

Speakers at Vetnet Conference 2024

1. Anders Fiil Nybo: My experiences in using AI in interactive case studies in teaching VN

My name is Anders Fiil Nybo, and I'm a veterinarian working as a teacher at the veterinary nurse school, Hansenberg in Denmark. Over the past three years, I've had the privilege of teaching veterinary nursing students in subjects such as diagnostic equipment, anatomy and physiology, and communication.

In addition to my role as an educator, I have three children under the age of seven, who keep me busy outside of work hours 😊

I've also embarked on an exciting journey of integrating artificial intelligence (AI) into my teaching. I see AI as a tool to enhance learning and guide my students in improving their learning prospects. My goal is not to replace traditional education but to participate in transforming the learning environment and offer students new ways to understand and master challenging subjects.

I look forward to sharing more about my experiences and ideas.



2. Helen Silver-MacMahon

Helen qualified as an RVN in 2000 and has worked in both first opinion and referral hospitals. Since qualifying, she has gained certificates in ECC and Small Animal Nutrition and the Advanced Diploma in Veterinary Nursing (surgical).

In 2021, Helen completed a MSc in Patient Safety and Clinical Human Factors at the University of Edinburgh and is currently undertaking a PhD at Sheffield Hallam exploring the non-technical skills that veterinary nurses require when monitoring and maintaining anaesthesia. She is also working towards chartered ergonomist status.

Helen is passionate about developing the veterinary profession's understanding of Human Factors as a powerful aid in improving patient safety, enhancing performance, and supporting the wellbeing of the veterinary team. She enjoys lecturing internationally and has written articles and co-authored several book chapters on both clinical and non-clinical aspects practice. Helen is also collaborating with the University of Aberdeen to research Incivility in veterinary practice.



3. Gillian Coughlan RVN BSc PGDE MSc

Gillian graduated from Athlone Institute of Technology with a BSc in Veterinary Nursing in 2007. Having practised in both first opinion companion animal practice and referral equine practice, she returned to college to study a BSc in Agricultural science (AIT) and a Post Graduate Diploma in Education (NUIG). In 2015 she completed an MSc by Research through NUIM in Veterinary Microbiology entitled 'Studies on the novel detection and destruction of the enteroparasite *Giardia lamblia* and other veterinary problematic microorganisms examined under varying culture conditions'.

Gillian commenced her role at AIT in 2011 as lecturer on the BSc in Veterinary Nursing. As programme coordinator her role includes the education and training of veterinary nurses, updating and developing the Veterinary Nursing programme and working to ensure the programme delivered by TUS is maintaining standards set out by the Veterinary Council of Ireland (VCI), striving to provide students with every opportunity to apply scientific theory to practice.

Gillian has been a member of the VCI's Veterinary Nursing Training and Education Committee and regularly sits on validation and accreditation panels for the RCVS, ACOVENE and the VCI. She is an active member of Academic Council in the Technological University of the Shannon.

Gillian is currently working with research groups in PRISM Research Institute and the Bioscience Research Institute and has recently received N-Tutorr and SATLE funding to investigate the use of software instead of paper-based marking of OSCEs and DOPS assessments.

She has a keen interest in agricultural sustainability, the ONE Health approach to achieve better public and environmental health, progressing veterinary nursing education and the profession.

Interests and Hobbies

Gillian enjoys playing music, farming, baking, drama and motorsport.



4. Kirsten Hølmkjær, DVM, PhD: What is the cat trying to say?

The study of companion animal behavior involves interpretation of body postures, gestures, vocalization and much more, which often changes rapidly. An animal's behavior is also affected by the internal feelings and how the environment responds to the animal's signals. The complexity of animal behavior is therefore difficult to teach and learn based on textbooks and photographs alone. Fortunately, the internet is a vast source of video material.

In this workshop we will demonstrate how we incorporate video examples in the teaching of companion animal behavior to veterinary nurse students at HANSENBERG. We will mimic a typical lesson: starting with some basic theory concerning cat behavior, followed by the attendees watching and discussing related video material and concluding with a follow up in plenum.

A smartphone or tablet is needed for this workshop as well as access to the internet, a pair of headphones is recommended.

Kirsten Hølmkjær, DVM, PhD, has taught companion animal behavior and disease theory at HANSENBERG since 2017.



5. Ursula Poulsen, DVM : How do we facilitate learning transfer of anesthetic equipment in the veterinary nurse education (from theory to practice)?

In Denmark a veterinary nurse is authorized to perform many tasks during anesthesia of the patients. The school teach theoretic basics and the work placement train the practical tasks to the student. In order to ensure transfer between school and practice, the school give the students opportunity to familiarize themselves with the various equipment of the tasks. They work with a group of other students – cooperative learning – and receives feedback from a teacher in the end.

In this workshop we will demonstrate how we teach anesthetic equipment. We will mimic a typical lesson: starting with basic theory concerning the equipment (very short), followed by the attendees doing a number of small stations with different equipment and related tasks.

Ursula Poulsen, DVM, teacher in the subject Anesthesia (companion animals) at HANSENBERG

6. Kamilla Fyrstman: Train the trainer and empower the vet nurse.

Through the background as training organizer at a Danish animal hospital, I encountered a need for further knowledge and guidance to effectively fulfill my role. The STYRKVSP.dk initiative was designed to equip training personnel with essential, contemporary information and tools to adeptly address student-related responsibilities.

