



**NCVP**  
National Center for Veterinary Parasitology

# News from the NCVP

SPRING 2020

## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- IDEXX Joins as Newest Sponsor
- Congrats to Two New Diplomates
- Peregrine Joins NCVP Board

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## People New IDEXX-NCVP Partnership



It is with great pleasure that we announce IDEXX Laboratories, Inc. has joined the NCVP as its newest industry sponsor, supporting the growth of our clinical education, research, and service programs. IDEXX has an outstanding reputation for its longstanding commitment to infectious disease diagnostics for animals and enhancing the health and well-being of pets, people, and livestock.

**Dr. Melissa Beall**, Director of Clinical Research for IDEXX, will serve as the NCVP IDEXX sponsor representative on the advisory board. Missy is widely recognized as a leader in veterinary medicine and brings her considerable expertise as a veterinarian (The Ohio State) and PhD (Cornell) to the board, along with two decades of experience in research, medical, and scientific affairs at IDEXX.



**Dr. Melissa Beall**, Director of Clinical Research at IDEXX and NCVP board member

We at NCVP are grateful to our many inaugural and current sponsors for their support and are excited by the prospect of working together to continue to meet veterinary parasitology challenges in the future.

### Welcome IDEXX!

## ACVM Welcomes Two More Boarded Parasitologists!

Our heartfelt congratulations to **Dr. Ruth Scimeca** (Bayer Resident Veterinary Parasitology, Oklahoma State University) and **Dr. Rick Gerhold** (University of Tennessee) for successfully completing board examination in veterinary parasitology through the American College of Veterinary Microbiologists. Rick and Ruth demonstrated mastery of both basic parasitology knowledge and applied, clinical

diagnosis and treatment expertise about veterinary parasites.



**Dr. Ruth Scimeca (left) and Dr. Rick Gerhold (right)**

This remarkable achievement will undoubtedly also enhance their efforts teaching veterinary students and graduate veterinarians in their respective faculty positions as Clinical Assistant Professor at Oklahoma State University (Scimeca) and Associate Professor at University of Tennessee (Gerhold).

**Congratulations Rick and Ruth!**

## NCVP Welcomes Dr. Andrew Peregrine to the Board!

A warm NCVP welcome to **Andrew Peregrine**, BVMS, PhD, DVM, Diplomate EVPC, DACVM (Parasitology), Associate Professor in clinical parasitology at the Ontario Veterinary College, University of Guelph, Canada as he joins the NCVP Advisory Board. Andrew obtained his BVMS, PhD (Veterinary Parasitology) and DVM from the University of Glasgow, Scotland.

His research interests currently include emerging zoonotic parasites of companion animals, and control of gastrointestinal parasites in sheep. He has received 10 College/University/Provincial teaching awards and the Broad Spectrum LGBTQ+ Veterinary Awareness Award. He is a past-president of the American Association of Veterinary Parasitologists. We are grateful to have his support and expertise to help guide the Center in its ongoing efforts to support veterinary parasitology training, research, and education.



Dr. Andrew Peregrine

**Welcome Andrew! We are glad to have you on Board!**



## NCVP Co-Directors Win University Awards

**Drs. Susan Little and Mason Reichard** (Oklahoma State University), Co-Directors of the National Center for Veterinary Parasitology, were recognized during the Oklahoma State University Fall 2019 Convocation.

Dr. Little received the "Leave the Ladder Down Award." This prestigious award recognizes individuals for their mentorship and servant leadership to help others reach their fullest potential. Dr. Little has previously been recognized for her excellence in veterinary parasitology teaching and research. The "Leave the Ladder Down" award further attests to Dr. Little's impact as a selfless scholar dedicated to the success of other people.



L to R: **Drs. Carlos Risco (Dean CVM-OSU)**, **Mason Reichard**, **Susan Little**, **Jerry Ritchey (Department Head, Veterinary Pathobiology)**

Dr. Reichard received the 2019 Regents Distinguished Teacher award. This award recognizes significant and meritorious achievement in the instruction of students as decided by a selection committee comprised of students, faculty, and academic administrators at Oklahoma State University. Upon receiving the award, Dr. Reichard commented, "To be recognized among a group of peers, who work as hard as we do, who are as dedicated as we are to creating the next generation of veterinarians, is very much an honor. The recognition is humbling and motivating."

