

# AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF VETERINARY LABORATORY DIAGNOSTICIANS

## EVENT

66th annual meeting, meeting, Oct. 12-18, 2023, National Harbor, MD.

## AAVLD AWARDS

### E.P. Pope Award



#### **Dr. Catherine Barr, PhD**

*Diplomate American Board of Toxicology (ABT), Adjunct Professor at North Carolina State University College of Veterinary Medicine in the Department of Population Health and Pathobiology, currently serves as the Chief Toxicologist for the North Carolina Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory System (NCVDLS) at the Rollins Laboratory in Raleigh, NC.*

[Biography](#)

### Distinguished Service Award



#### **Dr. Lanny Pace, DVM, PhD**

*Professor & Executive Director Emeritus, Mississippi State University holds undergraduate and DVM degrees from Mississippi State University, a PhD degree from Louisiana State University and is a Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Pathologists. Dr. Pace served in diagnostic and academic appointments at Murray State University, the University of Missouri and finally for many years as Executive Director of the Mississippi Veterinary Research & Diagnostic Laboratory System and Professor of Pathology at Mississippi State University.*

[Biography](#)

### Outstanding Performance Award for Diagnostic Services



#### **Ms Meridith Rhea**

*Supervisor of the Necropsy and Shipping and Receiving sections of the San Bernardino branch of the California Animal Health and Food Safety (CAHFS) laboratory-UCDavis, for the 2022 AAVLD Outstanding Performance Award. Meridith has been the supervisor of the Necropsy, and Shipping and Receiving sections of the San Bernardino laboratory of CAHFS for more than 20 years.*

[Biography](#)

## AAVLD President's Award



### **David S. Korcal, BS, MT**

*Associate Director and Quality and Risk Management Administrator at the Michigan State University Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory. He began his more than 34-year career at the Laboratory as a medical technologist in the Clinical Pathology Section and served as a quality control officer. Beyond his work at MSU, Dave has been an active member of AAVLD since 2005, serving on the Accreditation and Quality Assurance committees for 18 years, chairing the QA committee for four years and serving as co-chair of the Accreditation Committee since 2016.*

[Biography](#)

## Life Membership Award



### **Dr. Beverly Byrum, DVM, PhD**

*Dr. Byrum has served in numerous leadership and service roles in the AAVLD, in addition to a variety of capacities for the USAHA and the Steering Committee for the NAHLN. She served as chair of both the AAVLD Accreditation Committee (from 2010-2014) and the Cattle Health Committee for the National Institute for Animal Agriculture (NIAA). Among many awards, she received AAVLD E.P. Pope award, the NIAA Service Award in 2002, and the Ohio Poultry Association Service Award in 2003.*

[Biography](#)



### **Dr. Lanny Pace, DVM, PhD**

*Professor & Executive Director Emeritus, Mississippi State University holds undergraduate and DVM degrees from Mississippi State University, a PhD degree from Louisiana State University and is a Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Pathologists. Dr. Pace served in diagnostic and academic appointments at Murray State University, the University of Missouri and finally for many years as Executive Director of the Mississippi Veterinary Research & Diagnostic Laboratory System and Professor of Pathology at Mississippi State University.*

[Biography](#)



**Dr. Scott Fitzgerald, MS**

*Veterinary Medicine, Michigan State University*

[Biography](#)

**Award for Excellence in Diagnostic Veterinary Microbiology Awardee (Sponsored by BIOMIC)**



**Dr. Claire Burbick, DVM, Ph.D., DACVM**

*Section Head of Bacteriology/Mycology at the Washington Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory and Clinical Associate Professor in the Department of Veterinary Microbiology and Pathology. In addition, she is Director of the Clinical Microbiology Residency Program which is responsible for training new veterinary microbiology specialists. Dr. Burbick completed her DVM at Washington State University, as well as her clinical microbiology residency and PhD. Dr. Burbick's primary interests include clinical microbiology and topics in antimicrobial resistance testing and interpretation of susceptibility data.*

[Biography](#)

**Pioneer in Virology Award**



**Dr. Richard Mock, PhD**

*Attended Texas A&M University earning his bachelor's degree in animal science. After college, he served in the US Army at Ft. Detrick Maryland. Following his service, Richard spent time working at Hazleton Research Lab in Virginia doing primate toxicology. He then attended North Carolina State University earning a master's degree and continued his graduate work at the University of Kentucky. When his advisor moved to the University of Illinois, he followed and earned his PhD in Veterinary Medical Sciences. After earning his PhD, he worked on an NIH grant until joining the Illinois Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory. In 1982, Richard relocated to Amarillo, Texas and started his 27-year career as a Veterinary Virologist with the Texas A&M Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory system.*

[Biography](#)

**Walker Award for best oral bacteriology presentation Award, sponsored by Anaerobe Systems**



**Jessica Santos- Streauslin**

*Iowa State University*

Presentation:

Comparative analysis of disease-associated and non-disease associated *Streptococcus* *usis* isolates using antimicrobial resistance prediction by whole genome sequencing and antimicrobial susceptibility testing.

[Biography](#)

**J. Lindsay Oaks award, bacteriology, best student molecular biology presentation-poster Award, sponsored by Veterinary Medical Research & Development (VMRD)**



**Maria Hakimi**

*Iowa State University*

Presentation:

Comparative phylogenetic analysis of *Brachyspira* *hyodysenteriae* isolates from diverse geographic origins.

[Biography](#)

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



**Christy King**

*Iowa State University*

Presentation:

Implementation of a healthcare associated infection tracking program at the OSU VMC: A Comprehensive Approach towards monitoring and mitigation.

[Biography](#)

**Dr. David Bemis Microbiology Trainee Travel Award**



**Dhruv N. Desai**

*University of Pennsylvania*

Presentation:

Whole-Genome Sequencing of Two VIM Carbapenemase-Producing Enterobacterales Isolates from Dogs.

[Biography](#)

**AAVLD/ACVP Diagnostic Pathology Resident/Graduate Student Award**



**Calvin C. Ko**

*Iowa 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**



**Carmen Smith**

*Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine,  
Department of Biomedical Sciences, Section of Anatomic  
Pathology*

Presentation:

In situ hybridization for *Escherichia coli* in canine granulomatous colitis.

[Biography](#)

**Diagnostic Pathology Slide Seminar Resident/Graduate Student Award**



First place:

**Anna Flocken**

*New Hampshire Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory*

Presentation:

Diagnostic investigation into a mortality event involving a managed population of golden shiners.

[Biography](#)



Second place:

**Calvin C. Ko**

*Iowa State University*

Presentation:

Mycoplasma hyorhinis meningoencephalitis.

[Biography](#)



Third place:

**Carlos Schild**

*University of California-Davis*


Presentation:

Chronic desmitis of the suspensory ligament in a warmblood horse.


