

North American Neuroscience Course (Brain Camp) Speaker List

All Course Modules

Sheila Carrera-Justiz, DVM, DACVIM (Neurology) – Course Leader

Clinical Associate Professor & Service Chief
University of Florida

Sheila Carrera-Justiz is a Clinical Associate Professor at the University of Florida. She completed her DVM at the University of Florida in 2005, followed by a rotating small animal internship at the University of Missouri and a neurology specialty internship at the Veterinary Specialty Hospital of San Diego. She then completed a residency in Neurology at Tufts University and attained board certification in 2010. She obtained the Neurosurgery Certificate of Training from the ACVIM in 2013. She spent a few years in private practice in Los Angeles before returning to UF to teach. Her professional interests lie in novel neurosurgical approaches, advanced imaging techniques and clinical teaching. In her free time, she enjoys cooking and travelling.

Advanced Diagnostic Imaging

Jay Griffin, DVM, DACVR

Associate Professor
Texas A&M University

Dr. Jay Griffin graduated from Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine in 2004. Following graduation, he completed a rotating small animal internship at the University of Tennessee before working for 2 years as an emergency veterinarian. He completed his radiology residency at Texas A&M in 2010 and attained ACVR board certification shortly thereafter. He is currently an Associate Professor in Radiology at Texas A&M. Dr. Griffin's major clinical and research interest is MRI of the brain and spinal cord. His research describes imaging findings in important diseases, analyzes accuracy and agreement of imaging tests, and develops imaging-based biomarkers. He is passionate about teaching practical things and serving veterinarians.

Silke Hecht, Dr. med. vet., DACVR, DECVDI

Professor
University of Tennessee

Dr. Silke Hecht received her veterinary degree in 1998 and her Doctorate (Dr. med. vet.) in 2001 both from Ludwig-Maximilians-University in Munich, Germany. She completed her residency in Diagnostic Imaging at Tufts University in 2005. She is a Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Radiology (ACVR) and the European College of Veterinary Diagnostic Imaging (ECVDI). Dr. Hecht is currently a Professor of Radiology at the University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine. She is also a consultant for VetCT. Her areas of interest include MRI, neuroimaging, and oncologic imaging. She has published more than 90 peer reviewed publications and 25 book chapters. She is also the Editor of a Textbook on Veterinary Radiology.

Advanced Veterinary Neuroscience – Week 1

Monica Aleman, MVZ Cert., PhD, DACVIM (LAIM & Neurology)

Terry Holliday Equine and Comparative Neurology Endowed Presidential Chair
University of California, Davis

Bio pending.

Silke Hecht, Dr. med. vet., DACVR, DECVDI

Professor
University of Tennessee

Dr. Silke Hecht received her veterinary degree in 1998 and her Doctorate (Dr. med. vet.) in 2001 both from Ludwig-Maximilians-University in Munich, Germany. She completed her residency in Diagnostic Imaging at Tufts University in 2005. She is a Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Radiology (ACVR) and the European College of Veterinary Diagnostic Imaging (ECVDI). Dr. Hecht is currently a Professor of Radiology at the University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine. She is also a consultant for VetCT. Her areas of interest include MRI, neuroimaging, and oncologic imaging. She has published more than 90 peer reviewed publications and 25 book chapters. She is also the Editor of a Textbook on Veterinary Radiology.

Amy Johnson, DVM, DACVIM (LAIM & Neurology)

Associate Professor
University of Pennsylvania

Dr. Amy L. Johnson, DVM, DACVIM (LAIM & Neurology) is currently an associate professor of large animal medicine and neurology at the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine's New Bolton Center. She received her DVM from Cornell University and completed an equine internship at B.W. Furlong and Associates in New Jersey. She became board-certified in large animal internal medicine after completing a residency at Cornell University, and she subsequently became board-certified in neurology after completing a residency at the University of Pennsylvania. Dr. Johnson has been at Penn Vet for 15 years and was appointed to the faculty in 2011. Dr. Johnson's research interests focus on improving the ability to diagnose the cause of neurologic disease in horses using clinical examination, laboratory testing, and advanced imaging techniques.