**Congratulations to Drs. Little and Reichard for their awards!**

## Bayer Resident Alum Dr. Ruth Scimeca joins faculty at OSU!

Congratulations are in order for **Dr. Ruth Scimeca**, Bayer Resident Alum! In January 2020, she accepted the position of Clinical Assistant Professor in Parasitology at Oklahoma State University's College of Veterinary Medicine (OSU-CVM). Dr. Scimeca has a diverse background both in veterinary medicine and research.



**Dr. Ruth Scimeca (right) teaching 4th year veterinary students at Oklahoma State University**

Ruth developed her love of medicine as a young girl in Guatemala through observing her father, who was a physician. Her love and compassion for animals was instilled by her mother. Dr. Scimeca earned her veterinary degree in 2004 from the Universidad de San Carlos de Guatemala. She went on to pursue a Master's degree and PhD in Universidad de Castilla la Mancha, Spain. Ruth subsequently worked with Dr. Katherine Kocan, Regents Professor and Sitlington Chair in Food Animal Research to complete a postdoctoral fellowship in the Tick and Tick-Borne Diseases Laboratory at OSU-CVM. Ruth then trained for two years as the Bayer Resident in Veterinary

Parasitology under the excellent mentorship of Professor Mason Reichard studying the deadly tick-borne parasite of domestic cats, *Cytauxzoon felis*. Dr. Scimeca finished her training and passed the ACVM Board examination (Parasitology) in November of 2019.

The NCVP is so proud of Ruth and all Oklahoma State faculty are thrilled to have her as Cowgirl! **Way to go, Ruth!**



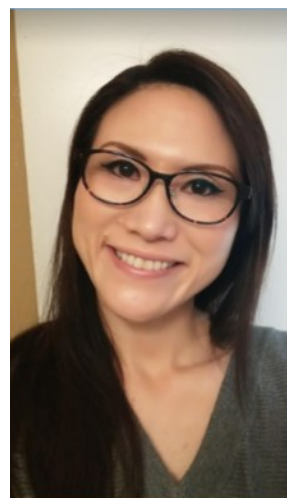
COLLEGE OF  
**VETERINARY MEDICINE**

## Dr. Yoko Nagamori Accepts Exciting New Role with Zoetis

In January 2020, **Yoko Nagamori**, DVM, MS, DACVM (Parasitology), former NCVP Resident in Veterinary Parasitology, Clinical Assistant Professor, Oklahoma State University, and extraordinary diagnostic parasitologist, embarked on a new challenge as a Veterinary Parasitologist with Zoetis.

Joining fellow ACVM-Parasit. Diplomates and NCVP alums Dr. Jessica Rodriguez and Dr. Chris Adolph, Yoko will travel throughout the United States, supporting veterinarians in their efforts to accurately diagnose, treat, and prevent parasites in their patients. As all who have worked with her can attest, Dr. Nagamori is an outstanding teacher with an enthusiasm for diagnostic parasitology that few can rival.

**Congratulations Yoko (and Zoetis) – we are delighted for you and can't wait to learn more about your new adventures!**



**Dr. Yoko Nagamori**

## NCVP Specialized Training Opportunity – Tick Academy

The NCVP offers specialized training to veterinarians and researchers interested in learning more about North American tick species. “Tick Academy” is a 1.5 day program held at Oklahoma State University’s College of Veterinary Medicine that is comprised of integrated lectures, discussions, and laboratory sessions focusing on tick biology, diversity, identification, and associated pathogen transmission.

In October 2019, NCVP Co-directors Drs. **Susan Little** and **Mason Reichard**, Project Leader Dr. **Meriam Saleh**, BI Resident Dr. **Kathryn Duncan**, and Board Member Dr. **Kelly Allen** were thrilled to host a boisterous bunch from the Food and Drug Administration.



Tick Academy attendees from FDA-CVM and OSU’s beloved Fleabiscuit



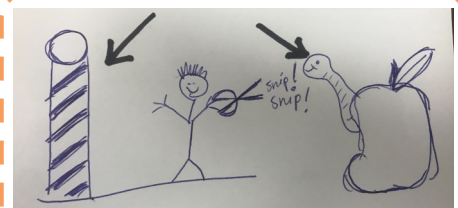
Tick Academy included several hands-on laboratory sessions handling and identifying live ticks, identifying tick transmitted pathogens, performing immunoassays, and working up tick-borne disease cases

The attendees included veterinarians in addition to statisticians and quality assurance personnel from the Division of Therapeutic Drugs for Non-Food Animals. The trainees were highly enthusiastic and asked many great questions.

The session offered learning opportunities for everyone. And once again, tick races were a hit!