[Biography](#)

## Scientific Session Best Poster Award

 A portrait of Sirisha Parameswaran, a woman with long dark hair and glasses, wearing a red zip-up jacket with the Iowa State University Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory logo.	<p>First Place:</p> <p><b>Sirisha Parameswaran</b></p> <p><i>Iowa State University</i></p> <p>Presentation:</p> <p>Evaluating the potential of high-throughput SmartChip Real-time PCR system for high-volume testing for foreign animal diseases.</p> <p><a href="#"><u>Biography</u></a></p>
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 A portrait of Adelaide N. Basco, a woman with long blonde hair, wearing a black top and a necklace.	<p>Second Place:</p> <p><b>Adelaide N. Basco</b></p> <p><i>University of Georgia- Athens</i></p> <p>Presentation:</p> <p>Multiplexing avian diagnostic testing for avian influenza virus (AIV) and avian paramyxovirus-1.</p> <p><a href="#"><u>Biography</u></a></p>
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## Scientific Session Oral Presentation

 A portrait of Betsy Armenta-Leyva, a woman with long dark hair and glasses, wearing a yellow top.	<p><b>Betsy Armenta-Leyva</b></p> <p><i>Iowa State University</i></p> <p>Presentation:</p> <p>Why and how to normalize diagnostic PCR results using a commercial PRRSV RT-qPCR.</p> <p><a href="#"><u>Biography</u></a></p>
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## JVDI Best Manuscript Award



**Daniel Rissi**, Fabiano Oliveira

*University of Georgia- Athens*

Presentation:

Review of diagnostic histologic features of cutaneous round cell neoplasms in dogs. JVDI 2022;34:769-779.

[Biography](#)

## JVDI Best Brief Report

No photo

**Kinga Urbaniak**, David A. Meekins, A. Sally Davis, Juergen A. Richt, Jessie D. Trujillo

*Kansas State University*

Presentation:

Development of a sensitive, high-throughput extraction protocol for qPCR detection of African swine fever virus in formalin-fixed, paraffin-embedded tissues. JVDI 2023;35:284-288.

[Biography](#)

## Molecular Diagnostics & Bioinformatics Oral Presentation



**Konner R. Cool**

*Kansas State University*

Presentation:

Experimental co-infection of calves with SARS-CoV-2 variants of concern delta and omicron.

[Biography](#)



## Molecular Diagnostics & Bioinformatics Poster Presentation



**Sai Narayanan**

*Oklahoma State University*

Presentation:

A novel platform for pathogen detection by metagenome sequencing.

[Biography](#)

## Trainee Travel Awardees



**Aimee Pepper**

*University of Illinois -Urbana*

Presentation:

Validating a reverse transcription loop-mediated isothermal amplification assay for the detection of SARS-CoV-2 in animal feces.

[Biography](#)



**Gaurav Rawal**

*Iowa State University*

Presentation:

Development, evaluation, and clinical application of PRRSV-2 vaccine-like real-time RT-PCR assays.

[Biography](#)



## **Maria Chaves**

*Iowa State University*

Presentation:

Optimization of Oxford Nanopore Technology for Avian Influenza Virus Metagenomics Next Generation Sequencing.

[Biography](#)



## **Daniel Moraes**

*Iowa State University*

Presentation:

Assessment of performance of IAV population-based sampling and probability of IAV detection within litter level in breeding swine herds.

[Biography](#)



## **Brooklyn Henderson**

*Iowa State University*

Presentation:

Comparison of three commercial Mycoplasma hyopneumoniae (MHP) ELISAs with the MHP portion of a commercial triplex fluorescent microsphere immunoassay for MHP, porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome virus (PRRSV) type 1 and PRRSV type 2.

[Biography](#)



**Jessica Santos Streauslin**

*Iowa State University*

Presentation:

Comparative analysis of disease-associated and non-disease-associated *Streptococcus suis* isolates using antimicrobial resistance prediction by whole genome sequencing, and antimicrobial susceptibility testing.

[Biography](#)

**Sponsored by Bacteriology Committee & AAVLD Foundation**



**Christy King**

*The Ohio State University*

Presentation:

Implementation of a healthcare-associated infection tracking program at the OSU VMC: A comprehensive approach towards monitoring and mitigation.

[Biography](#)

**Sponsored by the Pathology Committee & AAVLD Foundation**



**Calvin C. Ko**

*Iowa State University*

Presentation:

*Diagnostic investigation and isolation of *Ureaplasma diversum* associated with reproductive disorders in cattle.*

[Biography](#)



**Kathryn Nicole McCullough**

*University of Georgia-Athens*

Presentation:

*Sensitivity and specificity of impression smear cytopathology with histopathology in the laboratory diagnosis of inclusion body hepatitis in chickens.*

[Biography](#)

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



**Kelcie Meador**

*Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine*

[Biography](#)



**Maggie Ringley**

*Ohio State University*

[Biography](#)



**Jera'lyne Hyland**

*University of Pennsylvania*

[Biography](#)



**Amanda Kravitz**

*Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine*

[Biography](#)



**Sarah Kuchinsky**

*Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine*

[Biography](#)

**OFFICIALS**

*Drs. Eric Burrough, Ames, Iowa president; Keith Poulsen, Madison, Wisconsin president-elect and program chair, Tanya LeRoith, Blacksburg, Virginia vice president; Kristy Pabilonia, Fort Collins, Colorado, secretary-treasurer; Jeremiah Saliki, Stillwater, Oklahoma immediate past president; and David H. Zeman, Brookings, South Dakota, executive director*

## E.P. Pope Memorial Award to Dr. Cat Barr

The E. P. Pope Award is presented in memory of Dr. Edward P. Pope who was one of the founders of the American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians (AAVLD) and who served with distinction as its Secretary-Treasurer from 1959 to 1972. The award was established in his honor in 1974, The Pope Award is the highest award given by the Association and is presented to an individual who has made noteworthy and significant contributions to the Association in regard to implementing and advancing the recognition of the specialty of veterinary diagnostic laboratory medicine. The 2023 E. P. Pope Award was presented to Dr. Cat Barr during the 67<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the AAVLD.

Catherine ‘Cat’ Barr, PhD, diplomate American Board of Toxicology (ABT), Adjunct Professor at North Carolina State University College of Veterinary Medicine in the Department of Population Health and Pathobiology, currently serves as the Chief Toxicologist for the North Carolina Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory System (NCVDLS) at the Rollins Laboratory in Raleigh, NC. This part-time position follows her 30-year tenure at the Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory (TVMDL) in College Station and Amarillo, TX, from which she retired as Diagnostic Toxicologist in the Analytical Chemistry/Toxicology Section in early 2022.

Dr. Barr grew up in Memphis, TN, and earned her undergraduate degree in Biochemistry/Molecular Biology with a minor in Analytical Chemistry at Centre College of Kentucky in Danville, KY. Following the birth of her elder daughter, she worked as a technician in the Department of Medical Biochemistry and Genetics at Texas A&M University (TAMU) in College Station, TX, performing primary tissue culture, producing monoclonal antibodies using in vivo immunization followed by clonal culture, and screening by immunofluorescence on frozen sections. In 1991, she was hired as Diagnostic Laboratory Supervisor in Toxicology at TVMDL in College Station and began her graduate degree in Toxicology at TAMU under the mentorship of Dr. John Reagor.

