

# FIND AN EXPERT



VMX PRESENTS AN EXCEPTIONAL OPPORTUNITY FOR MEDIA TO ENGAGE WITH OUR TEAM OF EXPERTS, DELVING INTO CUTTING-EDGE INSIGHTS AND ADVANCEMENTS IN VARIOUS AREAS OF VETERINARY MEDICINE.

**TO COORDINATE AND SCHEDULE INTERVIEWS WITH OUR EXPERTS, PLEASE EMAIL [HANNAH@INSPIREPRGROUP.COM](mailto:HANNAH@INSPIREPRGROUP.COM). FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON OUR TEAM OF EXPERTS, VISIT [NAVCOM/PRESS](https://navc.com/press)**

COME ONE, COME ALL



VETERINARY MEETING & EXPO

JANUARY 13-17  ORLANDO, FLORIDA



## Veterinary Nutrition

**Kara M. Burns, MS, MEd, LVT, VTS (Nutrition), VTS Hon (Internal Medicine, Dentistry)**

Independent nutritional and well-being consultant, the Director of Veterinary Nurse Development for WellHaven Pet Health and Editor in Chief of *Today's Veterinary Nurse*. Click [HERE](#) to read more.



## Feline Diabetes

**Audrey Cook, BVM&S, Dip ACVIM**

Diplomate of the American and European Colleges of Veterinary Internal Medicine, and recognized specialist in Feline Practice by the American Board of Veterinary Practitioners. Click [HERE](#) to read more.



## Human Animal Bond

**Patrick Flynn, DVM, MS, CCFP**

President of the Human Animal Bond Association, HAB certified through NAVC Institute and a Certified Compassion Fatigue Professional. Click [HERE](#) to read more.





## Orthopedic Surgeon

**Clara S.S. Goh BVSc, MS, DACVS-SA**

Specializes in cruciate disease, hip dysplasia, and minimally invasive techniques (arthroscopy and fracture stabilization). Click [HERE](#) to read more.

## Global Diagnostics and Medical Affairs

**Richard E Goldstein, DVM, DACVIM (SAIM), DECVIM-CA**

Board certified in Small Animal Internal Medicine by the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine, European College of Veterinary Internal Medicine – Companion Animals. Click [HERE](#) to read more.



## AI and Machine Learning

**Jonathan Lustgarten, MS, PhD, VMD, CSPO**

Senior Biomedical Informatics Specialist and Product Manager for Mars Veterinary Health. Click [HERE](#) to read more.



## Zoo Animals and Wildlife

**Gwen E. Myers, DVM, CVA**

Chief of Animal Health, Zoo Miami; Adjunct Faculty Florida International University School of Medicine. Click [HERE](#) to read more.



## Veterinary Diagnostics

**David Needle, DVM DACVP**

Diagnostic and investigational pathology serving primary care veterinarians, livestock producers, zoological collections, researchers, wildlife agencies, and rehabilitators. Click [HERE](#) to read more.

## Veterinary Industry Trends and Issues; Continuing Education; Non-traditional Pet Medicine; Exotics; Human-Animal Bond



**Dana Varble, DVM, CAE**

Chief Veterinary Officer North American Veterinary Community. Click [HERE](#) to read more.





## Small Animal Internal Medicine

**Aida I. Vientós-Plotts, DVM, PhD, DACVIM (SAIM)**

Co-founder and Co-director of The BREATHE Clinic, a subspecialty aerodigestive clinic within the Small Animal Internal Medicine Service at the University of Missouri. Click [HERE](#) to read more.



## Avian and Exotic Animal Medicine

**Stacey Leonatti Wilkinson, DVM, DABVP (R/A)**

Owner of Avian and Exotic Animal Hospital of Georgia. Diplomate of the American Board of Veterinary Practitioners certified in Reptile and Amphibian Practice. Click [HERE](#) to read more.



## Emergency Veterinary Nursing

**Kenichiro Yagi, MS, RVT, VTS (ECC), (SAIM)**

Chief Veterinary Nursing Officer for the Veterinary Emergency Group, and the Program Director for the RECOVER Initiative. Click [HERE](#) to read more.

