

Zoetis Speakers – VMX 2026

Explore session details and speaker spotlights at VMXZoetis2026.com or by scanning QR code.



Chris Adolph, DVM, MS, DACVM (Parasit)

Dr. Adolph received his D.V.M. degree in 1996 from Oklahoma State University. After a year and a half as an associate veterinarian, Dr. Adolph moved to Southpark Veterinary Hospital as a partner for 4 years and full owner for 13 years. During his time as a practice owner, he developed a special interest in parasitology and practice management. In blending these two areas of focus, Dr. Adolph attended advanced parasitology and practice management continuing education events, became informed of the most current information available, and developed practice protocols based in sound science that were readily accepted by pet owners. In 2011, Dr. Adolph began a Master's degree program under the guidance of Dr. Susan Little at Oklahoma State University. For the next 2 and a half years, Dr. Adolph simultaneously worked toward his graduate degree while practicing and managing his veterinary hospital full time. While enrolled in the graduate program, Dr. Adolph was inducted into the Phi Kappa Phi honor society, which recognizes academic excellence in fields of higher education. Dr. Adolph graduated with a Master's degree in 2013, the same year he was named to the 25 veterinarians to watch in 2013 by Veterinary Practice News. Dr. Adolph serves on the boards of The National Center for Veterinary Parasitology, The American Heartworm Society, and the American College of Veterinary Microbiologists Board of Governors. He has authored numerous, peer-reviewed scientific papers, a chapters for an upcoming textbooks and conducted research in canine and feline parasitic diseases. In 2015, Dr. Adolph passed the parasitology board exams and is now a diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Microbiologists.

Conference Sessions

From Resistance Data to Prevention Strategies: Charting the Future of Heartworm Control

Saturday, January 17, 2026 12:45 - 1:45 PM (Includes Meal) Location: S330A

Product Showdown: Insights from Head-to-Head Trials on Heartworm Resistance

Sunday, January 18, 2026 11:15 - 11:40 AM Location: West Learning Lounge-Exhibit Hall

Fighting the Vector: Fighting the Vector: Insecticidal Activity of an Isoxazoline Against *Aedes aegypti* in Dogs

Sunday, January 18, 2026 12:45 - 1:10 PM Location: West Learning Lounge-Exhibit Hall

The Big Miss: A Challenging Feline Heartworm Case

Sunday, January 18, 2026 3:00 - 3:20 PM Location: Zoetis Booth 1908

Monday, January 19, 2026 11:00 - 11:20 AM Location: Zoetis Booth 1908

Communication Pearls To Get To Yes

Sunday, January 18, 2026 4:00 - 4:20 PM Location: Zoetis Booth 1908

Tuesday, January 20, 2026 10:00 - 10:20 AM Location: Zoetis Booth 1908



Nicole Aulik, PhD

Dr. Nicole Aulik obtained her PhD in Microbiology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 2010 where she focused her research on bovine respiratory disease. From there she taught at Winona State University in Minnesota and implemented a microbiology lab for a pharmaceutical company in Rochester, MN. Dr. Aulik started her veterinary diagnostic career at the Wisconsin Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (WVDL) at UW-Madison in 2014 where she managed the bacteriology and serology sections. In addition to veterinary diagnostics, Dr. Aulik performed research and published in the areas of Salmonellosis, antimicrobial resistance, mastitis, and the efficacy of antimicrobials used in bovine semen extension. She also teaches at the UW-Madison Veterinary School. She was named president of the Association of Veterinary Microbiologists (AVM) in 2024. Dr. Aulik joined Zoetis Reference Laboratories in 2024 and is passionate about providing the best possible microbiological results with an adherence to Antimicrobial Stewardship.

Conference Sessions

Unlocking Molecular Diagnostics: The Keys to Practical Use of PCR

Sunday, January 18, 2026 4:30 - 4:55 PM Location: West Learning Lounge-Exhibit Hall



Ashley Bourgeois, DVM, Diplomate ACVD

Dr. Ashley Bourgeois, DVM, Diplomate ACVD completed her bachelor's degree at Iowa State University and graduated from the University of Missouri's College of Veterinary Medicine in 2010. She then completed a one year small animal internship at Purdue University. Upon finishing her internship, she accepted a residency position with the Animal Dermatology Clinic's Tustin, California location in 2011. She became a Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Dermatology in 2014. Dr. Bourgeois moved to Portland, Oregon in 2016 to help expand the company. She is an owner within the company and on the board of directors. She has a strong interest in autoimmune skin diseases, allergies and otology. In her leisure, Dr. Bourgeois enjoys outdoor activities, traveling and watching sports. She and her husband stay busy with their daughter, son and rescue Boxer/Pitbull mix. Dr. Bourgeois is passionate about educating veterinarians in dermatology and work/life integration through her podcast and social media presence (The Derm Vet).

Conference Sessions

MythBusters Live — Fact or Fiction?

Sunday, January 18, 2026 1:40 - 2:30 PM Location: S320E

Would You Rather — Derm Edition

Sunday, January 18, 2026 2:45 - 3:35 PM Location: S320E

Boss Level Derm — Tips, Tools, Tricks and Quick Wins

Sunday, January 18, 2026 4:05 - 4:55 PM Location: S320E

Zoetis Speakers – VMX 2026

Explore session details and speaker spotlights at VMXZoetis2026.com or by scanning QR code.



Walter L. Brown, Jr. BS. RVTg VTS (ECC)

Walter Brown is a dedicated veterinary technologist specializing in Emergency and Critical Care, as well as a beloved figure on social media. He creatively blends his veterinary expertise with humor to educate and uplift veterinary professionals around the globe, earning millions of views and consistently creating viral content. In addition to his work in Emergency and Critical Care education, Walter serves as a Talent Engagement Ambassador for United Veterinary Care, where he fosters meaningful relationships with veterinary specialists alongside the Talent Team. He has designed engaging supplemental courses and seminars for veterinary technology students, pet parents, and children of all ages, and he's eagerly anticipating the launch of his website and e-learning platform, Emerge & Learn, in 2026. Walter's heartfelt ambition is to develop and support veterinary assistant programs in inner-city schools and charter schools located in low-income neighborhoods. Walter earned his veterinary technology degree from Fort Valley State University and received specialized training in emergency and critical care at the University of Georgia College of Veterinary Medicine. Beyond his impactful work in education and social media, he is also a passionate arachnid enthusiast and a loving pet parent to an array of delightful creatures, including his axolotls, SlowMo Mojo and Miami, his tortoises Bando and Lexi, his charming Pittie and Corgi, and the royal Quinn, his adorable rescue kitty with a "smush" face.

