AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF VETERINARY LABORATORY DIAGNOSTICIANS

EVENT

65th annual meeting, meeting, Oct. 6-12, 20222, Minneapolis, Minnesota

AWARDS

E.P. Pope Award



Dr. Francois Elvinger, Dr. Med Vet, PhD, DACVPM&ECVPHProfessor, Executive Director of AHDC
Associate Dean for Diagnostic Operations and Government
Relations
College of Veterinary Medicine
Cornell University

Biography

Distinguished Service Award



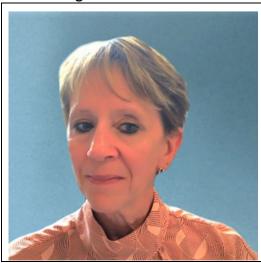
Dr. Rodger Main, DVM, PhDProfessor and Director

Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory
Department of Veterinary Diagnostic & Production Animal
Medicine
College of Veterinary medicine

College of Veterinary medicine Iowa State University

Biography

Outstanding Performance Award for Diagnostic Services



Ms. Debra Royal

Quality Assurance Manager,

University of Nebraska Veterinary Diagnostic Center

AAVLD President's Award for DEI



Dr. Catherine Barr, PhD, DABT

Senior Toxicologist

North Carolina Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory System

Biography



Dr. Amar Patil, DVM, MS, PhD, DACVM

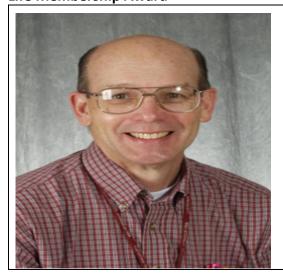
Director of Animal Health Diagnostic Laboratory

Department of Agriculture

State of New Jersey

<u>Biography</u>

Life Membership Award



Dr. Jim Evermann, PhD

Professor

Veterinary Clinical Sciences

Washington Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory

Washington State University



Dr. Stephen P. Schmidt

Fitchburg, Wisconsin

Biography

BIOMIC Award for Excellence in Diagnostic Veterinary Microbiology



Dr. Orhan Sahin, DVM, MS, PhD, DACVM

Associate Professor

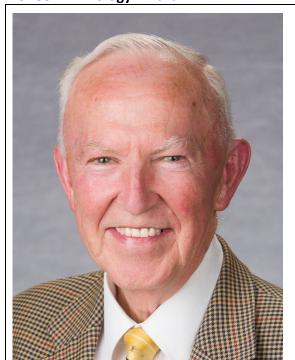
Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory

Department of Vet Diagnostic & Production Animal

Medicine College of Veterinary Medicine

Iowa State University

Pioneer in Virology Award



Dr. Peter Timoney, MVB, MS, PhD, FRCVS

Professor and the Frederick Van Lennep Chair in Equine Maxwell H. Gluck Equine Research Center Department of Veterinary Science University of Kentucky

Richard L. Walker Bacteriology Award, sponsored by Anaerobe Systems



Macy Rasmusssen

University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Presentation:

Evaluation of artificial neural network-based classifier models to discriminate phenotypes of Salmonella enterica using Fourier-Transform Infrared Spectroscopy (FT-IR)

Biography

J. Lindsay Oaks Best Student Molecular Biology Award, sponsored by Veterinary Medical Research & Development (VMRD)

Sai Narayanan

Oklahoma State University

Presentation:

Development and evaluation of MG2Vec: A Transformer Neural network for metagenomic shotgun sequencing based BRD pathogen detection.

Brenda Love Best Student Bacteriology Poster Presentation Award, sponsored by BioMerieux

Jessica Santos Streauslin

Iowa State University

Presentation:

Characterization of disease-associated and non-disease associated Streptococcus suis isolates from pen-matched diseased and control pigs

AAVLD/ACVP Diagnostic Pathology Resident/Graduate Student Award



<u>Jayne Summer Ellis</u>, Richard Fulton , Birgit Puschner , John Buchweitz

Michigan State University

Presentation:

Acute inhalation toxicity in nine American white ibis (Eudocimus albus) following exposure to triethylene glycol and propylene glycol containing theatrical fog.

Biography

ACVP/AAVLD Diagnostic Pathology Resident/Graduate Student Travel Award



Ryan Yanez

Michigan State University

Presentation:

SARS-COV-2 Infection in two Farmed Minks

Diagnostic Pathology Slide Seminar Resident/Graduate Student Award



First place (\$300):

<u>C. Hsueh</u>, O. Fasina, P. Pineyro, R. Ruden, M.M. El-Gazzar, Y. Sato,

Iowa State University

Presentation:

Cerebral vasculitis and necrotizing encephalitis in a greathorned owlet caused by highly pathogenic avian influenza (EA/AM clade 2.3.4.4 H5N1).

Biography



Second place (\$200):

D.F. Barrantes Murillo, L. Walters, M. Sandey

Department of Pathobiology, College of Veterinary Medicine, Auburn University

Presentation:

Thymic cavernous hemangioma and cystic thymic degeneration in a dog.



Third place (\$100):

N. Streitenberger, B. Crossley, E. Henderson

California Animal Health and Food Safety Laboratory System, University of California-Davis

Presentation:

Influenza outbreak in wild donkeys.

Best Poster Presentation Award



McKenzie Sparrer

Colorado State University

Presentation:

Surveillance of companion and exotic animals for SARS-Cov-2 and evaluating transmission potential within veterinary medicine

Best Oral Presentation Award



Berenice Munguia-Ramirez

Iowa State University

Presentation:

Use of a porcine endogenous reference gene (internal sample control) in a RRRSV RT-qPCR

Biography

Best Recorded Presentation Award



Catie Burgess

University of Virginia

Presentation:

Pooling series to determine sensitivity loss in Theileria orientalist surveillance testing Catie Burgess.

Journal of Veterinary Diagnostic Investigation Best Full Manuscript Award



Kaiping Deng, Steffen Uhlig, Hon S. Ip, Mary Lea Killian, Laura B. Goodman, Sarah Nemser, Jodie Ulaszek, Shannon Pickens, Robert Newkirk, Matthew Kmet, Kirstin Frost, Karina Hettwer, Bertrand Colson, Kapil Nichani, Anja Schlierf, Andriy Tkachenko, Ravinder Reddy, Renate Reimschuessel FDA Scientists

Presentation:

Interlaboratory comparison of SARS-CoV2 molecular detection assays in use by U.S. veterinary diagnostic laboratories.

