



## **The UK's only ECC Congress line-up announced, as the event prepares to move to a new home**

The UK's only dedicated emergency and critical care Congress for the veterinary profession has revealed an exciting line-up for its annual event later this year (7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> November 2019), the first time Congress will be held at a brand new venue, the [Royal Armouries](#) in Leeds.

Congress organisers, [Vets Now](#), has announced world-renowned Consultant Anaesthetist in human medicine Professor Kevin Fong as the keynote speaker, who will deliver a welcome plenary session – a first at Congress – about *risk management: life, death and mistakes*, to more than 750 delegates.

Professor Fong, who wrote the acclaimed book *Extreme Medicine*, speaks to medical professionals all over the world and whilst he's a medically-trained doctor, author, and TV presenter, he also studied astrophysics and space medicine, therefore his specialism lies in working in extreme environments.

Joining a stellar line-up within the leading veterinary conference programme is leading emergency vet Ken Drobotz, Professor of Critical Care at the University of Pennsylvania. Highly-respected vet nurse Louise O'Dwyer will also speak at the event. O'Dwyer this year became the first vet nurse from the UK to be elected president of the Academy of Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care.

The programme for the 2019 Congress is being coordinated by American, European and RCVS-recognised specialist in emergency and critical care, Dan Lewis, who is based at Vets Now's 24/7 emergency and specialty hospital in Glasgow. Dan and his team have developed brand new streams for the innovative programme this year.

Dan said: "Congress aims to progress our professions, and with the largest emergency caseload in Europe at Vets Now, we're well placed to help share best practice when dealing with emergency cases. We're bringing together some of the world's leading ECC experts to share our knowledge with vets and vet nurses, bringing them the most up-to-date, inspiring content."

Congress offers exceptionally broad and diverse CPD opportunities, whatever stage vets and nurses are at in their career, and the new venue in Leeds has allowed organisers to evolve to a more expansive and inclusive event format. Dan added: "No matter what stage you're at with your career, whether you're a new graduate through to a certificate holder, and regardless of your experience in ECC – there is a relevant CPD stream to suit you."

On talking about the new content being introduced at Congress 2019, Dan continued: "We're introducing a brand new wellness, business and culture stream, advanced practitioner stream plus a lecture stream with content specifically tailored to recent graduates in ECC. We're also hosting some 'debate lectures', where two ECC experts present opposing sides of controversial subjects,



hopefully without coming to blows! 2019 offers a bigger and better learning experience whilst still retaining the unique friendly and social culture which Congress has become renowned for.”

Vets Now’s Amanda Boag, who is the current RCVS President, will introduce an honest, frank conversational stream around ‘*The first time I...*’. These will be delivered by the ECC specialist/referral teams who will take delegates back to the first time they dealt with some of the most challenging cases you could see in emergency medicine.

Headline speaker Ken Drobatz will cover a year in review of the professions and he’ll also drill into detail around altered mentation and dealing with respiratory distress.

Selling out in record time last year, the ECC Congress was established by Vets Now in 2004 to provide innovative training to the veterinary profession.

It has since grown into one of the biggest events of its kind in Europe— offering delegates more than 70 hours of CPD under one roof, delivered across a stimulating and diverse range of lectures, discussion forums, debate and interactive workshops.

Congress isn’t only about learning, however, as each night will also feature a different social event to allow delegates to network and relax after a day’s learning.

Event sponsors include Woodley Equipment, Boehringer Ingelheim, TMV UK and IMV Imaging.

The ECC UK Congress 2019 will be held on 7 and 8 November and online booking is now open [here](#). For more information visit [www.vets-now.com/professionals/](http://www.vets-now.com/professionals/)

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**Vets Now notes to editor:**

- Vets Now was established in 2001 and is the leading provider of emergency veterinary care for companion animals in the UK.
- With 24/7 Pet Emergency Hospitals in Glasgow, Manchester and Swindon, and 59 out-of-hours clinics nationwide, Vets Now is committed to delivering a responsive emergency and critical care service for cats, dogs and other small animals.
- Vets Now also partners with more than 1,400 veterinary practices across the UK to provide their clients with a seamless out-of-hours emergency care service.
- Vets Now employs over 1000 staff.
- Vets Now remains at the forefront of emergency veterinary care through its commitment to clinical excellence and training, employing many of the country’s top Emergency & Critical Care