

# WAVMA 2020 Annual General Meeting

**Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2020, 12:00 to 17:30 UTC ([Find your local time](#))**

More info on: [www.wavma.org/agm](http://www.wavma.org/agm)

**Session 1 - WAVMA 2020 AGM Presentations - Open to the Public.** [Click here](#) to register.

12:00-12:15 UTC – Introduction by Julius Tepper, the WAVMA Meetings Committee Chair, and Jena Questen, the 2020 WAVMA President

[12:15-13:15 UTC](#) - **Keynote talk 1: “Current advances in diagnostics and treatments of farmed fish”** by **Meritxell Diez-Padrisa**, Production Director, Mowi Scotland Ltd., Fort William, Scotland

Abstract: Salmon industry is an expanding business, which has seen major changes and developments over the last 20 years. As any other livestock business, salmon farming is not exempt of risks, reason why fish health has been an area of increasing focus within the sector. This talk will offer an overview of the main health challenges faced by the Scottish Industry, as well as a clear review of the evolution of diagnostic and treatment techniques, focusing on two of our main challenges: Complex Gill Pathology and Pancreas Disease.

*13:15-13:20 UTC – short break*

[13:20-13:35 UTC](#) - Pitts Awardee talk 1: **“Attending AQUAVET® III in 2019”** by **Elizabeth St. Germaine**, Western University of Health Sciences, College of Veterinary Medicine, Pomona, CA-USA

Abstract: In 2019, I participated in AQUAVET® III, an intense 5-week course focused on the clinical aspect of captive aquatic animal medicine. The first two weeks were taught at the Georgia Aquarium with a focus was on aquarium medicine. We performed and observed clinical techniques of anesthesia, behavioral conditioning, endoscopy, necropsies, physical examinations, radiographs, ultrasound, and venipuncture on various aquatic animal species. The third week was taught at the University of Georgia with a focus on endoscopy and surgery in fish and reptiles. The last two weeks were taught at three Dolphinaris facilities in Mexico, with a focus on dolphin medicine and training. We performed and observed clinical techniques that included behavioral conditioning, endoscopy, sample collection and analysis, and ultrasound. Opportunities outside of the classroom like the AQUAVET® III program allow students to gain valuable technical skills and knowledge in the aquatic animal medicine field for our future success.

[13:35-13:50 UTC](#) - Pitts Awardee talk 2: **“6 week clinical externship at the University of Florida’s Tropical Aquaculture Lab”** by Dr. **Laura Krogman**, Spokane, WA-USA

Abstract: As a 4th-year veterinary student, I was accepted into a 6 week clinical externship at the University of Florida’s Tropical Aquaculture Lab (TAL) in Ruskin, FL. At TAL, I was responsible for working up fish health cases that were presented to the lab. I was also responsible for the bacteriology work associated with each case. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, my time in Florida was cut short, but I still had the opportunity to work through seven fish health cases. I gained valuable hands-on experience with performing fish necropsies, became much more knowledgeable regarding bacteria, parasites, and viruses affecting the warmwater fish industry, and gained a working knowledge of water quality monitoring and management.

[13:50-14:05 UTC](#) - Pitts Awardee talk 3: **“Making Waves in Aquatic Veterinary Medicine as a Senior Veterinary Student”** by Dr. **Sarah Wright**, Aurora, IL-USA

Abstract: Dr. Sarah Wright was awarded the John L. Pitts Aquatic Veterinary Education Award in 2019. This Award provided the financial support for Sarah to participate in professional and educational activities focused in aquatic veterinary medicine. She will be speaking about her experience as a student presenter at the 2019 IAAAM Conference in Durban, South Africa, where she presented the results of her clownfish hematology and biochemistry research project. She will also be sharing her experience participating in externships at the John G. Shedd Aquarium, Mystic Aquarium, and The Marine Mammal Center as a fourth-year veterinary student.

