

Equine OPU Workshop

Day 1 Schedule

410 Werombi Road
Brownlow Hill NSW 2570
+61 2 4655 0777
uvthc.marketing@
sydney.edu.au

Saturday 22 November 2025

Time	Session	Details	Presenter
08.30 – 09.00	Registration and welcome	Coffee, registration and reception of workshop materials. Acknowledge of country. Intro to workshop	Dr Gus Ruiz
09:00 – 09:30	Intro to in vitro production of equine embryos	Overview of ART in horses, including uses, pros/cons, and current status in Australia & NZ	Dr Andres Gambini
09:30 – 10:15	OPU Candidate selection & mare preparation	Physiology review, criteria for mare selection, and preparation protocols	Dr Rory Nevard
10:15 – 10:45	Morning Tea	Sponsored by Bova	
10:45 – 11:30	OPU Technique, media and equipment overview	Introduction to the OPU procedure, 1 vs 2-person technique, media options	Dr Juan Cuervo-Arango
11:30 – 12:15	Sedation and analgesia	Sedation and analgesia protocols, use of antimicrobials	Dr Eduardo Uquillas
12:15 – 13:15	Lunch break	Sponsored by Bova	
13:15 – 14:00	OPU ethics and social licence	Ethical views of OPU, ESER 2024 survey discussion	Dr Gus Ruiz
14:00 – 14:45	The oocyte journey	Oocyte search, grading, handling and packaging for transport, IVM and ICSI	Dr Andres Gambini
14:45 – 15:15	Afternoon tea	Sponsored by Bova	
15.15 – 15.45	Embryo vitrification and devitrification	Vitrification protocols and special focus to how thaw embryos on farm/clinic for attending vets	Dr Katrien Smits
15.45 – 16.30	Embryo recipient preparation and embryo transfer technique	Contrast to regular ET embryo recipient synchrony. Different transfer techniques	Dr Juan Cuervo-Arango
16.30 – 17.00	Panel discussion and Q&A	Wrap-up and audience question to presenters	All presenters
19:00	Dinner	Shared dining experience at Jinja's Rooftop, Oran Park Hotel (<i>included in registration. Drinks available to purchase.</i>)	All presenters and participants



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Day 2 Schedule

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Sunday 23 November 2025

Time	Session	Details	Presenter
Participants to divide in 3 groups and rotate through stations, 1 hour each			
08:30 – 12:00	Station 1	OPU technique practice with equine ovaries / Oocyte recovery from post-mortem ovaries	Dr Juan Cuervo-Arango
	Station 2	Embryo thawing and loading for transfer	Dr Katrien Smits
	Station 3	Oocyte search, classification, handling and preparation for shipping	Dr Andres Gambini
12:00 – 13:00	Lunch break		
13.00 – 15.00	OPU demonstration by experts, on two live horses		
15:10 – 15:30	Closing remarks & certificates		



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