



RLRI Northwest 2026 Program Summary – WSU

Friday Evening

January 16

Welcome & Registration 6:00pm
WSU CVF & Curtiss Gibbs- CVM Hosts

Dinner 6:30pm

Worship/Prayer 7:30pm

Evening Message

“Holding on to Nothing – Until It Becomes Something” - Shane Rootes, CVM CEO

Saturday

January 17

Gather and Prayer 8:30am

Session One 9:00am

“Got Thanks” – Pastor Chris Chan

Got Thanks? How about being grateful every day? Pastor Chris starts off our day with a message on the power of gratitude in our everyday lives.

“Get Up and Go! - 10 Steps to Going on a Mission Trip” – Dr. Liz Neveau

Short-term missions are one of the most impactful opportunities to take a step of faith and use your vet skills to serve. Liz shares some of her stories and experiences from serving in missions. Whether you've never served in STM before, or you've been several times, join in on this talk about mission trips.

Session Two 10:00am

“Bored with the Miraculous? Living in Gratefulness for the Resurrection of Jesus” – Dr. Steve Smith

Explore the impact of Christ's resurrection on every aspect of our lives. As we seek to live grateful lives, may we always remember the one gift for which we should be most grateful - Christ's completed work of salvation.

“Unleashing Understanding, Cultural Competence in Vet Med ” - Dr. Daniel Graham *1hr CE
Dr. Graham will share this session, with 1 hour CE approval, on introducing key concepts for understanding veterinary service delivery in different cultural contexts. This is applicable within US clinics serving clients of varying cultural backgrounds as well as for veterinarians working outside of their country of origin. By exploring cultural nuances in veterinary medicine, we hope to unleash understanding between practitioners and the communities they serve, empowering them to provide appropriate and culturally sensitive care for positive outcomes on animal health.

Session Three 11:00am

“The Working Vet Mom” – Dr. Jordan Murray

In a profession where 63% of veterinarians are now women, the challenge to balance work and family life is a real dilemma, especially when our job often requires long hours and crazy schedules. During this talk, I'll share my experience of transitioning from full time vet to working mom, as well as present some unique work-from-home opportunities that exist for veterinarians in the post-COVID world.

“Why Me? Isn’t the Great Commission for Everybody Else?” - Dr. Fred Van Gorkom

Fred graduated from WSU and was on the mission field that same year. Join Fred as he talks about the Great Commission and unpacks questions like... Am I called to cross-cultural missions? What do opportunities look like? How do I train and adjust to life outside of my comfort zone? What about the spiritual battle or other challenges I may face? Is it worth it?

Lunch & CVF Updates 12:00pm

Session Four 1:00pm

“Stories to Encourage You Along the Journey” - Dr. Steve Hiett

The veterinary profession provides great fodder if you like to tell interesting stories. In this talk Steve will present some fun and interesting veterinary cases as well as stories of God at work. The goal is that when we are finished, you will be excited about the path ahead and be able to use your stories as encouragement to others.

“Gratitude in Practice” – Dr. Blair de Vries

A play on words, Gratitude in Practice will explore gratitude in relation to the personal and professional aspects of our lives from a Biblical perspective. This session will include an interactive component with the goal of identifying ways to incorporate gratitude in our everyday lives and the benefits of this seemingly simple act.

Session Five 2:00pm

“Impossibly Young, Urgently Expiring, and Unbelievably Small” - Dr. Allison Hale

Allison is a 2020 graduate of WSU (Go Cougs!) and she's back at RLRI to share from the heart some of what God has done in her life. Hear her share a different sort of mantra from her leaning on the Lord and learning lessons in her first years of vet med.

“Biosecurity in the Mission Field”–Dr. Jill Desau *1hr CE

Dr. Desau will present this session, which is approved for 1 hour of CE. You will cover biosecurity principles and discuss what biosecurity looks like when conditions are optimal. We will also discuss challenges and how to prepare when conditions are not optimal. Participants will be given a chance to practice modifying a biosecurity plan depending on their circumstances.

SIM Lab @ WSU Vet School 3:00pm

Dinner 6:00pm

CVM's 50th Mini Celebration—Trivia Challenge

New Grad Panel 7:30pm

Join a group of recent graduates in the northwest to ask questions and hear from them about what has surprised them since starting out in the real world.

Worship and Prayer 8:00pm

Evening Message

“Loving the Scars” - Dr. Annabelle Zastrow

Sunday **January 18**

Worship with our Host Church

