

AHS 2019 TRIENNIAL SYMPOSIUM SPEAKERS

Rick Alleman, DVM, PhD, DABVP, DACVP



Dr. Alleman received his DVM from Louisiana State University and practiced companion animal medicine and surgery for 9 years in private small animal practice in New Orleans, Louisiana. During that time he was board certified as a Diplomate of the American Board of Veterinary Practitioners

with a specialty in companion animal practice. Dr. Alleman then completed a clinical pathology residency at the University of Florida and was board certified as a Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Pathologists with a specialty in clinical pathology and completed his PhD in molecular biology of vector-borne diseases. During his professional career he has received numerous teaching, research and patent awards. In 2012 he received the Louisiana State University Distinguished Alumni Award. He is a former Professor, Service Chief, Resident Coordinator and Director of Laboratories at the University of Florida's College of Veterinary Medicine. He is currently CEO of Lighthouse Veterinary Consultants.

Marisa Ames, DVM, DACVIM (Cardiology)



Dr. Ames is an Associate Professor at Colorado State University's College of Veterinary Medicine. A 2007 graduate of the Ohio State University, she completed internships in Small Animal Medicine and Surgery at Michigan State University and in Emergency and Critical Care at Tufts Cummings

School of Veterinary Medicine. She completed her cardiology residency in 2012 and the Jane Lewis Seaks postdoctoral fellowship at North Carolina State University in 2013. Her research interests include neurohormonal activation in heart failure (specifically the pharmacologic blockade of the renin-angiotensin-aldosterone system [RAAS], the effects various drugs on RAAS, and aldosterone breakthrough) and heartworm disease. Dr. Ames has served on the American Heartworm Society Executive Board since 2017 and is currently Co-Chair of the Scientific Program for the 2019 AHS Triennial Symposium.

Clarke Atkins, DVM, DACVIM (Medicine & Cardiology)



Dr. Atkins, the Jane Lewis Seaks Distinguished Professor of Companion Animal Medicine (Emeritus) at North Carolina State University and 2004 Norden Outstanding Teacher Award Winner, is board certified by the American College of Veterinary Internal medicine (ACVIM) in Medicine

and Cardiology. He has served on four ACVIM or international Consensus Committees on systemic hypertension, canine mitral valve disease (2009, 2017), and cardiorenal syndrome. His research involves canine and feline heartworm disease and treatment of cardiovascular disease in dogs, cats, and horses. He has over 150 publications and has provided well over 1000 hours of continuing education in the US and many countries around the world. Dr. Atkins continues to be active speaking and carrying out clinically oriented research in retirement.

Autumn Brehm, BS



Ms. Brehm is from Celina, Ohio, where she grew up on a small farm raising whitetail deer and growing soybeans and corn. An avid hunter and fisherman, she has a deep connection with agriculture and veterinary medicine, specifically mixed animal practice. She earned two Bachelor's degrees from the

University of Findlay in Biology and Animal Science - Pre-Veterinary Emphasis. She is currently a second-year veterinary student at Lincoln Memorial University, expected to graduate in 2022.

Briana Capiello, BA, MA



Ms. Capiello obtained her BA cum laude at Alfred University with a major in Biology and minors in Chemistry and Equestrian Studies. She completed a master's in Psychology at the University of Southern Mississippi studying marine mammal behavior and cognition. She is currently a part

of the class of 2021 at Lincoln Memorial University College of Veterinary Medicine, where she continues to conduct research focused on the prevalence and prevention of canine heartworm in the Cumberland Gap Region of Tennessee.

Doug Carithers, DVM



Dr. Carithers has held various roles with Boehringer Ingelheim (formerly Merial) since leaving private mixed-animal practice in 1993. He is responsible for North American post-approval studies and publications, accounting for more than 115 clinical and field studies involving nearly 20,000 animals.

In addition, as a committee and board member for the AHS, he conducted the 2001, 2004, 2007, 2010, 2013, and 2016 AHS heartworm incidence surveys. He has authored/co-authored over 20 peer-reviewed papers and 30 scientific articles, and co-authored a best-selling companion animal parasitology atlas. He has edited over 10 book chapters and acted as guest editor of special editions of refereed journals. Dr. Carithers lectures nationally and internationally and has provided over 900 hours of CE. He currently serves as Symposium Co-Chair on the AHS Executive Board, and is Vice President of the American Association of Veterinary Parasitologists and a board member of the National Center for Veterinary Parasitology. He is a graduate of Iowa State University's College of Veterinary Medicine.

Elena Carretón, DVM, MSc, PhD



Dr. Carretón is a postdoctoral researcher at the Research Institute of Biomedical and Health Sciences (IUIBS) at University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria in Spain. She has co-authored approximately 45 articles in peer-reviewed journals and several books and book chapters on dirofilariosis, as well

as more than 150 communications and conferences in national and international congresses. Her scientific career is focused on the study of the pathology and epidemiology of *Dirofilaria immitis* in animals, as well as its zoonotic aspects and implications on human health. Dr. Carretón has received several national awards for her work in scientific outreach. She is the current president of the European Society of Dirofilariosis and Angiostrongylosis (ESDA).

W. Mark Cousins, DVM, DABVP (Feline Medicine)

Dr. Cousins received his DVM degree from Louisiana State University in 1980 and then spent an additional two years obtaining post-graduate training encompassing strategic business skills and planning at the Veterinary Management Institute at the Krannert



School of Business at Purdue University. He was certified in feline medicine by the American Board of Veterinary Practitioners in 2000, recertified again in 2010, and a third time in 2019. He also received certification in veterinary acupuncture from the International Veterinary Acupuncture Society as well as certification in pain management from the International Veterinary Academy of Pain Management (IVAS). He opened his first veterinary hospital, Chateau Veterinary Hospital, in 1983 and sold it in 2013. He started New Orleans' first feline practice, The Cat Practice, in 1987 and practices there exclusively. Dr. Cousins is a frequently invited lecturer on feline medicine topics. He has served on several boards and is currently the ABVP Feline Exam Vice Chair. He is also active in medical clinical trials for new feline therapeutic concepts.

