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IAAAM News

Volume 54; Issue 3: June 2023

2023 Annual IAAAM Conference Wrap-Up

May 20-24, 2023, Salt Lake City, Utah

It was so great to see everyone at the IAAAM 2023 conference, both in-person and virtually! Hopefully you thought it was as much a success as we did. Members and non- from all over the world, representing 25 countries, were in attendance this year; the hybrid option allowing many to attend that were unable to travel to Salt Lake City. The scientific program was packed: including 7 workshops, 2 keynote addresses, 29 poster presentations, and 85 oral presentations throughout the five days. We had a wonderful time at Loveland Living Planet Aquarium for the Icebreaker and Student Auction, and made over $12,000 for future student activities and awards! Thank you to Dr. Ari Fustukjian and the aquarium for hosting as well as Drs. Marty Haulena and Marina Ivančić for taking on the very daunting task of auctioneers while Dr. Lewbart is recovering.

We waved farewell to our immediate Past President, Dr. Tonya Clauss, and Dr. Hendrik Nollens transferred from President to Past President. We also welcomed Dr. Allison Tuttle as the current President and inducted Dr. Cara Field as the President-Elect and Dr. Chelsea Anderson as Secretary! Congratulations to all, and thank you to Dr. Clauss for your many years of service on the IAAAM Executive Board!!

We also took this occasion to congratulate Dr. John Jones on his new position as IAAAM Administrative Consultant. John has been invaluable to IAAAM for several years both on the Executive Board and then as the Webmaster. Thank you, John, for keeping us all on track!!

The IAAAM Business Meeting slides can be found on the website (https://iaaam.org/s/2023-IAAAM-Business-meeting-FINAL.pdf). One of the highlights of the Business meeting was the announcement of Ireland as our location for the 2024 IAAAM meeting! More to come in future newsletters.

Keep reading below for details about our many award winners.

Mark Keyes Award: Dr. Forrest Townsend

Dr. Forrest Townsend and his family

Congratulations to Dr. Forrest Townsend, who received the Mark Keyes Award at the IAAAM Conference 2023.

This award is to be given to a member who has made a significant impact on the conservation of one or more marine mammal species through any or all of the following areas: scientific research, political action, management of the species in the wild/managed care, or education. Dr. Keyes was for many years a veterinary researcher and diplomat for the National Marine Fisheries Service, and was instrumental in the northern fur seal management program of the Pribilof Islands, Alaska.

Drs. Townsend and Jay Sweeney following the award presentation at the IAAAM 2023 Banquet

Dr. Townsend has cared for marine mammals, both wild and in managed care, for over 30 years. He has been involved with wild dolphin health assessments in Sarasota and beyond since 1988, and has been the Chief Veterinarian for NOAA funded health assessments for over 20 years. At the time of this writing, he is currently in Barataria Bay, Louisiana, USA with many of our members and colleagues continuing that work.

Dr. Townsend and colleagues during the 2011 dolphin health assessments in Barataria Bay. Louisiana, USA.

Throughout this time he was also the owner of Bayside Hospital for Animals in Fort Walton Beach, Florida, USA from which he just recently retired. He remains active in the community, assisting this author with an otter surgery, a sea turtle endoscopy, and countless other consultations when needed over the past 5 years. He also continues to teach Auburn veterinary students about aquatic animal health twice yearly during weekend electives held at Gulf World Marine Park in Panama City Beach, Florida, USA; a program that he started with Dr. Lydia Staggs. As one of the many IAAAM members who has been honored enough to work with him or utilize his knowledge, I personally congratulate Dr. Townsend on receiving this prestigious award.

Dr. Julie Cavin
IAAAM Board Member for Communications

Student Travel Award Recipients

1. **Amber Lum**- Veterinary Intern, Mystic Aquarium
Causes of Morbidity and Mortality in Stellar Sea Lions (Eumetopias jubatus) Under Human Care in North America from 1979-2021

2. **Tatiana Weisbrod**- Veterinary Resident, University of Florida
Effect of Age, Sex, Weight, and Rearing Condition on Blood Analytes in Juvenile Zebra Sharks (Stegostoma tigrinum)

3. **David Krucik**- Post Doc Fellow, Stanford University
What causes epileptogenesis in California sea lions with domoic acid toxicosis?

