



*International Association for Aquatic Animal Medicine*

# IAAAM News

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## MESSAGE FROM THE IAAAM PRESIDENT

As I sit here in my home office space for the 8<sup>th</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup> consecutive week (what day is it again?) my thoughts reflect upon our members and the institutions that have been significantly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. What two months ago was an exciting time for our organization, getting prepared for an excellent scientific conference program to be held in Tampa, has become a time of hardship, fear, uncertainty, stress, and definitely a bit of boredom. As challenging and isolating as a time this is, I am encouraged by the resiliency I see among our colleagues and peers. Scrolling through social media posts it brightens my day to see all the innovative ways that facilities and institutions are dealing with the sudden change in operations – from providing online virtual educational programs to enhancing enrichment activities for collection animals. Some colleagues have been donating equipment and supplies to frontline health workers or even pitching in to make facemasks. Researchers have dived head-first into projects aimed at examining the effects of coronaviruses on animal species. Our student members have had whole portions of their curriculum go online or externships and residencies affected, however, are still participating in virtual conferences and educational experiences. Though we all are growing tired of having our days packed with virtual conference calls, more and more we turn on our cameras so that we can have that face to face connection with colleagues (and sometime their kids and pets) that we sorely miss. The connection and support of fellow colleagues in our field is truly one of a kind and I am so proud of the strength and special bond of our IAAAM family.

Though we have had to cancel our in-person annual conference this year, we are excited to announce the first ever IAAAM Virtual Symposium in conjunction with University of Florida's Veterinary Extension and Aquatic Animal Health Program. This will be an opportunity to share research and clinical data, gain knowledge, and interact with colleagues on a virtual platform. The conference will run **Monday and Tuesday June 29-30**, with recorded content available post-conference. Continuing education credits will be offered. Make sure to check the IAAAM website and emails for further information on the symposium and how to register. And please spread the word! Also make sure to Save The Date for our Annual Business Meeting to be held virtually on Tuesday June 30 at a time TBD. It is essential that we have a quorum of members present so that we can effectively transfer board positions.

Lastly, I want to close this, my last newsletter message as IAAAM President, by saying Thank You! I've been on the leadership team of this organization for the past 10 years, as part of the Student Liaison Committee and Executive Board, and it has been one of the true honors of my career to have been trusted to lead this organization. Thank you to my fellow board members past and present for helping to steer and grow IAAAM in these changing times. Thank you to all of the students and fellow members I have ever roped into judging travel awards and presentations, helping with the auction, donating auction items, presenting talks, scoring abstracts, participating in student workshops, chairing sessions, or generally acting as a sounding board for me. There are a lot of you and this organization couldn't function without all your contributions over the years. Finally – thank you to all the founding fathers of this organization, students and fellow colleagues for continuing to inspire me every day to be better and to do more.

Though we all will miss seeing each other this year at our annual conference, I hope to see your faces during our Virtual Symposium and if not in June, in Tampa in 2021.

Best

Katie Colegrove DVM, PhD, Dip ACVP  
IAAAM President

## ANIMAL CARE IN THE TIME OF COVID-19

I'm sure we have all seen videos of penguins, seals, and even armadillos "exploring" empty zoos and aquariums or of unique enrichment for and around animals including musicians playing near the beluga habitat at Mystic Aquarium. We've also seen the media of wild animals wandering in areas typically filled with people.

Many zoos and aquariums around the world have been closed for two to several months due to the current COVID-19 pandemic. As we often jokingly say, many of the animals don't "care" about the changes around them. They still require food, housing, and enrichment just like all of us. These closures have allowed and/or required facilities to change-up animals' daily routines, offer different enrichment items or events, and sometimes focus on behaviors that may previously have been considered a lower priority. One great example comes from Aquarium du Québec. A macaw which had been strongly bonded to a certain staff member has become more comfortable with other staff who are spending more time with him. Also, some undesirable behaviors that are often inadvertently reinforced by guests are decreasing without the attention. Facilities are also noticing behavioral changes due to quieter days in some of the more reclusive species (the introverts of the animal world). Some of the birds at South Carolina Aquarium have been out and about more, and the potbellied seahorses at Aquarium du Québec are breeding in the exhibit. Of course, just as with people, animals react differently to decreased human presence and other altered external stimuli. Species or individuals that thrive on frequent physical or mental stimulation (the extroverts if you will) are re-directing their attention, resulting in increased intraspecific interactions and decreased food motivations among some cetaceans and various fish species. Sumida Aquarium in Tokyo, Japan has urged people to video call their garden eels after the animals began avoiding staff. Animal Care staff at Gulf World Marine Park have been utilizing this time to strengthen bonds between individual animals by altering training sessions and between staff and animals by increasing water works and other varied interactions (including an impromptu personal 20 minute session playing catch with a few dolphins recently).