Filipe Dantas-Torres, MS, DSc, PhD, DECVF



Dr. Dantas-Torres is a Researcher at the Aggeu Magalhães Institute (Oswaldo Cruz Foundation) in Brazil. He holds a Master of Science and Doctor of Science degree in Public Health and a PhD in Animal Health and Zoonosis. He is a Fellow of the Royal Entomological Society and a Diplomate of the European College

of Veterinary Parasitology. He is the author or co-author of over 480 publications, including 273 articles in refereed journals and 26 book chapters. Dr. Dantas-Torres is an Editor-in-Chief of *Medical and Veterinary Entomology*. His main research interests are vector-borne diseases, including dirofilarioses, leishmaniases, and tick-borne diseases.

Katie Day, BS



Ms. Day is a second-year veterinary student at the University of Georgia's College of Veterinary Medicine. She has worked with Dr. Andrew Moorhead on heartworm research for the last 4 years. She also served as an American Heartworm Society student representative with UGA from 2018-

2019. After graduation in 2021, she plans to go into small animal general practice.

Brian DiGangi, DVM, MS, DABVP



Dr. DiGangi is Senior Director of Shelter Medicine at the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. After earning his DVM at the University of Florida in 2006, Dr. DiGangi completed a rotating internship in small animal medicine, surgery, and critical care, a residency in Shelter Animal

Medicine, and received his MS in Veterinary Medical Sciences in 2010. Dr. DiGangi has published research on canine heartworm disease, veterinary field clinics, feline adoption, pregnancy detection, and immunology. He is board certified in both Canine and Feline Practice and Shelter Medicine Practice by the American Board of Veterinary Practitioners. Dr. DiGangi is a member of the Executive Board of the American Heartworm Society and served two terms as President of the Association of Shelter Veterinarians from 2015 to 2016. Prior to joining the ASPCA, Dr. DiGangi was a Clinical Associate Professor at the University of Florida.

Jason Drake, DVM, DACVM (Parasitology)



Dr. Drake earned his DVM from Texas A&M University. After practicing small animal internal medicine in Longview, WA, he joined Novartis Animal Health in 2000, serving as the Professional Services Veterinarian for the Southeast US. Dr. Drake has held a number of different technical

and marketing roles and currently provides technical support to the Elanco Global Marketing parasiticides team, working on both existing and pipeline products. Dr. Drake has authored more than 25 peer-reviewed parasitology-related papers and earned his Diplomate from the American College of Veterinary Microbiology (Parasitology) in 2016. His most recent projects have been focused on the development and global launch of Credelio™ (lotilaner) and monitoring the increasing prevalence of heartworm infections in dogs in the US.

Chris Duke, DVM



A 1983 graduate of the College of Veterinary Medicine at Auburn University, Dr. Duke is the founder of the Bienville Animal Medical Center in Ocean Springs, Mississippi. Starting as a solo practitioner in 1984, he is now co-owner and the practice has grown to eight veterinarians. Dr. Duke

is and has been extremely active in both professional and civic organizations. He is a member of the South Mississippi VMA, the Mississippi VMA, and the AVMA and a Hospital Director for the American Animal Hospital Association. An avid writer, Dr. Duke has been published in numerous magazines and newspapers over his career. A member of the American Society of Veterinary Journalists, his columns appear weekly in local newspapers. Although active in all phases of small animal medicine, surgery, and dentistry, Dr. Duke has special interest in orthopedic and reconstructive trauma surgery. Dr. Duke has served on the American Heartworm Society Executive Board since 2016.

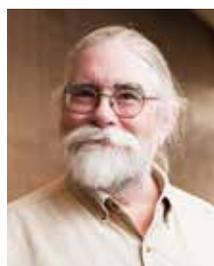
Christopher Evans, MS



Chris Evans received his BS in Medical Microbiology and Immunology from the University of Wisconsin - Madison in 2007 and his MS, focusing on drug resistance in canine heartworm, from The University of Georgia in 2011. He has continued to perform research at that institution with a focus on the

determinants of early parasite establishment and filarial infection in animal models. In addition to research, he maintains parasite life cycles for the Filariasis Research Reagent Resource Center (FR3), including the development and operation of filaria-infected mosquito colonies.

Timothy Geary, PhD



Dr. Geary earned a PhD in Pharmacology in 2012 from the University of Michigan and then spent 5 years at Michigan State University as a Post-doctoral Fellow and Research Assistant Professor working on malaria and filaria before joining the animal health parasitology group at The Upjohn

Company in Kalamazoo, MI in 1985. He remained at that site as it transitioned to Pharmacia and then Pfizer. He joined the Institute of Parasitology at McGill University in Montreal as Professor and Tier I Canada Research Chair in 2005, serving as Director of the Institute from 2007-2019, when he became an Emeritus Professor. He is a Professor in the School of Biological Sciences at Queen's University-Belfast and Vice-President of CryBiomedicines. Dr. Geary has received national and international funding to support his research along with a number of awards. He has published more than 225 peer-reviewed articles and book chapters, is on the editorial boards of 7 scientific journals, and serves as a consultant for many pharmaceutical, government and

non-government organizations. His research interests are in the discovery, development and pharmacology of antiparasitic drugs and in the molecular language used to establish the host-parasite interface.

Claudio Genchi, DVM, PhD, DEVPC



Dr. Genchi was full Professor of Parasitic Diseases at the University of Milano (Italy) until December 2014. In 2010 he was awarded Laurea Honoris Causa by the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Agronomic Sciences, Bucharest, Romania. He is an Honorary Member of American

Heartworm Society (AHS). He was Founding Member and Past-President of the European Veterinary Parasitology College (EVPC), one of the Directors of the European Scientific Counsel Companion Animal Parasite (ESCCAP) and President of the European Society of Dirofilariosis and Angiostrongylosis (ESDA). He was Co-Editor in Chief of *Veterinary Parasitology* and a member of the editorial boards of several international scientific journals. Primary research areas were the molecular approach to the biology, genetics, immunology and pathogenesis of parasitic diseases, including vector-borne infections, and experimental chemotherapy and control of endo- and ectoparasites. He is co-author of more than 280 papers published in international, peer-reviewed journals, and chapters in international scientific books, most of which deal with filarial infections (*Dirofilaria immitis* and *D. repens*) in dogs and cats, and in human beings. He was leader of one of the research teams involved in the study of *Wolbachia*, the bacterial endosymbiont of filarial nematodes. His team first identified these bacteria by molecular studies in *D. immitis* in 1995.