Biography

Journal of Veterinary Diagnostic Investigation Best Brief Communication Award



Alyson H. Fitzgerald, Yuntao Zhang, Scott Fritz, William H. Whitehouse, Tamera Brabson, Lisa Pohlman, Natalia Cernicchiaro, Caroline Tonozzi, Steve Ensley

KSU Toxicologists

Presentation:

Detecting and quantifying marijuana metabolites in serum and urine of 19 dogs affected by marijuana toxicity

Biography

Molecular Diagnostics & Bioinformatics Oral Presentation

No photo

Christine Foxx

USDA-VS-APHIS-NAHLN

Presentation:

Phenotypic resistance prediction in Escherichia coli isolates from the National Animal Health Laboratory Network Antimicrobial Resistance Pilot Project, 2018-2022

Molecular Diagnostics & Bioinformatics Poster Presentation



Amro Hashish

Iowa State University

Presentation:

Nanopore sequencing: the promising tool for closing the gap in avian bacterial pathogens and generating high-quality closed genome sequences

Biography

Trainee Travel Awardees



Chelsea Sykes

University of California-Davis

Presentation:

Tetrodotoxin Toxicosis and Fatality in Great Horned Owl.

Biography



Gaurav Rawal

Iowa State University

Presentation:

Characterization of virulence phenotype of a recently emerged PRRSV 1-4-4 L1C variant strain in comparison with other Lineage 1 PRRSVs under experimental conditions.



Cheng-Shun Hsueh

Iowa State University

Presentation:

Correlation of Avian Reovirus tenosynovitis -and viral RNA and development of In Situ diagnostic assay for Avian Reovirus antigens.

Biography



Sai Narayanan

Oklahoma State University

Presentation:

Development and evaluation of MG2Vec: A Transformer Neural network for metagenomic shotgun sequencing based BRD pathogen detection.

Biography



Weerapong Laovechprasit

University of Georgia

Presentation:

A novel chuvirus causing meningoencephalitis in alligator snapping turtle, the first in-situ evidence of chuviral disease in vertebrates.

Sponsored by the Epidemiology



Ana Paula Serafini Poeta Silva

Iowa State University

Presentation:

Using PCR-negative results to enhance the monitoring of pig populations.

Biography

Sponsored by the Pathology Committee



Jessica Kendziorski

Michigan State University

Presentation:

Congenital neurologic and ocular lesions in calves as a result of in utero epizootic hemorrhagic disease virus infection.



Jayne Ellis

Michigan State University

Presentation:

Highly Pathologic Avian Influenza in Three Red Fox Kits (Vulpes vulpes)

Biography

Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine (CPCVM) Travel Award



Alexandra Reddy
Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine

Biography



Robert Schmidt Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine



McKenzie Sparrer Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine

Biography

OFFICIALS

Drs. Jerry Saliki, Stillwater, Oklahoma, president; Eric Burrough, Ames, Iowa president-elect and program chair, Keith Poulsen, Madison Wisconsin vice president; Kristy Pabilonia, Fort Collins, Colorado, secretary-treasurer; Shuping Zhang, Columbia, Missouri, immediate past president; and David H. Zeman, Brookings, South Dakota, executive director

François Elvinger, Dr.med.vet., Ph.D., diplomate ACVPM, ECVPH, AVES (Hon.), Professor of Veterinary Epidemiology in the Department of Population Medicine and Diagnostic Sciences, currently serves as the Executive Director of the Animal Health Diagnostic Center & New York State Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, and Associate Dean of Diagnostic Operations and Government Relations of the College of Veterinary Medicine at Cornell University.

A native of Luxembourg, in Europe, Dr. Elvinger earned his veterinary degree and title of Dr.med.vet. at the Tierärztliche Hochschule Hannover in Germany, worked as a research and teaching associate in the school's Institute for Milk Hygiene and Technology and a veterinarian in mixed, mostly food animal practice in Luxembourg, and then embarked across the Atlantic to earn a Ph.D. in dairy science at the University of Florida. He held his first faculty position as a veterinary epidemiologist at the Tifton Veterinary Diagnostic and Investigational Laboratory of the University of Georgia where he became board certified in Veterinary Preventive Medicine. Following promotion to Associate Professor Dr. Elvinger took a faculty position in the Large Animal Clinical Sciences Department at the Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine at Virginia Tech, where he was promoted to Professor and became founding Head of the Department of Population Health Sciences and founding Director of the Virginia Tech Public Health Program, before moving to his current positions at Cornell University.

Dr. Elvinger has dedicated his career to the enhancement of animal and public health through veterinary diagnostics and surveillance, working on the methodology of test validation and on characterization and enhancement of surveillance strategies, as well as scientific study design in infectious disease projects. He has contributed 60+ peer reviewed publications either as first or co-author based on 30+ very collaborative research grants as PI or co-PI. Throughout his career he worked intensively within AAVLD, USAHA and in cooperation with APHIS Veterinary Services. After joining the AAVLD and the USAHA in 1991 he chaired his first AAVLD committee in 1994, the Committee on Animal Disease Reporting, which produced the DxMonitor, an early veterinary diagnostic laboratory based animal health and disease quarterly report. He has held numerous leadership positions as chair, founding chair and co-chair of committees of both organizations ever since, including co-founder of the AAVLD Epidemiology Committee and of one of the two earliest AAVLD and USAHA Joint Committees, on Animal Disease Surveillance and Animal Health Information, now Animal Health Surveillance and Information Systems, which he both co-chaired for more than 10 years, with his colleagues, mentors and deep friends Drs. Bruce Akey, Mo Salman, and Mark Thurmond. He has cochaired the Steering Committee on the National Animal Health Reporting System (NAHRS) from 1998-2011, and has chaired the Steering Committee of the National Animal Health Surveillance System (NAHSS) from 2004 to 2012, both joint projects of AAVLD, USAHA, and USDA:APHIS:VS and CEAH. His work on launching NAHRSS and NAHSS earned him the APHIS Administrator's Award in 2007 at the annual meeting in Reno, NV. Dr. Elvinger held the AAVLD Presidency with its many pre- and post-presidency chair commitments in 2015. He now serves as a member of the Coordinating Council of the National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN), and he co-chairs the Joint Committee on the NAHLN, as well as the AAVLD Foundation Committee.

