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IAAAM News

Volume 54; Issue 2: March 2023

Note from IAAAM Communications Committee

Happy Spring to all of our IAAAM members! As our long time members have likely quickly noticed, this newsletter looks a little different. The past few years have propelled us all into the digital age whether we were ready or not. The enthusiastic members of the Communications Committee have allowed IAAAM to jump into the deep end with full fins and flippers creating an active presence on Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn and now this digital friendly newsletter!

After four long years, the IAAAM conference is back in person, and is being offered as a hybrid conference for the first time ever. See below for the fantastic promo video created by our host, Loveland Living Planet Aquarium, and click on the links for details regarding registration, agenda, and preconference workshops. Make sure to email Cindy Sherwood with Delaney Events with your auction donations; remember it's for the students!

One of the current objectives of the IAAAM Board and Communications Committee is to promote our #amazingIAAAMmembers. This issue honors Life Member, Dr. Spike Beleau, who sadly passed away in December 2022 and current member, Dr. Ruth Ewing, as well as highlights our International Relations Committee and some of it's members. A few recent member publications are also shared. Please help us continue promoting the work of our wonderful members by emailing iaaamcommunications@gmail.com with member updates, new publications and/or job and education opportunities.

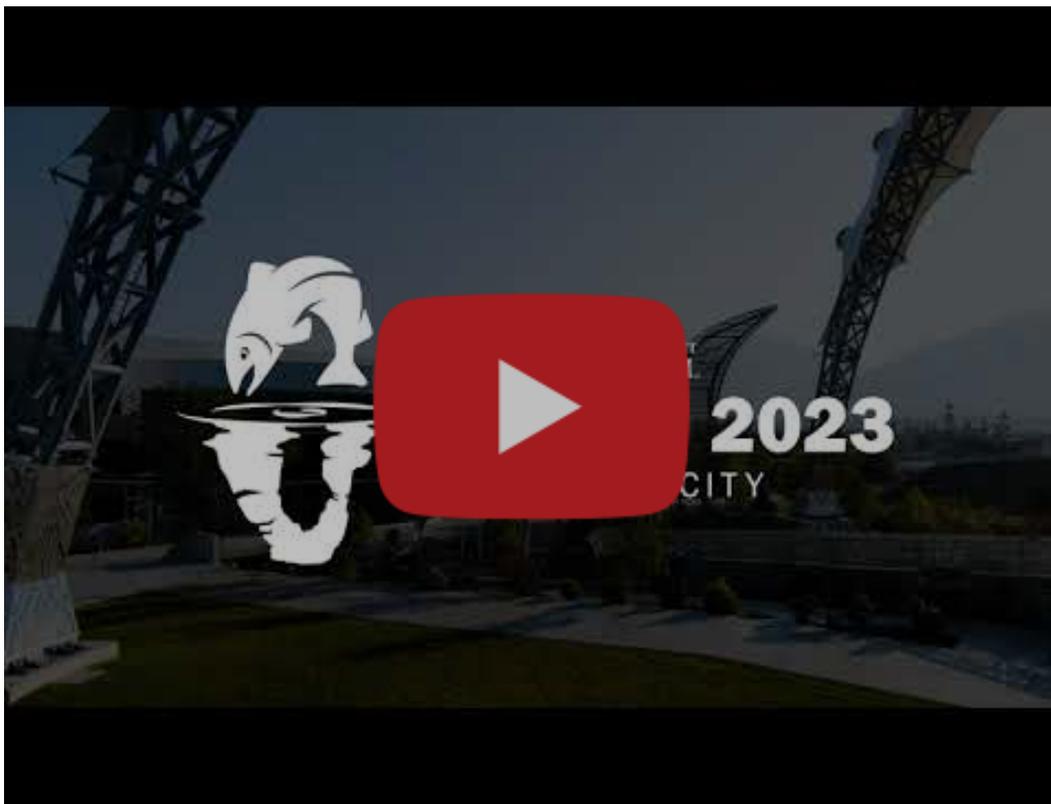
See you in less than 2 months either in person or on Whoova!

Julie M Cavin, DVM
Board Member for Communications



2023 Annual IAAAM Conference

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



On behalf of the International Association for Aquatic Animal Medicine (IAAAM), and the 2023 host, Loveland Living Planet Aquarium, we invite you to attend the 54th Annual Meeting & Conference. The 2023 event will be held May 20 - 24 and will be hybrid with the option to attend in person at the Hilton in Salt Lake City, Utah, or virtually from anywhere in the world. Based on the success of using the virtual platform Whova for the past two years, it has been decided to use it again in 2023. This will allow the attendees in Utah to network and connect with those participating remotely.