Lindsay Goldring



Ms. Goldring began her animal welfare career in high school, working in a high kill Chicago shelter as part of her school's mandatory community service. During and after college, she explored her interest in training and behavior through an internship at the Shedd Aquarium and a dog

training facility in Chicago. Ms. Goldring became Director at the Animal Adoption Center (AAC), in Jackson Hole, WY, where she raised the center's revenue by 80%, co-created a mobile spay/neuter program, and extended the center's mission to include education and outreach. Ms. Goldring has traveled

the world with her training mentor John Rogerson, exploring the relevance of cultural differences in animal behavior and training. In 2014, Lindsay and her mother, Genie Goldring, redirected their efforts to preventative animal welfare in New Orleans and formed The Inner Pup, which is committed to shifting the center of animal welfare from shelters back into the community, and responsible pet ownership.

Jeff Gruntmeir, MS



Mr. Gruntmeir is currently a PhD candidate under the guidance of Dr. Heather Walden, MS, PhD, at the University of Florida's College of Veterinary Medicine. His doctoral research is focused on the mechanism of heat treatment and causes of false antigen results for *D. immitis* in dogs. He

is originally from Piedmont, OK and completed his BS in Biochemistry in 2006, and received a MS in Veterinary Biomedical Science in 2016 at Oklahoma State University with a focus on heat treatment and diagnosis of heartworm infection in cats. His research interests include filarial infections of domestic and wild animals, ticks and tick-borne diseases, and other vector-borne parasitic infections.

Tammy Hornak, DVM



Dr. Hornak received her DVM degree in 2000 from Mississippi State University and in 2002 bought into a mixed animal practice in Caledonia, Ontario. In 2009, recognizing the need for veterinary care on First Nation Communities, she organized and executed the first annual Pet Wellness Day in

the community of the Six Nations of the Grand River, replacing the previously existing "rabies clinics." With the support of other volunteers, Dr. Hornak established Canon's Cause Rescue in 2011, which to date has treated and rehomed more than 3000 pets from local shelters, most of which were heartworm positive. In 2015, as Veterinarian of Record for the Welland Humane Society, she established a Surgical Mobile Hospital providing wellness and surgical services to any First Nation Community in Ontario. In 2016, she accredited another mobile for outreach work. Dr. Hornak actively supports and sponsors the Outreach Program at the Ontario Veterinary College. Her clinic, Grand River Veterinary Hospital, has treated hundreds of heartworm-positive dogs over the past 10 years.

Debra Horwitz, DVM, DACVB



Dr. Horwitz received her DVM from Michigan State University's College of Veterinary Medicine and is a Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Behaviorists. She lectures nationally and internationally on behavioral topics to veterinarians and pet owners. Her newest book is *Blackwell's Five-*

Minute Veterinary Consult Clinical Companion: Canine and Feline Behavior, 2nd edition (January 2018). She has authored/edited several other publications, including ISFM's *Feline Stress and Health* (2016) and *Feline Behavioral Health and Welfare* (Rodan & Heath, 2016). Dr. Horwitz is an editor for the BSAVA *Manual of Canine and Feline Behavioural Medicine*, 1st and 2nd editions, and is lead editor of a book for pet owners, *Decoding your Dog*, by ACVB Diplomates. Dr. Horwitz is past president of the American College of Veterinary Behaviorists and was named Veterinarian of the Year by Ceva Animal Health (2012) and NAVC Small Animal Speaker of the Year in 2012 and 2014.

Pablo David Jimenez Castro, DVM



Dr. Jimenez Castro obtained his veterinary degree from the National University in Bogotá, Colombia. During his veterinary studies, he undertook two internships, the first with Novartis Animal Health (now Elanco Animal Health) in Colombia, on companion animal business focusing in parasiticides.

The second internship was with a Contract Research Organization, Ridgeway Research in the United Kingdom, where he was involved in parasite efficacy trials. He has also been involved with activities of the European Scientific Council Companion Animal Parasites (ESCCAP) for the United Kingdom and Ireland Division and is a member and communications coordinator of the Tropical Council Companion Animal Parasites (TROCCAP). He is currently pursuing a PhD in Small Animal Parasitology in Dr. Ray Kaplan's laboratory in the Department of Infectious Diseases in the College of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Georgia. His research focuses on heartworm (*Dirofilaria immitis*) and macrocyclic lactones, and the epidemiology, diagnosis, and control of anthelmintic resistance in the canine hookworm (*Ancylostoma caninum*).

Steve Jones, DVM



Dr. Jones received his DVM from the University of Georgia in 1985. He is co-owner of Lakeside Animal Hospital, located in Moncks Corner, South Carolina, where he has practiced since 1985. Dr. Jones has participated in numerous clinical studies and has served in an advisory capacity for Pfizer,

Elanco, Novartis, Merck, Virbac, Boehringer-Ingelheim, Intervet-SP, and Merial. Dr. Jones has served the veterinary profession holding many board positions at the local, state, and national level. He was named Veterinarian of the Year for the state of South Carolina in 2008 and presently serves as Immediate Past President of the American Heartworm Society. Dr. Jones has developed a strong interest in parasitology and a passion for veterinary medical photography.

Ray Kaplan, DVM, PhD, DACVM (Parasitology), DEVPC



Dr. Kaplan is a Professor in the College of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Georgia. Dr. Kaplan received his DVM degree from Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine. He worked as a clinical veterinarian in a mixed-species private practice in Pennsylvania for several years

before leaving practice for the University of Florida, where he earned a PhD in Veterinary Parasitology. Prior to his position at the University of Georgia, Dr. Kaplan served in the Army Veterinary Corps at the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research, where he was Chief of Parasite Biology in the Division of Experimental Therapeutics. He has been in his current position, where he performs research, teaching, and service in veterinary parasitology, since 1998. Dr. Kaplan's research program is focused on measuring, understanding, and solving the problem of drug resistance in helminth parasites. He is a Diplomate of both the American College of Veterinary Microbiologists (Parasitology) and the European Veterinary Parasitology College, and is past President of the American Association of Veterinary Parasitologists. Dr. Kaplan also has been the recipient of several professional awards, including the American Association of Veterinary Parasitologists – Boehringer Ingelheim Distinguished Veterinary Parasitologist Award in 2018.

SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM PRESENTERS

Kathleen Kila, BS



at 'One Health, One Medicine' events.

Ms. Kila has a Bachelor of Science from Salisbury University and is a DVM candidate in the class of 2021 at St. George's University, Grenada. She is interested in going into small animal practice with a specialty in orthopedic surgery. She is treasurer of a school club called Spay and Neuter Pothounds and volunteers

Michael Kimber, PhD



interactions and anthelmintic drug mechanism of action. In recent research from the Kimber lab, a paradigm is emerging by which parasitic nematodes actively secrete proteins and small, regulatory RNAs (microRNAs, miRNAs), and deliver them to host tissues via extracellular vesicles (EVs). Investigation of this pathway is helping identify new molecules fundamental to nematode parasitism and provide mechanistic insight into how they induce their genetic, cellular, and therapeutic effects. Prior to his faculty appointment, Michael Kimber was a postdoctoral associate at Iowa State University studying parasitic helminth neurobiology. He obtained his PhD in Molecular Parasitology from Queen's University Belfast, United Kingdom.

Dr. Kimber is a Professor in the College of Veterinary Medicine at Iowa State University, where his lab integrates a diverse range of molecular biology and physiology techniques to better understanding the biology of parasitic nematodes. A major research focus is the intersection between host-parasite

Matthew J. Krautmann, DVM, PhD



Pfizer/Zoetis ever since. After approximately 5 years' experience at both target animal safety and field safety and effectiveness studies, he focused full time on laboratory safety studies. As the position evolved, his position was transitioned from a clinical setting to a safety setting, working with toxicologists, pathologists,

Dr. Krautmann received his DVM from the University of Missouri, 1982. After 9 years in mixed practice, he returned to graduate school and earned a PhD in Veterinary Toxicology from Louisiana State University in 1996. He joined Pfizer Animal Health that year and has worked for

and safety pharmacologists. Dr. Krautmann has directly designed the safety programs for pharmaceuticals, including ProHeart 12. Dr. Krautmann extended the safety evaluation by assembling an interdisciplinary team encompassing radiation chemistry, lipid & analytical chemistry, formulation science, immunology, pathology, pharmacology and pharmacokinetics, pharmacovigilance, and mathematical modeling, among others, to ensure thorough answers to all known questions about the safety of ProHeart 12.

Kristina Kryda, DVM



Dr. Kryda completed a BS in Microbiology in 2004 and earned her DVM degree in 2007, both from Michigan State University. After qualifying in 2007, she worked as a small animal practitioner for several years in Michigan and Arizona. Dr. Kryda joined Zoetis in 2014 to work in clinical veterinary research.

Chiara Lucchetti, MSc



Denmark, working on molecular engineering of microorganisms. Her main research focus now is the investigation of the molecular mechanisms activated by *D. immitis* in response to different adulticidal treatments.

Ms. Lucchetti is a PhD student at the University of Parma, under the supervision of Prof. Laura H. Kramer. After earning her bachelor's degree in Biotechnology at the University of Camerino, Italy, she completed her MSc degree in Biology/Biotechnology at the University of Copenhagen,

Steven Maeder, BVSc, MMed Sci



currently Director of Clinical Development in Zoetis Veterinary Medicine Research and Development and is based in Sydney. With extensive experience in clinical development program design and study conduct, he has lead the local, regional and international

Dr. Maeder is a veterinarian with 25 years of experience in the veterinary pharmaceutical industry. He earned his BVSc degree at Onderstepoort, University of Pretoria, South Africa and his MMedSc (Drug Development) at the University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia. He is

development of a number of companion animal and livestock parasiticides and other products including Dectomax (Doramectin), Aviax (Semduramicin), Advocin (Danofloxacin), Draxxin (Tulathromycin), Revolution (selamectin), Startect (Derquantel + abamectin), Simparica (sarolaner), and Revolution Plus (selamectin plus sarolaner endectocide for cats). Dr. Maeder has authored/co-authored 17 refereed articles and delivered more than 20 abstracted presentations at a range of veterinary and parasitology meetings.

Taurine Main, BS



In 2017, Ms. Main obtained a Bachelor of Science in General Biology at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock with a concentration in Chemistry and Nonprofit Leadership Studies. She is now a member of the Class of 2021 at the Louisiana State University School of Veterinary

Medicine. Currently she is most involved in avian medicine, wildlife rehabilitation, shelter medicine, and preventative medicine. Her goal is to establish a private practice that specifically offers low-cost spay and neuter options, as well as wellness exams, to the community.

Amy Marriott, PhD



Dr. Marriott has a background in biochemistry and has recently completed her PhD in Tropical Medicine (Parasitology) at the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine in the UK. Her thesis focused on the development of drug models which minimize animal usage for anti-filarial drug

testing, including in vitro platforms and the use of novel in vivo bioimaging technologies. Dr. Marriott is now researching systems to support the in vitro development of *Dirofilaria immitis* that are suitable for the testing of novel prophylactic treatments which target the intracellular bacterium, *Wolbachia*.

Imke Maerz, Dr.med.vet, MVetMed



Dr. Maerz received her veterinary degree from the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Leipzig in Germany in 2001 and her Dr.med.vet from the Veterinärmedizinische Fakultät, University of Leipzig, in 2007. Dr. Maerz continued on at the

University of Leipzig as a research assistant in the Department of Small Animal Medicine. She then held a Senior Scholarship in Cardiology at the Royal Veterinary College in North Mymms, UK, from 2008-2011 and earned her Master's in Veterinary Medicine from the University of London in 2011. Subsequently, she was a clinical instructor at the small animal clinic at the University of Giessen in Germany. Dr. Maerz is currently Senior Clinician at Tierklinik Hofheim (Oberärztin Kardiologie) in Hofheim, Germany, where she has worked since 2012. Dr. Maerz is a member of the Collegium Cardiologicum e.V., Germany; Arbeitsgruppe Kardiologie der DGK-DVG (Germany); European Society of Veterinary Cardiology; and the European Society of Dirofilariosis and Angiostrongylosis (ESDA). Her interests include veterinary cardiology, with a special focus on echocardiography, feline cardiology, mitral valve disease, and dirofilariosis, and medical education.