Chris Mariani, DVM, PhD, DACVIM (Neurology)

Professor
North Carolina State University

Chris Mariani is a Professor of Neurology & Neurosurgery in the Department of Clinical Sciences at North Carolina State University. He was born near Toronto, Ontario, and graduated from the Ontario Veterinary College at the University of Guelph in 1996. He completed a rotating small animal internship at Michigan Veterinary Specialists, followed by one year as an associate veterinarian in Beverly Hills, Michigan. After this he began a residency in neurology and neurosurgery at the University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine. This was followed by graduate work in brain tumor immunotherapy, leading to a PhD in Neuroscience from the College of Medicine, also at the University of Florida. Chris' professional interests include neuroimmunology, inflammatory brain disease, brain tumors, epilepsy and the use of biomarkers to improve the diagnosis and therapy of these conditions. He currently directs the Comparative Neuroimmunology and Neuro-oncology Laboratory at NC State.

Kaspar Matiasek, DVM, DrMedVetHabil

Professor

Ludwig-Maximilians-University Munich

Kaspar Matiasek is an expert in neuromorphology, CSF and tissue diagnostics of neurological and neuromuscular disorders. Since 2007 he heads diagnostic neuropathology laboratories in UK and Germany and receives samples from neurology specialists worldwide. Kaspar Matiasek is engaged in college activities and trains neurology and pathology interns, externs and residents in weekly case discussions, mortality and morbidity rounds, in online courses and workshops like the European Brain Camp and Barcelona Courses on Neuropathology and Neuroanatomy.

Dennis O'Brien, DVM, PhD

Professor Emeritus, University of Missouri

Adjunct Professor, University of Alaska-Fairbanks

Dr. Dennis O'Brien is Professor Emeritus in Comparative Neurology at the University of Missouri and Adjunct Professor at the University of Alaska-Fairbanks. He received his DVM degree from the University of Illinois. After 3 years in general practice, he returned to the University of Illinois to complete a residency in neurology and a PhD in neuroscience. He is board certified in neurology by the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine and the recipient of their Kirk Award for Professional Excellence. His research focused on hereditary and acquired diseases of the nervous system including epilepsy, movement disorders, developmental disorders, and neurodegenerative diseases.

George Strain, PhD

Professor

Louisiana State University

Dr. George M. Strain is Professor of Neuroscience at Louisiana State University School of Veterinary Medicine. BS in electrical engineering (Illinois), MS in biomedical engineering, and PhD in physiology and biomedical engineering (Iowa State), followed by postdoctoral training in neurophysiology and neurology at the UCLA School of Medicine. He has provided electrodiagnostic services in the teaching hospital for 44 years, has published extensively on electrodiagnostic testing, deafness, epilepsy, and other areas of veterinary neurology, and is the author of *Deafness in Dogs and Cats*. His current research emphasis is on the molecular genetics of pigment-associated deafness in dogs.

Chris Thomson, BVSc(Hons), DACVIM (Neurology), DECVN, PhD

Neurologist

Animal Referral Hospital Brisbane

Dr. Thomson graduated from University of Melbourne, and completed their neurology residency at North Carolina State College of Veterinary Medicine, USA, and a PhD in neuroscience at University of Glasgow, UK. Dr. Thomson has worked at Melbourne, Glasgow, and Massey Universities, and latterly, in the Veterinary Medicine Department at University of Alaska, Fairbanks. Dr. Thomson recently swapped Alaska's -30 deg C for +30 deg C in Brisbane, Australia and is now working in private referral practice at the Animal Referral Hospital. Along with their colleague, Dr. Caroline Hahn, Dr. Thomson has distilled decades of study and teaching about clinical neuroanatomy and neurological localization into 'Veterinary Neuroanatomy: a Clinical Approach (Elsevier 2012).

Colette Williams, PhD

EDX Consultant
University of California, Davis

Colette Williams has spent four decades performing and teaching electrodiagnostics (EDX), including: EMG, MNCV/SNCV, REP STIM, late waves, BAER, EEG, and SEP. Colette has contributed an EEG chapter to Blackwell's Five-Minute Veterinary Consult and co-authored EDX chapters in Tobias's Veterinary Surgery: Small Animal and Ettinger's Textbook of Veterinary Internal Medicine. She also has over 40 publications and is a reviewer for several journals. Colette consults for numerous universities and specialty practices. Her mission is to encourage the use of these techniques in veterinary medicine and to raise the standards to the level of those in human medicine.

Matt Winter, DVM, DACVR

Vice President
VetCT USA

Bio pending.

