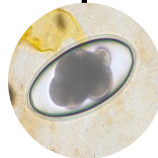
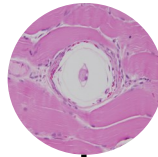




# News from the NCVP

## Inside This Issue

<b>Resident Alumni News</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>NCVP Board Updates</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Gratitude to Past Board Members</b>	<b>3-4</b>
<b>2024 Grant Recipients</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Upcoming NCVP Events</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Recent Resident Publications</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Sponsors</b>	<b>8</b>



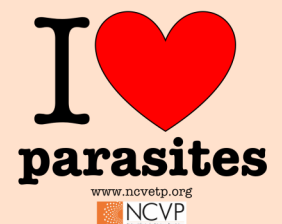
## Spring 2025 Highlights

- The **NCVP Small Grants Program** has hit a new milestone by providing over \$1 million in research support following the 2024 cycle of 6 recipients. The new submission deadline for grant proposals in 2025 is August 15th.
- The NCVP Outreach Program is helping highlight **World Parasite Awareness Day on March 20th**. Check out [ParasiteAwarenessDay.com](http://ParasiteAwarenessDay.com) or join the discussion online with the hashtag [#ParasiteAwarenessDay](https://twitter.com/ParasiteAwarenessDay) on March 20th.
- The **NCVP Advisory Board** welcomes Dr. Alice Lee as the newest member and thanks Drs. Dwight Bowman and Doug Carithers for their service to NCVP.
- **NCVP Resident Alumni**, Dr. Timi Wu, becomes a diplomate of ACVM and Dr. Ranju Manoj joins Boehringer Ingelheim as a Senior Scientist, Clinical.

## Tracking NCVP Program Achievements

The mission of the NCVP is to further the discipline by bringing together partners from academia and industry to address emerging issues. The NCVP seeks to serve the veterinary profession by developing future leaders in veterinary parasitology and by supporting applied research nationally. To date, our programs have:

- Supported 20 residents at 10 institutions totaling over \$3 million
- Funded 73 grants at 28 institutions totaling almost \$1.1 million
- Posted 154 'Case of the Month' articles
- Documented over 55,000 website visits over the last 12 months
- Shipped 1,600 specimens to 36 institutions for education purposes



**VISIT [NCVETP.ORG](http://NCVETP.ORG) TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE CENTER**

## Resident Alumni News

Wonderful news for two past NCVP Residents!

Congratulations to **Dr. Timothy (Timi) Wu**, former IDEXX resident, for **passing the ACVM Parasitology boards in November 2024!** Dr. Wu is now a parasitology lecturer at Cornell University where he also completed his residency with former NCVP board member, Dr. Dwight Bowman. Timi is also boarded in anatomic pathology through the American College of Veterinary Pathologists, and plans to continue his career in both disciplines.



Above: Dr. Timi Wu  
Lecturer  
Cornell University



Above: Dr. Ranju Manoj  
Senior Scientist, Clinical  
Boehringer Ingelheim

We are excited to share that **Dr. Ranju Manoj** recently **accepted a position as Senior Scientist, Clinical with NCVP sponsor and industry leader in veterinary parasitology Boehringer Ingelheim.** Dr. Manoj earned her PhD in One Health and Animal Zoonoses from the University of Bari (Italy). After this, she served for two years as the Merck Resident in Veterinary Parasitology under the guidance of Dr. Mani Lejeune at Cornell University (USA) and, in 2024, became a Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Microbiology. We are delighted Dr. Manoj will continue to share her considerable research and clinical expertise with the parasitology discipline and look forward to following her contributions for many years to come.



## Announcing Dr. Alice Lee as the Newest NCVP Board Member



Above: Dr. Alice Lee  
Clinical Assistant Professor  
University of Florida

**Dr. Alice Lee**, former NCVP resident, rejoins the NCVP team as an academic board member. Dr. Lee earned her DVM degree from the Ontario Veterinary College at the University of Guelph and her PhD at Cornell University where she also completed her residency training with Dr. Dwight Bowman. Dr. Lee is a diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Microbiologists in the Parasitology sub-specialty, and is currently a Clinical Assistant Professor at the University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine where she teaches parasitology and research ethics in the veterinary and graduate programs. Her research focuses on anthelmintic resistance, diagnostics, and novel applications for endoscopic imaging in GI helminth studies.

