and Veterinary Nutrition.



William Liska, DVM, DACVS, is an Iowa State University 1973 graduate who completed his internship and surgery residency at The Animal Medical Center in New York. He has been in private practice in Houston, Texas, since 1976, offering referral surgery as a board certified veterinary surgeon.

He is the founder of Gulf Coast Veterinary Surgery and co-founder of Gulf Coast Veterinary Specialists and his work is predominantly veterinary orthopedics, with the major focus on total hip replacements in dogs.

Dr. Liska had followed the Iditarod sled dog marathon for 20 years before joining the veterinary team on the trail in 2003. With an empty nest from 3 children, an understanding wife of 43 years, and great practice partners, he can get away to enjoy the great outdoors in Alaska in the winter. He considers it a pleasure to work with and care for the most athletic endurance competitor in the world—the racing sled dog. He also enjoys his grandchildren, hunting, fishing, and flying.



Richard Long, DVM has been an ISDVMA member since the organization's inception in 1991. He served as the Facilities Chair for our 1996 meeting and conference in Edmonton, Alberta, and for many years since, as our Vice President. In this expansive role, he manages the ISDVMA@isdvma.org mailbox, organizes global teleconferences for ISDVMA board meetings (a lot like herding cats), and moderates the ISDVMA symposia, where he introduces the conference speakers. This year, Dr. Long again serves as our Facilities Chair with Dr. Devall. Welcome!

In 1986, Dr. Long was a trail veterinarian on the Yukon Quest for the first time, followed by eight more Quests, including three times as Head Veterinarian. In addition, he has served multiple times as a race veterinarian on the John Beargrease, Rocky Mountain Stage Stop, Iditarod, Race to the Sky, Pirena, Finnmarksløpet, and many smaller races in Northern Canada.

Dr. Long's seminal paper describing sled dog injuries as published in *The Compendium on Continuing Education* (1993) remains the foundation upon which most of today's sled dog injury research is inspired.

He currently resides in Edmonton with his wife and three teenagers where he oversees his single-person small animal practice. For the past four years, Dr. Long also has hosted an open-line radio program and he authors a syndicated newspaper pet column.

In addition to seeking the peace and quiet of exotic sled dog race checkpoints as an escape from the rigors of practicing veterinary medicine while raising three pre-adults, he also pursues such sports as mountain biking, snowboarding, running races, and hitting the gym.



Jaime Martínez, DVM, has been a small animal veterinarian in Barcelona, Spain, where he owns a small animal clinic, for 25 years. He started in the world of mushing through the Pirena sleddog race 15 years ago, and now is their Chief Veterinarian. Dr. Martínez also has served on the veterinary teams for the Iditarod, Yukon Quest, Finnmarksløpet, and Race to the Sky several times. In 2008, he had the honor of organizing the ISDVMA's 9th Biennial Symposium in Barcelona. Dr. Martínez has been an ISDVMA Board Member for the past four years.



Kathleen McGill, MBA, DVM, is a 1994 graduate of The Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine. She has been an ISDVMA member since 1996 and a board member since 2009. Over the years, Dr. McGill has served as a trail veterinarian for the Yukon Quest, Finnmarksløpet, John Beargrease, UP 200, Eagle Cap, and Iditarod, and she has been the Head Veterinarian for the Yukon Quest six times, beginning in 2004. In this role, she has worked to develop training videos for rookie veterinarians, standardized veterinary supply boxes, fully integrated veterinary students into the Quest medical team, and worked toward standardizing a body condition scoring system for racing sled dogs.

Until recently, Dr. McGill owned two small animal clinics in central Ohio with an emphasis on medicine and surgery, as well as teaching in a local veterinary technician program covering both large and small animal courses and techniques. Currently, she works exclusively as a small animal relief veterinarian in Ohio, Oregon, and Idaho.

Dr. McGill has owned and mushed Alaskan Malamutes for many years and she currently lives with an aging Siberian husky, a Malamute, and her Siamese sled cats.