The project aimed to increase the quality of the collaboration between HANSENBERG and the Danish clinics/veterinary hospitals that train veterinary nursing students. Among other things, the project had two areas of action, the first of which was to improve communication between the parties and ensure easy availability of the necessary information for both those responsible for training and the students themselves.

The second area of effort was regional workshops for the training managers, where topics such as the learning platform, the purpose of the traineeship report, conflict management, entering into and canceling training agreements and aids for the training manager were reviewed.

Kamilla Fyrstman – Current: Traineeship Consultant at HANSENBERG

Background: Authorised veterinary nurse, Professional veterinary nurse in management and Headnurse responsible for the student training



7. Nikki Ruedisueli: How far we have progressed – a professional and publishing journey

I'm Nikki Ruedisueli and am the Editor for the Veterinary Nursing Journal (VNJ). This talk will discuss how BVNA brought the publishing of the VNJ in-house and the journey that got us to developing a digital platform. We will look at how not only the VN profession has changed but how the quality of the journal has moved with the times.

The VNJ content is written by student and registered veterinary nurses and can vary from personal journeys, interviews, case studies and clinical articles. We can empower students and improve their confidence by encouraging them to write articles where they can contribute to the evidence-base of nursing care.

I qualified as a veterinary nurse in 1985 whilst working at Liverpool University Small Animal Hospital. I moved to Nottingham to work in an orthopaedic referral practice before moving to Mars UK for twelve years. During this time, I managed veterinary practices in the South West area selling clinical diets and educating vets and nurses on nutrition. I progressed to working as a veterinary nurse at the Waltham Centre for Pet Nutrition, then on to the Technical Helpline. After training veterinary students in clinical nutrition, I moved to Nottingham Trent University to write the FdSc Veterinary Nursing programme in 2008.

In 2019, I jumped at the chance to become the Head of Learning and Development at the BVNA.

My role has now evolved to Editor, as BVNA moved to publish the VNJ in-house in 2022 using designers and digital publishers to produce the bi-monthly journal. We could not achieve the high-quality content without students and veterinary nurses sending us their work. I am proud to be part of building evidence-based nursing practice.

I still work in a local veterinary hospital on a weekend rota to keep up to date with my nursing skills.



8. Srdjan Bardak Lukic: Next-Gen Learning: AI Meets Vet Nurses

Join us for 'Next-Gen Learning: AI Meets Vet Nurses,' a dynamic workshop at the VETNNET conference designed to revolutionize veterinary nursing education through artificial intelligence. Discover how AI can transform teaching methods, enhance student learning, and optimize educational outcomes. This hands-on session will introduce you to AI basics, from text and image models like ChatGPT to Bing Copilot, allowing you to experience firsthand the power of AI tools. Learn practical strategies to integrate AI into your curriculum, making education more interactive, efficient, and tailored to individual learning styles. Don't miss this opportunity to be at the forefront of educational innovation in veterinary nursing studies.

9. Nina De Franco: Exploring the Vetiverse: The Digital Evolution of VR in Veterinary Education

The use of Virtual Reality (VR) in the medical field has been increasing its presence in recent years however the use in Veterinary Nursing has not yet been established. The Veterinary Nursing programme at The College of Animal Welfare have been pioneering the use of VR for the training of their Veterinary Nursing students in the workplace. VR in Veterinary Nursing

allows a safe environment whereby students can gain confidence in the day one skills associated with the job role and practise these skills without any adverse impact relating to the animals/clients or other external factors. Much research into VR in education highlights accessibility and inclusivity for all learners as being the biggest barrier to its success. This is an area where we have broken down barriers by implementing initiatives such as the supply of VR headsets as well as free access to our VR practical skills training. Find out how we are preparing our students for their final practical examinations and with this, are able to collect data on their use of the equipment and improvement of skills in the tasks loaded to the system – learn more about the Vetiverse!

Bio:

Dr Nina De Franco qualified as a Veterinary Surgeon from the University of Glasgow in 2006. Since 2010, Nina has been a lecturer at The College of Animal Welfare, where she has spearheaded numerous projects and initiatives. As the Regional Head of Veterinary Studies, Nina oversees all Veterinary Nursing courses across the College centres, contributing significantly to both the Veterinary Nursing diploma and degree programs in partnership with Middlesex University. In addition to her roles as a lecturer, marker, and examiner, Nina has collaborated on research with the Nursing and <https://www.vetnnet.com/conference/accommodation-info/Midwifery> department at Middlesex University, focusing on innovative approaches to practical assessments of veterinary nurses. In 2019, she and her co-researchers presented their initial findings at the International Conference on Research in Teaching, Education, and Learning. Nina has previously served on the BSAVA Education Committee and has worked as a technical consultant for awarding bodies such as City and Guilds and VetSkill. Her MSc in Educational Leadership involved in-depth research into veterinary nurse training, and she remains committed to exploring and implementing improvements in current practices. Nina also engages in community-based activities, such as conducting First Aid courses for the public and supporting shelters for homeless individuals with dogs.