Conference Sessions

Cleared for takeoff: Pearls and Pitfalls in the OA Pain Journey

Sunday, January 18, 2026 5:45 - 6:45 PM (Includes Meal) Location S320E



Jay Crisman, DVM

Dr. Jay Crisman believes that veterinarians are guardians of the human animal bond, and that practice should be affordable, fulfilling, and fun! He is a 1995 graduate of the Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine and has a diverse background including work with the Nave Group in Las Vegas, Medical Director in private practice, Professional Services with Zoetis Pet Care, and currently as the owner of an award-winning companion animal practice in Alabama. Drawing on more than 30 years of veterinary experience, he has developed approaches to meet the needs of his community and help veterinary professionals adapt and thrive in ever-changing market conditions. He is passionate about excellence in patient care, client experience, work-life harmony, and advocating for veterinary nursing teams. His favorite areas of practice include surgery, pain management, dermatology, and preventive care. A full-time practitioner, he occasionally takes time away from the hospital to consult with colleagues and has provided guest lectures all over the country including the AVMA Symposium in 2019, VMX and WVC in 2020, VMX in 2021, and projects with VetGirl and Clinician's Brief. He is a member of the 2025-26 Zoetis Dermatology and Osteoarthritis Speaker Bureaus and is scheduled to present at WVC and VMX in 2026. Dr. Jay serves as Chairman of the Westover Business Alliance, he is a member of the Westover City Council, he is a two-time past president of the Jefferson County Veterinary Medical Association. He is a North America Diving Dogs certified judge affiliated with WestRover Water Sports. He is also a member of the AVMA, ALVMA, AVTA, AAHA, AHS. In his spare time, Dr. Jay is active in the outdoors, enjoys tinkering on his 1970 Baja Bug, and loves family time; especially with the furry kids dock diving and running agility. He is a traditional archer, avid fly fisherman and serves as membership chairman for the Archery Hall of Fame.

Conference Sessions

MythBusters Live — Fact or Fiction?

Sunday, January 18, 2026 1:40 - 2:30 PM Location: S320E

Would You Rather — Derm Edition

Sunday, January 18, 2026 2:45 - 3:35 PM Location: S320E

Boss Level Derm — Tips, Tools, Tricks and Quick Wins

Sunday, January 18, 2026 4:05 - 4:55 PM Location: S320E



Tracey Deiss, DVM

Dr. Tracey Deiss attended Texas A&M pursuing a BS in Biochemistry and Genetics with a Chemistry minor. She received her DVM from Texas A&M University in 1998. During veterinary school, she worked at MD Anderson Cancer Center, Department of Lab Animal Medicine and Surgery. Dr. Deiss completed an internship in small animal medicine and surgery prior to practicing emergency medicine for 17 years in Grapevine, Texas. She returned to her hometown of Rosenberg, TX joining a large SA practice where her special interests included ultrasonography, soft tissue surgery, feline medicine, and pain management. Dr. Deiss joined Zoetis as the professional services veterinarian for the Houston and surrounding areas in 2018 and is currently serving as the veterinary medical lead for Feline Anxiety and Pain. Knowing that cats are masters at hiding pain and illness, she is passionate about partnering with their humans in providing consistent comprehensive health screens in clinical practice. In her free time, Dr. Deiss provides relief veterinary services to several clinics, is on the board of two veterinary medical organizations, enjoys cooking, being outdoors, and spending time with family and friends. She shares her life with a couple of adult kiddos and a menagerie of pets including a Schnauzer Mix named Ms. Ives, and a naughty Borzoi named, Liam (Baby Lee) and a Grand cat named, Kitty Purry. There is seldom a dull moment in the Deiss Family Circus.

Conference Sessions

Staying (OA) Strong in a Tough World

Saturday, January 17, 2026 1:30 - 1:55 PM Location: West Learning Lounge-Exhibit Hall

Elevate the Every Day: Actionable and EZ Cat Care Tweaks for Furr-midable Results

Monday, January 19, 2026 3:00 - 3:25 PM Location: West Learning Lounge-Exhibit Hall

Zoetis Speakers – VMX 2026

Explore session details and speaker spotlights at VMXZoetis2026.com or by scanning QR code.



Ali Diesel, DVM, DACVD

Dr. Ali Diesel grew up primarily in Connecticut prior to attending veterinary school at Kansas State. Following internship, she completed her residency in dermatology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and joined the faculty at Texas A&M in 2010. After teaching for 12 years, she pursued private specialty practice with the Animal Dermatology Clinic – Austin. She joined Zoetis as part of the Veterinary Specialist team (Dermatology) in May 2025. Her main interests include allergic skin diseases in companion animals, especially cats. She is currently serving on the Board of Directors of the American College of Veterinary Dermatology as President-Elect. Outside of work, Dr. Diesel enjoys spending time outside, hiking, traveling, and doing CrossFit. She currently lives in Austin, Texas with her “House of Carbs” (two dogs – Potato and Jelly, and the best “tri-pawd” cat Crouton).

Conference Sessions

MythBusters Live — Fact or Fiction?

Sunday, January 18, 2026 1:40 - 2:30 PM Location: S320E

Would You Rather — Derm Edition

Sunday, January 18, 2026 2:45 - 3:35 PM Location: S320E

Boss Level Derm — Tips, Tools, Tricks and Quick Wins

Sunday, January 18, 2026 4:05 - 4:55 PM Location: S320E

Dermatologic Conundrums in Feline Medicine

Monday, January 19, 2026 11:15 - 11:40 AM Location: West Learning Lounge-Exhibit Hall

Dermatology Skin in the Game: A Call to Action

Tuesday, January 20, 2026 9:45 - 10:10 AM Location: West Learning Lounge-Exhibit Hall

Dermatology Skin in the Game: Clarity Through Cytology

Tuesday, January 20, 2026 10:30 - 10:55 AM Location: West Learning Lounge-Exhibit Hall

Dermatology Skin in the Game: First Response: Calming the Acute Crisis

Tuesday, January 20, 2026 11:15 - 11:40 AM Location: West Learning Lounge-Exhibit Hall

Dermatology Skin in the Game: Comfort for Keeps: Chronic Care Strategies

Tuesday, January 20, 2026 12:00 - 12:25 PM Location: West Learning Lounge-Exhibit Hall

Dermatology Skin in the Game: Talk the Talk: Communicating Through the Itch

Tuesday, January 20, 2026 12:45 - 1:10 PM Location: West Learning Lounge



Sue Ettinger, DVM, DACVIM (Oncology)

With over 20 years of experience in veterinary oncology, Dr. Sue Ettinger, also known as Dr. Sue Cancer Vet®, is a widely recognized and respected authority in her field. She leads a thriving oncology service at Guardian Veterinary Specialists located in Brewster, New York and is one of only 450 board-certified specialists in medical oncology in North America. Dr. Ettinger completed her residency in medical oncology at the prestigious Animal Medical Center in New York City and has been honored with numerous awards, including the 2019 Western Veterinary Conference Small Animal Continuing Educator of the Year. She is also a sought-after international speaker, a book author, and engaging YouTube vlogger. In addition to her professional achievements, Dr. Sue is passionate about raising cancer awareness and promoting early detection through her “See Something, Do Something, Why Wait? Aspirate.™” campaign. She has a strong social media presence, with over 45,000 followers on Facebook and 25,000 on Instagram, where she shares valuable resources and support for pet owners and veterinary professionals. Outside of her work in veterinary medicine, Dr. Sue is a proud mother to two teenage boys and shares her home with two fun-loving Labradors, Penelope and Matilda. In her free time, she enjoys running, traveling and exploring new places, and relaxing on exotic beaches.