## Veterinary Nutrition



**Kara M. Burns, MS, MEd, LVT, VTS (Nutrition), VTS  
Hon (Internal Medicine, Dentistry)**

**Kara Burns is a licensed veterinary technician with a master's degree in physiology and a master's degree in counseling psychology. She began her career in human medicine working as an emergency psychologist and as a poison specialist dealing with human and animal poisonings.**

**Kara is the Founder and Past President of the Academy of Veterinary Nutrition Technicians. She teaches nutrition courses around the world. Kara is an independent nutritional and well-being consultant, the Director of Veterinary Nurse Development for WellHaven Pet Health and is the Editor in Chief of Today's Veterinary Nurse.**

**She is a member of many national, international, and state associations and holds positions on many boards in the profession: American Academy of Veterinary Nutrition executive board; Western Veterinary Conference Technician Education Manager; NAVTA Past President; EveryCat Health Foundation (formerly Winn Feline Foundation); and the first technician to be President of the Pet Nutrition Alliance, to name a few.**

**She has authored many articles, textbooks, and textbook chapters and is an internationally invited speaker, focusing on topics of nutrition, leadership, and technician utilization. Kara and her wife Dr. Ellen Lowery developed the Pet Nutrition Coach Certification Courses course through NAVC.**



## **Feline Diabetes**



**Audrey Cook, BVM&S, Dip ACVIM**


**Audrey Cook is a graduate of the University of Edinburgh, Scotland. She completed her internship at NC State and her residency in small animal internal medicine at UC Davis.**

**Dr. Cook is a Diplomate of both the American and European Colleges of Veterinary Internal Medicine, and is also recognized as a specialist in Feline Practice by the American Board of Veterinary Practitioners.**

**After a decade in private referral practice, Dr. Cook joined the faculty at Texas A&M. She is now Professor of Small Animal Internal Medicine with particular interests in endocrinology, gastroenterology and interventional radiology.**

## Human Animal Bond

**Patrick Flynn, DVM, MS, CCFP**

A circular portrait of Dr. Patrick Flynn, a man with short grey hair, glasses, and a goatee, wearing a brown jacket over a black turtleneck. The background is a soft-focus outdoor scene with green foliage and warm light.

**Dr. Flynn received his veterinary degree from the Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine in 1994 and practiced companion animal medicine and surgery for 13 years before joining then Pfizer, now Zoetis. His passion and curiosity for the scientific study of the role other animals play in our life (and vice versa) led him to Canisius College in Buffalo, N.Y. where, in 2019, he completed a Master of Science in Anthrozoology (the study of human/animal interactions) and is one of very few veterinarians with this qualification.**

**Additionally, he is the President of the Human Animal Bond Association, HAB certified through NAVC Institute (as well as a content contributor) and a Certified Compassion Fatigue Professional. He has also completed graduate work in the One Health Program offered by the Department of Environmental & Global Health in the College of Public Health and Health Professions at the University of Florida.**

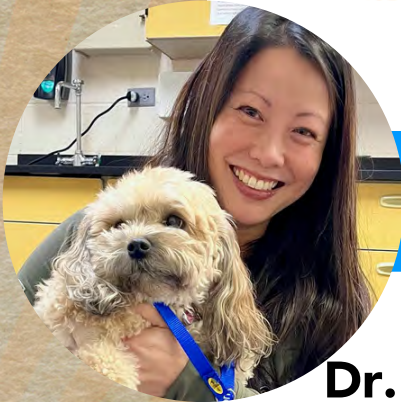




# EXPERTS

## Orthopedic Surgeon

**Clara S.S. Goh BVSc, MS, DACVS-SA**



**Dr. Clara Goh earned her veterinary degree at Sydney University, Australia. She completed her post-graduate specialty training (rotating internship, surgical residency, and surgical oncology fellowship) at Colorado State University, where she currently holds a faculty position in small animal orthopedic surgery. Her clinical and research interests include cruciate disease, hip dysplasia, and minimally invasive techniques (arthroscopy, and fracture stabilization).**

**Recently awarded ACVS honored mentor and VMX speaker of the year, Clara has devoted her professional career to student, resident, and DVM training and has been an invited speaker and instructor at numerous conferences and surgical labs throughout the US.**

## Global Diagnostics and Medical Affairs



**Richard E Goldstein, DVM, DACVIM (SAIM), DECVIM-CA**

**Dr. Goldstein graduated from the Koret School of Veterinary Medicine, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel in 1993 and completed a residency in Small Animal Internal Medicine at the University of California, Davis, in 1998. He served as an associate professor then associate professor with tenure at Cornell University, College of Veterinary Medicine from 2001-2012. In 2012 Dr Goldstein joined the leadership team of the Animal Medical Center in New York City as Chief Medical Officer and served in that capacity until January 2018. In 2018 Dr. Goldstein joined Zoetis and is currently the Vice President and Chief Medical Officer of Global Diagnostics.**

