

SESSION 6 – OPTIMISING PERFORMANCE IN A CHALLENGING CLIMATE

BIOGRAPHIES

MODERATOR:

John McEwen (GBR), Chair of the FEI Veterinary Committee

John McEwen qualified as a Veterinary Surgeon at Glasgow University and has been in equine veterinary practice for 43 years. He has extensive experience as a Team Veterinarian for many disciplines and has been an FEI veterinary surgeon since the early 1980s. John is also the senior veterinary surgeon for two racecourses.

He served as Vice-Chairman of the FEI Veterinary Committee from 1999 to 2003, was elected Chairman in 2006 and re-elected in 2010. He became 1st Vice President of the FEI in 2010.

John has lectured in a number of countries on subjects including medication and transport and the preparation of the performance horse for competition. He is the author of several publications related to equine medicine.

PANEL:

Dr David Marlin (GBR), Scientific and Equine Consultant

David Marlin studied physiology and computing at Stirling University in Scotland (UK) and obtained his PhD from Loughborough University in 1989 after 4 years studying the responses of Thoroughbred racehorses to exercise and training at the world famous Animal Health Trust in Newmarket, UK.

He then worked for 3 years in Newmarket as equine exercise physiologist for racehorse trainer Luca Cumani. In 1991 he returned to work at the Animal Health Trust and undertook a programme of study into the effects of road and air transport on horses. From 1993–1996 he undertook studies on thermoregulation and transport of horses in the build-up to the 1996 Atlanta Olympic Games in conjunction with the FEI. He was also involved in advising The Beijing Organizing Committee for the Games of the XXIX Olympiad (BOCOG), the Hong Kong Jockey Club, International Olympic Committee (IOC) and the FEI on air-conditioning and cooling for horses at the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games.

From 1990 until 2005 David held the position of Senior Scientist and Head of Physiology at the Animal Health Trust. His main areas of professional interest are exercise physiology, nutrition, fitness, training, performance, thermoregulation, competition strategy, transport and respiratory disease.

David's recent projects have included a review of the effects of temperature on horses during transport for the British Government, an investigation of welfare in Endurance racing for the FEI, development of testing methods for equine

protective leg boots, scientific study of the training methods of Monty Roberts and investigations into factors associated with elite equine performance. He is currently working on projects related to welfare in endurance, headshaking, nutrition and personality types in equestrian sports.

For more: <http://davidmarlin.co.uk/>

Dr Martha Misheff, Equine veterinarian and member of the FEI Veterinary Committee

Dr Martha Misheff, an equine veterinarian from the US, received her veterinary doctoral degree from The Ohio State University, and completed advanced training in equine lameness and surgery at the University of California. She now works as an associate veterinarian at the Dubai Equine Hospital. Martha began her career with horses at the racetrack, starting "from the ground up". She has served on the injury response teams for the Breeders' Cup, the Kentucky Derby, and the Dubai World Cup, and is interested in equine sports medicine and injury prevention for all disciplines. She has extensive knowledge in the field of endurance, has FEI 4* status, has been in charge of the treatment clinic at several European and World Championships and at many international FEI competitions. She loves to ride whenever she has the time.

Dr Peter Whitehead (GBR), Equine veterinarian and Chair of the FEI Medical Committee

Peter Whitehead trained at Guy's Hospital Medical School, London and, mid-way through his career in General Practice, achieved an MSc in Sport and Exercise Medicine. The dissertation was entitled "Factors influencing the severity of rider injuries at horse trials".

He has provided medical care at equestrian events for over thirty years, from local competitions and Pony Club up to major international level. Among these, Peter was Team GB Chief Medical Officer from 2002 until 2017 and attended two Olympic Games in this role as well as three FEI World Equestrian Games™. In London 2012, he was Venue Medical Manager for Greenwich and attended both FEI World Equestrian Games™ 2014 and Rio 2016 as FEI CMO.

At home, Peter has Eventers, Dressage horses and Polo ponies, with a variety of home-bred young stock. He has two sons who both competed for Great Britain at junior level, one in Eventing, the other in Polocrosse. Over the years he has experienced a varied medical career, but also enjoyed the roles of supportive parent, owner, breeder and sport official.

He has been on the FEI Medical Committee since 2012, first as a member for three years and as Chair since then.