4. **Nick Dannemiller**- Veterinary Resident, North Carolina State University
Gastric pH & Cytology of Northern Elephant Seals (Miroungu angastirosfris) Undergoing Rehabilitation

5. **Aricia Benvenuto**- Phd Student, University of Sao Paulo, Brazil.
*International award
Stranding Pattern and Fisheries Interaction of Franciscana dolphins (Pontoporia blainvillei) in São Paulo coast, Brazil (2019-2022): Preliminary Anatomopathological Findings and Future Perspectives

Student Presentation Award Winners

Dr. Ri Chang

Category: **Undergrad, DVM**
"Pathology, Microbiology, and Genetics Associated with Erysipelothrix rhusiopathiae and Novel Erysipelothrix sp. Infections in Southern Sea Otters (Enhydra lutris nereis)"

Dr. Zachary Ready

Category: **Intern, Resident, Fellow**
"Immobilization of Sea Otters (Enhydra lutris) in Managed Care using Medetomidine-Butorphanol-Midazolam and Dexmedetomidine-Butorphanol-Midazolam"

Yun Ho

Category: **PhD, joint DVM/PhD, Post-Doc, Masters**
"Catch Me if You Can: A Portable Detection Tool Set for Cetacean Products"

Rachel Bonney

Category: **Posters**
"Evaluating Beluga Whale (Delphinapterus leucas) Immune Function in Response to In Vitro Polystyrene Nanoplastic Exposure"

2023 Medway Scholarship Recipients

1. **Arícia Duarte Benvenuto** (Drs. Barratclough & Cãto-Dias)
   Investigation on the causes of stranding/death of Franciscana dolphin (Pontoporia blainvileii) calves along the Sao Paulo coast, Brazil, from 2019 until present

2. **Yuka Takahashi** (Drs. Martinez & Duignan)
   Kidney injury related to the hemoglobinuria in northern elephant seals with the pulmonary nematode (Otostrongylus circumlitus)

3. **Miriam Emilia Romero-Velázquez** (Drs. Elorriaga-Verplancken & Field)
   Pathogen exposure and nutritional status of the Guadalupe fur seal (Arctocephalus townsendi) from Guadalupe Island, Mexico, and stranded on the west coast of the United States

4. **Felipe Torres D'Azeredo** (Drs. Prager, Field, Duignan & Lilenbaum)
   Evaluation of Leptospira sp. on cetaceans and pinnipeds along the Brazilian coast

Membership Dues

Dues will be increased for 2024 to help us continue to offer more member benefits as part of our ongoing Strategic Plan.

Full members: $125 Student members: $75

Reminders will go out closer to time, but you can start paying 2024 dues as of November 1, and they must be paid by March 31 to qualify for the discounted conference registration rate.

We want to continue to honor our members!

The IAAAM Communications Committee is interested in highlighting our dedicated members from around the world throughout the coming years. Please nominate yourself or another member for recognition by submitting a summary and up to 3 photos to iaaamcommunications@gmail.com.

You can also nominate someone by just sending their name, and we will contact them directly. If you are a member outside of the US, please also copy international_relations@iaaam.org on your submission. Please answer the following questions when submitting your information:

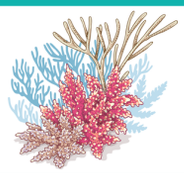
- Would you like the highlight to be shared just with IAAAM Members via the newsletter and possibly the website or is it okay to share on our public social media pages (Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn)?
- If shared on public social media, is there any specific information you do NOT want shared? (e.g. place of employment, specific photos, etc.)

Please submit photos or videos for social media!

We are looking for our IAAAM members to send in photos and/or videos for the upcoming aquatic animal holidays! If you have any content that can be published on our social media (Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn) please send them to iaaamcommunications@gmail.com as soon as possible! Before sending in your content, please make sure that permission is granted by all facilities involved to share on our open access social media pages. Also, please add a watermark or similar if necessary.

