



## Advanced Techniques in the Management of Small Animal Spinal Disorders



January 21, 2017 - January 22, 2017  
Las Vegas, Nevada, USA

The **AOVET North America Advanced Techniques in the Management of Small Animal Spinal Disorders** course is designed to help participants apply the AO Principles of anatomic reduction, stable fixation, atraumatic surgical technique and early, pain-free mobilization to small animal spinal surgery. The course will be taught by experienced faculty from both neurological and orthopedic spine surgery disciplines, with additional emphasis on imaging taught by a radiology faculty member. The modular course format will focus on the spine patient as a conceptual case study along with practical laboratory exercises on canine cadavers and plastic bone models. Participants in small groups will rotate through each module and laboratory over the two day period. Topics to be covered include: canine cervical and lumbosacral degenerative disease, atlanto-axial disease/trauma, cervical, thoracic and lumbar trauma, and stabilization of all spinal levels.

Faculty will encourage all participants to be actively involved with the small group discussions in order to optimize course relevance and experience.

Each treatment presented (surgical or medical) will cite the literature in the best evidenced-based fashion possible.

### Target Audience

1. ACVS or ACVIM Neurology Diplomates/ Small Animal Surgeons with an equivalent degree from other countries
2. Surgeons who have completed a Small Animal AO Veterinary Basic Principles and Advanced course
3. Attendees should be familiar with the approaches to the canine spine and ventral slot / hemi-laminectomy techniques

It is anticipated that participants have some spine experience to be able to actively participate in the case discussions and perform routine surgical approaches in the lab.

## Event Summary

### Tuition:

Level Name: Participant - Veterinary  
Pricing Tier: Attending  
Tuition: \$1,500.00

Level Name: Participant - Veterinary  
Pricing Tier: Audit  
Tuition: \$750.00

### Course Prerequisite(s):

No Prerequisites

### Venue:

Renaissance Las Vegas Hotel  
3400 Paradise Road  
Las Vegas, NV, USA  
Phone Number: 702 784 5700  
www.renaissancelasvegas.com

Viticus Group Eastern Campus  
5810 S. Eastern Ave.  
Las Vegas, Nevada, USA  
Phone Number: 702-739-6698  
www.viticusgroup.org

### Language(s):

English

### Directly Provided by:



### Professional Level Prerequisite(s):

No Prerequisites

## CME

### Continuing Education Credit: 14.50

- AO North America is a Registry of Approved Continuing Education (RACE) Provider (Number 50-26631).

#### Designation Statement

This program was reviewed and approved by the AAVSB RACE program for \_\_\_\_ hours of continuing education credit in jurisdictions which recognize AAVSB RACE approval. Please contact the AAVSB RACE program if you have any comments/concerns regarding this program's validity or relevancy to the veterinary profession.

**The Continuing Medical Education (CME) mission of AO North America (AONA®) is to provide comprehensive multidisciplinary needs based education to surgeons, fellows, and residents in the specialties of orthopedic, hand, craniomaxillofacial, spine, neurosurgery, and veterinary surgery in the areas of trauma (i.e.), operative reduction and fixation), degenerative disorders, deformities, tumors, and reconstruction.**

**Expected results of AONA's CME activities for surgeons, fellows, and residents are to:**

- Increase their knowledge base and surgical skill level
- Improve competence by applying advances of knowledge in patient care in the areas of trauma, degenerative disorders, deformities, tumors, and reconstructive surgical techniques
- Address practice performance gaps by improving management of aspects of traumatic injuries and musculoskeletal disorders (i.e., pre-operative planning to post-operative care)

## Learning Objectives

**Upon completion, participants should be able to:**

- Comprehend the principles of injury mechanisms and fracture classifications for the canine spine
- Identify the anatomic and biomechanical issues in canine spinal fixation
- Describe treatment options for surgical and non-surgical management of small animal spinal disorders
- Apply skills developed in the practical exercises to surgical practice
- Apply AO Principles to small animal spinal surgery

## Faculty



### Hettlich, Bianca - Co-Chairperson

PD Dr., DACVS, DECVS  
Priv. Doz. Dr. med vet  
Stuttgart

Dr. Hettlich received her veterinary degree from the Ludwig Maximilian University in Munich, Germany. She completed her internship and small animal surgery residency training at Texas A&M University and remained there for an additional 4 years as neurosurgery faculty. After working at The Ohio State University for 7 years, she moved to Switzerland and joined the Vetsuisse Faculty of Bern. Dr. Hettlich is a Diplomate of both the American and European College of Veterinary Surgeons as well as a Member of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons. She is an orthopedic and spine surgeon with special clinical and research interests in spinal trauma and spinal biomechanics. Dr. Hettlich has completed both the AO Faculty and Chair Educational Programs.



### Kerwin, Sharon - Co-Chairperson

DVM, MS, DACVS, DACVIM  
Professor  
Small Animal Clinical Sciences  
College of Veterinary Medicine  
Texas A & M University  
College Station, Texas

Dr. Kerwin received her DVM from Texas A&M University, completed a small animal rotating internship at Louisiana State University and completed a small animal surgery residency at LSU along with a Master of Science degree in veterinary physiology. She is a diplomate of both the American College of Veterinary Surgeons and the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine (neurology). Her clinical and research interests involve orthopedics and neurology, with a special interest in fracture repair and spinal surgery, as well as feline orthopedics and neurology.