Conference Sessions

Fast Answers, Better Access: AI Cytology for Skin Masses and Lymph Nodes

Tuesday, January 20, 2026 6:30 - 7:30 AM (Includes Meal) Location: S320C



Andi Flory, DVM, DACVIM (ONCOLOGY)

Dr. Andi Flory is a board-certified veterinary specialist in Medical Oncology. She underwent training at Ohio State and Cornell University and has worked as a medical oncologist in the US and Australia. Andi was part of the founding team at PetDx which brought liquid biopsy to veterinary medicine. She served as Chief Medical Officer at PetDx for 5 years, and during that time co-wrote and performed many studies demonstrating the benefits of blood-based cancer detection. Dr. Flory is widely published in veterinary literature and has recently joined Zoetis as Head of Medical Oncology Strategy and Portfolio Support. In addition to noninvasive cancer detection and cancer genomics, she has special interests in novel therapies for lymphoma, cancer-related quality of life, and cancer pain.

Conference Sessions

Getting Up to Speed on Immunotherapy Innovations in Human and Animal Medicine

Tuesday, January 20, 2026 8:00 - 8:50 AM Location: S320E

Mobilizing the Immune System Against Cancer: Lessons from Human Medicine for Pets

Tuesday, January 20, 2026 9:05 - 9:55 AM Location: S320E

Zoetis Speakers – VMX 2026

Explore session details and speaker spotlights at VMXZoetis2026.com or by scanning QR code.



Patrick Flynn, DVM, MS, CCFP

Dr. Flynn is the managing professional services veterinarian for the Western Florida Zoetis team. He received his veterinary degree from the Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine in 1994 and practiced companion animal medicine and surgery for 13 years before joining then Pfizer, now Zoetis in 2006. His passion and curiosity for the scientific study of the role other animals play in our life (and vice versa) led him to Canisius College in Buffalo, N.Y. where, in 2019, he completed a Master of Science in Anthrozoology (the study of human/animal interactions) and is one of very few veterinarians with this qualification. Additionally, he is the President of the Human Animal Bond Association, HAB certified through NAVC Institute and a Certified Compassion Fatigue Professional. In 2024, his short story about meeting Dr. Jane Goodall for the first time was published in a book by Marc Bekoff produced for her 90th birthday.

Conference Sessions

Strong Interventions: OA is a Disease of Young Dogs

Saturday, January 17, 2026 3:45 - 4:10 PM Location: West Learning Lounge-Exhibit Hall



Tamara Grubb, DVM, PhD, DACVAA

Dr. Tamara Grubb is a Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Anesthesia & Analgesia with a strong focus in pain management. She owns an anesthesia/analgesia & continuing education consulting practice which serves both small and large animals. Dr. Grubb is a national/international educator and lecturer, a certified acupuncturist, an Adjunct Professor of Anesthesia & Analgesia and the President of the International Veterinary Academy of Pain Management (IVAPM). She is the co-author of two books, including 'Veterinary Anesthesia & Pain Management for Nurses & Technicians'. Dr. Grubb's favorite achievement is winning the Distinguished Teaching Award at two Universities.

Conference Sessions

Cleared for Takeoff: Pearls and Pitfalls in the OA Pain Journey

Sunday, January 18, 2026 5:45 - 6:45 PM (Includes Meal) Location S320E



Margaret Gruen, DVM, DACVB

Dr. Gruen completed her veterinary degree at the University of Illinois. She came to North Carolina State University for an internship followed by a residency in veterinary behavior. She completed a Masters in Veterinary Public Health and became a board-certified veterinary behaviorist. After a few years on the faculty at NCSU, she decided to pursue a PhD with a focus on understanding the behaviors associated with pain in cats with naturally-occurring arthritis. She then spent two years at Duke University, where she co-directed the Canine Cognition Center, and has now returned to North Carolina State University as an Associate Professor of Behavioral Medicine.

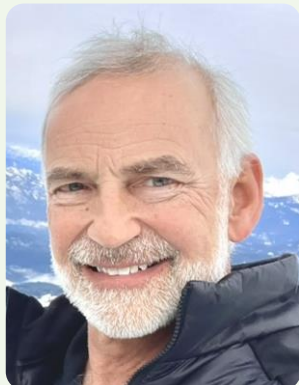
Conference Sessions

Am I Grumpy or Do I Hurt: Understanding Behavior to Diagnose OA

Saturday, January 17, 2026 5:45 - 6:45 PM (Includes Meal) Location: S320E

Zoetis Speakers – VMX 2026

Explore session details and speaker spotlights at VMXZoetis2026.com or by scanning QR code.



Ralph C. Harvey, DVM, MS, Diplomate ACVAA

Dr. Harvey grew up in Knoxville, Tennessee. He studied genetic toxicology at UNC-Chapel Hill and worked for the NIH before obtaining his veterinary degree from the University of Tennessee. Dr. Harvey worked in private practice and completed an internship and residency in anesthesiology at Cornell University. He spent over three decades of his career on faculty at the University of Tennessee where he became an associate professor and head of the surgical services section. He is the author of over 50 peer-reviewed publications and over 20 textbook chapters. He was honored with the Brandy Memorial Award in 2007 and the Distinguished Alumni Award in 2012. Dr. Harvey has been a member of the Advisory Panel for Fear Free Pets since its inception, was Chair of the Veterinary Advisory Board for the BioTraceIT corporation and is a member of Board of Directors for the IVAPM Research and Scholarship Foundation. He is a renowned speaker and was named the Small Animal Speaker of the Year at the Western Veterinary Conference in 2023. Dr. Harvey currently serves as a specialist in anesthesia and pain management, as a member of the Veterinary Specialist team for Zoetis Petcare, Veterinary Professional Services.

