



## Delta Lake RLRI 2024 Featured Speakers – Rome, NY

Friday Evening

January 26

### Mike McTigue, DVM

Dr Mike is an 84 Cornell graduate and has worked and owned a small animal practice in Gardner Massachusetts for 34 years, and has recently retired, occasionally doing relief work as needed. He is married to Nancy and has 4 daughters, 3 sons in law, 4 grandchildren, and 2 golden retrievers. He is a member of Heritage Bible Chapel, a non-denominational evangelical church, and is certified in biblical counseling.

He has been involved in many CVM ministries, including short term mission trips, student retreats, conferences, seminars, and serves on the Board of Trustees. He enjoys being with people, building relationships, and encouraging people in their Christian walk. He also likes skiing, hiking, and golfing.

Saturday

January 27

### **Devotion**

### Charlie Gardner, DVM, MBA, MACC

Dr. Gardner grew up in southern New Jersey, and worked on his uncle's dairy farm. He attended the College of Agriculture at Cornell from 1967 –1969, then transferred to Veterinary College, and graduated from Veterinary School in 1973. He then joined the Ackermanville Veterinary Hospital, doing mainly dairy cattle practice. He stayed there until 1989, when he started Dairy Management Consultants, a practice specializing in dairy herd management.

Dr. Gardner received an MBA from Moravian College in May of 1999. He joined Agway in 1999, and was director of the Agway TSPF Heifer Program. In March of 2004 he joined Cargill Animal Nutrition, and worked with producers to improve animal and financial performance. He retired from Cargill in December of 2014, and now works part time with the Pennsylvania Center for Dairy Excellence, assisting dairy farms with asset transition, conflict resolution, and overall management. He has recently received a degree in clinical counseling. He is married with four children and five grandchildren.

## Session I

### Rob Cafaro, VMD

Dr. Robert Cafaro is a 2014 graduate from the University of Pennsylvania currently working as an associate veterinarian at a small-animal primary care hospital in Coatesville, PA. He has been working in the veterinary field for over 20 years. His favorite parts of his career include building relationships with each animal and their families, mentoring new graduates, and teaching staff and clients. He currently lives in Romansville, PA with his wife and daughter as well as a goofy Newfoundland and spunky terrier mix. In his free time, he enjoys painting and hiking. Email: rcafarovmd@gmail.com

### Maria Syska Garrett, VMD

Dr. Maria Syska Garrett obtained her BS in Biology from Washington and Lee University in Virginia and her VMD from the University of Pennsylvania. She completed a small animal medicine and surgery internship then spent several years as an associate before having the privilege of being a clinic owner. In 2018 Maria found her way back to her roots in southeastern, PA, joined Merck Animal Health as a pharmacovigilance veterinarian and now serves in the capacity of associate director. She is also (slowly but surely!) working her way through a masters in public health. Considering veterinary medicine as her calling from God, Maria is an active member of Christian Veterinary Mission. She has participated in two service trips to Nicaragua and a service trip to southeastern, KY, offers support to the student group at UPenn and co-leads a local fellowship group. Bringing love and joy to her home are her 6 year old daughter, Peyton and her (thankfully!) very tolerant Ragdoll cat, Duckie. Maria enjoys any opportunity to get outside and can often be found in her vegetable garden, horseback riding or travelling, all with her daughter in tow!

## Session II

### Tara Zentner, DVM

Dr. Tara Zentner is a child of God, a wife and mixed animal veterinarian at Quakertown Vet Clinic. Born and raised, and practicing in PA. Graduated from Mississippi State University in 2020. Passionate about mission work and sharing the love of Jesus through veterinary medicine. Been blessed with the opportunity to serve on multiple CVM short term mission trips. God called her to Nicaragua, St. Croix (keeps calling), St. Thomas, St. John, Alaska, India and Navajo Nation in Arizona (keeps calling). Dr. Z loves being with her husband, family, dogs, cats and chickens. Enjoys her weekly Bible study group, dirt biking, jet skiing, hiking, rock climbing, camping and line dancing. Fun fact- Tara just got motorcycle license this past summer.

## Session III

### Jerry Kolb, DVM

Dr. Jerry Kolb is a 1984 graduate of Cornell's veterinary college. He is currently working very part-time at the 2 hospital practice where he started as an associate veterinarian following graduation. He became a partner 4 years later and sold the practice 7 years ago.

