

## 2018 AAVLD Awards

### E. P. Pope Award



**Craig Carter**  
*University of Kentucky*

Craig Carter is the director of the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, and professor of epidemiology in the College of Public Health, at the University of Kentucky. He serves on graduate committees and as an advisor to graduate students. His research interests focus on animal diseases and animal health issues with emphasis on infectious and zoonotic diseases. In addition to his extensive efforts with AAVLD, he is currently the president of the American Veterinary Epidemiology Society.

### Distinguished Service Award



**Kristy Pabilonia**  
*Colorado State University*

Kristy Pabilonia is section head of 3 sections in the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory of Colorado State University: Avian Diagnostics, BSL3 Foreign Animal and Zoonotic Diseases, and Sample Receiving. She serves as the coordinator of the Colorado Avian Disease Surveillance Program and the Colorado Poultry Health Board. Her research interests include avian influenza virus, backyard poultry populations, *Salmonella*, and a number of zoonotic diseases. She is also currently the Secretary-Treasurer of AAVLD.

### AAVLD Life Membership



**Craig Carter**  
*University of Kentucky*

Craig Carter is the director of the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, and professor of epidemiology in the College of Public Health, at the University of Kentucky. He serves on graduate committees and as an advisor to graduate students. His research interests focus on animal diseases and animal health issues with emphasis on infectious and zoonotic diseases. In addition to his extensive efforts with AAVLD, he is currently the president of the American Veterinary Epidemiology Society.

### AAVLD Honorary Memberships



**Brad Mollet**  
*Capitol Counsel*

Brad Mollet is a principal with Capitol Counsel LLC. With nearly a decade of experience in legislative advocacy in the House of Representatives, Senate, and private sector, Mollet brings a wealth of government relations experience to the firm. While in the private sector, he has assisted clients in securing millions of dollars in appropriations and worked with key members of various Congressional committees, as well as with the White House and executive agencies to secure legislative and policy objectives. Mollet received a BA in political science from the University of Nebraska–Lincoln.



**Monique Eloit**

*World Organization for Animal Health (OIE)*

Monique Eloit was elected Director General of the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) in 2015 by the World Assembly, which brings together the national Delegates of all OIE Member Countries. She began her 5-y term of office on 1 January 2016, as the 7th Director General of the OIE, after having served as Deputy Director General of the OIE for 6 y. Eloit entered the Alfort National Veterinary School (ENVA–France) in 1977. She graduated as a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine, having presented a thesis on infectious bovine rhinotracheitis, an early indication of her interest in livestock health management.

**Bio-Mic Award for Excellence in Diagnostic Microbiology**



**Erdal Erol**

*University of Kentucky*

Erdal Erol is an associate professor and head of Diagnostic Microbiology at the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, Department of Veterinary Science, College of Agriculture, University of Kentucky. He received his DVM from Firat University in Turkey, his MS from the University of Missouri, and his PhD from Texas A&M University. His areas of interest are joint diseases, diagnostic assays, biosecurity, and virulence mechanisms of infectious diseases.

**Pioneers in Virology Award**



**Julia Ridpath**

Julia Ridpath earned her PhD from Iowa State University in 1983 and authored or co-authored over 230 articles (over 200 in peer-reviewed journals), 7 book chapters, over 200 abstracts, and has submitted over 150 sequences to GenBank. Prior to her retirement in December 2016, she served as the lead scientist of the Intervention Strategies to Control Viral Diseases of Cattle Research Project of the Ruminant Diseases and Immunology Unit at the National Animal Disease Center (NADC) in Ames, IA. Her research group focused on the characterization and control of viruses associated with bovine respiratory disease. Much of her 32 y with the NADC has been spent on projects to improve detection and prevention of bovine viral diarrhea viruses.

