

## **2019 MOAAR Symposium Speaker Bios**

### **Dr. Julia Becker**

Currently, Dr. Julia Becker wears many hats as the owner of Tippecanoe Animal Hospital, member of the Board of Directors for the Almost Home Humane Society, and Adjunct Assistant Professor here at Purdue University College of Veterinary Medicine. She earned her BA in Russian Language and Literature from Indiana University, her MS in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology from Indiana State University, and her DVM degree from Purdue University. Dr. Becker has a strong interest in exotic animal medicine, having earned awards for her work with the Greater Lafayette Community and publishing literature on this subject. In her spare time, Dr. Becker has continued to volunteer her time to work closely with the Purdue Veterinary Exotic Animal Club and help establish a strong foundation for exotic animal medicine for Purdue Students.

### **Dr. Lori Corriveau**

Dr. Lori Corriveau is a wellness clinician in the Small Animal Community Practice. Originally from Hershey, Penn., she is a 1999 graduate of the Purdue University College of Veterinary Medicine. She returned to Purdue after a couple of years in private practice in Flora and Alexandria, Indiana. She enjoys seeing exotic (non-traditional) pets, as well as dogs and cats. Dr. Corriveau works with students performing elective surgery on exotic pets. She specializes in surgical CO2 laser use for pet lumpectomies and also the use of therapy lasers to alleviate pain and improve healing in pets. Dr. Corriveau also practices and teaches feline friendly handling and restraint. Her hobbies and interests include CO2 laser surgery, aquaculture, cooking, and collecting armadillo figurines.



### **Dr. Cara Field**

Dr. Cara Field is currently the Medical Director at The Marine Mammal Center in Sausalito, California, where she has been working for the past 5 years. Her primary roles include the care of over 800 stranded marine mammal patients annually, conducting and collaborating on numerous research projects, and teaching the 100+ veterinarians, students, technicians and biologists that come to TMMC each year to learn about marine mammal medicine and health.



Dr. Field completed the dual DVM/ Ph.D. degree program at the University of California Davis in 2005, where she studied the effects of high pressure excursions on blood platelets from the extremely deep-diving elephant seals. She then worked at Mystic Aquarium in Connecticut for three years as a Post-Doctoral Researcher studying marine mammal brucellosis, and was subsequently the Intern Veterinarian there. She then worked as an Associate Veterinarian at the Audubon Nature Institute in New Orleans serving as the primary vet for the Audubon Aquarium and Stranding Program. She then accepted a position as Senior Associate Veterinarian at the Georgia Aquarium in Atlanta, one of the largest aquariums in the world, before returning to California to work at The Marine Mammal Center. Dr. Field became a Diplomate of the American College of Zoological Medicine in 2018 with a specialty in Aquatic Animal Medicine.

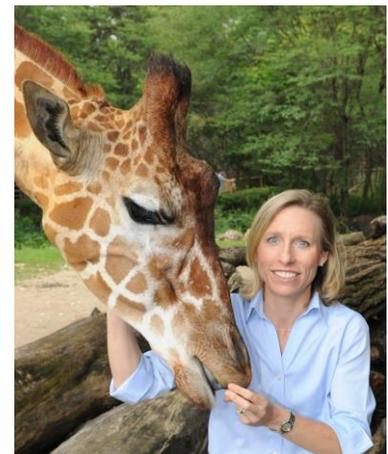
### **Dr. John Griffioen**

Dr. Griffioen received his bachelors of science degree from Lake Superior State University in 2014 and his Doctor of Veterinary Medicine from North Carolina State University College of Veterinary Medicine in 2018. While in veterinary school, he focused on zoological and aquatic animal medicine with an emphasis on chelonian and fish medicine. Following graduation he completed the Veterinary Internship in Aquatic Animal Medicine and Research at Mystic Aquarium in Mystic, Connecticut. Dr. Griffioen is currently the Harlan Family Veterinary Intern at the Indianapolis Zoo, Indianapolis, IN where he works with a diverse collection of aquatic and terrestrial zoo species.



### **Dr. Jennifer Langan**

Dr. Jennifer Langan received her DVM from the University of Illinois in 1996. She completed an Internship in Small Animal Medicine and Surgery at Angell Memorial Animal Hospital and a Residency in Zoological Medicine at the University of Tennessee. She is a Diplomate in the American College of Zoological Medicine (ACZM) and the European College of Zoological Medicine (ECZM). She has held a dual appointment as Clinical Professor at the University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine and Senior Staff Veterinarian at Chicago Zoological Society's Brookfield Zoo for the last nineteen years. Dr. Langan helped develop and oversees the multi-institutional ACZM approved Illinois Zoological and Aquatic Residency Program.



