



## RLRI Canada 2027 Featured Speakers – Cambridge, ON

Friday

February 12

### Evening Challenge

Dr. Kevin Winder, DVM

Kevin spent many years trying to figure out what he wanted to do with his life. Bible college, engineering, arts, and the many voices in his head led him through an education at the U of S, an Animal Health Tech diploma at Fairview College in northern Alberta, and then his DVM at WCVN in Saskatoon in 1998. He asked, and the girl he met in Fairview agreed to marry him. By the end of their time in Saskatoon, they had a family of three, and Kevin joined a mixed-animal practice in Drayton Valley, AB. Kevin and Ingrid remain in Drayton Valley where they can get to the grandkids quickly.

Saturday

February 13

### Morning Devotion

Lisa Balzer, CVM Canada Executive Director

Lisa came to CVM in 2022, 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 holds 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, in the workplace, and in missions. Lisa lives in rural Saskatchewan with her husband, Steve, and their dog, Delilah. And she is a delighted granny to her son's children.

### Sessions

Dr. Robert Darren Wood, DVM, DVSc, Diplomate ACVP

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. Darren is the current Board Chair for CVM Canada.

#### Dr. Debbie Hoffele, DVM

Debbie graduated from Ontario Veterinary College and has worked full time, part time and as a locum in small animal practice in Ontario and Nova Scotia. Debbie and her husband, Stephen, who is a professor at Brock University, currently live in Fonthill, Ontario. She has been involved with CVM in various capacities and is also a member of the missions committee at her local church. She has travelled to several countries for short-term missions, but India has been the country that she has made the greatest connection with.

#### Katrina Terpstra, RVT

Katrina is a second-generation RVT who has been in the veterinary industry for 5 years, 3 of those as a technician. She lives on a small hobby farm in Perth County, Ontario, with her mom and younger brother. Katrina presently works in small animal practice, but has a love for equine and exotics as well. Even before college, she dreamed of doing some form of mission work, and upon learning about CVM, she was so excited to combine her profession and her faith. Katrina had the privilege to travel to Honduras with CVM in August of 2025, and she is currently working at planning another trip in the coming year, wherever God leads! She is looking forward to attending RLRI for the first time this year, and meeting others in the profession with the same passion for God and missions.

#### Dr. Kara Song, DVM

Kara is an Ohio State grad, class of 2018, with roots in New England. It was during school that she found a heart for missions and a passion for CVM. After graduating, she moved to Northeast Ohio where she worked in a busy companion animal general practice for four years. Despite thinking she would stay at her clinic for some time yet, Kara felt God calling her to join CVM where she serves the Northeast region as representative. Living in Northeast Ohio with her husband Paul and their two wonderful kids, she enjoys being able to take her family along to encourage and challenge veterinary students and professionals to integrate their faith and profession across the northeast.

#### Pastor Bliss Steele

Bliss lives in Lancaster SC with his wife, Jessica, and seven dogs. He has worked with teenagers and adults for over three decades in both the church and corporate world. Bliss is currently the Sr. Corporate Chaplain for Nutramax Laboratories in Lancaster, SC serving their 900 employees. Bliss uses his unique experiences from growing up on the mission field traveling the world, to serving in the local church and corporate world, along with his years as a dog trainer to combine biblical truths and practical application showing what it means to be in an obedient and dynamic relationship with Jesus Christ.

#### Dr. Christiane Orsini, DVM

Christiane is an integrative veterinarian passionate about mentorship, education, and supporting the next generation of veterinary professionals. Since 2023, she has served as a Student Advocate for Christian Veterinary Mission at the Ontario Veterinary College. She enjoys mentoring pre-veterinary and veterinary students and new graduates in general practice and integrative medicine. Her integrative interests include acupuncture, herbal medicine, massage therapy, osteopathy, therapeutic essential oils, sound therapy, and homeopathy. Dr. Orsini enjoys encouraging future veterinarians to explore diverse approaches to patient care while developing their own unique and fulfilling path within veterinary medicine.

## Evening Challenge

Shane Rootes, CVM CEO

Shane Rootes is a global executive leader and provocative voice on purpose and leadership. As CEO of Christian Veterinary Mission, he challenges comfortable assumptions and calls people into the costly space between awareness and responsibility. His conviction is simple: leadership is not measured by what we see or intend, but by what changes because we were there.

Sunday

February 14

## Morning Challenge

Pastor Joseph J. Bove

Joseph is your typical full-time veterinary software specialist, bi-vocational pastor and occasional short term mission participant. In other words, God has gifted me with a very unusual life path. I've had the opportunity to travel to over 50 countries on 6 continents, been blessed to preach over 860 chapters of the Bible (having completed 45 books in their entirety), and I love praying with people and moving from casual dialogue to matters of spirituality and faith. Yet, I am cloaked in sufficient obscurity such that any penetrating chance encounter is never about me (as I am no one), but about God reaching out through me.

