

# IAAAM News

Volume 54; Issue 4; August 2023

## 2024 Annual IAAAM Conference

*Galway, Ireland*

*May 18-22, 2024*

I hope everyone is having a great summer!

Your IAAAM Board and our conference planning team have been hard at work this summer! I am pleased to announce that some details of the IAAAM 2024 conference have been confirmed!

The next IAAAM will be meeting in **Galway, Ireland from May 18 – 22, 2024!**

Mark your calendars now and save the date! The meeting will be a hybrid meeting, with both in person and remote attendance options.

Galway is a thriving and cultural city, and it boasts a beautiful promenade, a labyrinth of cobbled streets and colorful shop facades, and importantly, a strong pub culture! Galway is also home to many festivals, museums, historical sites, and many of Ireland's attractions, including its national aquarium, the Galway Atlantaquaria! More details will be forthcoming!

Conference sponsorship registration will open in early September. The call for abstracts will go out in mid-September, and registration for the conference will open in January!

After such a fun and successful conference in Salt Lake City, I hope everyone will join me in planning to attend our 2024 conference, which is also sure to be an exceptional time!

Allison D. Tuttle, DVM, Diplomate ACZM

## Membership Dues

Dues will be increased for 2024 to help us continue to offer more member benefits as part of our ongoing Strategic Plan.

Full members: \$125      Student members: \$75

Reminders will go out closer to time, but you can start paying 2024 dues as of November 1. They must be paid by March 31 to qualify for the discounted conference registration rate.

## In-Memoriam: Raymond F. Sis, MS, DVM, PhD IAAAM President 1991-92



**Raymond F. Sis** was born in 1931 and grew up in Kansas. He attended Kansas State University (KSU) for both undergraduate and veterinary school, graduating with his DVM in 1957. It was at KSU that he met his wife Jan and they married in 1953; a loving union that would last for 70 years.

From 1957-1961 Ray was active duty military in the US Air Force and followed that up with 25 years in the active reserve as an environmental health officer. He retired as a full colonel in the Air Force and received the Air Force Commendation Medal and the Air Force Meritorious Service Medal. After finishing his active duty Ray enrolled at Iowa State University from 1962-1966 where he obtained an MS in small animal surgery and a PhD in veterinary anatomy. In 1966 he accepted a professor position at Texas A&M University where he taught anatomy, mentored students, and served in various administration roles for 35 years, including a 15 year stint as head of the Anatomy Department. During his time at Texas A&M Ray pursued his interest in aquatic animal medicine by **co-founding the Aqua Med program and serving as the dolphin veterinarian for Astro World in Houston. He was also very active in the IAAAM, serving on the executive board, and later as President from 1991-1992.**

In 2001 at the age of 70, when most people would be thinking about retirement, Ray and Jan picked up and moved to the Caribbean island of Grenada where Ray spent 2 years as a professor before becoming the Dean of the St. George's School of Veterinary Medicine, a position he held for 10 years. Ray retired from the Dean position in 2013, at the age of 81, but not before shepherding the school through a demanding five year AVMA accreditation process. The school has been fully accredited since and has turned out hundreds of excellent veterinarians, many now leaders in our profession. In 2014 Ray was named Dean emeritus of St. George's and the Veterinary and Basic Sciences building was named in honor of Ray and Jan. The year before (2013) Ray was honored by KSU with the Alumni Recognition Award given to veterinarians "whose careers have served as exemplary role models for future alumni in a professional and community setting."

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Ray Sis was a humble, gentle, patient, and forgiving soul with a generous heart and a great sense of humor. He was a tireless leader and always up for the next challenge or adventure. In 2004 Category 4 Hurricane Ivan hit the island of Grenada dead center. Ray and Jan hunkered down in their home with Ray using his feet and legs to keep the bathroom door from crashing down on them. Fortunately, they survived, and under his leadership and strong relationship building, so did the veterinary school, even though their students had to resume studies at three different US veterinary schools for a semester.

Ray and Jan were also active in their communities, including the Bryan Texas PTA, the Czech Heritage Society, several local dance groups, and the Knights of Columbus.

Ray his survived by his wife Jan, five children, eight grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren. His full obituary can be [viewed here](#).

## Members' Highlight

### California DA Stranding Response



Deceased dolphin and stranded California sea lions showing clinical signs of domoic acid toxicosis.

Credit: Staci Kaye-Carr, Channel Islands Marine & Wildlife Institute

In June and July, Orange County, LA, and Santa Barbara Counties saw an unprecedented influx of marine mammals at The Pacific Marine Mammal Center in Laguna, the Marine Mammal Care Center LA in San Pedro, and Channel Islands Marine and Wildlife Institute in Santa Barbara due to a large domoic acid bloom.