Dr. Elvinger currently and truly enjoys every day at work at Cornell's Animal Health Diagnostic Center, where he works with more than two-hundred most talented and fabulously dedicated diagnostic faculty, managers, technical and administrative staff who work up more than a quarter million accessions annually, having the privilege to work with State and federal

veterinarians, referring veterinarians, food animal producers and all animal health stakeholders to maintain and improve the health of animals entrusted to our care in New York State, the United States and beyond.

At home, with his wife Dawn, he tries to keep track of the whereabouts across the world of their three wonderful children, Maghan, in fashion technology innovation, Kristin, in population health and diagnostics finance, and Nicholas, in construction management. Luxembourg is still on his mind – hoping now to restart his annual trip across the Atlantic, usually shortly after the AAVLD & USAHA annual meeting.

CVM > Research >

François Elvinger, Dr.med.vet., Ph.D., dipl. ACVPM&ECVPH



Department of Population Medicine and Diagnostic Sciences

Professor, Executive Director of the Animal Health Diagnostic Center & Associate Dean for Diagnostic Operations and Government Relations

MAL HEALTH DIAGNOSTIC CENTER

Department of Population Medicine and Diagnostic Sciences

Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine Ithaca, NY 14853

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■ Close all

□ Education

- Veterinarian 1981 Tierärztliche Hochschule, Hannover, Germany
- Dr.med.vet. 1983 Tierärztliche Hochschule, Hannover, Germany
 [Dissertation title: Prevalence of infection with Streptococcus agalactiae (Lancefield Group B streptococci) and Analysis of Related Hygiene Factors in Dairy Herds]
- Ph.D. 1990 Dairy Science, University of Florida
 [Dissertation title: Immunomodulation by Heat Stress and Bovine Somatotropin in Dairy Cattle; Relevance for the Epidemiology of Mastitis]

☐ Biography/Professional Experience

- 1981 1983 Mixed animal practice in Germany and Luxembourg (temporary, during preparation of Dr.med.vet. dissertation);
 9 months in practice of Dr. Albert Huberty, Roedgen, Luxembourg
- 1983 1985 Research and Teaching Associate, Institute for Milk Hygiene and Technology, Hannover Veterinary School,
 Germany
- 1986 1990 Graduate Research Assistant, Dairy Science Department, University of Florida
- 1990 1997 Assistant / Associate (7/1995) Professor of Veterinary Epidemiology, Department of Medical Microbiology,
 Veterinary Diagnostic and Investigational Laboratory, College of Veterinary Medicine, The University of Georgia
- 1997– 2006 Coordinator, Study Design and Statistical Support Laboratory, Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine, Virginia Tech
- 1997– 2015 Professor (Associate Professor, promoted 2008) of Veterinary Epidemiology, Large Animal Clinical Sciences

 Department, then Population Health Sciences Department, Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine, Virginia Tech
- 2005- 2015 Director, Veterinary Public Health Program, (since 2010) Virginia Tech Public Health Program
- 2009 2015 Professor (secondary appointment), Department of Basic Sciences, Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine
- 2010- 2015 Head, Department of Population Health Sciences
- 2014–2015 Member, Virginia Tech Faculty of Health Sciences
- 2015 Present Professor, Epidemiology, Department of Population Medicine and Diagnostic Sciences
 Executive Director, Animal Health Diagnostic Center and New York State Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory
 Associate Dean, Diagnostic Operations & Government Relations
 College of Veterinary Medicine, Cornell University

Publications

- 1. **Elvinger F**, Head HH, Wilcox CJ, Natzke RP, Eggert RG. Effects of administration of bovine somatotropin on milk yield and composition. J Dairy Sci 1988;71:1515-1525
- 2. Brown MB, Shearer JK, Elvinger F. Mycoplasmal mastitis in a dairy herd. J Am Vet Med Assoc 1990;196:1097-1101
- 3. **Elvinger F**, Hansen PJ, Natzke RP. Modulation of function of bovine polymorphonuclear leukocytes and lymphocytes by elevated temperatures in vitro and in vivo. Am J Vet Res 1991;52:1692-1698
- 4. **Elvinger F**, Hansen PJ, Head HH, Natzke RP. Actions of bovine somatotropin on polymorphonuclear leukocytes and lymphocytes in cattle. J Dairy Sci 1991;74:2145-2152
- 5. **Elvinger F**, Hansen PJ, Littell RC, Natzke RP. Analysis of somatic cell count data by a peak evaluation algorithm to determine inflammation events. J Dairy Sci 1991;74:3396-3406
- 6. **Elvinger F**, Hansen PJ, Natzke RP. Interactions of heat stress and bovine somatotropin on physiology and immune function of lactating cows. J Dairy Sci 1992;75:449-462
- 7. **Elvinger F**, Liggett AD, Tang KN, Harrison LR, Cole JR, Baldwin CA. Eastern equine encephalomyelitis virus infection in Swine. J Am Vet Med Assoc 1994;205:1014-1016
- 8. **Elvinger F**, Reeves DE, Pursell AR, Cole JR, Liauw H. Antibody titers to pseudorabies virus in piglets immunized with gIII deleted pseudorabies vaccine in a pseudorabies infected herd. Vet Microbiol 1994;42:341-348
- 9. **Elvinger F**, Baldwin CA, Liggett AD, Tang KN, Dove CR. Protection of pigs by vaccination of pregnant sows against eastern equine encephalomyelitis virus. Vet Microbiol 1996;51:229-239
- 10. **Elvinger F**, Baldwin CA, Liggett AD, Tang KN, Stallknecht DE. Prevalence of exposure to eastern equine encephalomyelitis virus in domestic and feral swine in Georgia. J Vet Diagn Invest 1996;8:481-484
- 11. Hines ME, Cray C, **Elvinger F**, Altman NH. Macrophage Inhibitory Factor A3 (MIF-A3), a glycolipid compound derived from Mycobacterium avium serovar 2, inhibits candidacidal activity of elicited murine peritoneal macrophages. Vet Microbiol 1996;53:295-302
- 12. Shin SS, **Elvinger F**, Prestwood AK, Cole JR. Exposure of swine to Trichinella spiralis antigen as determined by consecutive ELISAs and western blot. J Parasitol 1997;83:430-433
- 13. Hullinger GA, Cole JR, Elvinger F, Stewart RL. Dermatophytosis in show lambs. Vet Dermatol 1999;10:73-76
- 14. Friday PA, Scarratt WK, Elvinger F, Timoney PJ, Bonda A. Outbreak of ataxia and paresis due to equine herpesvirus type I infection in a herd of riding school horses. J Veterin Intern Med 1999;14:197-201