In addition to mushing, her other passion is traveling, which proves to be a great combination with her work. She also serves on the board of The Ohio State University Veterinary Medical College Alumni Society, working to provide scholarships and course work enhancement programs in the face of budget cuts and increasing student debt loads.



Stuart Nelson, Jr., DVM, graduated from the University of Missouri School of Veterinary Medicine in 1976. In 1986, he had the opportunity to volunteer as a trail veterinarian for the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race. His love for the northern wilderness, combined with the excitement of working with those enthusiastic sled dogs, has resulted in a career devoted to the sport of mushing. Dr. Nelson has been the Iditarod Chief Veterinarian since 1996 and he has been proactive in promoting a number of research studies and protocols designed to enhance the wellbeing of the racing sled dog. His work as a relief veterinarian in Idaho and Alaska has given him the scheduling flexibility to pursue this passion. He is a charter member and the longest-serving member of the ISDVMA board of directors and he has organized the annual ISDVMA Sled Dog Veterinarian Training Seminar in Anchorage, Alaska, since 1996.

Dr. Nelson's second passion is solo remote river trips. Since 1983, he has completed 19 trips averaging 400 miles in length. The vast majority have included tributaries of the Peel River, located in the Yukon and Northwest Territories. An incident in August, 2010, resulted in a survival experience

that provides an important lesson for all who venture into the great outdoors. He will share that experience with us at the Friday noon luncheon buffet.



Monica Pacheco, DVM, graduated from the Madrid Complutense

University College of Veterinary Medicine in 1997 and now practices small animal medicine in her own clinic in Madrid, Spain. Dr. Pacheco is an active ISDVMA member and she has been the editor of the ISDVMA biennial meeting proceedings books for 2008, '10, and '12. She has been a member of the Pirena sled dog race veterinary team since 2005, and she has been a trail veterinarian on the Yukon Quest and Finnmarksløpet, as well. Dr. Pacheco also serves as the veterinary

advisor for the Mushing Committee of the Royal Spanish Winter Federation and most recently was the Spanish Team Leader for the 2011 IFSS World Championship Dryland sled dog races in Borken, Germany.



Jerry Vanek, MS, DVM, CCRT, has served as a sled dog veterinarian on

90 races and expeditions in North and South America, Europe, and Africa since 1992, including multiple times on the Iditarod, Yukon Quest, John Beargrease, and UP 200, as well as the Amundsen, Femundløpet, Finnmarksløpet, CanAm, Race to the Sky, Eagle Cap, and many others. In 1993, Dr. Vanek was the veterinarian on the Mount Vaughan Antarctic Expedition, and he has been a veterinarian on the biennial 1925 Diphtheria Serum Run reenactment 700 miles from Nenana to Nome,

Alaska, in 2007, '09' and '11. A musher since his teens and a former sprint race competitor, he still drives dogs whenever he can. He is an honorary life member of the North Star Sled Dog Club; a recipient of both the Maeb Bayers' Lifetime Achievement in Mushing award and the White Oak Classic Musher Tribute award; and a past president, life member, and charter board member of the ISDVMA. He is this year's Program Chair.

Dr. Vanek is a certified canine rehabilitation therapist and his veterinary practice is now limited to sled dogs. He is the co-inventor of the most commonly-used canine carpal support wrap in mushing, and over the past twenty years, he has produced more than 130 lectures and articles on sled dogs and sled dog medicine for veterinarians and mushers around the globe.



Molly Yazwinski, DVM, graduated from Cornell University College of

Veterinary Medicine in 2012. As a third-year veterinary student, Dr. Yazwinski worked with Dr. Joseph Wakshlag to conduct research on kilocalorie intake and serum biomarkers of exercise-induced inflammation in sled dogs during the 2011 Yukon Quest. For her work, she was named the recipient of the ISDVMA's Dr. Roland "Doc" Lombard Student Research Award.