Advanced Veterinary Neuroscience – Week 2

Michaela Beasley, DVM, MS, CCRP, DACVIM (Neurology)

Associate Clinical Professor
Mississippi State University

Dr. Beasley is a 2008 graduate of Mississippi State University. Following graduation, she did a general rotating internship and neurology/ neurosurgical residency at Auburn University. While pursuing her residency she also completed a master's in biomedical sciences focusing on the pharmacokinetics of extended release levetiracetam. She received her board certification in neurology and neurosurgical certificate in 2013 and her certificate in canine rehabilitation in 2020. Dr. Beasley is currently an Associate Clinical Professor in the neurology/ neurosurgery service and Small Animal Chief of Staff at Mississippi State University.

Tim Bentley, BVSc (Dist), MRCVS, DACVIM (Neurology)

Professor
Purdue University

Dr. Bentley is a professor of veterinary neurology & neurosurgery at the Purdue University College of Veterinary Medicine. His primary research focus is brain surgery, especially translational cancer research and hydrocephalus. He directs canine glioma surgery and canine brain MRI research programs and is the lead surgeon in federally funded hydrocephalus studies. His other publications include canine neuro-radiology and small animal CNS mycosis.

Bob Bergman, DVM, MS, DACVIM (Neurology)

Chief Medical Officer, Specialty and Emergency Medicine for PetVet Care Centers
Specialist, Carolina Veterinary Specialists

Dr. Bergman received his DVM from the University of Georgia in 1997. He then completed a small animal rotating internship at the University of Georgia. Following internship, he completed a residency in neurology at Virginia Tech (Diplomate ACVIM Neurology 2001). Concurrently, he completed a master's degree with a focus on neuroscience. He then served as a clinical assistant professor of neurology and neurosurgery at Texas A&M for two years. Currently he

is Chief Medical Officer for Specialty and Emergency Medicine for PetVet Care Centers. He also continues to practice as a neurologist based at Carolina Veterinary Specialists, in Charlotte, NC.

Alina Demeter, DVM, PhD, DACVP (Anatomic Path)

Assistant Clinical Professor, Director of the Anatomic Pathology Residency Program
Cornell University

Dr. Alina Demeter is an Assistant Clinical Professor of Anatomic Pathology at Cornell University and Director of the Anatomic Pathology Residency Program. Dr. Demeter earned her DVM in Bucharest, Romania, and continued her studies by pursuing a Ph.D. in Budapest, Hungary. She did her anatomic pathology residency training at Cornell University where she became passionate about the fascinating world of neuropathology. Following her residency and board certification, she completed a neuropathology fellowship at Cornell University and joined the anatomic pathology team as a faculty member. Dr. Demeter is currently researching select infectious causes of encephalitis in animals and glial tumors in domestic species. When not doing pathology Dr. Demeter is spending time with her family, gardening, or hiking.

Amy Fauber, DVM, MS, DACVS (Small Animal), DACVIM (Neurology)

Neurosurgeon
CARE|Charlotte Animal Referral & Emergency

Dr. Amy Fauber is a neurosurgeon at CARE|Charlotte Animal Referral & Emergency in North Carolina. Prior to joining CARE she was an Assistant Professor of Small Animal Surgery and Neurology at Purdue University. Originally from Ohio, she completed her DVM degree at Ohio State University. After her internship at Oradell Animal Hospital in NJ, she completed her residency in small animal surgery at Purdue University. She became a Diplomate of ACVS in 2007. Dr. Fauber then completed her neurology residency as a joint residency at Carolina Veterinary Specialists and Purdue University. She became a Diplomate of ACVIM (Neurology) in 2012.

Kari Foss, DVM, DACVIM (Neurology)

Assistant Professor
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Dr. Kari Foss is an assistant professor in the department of Veterinary Clinical Medicine at the University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine. She earned her DVM from the University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine. After earning her DVM, she then completed a residency in Veterinary Neurology and Neurosurgery at The Ohio State University as well as earning a Master's degree in Veterinary Clinical Sciences, also from The Ohio State University. Following completion of her residency, she was an associate veterinary neurologist at MedVet Medical Centers for Pets in Columbus Ohio before joining the faculty at the University of Illinois in 2016. Dr. Foss has research experience on cervical spondylomyelopathy, degenerative lumbosacral stenosis, and gait analysis. Currently, Dr. Foss's research interests focus on ways to improve patient care through advancing diagnostic techniques utilizing neuroimaging.