- 15. Leininger DJ, Roberson JR, **Elvinger F**. Use of eosin methylene blue agar to differentiate Escherichia coli from other gramnegative mastitis pathogens. J Vet Diagn Invest 2001;13:273-275
- 16. Meng XJ, Wiseman B, **Elvinger F**, Guenette DK, Toth TE, Engle RE, Emerson SU, Purcell RH. Prevalence of antibodies to hepatitis E virus in veterinarians working with swine and in normal blood donors in the United States and other countries. J Clin Microbiol 2002;40:117-122
- 17. Altekruse SA, **Elvinger F**, DebRoy C, Pierson FW, Eifert JD, Sriranganathan N. Pathogenic and fecal Escherichia coli strains from turkeys in a commercial operation. Avian Dis 2002;46:562-569
- 18. Altekruse SA, **Elvinger F**, Lee KY, Tollefson LK, Pierson FW, Eifert JD, Sriranganathan N. Antimicrobial susceptibilities of Escherichia coli strains from a turkey operation. J Am Vet Med Assoc 2002;221:411-416
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- 20. Gaydos JK, Davidson WR, Howerth EW, Murphy M, **Elvinger F**, Stallknecht DE. Cross-protection between epizootic hemorrhagic disease virus serotypes 1 and 2 in white-tailed deer. J Wildl Dis 2002;38:720-728
- 21. Huang FF, Haqshenas G, Shivaprasad HL, Guenette DK, Woolcock PR, Larsen CT, Pierson FW, **Elvinger F**, Toth TE, Meng XJ. Heterogeneity and seroprevalence of the newly identified avian hepatitis E virus from chickens in the United States. J Clin Microbiol 2002;40:4197-4202
- 22. Ramirez M, Ernst S, **Elvinger F**, Rivera A, Rosenfeld C. Respuesta serológica y tiempo de saneamiento en rebaños bovinos con brucelosis vacunados con Cepa 19 o Cepa RB-51; Xa Región, Chile. Arch Med Veterin 2002;34:213-220
- 23. Leininger DJ, Roberson JR, **Elvinger F**, Ward D, Akers RM. Evaluation of frequent milkout for treatment of cows with experimentally induced Escherichia coli mastitis. J Am Vet Med Assoc 2003;222:63-66.
- 24. Dietz RE, Hall JB, Whittier WD, **Elvinger F**, Eversole DE. Effects of feeding supplemental fat to beef cows on cold tolerance in newborn calves. J Anim Sci 2003;81:885-894
- 25. Wolf KN, **Elvinger F**, Pilcicki JL. Infrared triggered photography and tracking plates to monitor oral rabies vaccine contact by raccoons in culverts. Wildlife Soc Bull 2003;31:387-391
- 26. Brown JD, Sleeman JM, **Elvinger F**. Epidemiologic determinants of aural abscessation in free-living eastern box turtles (Terrapene Carolina) admitted to the Wildlife Center of Virginia. J Wildl Dis 2003;39:918-921
- 27. Buechner-Maxwell VA, **Elvinger F**, Thatcher CD, Murray MJ, White NA Rooney DK. Physiological Response of Normal Adult Horses to a Low Residue Liquid Diet. J Eq Veterin Sci 2003;23:310-317
- 28. Altekruse SF, **Elvinger F**, Wang Y, Ye K. A model to estimate the optimal sample size for microbiological surveys. Applied and Environmental Microbiology 2003;69:6174-6178
- 29. Fenaux M, Opriessnig T, Halbur PG, **Elvinger F**, Meng XJ. A Chimeric Porcine Circovirus (PCV) with the Immunogenic Capsid Gene of the Pathogenic PCV2 Cloned Into the Genomic Backbone of the Non-Pathogenic PCV1 Induces Protective Immunity Against PCV2 Infection in Pigs. J Virol 2004;78:6297-6303
- 30. Hancock K, Zajac AM, **Elvinger F**, Lindsay DS. Prevalence of agglutinating antibodies to Sarcocystis neurona in raccoons (Procyon lotor) from an urban area of Virginia. J Parasitol 2004;90:881-882
- 31. Fenaux M, Opriessnig T, Halbur PG, **Elvinger F**, Meng XJ. Two Amino Acid Mutations in the Capsid Protein of Type 2 Porcine Circovirus (PCV2) Enhanced PCV2 Replication In Vitro and Attenuated the Virus In Vivo. J Virol 2004;78:13440-13446
- 32. Hancock K, Zajac AM, Pung OC, **Elvinger F**, Lindsay DS. Prevalence of antibodies to Trypanosoma cruzi in raccoons (Procyon lotor) from an urban area of Northern Virginia. J Parasitol 2005;91:470-472
- 33. Billam P, Huang FF, Sun ZF, Pierson FW, Duncan RB, **Elvinger F**, Guenette DK, Toth TE, Meng XJ. Systematic pathogenesis and replication of a strain of avian hepatitis E vrus in specific-pathogen-free adult chickens. J Virol, 2005 79:3429-3437
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- 35. McKeown NE, Opriessnig T, Thomas P, Guenette DK, **Elvinger F**, Fenaux M, Halbur PG, Meng XJ. Effects of type 2 porcine circovirus (PCV2) maternal antibodies on experimental infection of piglets with PCV2. Clin Diagn LabImmunol, 2005;12:1347-1351
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- 39. **Elvinger F**, Akey BL, Senne DA, Pierson FW, Porter-Spalding BA, Spackman E, Suarez DL. Characteristics of diagnostic tests used in the 2002 low pathogenicity avian influenza H7N2 outbreak in Virginia. J Vet Diagn Invest 2007;19:341-348
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- 41. Stone AB, Hautala JA, ..., **Elvinger F**, ... (21 Panelists). Meeting Report: Panel on the Potential Utility and Strategies for Design and Implementation of a National Companion Animal Infectious Disease Surveillance System. Zoonoses Public Health 2008;55:378-384
- 42. Harris MC, Schorling JJ, Herring IP, **Elvinger F**, Bright PR, Pickett JP. Ophthalmic examination findings in a colony of Screech owls (Megascops asio). Vet Ophthalmol 2008;11:186-92.
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- 44. Christmann U, Hite RD, Witonsky SG, **Elvinger F**, Werre SR, Thatcher CD, Tan RH, Buechner-Maxwell VA. Influence of age on surfactant isolated from healthy horses maintained on pasture. J Vet Intern Med 2009;23:612-618
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- 46. Kagan IA, Kirch BH, Thatcher CD, Teutsch CD, **Elvinger F**, Pleasant RS. Seasonal and diurnal changes in starch content and sugar profiles of bermudagrass in the Piedmont region of the United States. J Eq Vet Sci 2011;31:521-529
- 47. Gross J, **Elvinger F**, Hungerford LL, Gehrt SD. Raccon use of the urban matrix in the Baltimore Metropolitan Area, Maryland. Urban Ecosyst 2011; DOI 10.1007/s11252-011-0218-z; 2012;15:667-682
- 48. Thatcher CD, Pleasant RS, Geor RJ, **Elvinger F**. Prevalence of Overconditioning in Mature Horses in Southwest Virginia during the Summer. J Vet Intern Med 2012;26:1413–1418
- 49. Pleasant RS, Suagee JK, Thatcher CD, **Elvinger F**, Geor RJ. Adiposity, plasma insulin, leptin, lipids, and oxidative stress in mature light breed horses. J Vet Intern Med 2013;27(3):576-82. doi: 10.1111/jvim.12056. Epub 2013 Mar 20
- 50. Lucas AS, Swecker WS, Lindsay DS, Scaglia G, Neele JPS, **Elvinger FC**, Zajac AM. 2014. A study of the level and dynamics of Eimeria populations in naturally infected, grazing beef cattle at various stages of production in the Mid-Atlantic USA. Vet Parasitol dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.vetpar.2014.02.053
- 51. Baltasar P, Milton S, Swecker W, **Elvinger F**, Ponder M. Shiga Toxin-Producing Escherichia coli Distribution and Characterization in a Pasture-Based Cow-Calf Production System. J Food Prot 2014;77:722-731
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- 53. Cossaboom CM, Heffron CL, Cao D, Yugo DM, Houk-Miles AE, Lindsay DS, Zajac AM, Bertke AS, **Elvinger F**, Meng XJ. Risk factors and sources of foodborne hepatitis E virus infection in the United States. J Med Virol. 2016 Feb 17. doi: 10.1002/jmv.24497