Conference Sessions

Strong Solutions: Screening, Diagnosing, and Managing Feline Osteoarthritis

Saturday, January 17, 2026 3:00 - 3:25 PM Location: West Learning Lounge-Exhibit Hall

Choosing Sedation or Anesthesia in the Feline Outpatient

Monday, January 19, 2026 10:30 - 10:55 AM Location: West Learning Lounge-Exhibit Hall

Purr-scriptive Progress: Evidence-Based Feline OA Treatment—Getting Out of the Gabapentin Comfort Zone

Saturday, January 17, 2026 5:00 - 5:20 PM Location: Zoetis Booth 1908

Sunday, January 18, 2026 10:00 - 10:20 AM Location: Zoetis Booth 1908

Monday, January 19, 2026 2:00 - 2:20 PM Location: Zoetis Booth 1908

Monoclonal Antibody Overview for the Time-Pressed Practitioner

Sunday, January 18, 2026 1:00 - 1:20 PM Location: Zoetis Booth 1908

Monday, January 19, 2026 5:00 - 5:20 PM Location: Zoetis Booth 1908

Tuesday, January 20, 2026 11:00 - 11:20 AM Location: Zoetis Booth 1908



Emily King, DVM

Dr. Emily King is a dynamic leader in veterinary medicine and the founder of All-Star Veterinary Clinic. She attended James Madison University on a Division 1 basketball scholarship, earning her B.S. in Biology in 1992. She then pursued her veterinary degree at the University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine, graduating in 1996. After gaining experience at Kryder Veterinary Clinic and Broad Ripple Animal Clinic, she fulfilled her vision of practice ownership by opening All-Star Veterinary Clinic in 2003. With a large social media following on Instagram and TikTok (200,000+), Dr. King is a respected industry influencer, using her platform to educate, inspire, and mentor veterinary professionals and pet owners. She is especially passionate about guiding veterinary students, ensuring they maintain their enthusiasm for the profession throughout their careers. Under her leadership, All-Star Veterinary Clinic has become renowned for exceptional patient care, strong client and staff engagement, and a thriving culture that fosters professional growth. She specializes in developing business strategies that drive success while preserving a positive and sought-after work environment. Building on this passion for mentorship, Dr. King co-founded VetPracticePro, her next major endeavor, designed to help veterinary professionals and practice leaders elevate their clinics through intentional leadership, culture development, and business strategy. VetPracticePro brings full circle her commitment to growing thriving veterinary practices while investing in the people who make them possible. Beyond veterinary medicine, Dr. King enjoys spending time with her husband and their five boys along with being an assistant coach on a local high school girls' basketball team, combining her love for leadership and mentorship both in and out of the clinic.

Conference Sessions

Cleared for Takeoff: Pearls and Pitfalls in the OA Pain Journey

Sunday, January 18, 2026 5:45 - 6:45 PM (Includes Meal) Location S320E



Scott Knauer

Scott Knauer is an Executive Director in Veterinary Medicine Research and Development (VMRD) at Zoetis and serves as the Head of Companion Animal Discovery (CAD) within Global Therapeutics. As head of the CAD group, he leads a team of in vitro pharmacologists that focuses on identifying and developing novel small molecule and monoclonal antibody therapeutics across multiple therapeutic areas, with an emphasis on characterizing pharmacological mechanisms of action. Scott's portfolio responsibilities include the Pain, Renal, Cardiovascular, Anxiety, Oncology, Dermatology and Metabolic Disease Therapeutic Areas. Additionally, Scott serves as the Project Team Leader for a long-acting canine anti-NGF monoclonal antibody for the treatment of pain associated with osteoarthritis. He earned his M.S. in Biotechnology from Johns Hopkins University with specialty training in neuropharmacology within the Laboratory of Neuroscience at the National Institutes of Health with Dr. Phil Skolnick. Scott has over 27 years of drug discovery and development experience in both human (e.g., DuPont, Pharmacia and Pfizer Neuroscience) and veterinary (Zoetis) pharmaceutical research, including serving as a group and project team leader across various disease indications.

Conference Sessions

Getting Up to Speed on Immunotherapy Innovations in Human and Animal Medicine

Tuesday, January 20, 2026 8:00 - 8:50 AM Location: S320E

Zoetis Speakers – VMX 2026

Explore session details and speaker spotlights at VMXZoetis2026.com or by scanning QR code.



Duncan Lascelles, BSc, BVSc, PhD, FRCVS, CertVA, DSAS(ST), DECVS, DACVS

Dr. Lascelles is the Dr. J. McNeely and Lynne K. DuBose Distinguished Professor of Musculoskeletal Health, and Professor of Translational Pain Research. Since his PhD training at Bristol, UK, he has devoted his professional career to improving our ability to recognize and treat pain in animals. His research program (Translational Research in Pain [TRIP]) develops methods to measure pain associated with spontaneous disease in animals and seeks to understand the underlying neurobiology. Leveraging these measurement techniques in proof of concept studies his work improves our understanding of how to control pain in companion animals, and facilitates analgesic development in human medicine, and discovery of relevant pain signaling mechanisms.

Conference Sessions

Gate to Gait: Ortho Exam Tips that Go the Distance

Monday, January 19, 2026 10:50 - 11:40 AM Location: S320E



Wendy Levin, MD, MS

Dr. Wendy Levin is a Hematologist and Oncologist with more than 15 years of increasing leadership experience in the biotech and diagnostic industries, spanning a broad range of disease indications, diagnostic targets, and early to late phase clinical development. She has provided strategic and executional support for private pre-IPO start-ups to Fortune 500 publicly traded companies and investment firms, leading regulatory interactions, clinical advisory boards and global clinical and biomarker translational leadership for all phases of therapeutic development. Wendy's first role in biopharma was at Pfizer, where she led the translational and clinical development of Daurismo from pre-IND to designing the FDA registration trial in elderly unfit acute myeloid leukemia (AML) at Pfizer. She subsequently served as vice president and acting CMO of two small publicly traded companies, where she led clinical development and Medical Affairs, and served as the Global Clinical Lead for the \$250M RP3 immuno-oncology DANUBE trial in 1L urothelial cancer, published in Lancet Oncology. Most recently, she served as CMO for Biofidelity, a start-up clinical stage diagnostics company based in the UK. Wendy has considerable experience in both the buy and sell sides of VC, where she has conducted clinical due diligence for 10+ VC firms and has secured over \$100M in capital, bringing novel therapeutics and practice-changing diagnostics to market. Wendy did her undergraduate and graduate studies at the University of California Los Angeles (UCLA), where, under the guidance of Dr Dennis J. Slamon, she co-authored the first publications on HER-2/neu in breast and ovarian cancers. This pivotal work led to the development of the cancer therapeutic Herceptin, which has transformed breast cancer care. The full body of work has been recognized by the Lasker Foundation and has been considered for nomination for the Nobel Prize. Wendy completed her Internal Medicine residency at the University of Southern California (LAC + USC), and her Hematology/Oncology Fellowship at the University of Washington/Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center in Seattle. She has co-authored over 50 peer-reviewed publications, spanning both academic and industry. She remains clinically active and maintains a California Medical license.

