



Mideast RLRI 2023 Featured Speakers – Knoxville, TN

Friday Evening

February 3

Diane Hendrix, DVM

Dr. Hendrix attended veterinary school at the University of Tennessee, after which she completed a small animal internship at North Carolina State University. She then spent 2 years in small animal private practice. She completed her ophthalmology residency at the University of Florida. She became a Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Ophthalmologists in 1995 and joined the University of Tennessee faculty that same year. She is a professor of comparative ophthalmology and is serving as interim chair of the Department of Small Animal Clinical Sciences. Dr. Hendrix has two daughters who are in medical school and veterinary school. Her interests outside the university include church, her small group, hiking, gardening, baking, and traveling.

Saturday

February 4

Devotion

Elizabeth Mendoza, DVM

Dr. Elizabeth Mendoza is a 2005 graduate of the University of Tennessee College of Vet Med. After graduation she ran off to sunny southern CA, met Jesus there, and enjoyed small animal emergency and general practice in Upland for 9 years. She met her husband Jaime in CA. Shortly after they got married and moved back to TN to raise kids and cows in 2014. They have 4 kids – Elena (8), Jeremiah (6), Ruben (4), and Isaac (2). Elizabeth joined CVM's staff full time in 2018 as the North Central Region Rep. Her favorite surgery is a good old fashioned laceration repair and her life verse is Jeremiah 29:11. Email: emendoza@cvm.org

Session I

Marc Caldwell, DVM

Dr. Marc Caldwell is an associate professor in the Department of Large Animal Clinical Sciences where he serves as a researcher and food animal field service clinician. He earned his DVM from Auburn University in 2006. Following 2 years in mixed-animal practice he returned to Auburn to complete a PhD in infectious diseases of livestock and specialization in Internal Medicine. He joined the faculty of UTCVM in 2012. His research focus is in the area of livestock infectious diseases, particularly of the respiratory tract in cattle. In his role as a field service clinician he provides hands-

on training in production medicine and livestock clinical care for senior veterinary students, while also directly providing service to producers and veterinarians throughout the state of Tennessee.

Bliss Steele

Bliss Steele lives in Lancaster SC with his wife Jessica and their 18 year old son and 5 dogs. Bliss has worked with teenagers and adults for more than 2 decades in both the church and corporate world. Bliss is currently the Corporate Chaplain for Nutramax Laboratories in Lancaster SC, serving their nearly 600 employees. During the past 7 years he has had the awesome opportunity to travel and speak to audiences teaching obedience through the unique use of Retrievers. Using these dogs as an illustration, Bliss combines biblical truths and practical application to show the power of obedience in the life of the believer. It is his desire that you will learn what it means to be in an obedient and submissive relationship with Jesus Christ.

Ryan Jeffers

Ryan serves as the Short-Term Missions Coordinator at CVM. He is responsible for facilitating new opportunities, maintaining current host relationships, and educating volunteers about domestic and international short-term missions. He attended Liberty University where he obtained his M.Div. and Ed.S. degrees. Before joining CVM, Ryan lived and served in East Asia for five years. While there, he helped start and lead an international school for expat children. He also has experience serving as Head of School for a non-profit school and ministry center as well as leading more than 15 international mission trips. Ryan and his wife, Alyssa, along with their three young children (Lydia, Abel, and Juliana), live in Louisville, KY. Email: rjeffers@cvm.org

Session II

Jessica Bianco, DVM

Dr. Jessica Bianco is a 2015 graduate of the University of Tennessee. She lives in Chattanooga, TN and works as a small animal general practitioner, medical director, and ER relief vet. During veterinary school, she organized and participated in yearly CVM trips to Nicaragua. Jessica helps lead the local veterinary medical association for Chattanooga and enjoys building relationships and fostering comradery among her local colleagues. Outside of veterinary medicine, she and her husband Kyle are raising a two-year-old daughter, two dogs, and a cat. Family, friends, reading, swimming, hiking, music, and the great outdoors bring her the most joy.