For her graduate work, Dr. Barr directed an industry-funded, GLP-regulated, modified developmental and reproductive toxicology study of an insect growth regulator in sheep, with an eye toward potential use of the compound to decrease the impacts of red imported fire ants (*Solenopsis invicta*) in calving pastures in infested areas. Graduate student Barr introduced her diagnostic lab colleagues to quality assurance and federal regulatory requirements and built TVMDL its first quality system in collaboration with Drs. John Reagor, Konrad Eugster, Robert Fisk, and Bruce Abbitt. All clinical pathology, endocrinology, necropsy, histopathology, and toxicology testing for the project was performed by personnel at TVMDL. Her second daughter arrived just before lamb-watch began. Ovine reproduction was statistically unaffected in the project, but the compound under study was found to be carcinogenic in dogs and was limited for US markets. TVMDL’s experience informed then Laboratory Director Dr. Konrad Eugster toward influencing AAVLD’s Accreditation Committee to develop its accreditation criteria not patterned on federal Good Laboratory Practice standards but on the more service- and production-oriented ISO 17025 standard. Dr. Barr completed her PhD in 1996 and passed her

initial ABT exam in 1999, with successful recertification every five years. She served TVMDL as a Diagnostic Toxicologist at the College Station laboratory except when she was made a Quality Manager and split her time between the College Station and Amarillo locations (2010-2015). She has co-authored 7 peer-reviewed publications and made more the 50 presentations to veterinary practitioners and livestock producers on subjects often focusing on toxic plants and their effects. Her favorite presentations have been about diagnostic toxicology and scientific investigation to undergraduates, 4Hers, and middle school students. She has served as an ad hoc reviewer for veterinary toxicology submissions to JVDI, TOXICON, and the Journal of the AOACi.

Dr. Barr joined AAVLD in 1995 while a graduate student. In 1997, she was 1 of 5 hosts and 1 of 3 fieldtrip leaders for the 5<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Poisonous Plants (ISOPP-5) held in San Angelo, TX. She was Scientific Program Chair for the World Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians meeting that took place in College Station, TX, in 1999. She was elected to leadership of the American Academy for Veterinary and Comparative Toxicology (AAVCT, which meets at AAVLD), serving as Vice President for 1999-2001 and President 2001-2003. She chaired AAVLD's Veterinary Analytical Toxicology and Mycotoxin Committee (precursor to the Committee on Toxicology, Environment and Nutrition) 2001-2007. In 2001, Dr. Barr compiled information from 18 state diagnostic toxicology laboratories including analytes, test methods, preferred samples, turnaround times, and prices and led an all-day Veterinary Toxicology Harmonization Workshop in which 18 toxicologists fine-tuned the information for group distribution as a reference guide. This tool was converted to a searchable database by the Iowa State University Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory and Dr. Barr and Dr. Gary Osweiler presented it to FDA-CVM and USDA, identifying experts and surge responders for suspected bioterrorism cases and contributing to the evolving National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN), Food Emergency Response Network (FERN), and Veterinary Laboratory Investigation and Response Network (VetLIRN). Dr. Barr has co-chaired several other committees and served as AAVLD President in 2014 with all the pre- and post-presidency committee chair commitments that office entails. In 2020, she and Dr. Amar Patil were charged with leading a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Task Force, which they transitioned to a committee the following year. For this, Drs. Barr and Patil received the AAVLD President's Award in 2022. Dr. Barr now serves as a member of the Membership, Program, and Veterinary Toxicology, Environment, and Nutrition Committees and co-chair of the DEI and Strategic Planning Committees. She has been an Accreditation Audit Pool member since 2007 and has participated in 10 Accreditation Site Visits at 7 different AAVLD laboratories.

Dr. Barr currently enjoys working at NCVDLs, where she is developing a new Toxicology testing service as well as assisting with quality management and receiving/accessioning. She is earning an Advanced Certificate in Native Plants at the North Carolina Botanical Garden associated with UNC-Chapel Hill to improve her capacity to assist with plant poisoning diagnoses in the southeastern US. Her part-time status has allowed her to travel to keep up with her daughters, Jen, a physician assistant, and Susannah, a data analyst, and to capture images of more of the toxic plants on her bucket list.

A word from Dr. Barr

I am humbled and awed that the veterinary diagnostic community has recognized me with the honor of E. P. Pope Memorial Award. It has been a privilege to work among so many brilliant diagnosticians across the disciplines over the years. As a trainee, I enjoyed nurturing and challenging interdisciplinary support at TVMDL, and the people of Vet Analytical Tox - Drs. John Reager, Frank Ross, Merl Raisbeck, George Rottinghaus, Gavin Meerdink, and many others - encouraged me to learn and grow. The excellent leaders I had the opportunity to interact with early in my career - Drs. Konrad Eugster, Leon Thacker, Beverly Byrum, Don Lein - informed my patterns of leadership and peer interaction. I have been fortunate to audit alongside accreditation gurus including Drs. Terry McElwain, Sharon Hietala, Barb Martin, Tim Basler, and Dave Korcal, learning their techniques and benefitting from their insights - never mind having the opportunity to learn from exposures in so many other vet diagnostic labs. The aspiration to ever improve our service and testing excellence is intrinsic to AAVLD.

AAVLD has freely shared its wealth of knowledge and wisdom, collegiality, and leadership with me, and I am so grateful! May we continue to freely share with and encourage all who arrive to learn from our experiences and endeavor to carry on our mission.



**Distinguished Service - Dr. Lanny W. Pace**  
**Distinguished Service Award**

**The AAVLD Distinguished Service Award honors those members who have generously volunteered their time, energy, and professionalism to substantially enrich and advance the AAVLD organization.**

Dr. Lanny W. Pace, Professor & Executive Director Emeritus, Mississippi State University holds undergraduate and DVM degrees from Mississippi State University, a PhD degree from Louisiana State University and is a Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Pathologists. Dr. Pace served in diagnostic and academic appointments at Murray State University, the University of Missouri and finally for many years as Executive Director of the Mississippi Veterinary Research & Diagnostic Laboratory System and Professor of Pathology at Mississippi State University.

Dr. Pace has advanced diagnostic veterinary medicine through numerous national and state organizations. Within AAVLD Dr. Pace has served in numerous roles, most notably as chair of the Financial Advisory Committee, co-Chair of the Laboratory Directors Committee, co-Chair of the Government Relations Committee, Accreditation Committee, Workforce Development Committee, and the NAHLN Coordinating Council. Dr. Pace previously received AAVLD's highest award, the Pope Award in 2017, and we are pleased to also present to him, considering his dedicated volunteerism to AAVLD, the Distinguished Service Award.

## **Outstanding Performance - Meridith Rhea**

**This award goes to any member of an AAVLD laboratory that has performed their laboratory duties on behalf of their clients in an outstanding fashion. This may be at the laboratory bench conducting diagnostic tests, or by performing a variety of essential laboratory management services such as clerical, fiscal, physical facility or quality system work.**

This year's awardee is Meridith Rhea from California. She received her Bachelor of Science in Agriculture degree from California Polytechnic in Pomona, California. She began working at the California Animal Health and Food Safety lab, UC Davis in San Bernardino as a laboratory assistant in 2000 and is currently the supervisor of the Necropsy, Shipping and Receiving departments at CAHFS San Bernardino. Meridith is passionate about the CAHFS mission and in education and training of the next generation of laboratorians.