□ Awards and Honors

- USDA APHIS Administrator's 2007 Award for Animal Health, US Animal Health Association. October 21, 2007. Reno, Nevada
- USDA APHIS VS Certificate of Appreciation, November 2009. Dr. John Clifford, VS Deputy Administrator

☐ Professional/Academic Affiliations

- American Veterinary Medical Association
- American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians
- · United States Animal Health Association

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Rodger Main – Bio for AAVLD 2022

Rodger Main is a Professor and Director of the Iowa State University Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (ISU VDL). ISU VDL's team of 175 faculty and staff play an active role on the frontlines of US animal agriculture processing approximately 120,000 diagnostic case submissions and conducting more than 1.5 million diagnostic assays annually.

Rodger has been active in AAVLD on a variety committees (e.g., Lab Directors, Committee on the NAHLN, NAHLN IT, NAHLN Coordinating Council, Emergency Response, and Animal Health Surveillance and Information Management) since coming to serve in his current role at the ISU VDL in 2009.

Most recently, Rodger has also been providing leadership to a highly collaborative effort that is developing a US Swine Health Improvement Plan (US SHIP) being modeled after the basic tenets of the longstanding National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP). US SHIP is on a path towards being codified as an officially recognized USDA Swine Health Program for safeguarding, bettering, and certifying the health of US swine in 2024.

Prior to coming to the ISU VDL, Dr. Main served as the Director of Production Systems for Smithfield's Hog Production Operations located throughout the Midwest and Western US, where he had worked since graduating veterinary school in 1996.

Debra Royal

After graduating with a degree in Clinical Laboratory Technology, I worked in a clinical microbiology lab for eight years and was the supervisor of the sample process department for two years. After the laboratory closed in 2004, I found myself supervising the bacteriology department at the University of Nebraska Veterinary Diagnostic center and that is when I attended my first AAVLD conference. I have attended every year since with one exception, Buffalo. I have been a co-chair on the Bacteriology/Mycology Steering Committee, Bacteriology/Mycology Subcommittee, and the Membership Committee and 3 years ago when I moved from managing the bacteriology lab to quality assurance manager became a member of the Quality Assurance Committee. I have participated in several other committees including Laboratory Operations, Laboratory Safety, and Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. I have been privileged to attend auditor pool training and participate in two AAVLD site visits.

When I am not working, I enjoy spending time with my family and my dogs (2 Beagles and a very cantankerous Yorkie), tending to my garden, and cheering on the Huskers.

I consider it an honor to have been a part of this organization for all these years. The knowledge that I have gained and relationships that I have built are invaluable.



Dr. Cat Barr has been part of AAVLD since 1995, initially very active in the Veterinary Analytical Toxicology, Mycotoxin and Environment Committee, in which she served as chair or co-chair for several years. Over time she has co-chaired the Laboratory Safety and Membership Committees, served many years on the Program Committee, participated in the Government Relations Committee and Strategic Planning Committee, and served on the Executive Committee with her President year in 2014. She is an ad-hoc reviewed for toxicology-associated submissions to JVDI and several other journals. As a member of the auditor pool for the Accreditation Committee, she has participated in 9 laboratory site visits. She currently co-chairs the Strategic Planning Committee and the recently-created AAVLD Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee.

Cat retired from the Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory in January of this year after 30 years in Diagnostic Toxicology and is now working part time as the toxicologist for the North Carolina Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory System.

Dr. Amar Patil is the Director of the Animal Health Diagnostic Laboratory (AHDL) at the New Jersey Department of Agriculture (NJDA). He is a Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Microbiologists (ACVM) in virology and immunology.

Dr. Patil is currently guiding AAVLD's DEI efforts as a co-chair of the AAVLD Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Committee. He was originally appointed to the DEI task force in 2020. He helped craft AAVLD's DEI policy as a co-chair of the DEI task force. He served as a co-chair of the AAVLD Strategic Planning Committee from 2016 to 2020. Dr. Patil is a member of several AAVLD committees including, but not limited to the Laboratory Directors Committee, Government Relations Committee, Quality Assurance Committee, and joint NAHLN Committee.