**Richard L. Walker Bacteriology Award**



**April Aquino Estrada**

*University of Minnesota*

April Estrada is currently enrolled in the Comparative and Molecular Biosciences graduate program at the College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Minnesota and is advised by Dr. Connie Gebhart. Her major research objective is to investigate the emergence and increased pathogenesis of *S. suis*, beginning with a transdisciplinary approach to characterize the diversity of *S. suis* in the United States.

## AAVLD and ThermoFisher Grants for Innovation in Veterinary Diagnostic Medicine



**Udeni Balasuriya**

*Louisiana Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory*

“A pilot project: rapid identification and untargeted sequencing of viral pathogens in clinical specimens using nanopore single molecule sequencing (MinION)”

Udeni Balasuriya is the director of the Louisiana Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory at Louisiana State University, and professor of virology in the Department of Pathobiological Sciences. His research focuses on molecular virology, viral pathogenesis, and diagnostics.



**Karen Harmon**

*Iowa State University*

“Development of PCR-clamping assays for the preferential amplification of wild-type PRRSV virus in a vaccine-like/wild type mixed infection in swine clinical samples”

Karen Harmon is a clinical associate professor in the Department of Veterinary Diagnostic & Production Animal Medicine, College of Veterinary Medicine, at Iowa State University. Her research interests are molecular testing (PCR, sequencing), new technology for diagnostics of biological agents, and PCR assay design.

## J. Lindsay Oaks Bacteriology Award

*from the AAVLD Bacteriology Committee, sponsored by BioMérieux*



**Linto Antony**

*South Dakota State University*

“Genome divergence and increased virulence of outbreak associated *Salmonella enterica* serovar Heidelberg”

Linto Antony received his DVM from Kerala Agricultural University, Kerala, India. He completed his MS (2017) in Biological Sciences (Microbiology) at South Dakota State University. He is enrolled in the PhD program in the Department of Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences, South Dakota State University. His areas of research include microbial genomics, microbial ecology, and the use of gut commensals for the inhibition of enteric pathogens.

## Best Classical Bacteriology Presentation

*in honor and memory of Dr. Brenda Love*



**Sreenidhi Srinivasan**

*Pennsylvania State University*

“Development of a peptide-based diagnostic test for bovine tuberculosis”

Sreenidhi Srinivasan is a PhD Candidate in the Molecular, Cellular and Integrative Biosciences Graduate Program at Pennsylvania State University in University Park, PA.

### AAVLD Graduate Student Award for Best Oral Presentation



**Laura Burns**

*Iowa State University*

“Rapid screening for veterinary drug residues in food and companion animal tissues using liquid microjunction surface sampling probe mass spectrometry”

Laura Burns joined the toxicology program at Iowa State University in 2017. She is pursuing a MS under the mentorship of Dr. David Borts. Her research is focused on ambient ionization mass spectrometry applications for the detection of veterinary drugs in animal tissues.

### AAVLD Graduate Student Award for Best Poster Presentation



**Sreenidhi Srinivasan**

*Pennsylvania State University*

“Development of a peptide-based diagnostic test for bovine tuberculosis”

Sreenidhi Srinivasan is a PhD Candidate in the Molecular, Cellular and Integrative Biosciences Graduate Program at Pennsylvania State University in University Park, PA.

### AAVLD Laboratory Staff Award for Best Oral Presentation



**Zachary Forbes**

*Cornell University*

“Prevalence of canine and equine respiratory disease agents in clinical diagnostic submissions from 2013–2018”

Zachary joined the molecular diagnostics unit at Cornell AHDC in 2016. Prior to joining AHDC, he worked as a research tech in the field of veterinary medicine for 4.5 y. He has supported research on gene therapy to treat ocular disease, development of a novel and stable vaccine for *Shigella*, veterinary immune reagent development, antibiotic susceptibility assays, and botulinum toxin therapeutic development.

