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**Christopher R Cornwell\*** ([cornwell@math.duke.edu](mailto:cornwell@math.duke.edu)) and **David Hemminger**. *Knot contact homology and a question of Cappell and Shaneson*. Preliminary report.

An open question raised by Cappell and Shaneson asks whether the minimal number of meridians needed to generate the group of a knot is equal to the bridge number of that knot. Knot contact homology gives a new approach to studying this question, which we will show behaves well for certain satellites. This gives an affirmative answer to Cappell and Shaneson's question for many satellite knots, including iterated torus knots. (Received January 28, 2014)