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NAVC International Scholar Program Brings New Knowledge to the Ukraine

ORLANDO, FL—As president of the Ukrainian Small Animal Veterinary Association, Dr. Vladlen Mykhaylovich Ushakov is responsible for ensuring that his colleagues in Kiev and throughout the country have the opportunity to remain up-to-date on the latest advances in veterinary medicine. To help him accomplish this important goal, Dr. Ushakov was selected as one of two International Scholars at the North American Veterinary Community (NAVC) Conference this past January.

It was NAVC's mission to provide world-class continuing education (CE) for the entire veterinary healthcare team that propelled the organization to develop a program that would bring national leaders and organizers of veterinary meetings to the January conference. Over the past 16 years, the International Scholar program has brought more than 30 veterinarians to the conference from Eastern Europe, South America, the Middle East, China and other far-reaching regions of the world.

"Vlad is a mover and shaker who is really trying to advance veterinary education in Ukraine," says Colin Burrows, BVetMed, PhD, DACVIM, HonFRCVS, Executive Ambassador of International Affairs for the NAVC. "He was very appreciative of the opportunity to attend the conference and is going to make a real difference to CE in that part of the world."

Candidates are selected for the scholarship based on their leadership qualities, prior experience with CE in their own country or region and their potential to use the NAVC experience to improve veterinary CE opportunities at home. Dr. Ushakov was nominated by Russian Veterinarian Dr. Alexander Thachov, a past NAVC International Scholar, who was most enthusiastic about Dr. Ushakov's leadership potential in a part of the world where small animal practice is only beginning to gain traction.

In addition to complimentary NAVC Conference 2014 registration and a copy of the conference proceedings, scholars are given travel expenses, six nights' hotel accommodations and six days' per diem funds. Recipients are hosted by an NAVC Board member or past-president during their stay. In addition to attending lectures and touring the Exhibit Hall, scholars participate in numerous meetings and business sessions to broaden their understanding of how a successful CE event is organized and run.

The NAVC is continually improving the International Scholar program to provide more hands-on knowledge to scholarship recipients, partly based on questionnaires and exit interviews with past recipients. The program has evolved over the years to show veterinarians how to set up a program meeting room, how to handle marketing and registration for their events and how to run Hands-on Labs. "The International Scholar program is something we really enjoy doing," says Dr. Burrows. "We've been very successful in that many of our scholars now run very successful meetings in their own countries."

Complete details on the other NAVC Conference 2013 International Scholars can be found at NAVC.com/InternationalScholars.

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Founded in 1982 and headquartered in Gainesville, Florida, the North American Veterinary Community (NAVC) is a nonprofit organization that provides world-class professional development for the global veterinary healthcare community. The organization's largest educational initiative, the annual NAVC Conference, hosts 16,000 attendees and 350 speakers from more than 70 countries each year. Other educational offerings include the NAVC Institute, NAVC Expeditions and *Clinician's Brief*, the official journal of the NAVC. The NAVC's international conference partners include the Latin American Veterinary Conference (LAVC), the Southern European Veterinary Conference (SEVC) and the Asian Pacific Veterinary Conference (APVC). Visit NAVC.com for more information.