### Bergman, Robert - Lecturer

DVM, MS, DACVIM  
Carolina Veterinary Specialists Medical Center  
Charlotte, North Carolina

Robert Bergman DVM, MS Diplomate, ACVIM, Medical Director – Matthews Dr. Bergman received his DVM from the University of Georgia in 1997. He then completed a small animal rotating internship at the University of Georgia. Following internship, he pursued a residency in neurology and neurosurgery at the Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine. Concurrently, he completed a Master's Degree at Virginia Tech with a focus on neuroscience and cerebrospinal fluid analysis. He became a diplomate of ACVIM specialty of neurology in 2001. Following residency, he was a clinical assistant professor of neurology and neurosurgery at Texas A&M for 2 years. At present, he is a staff neurologist and serves as medical director at Carolina Veterinary Specialists, in Charlotte, NC. Dr. Bergman has lectured at multiple specialty meetings including ACVIM and ACVS, as well as giving numerous lectures on neurology and neurosurgery nationally and internationally. He has been an author on many articles and book chapters related to neurology and neurosurgery. Currently he serves as faculty on multiple teaching committees related to veterinary neurosurgery. He has been involved with the newly established AO Vet Spine course, as well as being a member Veterinary Neurosurgery Education Committee and an instructor of the ACVIM Advanced Techniques Course Neurosurgery. While busy in private practice, he enjoys teaching neurosurgery to residents, neurologists and those interested in the advancement of veterinary neurosurgery from around the world. He has a particular interest in neurosurgery including spinal fusion, spinal trauma and neurosurgical oncology. Conditions treated surgically include intervertebral disc disease, spinal fractures, cervical spondylomyelopathy (wobbler's syndrome), congenital malformations, spinal tumors, lumbosacral stenosis, brain tumors, head trauma, skull malformations (COMs) and hydrocephalus. Areas of Special Interest: Spinal Fusion, Neurosurgical Oncology, Inflammatory Diseases of the CNS



### Boudrieau, Randy - Lecturer

DVM, DACVS, DECVS  
ACVS & AVDC Founding Fellow, Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery  
Tantara Surgical Consultants, LLC  
Sherborn, MA  
Professor of Clinical Sciences Emeritus  
Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine at Tufts University  
North Grafton, Massachusetts

Dr. Boudrieau is Professor of Clinical Sciences Emeritus in the Department of Clinical Sciences, Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine at Tufts University, North Grafton, Massachusetts; USA. He currently also is involved with mentoring and case consultation with Tantara Surgical Specialists, LLC. Dr. Boudrieau is a Diplomate of both the American College of Veterinary Surgeons (ACVS) the European College of Veterinary Surgeons (ECVS), and is a Founding Fellow in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery with both the ACVS and AVDC. He is an active member in a number of veterinary orthopedic organizations, including ACVS, ECVS, AO, ESVOT and VOS, the latter of which he also served as President. His primary areas of interest includes: biomechanics, bone healing, growth factors (rhBMP-2), maxillofacial trauma, cruciate ligament disease, and joint replacement.

**Fauber, Amy - Lecturer**

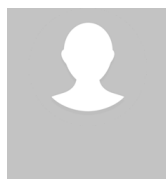
DVM, MS, DACVS, DACVIM  
Neurologist and Neurosurgeon  
CARE | Charlotte Animal Referral & Emergency  
Charlotte, North Carolina

Dr. Amy Fauber is a veterinary neurosurgeon at CARE | Charlotte Animal Referral & Emergency in Charlotte, North Carolina. Prior to joining CARE she was an Assistant Professor of Small Animal Surgery and Neurology at Purdue University. Originally from Ohio, she completed her DVM degree at Ohio State University in 2002. Following her internship at Oradell Animal Hospital in Paramus, NJ she completed a three year residency in small animal surgery at Purdue University. She became a Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Surgeons in 2007. Dr. Fauber then completed her neurology residency as a joint residency between Carolina Veterinary Specialists in Charlotte, NC and Purdue University. She became a Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine (Neurology) in 2012. Her areas of interest include spinal stabilization, pain management, and training neurology and surgery residents in neurosurgery.

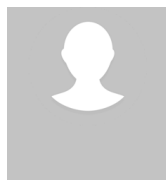
**Ko, Rainier - Lecturer**

DVM, MS, DACVS, DACVIM  
Veterinary Neurologist and Neurosurgeon  
Small Animal Surgeon  
Powers Pet Emergency & Specialty Services  
Colorado Springs, Colorado

Born in Montreal, Canada, Dr. Ko completed his biology undergraduate degree at McGill University, and his DVM in 2000 from the University of Montreal. Following an internship at Angell Memorial Animal Hospital in Boston, Dr. Ko returned to his veterinary college in Montreal as a laboratory instructor in small animal anatomy and applied surgical anatomy. He then completed a residency in small-animal surgery and a master of science degree at Purdue University in 2005, earning board certification in 2007. Dr. Ko spent three years as a staff surgeon at Alameda East Veterinary Hospital and starred on Animal Planet's popular television series "E-Vet Interns." He returned to Purdue in 2008 as an assistant professor in small-animal orthopedics and neurosurgery. Dr. Ko completed a neurology residency at Colorado State University and Wheat Ridge Animal Hospital in Denver, achieving board-certification in neurology in 2014. This formidable accomplishment distinguishes Dr. Ko as one of only seven individuals worldwide with double-boarded certification in veterinary surgery and neurology. He is currently chief of neurosurgery at Powers Pet Emergency and Specialty in Colorado Springs, Colorado, and member of the ACVIM neurology credentialing committee.

