PROGRAMME

The programme may be subject to change without notice.

Day 1 15 Dec 2025 (Mon)	Day 2 16 Dec 2025 (Tue)	Day 3 17 Dec 2025 (Wed)

9:00	Welcome and opening remarks *(Winfried Engelbrecht-Bresges)*
The role of science in protecting the racehorse *(Chair: David Eades)*	
9:10	What does "putting the horse first" really mean for horse welfare? *(Nat Waran)*
9:30	Some of the key challenges to horse welfare in Racing *(Brian Stewart)*
9:50	How science has made a useful contribution to Racing *(Chris Proudman)*
10:10	Data-driven rulemaking - The Horseracing Integrity and Safety Authority (HISA) Experience *(Lisa Lazarus)*
10:30	"This project is on a critical topic! Why are you not funding it?" The importance of quality science *(Celia Marr)*
10:50	Panel discussion and audience engagement
11:10	Tea and coffee
11:45	Overcoming the threat posed by concussion in World Rugby *(Keith Stokes)*
12:15	Engineering safety in motorsport - A data-driven journey from grassroots to F1 *(Nuno Costa)*
12:45	Panel discussion and audience engagement

13:05	Lunch

Findings from recent studies that have potential to have impact 1 *(Chair: David Eades)*

14:15	Risk profiling in racing - The good, the bad and the ugly *(Tim Parkin)*
14:30	Potential impacts of population-level interventions for reducing racecourse injuries and fatalities *(Kristien Verheyen)*
14:45	Development of CT-based fetlock shape and density characteristics *(Chris Kawcak)*
15:00	Applying scientific evidence to manage heat stress in Japanese racehorses *(Kazutaka Mukai)*
15:15	Investigating structure and function in the Thoroughbred heart *(John Keen)*
15:30	Equine PET: applications to clinical and regulatory imaging *(Mathieu Spriet)*
15:45	Question time

Collaboration

16:00	Introduction to the "Conference Sandpit" *(Mandy Peffers)*
16:15	Tea and coffee

How can and why should we make a difference? *(Chair: David Eades)*

16:45	Translating findings into action - how to really put "welfare" front and centre of all in Racing? *(Mette Uldahl)*
17:05	Why does it really matter? *(Roly Owers)*
17:25	Panel and audience discussion
17:55	Summing up the day
19:00	Drinks reception and buffet

8:30	Introduction to day
8:40	What is a Delphi study and how will ours work? *(Jane Williams)*

What should we focus on? - Agreeing the welfare priorities *(Chair: David Eades)*

9:10	Perception of needs: the Trainer *(David Eustace)*
9:25	Perception of needs: the Racing Vet *(Jonathan Lumsden)*
9:40	Perception of needs: the Engaged Owner *(Terry Henderson)*
9:55	A comment from "Society" *(Nat Waran)*
10:10	Panel discussion and audience engagement
10:45	Tea and coffee

Findings from recent studies that have potential to have impact 2 *(Chair: David Eades)*

11:15	The importance of early-life exposures: lessons from a Thoroughbred birth cohort study *(Rebecca Mouncey)*
11:30	Tendon timebombs? Age-linked protein shifts in racehorse tendons *(Anders Jensen)*
11:40	The effect of training and racing workloads on bone fatigue accumulation and injury in flat racing Thoroughbreds *(Ashleigh Victoria Morrice-West)*
11:50	The Equine Track Tester, a simulator of the equine forelimb-ground interaction: application for assessing the security of horses while exercising on a surface *(Nathalie Crevier-Denoix)*
12:00	Question time
12:10	The EquiFib app: evaluation for atrial fibrillation detection in equine performance and health management *(Glenn Van Steenkiste)*
12:20	Detection of exercising ectopic atrial and ventricular beats using non-linear analysis of clinically normal electrocardiograms at rest or low-intensity exercise *(Kamalan Jeevaratnam)*
12:30	Exercising electrocardiograms from horses with exercise associated sudden death *(Laura Nath)*

12:40	Pulmonary artery stiffness in racehorses affected by exercise-induced pulmonary hemorrhage *(Chiara Bozzola)*
12:50	Question time
13:00	Lunch