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. During that time she and Sadie, her Australian Shepherd mix, added to their family. First with a Golden Retriever named Caspian and then with her wonderful husband, Paul. 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. Email: ksong@cvm.org

DJ Krahinkel, DVM

Dr. Krahinkel is a Emeritus Professor of Surgery at the College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Tennessee. His previous experiences include private practice in Danville IL, Captain USAF School of

Aerospace Medicine, faculty at Michigan State University and staff surgeon at private referral hospitals in Tennessee. He is currently retired from active practice and still living in Knoxville with his wife, Lyda. He enjoys life on the farm raising cattle, gardening and time with the grandkids. He has been involved with and supported the Christian Veterinary Mission since its inception.

Session III

Mitch Moses, DVM

Dr. Moses is the Associate Dean of Clinical Relations & Outreach at the Lincoln Memorial University College of Veterinary Medicine in Harrogate, TN. Before that, he was the COO for the American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA), Director of Veterinary Services for Zoetis, and founded Oaks Village Animal Clinic and Mitchell S. Moses DVM PC, a relief services company. Dr. Moses' professional education includes an MBA in Organization Development from the University of Dallas. From Texas A&M University, he received a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine as well as a BS in Veterinary Science and a BS in Range Science. Most currently, he completed certification by the Society of Human Resource Management as a Senior Certified Professional. Outside of work, Dr. Moses freely serves the community. He was a founder and Chairman of the Trustee Board of Grace Classical, a faith-based private school, and helped plant two churches. Additionally, he is highly engaged in raising his two daughters, being the best husband possible, enjoying his two dogs, and riding his motorcycle.

Jessie Herman, DVM

Dr. Jessie Herman grew up in many places as a child of a Marine. She started her veterinary career at 14 years of age working at various farms and animal hospitals. She went to undergrad at Wingate University where she was an All-American swimmer. After graduating from Auburn University College of Veterinary medicine in 2010, she worked as a general practitioner in multiple locations in the southeast US. Her professional interests include soft tissue surgery, geriatric medicine, and pain management. She currently resides in northern Kentucky with her husband (also a vet and an overall amazing human being), children, cats, dogs, chickens, and cattle.

Alex Hagan, DVM

Dr. Alex Hagan has been a mixed animal practitioner for 11 years with a primary focus in food animal medicine. For the year of 2021, Alex was the Deputy State Veterinarian for the Kentucky Department of Agriculture. He returned to practice in February of 2022 at Shelby Veterinary Clinic in Shelbyville, KY. A 2003 graduate of Oldham County High School, Dr. Hagan studied animal science and biology at Morehead State University where he also ran Cross Country and Track for the Eagles. He received his doctorate of veterinary medicine from Auburn University in 2011. Dr. Hagan claims to be the smartest food animal veterinarian in his house, but gives the titles of smartest overall veterinarian and best looking to his wife Jessie (AUCVM Class of 2010). He enjoys "Daddy Adventure Weekends" with his two daughters, running with his dog Boz and farming beef cattle with his brother-in-law.

Justin Woolsey, DVM

Following graduation from Auburn University 2007, Justin moved back to East Tennessee to join his father in a predominantly small animal practice. In 2013, he began to feel called to long term missions, and in May of 2016 he and his family moved to Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia to join the work that CVM was doing with its partner organization V.E.T. Net. While there, he worked at a small animal

practice where he advised and assisted local veterinarians in providing care for their patients. In the fall of 2022, he and his family returned to the USA. Since then, he has been working with CVM where he works with the Training and Spiritual Growth department as well as continuing to support the work the CVM is doing in Asia. In his free time, he enjoys playing sports and most any outdoor activity.