Her nominator stated that **“Meridith is the poster child of the UC Davis and AAVLD accredited laboratories employees. She is an exemplary individual who holds very high the principles of community, including her professional and compassionate dealings with colleagues, employees, supervisors and clients. She is extremely hard working and detail-oriented, with an incredible can-do attitude and outstanding work ethic.”**

## **President's Award – David Korcal**

**The President's Award recognizes an individual who has demonstrated meritorious achievement or contribution by undertaking special initiatives that advance the mission, values, recognition, and reputation of the organization.**

As President, I am pleased to recognize David Korcal for his leadership in AAVLD and internationally in advancing laboratory Quality System management.

David Korcal is the Associate Director and Quality and Risk Management Administrator at the Michigan State University Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory. He began his more than 34-year career at the Laboratory as a medical technologist in the Clinical Pathology Section and served as a quality control officer. Beyond his work at MSU, Dave has been an active member of AAVLD since 2005, serving on the Accreditation and Quality Assurance committees for 18 years, chairing the QA committee for four years and serving as co-chair of the Accreditation Committee since 2016. He has been a quality management system trainer and auditor for the National Animal Health Laboratory Network for more than 10 years. Dave has served on the OIE ad hoc committee for PVS pathway on sustainable laboratories for the past four years and has participated in Performance of Veterinary Services sustainable laboratory missions in Liberia and Nigeria.

## **Life Member – Dr. Beverly Byrum**

This year AAVLD has one Life Member to add to our rolls, Dr. Beverly Byrum. From 2005 until her retirement in 2019, Dr. Byrum served as the director of laboratories for both the Ohio ADDL and the Consumer Protection Laboratory.

Dr. Byrum has served in numerous leadership and service roles in the AAVLD, in addition to a variety of capacities for the USAHA and the Steering Committee for the NAHLN. She served as chair of both the AAVLD Accreditation Committee (from 2010-2014) and the Cattle Health Committee for the National Institute for Animal Agriculture (NIAA). Among many awards, she received AAVLD E.P. Pope award, the NIAA Service Award in 2002, and the Ohio Poultry Association Service Award in 2003.

## **Life Membership - Dr. Lanny W. Pace**

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Dr. Lanny W. Pace, Professor & Executive Director Emeritus, Mississippi State University holds undergraduate and DVM degrees from Mississippi State University, a PhD degree from Louisiana State University and is a Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Pathologists. Dr. Pace served in diagnostic and academic appointments at Murray State University, the University of Missouri and finally for many years as Executive Director of the Mississippi Veterinary Research & Diagnostic Laboratory System and Professor of Pathology at Mississippi State University.

Dr. Pace has advanced diagnostic veterinary medicine through numerous national and state organizations. Within AAVLD Dr. Pace has served in numerous roles, most notably as chair of the Financial Advisory Committee, co-Chair of the Laboratory Directors Committee, co-Chair of the Government Relations Committee, Accreditation Committee, Workforce Development Committee, and the NAHLN Coordinating Council. Dr. Pace previously received AAVLD's highest award, the Pope Award in 2017, and we are pleased to also present to him, considering his dedicated volunteerism to AAVLD, the Distinguished Service Award.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory  
4125 Beaumont RD BLDG 0215, Room 152F  
Lansing, MI 48910

## EDUCATION

- BS, Veterinary Medicine, Michigan State University, 1979
- DVM, Veterinary Medicine, Michigan State University, 1981
- Residency in Veterinary Anatomic Pathology, Purdue University, 1988-91
- PhD, Veterinary Pathology, Purdue University, 1991
- Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Pathologists
- Diplomat of the American College of Poultry Veterinarians

## RESEARCH PROGRAM

- Primarily interested in infectious, emerging and zoonotic disease pathogenesis, especially bovine tuberculosis

## TEACHING INTERESTS

- Anatomic Pathology
- Renal Pathology
- Infectious and Emerging Diseases

## DIAGNOSTIC SERVICE

- Necropsy pathology of all types of animals
- Specialty interests in wildlife, avian species, and fish

Dr. Claire Burbick is the Section Head of Bacteriology/Mycology at the Washington Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory and Clinical Associate Professor in the Department of Veterinary Microbiology and Pathology. In addition, she is Director of the Clinical Microbiology Residency Program which is responsible for training new veterinary microbiology specialists. Dr. Burbick completed her DVM at Washington State University, as well as her clinical microbiology residency and PhD. Dr. Burbick's primary interests include clinical microbiology and topics in antimicrobial resistance testing and interpretation of susceptibility data.

## Richard Mock, PhD

Richard Mock grew up working on his family's farm in Texas. He attended Texas A&M University earning his bachelor's degree in animal science. After college, he served in the US Army at Ft. Detrick Maryland. Following his service, Richard spent time working at Hazleton Research Lab in Virginia doing primate toxicology. He then attended North Carolina State University earning a master's degree and continued his graduate work at the University of Kentucky. When his advisor moved to the University of Illinois, he followed and earned his PhD in Veterinary Medical Sciences. After earning his PhD, he worked on an NIH grant until joining the Illinois Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory. In 1982, Richard relocated to Amarillo, Texas and started his 27-year career as a Veterinary Virologist with the Texas A&M Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory system. He was awarded Veterinary Virologist Emeritus status from Texas A&M in 2016. He retired as Assistant Director at the North Carolina Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory in 2018.

Richard has been a member of several professional organizations including the AAVLD (Life Member), USAHA (Life Member), American Society for Microbiology (Emeritus Member), American Association for the Advancement of Science, Society of Sigma Xi, and Gamma Sigma Delta. Richard has been a member of AAVLD since 1978 and has served on several committees, including the Serology Committee from 1986-2006 - Chairman 1991-1997, Brucella ovis ELISA Standardization Subcommittee - Chairman 1988-90, Credentials Committee 1988, Virology Committee 1996-2018 including the Subcommittee on Guidelines on QA/QC for Diagnostic Virology in 2003, Membership Committee 1987-2010 Co-Chair 2001-2006, Executive Committee 2005-2009, and the Accreditation Committee 2006-2022.

During his career, Richard has worked on several diagnostic challenges including Pseudorabies, Bovine respiratory disease, Equine Herpes virus and West Nile virus. He has had over 50 publications.

Richard has been married to his wife, Mary, for 50 years and they have two children and five grandchildren. He enjoyed officiating football for 25 years and officiated the Texas High School All-Star game in 2000.



Dr. Jessica Santos Streauslin, originally from Foz do Iguacu, Parana, Brazil, developed her passion for veterinary medicine while helping her grandfather on his farm during summer breaks. She earned her DVM in 2018 from the Federal University of Parana, Brazil, where she conducted research on *Brachyspira* spp. viability in feces samples, leading to her recognition through the Federal Scholarship for Research Initiative Program from 2015 to 2017. Dr. Streauslin is currently pursuing her Ph.D. at Iowa State University, specializing in Veterinary Microbiology, with a primary focus on enhancing the detection and characterization of *Streptococcus suis* isolates associated with disease. Outside of her academic pursuits, she enjoys quality time with her husband, engaging in board games, and caring for their two beloved cats.

My name is Maria Hakimi, and I am currently pursuing my Ph.D. in veterinary microbiology at Iowa State University. I began my academic journey in the United States as an exchange student from Afghanistan by receiving a scholarship sponsored by the United States Department of State for one year of high school. I received my B.S. in Microbiology in 2017 from Iowa State University. I worked at the Iowa State Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory for a couple of years before obtaining my M.S. in Veterinary Microbiology in 2023. I am currently under the guidance of Dr. Eric Burrough and Dr. Ganwu Li. Our research for my Ph.D. chapters focuses on the classical etiological agent of swine dysentery, *Brachyspira hyodysenteriae*, employing whole genome sequencing and bioinformatic analysis.