### AAVLD/ACVP Diagnostic Pathology Resident/Graduate Student Award



**Yvonne Wikander**

*Kansas State University*

“A unique immunophenotype of thymoma-associated lymphocytes in a dog”

Yvonne Wikander is a clinical pathology resident and master’s candidate at Kansas State University. In Oregon and Washington, she was a small animal vet for over 20 y. Her main research interest is in vector-borne infectious diseases, and she is currently investigating the incidence and subspecies genotype(s) of *Cytauxzoon felis* in eastern Kansas.

## ACVP/AAVLD Diagnostic Pathology Resident/Graduate Student Award



**Allison M. Watson**

*University of Tennessee*

“Characterization of natural canine distemper virus infection in five adult Linnaeus’ two-toed sloths” by AM Watson, AC Cushing, JD Sheldon, E Anis, RP Wilkes, EJ Dubovi, LE Craig.

Allison Watson is a 3rd-year anatomic pathology resident in the Department of Biomedical and Diagnostic Sciences, College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Tennessee. Allison plans to pursue a career as a diagnostician following residency, and is interested in zoo and wildlife pathology, dermatopathology, and infectious disease.

## AAVLD Trainee Travel Awards



**Molly Carpenter**

*Colorado State University*

“Comparison of fresh and formalin-fixed paraffin-embedded samples for diagnostic PCR”; “Comparison of Vitek 2 to Sensititre for antimicrobial susceptibility testing of *Staphylococcus pseudintermedius* and *Escherichia coli* isolated from dogs”

Molly Carpenter received her DVM from the University of Illinois, College Of Veterinary Medicine. She practiced small animal medicine in Bradley, IL, and served 3 y as a Peace Corps Public Health volunteer in a Moroccan village in the High Atlas Mountains.



**Martha F. Dalton**

*University of Georgia*

“Tears of death: histologic and immunohistochemistry characterization of the ocular and lacrimal gland changes in domestic and wild animals naturally infected with rabies virus”

Martha Dalton, a Mississippi native, received her DVM from the Mississippi State University, College of Veterinary Medicine, and is currently in her third year of an anatomic pathology residency at the University of Georgia.



**Gordon Ehrensing**

*Michigan State University*

“Natural outbreak of fatal encephalomyocarditis virus in a non-human primate collection”

Gordon Ehrensing is a senior-year anatomic pathology resident at the Department of Pathobiology and Diagnostic Investigation, Michigan State University and will be eligible for Phase II of the ACVP board examination in August 2019. His primary professional focus is in diagnostic pathology with interests in ocular and renal systems.



**April Estrada**  
*University of Minnesota*

“Serotype and genotype (by multilocus sequence typing) distribution of *Streptococcus suis* in the U.S.”

April Estrada is enrolled in the Comparative and Molecular Biosciences graduate program at the College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Minnesota and is advised by Dr. Connie Gebhart. Her major research objective is to investigate the emergence and increased pathogenesis of *S. suis*, beginning with a transdisciplinary approach to characterize the diversity of *S. suis* in the United States.



**Zhenyu Shen**  
*University of Missouri*

“Development and validation of a TaqMan real-time PCR for the detection of *Neospora caninum* in bovine abortion samples”

Zhenyu Shen earned his BS and MS in Veterinary Medicine in China, and his PhD in Food Science at University of Missouri–Columbia. He is working as a post-doctoral candidate at the Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory, College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Missouri–Columbia.



**Sreenidhi Srinivasan**  
*Pennsylvania State University*

“Development of a peptide-based diagnostic test for bovine tuberculosis”

Sreenidhi Srinivasan is a PhD candidate in the Molecular, Cellular and Integrative Biosciences Graduate Program at Pennsylvania State University in University Park, PA.



**Wannarat Yim-im**  
*Iowa State University*

“Comparison of PRRS virus isolation from clinical samples in two cell lines: MARC-145 and ZMAC”

Wannarat Yim-im is a PhD student in Veterinary Microbiology and Preventive Medicine at Iowa State University. She obtained a BS and MS from Kasetsart University, Thailand. Her research focuses on improvement of PRRS virus isolation, PRRSV classification using ORF5 sequences, and diagnostic tests.