**Dr. Lee brings years of research and parasitology teaching to the NCVP board, and we're thrilled to welcome her!**



## Acknowledging the Many Contributions of Dr. Doug Carithers

For about 14 years, **Dr. Doug Carithers served as the Boehringer Ingelheim sponsor representative on the NCVP board.** Given his recent retirement (Congrats, Doug!), the NCVP would like to highlight some of his contributions and **express our thanks on behalf of the veterinary parasitology community.**

Doug's educational history speaks to his devotion and commitment to veterinary medicine. He is a graduate of Iowa State's College of Veterinary Medicine and a mixed animal practitioner in South Central Iowa, where he was the leader of the South-Central Iowa VMA for 6 years. As a practitioner, he was also involved in parasitologic studies and lectured and wrote articles on parasite management for both food and companion animals. He joined industry in 1993 as a Technical Services Manager for Merck (then Merial, then BI). While in industry, Doug has served many roles but primarily has been involved with technical support of launches, studies, research projects, and publications, in total performing over 135 scientific studies involving well over 300,000 food animals and 20,000 companion animals. He has published over 40 scientific articles, and lectured nationally and internationally on cardiology, immunology, pain management, general medicine, and most importantly parasitology.

Doug's service to our parasitology community began in earnest in 2001, when he began conducting the American Heartworm Society's triennial heartworm surveys. He also served two 3-year terms as AHS Vice President and as Editor, then was the 2019 Symposium Chair. As an AAVP member, he chaired the Awards Committee, then was elected Secretary Treasurer, serving 4 years for the American Association of Veterinary Parasitologists (AAVP), and was elected to the 4-year Presidential progression. In 2024, Doug was honored with the AAVP Distinguished Service Award. He recently received notice that he is the 2025 recipient of the AHS Honorary Membership. In early 2026, he will be conducting the 9th triennial heartworm incidence survey for the AHS.

His passion and service for veterinary parasitology made Doug a valuable member of the NCVP board. His commitment to student development and mentorship is unmatched! We look forward to working with Doug on other projects and wish him the best in his retirement. **Thank you Dr. Carithers, for being a wonderful board member, student mentor, and advocate of veterinary parasitology!**



Above: (left) Dr. Carithers accepting the AAVP Distinguished Service Award, and (right) Doug enjoying Snowbird, UT.

## Thank you, Dr. Dwight Bowman—Original NCVP Board Member

The NCVP offers its heartfelt appreciation to the incomparable **Dr. Dwight Bowman** for his many years of visionary support and service. Dr. Bowman received both his MS and PhD degrees in Parasitology from Tulane University before joining the faculty of Cornell University's College of Veterinary Medicine. He quickly built an international reputation for excellence in all things veterinary parasitology through his invaluable contributions to research, teaching, and supporting the veterinary profession in our efforts to combat parasites.



Above: Dr. Dwight Bowman, Veterinary Parasitology O.G.

Whether as author of *Georgis' Parasitology for Veterinarians*, the central textbook of our discipline, lead investigator on groundbreaking research projects, outstanding mentor to students and junior colleagues, or enthusiastic collaborator on advisory boards, Dwight remained tireless in his devotion to supporting the advancement of parasitology and promoting his fellow parasitologists.