Dr. Patil earned a B.V.Sc. degree (2000) from Nagpur Veterinary College, India, M.V.Sc. degree (2002) from Indian Veterinary Research Institute, and Ph.D. (2006) degree from Oklahoma State University. He began his career in laboratory diagnostics as virology/serology section head in 2007 at the NJDA AHDL where he implemented several diagnostic and surveillance programs in support of Animal Health in the State of New Jersey. He was appointed as the AHDL Director in 2012. Since then, he is providing leadership and vision to laboratory services, quality management system, financial operations, and personnel management. Dr. Patil is a recipient of the NJDA's Service Award, the State of New Jersey's Innovation and Efficiency Award, and the Oklahoma State University's Research Excellence Award.

Immediately after graduating from high school in Gardnerville, Nevada I joined the U.S. Navy and served with distinction in the Submarine Support services of the Pacific and Atlantic coasts. This was followed by a B.S. from University of Nevada – Reno in 1969; and M.S. degree from University of Wyoming in 1971; and a Ph.D. from Purdue University in 1974. I then did a post doc at University of Oregon Health Science Center in persistent viral infections with Dr. Jules Hallum.

In 1976, I began my career at Washington State University in the newly formed Washington Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory under the directorship of Dr. Tony Gallina. I worked in the Serology-Virology Labs until retirement in July, 2022.

Early on, I did a year sabbatical leave at NIH, Frederick, MD on comparative retroviral and coronaviral pathogeneses with Dr. Steve O'Brien (1988-89).

I served AAVLD and USAHA in multiple capacities over the years, including: Membership Committee; Virology Committee; JVDI Editorial Board; and Infectious Diseases of Cattle, Bison and Camelids Committee. I was awarded Lifetime Member Award from USAHA in 2014.

I wish to acknowledge my colleagues at Washington State University Dr. Richard Ott, Dr. John Gorham, and Ms. Alison McKeirnan. At University of Washington, Dr. Ronald DiGiacomo and at USDA, Ames, Dr. Janice Miller and Dr. Julia Ridpath.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve the members of AAVLD and USAHA. It has been an honor.

Stephen Peter Schmidt is a retired Toxicologic Pathologist who previously worked for Merck and Pfizer Companies. He earned his BSc and DVM degrees from the University of Illinois and practiced large and companion medicine before returning to graduate school. He completed PhD in Veterinary Pathology from the College of Veterinary Medicine at Iowa State University. Following graduation, he joined the School of Veterinary Medicine at Louisiana State University (LSU) as an assistant professor where he taught and completed his board certification in Veterinary Pathology. After leaving LSU, he joined the Wisconsin Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory in Madison, Wisconsin where he was a Diagnostic Veterinary pathologist for 12 years. He made a career change and transferred his diagnostic laboratory expertise to Toxicologic Pathology by joining the Safety Assessment Teams at Merck & Co and later Pfizer Inc. He was active as a Toxicologic Pathologist for the last 17 years of his career.

He valued his experience in Diagnostic Veterinary Medicine because of the problem-solving skills he acquired and requirement collaboration with the scientists and technicians in the laboratory to solve and research animal disease problems. He has been a member of the AAVLD since 1989/90 and has supported the Foundation over the years.

Biosketch of Dr. Peter Timoney

A native of Dublin, Ireland, Dr. Peter Timoney earned his Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine, Hons. degree (DVM equivalent) from the National University of Ireland in 1964. Subsequently, he received a M.S. degree in virology from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign in 1966. Returning to Ireland, he held an appointment in the Virology Section of the Irish Department of Agriculture's Veterinary Research Laboratory from 1966 to 1972. In 1972, he was appointed to head up an Equine Diseases Section at the laboratory, spending 1973 in Canada and the USA, acquiring experience in equine infectious diseases. He obtained his PhD degree from the University of Dublin in 1974 and F.R.C.V.S from the Royal College of Surgeons, London, in 1978, both in Virology. In 1979, he accepted appointment as associate professor of virology in the Diagnostic Laboratory, College of Veterinary Medicine, Cornell University with a joint appointment in the Department of Microbiology. In 1981, he returned to Ireland to assume the position of scientific director of a planned Irish Equine Center. Having helped establish the Equine Center, he returned to the USA in 1983, joining the faculty in the Department of Veterinary Science, University of Kentucky where he remained until his retirement in 2021. During his tenure at the University, he held the Frederick Van Lennep Endowed Chair in Equine Veterinary Science from 1988-2021. In addition, Dr. Timoney served as Director of the Maxwell H. Gluck Equine Research Center from 1989-2009 and Chair of the Department of Veterinary Science (including the M.H. Gluck Equine Research Center and the University of Kentucky Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory) from 1989-2008.

Dr. Timoney is an internationally recognized expert in equine infectious diseases especially viral diseases. He is recognized as the leading researcher in the world on equine arteritis virus (EAV) and the disease equine viral arteritis (EVA), having studied the virus and disease for over 37 years. His work has added to our understanding of the diagnosis and pathogenesis of this virus infection, immune response of the horse to the agent, the role of the androgen mediated carrier state in the stallion, venereal transmission of the virus, characterization of the disease in donkeys, fetal pathology, the impact of the disease on semen quality, and the development of better diagnostic tests and rapid detection assays. He has also helped to assess the safety of the modified live virus vaccine against EVA, and has conducted surveillance and risk analysis studies in a wide range of countries. Dr. Timoney also headed a group formed by the American Horse Council to establish guidelines for the prevention of EVA in horses. As a result of his efforts, EVA, a disease of considerable potential economic impact, can be successfully managed. Furthermore, his laboratory at the M. H. Gluck Equine Research Center was selected as an OIE designated reference laboratory for EVA in 1991, assisting many countries in the world to deal with this economically important disease over the past 30 years. Another significant diagnostic and research field to which Dr. Timoney has contributed is equine rhinopneumonitis (equine herpesviruses 1-4), as exemplified by the fact that he became an OIE designated expert on equine rhinopneumonitis in 2010. He has authored and co-authored more than 250 scientific publications including 46 book chapters. He has given ~330 invited presentations at international, national and regional meetings.

Dr. Timoney has received many awards. Some examples include USDA Secretary of Agriculture Honor Award Recipient in 2001 and 2002, induction into the Gluck Equine Research Hall of Fame in 2009, Meritorious Service Award from the National institute for Animal Agriculture in 2012, Commemorative Medal from the New Zealand Ministry of Racing Industries in recognition for his contribution to eradication of Equine Arteritis Virus from New Zealand 1988-2014, AAEP Distinguished Educator Award in 2017, Albert Nelson Marquis Lifetime Achievement Award in 2018, James J. Hickey Jr. Award from the American Horse Council in 2018, and Kentucky Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders Association Lifetime Achievement Award in 2022.