*14:05-14:10 UTC – short break*

[14:10-15:10 UTC](#) - Keynote talk 2: **“Current advances in diagnostics and treatments of ornamental fish”** by Dr. **Gregory A. Lewbart**, North Carolina State University, College of Veterinary Medicine, Raleigh, NC-USA

Abstract: This presentation will focus on recent advances and cutting edge diagnostics and procedures in ornamental fish medicine. Areas of focus will include analgesia, anesthesia, imaging, chemotherapy, and surgery. It will not be a comprehensive talk and will assume some level of fish medicine experience or competency. That said, beginners should be able to obtain valuable information from the presentation. Evidence-based work will be heavily relied upon and cited. A pdf of the PowerPoint presentation will be made available to attendees.

*15:10-15:15 UTC – short break*

[15:15-15:45 UTC](#) - Guest talk 1: **“Ohio State University WAVMA Student Chapter”** by **Cheryl Theile, Charlene Morotti & Raphael Malbrue**, Columbus, OH-USA

Abstract: While the WAVMA student chapter at The Ohio State University is young, we have harnessed our enthusiasm to become an active club on our campus. Since our inception we have had wet labs every semester to teach fish anatomy or turtle shell repair. We collaborate with local organizations, such as the Ohio Aquaculture Association, to participate in conferences, do joint field trips, and broaden our speaker list. We have also organized a club tour of a different zoological institution each year. While COVID19 certainly has changed the landscape, we are adapting well. During this time, we have begun a monthly virtual journal club with our advisor. We developed and held an online fish health rotation for veterinary students in their clinical year. We also plan for a number of virtual presentations and hope to add in social distanced activities as the year progresses.

[15:45-16:15 UTC](#) - Guest talk 2: **“What whales and dolphins can tell us about the health of our oceans- an overview of research from the Eastern Cape, South Africa”** by Dr. **Stephanie Plön**, Bayworld Centre for Research and Education, Port Elizabeth, South Africa

Abstract: Increasingly, we see impacts from anthropogenic developments in the oceans, such as noise resulting from shipping, oil and gas exploration, coastal construction (ports etc.) and chemical pollutants (due to run off from agricultural pesticides, industrial pollutants, human and medical waste) reflected in the health of whales and dolphins. These cumulative impacts in addition to a lack or change of prey resulting from overfishing, general habitat degradation and climate change all have an effect on wild marine mammal populations, leading to an increasing number of species and populations being declared as ‘vulnerable’ or ‘endangered’. Over the past 15 years my research on both wild cetacean populations as well as stranded and incidentally bycaught animals in the waters off the Eastern Cape and KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa, has helped establish important baseline data on the reproduction, trophic biology, population structure and connectivity and health of these animals. I will present an overview of my work to date in relation to the situation in the Indian Ocean region, including the recent incident in Mauritius.

16:15-16:20 UTC – Session 1 conclusion by Julius Tepper

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**Session 2 - WAVMA 2020 AGM Discussion - Open to WAVMA members only.** [Click here](#) to register.

[16:30-17:30 UTC](#)

- WAVMA 2020 **Executive Board** presentations
  - **Jena Questen**, WAVMA President
    - Welcome and General Comments
    - Summary of WAVMA 2020 activities
  - **Devon Dublin**, WAVMA Past President
    - Progress to Date and Future Directions
  - **Stephen Reichley**, WAVMA President-Elect
    - Vision for 2021
  - **Nick Saint-Erne**, WAVMA Treasurer
    - Financial Update
  - **Dave Scarfe**, WAVMA Secretary
    - Communications Update
  
- WAVMA 2020 **Directors** Reports: Perspectives from the region
  - **Nelly Isyagi**, WAVMA Director for Africa and Middle East
  - **Claudia Venegas**, WAVMA Director for Americas
  - **Stephen Pycroft**, WAVMA Director for Asia/Pacific
  - **Dušan Palić**, WAVMA Director for Europe
  
- 2020 WAVMA Fellow Announcement, by **Laura Urdes**, Chair of WAVMA Fellows Committee
- 2021 WAVMA Executive Board Elections – reminder to vote, by **Jena Questen**, WAVMA 2020 President
- **Virtual Group Photo** (All attendees turn cameras on for a screenshot)
- **Virtual Town Hall**
  - Questions and Answers led by Jena Questen