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*Lifestyle Diseases in Primates in Human Care:*  
Type-2 Diabetes management in several primate species.

Tuesday 21 March, 2017 at 1.00pm
Room 1.81, Anatomy, Physiology & Human Biology Building North  
The University of Western Australia  (off Hackett Entrance No. 2)

The Seminar:  ‘Lifestyle diseases’ related to reduced exercise and increase in calorie intake, have become a significant medical problem for primates in long-term human care. In humans, excess of all macronutrients are metabolised into fat deposits (visceral and subcutaneous) and cause significant health issues, including cardiovascular disease, diabetes, musculoskeletal disorders and some cancers. These metabolic consequences are also seen in non-human primates, when calorie intake outweighs calorie expenditure.

Type 2 diabetes mellitus (T2DM) is a lifestyle disease which has been described in many primate species: great apes, gibbons, Old World and New World monkeys and lemurs. I will describe the pathology of T2DM, clinical symptoms, and how early diagnostic tests and prompt treatment can lead to significant improvements in the health and longevity of non-human primates.

Treating primates with T2DM can become very challenging and compliance with the treatment regime has to be assessed regularly. Training therefore becomes a vital part in the management of T2DM in primates. We will discuss the challenges of allowing long-term diagnosis and treatment of diabetic primates, as well as screening methods for seemingly healthy animals.

The Speaker:  Dr Katja Geschke graduated from the Tierärztlichen Hochschule Hannover and received her PhD from the University of Munich. She worked as a veterinarian at Duisburg Zoo in Germany, Parque Las Aguilas in Tenerife in Spain, Wellington Zoo in New Zealand and is currently a clinical veterinarian at Perth Zoo.

Katja’s special interests include marine mammal neonatology, anaesthesia, diabetes in primates and conservation medicine of Australasian native species.