



**ISU™-IVS Partners In
Progress CE Event**

SPEAKER BIOS

April 12, 2023
7:30 a.m. to 5:15 p.m.
**Holiday Inn Des Moines-Airport/
Conference Center**
7:30 a.m. Breakfast
8 a.m. to 5:15 p.m. Lectures

Melissa Kubai, DVM, MS, Diplomate ACVO

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. After completing her residency, she worked in a private specialty practice in Tucson, AZ for 7 years. Dr. Kubai joined the ophthalmology service at Iowa State University in April 2021 and is 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.



**Angie Gearhart, 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: American Veterinary Medical Association, Iowa Veterinary Medical Association, Animal Hospice and Palliative Care Association and Veterinary Emergency Critical Care Society.



Jean-Sébastien Palerme, DVM, MSc, DACVIM

Dr. Palerme earned his veterinary degree from the University of Montreal in 2008. After two years in general practice, he returned to academia, completing a rotating internship at the Ontario Veterinary College and an internal medicine residency at North Carolina State University. Since 2015, he has been a faculty member of Iowa State University's small animal internal medicine service.



Lisa Foster, BS, RVT, VTS (ECC)

Lisa graduated from Iowa State University in Ames, IA 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 University for over 15 years; the first 11 years was in the Small Animal Emergency and ICU Services, currently she works in Oncology where she helps anesthetized patients for radiation therapy and administer chemotherapy. She completed and passed her Veterinary Technician Specialty Boards in Emergency and Critical Care in September 2016.

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 ISU's College of Agriculture in 2015. She started off in private general practice after graduation, then joined the Emergency and Exotics departments at Iowa Veterinary Specialties 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.



Jessica Griffith, RVT, VTS (ECC)

Jessica graduated with her AAS from Baker College in 2015. She worked as an LVT in an emergency hospital in Michigan before moving back to Ames. Jessica joined the ISU ECC service in 2016. She has worked as an ICU veterinary technician, technical supervisor, and is now the critical care veterinary technician. She obtained her VTS in Emergency & Critical Care in 2019.



Elizabeth Manson, DVM

Dr. Manson is from Lexington, Kentucky. She graduated from Auburn's College of Veterinary Medicine in 2020 and then went on to complete a rotating internship at the University of Missouri followed by a cardiology internship at a VCA in Los Angeles before coming to ISU for a cardiology residency. Her interests include medical management of congestive heart failure, cardiovascular emergencies, and congenital cardiovascular disease.



Lori E. Moran, AS, BS, RVT, VTS (Cardiology)

Lori is an Iowa native who graduated with a BS in Animal Science from Iowa State University and an AS in veterinary technology from St. Petersburg College. She started working at ISU VMC in 1993 in the Large Animal and Equine Medicine and Surgery services. In 2004, Lori transitioned to the Cardiology Service and has helped it grow from a part-time service with one Cardiologist to the service that it is today – a full-time service including two cardiologists, two cardiology residents, and visiting house officers. Lori successfully obtained her Veterinary Technician Specialist designation in cardiology in 2017. She has received recognition for her teamwork and collegiality, including the LVMC Employee of the Quarter in 2017 and the IVMA Healthcare Team Award in 2018.



Michael A. Pabón, DVM

Dr. Pabon was born and raised in Vega Baja, Puerto Rico. He went to the University of Georgia for both his undergraduate studies and his veterinary degree (double Dawg!). He then completed a small animal rotating internship at Purdue University, followed by a private practice cardiology specialty internship in south Florida. He is the current 3rd year cardiology resident at ISU and is working on establishing a cardiology clinic in Puerto Rico after residency. Outside of work, Dr. Pabon enjoys trying out new restaurants and coffee shops, exercising, and attending social and cultural events. His partner in crime is Luke, a very sweet and energetic Heeler mix.



Audra Brady, M.A., B.S., SHRM-CP

Brady joined Iowa Veterinary Specialties as their Human Resource Manager to bring order to the human segment of the business. Her educational background includes an MA in Teaching and a BS in Entrepreneurship/Business Administration, and is certified in Human Resources. She has 7 years of experience in human resource management.



Adrien Aertsens, DVM, MRCVS, Diplomate ECVS

Dr. Aertsens graduated from Belgium in 2006. He worked for several years as a small animal general practitioner in Belgium, France and England before doing a residency in SA Surgery. Once finished in 2015, he moved again to Canada in 2018 and in Ames in 2020 where he finally has settled with his wife and their pets.



Dr. Aertsens practices soft tissue and orthopedics surgeries, but his main interests are advanced and challenging soft-tissues cases, especially the ones involving minimally-invasive options. He is currently working on different research projects to increase the indications of thoracoscopy.

April Blong, DVM, Diplomate ACVECC

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. Lastly, 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.



Josh Ervasti

Josh has been in the financial services industry, serving his clients in the areas of insurance planning, investment planning, estate planning, and business owner strategies since 1996. Josh focuses on working with established professionals and business owners in their 40's and 50's, with a specialization in planning for veterinarians.

