



ISU-IVS Partners In Progress CE Event

SPEAKER BIOS

April 6, 2022
7:30 a.m. to 5:15 p.m.
Des Moines Botanical Center
7:30 a.m. Breakfast
8 a.m. to 5:15 p.m. Lectures

Lisa Foster, RVT

Lisa is from Iowa and graduated from Iowa State University in 2005 with a Bachelor's degree in Animal Ecology. She completed her Associates degree in Veterinary Technology from Kirkwood Community College in Cedar Rapids, Iowa in 2007. She has worked at Iowa State Small Animal Emergency and ICU Services for over 10 years and currently works in Oncology where she helps prepare anesthetized patients for radiation therapy and administer chemotherapy. She passed her Veterinary Technician Specialty Boards in Emergency and Critical Care in 2016. Her previous speaking engagements include Emergency and Critical Care topics for ICU and specialty technicians, interns and students. She has spoke at local conferences including: Eastern Iowa Veterinary Association Spring Clinic and Central Iowa Veterinary Technician Association. When not at work you can find her reading a good book or hanging out with her husband and two boys.



Rachael Rail, RVT, VTS

Rachael is a registered veterinary technician in the Iowa State University oncology department. She graduated from Kirkwood Community College in 2007 and has been working at Iowa State ever since. She has worked in multiple departments including small animal surgery, small and large animal anesthesia, internal medicine and oncology. She has found her home with oncology and loves the patients, clients, and medicine. She enjoys speaking on oncology related topics at conferences and has participated in veterinary technician case report competitions with a first-place finish at the annual veterinary cancer society meeting in 2021. She has a passion for outreach and helping to bridge gaps between private and specialty practice as well as technician advancement and empowerment within the veterinary community. In her spare time, she enjoys getting outdoors with her two daughters and husband and binge listening to her favorite podcasts.



Meredith 't Hoen, DVM, DACVECC, DECVECC

Dr. 't Hoen graduated from the University of Missouri College of Veterinary Medicine in 2007. She completed a Small Animal Emergency and Critical Care internship at Washington State University, followed by an Emergency and Critical Care residency at the University of Missouri. After becoming a diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care in 2011, Meredith ran the ECC service at a private specialty practice in Missouri until 2017. She joined the ECC team at the Utrecht University Faculty of Veterinary Medicine in the Netherlands, where she remained until the spring of 2021. In the summer of 2021, Meredith returned to the US to join the ECC team at Iowa State University as a clinical assistant professor. She loves to share her passion for ECC by teaching and mentoring young vets and technicians



Melissa Kubai, DVM, MS, DACVO

Dr. Kubai was born and raised in Wisconsin. She attended undergraduate at Ripon College, where she majored in Biology and German and participated in varsity college soccer. She attended veterinary school at University of Wisconsin-Madison, where she began to develop a love of ophthalmology. Dr. Kubai completed a small animal rotating internship at Michigan Veterinary Specialist, followed by an ophthalmology specialty internship at Louisiana State University and completed her 3-year comparative ophthalmology residency at University of Illinois-Champaign/Urbana. For the past 7 years, she has worked in a private specialty practice in Tucson, AZ. Dr. Kubai joined the ophthalmology service at Iowa State University in April 2021, happy to get back to her Midwest roots. Dr. Kubai is an avid cyclist, participates in triathlons, and enjoys a multitude of water sports (swimming, kayaking, fishing, paddle boarding, etc.). She also loves gardening and confesses that she has a slight obsession with orchids.



Emily Wheeler, DVM, DACVAA

Dr. Wheeler joined the team at Iowa State University as an Assistant Professor of Anesthesiology in September of 2021. She completed her degree in veterinary medicine at the Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine at Tufts University. She went on to complete a Small Animal Rotating Internship at Tufts Veterinary Emergency Treatment and Specialties in Walpole, MA, followed by an Anesthesia and Analgesia Residency at Tufts University. Her research focus is multimodal optimization of perianesthetic wellness. She has a strong interest in shelter and community medicine.