Gabriel Garcia, DVM, DACVIM (Neurology)

Clinical Assistant Professor
University of Florida

Dr. Garcia received his DVM from Ross University in 2009, completing his clinical year at Auburn University. He then completed a small animal rotating internship in Miami, Florida, a surgical internship in Orlando, Florida and a neurology internship in Springfield, Virginia. Following internships, he completed a residency in neurology and neurosurgery at Mississippi State University. He received board-certification in neurology in 2017. He is currently a clinical assistant professor of neurology and neurosurgery at the University of Florida. He has a particular interest in seizure management and neurosurgery, including craniocervical junction abnormalities and trauma.

Ralph Hamor, DVM, DACVO

Clinical Professor
University of Florida

Dr. Hamor graduated from the University of Missouri-Columbia in 1987 and then completed an internship Auburn University in 1988. He completed a residency and masters at Colorado State University in 1993 and became board-certified by the ACVO in 1994. He taught at the University of Illinois for 23 years prior to starting his current position as a Clinical Professor at the University of Florida in 2016. He has given over 150 scientific and continuing education presentations on the local, state, regional, national and international level.

Dawn Logas, DVM

Owner
Veterinary Dermatology Center

Bio pending.

Andrew Miller, DVM, DACVP (Anatomic Path)

Associate Professor
Cornell University

Andrew D. Miller is a graduate of Cornell University (BS '01, DVM '05) and a board certified anatomic veterinary pathologist (Dipl. ACVP '08). He is currently an Associate Professor in the Department of Biomedical Sciences, Section of Anatomic Pathology at Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine and director of the Anatomic Pathology Laboratory at the New York State Animal Health Diagnostic Center. Dr. Miller was previously a faculty member of the New England Primate Research Center, affiliated with Harvard Medical School. Dr. Miller's expertise is in oncologic pathology and neuropathology, especially comparative neoplasia. Dr. Miller has a wide ranging research portfolio with an extensive background in primary and collaborative research. Dr. Miller has authored and co-authored over 150 peer reviewed articles, 6 book chapters, and is an editorial board member of Veterinary Pathology and Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association.

Sarah A. Moore, DVM, DACVIM (Neurology)

Wolfe Associated Endowed Professor, Clinician and Service Chief of Neurology and Neurosurgery
The Ohio State University

Dr. Sarah Moore is the Wolfe Associated Endowed Professor in Canine Clinical and Comparative Medicine at The Ohio State University as well as a clinician and service chief of Neurology and Neurosurgery. She completed her residency in neurology and neurosurgery at North Carolina State University in 2009, and a research fellowship in neuroinflammation and spinal cord injury at The Ohio State University in 2011. Her research focuses on the management of acute spinal cord injury in dogs and her clinical interests include spinal surgery and the developing new strategies for managing neuropathic pain in veterinary patients. She also recently co-chaired the ACVIM consensus panel on the diagnosis and management of canine acute thoracolumbar intervertebral disc extrusion.

Luisito Pablo, DVM, DACVA

Clinical Professor
University of Florida

Dr. Luisito S. Pablo received the degree of Doctor of Veterinary Medicine in 1978. He received his Master of Science in Large Animal Medicine and Surgery from Auburn University in 1982. His interest in Anesthesia started when he came back to Auburn University to pursue his PhD in 1984. He started as a visiting Assistant Professor at the University of

Florida in 1989. He became board certified in Veterinary Anesthesiology in 1993. He received tenure and promotion to associate professor in 1998. In January of 2015, he moved to Auburn University and became a clinical professor. He decided to return to the University of Florida in October 2016. Presently, Dr. Pablo is a clinical professor at the College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Florida. He has received numerous teaching awards for his creativity in teaching. He continues to teach and practice veterinary anesthesia in the UF Veterinary Hospitals.

Ned Patterson, DVM, PhD

Professor
University of Minnesota

Bio pending.

Erin Porter, DVM, DACVR

Clinical Associate Professor
University of Florida

Bio pending.

Jennifer Repac, DVM, DACVSMR

Clinical Assistant Professor
University of Florida

Dr. Jennifer Repac received her DVM from the University of California Davis in 2009. She spent her first four years in general practice and shelter medicine in New York City. She then spent two years working as a veterinarian and teacher for a small animal practice in Beijing. Her love for teaching abroad led her to complete an Integrative and Rehabilitative Medicine specialty internship followed by residency at the Animal Medical Center of New York. She is now a clinical assistant professor at the University of Florida's Integrative Medicine Service. Dr. Repac is a diplomat of the American College of Veterinary Sports Medicine and Rehabilitation (DACVSMR). She also is certified in canine chiropractic, Chinese herbal medicine, and acupuncture.