"Macy Rasmussen is a second-year veterinary student at the cooperative University of Nebraska-Lincoln and Iowa State University Professional Program of Veterinary Medicine. She worked in the Bacteriology department at the Nebraska Veterinary Diagnostic Center as an undergraduate, and she has worked in the lab of Dr. Dustin Loy for three years. She is interested in infectious diseases, epidemiology, and public health. She is considering mixed animal practice after graduation."

Jayne is a second-year dual Anatomic Pathology and Toxicology resident at Michigan State University. Jayne received her DVM from Colorado State University in conjunction with the University of Alaska Fairbanks.

Throughout vet school, and now within her residency position, research has acted as an anchor, keeping Jayne connected to her purpose/passion for promoting wildlife health. Eventually, Jayne would like to work in a position where she is able to collaborate with biologists, clinical veterinarians, and policy makers, to incorporate her understanding of pathology and toxicology to positively impact wildlife health and conservation.

Dr. Ryan Yanez is a veterinary pathologist at the Ohio Department of Agriculture, Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory. He received his veterinary degree from The Ohio State University, College of Veterinary Medicine in May 2019 and practiced small animal clinical medicine for one year in Columbus, Ohio. He completed an anatomic pathology residency at Michigan State University in June 2022. His interests include diagnostic pathology and infectious disease.

Cheng-Shun Hsueh is a third-year anatomic pathology resident and PhD student at Iowa State University, College of Veterinary Medicine. He received his DVM and Master's degree from Taiwan. He is currently working with Drs. Yuko Sato, Olufemi Fasina and Pablo Pineyro on his PhD with a focus on avian reovirus and avian influenza.

Daniel Felipe Barrantes Murillo, DVM, MSc

Dr. Barrantes Murillo earned his DVM in 2016 from the National University of Costa Rica (UNA). He worked as a lecturer and research assistant for three years at the Pathology Department at UNA and started his Master's degree program. He obtained his Master's Degree in Microbiology in 2020 from the University of Costa Rica (UCR). His thesis topic was the histopathological findings associated with the evidence of natural infection caused by a selected arbovirus (DENV, ZIKV, CHIKV, WNV, EEEV, VEEV, SLEV, YFV) in free-ranging bats and birds. His research interests are arthropod-borne viruses, infectious diseases in wild animals, and neurotropic virus and viral pathogenesis. He joined the combined anatomic pathology residency-PhD program in 2020.

Bio:

McKenzie is a 2nd Year DVM Student at Colorado State University's College of Veterinary Medicine. Originally from Salt Lake City, Utah she moved to Fort Collins, Colorado in 2015 to complete an undergraduate degree in Equine Science at CSU followed by a master's in microbiology and Immunology, which was completed in 2020. McKenzie's current research is primarily centered around SARS-CoV-2 surveillance in domestic mammals and the One Health interface of zoonotic disease between humans and animals. Her professional interests include small animal internal medicine, small animal emergency and critical care, and emerging infectious diseases. McKenzie looks forward to continuing research through veterinary school and eventually pursuing internship, residency, and PhD after she graduates.

Photo:





Berenice Munguía-Ramírez, DVM.

DVM from Sonora, México and current MS student in Veterinary Preventive Medicine at Iowa State University under Dr. Jeffrey Zimmerman and Dr. Luis Giménez-Lirola. My research work is focused in RT-qPCR improvements for PRRSV diagnostics in swine specimens.

Catie Burgess got her Bachelor of Science from the College of William & Mary in Williamsburg, VA with a double major in Biology and Government. She completed an honors thesis in the lab of Dr. Mark Forsyth working to define a two-component system-independent acid regulon in *Helicobacter pylori*. After graduating in the Spring of 2020, she went to work at Virginia Tech's Molecular Diagnostics Lab under the direction of Dr. Carla Finkielstein conducting RT-qPCR and variant surveillance for COVID-19 cases across Southwest Virginia. She is currently a second year PhD student in the Translational Biology, Medicine, and Health program at Virginia Tech, in the lab of Dr. Kevin Lahmers working on the molecular epidemiology of *Theileria orientalis*.

Kaiping Deng is a Biologist-Staff Fellow at the FDA/CFSAN/Office of Food Safety/Division of Food Processing and Science Technology/Proficiency Testing Team located in Chicago IL. She received her PhD in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology from Oklahoma State University. She was Senior Scientist at Illinois Institute of Technology/Institute for Food Safety and Health before joining the FDA in 2020. Dr. Deng's interest focuses on fresh produce safety and method validation for microbial detection. Since 2020, she has collaborated with FDA/CVM/Vet-LIRN and worked on several rounds of inter-laboratory comparison exercises of SARS-CoV-2 detection method.

Dr. Alyson Fitzgerald completed her Bachelor's degree in Animal Science at Utah State University. She received her Doctorate degree in Veterinary Medicine at Kansas State University in 2021. She completed a small animal rotating internship at Wheat Ridge Animal Hospital in Denver, Colorado in July 2022. Currently, she is an Emergency and Critical Care resident at North Carolina State University. Her clinical interests include small animal toxicology, sepsis, trauma and mechanical ventilation. Her research interests include critical care medicine, toxicology, PK/PD and analytical chemistry.

Dr. Christine Foxx is an ORISE Postdoctoral Fellow for the USDA-APHIS-VS-NVSL National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN). She received her Ph.D. in Integrative Physiology from the University of Colorado Boulder in 2020 with a research focus on microbiome characterization and analysis. At the NAHLN, Dr. Foxx conducts bioinformatics analysis of whole-genome sequence data and antimicrobial resistance data from various pathogens in the NAHLN AMR pilot project.

Amro Hashish, Postdoctoral Research Associate in Dr. Mohamed El-Gazzar's lab in Iowa State University's Veterinary Diagnostic Production Animal Medicine Department. Prior to joining Iowa State University, he completed his DVM from Suez Canal University, Egypt. His Master's and PhD were focused on Veterinary Virology. His current work is focused on adopting state-of-the-art technology of Next-generation sequencing platforms for poultry disease diagnosis and utilizing these technologies to combat the poultry industry's challenges across the US.