Answering the call for help, **numerous organizations from the IAAAM community sent staff members to California to assist with the stranding effort.**

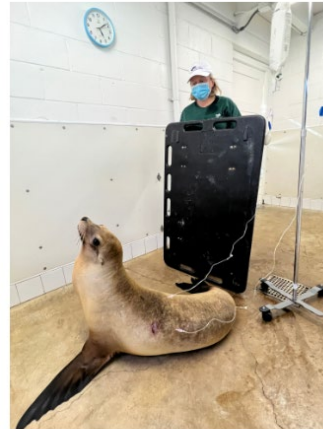
Shoutout to the outpouring of support from numerous institutions who sent veterinarians, technicians, and animal care staff to help, including **SR3, National Marine Mammal Foundation, Como Zoo, The Marine Mammal Center, Vancouver Aquarium, Oiled Wildlife Care Network, Aquarium of the Pacific, Pittsburgh Zoo, Indianapolis Zoo, Georgia Aquarium, Denver Zoo, Feiro Marine Life Center, NOAA, and Mississippi Aquarium.** What an incredible display of camaraderie in the marine mammal community to help tackle this problem as a team.

From Dr. Michelle Rivard and the SR3 Team, “SR3 is tremendously grateful for the opportunity to provide support to Marine Mammal Care Center of LA during the domoic acid bloom in southern California. The MMCCLA team was extremely knowledgeable and hardworking, and provided compassionate and high quality care for stranded animals while maintaining professionalism and composure during this very stressful time. The SR3 team learned a lot from working alongside them, and it also provided our staff with the opportunity to work with a species that is not commonly brought into rehabilitation in the Pacific Northwest.”

From the team at Pacific Marine Mammal Center: “The massive influx of adult sea lions was unprecedented for our hospital- our patient capacity and personnel were being pushed to their limits,” said Dr. Alissa Deming, Vice President of Conservation Medicine and Science at PMMC. “We could not have kept up without the people sent from zoos, aquariums, and stranding network partners who were instrumental in ensuring these very sick sea lion received the life-saving care they needed.” PMMC would like to thank The Marine Mammal Center (Sausalito, CA), Como Zoo (St. Paul, MN), the Vancouver Aquarium, and the National Marine Mammal Foundation for sending zoo keepers and veterinarians to support the rehabilitation efforts of these sick sea lions and dolphins.



Dr. Abbey McClean, NMMF, at the Pacific Marine Mammal Center



Nicole Williamson, Como Zoo, at the Pacific Marine Mammal Center



SR3 team at Marine Mammal Care Center LA

## We want to continue to honor our members!

The IAAAM Communications Committee is interested in highlighting our dedicated members from around the world throughout the coming years. Please nominate yourself or another member for recognition by submitting a summary and up to 3 photos to [iaaamcommunications@gmail.com](mailto:iaaamcommunications@gmail.com).

You can also nominate someone by just sending their name, and we will contact them directly. If you are a member outside of the US, please also copy [international\\_relations@iaaam.org](mailto:international_relations@iaaam.org) on your submission. Please answer the following questions when submitting your information:

- Would you like the highlight to be shared just with IAAAM Members via the newsletter and possibly the website or is it okay to share on our public social media pages (Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn)?
- If shared on public social media, is there any specific information you do NOT want shared? (e.g. place of employment, specific photos, etc.)

## Please submit photos or videos for social media!

We are looking for our IAAAM members to send in photos and/or videos for the upcoming aquatic animal holidays! If you have any content that can be published on our social media (Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn) please send them to [iaaamcommunications@gmail.com](mailto:iaaamcommunications@gmail.com) as soon as possible! Before sending in your content, please make sure that permission is granted by all facilities involved to share on our open access social media pages. Also, please add a watermark or similar if necessary.



Sept 4  
National Wildlife Day

Sept 16  
International Coastal  
Clean-Up Day



Sept 17  
World Manta Day

Sept 24  
World Rivers Day



Sept 25  
National Lobster Day

Oct 4  
World Animal Day



Oct 17  
International Sawfish Day

Oct 24  
Freshwater Dolphin Day



# Job Listings

## IAAAM Job Bank - Full Listings

### **Clinical Veterinarian – The Marine Mammal Center**

The Clinical Veterinarian is part of the animal health leadership team and co-manages the clinical care and case management of patients at The Marine Mammal Center.

### **Certified Veterinary Technician – Georgia Sea Turtle Center Hospital**

The Veterinary Technician provides “hands-on” leadership through knowledge of the disciplines of veterinary medical primary technical care and a general understanding of sea turtle rehabilitation and is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the veterinary hospital facilities including the diagnostic laboratory, pharmacy, surgery, and radiology suite.

### **Senior Scientist and Program Chair – New England Aquarium**

The New England Aquarium (NEAq) is seeking an accomplished senior research scientist with a proven record in conservation biology to lead a program focused on understanding the effects of climate change and ocean use on marine species.

### **Animal Care Coordinator – Newport Aquarium**

The main areas of responsibility of this position are animal and staff program administration. Priority for this position includes fostering a positive work atmosphere, detailed attention to animal record-keeping system, and ability to help out other members of the team as necessary.