## AAVLD Staff Travel Awards



**Laura Bradner**  
*Iowa State University*

“Just CLAMP it! A PCR-based strategy to preferentially sequence wild-type PRRSV in vaccinated herds”

Laura Bradner currently works at the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory at Iowa State University, specializing in molecular assay development and process improvement. She has been with the laboratory for 5 y.



**Brittany Chilson**  
*Cornell University*

“Optimization of molecular influenza typing in companion animals”

Brittany Chilson is a molecular diagnostic technologist at the Animal Health Diagnostic Center, Cornell University. She previously attended SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry, earning a BS in environmental biology and MS in plant biotechnology.



**Suresh Kuchipudi**  
*Pennsylvania State University*

“A real-time PCR assay for the detection of *Neospora caninum* in clinical samples from cattle”

Suresh Kuchipudi is a diagnostic virologist at the Penn State Animal Diagnostic laboratory. His work focuses on generating knowledge that can underpin the development of novel diagnostic tools and intervention therapies for endemic and emerging viral diseases of animals and humans.



**Eric Lee**  
*Cornell University*

“Improving diagnostic platforms for accurate and rapid identification of *Actinobacillus pleuropneumoniae*”

Eric Lee is a bacteriologist and has been with the Animal Health Diagnostic Center at Cornell for 11 y. He headed up the verification process on MALDI-TOF at the Center, has acted as internal auditor, and has assisted with many other projects.



**Lacey Marshall Lund**  
*University of Minnesota*

“Next-generation sequencing coupled with in situ hybridization: a novel diagnostic platform to identify emerging pathogens and new variants of endemic viruses”

Lacy Marshall Lund is a junior scientist at the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory of the University of Minnesota. She has been with the laboratory for 2 y.



**Derek Rothenheber**  
*Cornell University*

“Application of fungal metagenomics for fixed tissue profiling”

Derek Rothenheber is currently with the Molecular Diagnostics department at the Animal Health and Diagnostics Center, Cornell University. He earned his MS in Microbiology at the University of New Hampshire.



**Rebecca Tallmadge**

*Cornell University*

“Characterization of a novel *Mycoplasma cynos* real-time PCR assay”

Rebecca Tallmadge’s scientific training has focused on equine immunogenetics and immunodeficiencies. She completed her PhD project with Dr. Douglas Antczak of the Baker Institute for Animal Health at Cornell University, which entailed investigation into the genomic and polymorphic attributes of equine MHC class I genes.



**Roopa Venugopalan**

*Cornell University*

“Johne’s direct fecal high-throughput PCR assay for detecting *Mycobacterium avium* subsp. *paratuberculosis* using magnetic bead-based technology”

Roopa Venugopalan currently serves as Assistant Manager for the Molecular Diagnostics Section of the New York Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory at Cornell University. She has been with AHDC for 10 y in the role of diagnostic technologist for 9 y and promoted to assistant manager in 2017.

**JVDI Best Full Manuscript Award**

*Jianqiang Zhang, Ying Zheng, Xiao-Qin Xia, Qi Chen, Sarah A. Bade, Kyoung-Jin Yoon, Karen M. Harmon, Phillip C. Gauger, Rodger G. Main, Ganwu Li*

High-throughput whole genome sequencing of *Porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome virus* from cell culture materials and clinical specimens using next-generation sequencing technology. *J Vet Diagn Invest* 2017;29:41–50.

**JVDI Best Brief Communication Award**

*Melissa Goolia, Fabio Vannucci, Ming Yang, Devi Patnayak, Shawn Babiuk, Charles K. Nfon*

Validation of a competitive ELISA and a virus neutralization test for the detection and confirmation of antibodies to *Senecavirus A* in swine sera. *J Vet Diagn Invest* 2017;29:250–253.