



# Animal & Comparative Biomedical Sciences

## Feature

### ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS

#### Research



Sarita Bugalia, a member of the Salvador Lab, received a BIO5 Postdoctoral Fellowship to further her research on the evolutionary dynamics of infectious disease.

- Page 11

#### Teaching



Supporting the scientists of tomorrow: University of Arizona alum, Ronald Paque, creates scholarship to fund juniors, seniors and graduate students studying Microbiology

- Page 3

#### Extension



The Informed Arizona Equestrian Horse Symposium's move to the U of A Al-Marah Equine Center offered an enhanced attendee experience with demonstrations and hands-on opportunities.

- Page 8

## Wildcat Winners: University of Arizona's Inaugural Meat Judging Team Makes Impressive Debut

The University of Arizona has a new source of pride on campus: its first-ever Intercollegiate Meat Judging Team! After decades without a presence in this prestigious competition, a dedicated group of Animal Science majors, under the guidance of coach Megan Sorenson and advised by Dr. Duane Wulf, has made a remarkable entrance onto the national stage during the 2025 Spring Semester.



The University of Arizona Meat Judging Team. (front) Dr. Duane Wulf, faculty advisor, (clockwise from left) Joslyn Chorley, Emilee Bluhm, Aislee Drake, Kaitlyn Dawkins, Megan Sorenson (team coach), and Karlee Larzalere.

The journey began with a crucial boost from the American Meat Science Association (AMSA). The UofA successfully secured a \$10,000 Judging Jump Start grant, a testament to the university's commitment to launching this program. These funds have been instrumental in supporting the team's training, travel, and equipment, paving the way for their impressive debut.



The University of Arizona Meat Judging Team at the National Western competition in Denver, Colorado. (l-r) Karlee Larzalere, Kaitlyn Dawkins, Joslyn Chorley, Emilee Bluhm, and Aislee Drake.

The Wildcats kicked off their inaugural season at the highly competitive National Western Stock Show in Denver, Colorado, in January. Facing off against 12 teams and 67 students in the National Division (and 26 teams and 193 students overall), the U of A team showcased their commitment and hard work by placing an outstanding **5th Overall**. They also secured top finishes in several categories, including **3rd in Beef Judging**, **4th**

**in Beef Grading**, **4th in Pork Judging**, **4th in Questions**, and **5th in Placings**. Individually, team members **Katelyn Dawkins (Las Vegas, NV)** and **Aislee Drake (Phoenix, AZ)** both earned spots in the top 10 overall individuals, with Katelyn placing 8th and Aislee 9th. Katelyn also shone in Pork Judging (3rd) and Questions (5th), while Aislee excelled in Lamb Judging (7th), Placings (8th), and Questions (8th). Other foundational team members contributing to this early success included **Joslyn Chorley (Casa Grande, AZ)**, **Emilee Bluhm (Gilbert, AZ)**, and **Karlee Larzalere (Ramona, CA)**.

(Meat Judging continued on 6)

# From the Director



On April 3rd, I celebrated my two-year Anniversary at the University of Arizona. While I am not sure exactly how two years have passed so quickly, I like to think that this is due to all of the exciting activities/new learning experiences that I have had and not due to my advancing age! Regardless of the reason, the truth is that these two years have been filled with many activities and events that reinforce that the decision to come to the University and ACBS was a good one for me and my family.

Many of you may recall that before I assumed my current role as Director of ACBS, I spent the prior (almost) 19 years working for the Department of Defense at Uniformed Services University. I ran an infectious disease research laboratory there and directed their Emerging Infectious Diseases Graduate Program. While a wonderful experience, after almost two decades in that role, I felt as if I was no longer learning as many new things as possible and wasn't utilizing all of my available skills. This, and some social media scientific contacts, eventually led me to explore the U of A opportunity. Despite the many University challenges faced this past year, I still believe I made the correct decision and I remain grateful for the opportunity.

To celebrate my two-year anniversary, I took a moment to recall some of the events and activities that have left the biggest impression on me since I arrived. Though certainly not exhaustive, below are a few of the highlights that stand out for me.

1. Meeting and learning about all of the amazing ACBS faculty and staff that help us function daily. Whether running research labs, teaching students, or delivering Extension programming around the state, our faculty are 'top notch' and dedicated to our Land Grant mission. The same is true of our amazing staff that go above and beyond daily to support each other, our students, and our faculty.
2. Participating in Extension programming and activities. I'm aware that some individuals were worried that my microbiology background might mean that I would not value our Extension mission and agricultural-focused efforts. However, these activities have been some of the most stimulating across these two years. For example, I was fortunate to attend the 2023 Arizona Livestock Incident Response Team (ALIRT) First Responder Workshop held in Prescott, AZ. There I met many Stakeholders and veterinarians and was able to attend the captive bolt and brain removal lab, the latter of which is crucial for rabies testing. I also got experience in knot tying that is used to ensure animal safety during rescues.
3. Meeting and speaking to Stakeholders around the state and country. Just to name a few, I've had the amazing opportunity to engage with members of the Arizona Cattle Growers Association (ACGA), Southern Area Cattle Protection Association (SACPA), the Arizona Horse Lover's Association, the Tucson Cowbells, and members of the Yuma agricultural community. A special thank you to Mary Campbell for giving me a 3 hour personalized tour of Griffin Family Farms during harvest season! It was truly breathtaking.