Tanja McKay, PhD



Dr. McKay is a Professor of Entomology in the Department of Biological Sciences at Arkansas State University and is the Director of two graduate programs, Environmental Sciences and Molecular Biosciences. She teaches and does most of her research in the field of medical/veterinary

entomology and stored-product entomology. She received her BS degree from Acadia University, Wolfville, Nova Scotia, Canada. She moved to Winnipeg, Manitoba to pursue a MS degree in Entomology where she studied the biological control of house flies in dairy operations. In 2002, she received her PhD in Entomology from Kansas State University. She then joined the staff in the Department of Entomology at the University of Arkansas as a Research Associate in Veterinary Entomology where she conducted research in broiler-breeder egg production and turkey finishing facilities. She evaluated filth fly monitoring systems and identified pathogens of food quality importance (*Campylobacter*, *Salmonella*, *E. coli*, and *Shigella*) carried by flies. In 2004, she joined the faculty at Arkansas State University. She currently teaches a variety of courses including General Entomology, Medical/Veterinary Entomology and Insect Taxonomy. Her current research interests include examining dog heartworm associations in mosquitoes; examining nematode and fungal associations in mosquito larvae for potential biological control; studying dung beetle ecology in Arkansas; and investigating stored-product insects of stored rice.

Tom McTier, PhD



Dr. McTier is a dedicated scientist with more than 30 years of experience in the veterinary pharmaceutical research industry. He earned his BS and MS degrees at Georgia Southern University and a PhD in Veterinary Parasitology from The University of Georgia.

Dr. McTier is currently Therapeutic Area Head for Companion Animal Parasitology and Research Director in Global Therapeutics Research, Veterinary Medicine Research and Development at Zoetis in Kalamazoo, MI. Dr. McTier has extensive experience in drug discovery and clinical development program design, as well as chemotherapy of veterinary ecto- and endoparasites with specialized expertise in heartworm (*Dirofilaria immitis*) disease. Prior to his time at Pfizer/Zoetis, he worked on all the major heartworm preventive products, as well as the development of Immiticide (melarsomine). At Zoetis he has worked on the development of numerous companion animal parasitocides including Revolution (selamectin) and more recently on the discovery and development of the novel isoxazoline ectoparasiticide, Simparica (sarolaner), Revolution Plus (selamectin plus sarolaner endectocide for cats) and ProHeart 12 (moxidectin extended-release injectable for heartworm prevention in dogs). Dr. McTier has authored/co-authored 48 refereed articles in scholarly veterinary parasitology journals and authored/co-authored and delivered more than 75 abstracted presentations at professional and learned societies.

Rodrigo Morchón García, PhD



Rodrigo Morchón García (PhD in Biology) is currently full professor at the Animal and Human Dirofilariosis Group (GIR), University of Salamanca, Spain. His main research interests are parasite/hosts relationships such as *Dirofilaria immitis* and *D. repens*, immunology, immunopathology

(including the *Wolbachia* endosymbiont bacteriae), cellular and molecular mechanisms of pathology of these diseases, immune diagnosis, epidemiology in humans and animals, and insect vectors of parasitic disease. He has authored/co-authored over 120 scientific publications and reviews, 7 refereed books and 190 conference proceedings papers. He is a secretary of European Society of Dirofilariosis and Angiostrongylosis (SEDA) and board member of the Spanish Society of Parasitology (SOCEPA). He serves

as a member of the editorial board and referee of several international scientific journals.

Bethany Myers, BS



Ms. Myers is a student in Michigan State University College of Veterinary Medicine's Class of 2020. She is an alumni of Michigan State University's College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, where she earned her Bachelors of Animal Science in 2016. Ms.

Myers has always had an interest in agriculture and rural medicine, and always saw herself pursuing a career in mixed animal practice. The research Ms. Myers presents at this year's symposium started as an agri-science project in her FFA chapter, but has expanded to become a state-wide evaluation of heartworm prevalence in Michigan.

Tom Nelson, DVM



Dr. Nelson is the Hospital Director of the VCA Animal Medical Center of N.E. Alabama in Anniston, AL and has been in private practice for 40 years. He was first elected to the board of American Heartworm Society in 2001 and has served as the Society President (2004-2007), Symposium Co-chair (2010-

2013), and currently is chair of the AHS Research Committee. In 1997-1998, after doubting the validity of the incidence of heartworm in cats, he conducted his own study by performing necropsies on 259 cats to determine true incidence. This study determined there was a higher prevalence of heartworm than feline leukemia or AIDS on the upper Texas Gulf Coast and that there was no correlation between heartworm and AIDS. Dr. Nelson continues to be involved in heartworm research and is the lead author of the Heartworm Society Guidelines. He has authored or coauthored numerous papers and contributed to several textbooks on the subject of heartworm disease.

Michelle Norden, BS



Ms. Norden is currently in a master's program at Lincoln Memorial University College of Veterinary Medicine. She attended the University of Colorado and the Metropolitan State University of Denver for her undergraduate degree in Biology and Chemistry. As an undergrad, she was a

research assistant for Huntington Potter, PhD, where she performed neuroscience-based animal surgeries and participated in the development of novel surgical strategies for CNS delivery of drugs and genes. She also maintained a vast transgenic mouse colony and performed DNA and RNA extractions for multiplexed RT-PCR genotyping and co-authored four publications in peer-reviewed journals. Ms. Norden was a Lead Nurse for Banfield Veterinary Hospital for over 8 years, and a zookeeper at the Lowry Park Zoo in Tampa, FL. She hopes to eventually pursue a DVM degree.

Doyeon Park, BS



Ms. Park is a first year master's student in the School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences at Auburn University. She earned a BS in Biomedical Sciences from Auburn University. Her interest is in mosquito-borne diseases and their disease dynamics. She is currently

working on a laboratory model of *Dirofilaria immitis* to understand larval development and mosquito fitness and survival.