During her career, Dr. Langan has taken on many professional leadership roles serving on the ACZM Executive Committee as Secretary and Vice President, as the Chair of the ACZM Exam Committee, and as a member of the ACZM Public Relations Committee, the AAZV Ethics, Infectious Disease, and International Committees, the ECZM Exam committee and is the veterinary advisor for AZA's Callimico goeldii Species Survival Plan. Dr. Langan is actively involved in helping advance the field of zoological medicine through teaching, research, and professional service and has contributed to over thirty peer-reviewed publications and numerous presentations.

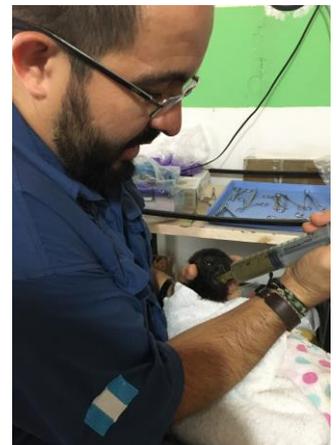
### **Dr. Angela Lennox**

Angela M. Lennox is a graduate of Purdue University School of Veterinary Medicine, and has practiced exclusively exotic animal medicine since 1991. She is the owner of the Avian and Exotic Animal Clinic of Indianapolis. She is board certified through ABVP in both Avian and Exotic Companion Mammal medicine, and through ECZM in Small Mammal Medicine. Dr. Lennox is an adjunct professor at Purdue University Department of Clinical Sciences and teaches various exotic animal medicine topics to both veterinary and veterinary technician students. Dr. Lennox is past president of the Association of Exotic Mammal Veterinarians, editor of the Handbook of Rabbit and Rodent Dentistry, and co-author of Clinical Radiology of Exotic Companion Mammals. She resides near Indianapolis with her husband of more than 20 years and four daughters.



### **Dr. Alejandro Morales**

Dr. Morales began in the field of education and conservation as a young teenager, volunteering at the Natural History Museum, and then at the National Zoo in Guatemala City. He received his DVM at the San Carlos University of Guatemala, as well as his Master's of Science at Ross University. Early in his veterinary career, he was offered a position with the Jaguar Research Program, where he helped develop a mangrove ecosystem monitoring handbook for a protected area in southern Guatemala. Dr. Morales was recently nominated as adjunct faculty of Purdue University and is currently the assistant director and veterinarian at ARCAS in Peten, Guatemala, where he has been since 2008, working to rehabilitate and release over 50 species of rescued Guatemalan wildlife.



### **Dr. Frank Paladino**

Frank Paladino has had over 124 reviewed scientific research publications in top international journals with 8 publications in NATURE plus numerous publications in journals such as Proceedings of the Royal Society, PLOS One, Journal of Experimental Biology, Physiological Zoology, American Zoologist, Physiological and Biochemical Zoology, Revue Canadienne de Biologie, Biological Conservation, & Chelonian Biology & Conservation. Has received over \$5,500,000 in external grants from the National Science Foundation, National Geographic Society, The Pew Foundation, Goldring Family Foundation, The Moore Foundation, The Gund Family Foundation & The Center for Field Research. Frank was elected as President of the ISTS, elected as a Fellow of the AAAS, elected as a Fellow of the American Physiological Society, is a ISTS Lifetime Achievement Award Recipient, & has been the topic of two TV specials by National Geographic, also TV shows on the Discovery Channel and Scholastic Press Internet Network. He

served as Biology Department Head for 22 years and guided the expansion of the department from 12 to 16 faculty and helped design a new 21 million dollar science building. In 2003, he organized and incorporated the Leatherback Trust a 501 3C international non-profit together with colleague James R. Spotila of Drexel University.

In 2018, he was selected to serve as the Director of a new Center for Academic Excellence in Marine Conservation and Biology at Purdue. He now also serves as President of the Leatherback Trust that has raised millions of dollars for the conservation of leatherback turtles and is now the owner and operator of the Goldring-Gund Marine Biology Laboratory, in Playa Grande, Costa Rica, affiliated with PFW, Purdue, Drexel, Kalamazoo College, National University of Costa Rica, St. Thomas University, Stanford University, University of Western Connecticut, University of Western KY and Monash University in Australia. He was appointed by the Purdue University Trustees to the Jack W. Schrey Distinguished Chair Professorship & serves as the Director of the Goldring-Gund Marine Biology Laboratory in Costa Rica. He has been awarded the highest honors from the government of Costa Rica for his work in the creation of Parque Marino Las Baulas and is a member of the IUCN Marine Turtle Specialists Group. For his work with marine turtles the International Sea Turtle Society awarded him their Lifetime Achievement Award in 2014.