All who have had the privilege of learning from and working with Dwight through the years recognized that they were in the presence of unparalleled parasitology expertise. A dynamic and engaging lecturer, his teaching and research seminars benefitted students and colleagues at Cornell and around the world. Dr. Bowman founded and led the Master of Professional Studies in veterinary parasitology at Cornell, a program that continues to flourish, providing in-depth training in all aspects of parasitology. He also served as an inaugural board member for NCVP, a devoted faculty mentor to multiple residents – including Dr. Alice Lee, now a Clinical Assistant Professor at University of Florida and an NCVP board member herself, and Dr. Timi Wu, currently a Lecturer at Cornell – and was a key contributor to NCVP programs for more than a decade. Some of his many other parasitology leadership roles included President of the American Association of Veterinary Parasitologists (AAVP), President of the Companion Animal Parasite Council (CAPC), and Executive Committee member of the World Association for the Advancement of Veterinary Parasitology (WAAVP). In 2008, the AAVP selected Dr. Bowman for the Distinguished Veterinary Parasitologist Award, the highest honor bestowed by this organization. Dwight's leadership and vision created an incredible legacy of parasitology excellence and NCVP benefitted immeasurably from his many contributions.

**We are forever grateful for his advice, friendship, and dedication, and honored to have been able to work with him for so many years.**

## Congratulations to the 2024 Recipients of the NCVP Small Grants Program



The NCVP small grants program was established in 2013 to help **support the research efforts of veterinary parasitologists** who are members of the AAVP (American Association of Veterinary Parasitologists). Funding is competitive and awarded based on scientific merit, relevance to clinical or basic veterinary parasitology, and student involvement. Additionally, the **American Heartworm Society** provides additional funding for research focusing on *Dirofilaria immitis*.

Over the last twelve funding cycles, **this program has delivered almost \$1.1 million in funds at 28 different institutions to support 73 research projects** focused on clinical or applied veterinary parasitology research.

In the **2024 grant cycle**, the NCVP received twelve applications. After vigorous review from NCVP board members, **six proposals were chosen to receive funding**. Those selected were submitted by:

- Dr. Daniel Barrantes Murillo at Oklahoma State University
- Dr. Emily Jenkins at University of Saskatchewan
- Dr. Hassan Hakimi at Texas A&M University
- Dr. Lucienne Tritten at McGill University
- Ms. Rachel Smith at Oklahoma State University
- Dr. Sarah Hamer at Texas A&M University

The **2025 grant cycle will begin accepting proposals in early April with a final submission deadline of August 15th**. Please notice the earlier deadline!

Questions on submission requirements and for more information on the Small Grants Program, please email [ncvp@okstate.edu](mailto:ncvp@okstate.edu).



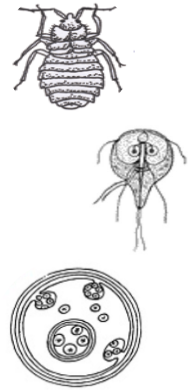
# Upcoming NCVP Events

## New NCVP Partnership with VetPDx

With much excitement, the NCVP announces its partnership with the **Veterinary Parasitology Diagnostic Laboratory Network (VetPDx)**. This diagnostic listserv was created by Dr. Mani Lejeune and NCVP board member, Dr. Gui Verocai. VetPDx provides a communication channel for veterinary parasitologists to exchange cases, request diagnostic assistance, and receive continuing education.

The **NCVP will host archived content from the listserv and recordings of the monthly seminars by veterinary parasitologists**. Access to this area of the website will be provided to the listserv through email.

**If you would like to join VetPDx, please contact Dr. Verocai at [gverocai@cvm.tamu.edu](mailto:gverocai@cvm.tamu.edu).**



Images from CDC.gov

## NCVP in St. Louis: “Let’s Get This Show On The Road!”

The annual meeting of the **American Association of Veterinary Parasitologists (AAVP)** will be held in St. Louis during June 21–24, and the NCVP is excited to interact with colleagues and hear the latest research. This year, be on the lookout for:



- **Case of the Month Poster**—NEW this year! The NCVP will participate in the poster session to highlight the year’s cases and contributors. We are thankful for all co-authors that submitted cases to [ncvp@okstate.edu](mailto:ncvp@okstate.edu).
- **NCVP Educational and Promotional Table**—here you will find the newest parasitology promotional items and have a chance to catch up with NCVP staff, co-directors, and residents.
- **Student Scavenger Hunt**—students are encouraged to enter the scavenger hunt to meet other parasitologists and enter a lottery for prizes. Come by the NCVP Table to enter!
- **Resident Case Session**—one of our favorite sessions! Join five parasitology residents across North America on Monday as they present interesting cases. Drs. Lindsay Starkey and Doug Carithers will be moderating!