Findings from recent studies that have potential to have impact 3 *(Chair: David Eades)*

14:00	The neuronal transcriptomic signature of recurrent laryngeal neuropathy *(Victoria O'Hara)*
14:10	RNA sequencing of pre-race whole-blood samples from horses with race-day fractures *(Allen Page)*
14:20	CD8+ T-cells, M1 macrophages, cellular stress and neutrophil degranulation genes are associated with fetlock osteoarthritis in racehorses *(Heidi Reesink)*
14:30	Temporal and intra-horse consistency of circulating myostatin concentrations in Thoroughbred racehorses *(Katherine Hanousek)*
14:40	Question time
14:50	Tea and coffee

What funding bodies are looking for *(Chair: Jim Gagliano)*

15:20	Mini presentations and panel discussion with audience participation • HKJC Equine Welfare Research Foundation, HKSAR, China *(Chris Riggs)* • Grayson-Jockey Club Research Foundation, US *(Jamie Haydon)* • Horserace Betting Levy Board, UK *(Matthew Allen)* • Japan Racing Association *(Tomohiro Kato)*
16:20	Are we really making a difference? Quantifying outcomes. *(Matthew Allen)*
16:35	What we might be missing *(Mette Uldahl)*
16:50	Panel and audience discussion *(David Eades)*
17:15	Progress of Delphi study *(Jane Williams)*
17:45	Summing up the day *(David Eades)*
18:00	Drinks around posters
19:45	Conference dinner

7:00	Working breakfast: mentorship for early career researchers - understanding racing, making contacts, advice on applications
8:30	Introduction to day *(Mandy Peffers)*
8:40	Delphi study *(Jane Williams)*

Practical engagement

9:00	**Conference sandpit - *building new networks to solve old problems*** *(musculoskeletal and cardiovascular and pulmonary challenges)*

Effective collaboration *(Chair: Matthew Allen)*

12:00	Interdisciplinary, integrated and innovative approaches to collaborative research for Racing *(Mandy Peffers)*
12:30	Two case studies of successful interdisciplinary, integrated and innovative collaboration *(Wahbi El-Bouri)*
13:00	Lunch

Findings from recent studies that have potential to have impact 4 *(Chair: Chris Proudman)*

14:00	Could optimising racehorse exercise saddle and girth interaction improve equine welfare? *(Russell Mackechnie-Guire)*
14:10	Longitudinal monitoring of racehorse welfare during preparation for the jump racing season *(Maëlle Bonhomme)*
14:20	Development of predictive models and identification of risk factors for catastrophic injuries in Thoroughbred Flat Racing in Korea *(Olivia HeeEun Song)*
14:30	A standardised, categorical, diagnostic imaging reporting method of Thoroughbred racehorses for limb injury risk assessment. *(Jamie Wearn)*
14:40	The implementation and outcomes of risk based pre-race veterinary inspections in Irish Thoroughbred racing *(Lynn Hillyer)*

14:50	Musculoskeletal injury risk in the Thoroughbred racing industry as a bioeconomic model using a One Health approach. *(Kylie Ann Legg)*
15:00	Sixteen years of the Equine Injury Database in North America - the single most impactful welfare initiative in North American racing? *(Tim Parkin)*
15:10	Question time
15:30	Tea and coffee

Where to from here? *(Chair: Celia Marr)*

16:00	Racing is a bioeconomic system (why welfare is one of the three core considerations) *(Chris Rogers)*
16:05	From reactionary to proactive - the journey in rugby *(Keith Stokes)*
16:15	The Horseracing Integrity and Safety Authority (HISA) experience, the change in culture and processes modelled by surface testing *(Mick Peterson)*
16:30	Changing culture and embracing science *(Justine Sclater)*
16:40	How to coordinate for greatest effect for racing? *(Chris Riggs)*
16:50	Panel discussion and audience engagement
17:05	Results of the Delphi study *(Jane Williams)*

Summing it up

17:20	Closing remarks *(Andrew Harding)*
17:35	End of conference