

District 5 Speaker Biography's

Genevieve Andrews-Kelly, BS, LATG, is the Manager of Global Animal Behavior at Labcorp, where she leads strategic and operational initiatives supporting animal welfare and behavioral management across global programs. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Rutgers University and has over 30 years of experience working with nonhuman primates, with expertise in behavior management and compassion fatigue management. Throughout her career, Genevieve has focused on advancing environmental enrichment initiatives and positive reinforcement training programs that support both animal well-being and research excellence.

Stephanie Blevins serves as Director of Operations for the Laboratory Animal Resource Center, where she leads animal care, cage wash, and research support teams within an academic research environment. With over two decades in laboratory animal science, her career has spanned hands-on research surgery, oncology and immunology research support, vivarium supervision, and multi-site operations leadership overseeing more than 130 team members.

Certified as an ALAT and LAT, Stephanie brings deep regulatory expertise in USDA and AAALAC standards, paired with a strong commitment to fostering a healthy workplace culture. She is particularly passionate about employee retention, succession planning, and creating environments where both animals and the people who care for them thrive.

Stephanie believes operational excellence and compassion are not competing priorities — they are interdependent. She is honored to contribute to the advancement of the laboratory animal profession and to the collaborative spirit of the AALAS community.

Dr. Lauren E. Brierley, DVM, MS, is Director of the Comparative Medicine Unit and Attending Veterinarian at Northeast Ohio Medical University, where she oversees the institutional animal care and use program and serves as the person responsible for state and federal controlled substance licenses. Dr. Brierley previously served as Attending Veterinarian at Frontage Laboratories, Inc., a GLP-compliant contract research organization, where she managed controlled substance programs across multi-species preclinical research operations and supported regulatory inspections. She earned her DVM from North Carolina State University and holds an MS in Biological Sciences from Purdue University.

Carl Budelsky was born and raised in Southern Illinois. I went to vet school at the University of Illinois - Urbana and graduated in 1996. I didn't feel like making any money so I then went on to complete an internship in equine surgery at a specialty practice in Snohomish Washington. After coming to my senses, I moved back to Illinois to pursue an interest in veterinary ophthalmology. I worked for the next two years as an intern with Animal Eye Consultants in Chicago. I spent a year at the University of Wisconsin doing a fellowship in veterinary ocular pathology. Finally, I went back to the University of Illinois for an ophthalmology residency. I have worked in Indianapolis for the past 23 years at a multi-specialty practice as a boarded ophthalmologist. Ten years ago I married my

amazing wife (who is a boarded lab animal specialist) and developed an interest in lab animal ophthalmology. I continue to further my knowledge in this field as much as I can.

Heather L. Claybaugh (MS, BS, PMP, LSSBB, LATG) is an Operations Improvement Lead at Charles River Laboratories and the current President of OH AALAS. She leads cross-functional initiatives to strengthen operational efficiency, process improvement, and optimization. With credentials spanning project management, Lean Six Sigma, and laboratory animal science, Heather brings a unique blend of analytical expertise and practical leadership to advancing operational excellence. Based in Ashland, Ohio, she is known for her collaborative leadership and helping teams implement sustainable solutions that elevate both efficiency and outcomes.

Amanda Darbyshire is the Assistant Director of Clinical Medicine in the Laboratory Animal Program and an Assistant Professor in the Comparative Pathobiology department at Purdue University. Dr. Darbyshire achieved her DVM at The Ohio State University, followed by a post-doctoral residency in laboratory animal medicine at Vanderbilt University. She is boarded through the American College of Laboratory Animal Medicine and participates in multiple committees for laboratory animal organizations. She is an Ad-Hoc Consultant for AAALAC International and the IACUC Chair at Peaceable Primates Sanctuary where she also assists with providing veterinary care to the retirees.

Bob Davis has more than 30 years of experience selling industrial, research, laboratory animal and pharmaceutical equipment, including washers, autoclaves and dry heat sterilizers. Bob and his company have been pioneering the use of dry heat sterilizers in laboratory animal facilities since 2005. Since then, they have been involved in more than (100) installations and validations around the world. Bob brings a wide range of application experience applying dry heat sterilization in lab animal facilities.

