

# American Veterinary Medical History Society

“Devoted to the Diffusion of Veterinary History”

## INTERIM NEWS & COMMENT

July 2024

Susanne Whitaker and Helen Wojcinski, reporters

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### AVMHS Annual Meeting and Program

Program-chair and President-elect Dr. Margaret “Peggy” Brosnahan ([mmb263@cornell.edu](mailto:mmb263@cornell.edu)) is pleased to invite all members to participate in this year’s AVMHS Virtual Annual Meeting.

**Friday, July 26, 2024**  
**7pm-9pm EDT (6pm-8pm CDT)**

From 7pm–8pm EDT, there will be a presentation by

**Jane Desmond, PhD**

on

*(How) Does History Matter?:  
Thinking Pasts and Futures in Veterinary  
Medicine"*

Dr. Desmond is presently Professor of Anthropology and Gender and Women’s Studies at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. She also holds a faculty appointment in the UIUC College of Veterinary Medicine. Among her research interests are gender identity and human-animal relations. Dr. Desmond teaches many courses, including *Knowing Animals: Histories, Strategies and Frontiers in Human/Animal Relations*.

Her talk and Q&A period will be followed in the next hour from 8pm-9pm EDT (7pm-8pm CDT) by our annual AVMHS business meeting chaired by President Dr. John de Jong. An agenda will be provided in advance by email.

Prior to the meeting, members will receive an email invitation with instructions on how to connect via Zoom to the annual meeting. All members are encouraged to participate.

We are looking forward to Dr. Desmond’s insightful presentation and hope many members will join in the virtual evening session. It will be recorded for anyone not able to attend.

### This Year’s Meeting Postcard

Dr. Desmond’s talk will discuss significant changes in the veterinary profession over the years. Our 2024 postcard highlights one aspect of her presentation.



It features a clipping from a syndicated article that appeared in numerous newspapers across the country in late August and early September 1943. Titled “She Pulls Lions’ Teeth,” it described the daily work of the first woman zoo veterinarian, Dr. Patricia O’Connor Halloran. She was pictured examining a pelican for a foreign body and treating an ocelot, among her many captive wild and exotic animal patients at the Barrett Zoo on Staten Island, New York.

All members will receive a postcard prior to the meeting.

This is the 10<sup>th</sup> postcard in a growing series associated with our annual meetings since 2015. See all the postcard images at <https://www.avmhs.org/meetings>

## 2024 Smithcors Student Essay Contest

Essay Contest Committee Chair Dr. Susan Aiello ([susan@words-world.net](mailto:susan@words-world.net)) is happy to announce the following winners of the 2024 Smithcors Student Veterinary History Essay Contest:

**1st Place (\$1200) Brianna Trent-Kielbasa '25** Kansas State University

*Welcome to The Jungle: The Impact of Veterinarians in Meat Inspection*

**2nd Place (\$1000) Victoria Warnecke '26** Oklahoma State University

*(Ear) Tag, You're It: The History of National Efforts for Animal Identification*

**3rd Place (\$800) Reagan Stephens '27** Texas A&M University

*Rinderpest: A Bull in a China Shop*

**4th Place (\$500) Kristyn Burton '25** Oklahoma State University

*Genesis of the Beast*

**4th Place (\$500) Scott Miller '26** University of Missouri

*Ancient Antidotes to Modern Medicine: The Evolution of Veterinary Toxicology*

In addition to acknowledging our essayists, we wish to thank our panel of 3 blinded judges: Dr. Pat Kennedy Arrington, Dr. Charles M. Hendrix, and Dr. Gary Vroegindewey. All 22 essays submitted this year were carefully read and ranked by the judges.

Each winning essay will be published in forthcoming issues of *Veterinary Heritage*. Students who want to get a head start in thinking about a possible topic of their choice for 2025 will find a list of all essays since the contest was established in 1992 on our website at <https://www.avmhs.org/essay-contest>.