Conference Sessions

Mobilizing the Immune System Against Cancer: Lessons from Human Medicine for Pets

Tuesday, January 20, 2026 9:05 - 9:55 AM Location: S320E



Natalie L. Marks, DVM, CVJ

Dr. Natalie Marks obtained her bachelor's degree with High Honors in Animal Science from the University of Illinois in 1998, her Masters and then Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine with High Honors from the University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine in 2002. She became a Certified Veterinary Journalist in 2018. She has been a veterinarian at Blum Animal Hospital since 2006, co-owner until 2018 and continues to practice as an associate. During her first years in practice, Dr. Marks received the prestigious Dr. Erwin Small First Decade Award, presented to a veterinarian that has contributed the most to organized veterinary medicine in his or her first decade of practice. In 2012, Dr. Marks was awarded Petplan's nationally recognized Veterinarian of the year. In 2015, she was awarded America's Favorite Veterinarian by the American Veterinary Medical Foundation. And, most recently in 2017, she was awarded Nobivac's Veterinarian of the Year for her work on canine influenza. Dr. Marks is very active and passionate about educating in all aspects of media, both locally and nationally. She was featured nationally on the Today Show and CBS Nightly News during the canine influenza epidemic of 2015 and in multiple issues of JAVMA. Additionally, Dr. Marks has a regular column in Today's Veterinary Business.

Conference Sessions

FeLV and FIV Diagnostic Conundrums

Monday, January 19, 2026 2:45 - 3:35 PM Location: S320E

Integrating Cat Friendly Handling (Not Wrangling!) into Your Practice

Monday, January 19, 2026 9:45 - 10:10 AM Location: West Learning Lounge-Exhibit Hall

Choosing Sedation or Anesthesia in the Feline Outpatient

Monday, January 19, 2026 10:30 - 10:55 AM Location: West Learning Lounge-Exhibit Hall

Dermatologic Conundrums in Feline Medicine

Monday, January 19, 2026 11:15 - 11:40 AM Location: West Learning Lounge-Exhibit Hall

Setting Up Your Practice and Feline Patients For Long Term Success

Monday, January 19, 2026 12:00 - 12:25 PM Location: West Learning Lounge-Exhibit Hall

What's New With FeLV and FIV?

Monday, January 19, 2026 4:30 - 4:45 PM Location: West Learning Lounge-Exhibit Hall

Zoetis Speakers – VMX 2026

Explore session details and speaker spotlights at VMXZoetis2026.com or by scanning QR code.



Mikayla Mayland, DVM, DACVS

Dr. Mayland was born and raised in the beautiful state of Colorado, however, her studies have led her all over the country. She completed a bachelors in biology and anthrozoology from Carroll College in Montana before completing her DVM at the University of Minnesota. During her time in veterinary school, she served on the chapter board as well as the National Board of the Veterinary Business Management Association and was the president of the student chapter of the American Association of Equine Practitioners. She then completed a year-long rotating internship in Los Angeles before heading to the University of Missouri for a surgical oncology internship. Dr. Mayland received her surgical residency training at Cornell University. Her publications (under the name Mikayla Schroeder) range from mapping of the fascial planes for oncologic resection to analyzing demographics of residency applicants. After residency, she held a position as a staff surgeon at Alameda East Veterinary Hospital in Colorado. She is thrilled to have joined the Zoetis Specialists team in February of 2025. Dr. Mayland calls Franktown, Colorado her home base where she lives with her husband, 3 warmblood horses, 3 cats and her 13 year old Labrador Retriever, Denali.

Conference Sessions

Strong Strategies for Managing Late-Stage Osteoarthritis Pain and Complex Cases

Saturday, January 17, 2026 4:30 - 4:55 PM Location: West Learning Lounge-Exhibit Hall

Dfferent Dogs, Dfferent Paths: Insights into Personalized OA Pain Management

Monday, January 19, 2026 8:00 - 8:50 AM Location: S320E

The Latest in Pain Immunotherapy in Human and Veterinary Medicine

Tuesday, January 20, 2026 11:00 - 11:50 AM Location: S320E

Unmasked: A Surgeon's Perspective on Treating Canine Osteoarthritis Pain

Saturday, January 17, 2026 2:00 - 2:20 PM Location: Zoetis Booth 1908

Sunday, January 18, 2026 12:00 - 12:20 PM Location: Zoetis Booth 1908

Monday, January 19, 2026 4:00 - 4:20 PM Location: Zoetis Booth 1908



Julia Miller, DVM, DACVD

Dr. Julia is an upstate NY native and a Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine graduate. She completed a large animal rotating internship at the University of Georgia and then worked as a mixed small and large animal general practitioner for several years before returning to Cornell to complete her dermatology residency. After completing her residency, Dr. Julia stayed on at Cornell as an assistant clinical professor in the section of Dermatology where she was awarded the Zoetis Distinguished Teacher Award. She is now enjoying private practice life surrounded by horses and bourbon in beautiful Louisville KY. Dr. Julia has a special interest in the management of chronic otitis externa, and all things related to large animal skin disease (especially horses). Outside of work, Dr. Julia enjoys her lovable bully dogs, riding horses, and singing whenever possible. She also loves providing continuing education to veterinarians and owners because dermatology is absolutely the best!

Conference Sessions

MythBusters Live — Fact or Fiction?

Sunday, January 18, 2026 1:40 - 2:30 PM Location: S320E

Would You Rather — Derm Edition

Sunday, January 18, 2026 2:45 - 3:35 PM Location: S320E

Boss Level Derm — Tips, Tools, Tricks and Quick Wins

Sunday, January 18, 2026 4:05 - 4:55 PM Location: S320E



Andy Moorhead, DVM, PhD DACVM (Parasit)

Dr. Andy Moorhead is a small animal parasitologist and Associate Professor at the University of Georgia, College of Veterinary Medicine. Dr. Moorhead received the DVM degree from North Carolina State University, followed by a MS in Veterinary Parasitology from Purdue University. He then received his Ph.D. degree from Cornell University. Dr. Moorhead's main research interests are the role of host-specific cues in development of filarial worms, and heartworm treatment. Dr. Moorhead became a Diplomate of ACVM (Parasitology) in 2015. He is also an at-large member of the executive board of the American Heartworm Society since 2016. He is currently the Symposium Chair for the 2025 symposium. He is also President-elect of the American Association of Parasitologists.