## **Joe Richichi**

Joe started out post-high school life as a full time artist and an associated in communication. Working as a behaviorist at a group home and drawing on the side, after a few years he knew it would not be enough to satisfy a career. He first found his calling to be a veterinarian back in 2011. Joe packed his things and moved from upstate NY to north central Florida in Gainesville, where he earned his second Associate's Degree in Biotechnology at Santa Fe College and Bachelors in Animal Science at the University Of Florida in 2016. During the early collegiate years, he turned his enthusiasm for reptiles into a reptile rescue organization, taking in unwanted reptiles and finding them homes at exotic animal shows. At the shows he gave educational talks on animal husbandry, and the negative impact the media has on reptiles in general. Also while in Florida, he continued to draw, and try new things, which led to full blown pet portrait art and wildlife illustrations.

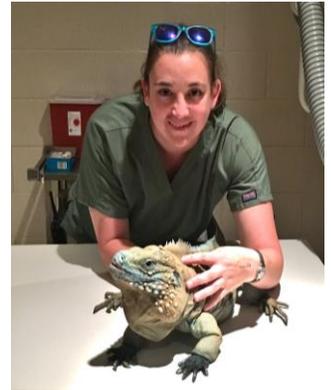


With his love for animals, he continued on the path of becoming a Veterinarian and was accepted into the Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine on the island of Saint Kitts & Nevis in the Caribbean. During his time at Ross University, he began turning class notes into illustrations to help remember certain things. Those illustrations took a turn to full drawings of species differentiation, starting with sea turtles. The sea turtle drawings were purchased by an IMAX movie company for production of their educational posters for the movie "Sea Turtle Odyssey 3D" playing in museums and aquariums around the world. They were also used to promote awareness and education on St. Kitts in aid of helping the endangered native turtles through the St. Kitts Sea Turtle Monitoring Network. That species series led to Macaws, and now Caiman crocodiles. He was officially published in a textbook for the first time in "The Handbook of Horses & Donkeys" through 5M Publishing with his former professor and author, Dr. Chris Mortensen on October 31st, 2018. This book featured ancient extinct species that he created by looking at skeletal records and written descriptions, as well as anatomical drawings. He was also just recently contacted by hosts of Animal Planet TV shows for even more projects next year. A new path towards medical illustration on top of his veterinary path presents a new world of opportunities. Joe has since moved on to Purdue University for his clinical year where he's continued the pursuit of changing the negative stigma of reptiles and balance artwork with vetmed.

### **Abigail Rosenblum, RVT**

Abigail (Abbi) is a graduate of The Bel-Rea Institute of Animal Technology where she received her A.A.S. in Veterinary Technology. She spent her first five years as a technician working in emergency/critical care at several large specialty hospitals in the Denver area. She then moved on to the Adventure Aquarium in Camden, NJ and spent two years working in aquatic medicine. While there she also worked part time at the Essex County's Turtleback Zoo in West Orange, NJ.

In 2014 she was hired by the Indianapolis Zoo and moved to Indiana. She is currently working towards obtaining her VTS in Zoo Medicine. Hematology has always been a passion for her and she is a self-described "hemo nerd." In her off hours, she enjoys hiking with her Australian Shepherd mix Evie, or traveling as much as she can. Her favorite trip by far was her safari in Tanzania where she witnessed first-hand the amazing Great Migration.



### **Dr. Joseph Scimeca**

Dr. Joseph Scimeca is a 1977 graduate of The Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine, he received his Ph.D. from Kansas State University in Veterinary Pathology, and as of 1992 is a Diplomate of the American College of Laboratory Animal Medicine or ACLAM. Dr. Scimeca has had a long and illustrious career, with accomplishments including sitting on committees in the American College of Laboratory Animal Medicine, university teaching engagements, and a wide body of scientific publications, to name a few. As a researcher, Dr. Scimeca gained experience in cephalopods during his tenure at the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston, TX, where he acquired expertise in cephalopod pathophysiology. His knowledge has led him to consulting appointments at institutions such as Monterey Bay Aquarium (Monterey, CA), and Vancouver Canadian National Aquarium (Vancouver, Canada). As an expert in cephalopod pathology, Dr. Scimeca will be sharing pertinent information on the anatomy, physiology and select common diseases of these species!