### **Veterinary Technician – Dolphin Connection**

This position is responsible for the on-site, daily health management of the animals at Dolphin Connection (DC) at Hawks Cay Resort, Duck Key, Florida under the direction of the staff veterinarians.

### **Hospital Manager – Clearwater Marine Aquarium**

The Hospital Manager, in coordination with VP of Animal and Environmental Health, will oversee all aspects of the hospital, manage the daily operations and assist in the daily medical care of both resident and rehabilitating animals. This position works closely with Zoological Care to ensure highest standard of medical care.



### **Veterinary Technician – Adventure Aquarium**

The position requires a dedicated individual who will take direction from the Veterinarian and/or Husbandry Director in carrying out laboratory, diagnostic and treatment support. This includes routine veterinary technician responsibilities such as specimen collection and analysis, medical record keeping and updating, as well as assisting the staff with treatments and other diagnostic procedures including but not limited to hematology, cytology, radiography, ultrasound, endoscopy, necropsies, and surgery.

### **Veterinary Technician – Adventure Aquarium**

This position requires a dedicated individual who will take direction from the Veterinarian and/or Husbandry Director in carrying out laboratory, diagnostic and treatment support.

### **Associate Veterinarian – Miami Seaquarium**

This position works under the direction of the Director of Animal Health, in collaboration with one additional associate veterinarian, three clinical Certified Veterinary Technicians, one Veterinary Assistant, and a team of aquarists, animal care and training experts.

### **Sea Turtle Rehabilitation Coordinator – Surf City, North Carolina**

The Karen Beasley Sea Turtle Rescue and Rehabilitation Center (KBSTRRC) seeks an experienced Sea Turtle Rehabilitation Coordinator to manage all aspects of sea turtle care and husbandry.

# Conferences, Meetings, & Educational Opportunities

IAAAM Educational Opportunities - Full Listings

## 2024 AQUAVET® I & II

The College of Veterinary Medicine at Cornell University is pleased to announce the 2024 AQUAVET® I & II Programs. They are aquatic veterinary medicine educational programs (introductory and advanced) that will be presented in Bristol, RI. Veterinary students can receive credits for the course and graduate veterinarians can receive CE credits. Specific information can be found at [www.aquavet.org](http://www.aquavet.org). **Applications are due by January 15, 2024.**



## Veterinary Externship Program

The South Carolina Aquarium invites students who are entering or are in their final, clinical year of veterinary school at the time of externship, to apply for 4-week veterinary externship at the South Carolina Aquarium. The externship period will run from March 1 to August 31, 2024. The South Carolina Aquarium is unique in that it abides by its mission to promote conservation and educational outreach highlighting the local wildlife of South Carolina.

## Recent Publications by IAAAM Members

- [Management of suspected dilated cardiomyopathy with pimobendan in two leopard sharks \(\*Triakis semifasciata\*\)](#) - Annabelle Vigneault, **Natalie D. Mylniczenko**, Robert D. Arnold, Shanese L. Jasper-Trotter, **Noémie Summa**, Catherine Rousseau, Claire Vergneau-Grosset
- [Milbemycin oxime \(Interceptor\) treatment of pycnogonid sea spider infestation in three species of corals](#) - **Lana Krol, Freeland H. Dunker**, Elise LaDouceur, Ethan Biswell, Geoffrey F. Dilly, J. Charles Delbeek, Rebecca Albright, Elora H. López-Nandam, Nicholas Reinbold, Anthony Igel, Lisa Larkin, Jessica Hill
- [Retrospective review of propofol anesthesia in multiple elasmobranch species at Georgia Aquarium, 2010-2022](#) - Laura A.B. Aguilar, **Cara L. Field, Alexa J. Delaune**, Roxane A. Aflalo, Adrienne Atkins, **Tonya M. Clauss**
- [Histological analysis of testicular development and sexual maturation in rehabilitated northern sea otters \(\*Enhydra lutris kenyoni\*\)](#) - **Courtney Pace, Caroline E.C. Goertz**, Kathleen Woodie, Jane Belovarac, Natalie Rouse, Taylor Abraham, **Pamela Tuomi**, Michael M. Garner
- [Preliminary evaluation of symmetric dimethylarginine as a biomarker of renal insufficiency in wild and rehabilitated Florida manatees \(\*Trichechus manatus latirostris\*\)](#) - **Lauren N. Smith**, Robert K. Bonde, Melissa R. Nau, Ray L. Ball

*Please submit any recent or upcoming publications that you would like shared with colleagues in future newsletters to [iaaamcommunications@gmail.com](mailto:iaaamcommunications@gmail.com).*



## Executive Board

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## Honorary Life Members

Don Abt*	Deke Beusse*	Greg Bossart*	Lanny Cornell
Larry Dunn	Joe Geraci*	Jack Gratzek*	Ted Hammond*
Dave Huff*	Jay Hyman*	Suzanne Kennedy-Stoskopf	Jim McBain
William Medway*	Sam Ridgway*	Michael Stoskopf	Jesse White*
Bob Wright*			*deceased

PDF versions of the newsletter can be found on the IAAAM [website](#).



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