Wrap-It-Up Friday Lunch Buffet

Soup and salad

- Start off the Friday Lunch Buffet with a bowl of tortilla soup,
- Then sample a selection of southwestern mango or jicama and citrus black bean slaw,
- Follow that with a mixed green salad and a choice of assorted dressings, or
- A plate of tomato, red onion, and cilantro with a lime vinaigrette topping

Main course

- Enjoy an assorted selection of pre-wrapped tortillas:
 - Chipotle chicken salad
 - Tuna salad
 - Black bean and beef
 - Pulled pork with chipotle mayonnaise, or
 - Try the grilled vegetable tortillas with eggplant, zucchini, and roasted peppers
- Add a side of taco chips with salsa, sour cream, and guacamole

Desert

- Top it all off with delicious fruit tarts
- A slice of chocolate raspberry cake, or
- Mango mousse

Our luncheon speaker

- Then sit back and enjoy a hair-raising trek through the northernmost wilderness of Yukon Territory with perennial Iditarod Chief Veterinarian, Dr. Stu Nelson, as he describes his harrowing journey of survival alone in the bush with no supplies or gear but what he carried in his pockets—his canoe, food, and all his life-saving possessions whisked away in the river's raging torrents!

Saturday Evening Grande Banquet

Salad course

- The Saturday evening gala begins with a plate of roasted pears, candied pecans, and golden raisins nested upon a foundation of baby spinach and topped with morsels of blue cheese and country bacon, then drizzled with maple marsala vinaigrette
- Accompanied by a Thai butternut bisque

Entrée choices

- The fête continues with a choice of succulent beef tenderloin in café au lait foie gras sauce, with Yukon gold potatoes, porcini pave, and a medley of vegetables, or
- Mouth-watering roasted salmon with a Chinook honey and chipotle glaze, creamed fennel and leeks, fingerling potatoes, and a medley of vegetables, or
- A sumptuous asparagus and brie tart with a black rice risotto

Desert

- The evening soirée will be crowned with Indian summer honey ice cream adorned with fresh seasonal berries

Casino Night on the Rocks

- Rounding out the Grande Banquet will be the ISDVMA's Casino Night on the Rocks, an evening of fabulous family fun, fun, fun! Experienced dealers and pit bosses will guide us through a night of high-stakes Rocky Mountain wagering with \$50,000.00 in almost real money. Bluff your way through Black Jack, take a dizzying spin at the Roulette Wheel, or roll a pair of snake eyes in a crafty game of Craps, and amaze your old high school math teachers with your perspicacious probability punditry. Those gifted gamblers amassing the most moola can bid with their funny money for real prizes auctioned off by the ISDVMA's major supporters. The fun alone makes everyone a winner!

WELCOME TO BANFF!

WESTERN CANADA'S FAVORITE PLAYGROUND

Banff National Park

Beautiful Banff National Park (www.banffnationalpark.com) lies in the majestic Canadian Rockies. First established in 1885, it is Canada's oldest national park, spanning 6,641 square km (2,564 sq mi) of protected terrain and encompassing picturesque mountains, glaciers, meadows, lakes, rivers, waterfalls, hot springs, and a wide array of stunning wild life. Outdoor activities are numerous and range from canoeing to horseback riding to sled dog touring. Unparalleled hiking and rock climbing await the adventurer. Nestled among the towering Mounts Rundle and Norquay, and Cascade, Sulphur, and Tunnel Mountains, Banff, Alberta, offers attractions, festivals, arts, outdoor adventure, and so much more.

The town of Banff (www.banff.ca) is less than 4 square km (1.5 sq mi) in size and lies at an elevation of 1463 m (4800 ft). It is located within a UNESCO World Heritage Site—a protected area that embodies a natural and serene, yet dynamic, way of life. Development is carefully managed within the townsite's existing footprint. A unique place, known for authentic culture as rich as its land, this uppermost Canadian town is a wonderful holiday destination for many international visitors. Banff offers a range of natural sights, museums, festivals along Banff Avenue, and a variety of unforgettable dining. The summer season sees over 4 million visitors to the area. In addition, the winter season also is popular, with three ski resorts nearby: Norquay Village, Sunshine Village, and Lake Louise Ski Resort.