## NCVP Board Members Attend AAVP Educators’ Meeting

Several NCVP Advisory Board Members participated in the AAVP–CAPC Educators’ Meeting “The Future of Veterinary Parasitology Education: Maximizing Significant Learning” organized by Dr. Heather Walden (University of Florida). Board Members in attendance included **Dr. Byron Blagburn** (Auburn), **Dr. Dwight Bowman** (Cornell), and **Dr. Lindsay Starkey** (Auburn) in addition to NCVP Co-Director **Dr. Mason Reichard** and NCVP Project Leader **Dr. Meriam Saleh** (Oklahoma State). The meeting focused on a variety of ways to implement parasitology within the curriculum including creative games (like Telestations, pictured right), escape boxes, and incorporating interactive technologies in lecture slides. Kudos to our NCVP Board Members for their engagement in these efforts to advance veterinary parasitology education!



“Telestations” Can you guess the genus and species of the parasite depicted here? Answer below.  
*Haemonchus contortus*

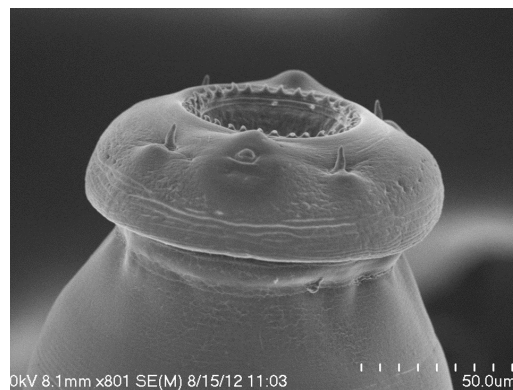
## Parasite Image Competition!

In 2020 NCVP hosted a parasite photo contest to generate more images for the Parasite Image Database on the NCVP website. This resource is publicly available and aims to support the efforts of parasitology educators around the world. The Parasite Image Contest was a major success—we received over 100 submissions from 45 individuals. Our head judges were the dynamic duo of NCVP Board Members **Dr. Byron Blagburn** (Auburn) and **Dr. Jenifer Edmonds** (Johnson Research).



**Dr. Byron Blagburn** (left) and **Dr. Jenifer Edmonds** (right)

Winners were awarded their choice of four excellent parasitology textbooks and of course endless bragging rights. You can view the winning images by visiting our [website](#). In addition, some of the winning images will be featured on our ever popular temporary parasite tattoos. Enjoy some of our favorite images, and stay tuned as we integrate these and many of the additional great submissions we received into the Parasite Image Database.



Clockwise from top left: *Phthirus pubis*, photo by Brian Herrin (Kansas State University); NCVP in *Gasterophilus* bots, photo by Erin Edwards (Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Lab); *Oesophagostomum radiatum*, photo by Jeffrey Shryock (Boehringer Ingelheim); *Rhipicephalus sanguineus* female and eggs, photo by Wissanuwat Chimnoi (Kasetsart University)

## Spring 2020 Advisory Board Meeting

Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, the Spring 2020 NCVP Advisory Board meeting was converted to a web based remote meeting to include as many board members as possible and to minimize transmission risks associated with traveling.

Even in the face of a global pandemic the NCVP Board had an enthusiastic and productive virtual meeting with many plans made to continue and ensure future NCVP success.

**Thank you to the Board for being flexible and understanding about this year's virtual meeting — your dedication to the NCVP is much appreciated!**



NCVP Advisory Board Members during the Spring 2020 web based meeting featuring some special coworkers Thor (with Dr. Doug Carithers) and Kevin (with Dr. Lindsay Starkey)

## About the National Center for Veterinary Parasitology

Veterinary parasites impact human health and society in many ways. With the generous support of our sponsors, the National Center for Veterinary Parasitology works to promote greater understanding and control of parasitic diseases in animals through innovative partnerships between academia and industry. Housed in the Center for Veterinary Health Sciences at Oklahoma State University, the center strives to create future generations of veterinary parasitologists, conduct targeted research, and provide diagnostic and consulting services worldwide. To learn more, please visit [ncvetp.org](http://ncvetp.org).



## Selected Publications from NCVP Residents and Grant Recipients

Below is a very abridged list of just a few of the recent publications from NCVP residents and former NCVP grant recipients (indicated by \*). To request the full list or individual reprints, please send an email to [ncvp@okstate.edu](mailto:ncvp@okstate.edu). Most importantly if you have suggestions for future continuing education articles, review papers, or topics you think would be of interest to veterinarians and others in parasitology, please send us your suggestions.