Some rescue and rehabilitation centers have also either closed or decreased response to stranded animals and some express concern of reduced citizen response due to closed beaches and waterways. However, significantly fewer incidences of wildlife harassment are being reported and animals are even being observed expanding their range onto the closed beaches, parks, and city streets.

Despite mounting obstacles including decreased staffing due to furloughs and layoffs, and concerns for consistent food and medications due to backorders, lack of supply, or diminishing funds while closed, as well as increased protective contact via PPE or distancing to reduce zoonotic or human-human disease transmission, the animal care and veterinary teams at zoos and aquariums, rescue and rehabilitation centers, veterinary schools and aquaculture facilities around the world continue to provide the same high standard of care. Two of the greatest reminders that I have had during this challenging time are that we truly do this work for the love of the animals, and that we are here for each other through good times and tough times, even if it's in a virtual format.

Thank you to my IAAAM family for just being you!

Julie M Cavin, DVM  
Communications Board Member

## IAAAM CONFERENCE UPDATE

We are extremely disappointed to have to cancel our in-person annual meeting this year; however, **SAVE THE DATE** for May 22-26, 2021. The 52<sup>nd</sup> Annual IAAAM conference will be held at the Hilton Tampa Downtown in Tampa, Florida.

The IAAAM Board thanks the following individuals who graciously donated their conference registration fees in order to help offset cancellation costs. Your support is truly appreciated!

**Andy Fu - Vet Rocket, LLC**

**Robert H. George - Ripley's Aquariums**

**Craig Harms - NCSU Center for Marine Sciences & Technology**

**Hendrik Nollens – SeaWorld**

**Catherine Shrestha - Marine Mammal Commission**

## FIRST EVER IAAAM VIRTUAL SYMPOSIUM

In light of the current COVID-19 pandemic and the cancellation of the 2020 IAAAM Conference, IAAAM is excited to announce a first of its kind 2-Day Virtual Conference in conjunction with the University of Florida, College of Veterinary Medicine's Veterinary Extension and Aquatic Animal Health Program. The virtual conference will be comprised of a mix of scientific presentations, case reports, and extended master lectures on aquatic animal medicine topics. RACE certified Continuing Education credits will be offered. Stay tuned for information on how to register and participate virtually. We are excited to offer this opportunity for members to re-connect in this time of social distancing necessity.

**SAVE THE DATE**  
**IAAAM 2020 Virtual Symposium**  
**June 29-30**

## 2020 IAAAM BUSINESS MEETING

The IAAAM Business meeting will be held live on Tuesday, June 30 in conjunction with the IAAAM Virtual Symposium at a time TBD. If you are a full IAAAM member please try to attend so that we can meet the appropriate quorum to vote for the board positions.

## CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR BOARD POSITIONS

If you've ever wanted to be more involved in the IAAAM, now is your chance! The board is composed of six board positions. There are six committees that support the board in activities and decisions. Please check out the final page of this newsletter or the "about IAAAM" section of the web page to see the current board positions and members. You can learn more about the organization and positions through reviewing the "IAAAM bylaws" on the IAAAM website. If you have any questions, please contact the Nominations and Awards Committee ([martin.haulena@vanaqua.org](mailto:martin.haulena@vanaqua.org)).