Session IV

Meggan Graves, DVM

Dr. Graves is a 2001 graduate of the University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine. She has spent time in private practice as both an associate and practice owner and joined the faculty at UTCVM in 2013 bringing her business model of providing emergency services for large animals and relief to area practitioners. Her time in academia has allowed her to engage veterinary students through CVF and model work-life integration. Outside of work, Meggan can be found with her husband, four sons (that she homeschools), dogs, chickens, goats, and “long ears”- which include three mules and two miniature donkeys. Meggan enjoys running and hopes to train one of her mules to compete in Ride & Tie races.

Michael Shirley

Michael Shirley is Chief Empowerment Officer of Family Pet Health in Murfreesboro, TN. He believes that the key to success is to hire great people, equip them with the tools they need, and then get out of their way. Before opening Family Pet Health with his wife, Dr. Amy Shirley, Michael enjoyed a 16-year career in education as a 4-H agent then as a high school agriculture teacher and FFA advisor. Michael and Amy have three children and are active in their local church where they have served in roles from small group leaders to parking lot attendees.

Nancy Moore, DVM

Dr. Moore is a Nebraska native. Scholastic blessings led her to the University of Florida for vet school, graduating in 1995. Small animal private practice and a love for the Lord propelled her into short-term missionary work with CVM’s Native American Reservations and Urban Outreach. In obedience to the Lord, she completed a Master Degree in Ministerial Leadership at Southeastern University in 2020. She is married to Carnell, and they have five precious children: Ebriana, Jordan, Logan, Damian and Reagan. They’re also home to a small handful of rescued cats! While Dr. Moore continues with CVM as a short-term missionary, she also serves with CVM as the US West Region Representative. She connects and ministers to veterinarians, professors, vet students, technicians, donors and prayer partners encouraging them to fix their eyes on Jesus the author and finisher of our faith. In addition, she helps leverage them in their positions to love the Lord and others through veterinary medicine across her region of nine states. She is blessed to witness how the Lord multiplies His power through His people for His Kingdom. You may also see her husband Carnell serving and speaking at CVM events. Email: nmoore@cvm.org

Session V

Larry and Veronica Bardroff, DVMs

Larry and Veronica Bardroff are graduates of the UTCVM class of 2016. They met their 1st year of vet school, got engaged their 2nd, and married their 3rd year. They currently work in Wartrace, Tennessee at a mixed animal practice. They have 4 kids (3 girls and 1 boy), ages 5, 4, 3, and 1 and are homeschooling. They are involved in their local church and live on a 25 acre hobby farm where they raise/show Nubians. Animals additionally raised on the farm include cats, dogs, sheep, chickens, and mini horses.

Billy Richardson, DVM

Dr. Billy Richardson was born and raised in Elizabethtown, KY. His father was a horse trainer, which meant Billy grew up on the horse track, attending races and getting a front row seat into equine medicine and care. Dr. Richardson is a 2005 graduate from Auburn University, and he practiced in Florida, North Carolina, California, back to North Carolina where he opened Trinity Animal Hospital in the Spring of 2016. As an image bearer of God, Billy has a huge heart for our profession, helping others, and building meaningful relationships that will have lasting impact for God's Kingdom.

Thach Winslow, DVM

Dr. Thach Winslow was born and raised in New England with a love of the Rocky Mountains and rural life. Upon graduating, he opened and operated a large animal practice (beef cattle and horses) for 17 years before moving to VA Dep. of Agriculture as Regional Veterinarian for 5 years and another 6 as assistant state veterinarian with the Wyoming Livestock Board. For the past three years he has worked as a Beef Cattle Technical Consultant with Elanco Animal Health. He loves riding horses, and skiing.

Evening Challenge

Lauren Charles, DVM

Lauren is an Auburn grad, class of 2005. After private practice for three years and a year at Banfield, she lived and served with CVM in Bolivia for three years. There she quickly went from being single to having a family of four, including her handsome husband, Jon, beautiful Bolivian daughter, Angie, and their Bolivian Labrador, Ruby. Her growing family brought her back to the U.S., where she's currently based out of Louisville, KY. She's added two sons and a daughter to their family, and she's serving as CVM's Workplace and Student Ministries Director and also oversees the Mideast region of the US.



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