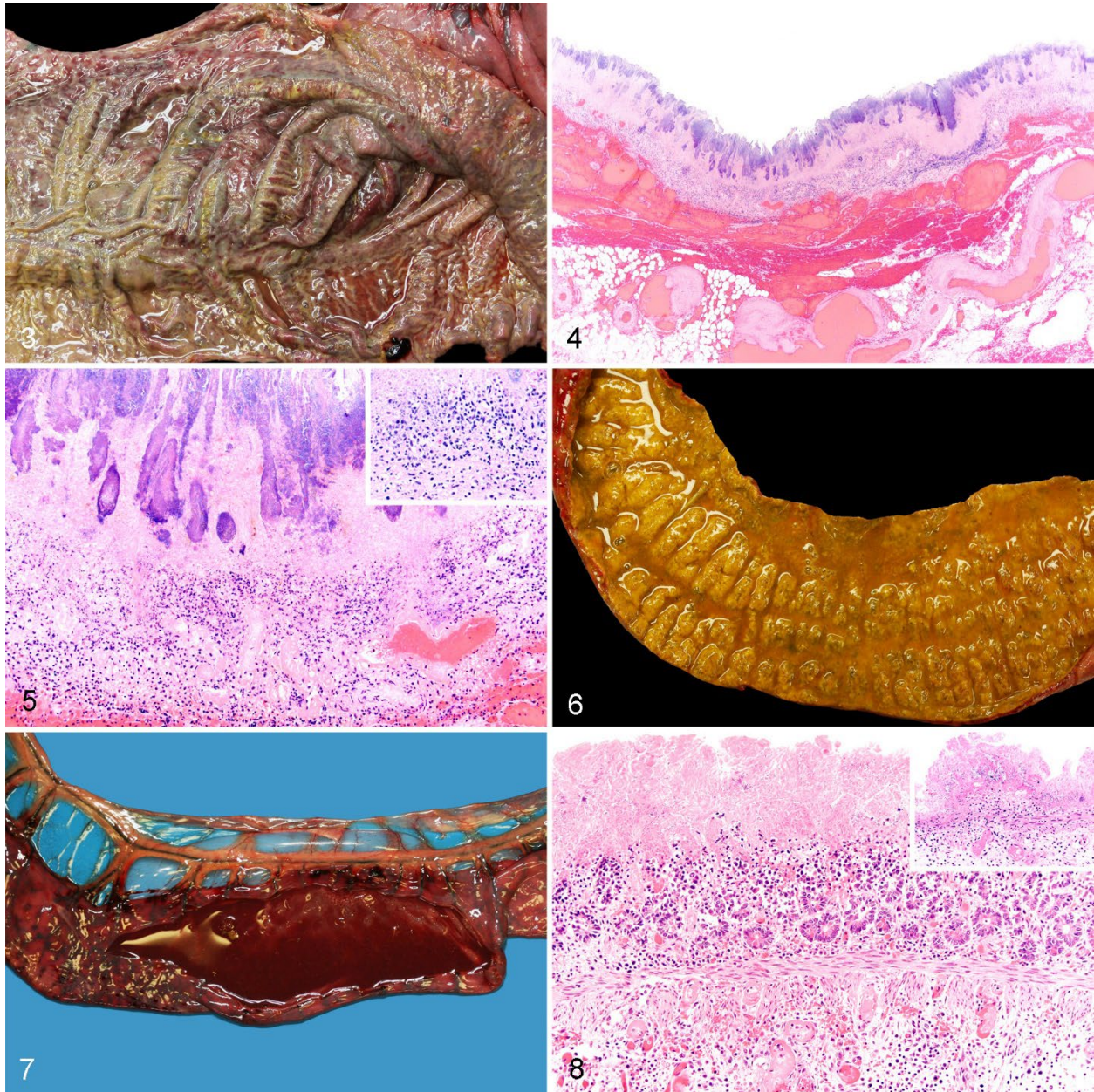**JVDI in Focus**

Our March focus is an article in JVDI's upcoming May issue, from the special section on equine gastrointestinal disease: "Bacterial and viral enterocolitis in horses: a review" by Francisco A. Uzal, Luis G. Arroyo, Mauricio A. Navarro, Diego E. Gomez, Javier Asín, Eileen Henderson.

Abstract. Enteritis, colitis, and enterocolitis are considered some of the most common causes of disease and death in horses. Determining the etiology of these conditions is challenging, among other reasons because different causes produce similar clinical signs and lesions, and also because some agents of colitis can be present in the intestine of normal animals. We review here the main bacterial and viral causes of enterocolitis of horses, including *Salmonella* spp., *Clostridium perfringens* type A NetF-positive, *C. perfringens* type C, *Clostridioides difficile*, *Clostridium piliforme*, *Paeniclostridium sordellii*, other clostridia, *Rhodococcus equi*, *Neorickettsia risticii*, *Lawsonia intracellularis*, equine rotavirus, and equine coronavirus. Diarrhea and colic are the hallmark clinical signs of colitis and enterocolitis, and the majority of these conditions are characterized by necrotizing changes in the mucosa of the small intestine, colon, cecum, or in a combination of these organs. The presumptive diagnosis is based on clinical, gross, and microscopic findings, and confirmed by detection of some of the agents and/or their toxins in the intestinal content or feces.

Figures 3–8. Equine enterocolitis of bacterial etiology. **Figure 3.** Colitis produced by *Salmonella enterica* serovar Typhimurium in a horse. The mucosa is hemorrhagic, necrotic, and covered by a fibrinous pseudomembrane. Photo courtesy of Dr. Francisco Carvallo. **Figure 4.** Colitis produced by *S. enterica* serovar Typhimurium in a horse. The mucosa is diffusely necrotic and there is transmural hemorrhage. H&E. **Figure 5.** Colitis produced by *S. enterica* serovar Typhimurium in a horse. There is a diffuse inflammatory infiltrate of the deep lamina propria. Inset: higher magnification showing large number of neutrophils in the lamina propria. H&E. **Figure 6.** Necrotic enteritis in a foal associated with NetF-positive *Clostridium perfringens* type A. Reproduced with permission from Mehdizadeh Gohari et al.[88] **Figure 7.** Necrotic enteritis produced by *C. perfringens* type C in a neonatal foal. There is transmural hemorrhage and hemorrhagic content within the lumen. **Figure 8.** Necrotic

enteritis produced by *C. perfringens* type C in a neonatal foal. There is severe and diffuse mucosal necrosis. Inset: higher magnification of the lamina propria and submucosal thrombosis. H&E.

JVDI News

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