### **IAAAM Board Nominees**

#### **Nominee for President-Elect: Dr. Tonya Clauss**

Dr. Tonya Clauss has been a member of IAAAM since 2000. She has served as the IAAAM Treasurer since 2015 and has been a member of the Student Liaison Committee since 2004. Clauss is currently the Vice President of Animal & Environmental Health, at Georgia Aquarium, where she has worked for 15 years. She received dual bachelor's degrees in Animal Science and Wildlife Ecology & Conservation from the University of Florida, with a minor in chemistry. In 2003, she received her doctorate in veterinary medicine from the University of Florida, College of Veterinary Medicine and was awarded the Learner Family Wildlife Conservation Award for excellence in wildlife and zoological medicine. In 2004, she finished a master's degree in Environmental Engineering Sciences with a focus on Wetland's Ecology. After graduation from veterinary school, Clauss accepted a position as staff veterinarian at the Mote Marine Laboratory and Aquarium in Sarasota, Florida. In early 2004, she was hired as director of veterinary services for Pelican Man's Bird Sanctuary, a wildlife rehabilitation facility also in Sarasota. While at this position, Clauss became a research affiliate at The Florida Aquarium in Tampa, a position she held until December 2007. In February 2005, Clauss began working at the Georgia Aquarium as an associate veterinarian and assistant manager of veterinary services and has worked her way up the supervisory chain over the years. In 2009, she received a University of Florida, Outstanding Young Alumni award for her early career achievements in Animal Health. Clauss enjoys teaching up and coming veterinarians and is a routine lecturer and instructor for SEAVET at University of Florida, MARVET Grand Cayman and AQUAVET® III. She is also a guest lecturer at the University of Georgia. She has authored or coauthored numerous book chapters and peer reviewed publications focused on various areas of aquatic animal health.

#### **Nominee for Treasurer: Dr. Alexa Delaune**

Dr. Alexa Delaune obtained her DVM and certificates in aquatic animal medicine and international medicine from the University of Florida in 2010. Following veterinary school, she completed a one-year, small animal rotating internship in private practice. In 2011 she began working at the Georgia Aquarium as a veterinary intern. After completing her internship, she was kept on staff and completed a fellowship and was then hired as an associate veterinarian. In 2016 she was promoted to senior associate veterinarian, a position she held until October 2019. At Georgia Aquarium she was co-leader of the student externship program, taught classes and labs in the AQUAVET® III program, and became a co-leader for the AZA SAFE sharks and rays blood project. Dr. Delaune is currently the Vice President of Veterinary Services at Mississippi Aquarium where she is creating the veterinary program for the Mississippi Aquarium which is scheduled to open in 2020. She has been a member of IAAAM since 2006 and is excited by the possibility of joining the IAAAM executive board as treasurer.

## CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

We are excited to announce the formation of the new Conservation Committee.

The Conservation Committee advises and assists the IAAAM Board and membership to take an active role in conservation as it pertains to the nexus of aquatic animal medicine. Specifically, the committee identifies emerging conservation issues and reviews regional and global aquatic conservation challenges and makes recommendations to the IAAAM Board regarding opportunities to contribute in a positive manner. These include writing position statements, providing expertise or technical assistance, or offering potential solutions.

Thank you to the following for becoming the first members:

Joe Gaydos, Conservation Committee Chair

Peter Chang

Cindy Driscoll

Michelle Greenfield

David Krucik

Andy Stamper

Forrest Townsend

Mike Walsh

Elyse Wurster

Forrest Gomez

If you would like more information on this Committee, please send an email to [conservation@iaaam.org](mailto:conservation@iaaam.org). **Stay tuned for conservation spotlights in future newsletters.**

## 2019 WDA-IAAAM JOINT AWARD WINNER

IAAAM and the Wildlife Disease Association (WDA) congratulate Dr. Jennifer Niemuth of North Carolina State University on being selected as the winner of the 2019 WDA-IAAAM joint award for the best student-authored aquatic animal paper published in the Journal of Wildlife Diseases for her paper *Sea Turtle Tears: A Novel, Minimally Invasive Sampling Method for 1H-NMR Metabolomics Investigations with Cold Stun Syndrome as a Case Example!!*. The award, pictured below, includes a scholarship of \$1500 which can be applied to educational expenses or to support conference travel.



## 2020 MEDWAY SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

IAAAM congratulates Marisa Pico of Florida Atlantic University, our 2020 Medway Scholarship recipient!! Marisa will receive the \$3000 scholarship to cover her expenses while she conducts her research *Validating ultrasonography of shoulder fat thickness as a non-invasive technique for estimating body condition in green and loggerhead sea turtles* with Dr. Annie Page-Karjian at Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute this summer. Marisa will present the results of their research at a future IAAAM conference!

To all IAAAM Members, please start thinking of possible Medway Scholarship students and projects for 2021. Applications for the 2021 Medway Scholarship program will be announced in an upcoming newsletter and will be due in April 2021.