Tara Paterson, DVM, MSc



Dr. Paterson has been on faculty at St. George's University, School of Veterinary Medicine for the past 16 years and is currently an Associate Professor in the Small Animal Medicine & Surgery Department. As a member of the Charter Class, she obtained her DVM degree from St. George's

University in 2003, and later an MSc in Parasitology in 2011. Her responsibilities include clinical practice, teaching, and research. Her professional and research interests include clinical parasitology with a focus on therapeutic efficacy, vector-borne diseases, and small animal dermatology.

Nils Pilotte



Mr. Pilotte is a PhD candidate at the University of Massachusetts and a Research Associate at Smith College. Working in the lab of Dr. Steven Williams, his research centers upon the development of novel nucleic acid-based diagnostics, with a focus on human neglected tropical diseases (NTDs),

vector-borne pathogens, and eukaryotic parasites of both humans and animals. His work has contributed

to the development of assays selected for inclusion in many international NTD efforts including the largest operational research study ever performed on the human soil transmitted helminths (the DeWorm3 Cluster Randomized Trials funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation). He has contributed to over 20 peer-reviewed publications and has presented his work at numerous national and international conferences.

Michael Povelones, PhD



Dr. Povelones is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Pathobiology at the University of Pennsylvania's School of Veterinary Medicine. He started his lab in 2014 to investigate the role that mosquitoes play in transmission of human and animal diseases. Dr. Povelones received his PhD

in Developmental Biology at Stanford University where he studied the basic mechanism of cell communication. Because of the tremendous health burden mosquitoes have worldwide, he was attracted to the field of vector biology at a time when significant molecular advances were being made. He performed postdoctoral research at Imperial College in London to learn genetic manipulation and malaria infection of the African malaria mosquito, *Anopheles gambiae*. In London he developed tools to analyze the immune system of mosquitoes under the mentorship of Dr. George Christophides and Dr. Fotis Kafatos. As an independent investigator, Dr. Povelones continues to characterize *An. gambiae*, but has transferred his knowledge to understand the role the mosquito immune system plays in limiting infection by the parasitic nematodes *Dirofilaria immitis* and *Brugia malayi*, agents of canine heartworm and human lymphatic filariasis, respectively. Dr. Povelones is utilizing cutting-edge technologies to address basic questions about mosquito immune responses to parasitic nematodes. His current research is aimed at identification of factors responsible for triggering immune responses with the long-term goal of using that knowledge to generate mosquitoes that are refractory to infection.

Roger Prichard, PhD

Dr. Prichard is the James McGill Professor, McGill University, Institute of Parasitology, Montreal, Canada, where he has also served as Vice-Principal (Research), Dean of Graduate Studies, and Director of the Institute of Parasitology. He earned both his BSc and PhD at the University of New South Wales in Australia, followed by postdoctoral studies in Animal Science



and Parasitology at the University College of Wales, Aberystwyth, UK, and received the Docteur *Honoris causa* from the Université Paul Sabatier in France. The author of more than 296 publications, Dr. Prichard holds seven patents. His research focuses on optimizing pharmaceuticals against animal and

human parasites, drug resistance, and parasite control. Dr. Prichard is Past President and an Honorary Life Member of the World Association for the Advancement of Veterinary Parasitology (WAAVP) and Past President of the American Association of Veterinary Parasitologists. Dr. Prichard is also a Fellow of the Australian Society for Parasitology and an Honorary Diplomate of the European Veterinary Parasitology College. He is the recipient of numerous awards for teaching and research and has served on the Helminth Disease Group of the World Health Organization (WHO); the Task Force on Helminth Drug Initiative (WHO); the Advisory Committee for Children without Worms; on the Expert Advisory Committee, WHO Onchocerciasis Control Programme; and as an Expert Advisor, Soil Transmitted Helminth, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

Cassan Pulaski, MPH, DVM



Dr. Pulaski is originally from New Orleans and received her MPH and DVM degrees from Louisiana State University in 2012 and 2013, respectively. She is currently a postdoctoral research and teaching associate at the University of Georgia, while finishing up her PhD and veterinary clinical

parasitology residency program through LSU, funded by the National Center for Veterinary Parasitology. Her research is primarily focused on modeling and the epidemiology of macrocyclic lactone resistance in *Dirofilaria immitis*, and she has been actively engaged with the issue since 2009. During the week, her time is divided between research, teaching veterinary students, and serving as the director of the parasitology section of the Athens Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory. Dr. Pulaski also spends most Saturdays practicing at a small-animal GP clinic in Baton Rouge.

Aleah Pullins, BS, RVT



Ms. Pullins has 16 years of experience in veterinary medicine with 11 years of experience in the veterinary parasitology pharmaceutical research industry. She earned her BS in Veterinary Technology at Michigan State University and is currently pursuing a master's degree in Veterinary

Parasitology from Cornell University. In addition, she has advanced training in echocardiography and ultrasonography. Ms. Pullins is currently a scientist in Global Therapeutics Research at Zoetis in Kalamazoo, MI. She has substantial experience in drug discovery and clinical development, with more than 6 years of specialized experience in heartworm (*Dirofilaria immitis*) disease research. She has been the investigator on more than 30 studies involving various disciplines within parasitology. While at Zoetis she has worked on the discovery and development of the novel isoxazoline ectoparasiticide, Simparica (sarolaner), Revolution Plus (selamectin plus sarolaner endectocide for cats), and ProHeart 12 (moxidectin extended-release injectable for heartworm prevention in dogs). Ms. Pullins has co-authored 10 publications.

Christopher J. Rehm, DVM



Dr. Rehm received his DVM from Auburn University in 1982 and is currently the President of Rehm Animal Clinic in Mobile, AL. Before starting his practice in Mobile, Dr. Rehm worked at the West Side Animal Hospital in Pensacola, FL. After six months in practice, Dr. Rehm opened his own practice.

Rehm Animal Clinic has grown to three corporations with four AAHA certified clinics in two counties in South Alabama. It employs 13 DVMs and over 70 support staff and offers 24-hour continuous care, endoscopy, ultrasound, tonometry, cryosurgery, oximetry, laser therapy and surgery, advanced orthopedic and dental care. Dr. Rehm has served as President of the American Heartworm Society for the past 3 years. He is also a member of the Veterinary Advisory Council of Virbac Animal Health and Elanco Animal Health, as well as the Alabama VMA, Mobile-Baldwin VMA, AAHA, and AVMA. Dr. Rehm hosted a live hour-long talk show on cable television for 17 years, as well as a live public service spot on his local CBS affiliate called Your Pets' Health. He also wrote a Q&A column for Newhouse Publishers that appeared in approximately 40 newspapers nationwide.

