

Gerald Leigh Lectures - Wednesday 3rd June 2026
Breeding for Success: Tackling Reproductive Loss in the Thoroughbred Industry

Proposed itinerary (subject to change)

- 9.00am Introduction [Dr Camilla Scott, Chair BCET & Rossdales Veterinary Surgeons & Nick Wingfield Digby, Gerald Leigh Charitable Trust](#)
- 9.15am The Genetic Cost of Speed: The Impact of Inbreeding Coefficients on Fertility
[Dr Jessica Lawson, Royal Veterinary College](#)
- 9.45am SPARKS: It's not black and white but taking a leaf out of the Panda's book could help Thoroughbred breeders
[Dr Andy Dell](#)
- 10.15am Early Pregnancy Loss in the Mare: Current Understanding and Emerging Discoveries
[Dr Mandi DeMestra, University of Cornell](#)
- 10.45am *Coffee*
- 11.15am Endometrial Insights: Diagnostics, Fertility Outcomes, and Responsible Antimicrobial Use in Reproductive Practice *Panel Discussion*
[Drs Rebecca Mouncey, Camilla Scott, Mandi DeMestra, and Karen Wolfsdorf](#)
- 11.45am Progestogen Therapy in Mares: Hope, Hype, and Hazard.
[Dr John Spencer, Fyrnwy Equine Hospital](#)
- 12.15pm Placental Dysfunction: The role of biomarkers in diagnosis and predictions/ Stud Stats: The Future of Stallion fertility in Your Pocket
[Dr Sarah Moore, MRCVS, Rossdales](#)
- 12.45pm Questions [Morning Speakers](#)
- 1.00pm *Lunch*
- 2.30pm Pregnancy Failure: Insights and Advances from across the pond
[Dr Karen Wolfsdorf, Hagyard Equine Medical Institute](#)
- 3.00pm A fatal twist: Umbilical cord torsion and pregnancy loss in the mare
[Dr Jessica Lawson, Royal Veterinary College](#)
- 3.30pm Therapeutic Interventions in High-Risk Mares: What does the evidence say?
[Dr Karen Wolfsdorf, Hagyard Equine Medical Institute](#)
- 4.00pm Questions / Concluding remarks [James Crowhurst, TBA](#)