**2025 Essay Contest Deadline is April 15, 2025**

Details are available at

<https://www.avmhs.org/essay-contest>

## AVMHS Members Honored at AVMA

Several AVMHS members received honors and recognition at the American Veterinary Medical Association annual convention held recently on June 21-25, 2024, in Austin, Texas. Congratulations to all!

On Friday, June 21, **Dr. Ruby Perry** received the **AVMA Frederick Douglass Patterson Lifetime Achievement Award** at the House of Delegates regular annual session.

"The award recognizes an AVMA member veterinarian who has made significant contributions to the veterinary profession through innovative and transformative leadership in promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion, and who has demonstrated a commitment to advancing these values within the veterinary profession and has brought honor and distinction to the field through their exemplary efforts."



Dr. Ruby Perry

Dr. Craig Carter

Dr. Robert Knapp

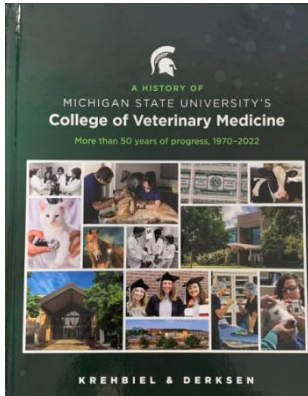
The following day on Saturday, June 22, during the keynote of the Convention, **Dr. Craig Carter** was presented the **AVMA Meritorious Service Award** "for his decades of distinguished service to the veterinary profession." "The award recognizes a veterinarian who has brought honor and distinction to the profession through personal, professional or community service activities that are conducted outside the scope of organized veterinary medicine or research."

Then, **Dr. Robert Knapp** was elected **2024-25 AVMA Board of Directors (BOD) chair** during the Board's June 23 meeting at the AVMA Convention. Dr. Knapp of Dublin, Ohio, joined the Board in 2019 representing District V, which covers AVMA members in Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio, and West Virginia. <https://www.avma.org/news/knapp-willis-elected-avma-board-chair-vice-chair>

## Michigan State University's New 50-Year History Book

AVMHS member Dr. Janver Krehbiel ([krehbie1@msu.edu](mailto:krehbie1@msu.edu)) and Dr. Frederik Derksen ([derksen@msu.edu](mailto:derksen@msu.edu)) have completed *A History of Michigan State University's College of Veterinary Medicine: More Than 50 years of Progress, 1970-2022*, recently published by the College.

The book is a welcome addition to the history of veterinary education in Michigan and intends to be a continuation of an earlier volume authored by Dr. Charles C. Morrill covering MSU's history through the 1970s.



The new book has 15 chapters, detailing major aspects of the College of Veterinary Medicine's important advancements, notable accomplishments, contributions, and changes in leadership, research, diagnostics, clinical practice, and more, over the last 5 decades both locally and globally.

*Morrill, Charles Cleon. Veterinary Medicine in Michigan, An Illustrated History*, written by Dr. Charles Cleon Morrill. East Lansing, MI: College of Veterinary Medicine, Michigan State University, 1979.



Dr. Jan Krehbiel (left) and Dr. Fred Derksen (right)

In commenting on their book, Drs. Krehbiel and Derksen want readers not only to enjoy it but also to “gain a deep appreciation for the advancements, challenges, and contributions made by the College.” Furthermore, they hope their book will inspire future faculty, students, and alumni to “aspire for greatness, reach high, dream big, and understand the infinitude of yet unimagined possibilities.”

More information and how to order a copy of this new book can be found at:

<https://cvm.msu.edu/vetschool-tails/perserving-institutional-memory-krehbiel-and-derksen-publish-msu-cvm-history-book>

Professor Emeritus Ron Dorr has kindly given us permission to reprint his review of this book reproduced on page 7 below.

### Heritage Practice Recognition in Quebec

Member Dr. Michel Pepin ([veterinet@videotron.ca](mailto:veterinet@videotron.ca)) reports that the Société de Conservation du Patrimoine Vétérinaire Québécois (SCPVQ) has established a program and is pursuing the identification of veterinary practices in operation in that province for more than 50

years, similar to AVMH's Registry of Heritage Veterinary Practices in the United States.