Christy King is a third-year clinical veterinary epidemiology and microbiology PhD candidate at The Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine (OSU CVM). Christy received her Master's in Public Health with a specialization in veterinary public health in 2016 at the OSU CVM. In 2017, she finished her dual degree program and graduated with her DVM. After graduation, Christy practiced small animal veterinary medicine in private practice for two years in Parkersburg, WV and another two years in Columbus, OH. Christy currently serves as the microbiology resident while also taking on the roles of clinical case coordinator and infection control committee member for the OSU Antimicrobial Stewardship Program at the OSU Veterinary Medical Center. Her co-mentors are Dr. Dubraska Diaz-Campos and Dr. Thomas Wittum. Christy's research interests include antimicrobial resistance, antimicrobial stewardship, infectious diseases, and infection control and prevention. She is particularly interested in the intersection of infection control, prevention, and biosecurity with general practice. She likes to go on hikes with her pocket pittie, Nelly, in her free time.

Dhruv Desai is clinical microbiology resident at University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine. At present he is with Dr. Eman Anis at a molecular diagnostic lab, Pennsylvania Animal Diagnostic Laboratory System (PADLS)- New Bolton Center, Kennett Square, PA. He obtained DVM and PhD degrees from India with research in the field of diagnostics and vaccines. He is interested in next generation diagnostics development, surveillance and genomic characterization of pathogens.

Calvin Ko is a mycoplasmologist and a veterinary pathologist dedicated to swine disease research and diagnostics. His specialties include bacterial culture and modern diagnostic tools application for fastidious Mollicutes, and is now a Graduate Assistant Researcher at Iowa State University. Currently, he is working with Dr. Rachel Derscheid and Dr. Pablo Pineyro with a focus on diagnostic method development, evaluation, and optimization in swine Mycoplasma, and extending his interest to diagnostic pathology.

Dr. Carmen Smith originally hails from the suburbs of Chicago. He obtained his BS ('17) and DVM ('21) from Cornell University and subsequently joined the anatomic pathology training program in 2021. He recently completed the first two years of residency at Cornell and started at the Wildlife Conservation Society (the Bronx Zoo) as the Eddie Gould Resident in Zoo and Wildlife Pathology this summer. He was first exposed to zoo pathology at the Zoological Pathology Program at the University of Illinois, where he spent several summers cataloging samples, developing an archive database system, shadowing necropsy, and assisting with research projects. During his veterinary training, Carmen spent two months in Indonesia working with the faculty at Institut Pertanian Bogor to review rhinoceros necropsy cases and translate reports into English. During his residency, he has pursued research projects related to supplementing histopathology of canine diseases with additional diagnostic tools. He has a strong interest in conservation pathology and hopes to use his anatomic pathology training and interest in diagnostics to assist with capacity building in wildlife diagnostics locally and abroad. Outside of pathology, Carmen enjoys songwriting and performing classical guitar, reading, travel, and going dancing with his spouse.

Dr. Anna Flocken received her DVM from Midwestern University and is currently a third-year anatomic pathology resident at the New Hampshire Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory in partnership with Tufts Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine.

Dr. Flocken's path to pathology began during her veterinary education at MWU, where she served as a founding member of the Wildlife, Exotic, Zoo, Avian, and Aquatic Medicine and One Health student clubs, and volunteered with the Arizona Department of Health Services in collecting data on the prevalence of Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever in tick populations near the Arizona-Mexico border. These experiences fostered her awareness of the relationships between individual disease processes and environmental and public health, and the crucial role of veterinary pathology within this framework.

Dr. Flocken believes success in veterinary medicine relies on effective collaboration between clinicians, diagnosticians, and laboratory professionals. She appreciates the guidance, support, and knowledge she has gained from her mentors, and looks forward to passing these on to the next generation of veterinarians and diagnosticians in her future career as a veterinary pathologist.

Calvin Ko is a mycoplasmologist and a veterinary pathologist dedicated to swine disease research and diagnostics. His specialties include bacterial culture and modern diagnostic tools application for fastidious Mollicutes, and is now a Graduate Assistant Researcher at Iowa State University. Currently, he is working with Dr. Rachel Derscheid and Dr. Pablo Pineyro with a focus on diagnostic method development, evaluation, and optimization in swine Mycoplasma, and extending his interest to diagnostic pathology.



### Education:

- 2014; DVM, Universidad Nacional del Litoral, Santa Fe, Argentina
- 2015, Animal Health Specialist, Instituto Nacional de Tecnología Agropecuaria, Balcarce, Buenos Aires, Argentina
- 2017, MSc, Universidad de la República, Montevideo, Uruguay
- 2022; PhD, Universidad de la República, Montevideo, Uruguay
- 2022-present, Musculoskeletal Pathology fellow, University of California Davis, San Bernardino, USA

### Research focus:

- Musculoskeletal disease of racehorses and other disease of livestock

### Specialty focus:

- Diagnostic pathology

### Lasts publication

- [https://bjvp.org.br/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/BJVP\\_v16n3\\_232-235.pdf](https://bjvp.org.br/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/BJVP_v16n3_232-235.pdf)
- <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.tvjl.2023.106013>
- <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.toxicon.2023.107124>

## **Sirisha Puducode Parameswaran**

BVSc & AH (India)

Graduate Student and Research Assistant

Department of Veterinary Microbiology and Preventive Medicine

Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory

Iowa State University

I hold a bachelor's degree in Veterinary Science and Animal Husbandry, conferred by PV Narsimha Rao Telangana Veterinary University in Hyderabad, India. Currently, I am in the second year of my master's program under the mentorship of Dr Rahul Nelli at Iowa State University. My ongoing research project is centred on evaluating the functionalities of the SmartChip real-time PCR system, a high-throughput qPCR instrument. Through this project we intend to discern appropriateness for integration of SmartChip real-time PCR system into Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratories, improving their efficiency in time and quantity-based output.

Adelaide Basco is a fourth year DVM candidate at the University of Georgia's College of Veterinary Medicine. From Charleston, South Carolina, she received her BS in Cell and Molecular Biology from Tulane University in 2019, and is very excited for this season of Green Wave Football. She is pursuing zoological medicine and will be completing a small animal rotating internship next year. Her research interests currently lie in avian influenza and avian paramyxovirus-1 PCR hybridization and amphibian parasitology, and she has special interests regarding the intersection of wildlife and captive populations of exotic species.

Dr. Armenta-Leyva earned her DVM degree in 2019 at the Technological Institute of Sonora and worked in a veterinary diagnostics laboratory during 2020 in Mexico. She enrolled at Iowa State University in January 2021 and earned her Master's in Veterinary Preventive Medicine degree on Spring 2023. Dr. Armenta-Leyva is currently working towards a PhD degree with Drs. Jeff Zimmerman and Luis Giménez-Lirola as major professors, with a research focus on real-time PCR improvements for swine infectious diseases.

