

OASV Fall Virtual Conference 2021 – Speaker Biographies

Friday, November 5, 2021 – 9-11 AM EST



Dr. Christa Arsenault

Christa Arsenault began in the role as the National ASF Coordinator on April 1, 2021 working for the National Farmed Animal Health and Welfare Council. She has been involved in the swine industry since graduating from the Ontario Veterinary College in 2006. During this time she has been in the following roles, which include:

- Working as a private practicing veterinarian in a mixed animal practice.
- Working as a veterinary inspector at the district level in Ontario with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA).
- Lead Veterinarian in the Animal Health and Welfare Branch working for the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA).
- Board member for the Ontario Association of Swine Veterinarians (OASV) and held the role of President twice for this organization.
- Swine Health Ontario leadership team ex-officio member.
- Co-lead for the Ontario Animal Health Swine Network (OAHN).
- Manager of the Canadian Swine Health Intelligence Network (CSHIN).

Christa has been involved in the African Swine Fever (ASF) planning and preparedness file for the past 2.5 years and has witnessed how much has been accomplished by all involved during this time period. Christa along with the ASF coordination team have been working hard on connecting the dots of ASF planning and preparedness at national, provincial and industry levels. Coordination will be provided in order to address any planning gaps that exist and communication to all involved stakeholders is a main priority.



Dr. Laura Eastwood

Dr. Laura Eastwood is a Swine Specialist with the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food & Rural Affairs. Laura grew up in Ontario and completed her B.Sc. in Animal Biology at the University of Guelph in 2006. She then continued her studies, completing her M.Sc. (2008) and Ph.D. (2013) at the University of Saskatchewan and the Prairie Swine Centre, focusing on swine nutrition. In 2015, Laura returned to Ontario as a Swine Specialist, where she focuses on all aspects of swine production. In early 2019, when Ontario began its African Swine Fever planning and preparedness work, Laura became co-lead of an Industry-OMAFRA working group tasked with mass depopulation and disposal

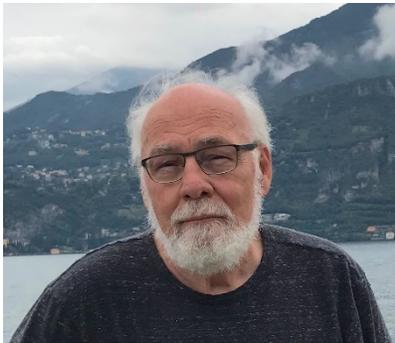
planning. Laura continues to co-lead this team, and represents OMAFRA and Ontario at the

national level with this work. Dr. Eastwood is also an adjunct faculty member in the Department of Animal Biosciences at the University of Guelph.



Frank Wood

Frank is the Manager of Industry and Member Services for Ontario Pork. Frank and his team work together as a liaison between producers and Ontario Pork by establishing effective, cooperative business relationships with producers and their associations. The team is responsible for implementing national programs, assisting producers in adopting new technologies; and communicating current industry challenges to producers, associations and industry partners. frank.wood@ontariopork.on.ca



Dr. Robert Friendship

Dr. Friendship is a professor in the department of Population Medicine at the Ontario Veterinary College, the swine research coordinator for the University of Guelph, and a member of the steering committee for the new research swine barn being built at Elora to replace the Arkell facility. Dr. Friendship helped set up the Arkell barn when it was built in 1980, so he has some experience in the field of swine research barns.



Dr. Vahab Farzan

Dr. Farzan (DVM, MSc, PhD) is a Research Scientist, Adjunct Professor, and Associated Graduate Faculty in the Departments of Population Medicine and Pathobiology at the University of Guelph. Dr. Farzan is a veterinary epidemiologist and microbiologist with 30 years academic research experience primarily focusing on epidemiology of foodborne pathogens and the prevention of infectious disease in animal populations. Currently, Dr. Farzan is leading several projects to investigate molecular characteristics of bacterial population (Ex. *Streptococcus suis*), to study the gut microbiome and its impact on animal health, to develop in vivo bacterial infection model (Ex. enterotoxigenic *E. coli*, *Salmonella*, and *Streptococcus suis*), and to evaluate various interventions such as vaccines and probiotics to prevent bacterial infections in swine.