No matter how you attend, we are excited for you to join us!
#iaaamconference2023

Conference Links:

- [Conference Registration](#) (early bird registration ends April 1st!)
- [Full conference registration information](#)
- [Tentative Conference Agenda](#)
- [List of Pre-conference Workshops with descriptions and costs](#)

Call for Auction Items!

The annual IAAAM Student Auction Night will be on Tuesday, May 23rd at the Loveland Living Planet Aquarium and we are seeking donated raffle items. If you have something to donate, please contact the conference planner, Cindy Sherwood at sherwood@delaneymeetingevent.com, and she will give you the shipping instructions.

In-Memoriam: Dr. Spike Beleau



Dr. Marshall H. "Spike" Beleau (DVM, Texas A&M '67), 80, Rio Rancho, New Mexico, died December 23, 2022. Following veterinary school, he served 11 years in the U.S. Air Force. Initially, he served as area veterinarian at the USAF Hospital in Tachikawa, Japan, then as base veterinarian at Keesler Air Force Base in Biloxi, Mississippi. He then returned to Texas A&M for a masters degree in aquatic animal medicine from the Air Force Institute of Technology. He spent the last six years of his military service working as a research veterinarian in the Marine Mammal Program of the U.S. Navy at the Naval Ocean Systems Center in San Diego, California. Along with medical care of Navy owned marine animals, he was responsible for formulating, conducting, and managing research projects directed toward improving and expanding the capabilities of Navy owned marine animals as working animals and biosensory systems.

Following his military service, Dr. Beleau worked as a research scientist and professor in the Department of Fishery Resources of the University of Idaho in Moscow, Idaho, and then in the Mississippi State University College of Veterinary Medicine's Aquatic Animal Health Laboratory

at the Delta Branch Experiment Station in Stoneville, Mississippi. He designed and conducted research in aquatic animal health management, aquaculture, infectious and non-infectious diseases of fish, physiology, and aquatic toxicology. He also performed fish health diagnostic procedures for the public and taught both graduate and undergraduate courses. At Mississippi State University, he established an aquatic animal health program integrating College of Veterinary Medicine resources and personnel with the Mississippi Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station and Mississippi Cooperative Extension Service aquaculture program. There, his research and development efforts included methods of cost effective diagnosis, prevention, treatment, and control of fish diseases as well as safety and efficacy testing of new drugs and biologics for use with food fish.

He finished his veterinary career researching and developing products for animal health with Abbott Laboratories in North Chicago, Illinois, particularly anti-infective therapeutics for worldwide aquaculture markets and veterinary anesthesia products. Dr. Bebeau achieved global recognition in the fields of marine animal health and aquaculture, authoring numerous scientific publications and serving on many professional boards and committees. He was a Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Preventive Medicine and certified as a Fish Pathologist by the American Fisheries Society Fish Health Section. He was a Life Member of the International Association for Aquatic Animal Medicine and an IAAAM Board Member from 1992 to 1994.

Retirement allowed Dr. Bebeau to pursue his many interests, which included bicycle touring, motorcycling, hiking, camping, travel, scuba diving, snorkeling, fishing, sailing, canoeing, kayaking, cross country skiing, tree climbing, woodcarving, pickleball, hot air ballooning, petsitting, watching movies, spending time with friends, and background acting in movies and television shows. He rode his bicycle self-supported across the U.S. from San Diego, California, to St. Augustine, Florida, and from Canada to Mexico along the Continental Divide. He was always up for adventure and well-liked in any setting.

Dr. Bebeau is survived by his wife Dr. Marilyn Chimes (DVM, Michigan State '79), two sons, three grandchildren, and two great-granddaughters.

(Provided by Dr. Marilyn Chimes)

"Spike was my mentor for my MS degree at Mississippi State University and my first "boss" when I worked at the Delta Branch Experiment Station. This was the Mississippi delta in the 1980s and one of the things I remember was that on Friday afternoons there was a transition. Spike donned an earring, which was completely radical for that place in that time, and got out this big motorcycle and his leather jacket... and was off... but during the work week he was much more proper and reserved. He was a lovely man to work for. Always very supportive and I learned a ton."