On June 6, 2024, SCPVQ's president Suzanne Breton, D.M.V., formally presented the organization's first honorary plaque to the Ormstown Veterinary Hospital / Hôpital Vétérinaire Ormstown, a large mixed practice located at Ormstown, Quebec, Canada. A first for Quebec, this event marked the practice's official inclusion in the list of Quebec's veterinary heritage institutions.



SCPVQ President Dr. Suzanne Breton presenting the plaque to the Ormstown Veterinary Hospital

A 2:38 min. YouTube video of the presentation ceremony conducted by Dr. Breton can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=USIhX0o927I>



Dr. John Whitehead (1929-2009) established the solo practice in 1952, the same year he earned his degree from the Ontario Veterinary College at the University of Guelph (<https://hvovet.com/en/a-propos/>). There are presently 11 veterinarians on staff.

Dr. Pepin is founder and currently vice-president of the SCPVQ, which is affiliated with the Faculté de Médecine Vétérinaire of the Université de Montréal. <https://fmv.umontreal.ca/dons-et-partenaires/patrimoine-veterinaire-scpvq/#c93368>

## New History Time-Bites Stories on VIN

AVMHS continues to contribute additional Time-Bites to the nearly 100 short historical stories already posted on the Veterinary Information Network (VIN) <https://vin.com> [membership required; free to vet college faculty and students]. Most recent postings include:

### An “Improved Account System”

*Chicago, Illinois, U.S.A., 1912*

Compiled by Susanne Whitaker MSLS, AHIP and Fred J. Born DVM

### Major Harry Colebourn and Winnie-the-Pooh

*Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, 1914*

Compiled by Susanne Whitaker MSLS, AHIP

### Sir William Osler—What’s in a Name?

*Montreal, Quebec, Canada, 1877*

Compiled by Zbigniew W. Wojcinski DVM, DVSc, DACVP, DABT, FIATP

Dr. Susan Aiello ([susan@words-world.net](mailto:susan@words-world.net)), our Time-Bites Editor, would like to remind our members of the standing invitation to submit a short historical story dealing with any aspect of veterinary history. Stories are typically 500-1000 words and are accompanied by source references and representative illustrations. Please contact Dr. Aiello at any time with your ideas and suggestions.

AVMHS Time-Bites are published on the Veterinary Information Network (VIN), a membership-based veterinary online community, and also appear on VIN’s associated Veterinary Support Personnel Network (VSPN) platform. Several Time-Bites have also appeared in recent issues of *Veterinary Heritage*, including the latest one on “Horsehair Sutures” in the December 2023 issue.

AVMHS members who do not belong to VIN may request copies of previous Time-Bites from Dr. Aiello or the Secretary-Treasurer. The current list of published topics is posted on the AVMHS website (<https://www.avmhs.org/time-bites>), as well as Time-Bites published in issues of *Veterinary Heritage*.

## In Memoriam – Philippe de Wailly (1926-2024)

With great sadness, we were informed by a friend of Dr. Philippe de Wailly that he passed away on February 13, 2024, in his 99th year. The Académie Vétérinaire de France honored him with a special tribute at its session on 16 May 2024. He was their honorary president.

When Dr. de Wailly visited the United States in 1980 to deliver a paper on French aspects of the life of Dr. Alexandre Liautard at the Society’s annual meeting in Washington, DC, AVMHS awarded him an honorary membership.



Dr. de Wailly was a well-known veterinarian in practice in Boulogne Billancourt near Paris for more than 60 years. After obtaining his degree, he had been an intern at several major veterinary institutions in the United States. During his long career, Dr. de Wailly authored about 30 works, including his most recent book, *Si vous saviez ce que les animaux m'ont appris (et ce que leurs maîtres m'ont dit)*, in 2021.