**Dr Goldstein is board certified in Small Animal Internal Medicine by the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine as well as the European College of Veterinary Internal Medicine – Companion Animals. Dr. Goldstein is internationally recognized as a researcher, author and lecturer in companion animal medicine with a focus on point of care and reference laboratory test development in infectious, renal and genetic diseases of dogs and cats. He has published over 70 peer reviewed manuscripts and book chapters, and is the recipient of numerous awards including the Norden Distinguished Teaching Award in 2004.**



## AI and Machine Learning

A circular portrait of Jonathan Lustgarten, a man with a beard and mustache, smiling. He is wearing a dark blue collared shirt. The background of the portrait shows green foliage.

**Jonathan Lustgarten, MS, PhD, VMD, CSPO**

**Dr. Jonathan Lustgarten is the Senior Biomedical Informatics Specialist and Product Manager for Mars Veterinary Health. He is responsible for the AI and Machine Learning for the PIMS and EMR that will serve all the MARS veterinary hospitals. He is also responsible for developing and curating the structured master data behind the system. He helped architect the code catalog and ordering system from the ground up to allow future integrations.**

**Before MVH, he was Director of Veterinary Informatics for Compassion-First Pet Hospitals. He has served as a Medical Director of a hybrid veterinary hospital, and before that, he completed a veterinary business fellowship. He has over 25 papers and 13 first-author papers, including "Veterinary informatics: forging the future between veterinary medicine, human medicine, and One Health initiatives" in JAMIA-Open.**

**Zoo Animals and Wildlife**

**Gwen E. Myers, DVM, CVA**



**Dr. Gwen Myers is the Chief of Animal Health at Zoo Miami and adjunct faculty at Florida International University School of Medicine. She attended the Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine and completed a Residency at the Columbus Zoo & Aquarium. She is the veterinary advisor for otters and Northern Brown Kiwi, enjoys doing fieldwork in Alaska, and is a graduate of AZA's Executive Leadership Development Program.**

**In her free time, Dr. Myers enjoys running, showing her dogs in conformation, and instilling a love of all animals, (but especially Dobermans), in her 8 year old son.**



## Veterinary Diagnostics



**David Needle, DVM DACVP**

**Dr. David Needle received a DVM from the Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine at Tufts University in 2011, after which he completed a 3 years residency in Veterinary Anatomic Pathology at the Diagnostic Center for Population and Animal Health at Michigan State University, and one year of post-doctoral work in microbial pathogenesis. He joined the New Hampshire Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (NHVDL) and UNH in 2015. His clinical work consists of diagnostic and investigational pathology serving primary care veterinarians, livestock producers, zoological collections, researchers, wildlife agencies, and rehabilitators.**

**Dr. Needle's research is currently comprised of two main foci in the broader context of One Health: (1) emerging and zoonotic wildlife disease discovery, and (2) comparative microbial genomics. Both areas of research have their basis in observations from diagnostic and research submissions to the NHVDL sections of pathology and microbiology. Active research in both areas relies on collaboration with multiple researchers and diagnosticians regionally and nationally.**



# EXPERTS

**Veterinary Industry Trends and Issues; Continuing Education; Non-traditional Pet Medicine; Exotics; Human-Animal Bond**



## **Dana Varble, DVM, CAE**

**Dana Varble received her veterinary degree from the University of Illinois in 2003 and earned her Certified Association Executive designation from ASAE in 2021. She has practiced clinical medicine in exotic pet, small animal general practice, and emergency medicine and serves as an associate veterinarian for Chicago Exotics Animal Hospital. She has spoken locally, nationally, and internationally on herpetological and exotic animal medicine and the state of the veterinary profession. She served as the president of the Association of Reptile and Amphibian Veterinarians in 2013 and presently works as the managing editor of the Journal of Herpetological Medicine and Surgery for ARAV.**

**In 2015, Dr. Varble joined NAVC and in January 2020, she was named Chief Veterinary Officer. As an NAVC spokesperson and a veterinary industry expert, she promotes animal health and the veterinary profession through media interviews and appearances including CNN, NBC News, local media outlets, and others including regular appearances on WGN radio on the Lisa Dent Show. She is the author of Today's Veterinary Practice column, "The Secret Life of Vets."**

**She shares her home with a Leonberger named Kodi, a Mastiff mix named Denali, a tank of cichlids, four ball pythons, a New Caledonian Giant Gecko, and her human family.**