Conference Sessions

Expert Roundtable: Tackling Diagnostic and Therapeutic Dilemmas in Heartworm Disease

Monday, January 19, 2026 5:45 - 6:45 PM (Includes Meal) Location: S320E

Zoetis Speakers – VMX 2026

Explore session details and speaker spotlights at VMXZoetis2026.com or by scanning QR code.



Eric Morissette, BSC, DVM, Diplomate ACVP (Clinical Pathology)

Dr. Eric Morissette, DVM, DACVP, is a Board-Certified Veterinary Clinical Pathologist at Zoetis Global Diagnostics. He earned his veterinary degree from the University of Montreal and completed a residency in clinical pathology at the University of Florida, earning certification from the American College of Veterinary Pathologists. At Zoetis, he plays a key role in the design and advancement of AI-powered diagnostic platforms, including Vetscan Imagyst and OptiCell. His work centers on driving innovation to improve the accuracy, consistency, and accessibility of diagnostic testing, enabling veterinarians worldwide to make faster, more confident decisions and advancing the future of veterinary diagnostics.

Conference Sessions

AI as Your Diagnostic Partner: The Key to Practice Efficiency

Sunday, January 18, 2026 3:45 - 4:10 PM Location: West Learning Lounge-Exhibit Hall

The Preventive Exam With a Plot Twist: A Case-Based Journey Uncovering a Hidden Infectious Disease

Monday, January 19, 2026 4:05 - 4:55 PM Location: S320E

Keys to Accessible Cytology Screening – How AI is Bridging the Gap

Saturday, January 17, 2026 4:00 - 4:20 PM Location: Zoetis Booth 1908

Monday, January 19, 2026 12:00 - 12:20 PM Location: Zoetis Booth 1908

Knowing Your CBCs: Unlocking Hematology Interpretation

Sunday, January 18, 2026 11:00- 11:20 AM Location: Zoetis Booth 1908

Monday, January 19, 2026 1:00- 1:20 PM Location: Zoetis Booth 1908



Kristin Owens, DVM, DACVP (Clinical Pathology)

Dr. Owens is originally from Pennsylvania and completed her DVM studies at North Carolina State University. After graduating, she returned to her home state for residency training in clinical pathology at the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine, earning her board certification in 2015. Kristin worked within a specialty hospital as a diagnostic pathologist in a commercial diagnostics laboratory for 6 years before joining Zoetis in November 2021. She has a love of cytology and a strong interest in the uses of artificial intelligence in veterinary medicine. She is an active member of both the ASVCP and ACVP and the recipient of the C.L. Davis Student Scholarship Award in 2014. She has peer-reviewed publications on topics including neuroscience, behavior and trauma, and clinical pathology. Away from the microscope, Kristin enjoys spending time baking, traveling and volunteering at school events with her 2 children. Her pet family consists of 2 feisty kittens, a 17-year-old turtle, 2 guinea pigs and assorted fish.

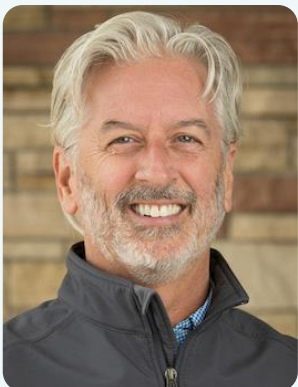
Conference Sessions

Keys to Accessible Cytology Screening – How AI is Bridging the Gap

Sunday, January 18, 2026 3:00 - 3:25 PM Location: West Learning Lounge-Exhibit Hall

Saturday, January 17, 2026 4:00 - 4:20 PM Location: Zoetis Booth 1908

Monday, January 19, 2026 12:00 - 12:20 PM Location: Zoetis Booth 1908



Ross H. Palmer, DVM, MS, Diplomate ACVS

Dr. Palmer, a native of Kansas, received his BS and DVM degrees from Kansas State University. He completed an internship at The Animal Medical Center in New York City. He received his small animal surgical residency training and an MS degree (Physiology) from the University of Georgia. He is a Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Surgeons. His veterinary career has spanned both academics (Texas A&M and Colorado State University) and private specialty practice (Silicon Valley/Monterey Bay region of California) as a staff surgeon and as a practice owner. Ross is currently a Professor of Orthopedic Surgery at Colorado State University and the Associate Director of Education at the Translational Medicine Institute. Dr. Palmer seeks to entertain as he educates in order to make learning an enjoyable and memorable experience. He has been an invited speaker at conferences throughout the USA and the world. He was recently named VMX Speaker of the Year. He is the founder of the Complete Course on External Skeletal Fixation educating veterinarians from around the world for 25 years. He's authored > 50 journal articles and book chapters. He is past President of the Veterinary Orthopedic Society (VOS), editorial board member of Today's Veterinary Practice, board member of the VOS, World Veterinary Orthopaedic Congress, North American Veterinary Conference and the Veterinary Surgery Journal. Ross' personal passions include international travel, cycling, hiking, fishing, and relaxing with his family in their family's "off the grid" island cabin in remote northwestern Ontario, Canada.

Conference Sessions

Cleared for takeoff: Pearls and Pitfalls in the OA Pain Journey

Sunday, January 18, 2026 5:45 - 6:45 PM (Includes Meal) Location S320E

Zoetis Speakers – VMX 2026

Explore session details and speaker spotlights at VMXZoetis2026.com or by scanning QR code.



Courtney Pierce, DVM, MBA

Dr. Courtney Pierce received an undergraduate degree in animal science and a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine from North Carolina State University. She earned her Master of Business Administration (MBA) from King University. She is a small animal general practitioner with special interests in surgery and pain management, feline medicine, and compassion fatigue prevention in veterinary health care workers. She is a certified as a “Cat Friendly Veterinarian” and Compassion Fatigue Profession (CCFP). Dr. Pierce lives on a small farm in Damascus, Virginia with her husband, two young boys, four rescue dogs, one orange cat, and several chickens.

Conference Sessions

Staying (OA) Strong in a Tough World

Saturday, January 17, 2026 1:30 - 1:55 PM Location: West Learning Lounge-Exhibit Hall



Mason Reichard, MS, PhD

Dr. Reichard is a professor of Veterinary Parasitology at Oklahoma State University. He received a B.S. in Biology from Central Michigan University, M.S. in Biology from Northern Michigan University, and a Ph. D. in Veterinary Biomedical Sciences from Oklahoma State University. Dr. Reichard is active in teaching veterinary parasitology and maintains a research program focused on zoonotic and tick-borne diseases of wild and domestic animals. Dr. Reichard’s lab has established a reproducible lab-animal model for the transmission of *Cytauxzoon felis*, cause of bobcat fever in domestic cats, through *Amblyomma americanum*, the lone star tick. This transmission model has been used to investigate various aspects of cytauxzoonosis including diagnosis, pathology, and preventing transmission to domestic cats. Dr. Reichard serves as co-director of the National Center for Veterinary Parasitology whose mission is to further the discipline of veterinary parasitology by bringing together partners from academia and industry to address emerging issues.