### **Dr. Jennifer Strasser**

Dr. Jennifer Strasser was raised in the Pacific Northwest. She earned her bachelor of science in biology at the University of Notre Dame and then obtained her doctorate in veterinary medicine at Oklahoma State University in 1997. After graduating, she worked primarily as a large animal veterinarian in a mixed animal practice in Northern Indiana for two years before taking on two years of Johne's disease research in a Mycobacteria lab at her alma mater, the University of Notre Dame. Dr. Strasser joined the Indiana State Board of Animal Health in 2003 as the Meat Source Safety Veterinarian. She became the District 1 Field Veterinarian in 2005, and has also been the Aquaculture Specialist since 2008, when that position was created to address the issue of Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia and other aquatic infectious diseases of regulatory importance.



### **Jenny Sutherland**

Jenny is a Hellbender Technician where she oversees the husbandry of Eastern Hellbenders that are part of Purdue's hellbender head-starting program. Before Purdue she was working at The Wilds, a safari park part of the Columbus Zoo, as a wildlife technician where she was lead of their hellbender head-starting program and their American burying beetle re-introduction effort. Jenny has a masters from Eastern Michigan University where she studied mudpuppies in the Great Lakes and she has seven years of aquaculture experience, six of which were rearing lake sturgeon with the U.S. Geological Survey in Ann Arbor, Michigan.



### **Dr. Steve Thompson**

Dr. Steve Thompson is a graduate of The Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine. In the fall of 1997, he became director of the Small Animal Community Practice at the Purdue University Veterinary Teaching Hospital and heads the Community Practice elective block for 4th year student rotations. Dr. Thompson's daily caseload is comprised of pets ranging from puppies and kittens to ferrets, hedgehogs, frogs, snakes, parrots and bearded dragons. He regularly promotes the veterinary profession to youngsters in school groups and through various media, including local newscasts, newspaper, magazines, and radio talk shows.



His primary interest is in companion animal wellness, including pediatrics, and awareness of behavior development as it relates to establishing and maintaining the human-animal bond. Since 2000, he has been board certified by the American Board of Veterinary Practitioners, certified in canine and feline practice specialty. He was recertified in 2010. Dr. Thompson's hobbies and interests include the outdoors, fishing, camping, hiking and being active in youth activities.

### **Dr. Carrie Ullmer**

Dr. Carrie Ullmer graduated from the Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine in 2007. She worked in small animal private practice for 3 years before entering the field of zoo medicine. She previously served as the contract veterinarian for Potawatomi Zoo, and is currently the staff veterinarian at Mesker Park Zoo and Botanic Garden in Evansville, IN. As a solo zoo vet, Dr. Ullmer enjoys the challenge of treating a variety of species, and her passions include teaching student externs, promoting wellness in the veterinary field, and encouraging green practices in the workplace.



### **Dr. Roberta Wallace**

Dr. Roberta Wallace was born and raised in New York State. Dr. Wallace graduated with a BS in Biology from Indiana University. She returned to New York and received her DVM degree from The New York State College of Veterinary Medicine at Cornell University in 1985. After graduation Dr. Wallace completed a two-year internship at the National Zoo. Upon completion of the internship, Dr. Wallace was hired as the first full-time veterinarian at the Indianapolis Zoo where she was involved with the transport of the



animals from the old zoo to the new zoo, responsible for the quarantine and examination of all animals coming in to the new zoo and established a professional commissary.

After a little over two years at the Indianapolis Zoo, Dr. Wallace was hired by the Milwaukee County Zoo where she worked for 28 years, first as the associate veterinarian then as the senior veterinarian, before retiring earlier this year. During that time, Dr. Wallace established a residency program jointly with the University of Wisconsin-Madison veterinary school and the International Crane Foundation. Her professional activities included serving as medical advisor for the North American Penguin Taxonomic Advisory Group (TAG) and the North American Ring-tailed Lemur and Humboldt Penguin Species Survival Plans (SSP). Her research focused on the natural ecology and biology of Humboldt Penguins in Chile where penguins were studied over the course of approximately 15 years. Until retirement, Dr. Wallace was an adjunct instructor for the UW veterinary school. She currently is a guest lecturer at the Lincoln Memorial University veterinary school.