Bio:

Dr. Chelsea Sykes grew up in the Central Valley of California and enjoyed hiking and camping with her family and dog. After completing a B.S. in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, she went on to complete her Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine from UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine. She spent 9 years practicing preventative care for companion animals, initially as a general practitioner and then as a high quality high volume spay neuter surgeon. She has since returned to UC Davis to specialize in veterinary toxicology and opted to pursue a master's degree in pharmacology and toxicology. Chelsea is enjoying the diversity and breadth of cases seen in the diagnostic laboratory. She is planning to pursue regulatory toxicology and/or research with a focus on aquatic health for all species after completing her residency and master's degree.

Outside of work, Chelsea loves to be outside with her dog, Cleo. They spend many afternoons and weekends on long walks and finding hiking trails nearby to explore. She also enjoys baking, quilting, painting, and competing with her rowing club.

Gaurav has obtained a DVM-equivalent degree from Tribhuvan University, Nepal, and a Master's degree from Iowa State University in veterinary preventive medicine. He is currently working with Dr. Jianqiang Zhang to pursue a Ph.D. at Iowa State University, Department of Veterinary diagnostic and production animal medicine.

His research is on developing new diagnostic tools for the detection of swine viruses by PCR, characterizing the virulence, transmission, pathogenicity, and antibody response of the recently emerged PRRSV "1-4-4 L1C variant" strain in the United States, and evaluating PRRSV vaccines for their protective efficacy against this new "1-4-4 L1C variant" strain to guide veterinarians and swine producers for better control of this agent. He is also actively involved in some side research projects, such as evaluation of the *in vitro* anti-viral effects of some proprietary products, isolation and characterization of contemporary porcine respiratory coronavirus (PRCV) isolate, and comparing the infection dynamics of PRCV contemporary strains with historical ones.

Cheng-Shun Hsueh is a third-year anatomic pathology resident and PhD student at Iowa State University, College of Veterinary Medicine. He received his DVM and Master's degree from Taiwan. He is currently working with Drs. Yuko Sato, Olufemi Fasina and Pablo Pineyro on his PhD with a focus on avian reovirus and avian influenza.

Sai Narayanan is an anatomic pathology resident and doctoral scholar at the Oklahoma Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory (OADDL), mentored by Dr. Akhilesh Ramachandran. His research focus includes Machine learning and neural networks for sequencing-based pathogen detection, pathogen whole genome characterization and microbiome analysis.

Short biography

Name: Weerapong Laovechprasit (Mac)

Degree: Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (Honors), Kasetsart University, Thailand 2015

Ph.D. candidate (Comparative Biomedical Sciences), Department of Pathology, College

Veterinary Medicine, University of Georgia

Work experience: Marine-life veterinarian, Department of Marine and Coastal Resource, Thailand

Research project: Development of advanced technologies (RNAscope and MinION sequencing) for viral diagnosis on wildlife and aquatic animals

Awards: Fulbright Graduate Scholar, Fulbright Thailand 2019

Weerapong Laovechprasit (Mac) obtained a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (Honors), Kasetsart University, Thailand 2015 Ph.D. candidate (Comparative Biomedical Sciences), Department of Pathology, College Veterinary Medicine, University of Georgia. He has worked for Marine-life veterinarian, Department of Marine and Coastal Resource, Thailand. Research includes Development of advanced technologies (RNAscope and MinION sequencing) for viral diagnosis on wildlife and aquatic animals

Bio:

Dr. Ana Paula Poeta Silva received her DVM in 2015 and her master's degree in veterinary epidemiology in 2018 at the College of Veterinary University of Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil. She was a recipient of the Emerging Leaders of America Program and a Visiting Scholar at the Veterinary College from University of Saskatchewan in Canada between 2018 and 2019. Dr. Silva completed her PhD in Population Animal Sciences at Iowa State University in August 2022. Currently, Dr. Silva joined the Field Epidemiology Team from Iowa State University as a Postdoc researcher, working in biosecurity, surveillance, and production data.

Dr. Jessica Kendziorski is a third year anatomic and toxicologic pathology resident at Michigan State University in collaboration with Charles River Laboratories (Mattawan, MI). Prior to graduating from The Ohio State University for veterinary school in 2020, she earned a PhD in Pharmacology from the University of Cincinnati, during which time she developed a passion for pathology and reproductive toxicology.

Jayne is a second-year dual Anatomic Pathology and Toxicology resident at Michigan State University. Jayne received her DVM from Colorado State University in conjunction with the University of Alaska Fairbanks.

Throughout vet school, and now within her residency position, research has acted as an anchor, keeping Jayne connected to her purpose/passion for promoting wildlife health. Eventually, Jayne would like to work in a position where she is able to collaborate with biologists, clinical veterinarians, and policy makers, to incorporate her understanding of pathology and toxicology to positively impact wildlife health and conservation.

Alexandra Reddy Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine Class of 2024

Alexandra was born and raised in Southern Virginia. She rescued a scruffy puppy that became her greatest companion for 15 years and its medical trials fostered her interest in veterinary medicine. Since then, she has had research experiences in environmental toxicology and veterinary pathology that cultivated her ambitions as a veterinary scientist and pathologist.

Alexandra believes Dr. Elliot Garber's platform encompasses her ambitions: To become not only a clinician but also a veterinary scientist who contributes to the lifetime mission of One Health as an "Uncommon Veterinarian" in pathology and diagnostic laboratory medicine.

Outside of veterinary school, I enjoy weightlifting, playing instruments, spending time with my family, and traveling.

Robert Schmidt University of Missouri College of Veterinary Medicine Class of 2023

Robert was born and raised in Columbia, Missouri. At the age of 15, he started working for a small animal general practice where his aunt was a veterinarian. Over time, he fell in love with veterinary medicine and decided to go to vet school.

Through undergrad and vet school, Robert has participated in several different research projects and hope to be involved in research in his career.

Currently, Robert is considering specializing in pathology or laboratory animal medicine, although he is also thinking about doing general practice or emergency work for a few years after graduation.

McKenzie Sparrer Colorado State University College of Veterinary Medicine Class of 2025

McKenzie is originally from Salt Lake City, Utah but moved to Fort Collins, Colorado in 2015 to complete an undergraduate degree in Equine Science at CSU followed by a master's in microbiology and Immunology, which was completed in 2020.

McKenzie's current research is primarily centered around SARS-CoV-2 surveillance in domestic mammals and the One Health interface of zoonotic disease between humans and animals. Her professional interests include small animal internal medicine, small animal emergency and critical care, and emerging infectious diseases.

McKenzie looks forward to continuing research through veterinary school and eventually pursuing internship, residency, and PhD after she graduates.