Cats are curious animals, but even more curious is their propensity to develop infection with emerging agents of aspergillosis, a type of invasive fungal infection. In 1954 Aspergillus viridinutans was discovered near Frankston in Victoria, in sandy soil. Since then, 9 other closely related species have been discovered, and together they make up the Aspergillus viridinutans complex. Six of them are pathogenic in cats, dogs, or humans. Infections are difficult to treat because of high MICs of azoles. I will guide you through the recent history of these emerging infections in animals and humans, illustrated by my research in owned pet cats.

About the speaker

Professor Vanessa Barrs is Professor of Feline Medicine & Infectious Diseases in the Sydney School of Veterinary Science and the Marie Bashir Institute. She is also a registered Specialist in Feline Medicine, and established the Valentine Charlton Cat Centre for veterinary medicine of cats, which celebrated its 10th anniversary in 2015. Vanessa is a one-health infectious diseases researcher particularly interested in fungal pathogens of animals and humans and in viral infectious diseases. In addition to over 100 refereed publications and book chapters, she is President of the International Society of Companion Animal Infectious Diseases.