

# You are Invited to the 2021 AKVMA Annual Symposium!



*Join us* in **ANCHORAGE** and  
connect with colleagues!

**October 8<sup>th</sup>—10<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

**SHERATON ANCHORAGE HOTEL**

**401 E 6th Avenue**

**Anchorage, AK**

**2 1/2 days continuing education—**  
*Friday evening, Saturday and Sunday;*  
*registration available for entire conference or*  
*one day only (Saturday or Sunday)*

**20 Hours of CE Offered**  
*Seeking Approval from Alaska Board of*  
*Veterinary Examiners (some of the*  
*the CEs are RACE approved)*

**Veterinarian and Veterinary Technician Tracks**  
**on Saturday and Sunday**

**Complimentary Friday Evening State and**  
**Federal Updates (1 CE)**  
*No fee to attend this session but registration is*  
*necessary to obtain CE*

**Tradeshow Throughout the**  
**Symposium**

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### [Robert Gerlach, VMD](#)

Dr. Gerlach works for the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation as the Alaska State Veterinarian. He is responsible for animal health regulations, animal disease surveillance, manages the State's Fish Monitoring Program and is the State's Fish Advisory Program Coordinator. Dr. Gerlach graduated from the University of Pennsylvania-School of Veterinary Medicine in 1982 and practiced in southeastern Pennsylvania, Maryland and Delaware as a livestock veterinarian specializing in dairy practice. After several years in private practice he returned to academic pursuits and completed a Post-Doctoral Fellowship in pathophysiology and toxicology at the Lovelace Inhalation Toxicology Institute. In 1987, he moved to Alaska and worked in private practice until being hired by the state in 2001 to manage the Fish Monitoring Program and became Alaska State Veterinarian in 2003.



### [Louisa Castrodale, DVM, MPH](#)

Dr. Castrodale is an epidemiologist with the Alaska Section of Epidemiology, Infectious Disease Program. She came to Alaska in 1999 as a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Epidemic Intelligence Service Officer, and stayed on after the 2-year assignment ended in 2001, serving as a member of Epidemiology's Infectious Disease Team and as the designated Alaska State Public Health Veterinarian. In 2016, she became the Acting Manager of the Infectious Disease Program. She has a Bachelor of Arts (Anthropology) degree from Yale University, a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree from Tufts University, and a Master of Public Health degree from Johns Hopkins University, and is boarded in veterinary preventive medicine.

### [Jodie Jones, DVM, MPH, DACVPM](#)

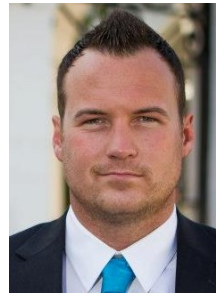
Dr. Jones started her career as a veterinarian in Central Oregon in a private mixed animal practice and then by Banfield as a float veterinarian for the Portland/Vancouver area. She then joined the USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) and supervised a mini circuit in Oregon that included red meat slaughter facilities, egg products, and processing establishments. Dr. Jones joined USDA APHIS Veterinary Services in 2015 as the Export Veterinary Medical Officer for VETS in Tumwater, WA office overseeing the export office there that process live animal health certificates for several states. In 2019, she took a position as the Field Veterinary Medical Officer for USDA APHIS Veterinary Services stationed in Anchorage, AK. Dr. Jones completed her DVM degree in 2012 and her master's degree in Public Health in 2013 from Oregon State University. In 2019 Dr. Jones became a Diplomate in the American College of Veterinary Preventative Medicine. Prior to completing her DVM, Dr. Jones worked for USDA Forest Service as a Wildlife Technician, Youth Conservation Core Leader, Trail Technician and Wildland Firefighter in Northern California and Eastern/Central Oregon. She enjoys the outdoor opportunities that Alaska provides and spends her time fishing recently learning to fly fish, hiking, camping, kayaking, Backcountry/Nordic skiing as well as training her Australian Shepard, Indiana, for competition in agility and parkour.



### [Lance Roasa, DVM, MS, JD](#)

Dr. Roasa is a 2008 graduate of Texas A & M who has bought, operated and sold veterinary practices. He has completed a law degree from the University of Nebraska, is the president of the American Veterinary Medical Law Association (AVMLA), and on the board of directors of the Nebraska Veterinary Medical Association. Dr. Roasa is a founder of Drip Learning Technologies, a veterinary continuing education provider and guest lectures in 13 veterinary colleges on the legal aspects of medical recordkeeping, veterinary malpractice and veterinary business as part of the curriculum. He serves as a national co-advisor to the Veterinary Business Management Association and regularly lectures to regional

VVBMA chapters and to the national association on topics of growth, business metrics, technology implementation. Dr. Roasa is also primary attorney for the Roasa Law Group, P.C., a law practice dedicated to serving veterinarians in practice transactions, employment contracts and as legal counsel to startup businesses.



### [Brandon Hess, CVPM, CCFP](#)

Brandon Hess has spent over 13 years in the management trenches, first as a companion animal veterinary hospital manager and from 2014 to 2016, as the manager of a large specialty practice in Ohio (2016 AAHA Specialty Practice of the year). His background in Psychology, Management and Leadership have provided him the tools necessary to coach Veterinary Professionals on topics such as: Communication, Conflict

Resolution, Compassion Fatigue and Suicide Awareness. As a clinic owner, he is also passionate about expense management, practice culture and efficiencies. His engaging presentation style fosters a participation-based learning atmosphere.