Michael Fallon is a Learning and Development Specialist at Charles River Laboratories, where he leads the design and implementation of technical training and career progression initiatives across Safety Assessment. With more than a decade of experience spanning necropsy, scheduling and training, he specializes in developing modern learning solutions. His current work focuses on 3D modeling, virtual reality training, gamification, and innovative instructional design to enhance scientific skill development.

Karen Froberg-Fejko, LATg, VMD began her career in the laboratory animal field in 1985 working at Squibb (now Bristol Myers Squibb). She left Bristol Myers Squibb to attend veterinary school at the University of Pennsylvania in 1996 where she graduated Summa Cum Laude. In 2004, she had the opportunity to return to the research community by serving as President (and Veterinarian) of Bio-Serv. She works with a great team of individuals who provide the research community with wide variety of superior products that benefit the health and well-being of laboratory animals.

Anthony Edward Gray has been a dedicated animal care professional since 1983, building a rewarding career across several respected universities and research institutions. My journey began at Morehouse School of Medicine and has included roles with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the National Institutes of Health, Dartmouth College, and the Washington National Primate Research Center. I currently serve at Purdue University as the Director Centrally Managed Animal Facility—Boiler Up! Originally from Washington, D.C., I am a proud family person. I have been married to my wife, Belinda, for 29 years, and together we have four children: Alexander, Arrington, Avery, and Abrielle.

Melanie L. Graham, MPH, PhD, is the Chair of the Robert and Katherine Goodale in Minimally Invasive Surgery at the University of Minnesota Medical School and Director of the Preclinical Research Center. She is also Professor of Surgery and Professor of Veterinary Population Medicine. Dr. Graham's research integrates systems biology, immunology, and metabolic physiology to advance regenerative medicine, transplantation, and emerging therapies including cell and gene therapies. Her work has demonstrated that biological context—including stress physiology and behavioral care—directly influences immune and metabolic outcomes and the translational success of new therapies. She also serves in national and international leadership roles advancing rigor, reproducibility, and ethical practices in biomedical research.

April George, DVM, is a 2008 graduate of the Michigan State University College of Veterinary Medicine. She began her career in small-animal general practice before joining Charles River Laboratories (via the MPI Research acquisition) in 2013 as a clinical veterinarian. April served in this role for six years, providing care, expertise, and leadership in support of preclinical research programs. Driven by a long-standing passion for learning, coaching, and organizational development, April transitioned to the Mattawan site's training department in 2019. In 2021, she had the opportunity to join the Global Operations Learning & Development team, where she now works as a manager focused on building meaningful learning experiences and helping teams strengthen their skills, confidence, and performance. Outside of work, April enjoys spending time outdoors on her hobby horse farm and cherishes time with her husband and their two young children.

Dr. Antwain Maurice Howard DVM, DACLAM, originally from Marion South Carolina. -Bachelor of Science in Biology/Chemistry Minor from Winthrop University -Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree from Tuskegee University School of Veterinary Medicine-Completed Laboratory Animal Medicine Residency Program- Stanford University School of Medicine- Board-certified Diplomate in the American College of Laboratory Animal Medicine (DACLAM). Currently serves as Vice President and Global Head of Animal Welfare and Veterinary Services for Labcorp. Authored several scientific publications and presented at numerous professional conferences. "I have remained committed to community outreach, diversity and inclusion. I love to share my experiences as a veterinarian with youth of all ages through various outreach programs and engagements." I'm an active father of three children, Emerald, Alexandria and Olivia and loving husband to my beautiful wife Princess Howard.

Dr. Mark Kasirye is a veterinarian with experience in laboratory animal medicine, biomedical research, and animal clinical food practice. He is currently a first-year Laboratory Animal Medicine Resident through the Indiana Collaborative program (Purdue, IUSM, LabCorp and Eli Lilly), providing clinical care, supporting regulatory compliance, and training research personnel. His background includes role at Boston Scientific, where he contributed to protocol development, surgical support, necropsy procedures, and IACUC-aligned research operations. Mark completed internships at NDSU, LSU prior to enrolling in the residency program. He obtained his veterinary degree from college of veterinary medicine Makerere University and is completing ECFVG certification, with ongoing research.

