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POSTER SESSIONS

Abstracts

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538: Comparative Medicine: Bridging Species

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Comparative medicine examines health and disease across species, using similarities and differences between animals and humans to uncover mechanisms, identify biomarkers and target structures, and translate diagnostics, prevention, and treatments.

Companion animals such as dogs and cats serve as valuable models that complement human cohorts and help overcome the limitations of human-only research. These companion animals spontaneously develop cancers, cardiometabolic, neurological, and immune diseases that mirror human pathophysiology and treatment responses, while sharing same environments and exposures.

To advance this research approach, it is essential to establish harmonized biobanks for both humans and animals, ensuring that samples and data meet equivalent quality standards. The VetBiobank at Vetmeduni Vienna, part of the Austrian node (BBMRI.at) of the European biobanking infrastructure (BBMRI-ERIC), has already implemented appropriate quality standards for collecting tissue samples from clinical patients. Furthermore, it is actively working to build a network with other veterinary collections to aggregate high-quality, well annotated clinical samples for comparative research. This initiative positions veterinary biobanks as key contributors to foster comparative research.

Strategic collaboration between human and veterinary research networks, as highlighted in the BBMRI-ERIC's 10-year roadmap, will strengthen comparative medicine research projects and drive One Health diagnostics and therapies that benefit both animals and humans.