## CAREER AND EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

### **Veterinarian - Dauphin Island Sea Lab**

The Dauphin Island Sea Lab (DISL) seeks a full-time veterinarian and research post-doc to join our dedicated team of staff, students, researchers and volunteers as part of the Alabama Marine Mammal Stranding Network (ALMMSN). The candidate filling this full-time, research-based position would be eligible to seek research assistant faculty status or adjunct appointment at DISL and any of the 22 consortial schools in the state of Alabama. The position will be open until filled.

### **Postgraduate Research Opportunity in Aquatic Animal Diseases - National Veterinary Services Laboratory (NVSL), Ames, Iowa**

The National Veterinary Services Laboratory (NVSL) located in Ames, Iowa is seeking a postgraduate researcher in the field of aquatic animal diseases. More information and the online application can be found at <https://www.zintellect.com/Opportunity/Details/USDA-APHIS-2020-0102>. The deadline to apply is June 11, 2020, at 3 PM EST.

**Please see IAAAM website for continuously updated educational and job opportunities.**

<https://www.iaaam.org/events>

<https://www.iaaam.org/job-bank-1>

The Newsletter of the International Association for Aquatic Animal Medicine is published four times a year (usually in January, April, August, and November). An annual conference is held every year in the spring and electronic proceedings from that conference are available online at [www.iaaam.org](http://www.iaaam.org). The International Association for Aquatic Animal Medicine is a nonprofit organization dedicated to advancing the art and science of aquatic animal medicine and health.

Newsletter submissions are welcomed, although the newsletter editor and the IAAAM board reserve the right to edit and/or refuse the publication of any submissions. Submissions should be made in WORD, without complex formatting. For submissions contact Julie Cavin, Newsletter Editor, at [drcavin@gulfworldmarinepark.com](mailto:drcavin@gulfworldmarinepark.com)

For membership information, including address changes, contact Hendrik Nollens at [hendrik.nollens@seaworld.com](mailto:hendrik.nollens@seaworld.com)

For dues information, contact Tonya Clauss at [tclauss@georgiaaquarium.org](mailto:tclauss@georgiaaquarium.org)

## IAAAM EXECUTIVE BOARD

President: Katie Colegrove ([katie.colegrove@gmail.com](mailto:katie.colegrove@gmail.com))

President-Elect: Michael Briggs ([mbriggs@ix.netcom.com](mailto:mbriggs@ix.netcom.com))

Past-President Michael Renner ([rennervet@gmail.com](mailto:rennervet@gmail.com))

Treasurer: Tonya Clauss ([tclauss@georgiaaquarium.org](mailto:tclauss@georgiaaquarium.org))

Secretary: Cara Field ([cara.field@gmail.com](mailto:cara.field@gmail.com))

Board – Membership: Hendrik Nollens  
([Hendrik.Nollens@SeaWorld.com](mailto:Hendrik.Nollens@SeaWorld.com))

Board – Education: Allison Tuttle  
([atuttle@mysticaaquarium.org](mailto:atuttle@mysticaaquarium.org))

Board – Communications: Julie Cavin  
([drcavin@gulfworldmarinepark.com](mailto:drcavin@gulfworldmarinepark.com))

## IAAAM COMMITTEE CHAIRS

IAAAM Student Liaison:

Ashley McGrew ([Ashley.mcgreg@colostate.edu](mailto:Ashley.mcgreg@colostate.edu))

Medway Endowment Committee:

Allison Tuttle ([atuttle@mysticaaquarium.org](mailto:atuttle@mysticaaquarium.org))

Site Selection Committee:

Sam Dover ([sdoverdvm@cox.net](mailto:sdoverdvm@cox.net))

Nominations & Awards Committee:

Marty Haulena ([martin.haulena@vanaqua.org](mailto:martin.haulena@vanaqua.org))

International Relations Committee:

Sarah Churgin ([international\\_relations@iaaam.org](mailto:international_relations@iaaam.org))

Conservation Committee:

Joe Gaydos ([conservation@iaaam.org](mailto:conservation@iaaam.org))

## HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS

Don Abt	Deke Beusse*
Greg Bossart*	Lanny Cornell
Larry Dunn	Joe Geraci*
Jack Gratzek	Ted Hammond*
Dave Huff	Jay Hyman*
Jim McBain	William Medway*
Sam Ridgway	Jesse White*
Bob Wright*	

\*deceased