Dr. Karen Rogers is an Attending Veterinarian based just outside of Columbus, OH, with over 30 years of experience specializing in clinical care, regulatory compliance and operational support within laboratory animal science programs. She works closely with research teams and animal care staff to promote high-quality animal welfare, consistent standards, and effective communication across research programs. At this AALAS meeting, Dr. Rogers will present on "Streamlining Adverse Event Reporting in Laboratory Animal Science", sharing practical approaches to improve clarity, efficiency and collaboration in reporting workflows.

Mandy Sexton is a Senior Learning and Development Professional at the Ashland, Ohio Charles River site who is responsible for the coordination, communication, and implementation of new training initiatives, developing new training techniques, and evaluating and executing new animal welfare initiatives, including the development and evaluation of alternative replacement training models. She has over 24 years of experience in the CRO environment, including technical and management roles.

Karena Thek, MBA, CMAR started her education focused on human psychology and management practices. She completed her MBA and CMAR certification. She was given the opportunity to work with Bio Serv and was thrown into a new direction. Instantly she was drawn to the animals and became dedicated in the promotion of good animal welfare practices. She is currently Bio Serv's Enrichment Specialist and Sales Manager.

Mary Walker, DVM MS DAACLAM completed her veterinary degree, master's, and laboratory animal residency at Ohio State University. She worked as a clinical veterinarian with a variety of species at Oklahoma State University prior to moving back to Columbus, Ohio to work as the large animal clinical vet in the Animal Resources Core (ARC) at Nationwide Children's Hospital. She now serves as the Associate Director of the ARC, managing the aquatic, large animal, and rodent veterinary teams. She has a particular passion for staff training, continuing education, and refinement of anesthetic and analgesic protocols. Married to a software engineer specializing in 3D printing technology, she has enjoyed integrating 3D printed solutions into daily operations.

Erik Walker is a software engineer at Thangs.com, a 3D model hosting and print-on-demand platform, where he focuses on site reliability and usability. He holds a bachelor's degree in physics from Case Western Reserve University and has 19 years of experience in the field. Erik has been building and using 3D printers since 2018 and has been actively involved in the evolving 3D printing

ecosystem. He enjoys applying 3D-printed solutions to unique engineering challenges, particularly those encountered in laboratory animal research environments. He lives with his wife, Mary, two kids, two cats, and a small collection of mostly functional 3D printers.

Chris Wiederhold is an Animal Care Technician at Indiana University – Indianapolis, Laboratory Animal Resources Center’s (LARC), large animal department, where he specializes in laboratory animal welfare, behavioral training, enrichment development and husbandry, with a primary focus on swine research models as well as rabbits, mice, rats and frogs.

With more than 40 years of experience training, showing, and coaching livestock—including swine, beef cattle, sheep, goats, and horses—Chris brings a unique depth of animal behavior knowledge to the research environment. His background in agricultural animal training directly informs his work in positive reinforcement handling, low stress conditioning, and post-surgical mobility support for research animals.

Chris is the creator of Pigment, an innovative animal led art enrichment and public education initiative that integrates behavioral enrichment with science communication and community outreach in the form of an immersive art exhibit as well as the Hoos’ier Hero? public awareness campaign launching later this year in Indiana. He is also the developer of an autonomous on command gait mapping training for Yucatan swine used in orthopedic and trauma recovery studies.

Originally from Blanchester, OH, where he grew up on a swine and crop operation he attended near by Wilmington College and holds a Bachelor of Arts in Communications (Public Relations & Branding) and Psychology. He is an active member of the American Association for Laboratory Animal Science (AALAS) and served on the IU Indy – LARC, Laboratory Technician Appreciation Week planning committee.

When not playing with pigs, Chris spends most of his time playing competitive softball, playing and coaching volleyball, bowling and traveling. Fun unique fact; he collects fun pig t-shirts and Chuck Taylor’s.

Jeff Wyatt is recently retired as Professor & Chair of Comparative Medicine and Professor of Environmental Medicine at the University of Rochester School of Medicine & Dentistry’s Institute for Human Health and the Environment. Jeff graduated from The Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine in 1982, became ACLAM credentialed in 1989 and earned an MPH from the University of Rochester School of Medicine in 1995. Dr. Wyatt employs a “One-Health- One Medicine” approach in his field and laboratory research highlighting the interconnectedness of humans, animals and the environment to promote ecosystem and planetary health.