



RLRI Fall Atlantic 2025 Speakers – Canoe Cove, PEI

Friday

October 24

Lisa Balzer, CVM Canada Executive Director

Lisa came to CVM Canada three-and-a-half years ago, from long-term missions. She and her husband and their two children lived and served in Southeast Asia for 15 years, leading development work in community radio and refugee engagement. Her professional background is in broadcasting and international development, and she recently completed a master's degree in refugee studies. Lisa's family also has deep and life-changing ties to vet medicine, which brought her to CVM. She is passionate to see students and professionals supported and encouraged in school and in the workplace, and to grow the outreach of CVM Canada in the years to come. Lisa lives in rural Saskatchewan with her husband, Steve, and their dog, Delilah. And she is a delighted granny to her son's children.

Email: Lbalzer@cvm.org

Jacqueline Wiedemer

Jackie is a mental health counsellor working with the Military Family Resource Centre on PEI where she provides counselling and support to families of those serving in the Canadian Armed Forces, RCMP as well as Veterans. Jackie grew up in Germany and relocated to PEI in 2015. She obtained her bachelor's degree with Honors in Psychology at the University of Prince Edward Island. In April 2025, Jackie earned a Master of Arts degree in Counselling from Providence Theological Seminary. Her passion lies in the integration of psychology and Christianity and helping individuals discern how they can use the best of both worlds to achieve healing and growth. From leading vacation bible school, organizing youth retreats and young adult groups to singing in cathedrals across the world, Jackie has gained much insight into working with people from different faith backgrounds and the reality of ministry life in service of others. Jackie's current areas of interest are counselling from a Christian worldview, defending the title of favorite aunty and figuring out why her cat, Frodo, is constantly hungry!

Dr. W. Ben Stoughton, DVM, PhD, ACVIM Dipl.

Ben is from Merritt Island, Florida and is a large animal veterinarian and professor at the Atlantic Veterinary College (AVC) on Prince Edward Island. He is currently an AVC CVF advisor and has been involved with CVM (USA) since 2004. He joined the CVM Canada Board in 2022, and presently serves as Chair. Prior to God calling his family to PEI in December 2017, he was a Lecturer at Texas A&M University (TAMU). He completed his undergraduate and DVM degrees at the University of Florida, and an internship at the Equine Medical Center of Ocala. After this, he completed a Large Animal Internal Medicine (LAIM) residency at TAMU and became Board Certified in LAIM in 2013. He then completed a Ph.D. studying Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy. His family includes his beautiful wife, 4 children, 7 horses, 3 cats, 4 chickens, and 2 dogs. He lives Coram Deo and loves teaching, photography, and vegetable gardening.

Dr. Christiane Orsini, DVM

Dr. Orsini graduated from the Ontario Veterinary College in 2014 with a primary focus on companion animal medicine. She has experience in both general practice and emergency medicine, specializing in canine and feline medical care. Early in her career, Dr. Christiane dedicated herself to integrative veterinary medicine. She believes in the body's inherent ability to heal itself and she is passionate about treatment modalities that support the body during this healing process. She thrives on a holistic-based medical approach for all her treatment plans for her patients. Certified in veterinary acupuncture and animal aromatherapy, Christiane has formal training in Chinese herbal medicine and integrative canine rehabilitation. She also incorporates Western herbal medicine, veterinary massage therapy, energy medicine, homeopathy and food therapy in her treatment plans.

Christiane is passionate about veterinary speaking and research and has conducted many seminars and webinars. She thoroughly enjoys educating the veterinary community on integrating alternative medical modalities into conventional approaches. In her spare time, Christiane enjoys spending time with her husband and kids, reading, cycling, doing yoga and meditation and writing poetry.

Dr. Sharon Cregier, PhD, FIASH (Hon., Edin.)

Sixty years of serving the animal community has led Sharon to work with legislators, attorneys, and government agencies around the world, from the Farm Animal Welfare Council of Great Britain, the RSPCA, to the CBC and Equus journal in Maryland. Her doctoral dissertation on the transport of horses awakened international interest. It led, with Dr R. Husted (TLAER.org), to the publication of Noncommercial Horse Transport: The Need for Standards and to co-editing the third edition of Fraser's Horse Behaviour and Welfare (CABI). Her work has resulted in the banning of the cosmetic tail docking of horses after a 30-year campaign and a worldwide interest in the transport of all animals. Sharon is 3-times commended by the International Animal Transportation Association, and has been made a Fellow of the Institute for Advanced Studies in the Humanities at the University of Edinburgh.

Dr. Heather Heisey, DVM

Dr. Heisey graduated from Colorado State University in 1993. She then worked both full and part time in small animal practice. She served short-term in Mongolia in 2006, where she felt the call to return. This led to serving long-term with VET Net in Mongolia from 2008-2013. She has returned to Mongolia three times since to serve short-term. During her visit last November, she was asked to consider returning to join the team there serving long-term again! Heather is now officially a CVM Candidate for long-term service in Mongolia and is in the process of building a team of supporters to go. She is currently working in a small animal practice in State College, PA. She lives with her pug mix, chihuahua mix, and keeps a small flock of backyard hens. She also enjoys fishing, gardening, and baking. Email: hheisey93@gmail.com

Dr. Robert Darren Wood, DVM

Darren has been an associate professor of veterinary clinical pathology at the Ontario Veterinary College since 2002 and is a 1994 Atlantic Veterinary College graduate. He has served as a faculty mentor for the OVC Christian Fellowship student club for the last several years. He grew up attending a Baptist church in Prince Edward Island but only truly became a Christian in 2015. In his spare time, he is an engaged member of Parkwood Gardens Community Church in Guelph and Downtown Guelph Celebrate Recovery and remains active with his family which includes his wife Chantelle, 3 young adult sons, and 2 permanent-foster cats.