- Dr. Ruth Francis-Floyd

Member Spotlight: Dr. Ruth Ewing



Dr. Ruth Ewing was nominated for highlight by Dr. Debra Moore! Ruth Ewing, DVM is a Veterinary Medical Officer for the NOAA Fisheries' Southeast Fisheries Science Center, Marine Mammal and Turtle Division, located in Miami, Florida. She has been a member of IAAAM since 1992.

Dr. Ewing graduated from University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine in 1994 and immediately after completed the Combined Postdoctoral and Diagnostic Comparative Anatomic Pathology Program offered by the University of Miami.

She first worked at the Southeast Fisheries Science Center as a student summer intern, then participated in a work study training program and was finally hired as a Veterinary Medical Officer in 1998.

Her main role is to lead and manage scientific and technical issues related to health and disease of marine mammals for the center's Marine Mammal Health and Stranding Response Program. She conducts mortality investigations on dead stranded marine mammals, as well as develops research that supports comprehensive veterinary and ecosystem health management approaches for aquatic animals.





In 2021, she was presented with the Federal Employee of the Year Award in the Scientific Category by the South Florida Executive Board for her scientific achievements working with marine mammals. Dr. Ewing has received several awards for her service and has been published in over 80 presentations, peer-reviewed articles, book chapters, and abstracts.

Outside of work, she enjoys engaging in community service and educational outreach for underrepresented and economically disadvantaged youth in her community.

From IAAAM, we thank Dr. Ruth Ewing for her extraordinary service to this profession!

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.)

Committee Spotlight: IAAAM International Relations Committee

The focus of the IAAAM International Relations Committee is to promote IAAAM internationally, grow international membership, and ensure that we have a welcoming and inclusive environment for our international members. This

committee is actively recruiting new members. If you are interested in joining, please visit IAAAM International Relations Committee Chair, Dr. Sarah Churgin, at the conference (either in person or virtually) or email international_relations@iaaam.org.

IAAAM International Relations Committee Member Highlights



Barbara Biancani, DVM, PhD, Dipl. ECZM is a consulting veterinarian from Italy. She has been a member of the IAAAM International Relations Committee since 2021 and is currently the Secretary for the European Association for Aquatic Animals.





Guillermo J. Sánchez Contreras is the current Chief Veterinary Officer for The Dolphin Company. He has dedicated most of his professional career to the care, welfare, rescue and rehabilitation of marine mammals. He has been part of several research projects and is currently the President of the European Association for Aquatic Mammals (EAAM), and has been a member of the IAAAM Relations Committee since 2021.

ABVP - Fish Practice

We are excited to announce that the American Board of Veterinary Practitioners (ABVP) has granted provisional recognition of **Fish Practice** as a recognized veterinary specialty within the ABVP! Congratulations to our colleagues in the American Association of Fish Vets (AAFV) and World Aquatic Veterinary Association (WAVMA) for all of their hard work in this monumental achievement. More details to follow in the next few weeks and months regarding requirements for applying for the specialty. We will share all updates from AAFV and WAVMA on the IAAAM social media and future newsletters.

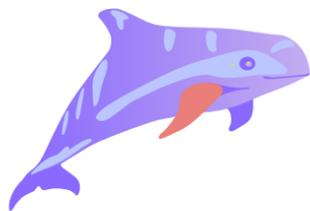
Call for photos/videos for IAAAM Social Media!

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.



April 22
Earth Day

April 25
World Penguin Day



May 19
National Endangered
Species Day

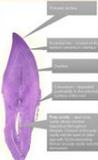
May 23
World Turtle Day



New IAAAM Member Publications!

Check out these recent publications by #amazingIAAAMmembers!

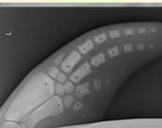
Click on the images to link directly to the article (journal subscriptions may be required). Send your latest journal articles, chapters or books to iaaamcommunications@gmail.com so we can share them with other members!



How to estimate age of old bottlenose dolphins (*Tursiops truncatus*); by tooth or pectoral flipper?