## Small Animal Internal Medicine



**Aida I. Vientós-Plotts, DVM, PhD, DACVIM (SAIM)**

**Originally from Puerto Rico, a graduate of Tuskegee University (DVM), Dr. Aida Vientós-Plotts completed a rotating internship at Auburn University followed by a small animal internal medicine residency, post-doctoral fellowship and PhD at the University of Missouri. She joined the MU faculty in 2020 and is currently an Assistant Professor of Small Animal Internal Medicine. In 2022, she co-founded The BREATHE Clinic, a subspecialty clinic that operates under the umbrella of the Small Animal Internal Medicine Service at the University of Missouri. BREATHE is an acronym for Bringing REspiration & Aerodigestion Toward Health. The main goal of the BREATHE Clinic is to provide a comprehensive evaluation of dogs and cats with respiratory and swallowing disorders to allow individualized management.**

**A secondary goal is to learn more ways to help canine and feline patients by conducting clinical research. Her interests include investigation of the microbiota in low biomass sites including the respiratory tract, and blood, exploration of the link between respiratory and gastrointestinal diseases, and bridging knowledge gaps in veterinary pulmonology. Dr. Vientós-Plotts is one of the co-founders and currently serves on the board of directors of a non-profit organization - Veterinarians for Puerto Rico. While she wears many hats her favorites are wife and mama to two little ones.**



## Avian and Exotic Animal Medicine

**Stacey Leonatti Wilkinson, DVM, DABVP (R/A)**

**Stacey Leonatti Wilkinson graduated with her DVM from the University of Tennessee in 2006. Since graduation, she has been treating exclusively exotic pets, first as an associate veterinarian at Avian and Exotic Animal Care in Raleigh, NC, and then in 2015 she opened Avian and Exotic Animal Hospital of Georgia in the Savannah, GA area. In 2013 she became a diplomate of the American Board of Veterinary Practitioners certified in Reptile and Amphibian Practice.**

**Dr. Wilkinson is also an adjunct assistant professor at North Carolina State University College of Veterinary Medicine. She has been published in scientific and non-scientific journals, written multiple textbook chapters, and lectures nationally on exotic animal medicine and care. She is Treasurer of the Association of Reptile and Amphibian Veterinarians and is also active in the Association of Exotic Mammal Veterinarians, Association of Avian Veterinarians, and Association of Fish Veterinarians.**





## Emergency Veterinary Nursing

**Kenichiro Yagi, MS, RVT, VTS (ECC), (SAIM)**

**Ken has been reimagining veterinary nursing over the course of the past 23 years in the field. He is a double VTS in emergency and critical care and small animal internal medicine, and has a master's degree in Veterinary Science. He is currently the Chief Veterinary Nursing Officer for Veterinary Emergency Group, and the Program Director for the RECOVER Initiative.**

**Over the years, he has received multiple Veterinary Technician of the Year Awards for his work to bring further recognition of the vital role of the veterinary technicians and nurses through work with organizations like NAVTA. Ken co-edited the Veterinary Technician and Nurse's Daily Reference Guide for Canine and Feline, and the Manual of Veterinary Transfusion Medicine and Blood Banking. He also publishes articles and presents internationally on topics in ECC, transfusion medicine, and the veterinary nursing profession.**

**Ken invites everyone to ask "Why?" to understand the "What" and "How" of our field, and to continually pursue new limits as veterinary professionals and individuals.**



## Veterinary Innovation and AI

### Aaron Massecar, MA, PhD

**Aaron Massecar, MA, Ph.D., is the Executive Director of the Veterinary Innovation Council. After completing his Ph.D. in philosophy at the University of Guelph in 2011 and then teaching for 5 years, Dr. Massecar transitioned to veterinary medicine where he believed he could have a greater impact than what could be done in academic philosophy. His first work in veterinary medicine was with Texas A&M where he helped to build the Veterinary Entrepreneurship Academy and the Veterinary Innovation Summit. He later started working on telemedicine with the Veterinary Innovation Council in 2017. While at VIC, he helped to build educational programs for the North American Veterinary Community and later became the Senior Vice President of Learning at the NAVC. After serving in senior executive positions with Colorado State University's Translational Medicine Institute and the Veterinary Emergency Group, Dr. Massecar is back at the Veterinary Innovation Council and helping to drive awareness across the industry in domains such as innovation, entrepreneurship, and artificial intelligence. Aaron and his wife live in Colorado with their three dogs and two cats.**