The 22nd Annual Veterinary Dental Forum was held at the Hyatt Regency Riverfront in Jacksonville, Florida, September 25–28, 2008. The Forum is cosponsored annually by the Academy of Veterinary Dentistry, the American Veterinary Dental College, and the American Veterinary Dental Society. Over 122 presentations were submitted for the 22nd Veterinary Dental Forum. Many lectures were presented for attendees at all levels of experience in veterinary dentistry, from fundamentals to intermediate to advanced sessions in companion animals including horses.

Brief clinical reports provided insight into the management of unusual and difficult cases. Some of these presentations were “Tongue Avulsion in the Dog,” “Use of an Acrylic Inclined Plane in the Cat,” “Malignant Melanoma of the Left Maxilla in the Cat,” and “Diagnosis and Treatment of a Rare Odontogenic Cyst in a Dog.”

Research presentations were given by professionals involved in oral and dental research. Some of the research presentations were “Use of Cyclosporine for the Treatment of Refractory Feline Gingivostomatitis,” “Multi-Quadrant Osteomyelitis of the Jaws in Seven Dogs,” “Review and Preliminary Results of Epidemiological Factors and Laboratory Data in Dogs with Tooth Resorption,” and “Evaluation of Full Cast Metal Crowns.” An in-depth update was also provided concerning the ongoing work toward the selection of products to receive the Veterinary Oral Health Council seal of approval.

There were numerous lectures and wet laboratories dedicated to veterinary technicians. Topics for technicians included oral anatomy, dental radiography, pocket pet dentistry for the veterinary technician, homecare products, recognition of oral tumors in dogs and cats, and periodontal therapy.

There were informative and interactive sessions on marketing and management in practices, including "Knowing Your Costs and Price for Profit and Tax Planning and Communication and Teamwork,” “Managing Conflict with Co-Workers,” “Dealing with Stress and Burnout,” and “Managing Change and Transition.”

Numerous exotic animal dentistry lectures were presented, including lectures from the newly formed Peter Emily International Veterinary Dental Foundation, on wild carnivores and upland gorillas. Other topics in the exotic lecture sessions were “Captive Exotic Field Dentistry,” “Dental Disease of Ferrets,” “Dealing with Lagomorph and Rodent Dental Abscesses,” and “Exotic Carnivore Endodontic Treatment Laboratory.”

There were 23 four-hour-long wet laboratories, including oral surgery laboratories, periodontology laboratories, endodontic, orthodontic, and restorative laboratories and a digital dental radiography laboratory.

An update on the progress of the Veterinary Dental Educators (VDE) Group was reported at the Forum. Over the past 4 years, through donations from Academy of Veterinary Dentistry, the American Veterinary Dental College, and the American Veterinary Dental Society and university, corporate, and individual sponsors, the VDE Group has been providing scholarships for veterinary students to receive a 10-module, online small animal dentistry course complete with online quizzes and a certificate of completion. For the 2008–2009 academic year the VDE Group has provided $15,000 in funding to sponsor this educational opportunity for 500 veterinary students at 20 different veterinary colleges. This online educational experience is provided through the Office of Public Engagement at the University of Illinois.

The keynote address, entitled “Mediators of Inflammation,” was presented by Dr. Sam Low, DDS. Dr. Low is a professor of periodontology and associate dean at the College of Dentistry, University of Florida, and maintains a private practice in periodontics and placement of implants.