Conference Sessions

Feline Lyme Disease Updates: Essential Insights for the Veterinary Health Team

Sunday, January 18, 2026 12:00 - 12:25 PM Location: West Learning Lounge-Exhibit Hall

The Case of the Concealed Culprit: A Diagnosis in Disguise

Monday, January 19, 2026 1:40 - 2:30 PM Location: S320E

Unraveling Resistance: A Detective Story in Canine Heartworm Control

Saturday, January 17, 2026 3:00 - 3:20 PM Location: Zoetis Booth 1908

Sunday, January 18, 2026 2:00 - 2:20 PM Location: Zoetis Booth 1908

Monday, January 19, 2026 10:00 - 10:20 AM Location: Zoetis Booth 1908



Sheilah A. Robertson, BVMS (Hons), PhD, DACVAA, DECVAA, DACAW, DECAWBM(WSEL), CVA, FRCVS

After graduating from the University of Glasgow in Scotland Dr Robertson undertook specialized training in anesthesia and pain management. She is board certified in anesthesia and in animal welfare by the respective American and European Colleges and holds certificates in small animal acupuncture and shelter medicine. She is a certified Traditional Chinese Veterinary Medicine Palliative and End-of-Life practitioner. She has published widely on the recognition and alleviation of pain in companion animals and been a co-author for numerous clinical guidelines and resources including the 2023 AAEP/IAAHPC feline hospice and palliative care guidelines, the 2024 ISFM and AAEP consensus guidelines on the long-term use of NSAIDs in cats and the AAEP’s Chronic Pain Education Toolkit. She is the senior medical director of Lap of Love Veterinary Hospice, a large network of over three hundred veterinarians dedicated to in home end-of-life care. Dr Robertson is a courtesy lecturer in the College of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Florida.

Conference Sessions

Layovers and Detours: Managing CKD With Feline Osteoarthritis (interactive/case based)

Monday, January 19, 2026 9:05 - 9:55 AM Location: S320E

Zoetis Speakers – VMX 2026

Explore session details and speaker spotlights at VMXZoetis2026.com or by scanning QR code.



Jennifer Schissler, DVM, MS, Diplomate ACVD

Dr. Jennifer Schissler is a dermatologist with a passion for collaborating with veterinarians and clients. Dr. Schissler enjoys providing continuing education at international, national, and local events and has been the primary mentor for 5 dermatology residents. Dr. Schissler earned her DVM degree at Colorado State University in 2005. Following a rotating internship at Wheat Ridge Animal Hospital and a three year residency at The Ohio State University, she became a Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Dermatology in 2009. Following two years of practice in Louisville, Kentucky, Dr. Schissler joined the clinical faculty at Colorado State University where she held a clinical, teaching, and research appointment for 10 years. Dr. Schissler then practiced dermatology and otology at Best Friends Animal Hospital in Billings, Montana within a team of primary and urgent care veterinarians. She joined the Zoetis veterinary specialty team in Feb, 2023 to pursue her passion to help veterinarians enjoy dermatology and otology in general practice.

Conference Sessions

JAK Inhibitors: A Goldilocks Tale of Selectivity, Safety & Real-World Use

Monday, January 19, 2026 12:15 - 1:15 (Includes Meal) Location: Expo Hall Classroom 1

Cytopoint in Action: A Year-Long Study of Itch Relief, Wagging Tails, and Happy Owners

Sunday, January 18, 2026 5:00 - 5:20 PM Location: Zoetis Booth 1908

Monday, January 19, 2026 3:00 - 3:20 PM Location: Zoetis Booth 1908

Tuesday, January 20, 2026 12:00 - 12:20 PM Location: Zoetis Booth 1908



Jenifer G. Sheehy, DVM, BCPA

Dr. Jenifer Sheehy earned her BS degree in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology with honors from Colorado State University. She received her DVM from Colorado State in 2003 and completed a rotating medicine and surgery internship at The Ohio State University. Following a Fellowship in Surgery at Gulf Coast Veterinary Specialists in Houston Texas, Dr. Sheehy practiced emergency medicine as the Chief Medical Officer for Sugarland Veterinary Specialist's Emergency Service. Dr. Sheehy joined the pharmaceutical industry in 2013 as a Field Scientific Liaison, and recently joined the Zoetis headquarters team as the Medical Lead for Canine Parasiticides. Dr. Sheehy has a special interest in clinical pharmacology. Jenifer shares her home with 2 young tuxedo kittens and spends her spare time riding motorcycles around the world.

Conference Sessions

Shaping the Road Ahead: Evidence from Heartworm Surveillance Studies

Sunday, January 18, 2026 10:30 - 10:55 AM Location: West Learning Lounge-Exhibit Hall



Wendy Simpson, DVM

Dr. Simpson is an adjunct assistant professor at NCSU College of Veterinary Medicine and regularly lectures on feline-friendly handling techniques to students. Dr. Simpson has also given lectures to veterinary technicians, and she has been an invited speaker at the North Carolina Veterinary Conference. Dr. Simpson is dedicated to providing compassionate and gentle handling techniques, which she believes have resulted in better veterinary care for her patients. Dr. Simpson is also very passionate about feline pain management. She has been involved in many studies on feline osteoarthritis with the Integrated Pain Management Service at NCSU and has coauthored several papers. Dr. Simpson also made significant authorship contributions to the AAHA Pain Management Guidelines that will be released later this year. Dr. Simpson is married to Dr. Mat Gerard, a large animal surgeon and anatomy instructor at NCSU College of Veterinary Medicine. They have two elderly cats and two feral outside cats in the family. In her spare time, she enjoys traveling, sailing, and cooking!

Conference Sessions

Strong Starts: Maximizing Kitty Minutes & Leveraging VPC Relationships

Saturday, January 17, 2026 2:15 - 2:40 PM Location: West Learning Lounge-Exhibit Hall

Layovers and Detours: Managing CKD With Feline Osteoarthritis (interactive/case based)

Monday, January 19, 2026 9:05 - 9:55 AM Location: S320E

Elevate the Every Day: Actionable and EZ Cat Care Tweaks for Furr-midable Results

Monday, January 19, 2026 3:00 - 3:25 PM Location: West Learning Lounge-Exhibit Hall

Zoetis Speakers – VMX 2026

Explore session details and speaker spotlights at VMXZoetis2026.com or by scanning QR code.