Members may enjoy watching an interview (approximately 8 minutes long) with Dr. Philippe de Wailly, a specialist in parrots, held in his veterinary office near Paris in November 15, 2019 at [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z23pgs\\_-50w](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z23pgs_-50w)

In its summary, he was described as “A friend of animals and stars, he cared for Louis-Ferdinand Céline’s parrot, Jean Cocteau’s Siamese cats, Brigitte Bardot’s canaries... Renowned beyond our borders, the sister of the Shah of Iran sent him a private plane for him to come and care for his parrots at the court!”

## Meeting and Event Calendar 2024

July 26 AVMHS Annual Program and Business Meeting  
Aug ?? AVMHS Museum Committee Meeting

Sep 18-24 World Association for the History of Veterinary Medicine (WAHVM) 46<sup>th</sup> International Congress  
2025

April 15 Student History Essay Contest Deadline

Mar 21-23 SAVMA Symposium, Univ of California Davis

### New AVMHS Members (as of June 30)

We are pleased to welcome:

Andrea D. Scofield (*Lincoln Memorial University, '27, Middlesboro, KY*)

### New Registry of Heritage Veterinary Practices

We are pleased to welcome:

#### Ambassador Dog & Cat Hospital (*Los Angeles, CA*)

Estab. 1927 by Dr. John F. McKenna



Architect's drawing of the new building when constructed in 1927 and its exterior as seen today.

### New Books

Ha, Renee R., Tracy L. Brad, and James C. Ha. *Breed Differences in Dog Behavior: Why Tails Wag Differently*. Oxfordshire, UK : Boston, MA, USA : CAB International, 2024. ISBN: 9781800624542

Hancock, John T., Ros C. Rouse, and Tim J. Craig. *Animal Welfare in a Pandemic: What Does COVID-19 Tell Us for the Future?* Boca Raton, FL: CRC Press. 2024. 250 pgs. ISBN: 9781032547343

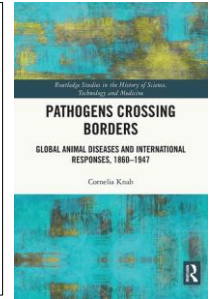
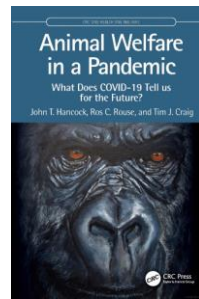
### Recent Journal Articles and Chapters Related to the History of Veterinary Medicine

Copies of articles may be obtained through interlibrary loan services provided by your local college or public library, or from the AVMHS Secretary-Treasurer if unavailable from other sources.

[No authors listed]. Celebrating 30 years in the same practice. *Veterinary Record*. 2024 Jun 1;194(11):iii. doi: 10.1002/vetr.4390.

[No authors listed]. Vets' achievements acknowledged in King's birthday honours. *Veterinary Record*. 2024 Jul 6;195(1):iii. doi: 10.1002/vetr.4482.

Harvey-Clark, Chris. *In Search of the Great Canadian Shark*. Lawrencetown Beach, Nova Scotia, Canada: Pottersfield Press, 2024. ? pgs. ISBN: 9781990770517



Knab, Cornelia. *Pathogens Crossing Borders: Global Animal Diseases and International Responses, 1860-1947*. London Taylor & Francis Ltd, 2024. 228 pgs. ISBN: 9781032251868

Rowlands, Sion. *Letting the Cat Out of the Bag: The Secret Life of a Vet*. [s.l.]: Two Roads, 2024.. ? pgs. ISBN: 9781529395235

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Send news, comments, and suggestions for the next *News & Comment* to Dr. Helen Wojcinski [helenwojcinski@gmail.com](mailto:helenwojcinski@gmail.com), or to AVMHS Secretary-Treasurer Susanne Whitaker, 23 Wedgewood Drive, Ithaca, NY 14850-1064, phone 607-257-9248 or email [skw2@cornell.edu](mailto:skw2@cornell.edu) or [avmhs.info@gmail.com](mailto:avmhs.info@gmail.com)

"The farther backward you look, the farther forward you are likely to see."