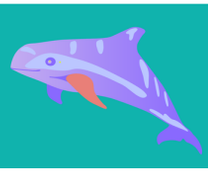
July 14
World Orca Day

July 14
Shark Awareness Day



July 16-22
Coral Reef Awareness Week

July 22
Vaquita Day



July 26
International Mangrove Conservation Day

August
National Catfish Month

August 1
Marine Protected Areas Day

August 30
Whale Shark Day

Job Listings

IAAAM Job Bank - Full Listings

Stranding and Rehab Associate Veterinarian – Audubon Nature Institute

The Coastal Wildlife Network (CWN) Associate Veterinarian will provide veterinary services and lead necropsies for stranded dolphins, whales, manatees, and sea turtles in Louisiana.

Clinical Veterinarian – The Disney Animal Health Team

As a Clinical Veterinarian, you will join a dedicated group of professionals working to provide excellent health care for the Animals, Science, and Environment (ASE) populations at Walt Disney World. You will be part of a team of 11 Veterinarians and 24 Animal Care, Veterinary Technician, Medical Records, and Administrative Staff.

Veterinary Practice Manager – The Seas

As a Practice Manager for the Seas, you will join a dedicated group of professionals working to provide excellent health care for the Animals, Science, and Environment (ASE) at Walt Disney World. You will join a team of 11 Veterinarians and 24 Animal Care, Veterinary Technician, Medical Records, and Administrative Staff.

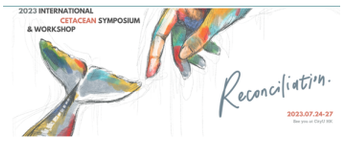
Associate Veterinarian – Shedd Aquarium

This position contributes to and implements a comprehensive medical program, manages clinical medical cases, supports a medical records system, provides reports on the health of the animal collection, and helps implement the execution of the centennial commitment exhibit master plan. They manage communication and management of resources.

Conferences, Meetings, & Educational Opportunities

IAAAM Educational Opportunities - Full Listings

2023 International Cetacean Symposium & Workshop, 24-27 July 2023



In the symposium, plenary lectures by honorary speakers and speed talks by different researchers and postgraduate students will be organized to cover interdisciplinary aspects of cetacean conservation and medicine. This event is organized by the Aquatic Animal Virtopsy Lab, Department of Infectious Diseases and Public Health, City University of Hong Kong.

American Museum of Natural History

Conservation Medicine and Diseases of Amphibians and Reptiles 2023

The course is designed for undergraduates and graduate students in Conservation Ecology, Wildlife, Biological Sciences, and Veterinary Medicine who expect to study, breed, and manage populations of amphibians and/or reptiles in the field and in captivity.

Recent Publications by IAAAM Members

- Coelomic fluid of asteroid echinoderms: Current knowledge and future perspectives on its utility for disease and mortality investigations. - **Sarah J. Waltinez**, Maria Byrne, and **Nicole I. Stacy**
- Transmucosal pentobarbital is a successful euthanasia method in pond slider turtles (*Trachemys scripta*) - **Zachary C. Ready,** Krista Keller
- Establishment of a 2-dimensional echocardiographic protocol and reference parameters for clinically healthy southern stingrays (*Hypanus americanus*) - Trevor J. Gerlach, Roberta T. Boyd, **Alexa J. Delaune**, **Sean Perry**, Matthew Smukall, **Natalie D. Mylniczenko**
- Normal pre- and post-prandial bile acids and protein C values vary by age in harbor seal pups (*Phoca vitulina richardsi*) undergoing rehabilitation - **Barbara K. Linnehan**, Jenelle E. Leedam, David A. S. Rosen, **Martin Haulena**
- Agreement Study between Total Leukocyte Count Methodologies in South American Sea Lions (*Otaria byronia*) and Peruvian Fur Seals (*Arctocephalus australis*) - **Sarah E. Wright**, **Michael J. Adkesson**, Amy N. Schnelle, Matthew C. Allender, Susana Cárdenas-Alayza

Please submit any recent or upcoming publications that you would like shared with colleagues in future newsletters to iaaamcommunications@gmail.com.

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*deceased

PDF versions of the newsletter can be found on the IAAAM website.

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