



## Andrea Spiri wins the 2022 Young Scientist Award

The 2022 ABCD Young Scientist Award, funded by Boehringer Ingelheim Animal Health goes to Dr Andrea Spiri (33), of the Zurich University Department of Clinical Diagnostics. She will deliver a short presentation and accept her award during the congress of the International Society of Feline Medicine, held in Rhodes from 30 June to 3 July 2022. Her poster will also be available for viewing.

### Feline calicivirus shedding and vaccine immunity

Andrea's study looks at the vaccine immunity and environmental contamination in feline calicivirus infection. *'Anti-FCV antibodies do not fully depict the immune status of the cat, and the heterologous cellular immune response after FCV F9 vaccination should be taken into account, explains Andrea Spiri. Her study also investigated the environmental contamination with FCV after experimental infection due to shedding. 'FCV RNA was found on all items tested in the environment of the cats – for a long period of time – including in the ventilation filter, suggesting the possibility of viral transmission by aerosol.'*

Dr Karin Moestl, vice president of the European Advisory Board on Cat Diseases (ABCD) congratulated the laureate, commenting: *'Andrea has performed an extensive study using a broad range of methods, which have led to new insights into various aspects of FCV infection and immunity, with practical relevance.'*

### Cat-friendly sample collection

Dr Regina Hofmann-Lehmann, ABCD member and supervisor of Andrea's PhD thesis, added that she had integrated refinement (3R) measures during all her experimental cat studies. *'Andrea trained all her study cats with positive reinforcement for blood and sample collection, so that all collections could be conducted without anaesthesia or physical restraint throughout the entire studies'. In doing so, 'the daily interactions between the animal care takers as well as veterinarians and the study cats were playful, more relaxed and stress-free and, in turn, the quality of the interaction for both, cats and humans, was significantly more valuable and beneficial'.*

Andrea Spiri is member of the Federation of European Laboratory Animal Science Associations (FELASA) working group on rehoming of animals used for scientific purposes and education.

### ABCD & Boehringer Ingelheim Young Scientist Awards

*'Our company is strongly committed to supporting independent research in the field of feline infectious diseases, and the Young Scientist Award presented by the ABCD and sponsored by BIAH is a perfect illustration of this commitment,'* said Dr Jean-Philippe Tronel, Director of the Global Technical Services for Pet Vaccines at Boehringer Ingelheim. *"The quality of the works submitted every year reflects the interest of the young researchers for feline infectious diseases, and is reassuring for the future of preventative medicine, a strategic pillar for BIAH"*

The Young Scientist Award, created in 2008, is presented annually to young scientists in veterinary or biomedical sciences, who have made an original contribution in the field of feline infectious diseases and/or immunology.

**Photo caption:** Andrea Spiri, recipient of the 2022 ABCD and Boehringer Ingelheim Young Scientist Award.

For further information, please contact Karin de Lange, ABCD secretary, [karin@abcdcatsvets.org](mailto:karin@abcdcatsvets.org)

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### Notes to Editors:

■ The European Advisory Board on Cat Diseases (ABCD) is an independent panel of 16 leading veterinarians (14 active and 2 consulting members) from eleven European countries, with an expertise in immunology, vaccinology and/or feline medicine. The ABCD was set up to compile guidelines for the prevention and management of major feline infectious diseases in Europe, based on current scientific knowledge. For more information, please visit [www.abcdcatsvets.org](http://www.abcdcatsvets.org)

■ **Boehringer Ingelheim Animal Health** is working on first-in-class innovation for the prediction, prevention, and treatment of diseases in animals. For veterinarians, pet owners, farmers, and governments in more than 150 countries, we offer a large and innovative portfolio of products and services to improve the health and well-being of companion animals and livestock. As a global leader in the animal health industry and as part of family-owned Boehringer Ingelheim, we take a long-term perspective. The lives of animals and humans are interconnected in deep and complex ways. We know that when animals are healthy, humans are healthier too. By using the synergies between our Animal Health and Human Pharma businesses and by delivering value through innovation, we enhance the health and well-being of both. For more information visit: <https://www.boehringer-ingelheim.com/animal-health>