Friday, November 12, 2021 – 9-11 AM EST



Dr. Sue Burlatschenko

Dr. Burlatschenko was a graduate of OVC long enough ago that she's considered a dinosaur (in her words!). She established Goshen Ridge Vet Services after working in mixed practice. Dr. Sue has since obtained Diplomate status through the American Board of Veterinary Practitioners, followed by Masters of Public Health degree. She is currently involved in clinical practice, teaching, mentoring and some field research. Dr. Sue is eagerly waiting for COVID to end so that she can start travelling again.



Dr. Kevin Vilaca

Dr. Vilaca is a swine veterinarian with South West Ontario Veterinary Services, based in Stratford, Ontario.



Dr. Hannah Golightly

Hannah is a PhD candidate in the Department of Population Medicine at the Ontario Veterinary College and is co-advised by Dr. Terri O'Sullivan (OVC) and Dr. Jennifer Brown (Prairie Swine Centre). Prior to entering graduate studies, Hannah completed a DVM degree at the OVC in 2019, streaming food animal in her final year. Hannah's PhD thesis project focuses on assessing the effects of commercial transport on nursery piglet welfare.



Dr. Jim Fairles

Jim has been Client Services Veterinarian at AHL now for 17 years, providing operations management for Specimen Room and the lab. He was in mixed practice in Mount Forest before that. In his spare time, Jim enjoys aviation, cycling and astronomy.

Friday, November 19, 2021 9-11 AM EST



Dr. Paul Yeske

Dr. Yeske is a swine veterinarian with the Swine Vet Center in St. Peter, Minnesota. He received his DVM degree in 1985 from the Iowa State University College of Veterinary Medicine, after which he joined a 15 person large animal practice. Since 1991, he has been a swine veterinary herd health consultant with the Swine Vet Center, a 15-person practice providing swine producers with production and health consulting and management services. During his career, he has served on multiple committees for national and state veterinary and swine organizations, as well as on advisory committees for the pharmaceutical industry. Dr. Yeske is a frequent invited speaker at swine-related events, having given over 100 presentations at veterinary conferences and 120 presentations at producer meetings.



Dr. Nicole Ricker

Dr. Ricker is an assistant professor with the Department of Pathobiology, Ontario Veterinary College at the University of Guelph. She is originally from Bruce County and completed her undergraduate degree in microbiology at the University of Guelph before moving to the University of Toronto to work as a research associate before returning to graduate school. She completed a Master's degree in environmental science as well as her PhD in bacterial genetics at the University of Toronto under the supervision of Dr. Roberta Fulthorpe. For her post-doctoral work, she was cross-appointed at the USDA National Animal Disease Center and Iowa State University, using bioinformatics tools to investigate antimicrobial resistance in swine. She re-joined the University of Guelph as a faculty hire through the Food from Thought program and established her lab starting in 2019. Dr. Ricker's research is focused on the genetics of bacterial pathogens, big data approaches to disease prediction, and management strategies for antimicrobial resistance in livestock.



Dr. Durda Slavic

Dr. Slavic is a veterinary bacteriologist at the University of Guelph, Animal Health Laboratory since 2004. She earned her DVM degree at the University of Zagreb, Croatia and her MSc and PhD degrees in veterinary microbiology at the University of Guelph's Ontario Veterinary College. Dr. Slavic is very active within the USA and Canadian veterinary microbiology diagnostic community as a member of the AAVLD Bacteriology group and the Canadian Animal Health Laboratorians Network (CAHLN). She was a co-chair for the AAVLD Bacteriology steering committee, and has been actively involved in the AAVLD Bacteriology and mycology committee, as well as the Antimicrobial susceptibility testing committee. She is also a member of the Journal of Veterinary Diagnostic Investigation editorial board. Since 2019, Dr. Slavic has led the Vet-LIRN antimicrobial resistance-whole genome sequencing (AMR-WGS) initiative in Canada, coordinating metadata and isolate collection from 5 Canadian diagnostic labs as well as WGS of bacterial isolates. Throughout her career, Dr. Slavic has received numerous scholarships and awards, the latest being the AAVLD Award for Excellence in Veterinary Diagnostic Microbiology.