Above: NCVP Promotional Items at AAVP—parasitology themed magnets, stickers, pens, keychains, notebooks, etc.

## Peer-Reviewed Publications from NCVP Residents

Below is a brief list of recently published articles from **current NCVP residents**. To request the full list or individual reprints, please send an email to [ncvp@okstate.edu](mailto:ncvp@okstate.edu).

- **Ammar S**, Christopher CJ, Szafranski N, Jones R, Rajeev S, Castro HF, Campagna SR, Gerhold R. Metabolic Profile of *Histomonas meleagridis* in Dwyer's Media with and Without Rice Starch. *Metabolites*. 2024. doi: 10.3390/metabo14120650.
- **Barrantes Murillo DF**, Campbell EJ, Moorhead AR, Wang C. Evaluation of diagnostic techniques for early detection of heartworm in experimentally infected dogs: identification of *Dirofilaria immitis*-derived microRNA in the initial 28 weeks post-inoculation. *Parasit Vectors*. 2024. doi: 10.1186/s13071-024-06337-y.
- **Barrantes Murillo DF**, Moyo A, Wang C. Heat treatment augments antigen detection of *Dirofilaria immitis* in apparently healthy companion dogs (3.8% to 7.3%): Insights from a large-scale nationwide survey across the United States. *Pathogens*. 2024. doi: 10.3390/pathogens13010056.
- **Barrantes Murillo DF**, Berrocal A, Ali IKM, Uzal FA. Systemic *Acanthamoeba* T17 infection in a free-ranging two-toed sloth: case report and literature review of infections by free-living amebas in mammals. *J Vet Diagn Invest*. 2025. doi: 10.1177/10406387241292346.
- **Manikantan V**, Ripley NE, Nielsen MK, Dangoudoubiyam S. Protein profile of extracellular vesicles derived from adult *Parascaris* spp. *Parasit Vectors*. 2024. doi: 10.1186/s13071-024-06502-3.
- **Myers S**, Scimeca R. First Report of *Haemaphysalis longicornis* (Neumann) in Oklahoma, USA. *Pathogens*. 2024. doi: 10.3390/pathogens13100861.
- **Myers S**, Taylor B, Wilson R, Caseltine S, Scimeca RC. *Skrjabinogylus chitwoodorum* in a rabies-positive striped skunk in Texas. *J Vet Diagn Invest*. 2025. doi: 10.1177/10406387241293421.
- Rosypal von Dohlen A, Randall S, Grays J, Dugo MA, Hunt BJ, Brown J, Van Why K, **Ammar S**, Gerhold R. Rapid point-of-care testing for detection of antibodies to *Toxoplasma gondii* in black vultures and ring-billed gulls from Pennsylvania. *J Parasitol*. 2024. doi: 10.1645/24-24.
- Smith RC, **Myers S**, Sundstrom KD, Wilson R, Scimeca RC, Starkey LA, Little SE. Detection of *Anaplasma bovis*-like agent in the Southcentral United States. *Ticks Tick Borne Dis*. 2024. doi: 10.1016/j.ttbdis.2024.102411.



Above: Dr. Sawsan Ammar,  
Merck Resident at  
University of Calgary



Above: Dr. Daniel Barrantes Murillo,  
IDEXX Resident at  
Oklahoma State University



Above: Dr. Vishnu Manikantan,  
Elanco Resident at  
Purdue University



Above: Dr. Sarah Myers,  
Boehringer Ingelheim Resident at  
Oklahoma State University

## 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 College of Veterinary Medicine 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).



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This issue was edited by Kellee Sundstrom with article contributions by Kathryn Duncan and Susan Little.