## **Daniel R. Rissi, DVM, MS, PhD, DACVP**

**Clinical Associate Professor**

Athens Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory  
Department of Pathology  
College of Veterinary Medicine  
University of Georgia  
Athens, GA 30602, USA  
☎ 706-542-5916  
✉ rissi@uga.edu

### **EDUCATION**

2006–2010: PhD (Veterinary Pathology), Department of Pathology, Federal University of Santa Maria, Brazil

2008–2009: Visiting Scholar (Anatomic Pathology Resident), Department of Veterinary Pathology, College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Georgia

2004–2006: MSc (Veterinary Pathology), Department of Pathology, Federal University of Santa Maria, Brazil

1998–2003: DVM  
Federal University of Santa Maria, Brazil

### **CURRENT POSITION**

Clinical Associate Professor

### **DIAGNOSTIC SERVICE**

Surgical biopsy service: Biopsy cases ranging from 15-25 cases are assigned on a daily basis with a turnaround time of approximately 2 days. Samples are mainly from dogs and cats, occasionally from horses, and rarely from food animals, birds, and exotic animal species

Autopsy service: During autopsies I supervise a group of 5-10 fourth-year veterinary students enrolled in the Diagnostic Pathology rotation (VPAT5400) and discuss the cases before and after autopsy. Submissions consist mainly of domestic animals and occasionally birds and exotic animal species

### **TEACHING**

VPAT 8002 Gross Pathology (Course Coordinator and Instructor)  
VPAT 8130 Diagnostic Oncology (Instructor: Epithelial Tumors of the Skin)  
VPAT 8100 Microscopic Pathology (Instructor: Integument)  
VPAT 8110 Advanced Microscopic Pathology (Instructor: Integument)  
VPAT 5400 Diagnostic Pathology (Course Coordinator from 2013 – 2018 and Instructor from 2013 to present)  
Diagnostic Pathology Rounds  
Neuropathology Rounds

### **AREAS OF INTEREST**

Diagnostic pathology; surgical biopsy; neuropathology; critical thinking

### **PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS**

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/?term=daniel+r+rissi>

Konner Cool

AAVLD 2023 - Molecular Diagnostics & Bioinformatics Oral Presentation Award



Biography:

Konner Cool is a PhD student in the Department of Diagnostic Medicine/Pathobiology at Kansas State University's College of Veterinary Medicine. Under the mentorship of Dr. Juergen A. Richt, Konner has been working alongside peers and collaborators at the Biosecurity Research Institute to evaluate the susceptibility of ruminant livestock species to SARS-CoV-2 and to develop and validate SARS-CoV-2 specific diagnostic test systems for livestock and companion animals. As a fellow of the USDA-APHIS-NBAF Scientist Training Program (NSTP), Konner will pursue a career dedicated to preventing, responding, and controlling outbreaks of emerging and transboundary/foreign animal diseases as a member of the Foreign Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory (FADDL).

Sai Narayanan is an Anatomic pathology resident at the College of Veterinary Medicine at Oklahoma State University. Besides residency training, his research focus includes exploring nucleic acid sequencing applications in veterinary diagnostics such as whole genome sequencing, microbiome, metagenome-based pathogen detection using perl, python and machine learning neural networks.

Aimee Pepper is a veterinary anatomic pathology resident and MS student at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Aimee completed her bachelor's degree in molecular and cell biology at the University of California, Berkeley in 2018 followed by a DVM at Colorado State University in 2022. Aimee's professional interests center around infectious disease, zoo, wildlife, and exotic animal pathology, and teaching. Outside of work, Aimee enjoys yoga, running, hiking, cooking, and spending time with her three cats. Ultimately, Aimee hopes to remain in academia as a diagnostic pathologist and professor.



Gaurav obtained a BVSc & AH from Tribhuvan University, Nepal, and a Master's degree in veterinary preventive medicine from Iowa State University (ISU). After BVSc, he worked for two years in the animal industry in Nepal. He has received his Ph.D. from Dr. JQ Zhang's laboratory at ISU VDL. Gaurav's Ph.D. training was focused on diagnosing and researching veterinary viruses, particularly in porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome (PRRSV). He has received more than 15 awards, including Research Excellence Award, J. Lindsay Oaks Best Student Molecular Biology Award, Lora and Russ Talbot Graduate Fellowship in Veterinary Medicine, and the first position in Roy Schultz Graduate Student Scholarship Award. He has published more than 17 peer-reviewed articles, with being lead and/or corresponding author on 8 of them. He has published over 35 proceeding papers and presented at many conferences. Gaurav has been a co-investigator in 11 grant proposals, of which seven have been funded. Currently, he is working as a Principal Specialist at Clinvet SD in study management team which is one of the leading contract research organization under Clinglobal system in the US.

I am Maria Chaves, a veterinarian, and current PhD Student at Iowa State University. My major interests are understanding the microbiological interface between animal and public health, and the optimization of diagnostic tools for infectious diseases. My research focuses on developing and validating diagnostic tools for identifying and characterizing avian pathogens that would help better formulation of prevention and control strategies.

## **Daniel Moraes**

Graduate Assistant Researcher

ISU Veterinary Diagnostic and Production Animal Medicine Department

Real Pork Scholar



### **Brief description**

Daniel is a graduate assistant student at Iowa State University. During his PhD, he focused on the Influenza A virus's ecology in the swine population. Daniel has been focusing on surveillance, diagnostics, and macroepidemiological aspects of the Influenza A virus (IAV) in the United States. Overall, his studies add field-applicable information related to this virus as a longitudinal study through the Centers of Excellence for Influenza Research and Response (CEIRR) project, where he monitors sow farms and nurseries' IAV dynamics.

### **1. Education background**

2021 to date –Graduate Research Assistant in Population Sciences in Animal Health at Iowa State University. Ames, USA.

2022 – MS – Master of Science. State at Iowa State University. Ames, United States.

2020 – MS – Master of Science. State at University of Londrina. Londrina, Brazil.

2016 – MBA - Master's in Business Administration at ESALQ, University of Sao Paulo. Piracicaba, Brazil.

2012 – DVM - Veterinary Medicine degree. State University of Londrina (UEL). Londrina, Brazil.

### **2. Professional Experience**

Fall 2023 - Real Pork Scholar- National Pork Board Mentorship Program.

2021 to date – Graduate Research Assistant on PhD program at Iowa State University (USA).

2018 to 2020 - Swine Commercial Technical Veterinarian at Master Vet Agricultural Products in Goiania, Brazil.

2013 to 2018 – Swine Veterinarian in a swine production system at Bonasa Alimentos, Brasilia, Brazil.

My name is Brooklyn Henderson and I am a Diagnostic Associate II in the Serology section of the Iowa State University Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory. I received a BS in Biology, minor in Chemistry from ISU and have started first semester of graduate school at ISU this fall, pursuing a MS in Immunobiology. Since starting in my position, I have learned many serological assays, testing platforms, and participated in several projects. I was a major technician in the Covid-19 Public Health Testing Services lab during the peak of the pandemic, collaborated with fellow technicians to develop and implement a sample processing method to mitigate the risk of contamination of samples for Health Assurance Testing Service clients, have been trained on PBMC Isolation and ELISpot procedures for the purpose of research projects, and I continuously create export result spreadsheets specifically requested by the USDA. These have enabled me to begin learning more about diagnostics and research, knowledge which I plan to continue expanding upon during my schooling and future career. My interests lie in diagnostic techniques, infectious diseases, and host-pathogen interaction.