Ashley Barratclough, Wayne E. McFee, Megan Stolen, Aleta A. Hohn, Gretchen N. Lovewell, Forrest M. Gomez, Cynthia R. Smith, Daniel Garcia-Parraga, Randall S. Wells, Celeste Parry, Risa Daniels, Sam H. Ridgway and Lori Schwacke

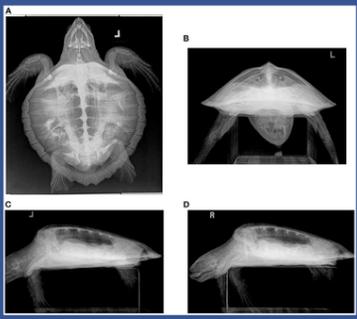
<https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fmars.2023.1135521/full?fbclid=IwAR1nK96wR4wC-PvE9ruthaCh7w7KkxdEfmJJXHCb-Na78h73asqG5w8UJBo>



Description of normal pulmonary radiographic findings in 55 apparently healthy juvenile Kemp's ridley sea turtles (*Lepidochelys kempii*)

Christa E. Barrett, Debra P. Moore, Alison M. Lee and Sophie Dennison

<https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fvets.2023.1101206/full>



Common Sea Star (*Asterias rubens*) Coelomic Fluid Changes in Response to Short-Term Exposure to Environmental Stressors

Sarah J. Wahltinez, Kevin J. Kroll, Donald C. Behringer, Jill E. Arnold, Brent Whitaker, Alisa L. Newton, Kristina Edmiston, Ian Hewson, and Nicole I. Stacy

<https://www.mdpi.com/2410-3888/9/1/51>



Job Listings

IAAAM Job Bank - Full Listings

Medical Technologist / Clinical Lab Scientist

Responsible for performing laboratory analyses to enable veterinarians and curators to properly manage the health of the animal collection in the park and the animals rescued, rehabilitated, and returned back into the wild.





Veterinary Technician

Responsible for supporting the day-to-day operations of the Loveland Living Planet Aquarium's Veterinary Services Department. This position works closely with Veterinary and Husbandry team members to facilitate routine and emergency medical care for the Aquarium's diverse living collection.

Director of Animal Health

Responsible for leading veterinary care and animal welfare efforts at the New England Aquarium's public campus in Boston, MA and private satellite campus in Quincy, MA, as well as collaborating on veterinary aspects of field response and research programs.



New England Aquarium



Veterinary Technician

This role will serve as a vital member of the Aquatic Animal Health Department for Wildlife Conservation Society's New York Aquarium, caring for diverse taxa including pinnipeds, sea otters, penguins, aquatic reptiles, teleosts, elasmobranchs, and aquatic invertebrates.

Conferences, Meetings, & Educational Opportunities

[IAAAM Educational Opportunities - Full Listings](#)

[Aquatic Animal Health Fellowship](#)

This is a one-year program designed to train post-graduate veterinarians in the field of aquatic animal health. Specifically, this program will train candidates to integrate expertise in aquatic animal medicine into the broader fields of animal, human, and ecosystem health, through experiences from aquaculture, fisheries, public aquaria, companion animal medicine, academia and research.



[Veterinary Fellow](#)

The Fellowship is a two-year training position on the Disney Animal Health (DAH) Team for a graduate veterinarian to focus on continued development of zoological and aquarium medicine and develop leadership skills within a large organizational environment. The DAH Team works within the Animals, Science, and Environment team to provide care for animals at Disney's Animal Kingdom, Disney's Animal Kingdom Lodge, The Seas with Nemo and Friends, The TriCircle D Ranch, Castaway Cay, and The Aulani Resort.



Executive Board

President: Hendrik Nollens

hnollens@sdzwa.org

President-Elect: Allison Tuttle

atuttle@mysticaquarium.org

Past-President: Tonya Clauss

tclauss@georgiaaquarium.org

Treasurer: Alexa Delaune

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Secretary: Cara Field

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Board - Membership: Gabby Hernández

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Board - Education: Ashley McGrew

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Board - Communications: Julie Cavin

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Committee Chairs

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Medway Endowment: Allison Tuttle

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Nominations & Awards: Mik Briggs

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Conservation: David Krucik

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Communications: Julie Cavin

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Honorary Life Members

Don Abt*

Larry Dunn

Dave Huff*

William Medway*

Bob Wright*

Deke Beusse*

Joe Geraci*

Jay Hyman*

Sam Ridgway*

Greg Bossart*

Jack Gratzek*

Suzanne Kennedy-Stoskopf

Michael Stoskopf

Lanny Cornell

Ted Hammond*

Jim McBain

Jesse White*

*deceased



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