*Sir Winston Churchill (1874-1965)*

[No authors listed]. WSAVA global meritorious service award. *Veterinary Record*. 2024 Jul 6;195(1):iv. doi: 10.1002/vetr.4487.

Cowie H. 'Down pythons' throats we thrust live goats': snakes, zoos, and animal welfare in nineteenth-century Britain. *British Journal of the History of Science*. 2024 May 21:1-20. doi: 10.1017/S0007087424000542.

Gregory P. Christopher E. I. Day: An inspirational pioneer of homeopathic veterinary medicine. *Homeopathy*. 2023 Nov;112(4):286-287. doi: 10.1055/s-0043-1772166.

Incorvaia D. How the German cockroach conquered the world. *Science*. 2024 May 24;384(6698):838. doi: 10.1126/science.adq5972.

Lanier LL. Five decades of natural killer cell discovery. *Journal of Experimental Medicine*. 2024 Aug 5;221(8):e20231222. doi: 10.1084/jem.20231222. PubMed Central, <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/38842526/>

Leblanc R. Against vivisection: Charcot and Pitres' discovery of the human motor cortex and the birth of modern neurosurgery and of the surgical treatment of epilepsy. *Journal of the History of Neuroscience*. 2024 Jul-Sep;33(3):309-331. doi: 10.1080/0964704X.2024.2336464.

Ly H. Recent history and biology of H5N1 influenza A virus infections of farm animals (poultry, goat, alpacas, dairy cattle, barn cats) and humans in the United States of America. *Journal of Medical Virology*. 2024 Jun;96(6):e29766. doi: 10.1002/jmv.29766.

MacCord K, Maienschein J. Studying regeneration through history as a way of looking forward. *Journal of the History of Biology*. 2024 Mar;57(1):5-15. doi: 10.1007/s10739-024-09769-5. PubMed Central, <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC11111514/>

Marrana M, Arshed MJ, Salman M. Rinderpest: A disease of the past, and a present threat. *Veterinary Clinics of North America: Food Animal Practice*. 2024 Jul;40(2):337-343. doi: 10.1016/j.cvfa.2024.01.008.

Meijers B, Zadora W, Lowenstein J. A historical perspective on uremia and uremic toxins. *Toxins (Basel)*. 2024 May 15;16(5):227. doi: 10.3390/toxins16050227. PubMed Central, <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/38787079/>

Sharp PM, Plenderleith LJ, Culleton RL, et al. Origin of the human malaria parasite *Plasmodium vivax*. *Trends in Parasitology*. 2024 Jul;40(7):562-572. doi: 10.1016/j.pt.2024.05.001.

Sunseri T. Mobile monkeys and modified microbes: Medical experimentation between metropolitan and colonial laboratories, 1880-ca. 1925. *Bulletin of the History of Medicine*. 2024;98(1):26-60. doi: 10.1353/bhm.2024.a929783.

Suwa B. An early Prussian study on the composition of milk from 1871. *Journal of Dairy Science*. 2024 May 14:S0022-0302(24)00791-4. doi: 10.3168/jds.2024-24861. Elsevier Open Access, [https://www.journalofdairyscience.org/article/S0022-0302\(24\)00791-4/fulltext](https://www.journalofdairyscience.org/article/S0022-0302(24)00791-4/fulltext)

Urban C, Blom AA, Avanzi C, et al. Ancient *Mycobacterium leprae* genome reveals medieval English red squirrels as animal leprosy host. *Current Biology*. 2024 May 20;34(10):2221-2230.e8. doi: 10.1016/j.cub.2024.04.006.

Zhu S, Zhang N, Zhang J, et al. Ancient mitochondrial genomes provide new clues in the history of the Akhal-Teke horse in China. *Genes (Basel)*. 2024 Jun 15;15(6):790. doi: 10.3390/genes15060790.

