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**The American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine (ACVIM) Announces  
2026 Recognition Award Recipients**

**Seattle, WA (June 12, 2026)** – [The American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine](http://The American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine) (ACVIM) has announced the recipients of the 2026 ACVIM Recognition Awards during the 2026 ACVIM Forum in Seattle, Washington. The winners are accomplished veterinary internal medicine professionals and ACVIM Diplomates who have demonstrated professional excellence, dedicated service and expertise, making a significant impact on the wellbeing of animals and advancing the veterinary profession. Please join us in congratulating this year's esteemed awardees.

**Jody Lulich, DVM, PhD, DACVIM (SAIM)**, Professor of Internal Medicine and Co-Director of the Minnesota Urolith Center at the University of Missouri College of Veterinary Medicine, is the recipient of the [Robert W. Kirk Award for Professional Excellence](#) for his outstanding career and lifetime of contributions to the ACVIM and the field of veterinary internal medicine.

**Chris Sanchez, DVM, PhD, DACVIM (LAIM)**, Associate Dean of Clinical Services for Large Animal Operations and Professor at the University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine, is the recipient of the [Lee & Inge Pyle Service Award](#) for her record of outstanding and dedicated service in a volunteer capacity to the ACVIM.

**Christopher Fulkerson, DVM, MS, DACVIM (Oncology)**, Interim Associate Dean & Clinical Associate Professor at Purdue University College of Veterinary Medicine, is the recipient of the [William R. Fenner Early Career Award for Outstanding Service](#) for his exceptional service to the ACVIM in a volunteer capacity within the first 15 years following Board-certification.

Three outstanding Diplomates received the [Specialty Lifetime Achievement Award](#), recognizing prominent leaders who have made significant contributions in one of the six ACVIM specialties. **Janice Kritchevsky, VMD, MS, DACVIM (LAIM)**, Professor Emerita at Purdue University College of Veterinary Medicine, received the Specialty Lifetime Achievement Award in large animal internal medicine (LAIM); **Ruthanne Chun, DVM, DACVIM (Oncology)**, Clinical Professor, University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Veterinary Medicine, received the Specialty Lifetime Achievement Award in oncology; and **Albert Jergens, DVM, PhD, MS, DACVIM (SAIM), AGA**, Professor and Associate Chair of Research and Graduate Studies at Iowa State University College of Veterinary Medicine, received the Specialty Lifetime Achievement Award in small animal internal medicine (SAIM).

ACVIM Recognition Award recipients are selected by a rotating committee of ACVIM Diplomates annually based on peer nominations and the honorees' outstanding contributions to the field. To learn more about the ACVIM Recognition Awards and past recipients, visit [www.acvim.org/get-involved/awards](http://www.acvim.org/get-involved/awards).

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### **About the ACVIM**

Based in Englewood, Colorado, the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine (ACVIM) is the certifying organization for veterinary specialists in cardiology, large animal internal medicine, neurology, nutrition, oncology and small animal internal medicine. With over 4,000 members internationally, the ACVIM is dedicated to improving the lives of animals and people through the education, training and certification of specialists in veterinary internal medicine, discovery and dissemination of new medical knowledge and increasing public awareness of advances in veterinary medical care. [ACVIM.org](http://ACVIM.org)

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