**McDonnell, Jay - Lecturer**

MS, DVM, DACVIM  
Neurologist-Neurosurgeon  
Veterinary Neurology of the Chesapeake  
Annapolis, Maryland

**Nelson, Nathan - Lecturer**

DVM, MS  
Diagnostic Imaging  
College of Veterinary Medicine  
Michigan State University  
East Lansing, Michigan

**Sanders, Sean - Lecturer**

BA, BASc, DVM, PhD  
DACVIM - Neurology  
Neurologist  
The NeuroVets  
Seattle, Washington

**Schuster, James - Evaluator, Lecturer**

MD, PhD  
Professor of Neurosurgery  
Sarcoma Treatment Team Member  
Director of Neurotrauma  
Educational Director  
University of Pennsylvania  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Dr. Schuster is Professor of Neurosurgery at the University of Pennsylvania and Chief of the Neurosurgery Service at Penn Presbyterian Medical Center, where he is the Director of Neurotrauma. His clinical and research interest include spinal oncology and spinal trauma.

## AO NA Disclaimer Information

### Faculty Disclosure:

It is the policy of AO North America to abide by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education Standards for Commercial Support. Standard 2: "Disclosures Relevant to Potential Commercial Bias and Relevant Financial Relationships of Those with Control over CME Content," requires all planners, including course directors, chairs, and faculty, involved in the development of CME content to disclose their relevant financial relationships prior to participating in the activity. Relevant financial relationships will be disclosed to the activity audience. The intent of the disclosure is not to prevent a faculty with a relevant financial or other relationship from teaching, but to provide participants with information that might be of importance to their evaluation of content. All potential conflicts of interest have been resolved prior to the commencement of this activity.

### Off-Label / Experimental Discussions:

Some medical devices used for teaching purposes and/or discussed in AO North America's educational activities may have been cleared by the FDA for specific uses only or may not yet be approved for any purpose. Faculty may discuss off-label, investigational, or experimental uses of products/devices in CME certified educational activities. Faculty have been advised that all recommendations involving clinical medicine in this CME activity are based on evidence that is accepted within the profession of medicine as adequate justification for their indications and contraindications in the care of patients.

All scientific research referred to, reported or used in this CME activity in support or justification of a patient care recommendation conforms to the generally accepted standards of experimental design, data collection and analysis.

### Disclaimer:

AONA does not endorse nor promote the use of any product/device of commercial entities. Equipment used in this course is for teaching purposes only with the intent to enhance the learning experience.

### USE THE BELOW TEXT FOR DIDACTIC COURSES ONLY!

The opinions or views expressed in this live continuing medical education activity are those of the faculty and do not necessarily reflect the opinions or recommendations of AO North America or any commercial supporter. The certificate provided pertains only to the participants' completion of the course.

### Conflict of Interest Resolution Statement:

When individuals in a position to control or influence the development of the content have reported financial relationships with one or more commercial interests, AO North America utilizes a process to identify and resolve potential conflicts to ensure that the content presented is free of commercial bias.

### Liability Statement:

AO North America faculty and staff assume no personal liability for the techniques or the use of any equipment and accessories used for teaching purposes in the laboratory. The certificate provided pertains only to the participants' completion of the course and does not, in any way, attest to the proficiency of the participants' clinical experience.

### Laboratory Waiver:

To participate in this surgical skills course, you will be required to sign a waiver of liability prior to the course. In order to participate, AONA's policy mandates that every individual must wear appropriate protective garments provided by AO NA during the lab sessions. Participants who do not sign the waiver and wear protective garments will not be allowed to participate in the laboratory sessions.

### Human Anatomic Specimens:

This course will involve exposure to and contact with human anatomic specimens. These specimens are being utilized for purposes of teaching and learning and are to be treated with the utmost respect. Participants should be familiar with and understand the potential risks involved and will be required to observe all customary safety procedures.

### Animal Anatomic Specimens:

This course will involve exposure to and contact with animal anatomic specimens. These specimens are being utilized for purposes of teaching and learning and are to be treated with the utmost respect. Participants should be familiar with and understand the potential risks involved and will be required to observe all customary safety procedures.

## Acknowledgment

### In-Kind Support

AO North America gratefully acknowledges in-kind support for equipment and technical staff from J&JMedTech.

### Educational Grant

AO North America gratefully acknowledges funding for its education activities from the AO Foundation. The AO Foundation receives funding for education from Synthes GmbH.