Karin Allenspach, Dr.med.vet., FVH, DECVIM-CA, PhD, FHEA, RCVS, AGAF

Dr. Allenspach received her veterinary degree from the University of Zurich. She did an internship in small animal emergency medicine and critical care at Tufts University and a residency in small animal internal medicine at the University of Pennsylvania, and is a diplomate of the European College of Veterinary Internal Medicine. She was awarded a PhD in veterinary immunology from the University of Bern, Switzerland for her work on canine chronic enteropathies. She is currently employed as Professor in Internal Medicine and Translational Health at Iowa State University and is a PI of the SMART Translational medicine Lab at ISU, which focuses on the development and culture of adult stem-cell-derived organoids from various species. Her latest efforts resulted in the founding of a start-up company (3D Health Solutions, Inc.) with the goal of commercializing assays for drug screening based on organoid methods.



Albert E. Jergens, DVM, PhD, DACVIM

Educational background:

DVM – Texas A&M University
MS, PhD – Iowa State University
Diplomate ACVIM (Internal Medicine)



Current position: Professor of Internal Medicine and Associate Chair for Research and Graduate Studies, Iowa State University

Clinical interests: gastroenterology, endoscopy, inflammatory bowel disease, performance of clinical trials

Research interests: GI endoscopy, GI immunology, host-microbiota interactions mediating GI health and disease

April Blong, DVM, DACVECC

Dr. Blong is an Iowa native. She completed her DVM at ISU in 2009 and then completed internships at North Carolina State University and the University of Georgia. She completed her Emergency and Critical Care residency at Cornell University in 2014 and became a Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care. She is currently a faculty member at ISU and helps out at IVS from time to time. She lives in Ames with her husband and three children.



Dr. Brenda L. Mulherin, DVM, DAVDC

Dr. Mulherin completed a Dentistry and Oral Surgery Residency at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She became a Diplomate of the American Veterinary Dental College in 2015. Dr. Mulherin is a Full Clinical Professor at Iowa State University and is charged with small animal dentistry education for veterinary students.



Rebecca Walton, DVM, DACVECC

Dr. Walton is from southern California and completed her veterinary school at Western University of Health Sciences. Upon completion of veterinary school, she completed a small animal rotating internship at University of Minnesota.

Dr. Walton completed her residency in Emergency and Critical Care at North Carolina State University and became board-certified in 2016. She is a clinical assistant professor and faculty at Iowa State University. Dr. Walton's area of interest include respiratory emergencies, mechanical ventilation, extra-corporeal therapy and trauma.



Angie Gearhart, DVM

Medical Director, Emergency Veterinarian

Dr. Gearhart graduated from Louisiana State University School of Veterinary Medicine in 1999. She practiced small animal medicine in a primary care practice in Arkansas for 8 years. Dr Gearhart and her family moved to Des Moines in 2007. From 2007 to 2016 Dr Gearhart worked as an emergency veterinarian at Iowa Veterinary Specialties. Dr Gearhart joined an integrative veterinary practice in 2016 and became a certified veterinary acupuncturist in 2017. In April 2019 Dr Gearhart rejoined Iowa Veterinary Specialties as Medical Director as well as the head of the Hospice Palliative Care Department and oversees the Blood Bank at Iowa Veterinary Specialties. Dr Gearhart works closely with the medical team and nursing staff at IVS to continue to grow our mission of serving pets, families and veterinarians in the Greater Des Moines area. Dr Gearhart is a member of: AVMA, IVMA, Animal Hospice and Palliative Care Association, and VECCS.



Andy Law, BVetMed, DACVS-SA

Dr. Law received his veterinary degree from National Chung Hsing University in Taiwan. He then completed a clinical year at Colorado State University, an internship in orthopedics and neurosurgery with Dr. Noel Fitzpatrick (from television shows Bionic Vet and Supervet), and both a rotating internship and small animal surgical residency at Mississippi State University. Dr. Law was board certified in February 2017 while teaching orthopedics as faculty at Purdue University. He then spent four years in specialty private practice in Ohio before joining the Iowa State University and IVS teams. Dr. Law has an interest in all things surgical, with an emphasis on advanced orthopedic procedures and minimally-invasive procedures. When not working, he spends time with his wife, fellow ISU/IVS surgeon Dr. Allison Kenzig, and their pets Peanut, Rosie, Rajah, and Lolita.