Ben Stading, DVM, MPH, PhD

Dr. Ben Stading is a veterinary medicine professional whose early love of animals in the Midwest led to a distinguished career in veterinary education and research. He earned his Bachelor of Science in Ecology, Evolution, and Behavior from the University of Minnesota - Twin Cities, followed by his DVM and MPH from the University of Wisconsin - Madison. After beginning his career in private practice in Florida, Dr. Stading returned to Wisconsin to complete his PhD in Virology and Immunology, focusing on novel vaccine development for bats. He then spent additional years in clinical practice before joining St. Matthew's University School of Veterinary Medicine in Grand Cayman in 2019, where he taught virology, clinical skills, and ethics. His dedication to education earned him a promotion to Assistant Dean in 2021. Dr. Stading relocated to Denver with his family in Fall 2024, where he continues advancing veterinary education and diagnostics. When not working, he enjoys spending time with his family and pets, hiking, and reading Marvel comic books.

Conference Sessions

The Preventive Exam With a Plot Twist: A Case-Based Journey Uncovering a Hidden Infectious Disease
Monday, January 19, 2026 4:05 - 4:55 PM Location: S320E



Lindsay Starkey, DVM, PhD, DACVM (Parasit)

Dr. Starkey joined the faculty at Auburn University in May, 2016. She was raised on a rural beef cattle farm in Northeast Kansas, and 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 Ehrlichia spp. of dogs. She is a diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Microbiology, Parasitology sub-specialty, completing her residency training through the National Center for Veterinary Parasitology at Oklahoma State University in 2015. Her work at Auburn involves the teaching of parasitology to first and fourth-year veterinary students, varied research projects, diagnostic parasitology and parasite consultation, and outreach.

Conference Sessions

Expert Roundtable: Tackling Diagnostic and Therapeutic Dilemmas in Heartworm Disease
Monday, January 19, 2026 5:45 - 6:45 PM (Includes Meal) Location: S320E

Hot Takes in Feline Parasitology: Expert Insights with a Parasitology Pro
Monday, January 19, 2026 3:45 - 4:10 PM Location: West Learning Lounge-Exhibit Hall



Shannon B. Sura, DVM, MBA, CVPM

Dr. Shannon Sura is the senior manager of medical education with Zoetis. She earned her DVM from Tufts University School of Veterinary Medicine, MBA from Arizona State University's W.P. Carey School of Business and earned her CVPM. Dr. Sura has more than 30 years of knowledge and breadth of experience in animal health allowing her to provide essential business, technical, and educational support. Dr. Sura's passion in practice is education that increases efficiency and proficiency marrying best medicine with best business.

Conference Sessions

Master Your Inventory: Streamline & Save
Monday, January 19, 2026 12:45 - 1:10 PM Location: West Learning Lounge-Exhibit Hall

Mastering Forward Booking: Boost Your Efficiency
Monday, January 19, 2026 1:30 - 1:55 PM Location: West Learning Lounge-Exhibit Hall

Zoetis Speakers – VMX 2026

Explore session details and speaker spotlights at VMXZoetis2026.com or by scanning QR code.



Austin Viall, DVM, MS, DACVP (Clinical Pathology)

Dr. Austin Viall is an associate professor of clinical pathology at the University of California Davis. Originally hailing from the Pacific Northwest, Austin is a graduate of Washington State University College of Veterinary Medicine and completed his clinical pathology training at Oregon State University. Austin previously worked at Iowa State University for almost 7 years, where he was the Clinical Pathology Laboratory Director, until very recently joining the clinical pathology team at the University of California Davis. He has special interests in developing novel immunoassays and has helped design and implement flow cytometric assays for canine lymphocyte immunophenotyping, immune-mediated hemolytic anemia, and immune thrombocytopenia. His research focuses on investigating neutrophil extracellular traps, immune-mediated hematologic diseases in dogs, and novel oncogenic factors in canine lymphoma and osteosarcoma. Austin is heavily involved in clinical pathology training at the specialty level, serving in various education-associated and trainee certification roles for the American College of Veterinary Pathologists (ACVP) and American Society for Veterinary Clinical Pathology (ASVCP). He is also actively engaged in advancing the veterinary pathology discipline through his recent roles as the president of the ASVCP and member of the ACVP Certifying Examination Board.

Conference Sessions

Knowing Your CBCs: Unlocking Hematology Interpretation (RBCs)

Sunday, January 18, 2026 1:30 - 1:55 PM Location: West Learning Lounge-Exhibit Hall

Knowing Your CBCs: Unlocking Hematology Interpretation (WBCs)

Sunday, January 18, 2026 2:15 - 2:40 PM Location: West Learning Lounge-Exhibit Hall



Amber Whittle, DVM, CVA

Dr. Amber Whittle earned her DVM from Mississippi State University in 2010. Following graduation, she began practicing small animal medicine in eastern Pennsylvania and in 2015, she earned her certification in veterinary acupuncture. After 8 years in clinical practice, Dr. Whittle began a career as a medical writer, collaborating with both animal health and human pharmaceutical companies. In 2022, Dr. Whittle joined Zoetis as a Professional Services Veterinarian, and in 2024, she transitioned to the role of Feline Parasiticides Medical Affairs Manager at Zoetis. Her professional interests include raising awareness around feline parasitic risks and the importance of feline parasite prevention. Dr. Whittle resides in Bucks County, Pennsylvania with her husband and daughters. In her spare time, she enjoys vacationing with her family and spending time with her cat, Fivvy and her Golden Retriever, Pizza.

Conference Sessions

Decoding Feline Heartworm Disease

Sunday, January 18, 2026 9:45 - 10:10 AM Location: West Learning Lounge-Exhibit Hall

Hot Takes in Feline Parasitology: Expert Insights with a Parasitology Pro

Monday, January 19, 2026 3:45 - 4:10 PM Location: West Learning Lounge-Exhibit Hall



John Younker, DVM

John Younker, DVM is the founder and medical director of Common Companion Vet Co. Founded in 2018, Common Companion has expanded from de novo, to two locations, and ten veterinarians. Common Companion's success has been a result of a consistent focus on making the clinic a great place to work. Dr. Younker was awarded the "Wellness in Practice Award" by UGA's College of Veterinary Medicine, an accolade that recognizes significant contributions to the wellbeing of veterinarians in the state of Georgia. Additionally, Dr. Younker was named to the "UGA 40 Under 40" list by the University of Georgia Alumni Association, a recognition that celebrates outstanding leadership and service contributions within their individual communities and professional fields. Beyond his work in his practice, Dr. Younker is pursuing an Executive MBA at Emory University. He is also a conference speaker and consultant, leveraging his expertise to address and solve business challenges faced by veterinary clinics nationwide.

Conference Sessions

From Insights to Action: Building Veterinary Teams That Thrive

Monday, January 19, 2026 2:15 - 2:40 PM Location: West Learning Lounge-Exhibit Hall

Wednesday, January 21, 2026 6:30 - 7:30 AM (Includes Meal) Location: S320C