***A History of Michigan State University's College of Veterinary Medicine:  
More than 50 years of progress, 1970-2022***

By Jan Krehbiel and Fred Derksen

Review by Emeritus Professor Ron Dorr, James Madison College, Michigan State University.

Preprinted with permission from the author

Jan Krehbiel and Fred Derksen's history of the College of Veterinary Medicine at Michigan State University from 1970 to 2022 is the most attractive, appealing, and people-oriented institutional history that I have ever read.

Start with the cover of the 292-page book. Thirteen photographs include 18 people, eight animals, two major buildings, the veterinary medicine campus, and one 3-cent stamp. All but two pictures are in color.

Dan LeBlanc was the excellent project manager. The graphic design and layout by Kelly Sandula-Gruner are splendid. Pages glisten. Few of the first 238 pages of text are missing a photo, floor plan, map, graph, or chart. Members of P. C. O. will recognize Jan, Jack Harkema, Bill Horne, Ed Mather, Dwight and Wilma Schwartz (in photos) as well as Ewen Todd and David Morrow (in the text). Eight caricatures drawn by Harkema are brilliant.

The dedication is a beautiful tribute, written in love and gratitude, to the College of Veterinary Medicine family. It includes faculty, staff, administrators, students, donors, and friends of the College—even "our animal patients" and other "generous animal lovers." The dedication also reveals the tone, purpose, subject matter, and thesis of the book. Each chapter adds a new component of evidence for the thesis.

The tone of this work is impressive. It is positive, affirming, personal in its own way, and filled with reciprocal gratitude. Jan and Fred want to remember and honor "the individuals who made the College of Veterinary Medicine at Michigan State University so successful over the last half century."

During those 50 years, C.V.M. has benefited from imaginative visionaries, excellent leaders, passionate teachers and students, extraordinary researchers, and humane supportive staff. Funding for these people, their work, and their buildings has come from M. S. U., the state legislature, federal government, foundations, alumni, donors, and other friends of the College. Disasters such as the PBB contamination of animal feed in the 1970s, COVID pandemic in the 2020s, and two recessions

in between have prompted the College to adapt and adjust.

Evidence of such stunning success comes in persuasive propositions, specific examples, and telling facts. In 2018, M. S. U.'s College of Veterinary Medicine was ranked no. 1 among Big Ten universities, no. 5 in the U. S., and no. 11 in the world. The Veterinary Technology, or Nursing program "became a flagship model for other national programs." "MSU's Mary Anne McPhail Equine Performance Center is the premier dressage performance center in the world." The Learning and Assessment Center in Fee Hall may be unique, in which four colleges—Nursing and Human, Osteopathic, and Veterinary Medicine—collaborate to simulate non-threatening learning that precedes actual clinical practice.

No other college of veterinary medicine can match Michigan State's in the number of endowed chairs, which increased from 1 in 1985 to 15 in 2022. The number of cases of Guinea worm diseases tumbled from 3.5 million in 1986 to 126 in 2014. In 2022, C.V.M.'s diagnostic laboratory had "the highest accession numbers of any laboratory in the U. S. and runs more than one million diagnostic tests annually." Photographs show startling changes: in the 1970s, white males predominated; in 2022, women greatly outnumbered men. Minorities have increased among both faculty and students.

In the final analysis, people and their stories shine in this book: Barbara Knust and Erica Ward—two students who benefited greatly from their experiences overseas; Pat LeBlanc—who adapted *Jeopardy* to enhance his teaching prowess; David Ellis—who instructed students well on the farm and mentored younger colleagues well at McDonald's; Del Franklin Bennett—who lived without electricity because he didn't want to cut down any trees on the farm; Fred Born—a veterinarian who drew exquisite portraits of animals' anatomy; Hilda Mejia Abreu—a vivacious associate dean who led efforts to diversify the College's students; Birgit Puschner—who navigated the College through the Covid pandemic; and Kimberly Dodd, now the 13th Dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine, who will build on the exemplary work in veterinary health and healing of stewards such as Jan Krehbiel and Fred Derksen.