Shawna Greene, DVM, MS, DACVIM

Dr. Greene received her DVM from Iowa State University in 2003. After an internship in Northern Colorado, Dr. Greene completed her residency and received her master's degree from Purdue University. Board certified since 2008, Dr. Greene diagnoses, stages, and treats all cancer types using the latest equipment and state-of-the-art techniques. In 2015, Dr. Greene became head of Iowa Veterinary Specialties' Oncology Department. Dr. Greene sees patients by appointment Monday-Thursday exclusively at Iowa Veterinary Specialties.



Elle Donnini, BS, DVM, DACVIM

Dr. Donnini graduated with her DVM from the Virginia – Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine. She completed her one-year rotating internship at VCA West Los Angeles and her three-year small animal internal medicine residency at Iowa State University. Dr Donnini has a special interest in urinary conditions and enjoys performing cystoscopes as well as lithotripsy.



Lena Ribbey, DVM

Dr. Ribbey graduated from Iowa State University College of Veterinary Medicine in 2019. She graduated with her Bachelor of Science in Biology from ISUs College of Agriculture in 2015. She was in private general practice after graduation, then joined the Emergency and Exotics departments at IVS full time in July 2021. Dr. Ribbey has over 9 years of technical experience with exotic companion animals. She is a member of AVMA and VECCS.



Abbey Rupiper, DVM

Dr. Rupiper graduated from Iowa State University College of Veterinary Medicine in 2019 and has been working at IVS since. Dr. Rupiper has a special interest in soft tissue surgery and exotic animal medicine. She is a member of IVMA, AVMA, Association of Avian Veterinarians, and the Association of Reptile and Amphibian Veterinarians.



Janet E. Woods

For the past two decades, Jan Woods has built a reputation as the go-to resource for Controlled Substance education in the Animal Health industry. She consults with veterinarians nationally, with areas of expertise encompassing compliance with DEA regulations, as well as other state and federal regulations, clinic and hospital practice management & operations, human resources, finance, and marketing. In 2001, Jan moved into veterinary medicine as the Hospital Administrator for Veterinary Specialty & Emergency Center of Kansas City, (VSEC). From May of 2004 through March of 2016 she was the Co-Owner, Hospital Administrator and Vice President of the Veterinary Specialty Center of Tucson, (VSCT). From 2018- 2020 she was the Director of Education & Regulatory Affairs Manager for Cubex, LLC. In 2020, Jan became a Zoetis Key Opinion Leader and joined Veterinary Business Advisors as their Regulatory and Operational Consultant. She is also a proud member of the Epicur Pharma® Advisory Council. Jan owns two companies: Ask Jan For Help, LLC and Veterinary Management and Marketing Specialists.



KEYNOTE SPEAKER- Dillon Burns

Public Speaker, Entrepreneur, Veteran

Dillon is a Des Moines native and graduate of the Iowa State University Kinesiology program with specific focus in the area of Exercise Science. His extensive background over the past decade in the health and fitness industry, has given him the authority to speak on multiple different areas of health, wellness, fitness, and nutrition. Dillon is also a U.S. Military Veteran having served eight+ years in the Navy and deploying + traveling all around the world. His time in the military gave him the base to which his foundation of discipline, goal setting, and creating effective habits and rituals is built and lead him to create his personal brand, The Dillon Burns Method. Dillon uses the tactics built into The Dillon Burns Method (Mental, Physical, Physiological, Emotional, Spiritual) in every aspect of his life as he manages being a full-time Des Moines firefighter in training, runs a business full-time (Anchor Kids Organization), is writing a biography due to publish in 2023, actively speaking virtually and in public settings, pursuing his own health and wellness goals, and being a dedicated husband and father. His mission in life is to be the very best version of himself every single day he's alive and inspire others to do the same.