On the edge of town, the Banff year-round sightseeing gondola ascends 2281 m (7484 ft) Sulphur Mountain on an 8-minute ride. From the summit's upper terminal, visitors can follow a boardwalk to Sanson Peak to enjoy beautiful views of the mountains and the town of Banff. Visitors also can take a short walk along the Banff Skywalk on a 1 km (0.6 mi) trail to the Cosmic Ray Station National Historic Site of Canada and the Meteorological Station to get even better views of the spectacular mountain vistas. Rocky Mountain sheep are a common sight here.

Sulphur Mountain also is the location of one of the most popular attractions of Banff—the Banff Upper Hot Springs. Here, visitors can enjoy the soothing mineral waters, which are kept between 37°C and 40°C (98.6°F – 104°F), get a relaxing massage at the Pleiades Massage and Spa, dine at the restaurant located above the gift shop, and enjoy the views from the outdoor terrace.

Just a short 45-minute drive away is the breathtaking pristine glacier mountain Lake Louise Resort, located on one of the most scenic drives in the world.

Only one day's journey west of Banff is the heart of the Okanagan Valley, Canada's wine country which overflows with lakes, beaches, and its famous vineyards (www.okanagan.com). East of Banff, across the vast Alberta prairie, are two more UNESCO World Heritage Sites: Dinosaur Provincial Park (www.albertaparks.ca/dinosaur.aspx) and Head Smashed in Buffalo Jump, where First Nations people once harvested the plains bison for their food, clothing, and shelter.

North from Banff, the adventurous explorer will discover the Ice Fields Parkway (www.icefieldsparkway.ca). This highway serpentine through the best of the Rocky Mountains between Banff and Jasper National Parks. Here, along the Parkway, sleep the Columbia Ice Fields, where simple hikes or guided tours on Glacier Buggies carry visitors across the crystalline skin of these mighty geological giants (www.explorerockies.com). Continuing northward, Jasper National Park proves to be

the quieter cousin of its southern neighbor. Unlike Banff, gentle Jasper boasts its own unique and subtle charms, such as Sunwapta Falls and Miette Hot springs (www.jasernationalpark.com).

The Fairmont Banff Springs

The 2012 ISDVMA Biennial Symposium's destination and host is the Fairmont Banff Springs (www.fairmont.com/banffsprings). Tucked away in the town of Banff, few hotels in the world can rival this castle in the mountains for its majesty, hospitality, and magnificent Rocky Mountain scenery. Styled after a Scottish baronial castle, the Fairmont Banff Springs offers stunning vistas, championship golf courses, unparalleled winter skiing, breathtaking hiking and mountain climbing, world-renowned cuisine, and a European-style spa. Their talented master chefs hail from across Canada and around the world and they are renowned for creating succulent meals that promise to tantalize one's taste sensations and make for an unforgettable culinary experience.

The Fairmont President's Club membership grants exclusive access to many special events, experiences, and opportunities that will create memories to cherish for lifetime, in addition to free internet access, 10% discounts on spa treatments, 15% discounts on gift store purchases, and much more. Registration is free and easy through the hotel website before arrival.

Willow Stream Spa at the Fairmont Banff Springs (www.willowstream.com/banffsprings) offers an oasis of wellbeing with pulsating waterfalls, tranquil mineral pools, and steam eucalyptus inhalation rooms. This is a favorite destination for guests and promises to reawaken the senses while relaxing the whole body. Time at the Spa must be reserved early (4-6 weeks prior to arrival).

On behalf of the entire ISDVMA, welcome to Banff!

Drs. Veronica Devall and Richard Long, Facilities Chair, 2012