Dr. Jessica Santos Streauslin obtained her DVM in 2018 from the Federal University of Parana, Brazil. Currently, Dr. Streauslin is pursuing her Ph.D. at Iowa State University, specializing in Veterinary Microbiology. Her research primarily focuses on advancing the detection and characterization of *Streptococcus suis* isolates associated with disease.

Christy King is a third-year clinical veterinary epidemiology and microbiology PhD candidate at The Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine (OSU CVM). Christy received her Master's in Public Health with a specialization in veterinary public health in 2016 at the OSU CVM. In 2017, she finished her dual degree program and graduated with her DVM. After graduation, Christy practiced small animal veterinary medicine in private practice for two years in Parkersburg, WV and another two years in Columbus, OH. Christy serves as the microbiology resident while also taking on the roles of clinical case coordinator and infection control committee member for the OSU Antimicrobial Stewardship Program at the OSU Veterinary Medical Center. Her co-mentors are Dr. Dubraska Diaz-Campos and Dr. Thomas Wittum. Christy's research interests include antimicrobial resistance, antimicrobial stewardship, infectious diseases, and infection control and prevention. She likes to go on hikes with her pocket pittie, Nelly, in her free time.

Calvin Ko is a mycoplasmatologist and a veterinary pathologist dedicated to swine disease research and diagnostics. He received his DVM in Taiwan and is now a Graduate Assistant Researcher in the Department of Veterinary Diagnostic and Production Animal Medicine at Iowa State University (ISU). Currently, he is working with Dr. Rachel Derscheid and Dr. Pablo Pineyro with a focus on diagnostic method development, evaluation, and optimization in swine Mycoplasma, and extending his interest to other Mollicutes and diagnostic pathology.

## AAVLD 2023 Bio McCullough



Dr. Kathryn (Kaytee) McCullough is a graduate student in the combined poultry-emphasis anatomic pathology residency and PhD program in the Department of Veterinary Pathology at the University of Georgia. She obtained her D.V.M from North Carolina State University in 2019 and became a diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Pathologists in 2022. She plans to defend her PhD research on the pathogenesis of Avian Reovirus in 2024, and has the goal of becoming a diplomate of the American College of Poultry Veterinarians by 2025.

In addition to research, Dr. McCullough shares necropsy and histopathology diagnostic service duty at UGA's Poultry Diagnostic and Research Center (PDRC) and teaches a portion of the Avian Histopathology fall semester course for anatomic pathology and poultry medicine residents.

In her personal life, Kaytee enjoys sewing, crocheting, gardening, cycling, roller skating, and snuggling her two cats.



2023

*AAVLD/USAHA*

CPCVM Student  
Awardees



Sarah Lambert

*Lincoln Memorial College of  
Veterinary Medicine  
Class of 2025*

Sarah lives with her husband, Michael, who is a high school teacher, and with her 1 dog, 2 cats, 3 birds, and a plethora of foster puppies and kittens.

Her interests include One Health, public health, exotic and avian species, and oncology.

She is so grateful for the opportunity to come to the USAHA/AAVLD Meeting to learn even more about the endless possibilities for veterinary medicine



## Jiashi Feng

*Kansas State University College of  
Veterinary Medicine  
Class of 2025*

Jiashi is interested in anatomic pathology, public health, and comparative medicine.

He has served leadership roles in student clubs in both RUSVM, before he transferred, and K-State, after he transferred, and he has presented student posters at different conferences including the ACVP.

He intends to pursue specialty training after DVM graduation. In his spare time, he enjoys bouldering and hiking



**Marin McCrary**  
*Oklahoma State University College  
of Veterinary Medicine  
Class of 2026*

Marin was born and raised in NW  
Oklahoma.

Her current veterinary career  
interests include pathology and  
public health research.

She is grateful to be pursuing a  
career in the best profession to  
exist. Go Pokes!



# Kyrstin Cramer

*The Ohio State University  
College of Veterinary Medicine  
Class of 2025*

Kyrstin has attended multiple USAHA/AAVLD annual meetings. Since first attending, she has obtained her master's of public health in veterinary public health and epidemiology.

She was recently accepted as a Saul T. Wilson Jr. Scholar and will be continuing her career with USDA-APHIS-VS after graduation.

She is looking forward to gaining more connections and learning more about careers in public health during this year's conference.



# Kelly McAuliffe

*Colorado State University  
School of Veterinary Medicine  
Class of 2027*

Kelly is currently enrolled in the dual DVM/MPH program and loves learning about the interconnections between people, animals, and the environment.

She is excited to be exploring all the opportunities outside of clinical veterinary medicine, especially laboratory medicine!