Abreu, JAPd, Krawczak FdS, Guedes IB, Souza-Filho AFd, Souza GOd, Binder LdC, **Oliveira CS**, Sponchiado J, Melo GL, Labruna MB, Heinemann MB. Frequency of anti-*Leptospira* spp. antibodies in dogs and wild small mammals from rural properties and conservation units in southern Brazil. *One Health*. 2019. 8: 100104. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.onehlt.2019.100104>.

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**Duncan KT**, Koons NR, Litherland MA, Little SE, Nagamori Y. Prevalence of intestinal parasites in fecal samples and estimation of parasite contamination from dog parks in central Oklahoma. *Vet Parasitol: Reg Stud Reports*. 2019. doi: 10.1016/j.vprsr.2019.100362.

**Duncan KT**, Sundstrom KD, Saleh MN, Little SE. *Haemaphysalis longicornis*, the Asian longhorned tick, from a dog in Virginia, USA. *Vet Parasitol: Reg Stud Reports*. 2020. 20:100395. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.vprsr.2020.100395>.

Eisenbraun H, Alluwie A, Connolly S, Nair R, Verocai GG, **Ketzis JK\***. Comparison of Fecal Analysis Methods for the detection of *Platynosomum fastosum* in naturally infected cats. *J Fel Med Surg*. 2019. doi:10.1177/1098612X19848173.

Huckins GL, Eshar D, Schwartz D, Morton M, **Herrin BH\***, Cerezo A, Yabsley MJ, Schneider SM. *Trypanosoma cruzi* infection in a zoo-housed Red Panda in Kansas. *J Vet Diag Invest*. 2019. 31(5):752-55. doi:10.1177/1040638719865926.

Kotwa JD, Isaksson M, Jardine CM, Campbell GD, Berke O, Pearl DL, Mercer NJ, Osterman-Lind E, **Peregrine AS\***. *Echinococcus multilocularis* infection, Southern Ontario, Canada. *Emerg Infect Dis*. 2019. 25(2):265-272. doi: 10.3201/eid2502.

**Lineberry MW\***, Sundstrom KD, Little SE, Stayton EM, Allen KE. Detection and prevalence of *Cercopithifilaria baina* infection in shelter dogs in Oklahoma, USA. *Parasites Vectors*. 2020. <https://doi.org/10.21203/rs.2.18980/v1>.

**Oliveira CS**, Ratzlaff FR, Pötter L, Romão PR, de Avila Botton S, Vogel FS, Sangioni LA. Clinical and Pathological Aspects of Canine Cutaneous Leishmaniasis: A Meta-analysis. *Acta parasitol*. 2019. 64(4):916-22.

Rosser TG, Khoo LH, Wise DJ, Mischke CC, Greenway TE, Alberson NR, Reichley SR, Woodyard ET, Steadman J, Ware C, Pote LM, **Griffin MJ\***. Arrested Development of *Henneguya ictalurid* (Cnidaria: Myxobolidae) in ♀ Channel Catfish × ♂ Blue Catfish Hybrids. *J Aquat Anim Health*. 2019. 31: 201-213. doi:10.1002/aah.10070.

Saleh MN, Sundstrom KD, **Duncan KT**, Ientile MM, Jordy J, Ghosh P, Little SE. Show us your ticks: a survey of ticks infesting dogs and cats across the USA. *Parasites Vectors*. 2019. 12:595. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s13071-019-3847-3>.

Scare JA, Leathwick DM, Sauermann CW, Lyons ET, **Steuer AE**, Jones BA, Clark M, Nielsen MK. Dealing with double trouble: Combination deworming against double-drug resistant cyathostomins. *Int J Parasitol: Drugs Drug Resist*. 2020. 12: 28-34. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijpddr.2019.12.002>. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00436-019-06535-z>.

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**Steuer AE**, Stewart JC, Barker VD, Adams AA, Nielsen MK. Cytokine and goblet cell gene expression in equine cyathostomin infection and larvicidal anthelmintic therapy. *Parasite Immunol*. 2020. Mar 7:e12709. <https://doi.org/10.1111/pim.12709>.

Zecca IB, Hodo CL, Slack S, Auckland L, Rodgers S, Killets KC, Saunders AB, **Hamer SA\***. Prevalence of *Trypanosoma cruzi* infection and associated histologic findings in domestic cats (*Felis catus*). *Vet Parasitol*. 2020. Volume 278: 109014. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.vetpar.2019.109014>.