Dr. Kolb is married to a vet school classmate for 38 years. They have 3 daughter, 1 son-in-law, and 2 grandchildren. Raised Catholic, he's been a Christian for over 45 years.

At Pompey Community Church he serves as an Elder, and Oversight Council member, chairman of the missions committee, and a member of the worship team. Before veterinary school, he spent 2 years in Ecuador as a Peace Corps volunteer and have been on 5 mission trips to Latin America, 4 of them with CVM.

#### Helen Noble, DVM

Dr. Helen Noble is a 1981 graduate of University of Pennsylvania Veterinary School. She owns SRH Veterinary Services, located in Ipswich, Massachusetts, a family owned mixed animal practice. Her primary focus herself is horses but she treats all animals large and small. Dr. Noble seeks to live out her faith through her daily interactions with clients and staff in her practice, as well as being involved as a leader on short-term mission trips to India and the Philippines. Dr. Noble served on the Board of Directors for CVM and enjoys representing CVM at some veterinary conferences. She has a passion to network with veterinary professionals around the world. Dr. Noble been married for 47 years to her husband Leif, is a mother of two married sons, Joshua and Caleb, and a grandmother to four granddaughters: Mackenzie, Lyla, Audrey and Juliet.

### **Session IV**

#### Paul Yurksaitis

Paul Yurksaitis and his wife Sydney live on their small homestead south of Charlotte, NC with their 5 children, 3 dogs, 6 cats, chickens, turkeys, rabbits and sheep. Since graduating with a Biblical Studies degree in 2001 from Liberty University, Paul has been in ministry in different churches and organizations from New Hampshire to North Carolina. Paul's desire is to continue to be transformed into the image of Christ staying faithful to His Word, and help as many people as possible do the same. Paul also enjoys gardening, fruit trees, hunting and performing on stage at Narroway Productions in Fort Mill, SC.

#### Karen Stouffer, DVM

Dr. Karen & family served as CVM fieldworkers for 13 years in Nepal, through community development, veterinary medicine (participatory training of animal health workers), gender equity, and drinking water projects. Upon returning, Karen served as Director of Training and Asia regional director. Retiring in 2022, they moved to Pennsylvania. Karen serves on the Board of Directors for ECHO, a Christian agricultural mission based in Florida, serving small-scale farmers around the world to eliminate hunger. They raised two daughters overseas and served as foster parents to three refugee girls. Karen has a Cornell DVM and a Master's in Christian Leadership.

### **Session V**

#### Ginger Pelc, DVM

Dr. Ginger Pelc is a 2017 graduate from NC State University, who braved the cold and moved north for a mixed animal job outside of Erie, PA. She has been involved in CVM participating in and now helping to lead trips to the Native American people of Navajo, Cherokee, and Alaska. When not working with every kind of species that walks through the clinic door, Ginger and her husband spend time keeping up with the border collies, cats, and cows on the farm. Email: drpelc17@gmail.com

## Evening Challenge

### Mike Atchison, PhD

Dr. Michael Atchison is a Professor of Biochemistry and Director of the VMD-PhD Program at the University of Pennsylvania, School of Veterinary Medicine, where he has served since 1988. His laboratory studies epigenetic and transcriptional mechanisms of lineage development. He is the faculty representative for the CVF group at UPenn, and is Executive Director of a non-profit organization, Helping India Together, that works to empower impoverished people in India to transform their lives, families, and communities. He and his wife, Lakshmi, have 2 grown sons. For entertainment Dr. Atchison plays guitar in a local blues/rock band, though he has not picked up his ax for 18 months.

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Sunday

January 28

## Devotion

### Joseph Bove

Joseph is the typical full-time veterinary software company worked/part-time pastor/CVM affiliate. Having worked in veterinary software for over 28 years, Joseph spends a great deal of time on the road consulting with veterinary hospitals and laboratories throughout the US, Canada and a number of different countries. As a pastor for over 16 years, Joseph has had the sincere privilege of preaching over 800 chapters of the Bible. Joseph has done missions trips and/or shared at CVM events for over a decade.

Joseph's time at this conference is dedicated to anyone with a need to talk, pray, look at scripture, bake brownies, etc. Joseph will be sharing from John 1 during the Sunday morning meeting.