Sheilah A. Robertson, BVMS (Hons), PhD, DACVAA, DECVAA, DACAW, DECAWBM (AWSEL), CVA, MRCVS

Senior Medical Director, Lap of Love Veterinary Hospice
Courtesy Professor, University of Florida

Dr. Robertson graduated from the University of Glasgow. After private practice and a surgery internship she specialized in anesthesia. She is board certified in anesthesia and analgesia and animal welfare in the US and Europe. She has published widely on the recognition and alleviation of pain in animals. She is the senior medical director of Lap of Love Veterinary Hospice, a large network of veterinarians dedicated to end-of-life care and in-home euthanasia throughout the US. Dr. Robertson is a courtesy Professor in the Department of Small Animal Clinical Sciences, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida.

Christine Rutter, DVM, DACVECC

Clinical Assistant Professor
Texas A&M University

Dr. Christine Rutter is originally from Biloxi, Mississippi and received her DVM from Mississippi State University. She was a general practitioner before pursuing an ECC internship in Louisville, Kentucky. She completed an ECC residency at Tufts University and worked in private specialty practice for six years in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. She is currently a

clinical assistant professor at Texas A&M University College of Veterinary Medicine. She is a diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Emergency Critical Care and a member of the Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care Society.

Marilia Takada, DVM, PhD, DACVR

Professor
University of Florida

Dr. Takada received her DVM at University of Sao Paulo, Brazil. She completed a MSc and a PhD degree at Michigan State University, focusing on the investigation of novel targeted therapies for canine histiocytic sarcoma, and associated oncogenic drivers. She specialized in veterinary radiation oncology at University of Wisconsin. Her research interests include: clinical trials to test novel agents for canine and feline cancer, hypofractionated radiation protocols, and radiation-induced immunomodulation. She loves nature, sunrises and sunsets. She loves dogs but has become a cat person. She loves travelling, trying exotic food, wine tasting, yoga and college basketball.

Fred Winger, VMD, MS, DACVIM (Neurology)

Charlotte Animal Referral and Emergency (CARE)
Owner and Operator, 3D Veterinary Printing, LLC

Dr. Fred Winger earned his VMD from the University of Pennsylvania. After completing a small animal rotating internship at the University of Georgia, he finished his neurology/neurosurgery residency at Washington State University. There he developed a love for neuroimaging and the development of a novel neuronavigation device. Joining the faculty at the University of Missouri, he applied these interests in the development of therapies for both animals and children with Batters disease (neuronal ceroid lipofuscinosis). He moved to St. Louis where he practiced for several years and developed the first hybrid private practice/academic neurology residency program which continues today. Dr. Winger is the owner and operator of 3D veterinary printing LLC, where he creates models and customized surgical tools to aid veterinary surgeons and neurosurgeons around the world.

Advanced Veterinary Neurosurgery

Bob Bergman, DVM, MS, DACVIM (Neurology)

Chief Medical Officer, Specialty and Emergency Medicine for PetVet Care Centers
Specialist, Carolina Veterinary Specialists

See bio under Advanced Veterinary Neuroscience – Week 2.

Amy Fauber, DVM, MS, DACVS (Small Animal), DACVIM (Neurology)

Neurosurgeon
CARE|Charlotte Animal Referral & Emergency

See bio under Advanced Veterinary Neuroscience – Week 2.

Gabriel Garcia, DVM, DACVIM (Neurology)

Clinical Assistant Professor
University of Florida

See bio under Advanced Veterinary Neuroscience – Week 2.

Sean Sanders, DVM, PhD, DACVIM (Neurology)

Veterinary Neurologist and Neurosurgeon
Consultant

Dr. Sean Sanders is a consulting Veterinary Neurologist and Neurosurgeon in Seattle, Washington, USA. He received his DVM degree from Washington State University and completed a residency in Neurology and Neurosurgery along with a PhD in Neuroscience. He was a founding partner of Seattle Veterinary Specialists and author of “Seizures in Dogs and Cats” published by Wiley Blackwell. A passion for learning has led to a passion for teaching, which he strives to develop through the application of critical problem solving, a skill he learned, in depth while attending the Northwest School of Wooden Boatbuilding. Dr. Sanders lectures nationally and internationally on topics related to Veterinary Neurology and Neurosurgery. He builds guitars, boats and furniture, restores cars and enjoys, sailing, mountain biking, hiking and snowboarding, and spending time with his wife, their dogs and an extremely elderly rabbit.