



## **Katharina Zwicklbauer wins the 2024 Young Scientist Award**

The 2024 ABCD Young Scientist Award, funded by Boehringer Ingelheim Animal Health has been presented to Dr Katharina Zwicklbauer (27), of the Small Animal Clinic of the Ludwig-Maximilians-University in Munich, Germany. She received her award after a short presentation at the recent congress of the International Society of Feline Medicine, held in Malta from 27 to 30 June.

### **Feline infectious peritonitis: 42-day treatment is equally effective**

Katharina's study focused on the treatment of cats with feline infectious peritonitis (FIP). In Malta, she gave a presentation on her recent studies before she was presented with the award, consisting of a certificate and the invitation to a scientific congress of her choice. Professor Margaret Hosie, president of the European Advisory Board on Cat Diseases (ABCD), warmly congratulated the laureate, commenting that *'Katharina's research has had a major impact in the field of treatment of cats with FIP.'*

*'She has demonstrated the remarkable efficacy of an oral multi-compound drug, containing GS-441524, having treated 18 cats with naturally occurring FIP for 84 days in a prospective study achieving an unprecedented 100% survival rate,'* ABCD member Regina Hofmann-Lehmann stated. The study also demonstrated that a shorter treatment duration of only 42 days is equally effective as the conventional 84-day regimen. *'Her discoveries have been instrumental in saving the lives of countless cats in both the short- and long-term,'* Katrin Hartmann, ABCD member and supervisor of Katharina's PhD thesis, noted.

### **A new protocol for flow cytometry measurement in cats**

Katharina's research has also led to the development of a new protocol for flow cytometry measurement in feline medicine. *'Katharina's new protocol allows samples to be stabilized for long-term storage so that they can be analyzed by flow cytometry at a later time-point – this is a major advantage,'* Katrin Hartmann stressed.

*'Boehringer Ingelheim is strongly committed to supporting independent research in the field of feline infectious diseases, and the Young Scientist Award represents a wonderful collaboration between our company and the ABCD,'* said Dr Jean-Philippe Tronel, director of the global technical services for pet vaccines at Boehringer Ingelheim. *'We congratulate Katharina and encourage everyone to check out the previous winners, most of whom are still active researchers contributing to the health of our beloved cats.'*

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 captions:** Katharina Zwicklbauer, recipient of the 2024 ABCD and Boehringer Ingelheim Young Scientist Award, flanked by Jean-Philippe Tronel (Boehringer Ingelheim) and Margaret Hosie (ABCD). On photo 2, Corine Boucraut-Baralon (ABCD) is also present.

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

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### **Notes to Editors:**

■ The **European Advisory Board on Cat Diseases (ABCD)** is an independent panel of 15 leading veterinarians 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.abdcatsvets.org](http://www.abdcatsvets.org)

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