



I have just returned from the recent joint ACVP/ASVCP meeting in Monterey, CA. This was my second time attending this meeting as a resident in clinical pathology and my first time presenting. My abstract reviewed the accuracy of erythrocyte indices and polychromasia for classifying regenerative anemia in dogs. Throughout this work, I have tried to remain focused on my goal of helping private practice veterinarians do their job better. A main finding of this study is that polychromasia with or without increased red cell distribution width (RDW), in the absence of a reticulocyte count, is one of the best ways to determine if an anemia is regenerative in dogs. My hope is that results of this study both emphasize the importance of blood smear evaluation in the practice setting and start to dissolve the dogma that most regenerative anemias in dogs are reported as macrocytic and hypochromic based on red blood cell indices. Clinical pathologists can help veterinary students and practicing veterinarians improve their blood smear evaluation skills, as this is an inexpensive, readily available, and useful diagnostic test. Relieved after my presentation, I was free to enjoy the completion of the meeting with highlights focused on the Clinical Pathology Slide Review and Clinical Chemistry sessions. Not only was this meeting in a beautiful location, it was fun to see faces from last year. I can only imagine that the years to come will bring more familiar faces, chances to learn from each other, and opportunities to share future projects. I thank you for your support.