### [Rance Sellon, DVM, DACVIM \(Internal Medicine and Oncology\)](#)

- DVM: Texas A & M University, 1987
- Rotating Internship: University of Georgia 1987-1988
- Small Animal Internal Medicine Residency: North Carolina State University, 1988-1991
- Oncology Residency: Washington State University 2004-2009
- Board Certification: American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine (two specialties) - Small Animal Internal Medicine and Oncology
- Joined Faculty at WSU: August, 1997 currently supporting both the small animal medicine and oncology services



### [Jonathon Miller, DVM](#)

Dr. Jonathan Miller is a professional consulting veterinarian with Hills Pet Nutrition and a preclinical nutrition instructor at Oregon State College of Vet Med. He currently works to provide education and support to the veterinary community on nutritional treatments for a broad range of conditions for companion animals. He spent his years

before Hills working in private practice and with the US Fish and Wildlife Service. He is based in Salmon Creek, Washington and lives with his wife and 2 daughters.



### [Pamela Jones, DVM, DAVIM \(Oncology\), DACVR \(Radiation Oncology\)](#)

Dr. Pamela Jones underwent her veterinary training in the United States at Colorado State University. She completed a one-year rotating internship in small animal medicine and surgery followed by a three-year oncology residency and a two-year residency in radiation oncology. She is board-certified by the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine in medical oncology and by the American College of Veterinary Radiology in radiation oncology. She has enjoyed specialty practice in the southwestern United States and has served in several capacities in the pharmaceutical industry including her current position at QBiotics as Professional Services Director.

# Thank you to Our Gold Sponsors

## Interior Veterinary Medical Association



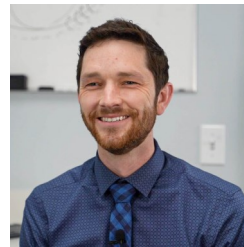
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### [Dawn Webber, DVM, DACVIM \(Cardiology\)](#)

Dawn Webber grew up in Virginia. After graduating with a BS in Biology from Virginia Tech in 1999, she lived and worked at various vet clinics in Alaska between 2000 and 2005. She graduated from Oklahoma State University Veterinary School in 2009. This was followed by a one-year rotating internship at Cornell University Hospital for

Animals. A one-year cardiology internship followed by three-year residency program was completed at MedVet Medical & Cancer Centers for Pets. After becoming a diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine (Cardiology) in 2014 she returned to Alaska. At that time, Dawn opened Arctic Echoes Veterinary Cardiology a mobile veterinary cardiology service and travels the state seeing cases. In her spare time, she enjoys gardening, hiking, and spending time with her husband and animals.



### [Kevin Snyder, DVM, MS](#)

Dr. Snyder received his bachelor's degree from the University of Notre Dame and worked in healthcare IT before he received his Doctor of Veterinary Medicine from the University of Wisconsin in Madison, Wisconsin. His advanced ophthalmology training took him from one year at Colorado State University

back to the University of Wisconsin-Madison where he completed a four-year combined master's degree in Comparative Biomedical Science and Comparative Ophthalmology residency program. Dr. Snyder currently works at Tier 1 Veterinary Medical Center in Palmer as the head of the Ophthalmology service. Dr. Snyder is passionate about providing the highest quality veterinary care. He strives to work with the owner and their pet, to form an individualized treatment plan specifically tailored to their goals and their animal's needs.



### [Brenna Fitzgerald, DVM, DABVP \(Avian\)](#)

Dr. Brenna Fitzgerald is a 2007 graduate of Texas A&M University College of Veterinary Medicine. She completed her residency in avian practice at the Medical Center for Birds in Oakley, California, and in 2012 achieved Diplomate status with the American Board of Veterinary Practitioners (ABVP). She practiced exclusively avian medicine at the Medical Center for

Birds for 13 years before relocating to the Denver, Colorado area in 2021. She has since established Avian Exclusive Veterinary Consultation (AEVC), providing a variety of remote and in-person consultation services for avian practitioners throughout the United States. Prior to joining the Medical Center for Birds, she worked as an associate veterinarian in a private, multi-doctor practice in Dallas, Texas, where she practiced small animal, avian, and exotic animal medicine. Brenna and her partner, Todd, parent a menagerie of parrots, kitties, and one regal, senior beagle.



### [Holly Cummings, LVT](#)

Holly Cummings is a perfect example of a veterinary technician who has purposefully pursued her career. While studying for her degree, she knew that even then she wanted to be involved in education. After starting at a small veterinary clinic in Richfield, MN, she transitioned into education and was soon offered a role as the executive program chair for Broadview University at their Boise campus.

She spent 7 years as an integral part of building the curriculum for this program helping future veterinary technicians reach their full potential. She then relocated to Clarkston, Washington, where she returned to a mixed animal practice, and transitioned to the Diagnostic Imaging Department at the Washington State University Teaching Hospital in Pullman, Washington. Ms. Cummings is an extremely passionate member of the veterinary technician community, particularly in recognizing the different important roles they play in their clinics. In particular, she feels that the diversity of experience and expertise speaks volumes to the important role that vet techs play in keeping pets healthy. From administrative tasks such as reminding pet owners about administering heartworm disease preventives every month to running laboratory and diagnostic tests, she believes that veterinary technicians have some of the most important and insightful perspectives in the industry.

[Kris Kruse-Elliott, DVM, Ph.D. DACVAA](#)

Veterinary School: Oregon State University

Anesthesia Residency: North Carolina State University

Board Certification: American College of Veterinary Anesthesia and Analgesia (1989)

Postdoctoral NIH Fellowship: North Carolina State University

Certification: PhD – Pulmonary Physiology (1992)

**Additional information to be coming soon.**

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**Register by September 15  
for Early Bird Rates**