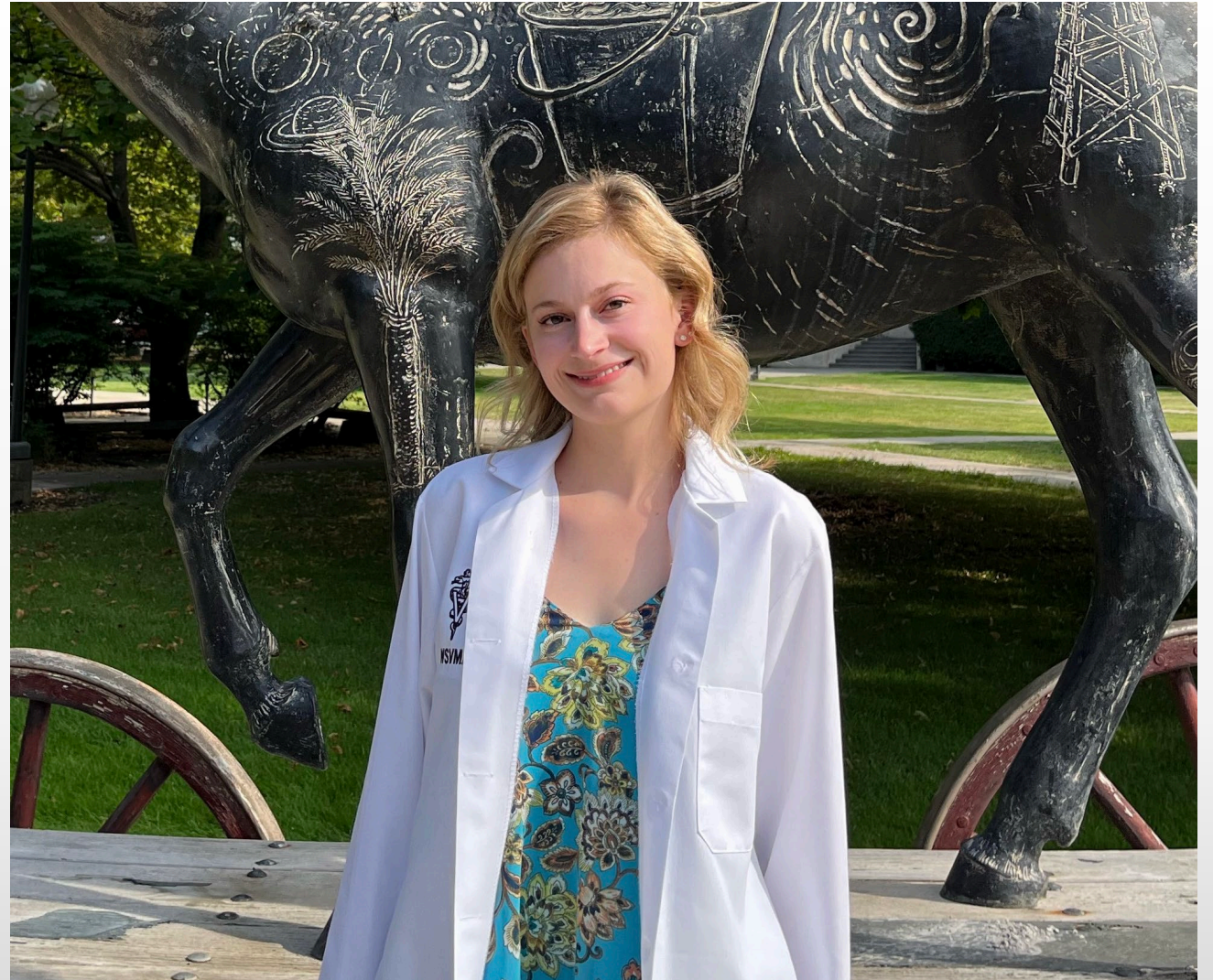


# Emma Thrower

*Washington State University  
College of Veterinary Medicine  
Class of 2026*

Emma is originally from Texas, where she received her undergraduate degree at the University of Texas at Austin.

She is especially interested in pursuing epidemiology and public health within the veterinary sphere.



**Amanda Kravitz, PhD**  
*Virginia-Maryland College of  
Veterinary Medicine  
Class of 2024*

Amanda was born and raised in California and Washington before attending Colorado State University where she majored in microbiology.

There, she realized her passion for both veterinary medicine and infectious disease research, which led her to pursue a DVM/PhD combined degree program.

She hopes to continue pursuing research in livestock infectious diseases, diagnostic medicine, and One Health upon graduation.

In her free time, she enjoys doing yoga, riding horses, and being outside with her three dogs





## Victoria Ice-Gipson

*Virginia-Maryland College of  
Veterinary Medicine  
Class of 2025*

Victoria is a Public Corporate tracker trying to find her passion within vet med.

She has interests in zoo, exotics, forensics, and emergency medicine.

After graduation she plans on joining the Army to serve within the Veterinary Corps.

She is the oldest of five sisters and was raised in Alabama. She has family dotted through-out the U.S. and loves to travel.



**Jessica Vester**  
*Virginia-Maryland College of  
Veterinary Medicine  
Class of 2027*

Jessica is a passionate and dedicated student with a deep-rooted interest in the realms of public and corporate veterinary medicine.

She believes that her future in veterinary medicine will allow for her to blend her enthusiasm for animal care with her interest in public health and environmental responsibility, ultimately contributing to a healthier and happier world for both animals and humans.

She is grateful for the opportunity to come to the conference!



**Sarah Kuchinsky, PhD**  
*Virginia-Maryland College of  
Veterinary Medicine  
Class of 2025*

Sarah earned her BS in Biology from Butler University, and then spent time gaining additional experience as an ORISE Fellow with the FDA.

She then went to Frostburg State University to complete her MS in Conservation Biology and Applied Ecology where she researched *Borrelia burgdorferi*.

Sarah graduated with her PhD in Biomedical and Veterinary Sciences where her dissertation explored the pathogenesis and enzootic transmission of Usutu virus.

She aims to work in the public sphere as a veterinarian scientist addressing the needs of humans and animals in the face of rising zoonotic disease threats.

In her spare time, Sarah enjoys baking, hiking, running, traveling, and spending time with loved ones.



## Maggie Ringley

*The Ohio State University College  
of Veterinary Medicine  
Class of 2026*

Magdalen “Maggie” Ringley grew up in Northern Georgia and Central Indiana.

A trip to Peru ignited Maggie’s passion- to help small towns and others worldwide, where education on livestock practices is not as well known.

Maggie is combining her DVM Program with an MPH-VPH degree. She is interested in focusing on public health, food safety, antimicrobial resistance, and disease prevention and control.

Maggie is an Adel A. Malak Scholar with the USDA-FSIS and works in the Microbiology Laboratory at The Ohio State University Veterinary Medical Center.

Outside of the lab and her studies, she enjoys traveling, hiking, pet-sitting, being involved in campus organizations, and learning new skills alongside her husband.



## Elizabeth Ohl

*The Ohio State University College  
of Veterinary Medicine  
Class of 2026*

Elizabeth first became introduced to regulatory veterinary medicine, research, and public health during her undergraduate career working for the Animal Influenza Ecology and Epidemiology Research program. Her work primarily focused on influenza surveillance in swine, SARS-CoV-2 surveillance in white-tailed deer, and foreign animal disease depopulation response plans.

Over the summer, Elizabeth interned with the Ohio Department of Agriculture, where she rotated through various divisions, including the Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory, Division of Meat Inspection, and Division of Animal Health. This experience also further fueled her interests in regulatory veterinary medicine, foreign animal/zoonotic disease research, and efforts to safeguard public health.

Elizabeth is involved in Ohio State's Infectious Disease Institutes Trainee Association, Veterinary Public Health Club, and is also a member of AABP.

She is excited to attend this year's annual meeting, making connections and continuing to learn more about careers in this critical field of veterinary medicine.



## Kelcie Meador

*Auburn University College of  
Veterinary Medicine  
Class of 2027*

Kelcie is originally from Nashville, TN. She was drawn into the laboratory side of veterinary medicine while working for the TN Department of Agriculture as a necropsy technician and plans to pursue a career as a pathologist following graduation.

Her journey into vet med was a little unconventional, with an undergraduate degree was in Psychology, but she loves applying humanities sciences to her work.

She owns three dogs, loves to travel, and is getting married a week after this conference.



**Jera'lyne Hyland**  
*University of Pennsylvania School  
of Veterinary Medicine  
Class of 2026*

After receiving her MPH in environmental toxicology from the University of Maryland, she obtained extensive training in veterinary laboratory diagnostics and became a laboratory technician.

Her research areas of interest include polychlorinated biphenyls as environmental contaminants and endocrine disruptors, iron toxicity, land remediation, and research translation.

Outside of academia, she fosters German Shepherds, relaxes with her cat "Zlata", rides her bike, and watches House. She enjoys South Indian cuisine as well as attending tea tasting events.

Jera'lyne is proud to be a Beyond Fences volunteer assisting with building fences for homes within underserved communities in Durham, NC and is highly passionate about finding solutions/resources for elderly caring for aging animals.

After completing vet school in Philadelphia, she plans to move back to North Carolina and eventually become a clinical pathologist/ toxicologist for an emergency and specialty hospital.



**Adelaide Basco**  
*University of Georgia College of  
Veterinary Medicine  
Class of 2024*

Adelaide is from Charleston, South Carolina.

She received her BS in Cell and Molecular Biology from Tulane University in 2019, and she pulls more strongly for her undergraduate football team than she does for UGA football.

She is pursuing zoological medicine and will be completing a small animal rotating internship next year.

Her research interests currently lie in avian influenza and avian paramyxovirus-1 PCR hybridization and amphibian parasitology, and she hopes to master the art of a thirty-layer crepe cake by the time she graduates!