Kaori Sakamoto, DVM, PhD, DACVP



Dr. Sakamoto is an Associate Professor at the Department of Pathology in the College of Veterinary Medicine at The University of Georgia and a Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Pathologists. Although her main research focus is in tuberculosis immunology, she teaches immunology to the veterinary students and respiratory pathology to residents. She is the pathologist-of-record for the Filarial Research Reagents Repository and has collaborated on a number of heartworm disease projects with her husband, Dr. Andy Moorhead. Recent discussions with Dr. Steve Jones have prompted her interest in re-examining the pulmonary vascular pathology of heartworm disease, which was largely studied and described in the 1980s. Dr. Sakamoto is also the Director for the college-wide graduate program, Comparative Biomedical Sciences. She earned her MLS and DVM at North Carolina State University, a master's degree from Purdue University, and her PhD from Cornell University.

Molly D. Savadelis, PhD



Dr. Savadelis is a recent graduate of The University of Georgia's College of Veterinary Medicine earning her doctorate from the Department of Infectious Diseases. Her dissertation work focused on canine heartworm disease treatments utilizing the combination of macrocyclic lactones and tetracyclines and the effect of heat treatment on canine heartworm diagnostics. Dr. Savadelis is now a Senior Scientist at Zoetis in companion animal parasitology.

Stephanie Soltis, BS, MPH



Ms. Soltis is a member of the class of 2022 at Lincoln Memorial University College of Veterinary Medicine. Before going to veterinary school, she attended the University of Findlay for her undergraduate degree and The Ohio State University where she earned a Master of Public Health with a focus on Food Safety. While in graduate school, she worked as an intern at the Ohio Department of Health in the West Nile Virus (WNV) Program, extracting viral RNA from mosquitoes and running RT-PCR to identify WNV throughout the counties of Ohio.

This led to her current research looking at mosquito vectors of heartworm (*Dirofilaria immitis*) in the Cumberland Gap region of Tennessee.



Lindsay Starkey, DVM, PhD, DACVM (Parasitology)

Dr. Starkey earned her BS (2007) in Animal Science from the University of Arkansas. She completed both her DVM (2011) and PhD (2015) in Veterinary Biomedical Sciences at Oklahoma State University where her graduate research focused on several vector-borne infections of dogs. She is a Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Microbiology, Parasitology subspecialty, completing her residency training through the National Center for Veterinary Parasitology at Oklahoma State University in 2015. Dr. Starkey joined the faculty at Auburn University in May 2016 where she is involved in various research projects involving vector-borne and food-borne infections, diagnostic parasitology, parasite consultation and outreach, and the teaching of parasitology to first, second, and fourth-year veterinary students.

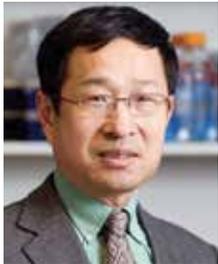


Miguel T. Suderman, MSc

Mr. Suderman graduated from the Department of Veterinary Parasitology, College of Veterinary Medicine, Texas A&M University in 1979. Prior to graduate school, he was a wildlife parasitologist in the Department of Biology at Texas A&M University. He worked as an immunoparasitologist and arbovirologist in Department of Experimental Pathology & WHO Collaborative Centers for Tropical Diseases at University of Texas Medical Branch-Galveston until 2001. He then worked in the Biotechnology Division at the NASA, Johnson Space Center, in Webster, TX developing three-dimensional (3-D) human and veterinary tissue as investigative platforms for bronchial and encephalitic viral pathogens. In 2004, he became the Director of Tissue Engineering at Microgen Laboratory, La Marque, TX, developing 3-D models as investigative platforms. In 2005, he founded Cell Systems-3D, LLC in Kemah, TX as a research and development company developing a variety of human, veterinary and insect 3-D models as investigative platforms for normal tissue-microbiome-pathogen interactions. His current research focus is developing 3-D platforms of normal canine dermal tissue as in

vitro platforms for *Dirofilaria immitis* microfilaria physiological development and nymph/adult tick internal tissues platforms.

Enqing Tan, PhD



Dr. Tan currently serves as Principal Scientist of R&D and Project Leader of veterinary infectious disease and rapid diagnostics product development since 2017 at Bio-Techne in Devens, Massachusetts. Dr. Tan has over 17 years of biotechnology industry experience at several biotech companies. As

an early stage key technical team member, Dr. Tan made significant contributions in development and commercialization of BioArray Solutions' multiplex BeadChip technology, Claros microfluidic based Sangia1 Point-of-Care analyzer, OPKO 4Kscore test, Selux Diagnostics' rapid phenotypic AST platform, and ProterixBio's bioanalyzer, etc. for various human disease diagnostics and management. Dr. Tan has broad biomedical interests and multidimensional expertise – new technology/platform development for human and veterinary disease diagnostics, IVD product development and commercialization, technical transfer and manufacturing scale-up, technology scouting and technical due diligence, and quality system and regulatory strategy for early stage biotech companies. Dr. Tan is a contributor to 10 US issued patent/CIPs and earned his doctoral degree from the University of Iowa and a medical degree from Qingdao Medical School.

Joseph Turner, PhD



Dr. Turner is a Principal Investigator and Reader in Infection Biology at The Centre for Drugs and Diagnostics, Department of Tropical Disease Biology, at the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine in the UK. Dr Turner's laboratory supports drug discovery and development programmes for filariasis, including

early preclinical studies, clinical translation and implementation of antibiotic therapies targeting the endosymbiont, *Wolbachia*, for the treatment of medically and veterinary important filarial parasites. Dr. Turner also researches host immuno-pathological consequences of helminth parasitism and treatment responses, utilizing novel preclinical models of filarial infection, with the goal of developing anti-morbidity adjunct therapies.

Marie Varloud, MS, PhD



Dr. Varloud has served as Global Technical Manager for Companion Animal Parasitocides at Ceva Santé Animale in Libourne, France since 2012. She completed a research master's degree at Aix-Marseille University focused on the molecular and cellular aspects of nutrition in 2002 and earned her PhD in Animal Nutrition at AgroParis Tech in 2006. Before joining Ceva, Dr. Varloud worked as an R&D scientist in equine health and nutrition.

