

Hello,

I am Brad O'Hagan. I graduated from Queensland University in 1995 with a BVSc. I worked in practice for 10 years before moving to work in the pharmaceutical industry. My ten years in practice were a great mix of species and styles, with 5 of those working in a large equine referral centre as the primary anaesthetist. I have Membership qualifications of the Australian College of Veterinary Scientists in Equine Medicine (2000) and Veterinary Pharmacology (2008). My move to the pharma industry was a little different to many people, as I initially started working for Jurox Pty Ltd in R&D with two specialist veterinary pharmacologists – Dr Ted Whittem and Dr Kirby Pasloske. After 2 years working in R&D I moved to the Sales and Marketing side of the company.

I have had an ongoing fascination with anaesthesia and pain management. A literature search on my name will bring up 5 papers, which I managed to get published from general practice, two of which feature my favourite areas of veterinary science. I am proud of all the papers I have published, however I am particularly proud of my paper on neuropathic/phantom limb pain in a cat, which was published in the Australian Veterinary Journal.

The beauty of working in the pharmaceutical industry now is the sphere of influence that I have. Previously in one practice I could impact on the standard of care of my patients and the feeling of satisfaction that my staff had from performing a service well. In the pharmaceutical industry I spend a lot of my time educating practitioners on the overall standard of care that is required for anaesthesia and successful pain management, thereby reaching more patients and more veterinary staff. Of course it helps that I have a cutting edge anaesthetic product to stand in front of.

If I could do one thing right now for veterinary anaesthesia and analgesia, it would be to have every practice, regardless of size or species orientation, spend a day assessing what their practice considers an acceptable standard of care. Do this in an open minded fashion, create a process for consistent review of the standard of care and start believing that what they do is truly amazing already, but ask how could it be better. The impact that this would have on veterinary staff morale would be immense and most importantly patient care would continue to advance, rather than remain static inside the comfort zone of the practice decision maker.

On a personal note I have a wonderful family - two girls now at school and a wife about to finish her degree in Construction Management. We have exciting times ahead of us when Penny finishes university, as the challenges of me combining more "dad commitments" with work grows. I am excited to be a part of the VASG advisory. The work done by this site cannot be underestimated – it is constantly referred to by anaesthesia lecturers and industry professionals as a reference source and probably has resulted in more comfortable post-operative veterinary patients than any text book has ever done. I look forward to finding ways to help contribute to this site.

Kind Regards

Brad O'Hagan