Guilherme G. Verocai, DVM, MSc, PhD, DACVM (Parasitology)



Dr. Verocai is a Clinical Assistant Professor at Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine, where he also directs the Parasitology Diagnostic Lab and teaches in the professional curriculum. His research interests focus on diagnostic parasitology, in special vector-borne and zoonotic helminths. Current projects involve the validation and implementation of new technologies for heartworm microfilariae testing, and characterizing putative diagnostic makers for early detection of heartworm infection, and infection by other filarial nematodes. Dr. Verocai earned his DVM and MSc degrees at Universidade Federal Rural do Rio de Janeiro in Brazil and his PhD from the University of Calgary in Canada. He completed a postdoctoral fellowship at the University of South Florida and was Assistant Research Scientist and Director of the Parasitology Diagnostic Laboratory at The University of Georgia before joining the faculty at Texas A&M.

Anand N. Vidyashankar, MSc, PhD



Dr. Vidyashankar is an Associate Professor in the Department of Statistics at George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia. He earned an MSc in Statistics from the University of Madras in 1985 and a PhD in Statistics, with a co-major in Mathematics, from Iowa State University in 1994. Dr. Vidyashankar taught statistics at the University of Illinois at Chicago from 1994-1995; was a Senior Research Statistician at Eli-Lilly, Abbott Labs, InfoSTAT Inc., and STATcomp Inc. from 1995 to 1997; and served on the faculty at The University of Georgia from 1997 to 2004 and Cornell University from 2004

to 2009, before joining the faculty at George Mason University in 2009. Dr. Vidyashankar has contributed to statistical methods in the field of veterinary parasitology including methods to understand and identify emerging reduction in drug efficacy His research interests include designs for clinical trials, machine learning methods for biomedical sciences, statistical models and methods for high dimensional problems, and methods for analysis of sparse and dense streaming data.

Telea Wade-LaHart, BS



Ms. Wade-LaHart is from Fort Bragg, NC. Currently, she is an upcoming second year veterinary student at Tuskegee University's College of Veterinary Medicine. Her Bachelor of Science was attained at William Carey University in May of 2015. She is looking forward to obtaining her

DVM in 2022, and is interested in Shelter Medicine, Wildlife Medicine, and Ophthalmology as possible career fields.

Edward M. Wakem, DVM



Dr. Wakem received his BS and DVM degrees from Michigan State University. At the University of Connecticut, he received post-graduate residency training in veterinary anatomic pathology with associated studies in immunology, molecular biology, microbiology, and vaccinology. He has over 25

years of clinical experience in companion animal practice both as an employed veterinarian and practice owner. Dr. Wakem joined Ceva Animal Health's Veterinary Services team in November 2017 after over 13 years of industry experience with both Bayer and Fort Dodge Animal Health. His special areas of interest are infectious disease of companion animals, in particular vector-borne diseases, vaccinology, and risk communication. Dr. Wakem has been an active participant in state and national organized veterinary medicine, and currently is an ex-officio member of the American Heartworm Society Executive Board. Dr. Wakem is retired from 28 years of active Army Reserve and Air National Guard military service.

Karen Ward, DVM



Dr. Ward received her DVM from the Ontario Veterinary College. She was an ASPCA UC Davis Shelter Medicine Fellow in 2012-13, and continues to act as a mentor in the Maddie's Fund University of Wisconsin/University of California Davis Shelter Medicine Fellowship. Dr. Ward is convinced that shelter

medicine is the world's best job, and she is privileged to work at the Toronto Humane Society.

Adrian Wolstenholme, PhD



Dr. Wolstenholme earned his PhD at Cambridge in 1980, where he studied the replication of influenza virus. He had postdoctoral experience at the University of Minnesota and the National Institute for Medical Research in North London, also studying viruses, before joining the London

School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine in 1985. Although still a virologist, he was part of a unit of Medical Microbiology and Parasitology, which was his introduction to parasite research. When he later joined the faculty of the Biochemistry Department at the University of Bath in 1988, one of his first research grants was to identify the ivermectin receptors in *Haemonchus contortus*. This project led to his continuing interest in the mode of action of this amazing drug and, logically, to the way the worms become resistant to it. Dr. Wolstenholme is currently a Professor in the Department of Infectious Diseases of the University of Georgia College of Veterinary Medicine, and a member of the Center for Tropical and Emerging Global Diseases there.

Mostafa Zamanian, PhD



Dr. Zamanian is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Pathobiological Sciences, University of Wisconsin School of Veterinary Medicine. The goal of his research is to identify and validate new parasite drug and vaccine targets and to connect this effort to a better understanding of the complex

interactions that occur between parasites and their hosts. Current projects in his laboratory are focused on the parasite tissues, receptors, and pathways that mediate host-parasite communication and

fundamental sensory and neuromuscular behaviors in human and animal filarial nematodes. Dr. Zamanian's research blends molecular and computational approaches in pursuit of these objectives, while leveraging genetically tractable model nematode systems to complement the direct study of parasites. In the interests of open and collaborative science, the laboratory is motivated to contribute new genomic resources and tools for the phenotypic screening and manipulation of helminth parasites. Prior to his faculty appointment, Dr. Zamanian trained as a postdoctoral fellow at McGill University (Molecular Parasitology) and Northwestern University (Quantitative Genetics), and received his PhD in Neuroscience from Iowa State University.

Sarah Zohdy, PhD



Dr. Zohdy is an Assistant Professor of Disease Ecology at Auburn University in the School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences and Department of Pathobiology in the College of Veterinary Medicine. Dr. Zohdy is interested in the ecological and evolutionary drivers of disease in human and animal communities.

Her research team works all over the globe with long-term field sites in Madagascar and along the Gulf Coast of the United States, where she is taking a One Health approach to evaluate how anthropogenic disturbance influences vector-borne diseases that threaten human and wildlife health. Additional research interests include medical and veterinary entomology, pathogen transmission dynamics, parasite-host interactions, primatology, coevolution, emerging infectious diseases, public health, and conservation biology.