## SUPPORT ACBS

*Finding Tomorrow's Solutions, Together.*

Gifts of any size help to propel ACBS closer to its goals and have an immediate and lasting impact on our programs and students. Gifts may be made online at the University of Arizona Foundation website, or contact us to discuss more personalized options.

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4. Meeting students and their families during our senior celebration events that occur before each graduation ceremony. The pride and excitement in the room are almost palpable each time. As a first-generation college student myself, these interactions always bring back countless fond memories for me about the sense of accomplishment and excitement that goes along with this milestone.
5. Meeting with U of A and CALES alumni and getting the opportunity to hear about their experiences and why the U of A holds a special place in their hearts even many years later. I've gotten to meet some of these folks while serving at the annual CALES Homecoming Burrito Breakfast, but have also been fortunate to be hosted in some of their homes within and outside of the state.
6. Seeing the passion and commitment that each of you bring to our mission.
7. Participation in our Global Symposium on Racing, which is hosted yearly by our Racetrack Industry Program (RTIP), as well as trips to the Al-Marrah Equine Center (AMEC) to see our students learn about horses and the horse industry.
8. Traveling with colleagues to my home state of Arkansas to tour Tyson Industries and discuss internship opportunities for our students.

While I could continue my list of remarkable experiences, I hope that these few examples provide you some insight into what I have been up to for the past two years. Overall, I am grateful for all of the support that I have received, all of those that have spent time to teach me about areas outside of my field of expertise, and the devotion that each of you brings to your U of A role (faculty, staff, student, alumnus, supporter, Wildcat)! I've truly learned an enormous amount and look forward to continuing to learn with and from you all.

- Scotty

## D. Scott Merrell

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# A lasting legacy: Ronald Paque Scholarships in Microbiology/Immunology

*U of A alum's gift offers funding to juniors, seniors and graduate students studying Microbiology*

Ronald Paque is deeply committed to supporting higher education for young people interested in scientific research. An accomplished microbiology and immunology researcher and a dedicated educator, he aspires to continue his contributions to the field by assisting future generations of scientists through the Ronald Paque Undergraduate Scholarship in Microbiology/Immunology and the Ronald Paque Graduate Student Scholarship in Microbiology/Immunology.

The undergraduate scholarship is available to full-time junior or senior undergraduate students. Students must be U.S. citizens or permanent residents majoring in microbiology or immunology, with a minimum GPA of 3.5 or higher. Preference is given to exceptional students with a demonstrated commitment to bacteriology, parasitology, mycology, immunology, virology, microbial physiology or microbial genetics.

The graduate scholarship is open to full-time microbiology or immunology graduate students in their second year or later. They must be U.S. citizens or permanent residents and have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.5 or higher. Preference will be given to exceptional students with a demonstrated commitment to pursuing an active research career and those with peer-reviewed publications.

Paque believes aspiring scientists must be prepared to think outside the box.

"I want them to think critically, analytically, and to constantly question the established dogma, for it can be in error," he said. "My own studies with RNA molecules able to transmit immunological information across species barriers and within species were considered highly controversial at the time. However, the Nobel Prizes in Medicine in 2018 and 2021 were direct outgrowths of my work 40 years earlier."

## Dedicated to discovery

Paque's scientific career began at the University of Wisconsin (UW) Oshkosh, where he graduated with honors in 1960 with a bachelor's degree in biology and chemistry. He continued his education at UW Madison, obtaining a master's degree in bacteriology, followed by a Ph.D. in microbiology and immunology from the University of Arizona.

Paque proceeded to work at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in Bethesda, Maryland, subsequently receiving an NIH Post-doctoral Fellowship at the University of Illinois School of Medicine in Chicago. There, he was appointed to the faculty in the Department of Microbiology/Immunology. After teaching and research at the University of Illinois, Paque became a professor of microbiology at the University of Texas (UT) Health Science Center Medical School in San Antonio.

His science in transfection of immune cells with RNA molecules across species barriers led to his being invited to the Second International Congress on RNA in Molecular Biology in Peking,

China. Held in 1980, he shared a scientific program with no less than five Nobel Prize winners in medicine. He was one of only 23 American scientists invited to the conference.

In addition to his work with RNA molecules, Paque studied the immunoregulation of a myocarditic heart disease utilizing immunoglobulin idiotypes as probes for examining the immune cell dynamics in the development and pathophysiology of the disease process, and published multiple papers defining this process. He also published papers on human transfer factor and infectious diseases.

Paque has served on numerous university and national committees, including an NIH Grant Review study section, and was a member of four National Scientific Societies and a reviewer of multiple major peer-reviewed academic journals. He has also been elected to numerous undergraduate and graduate honor societies.



In his years of teaching, Paque has found that research in biological science offers a wonderful opportunity for students to relate and study phylogenetic evolution in terms of life on this planet and to come away with a strong appreciation for evolution and how this elegant theory plays within the biological sciences. He is proud and humbled that a large majority of the students he has trained have gone on with their own research careers, and yet he still sees the mark of the thinking that he was striving to inculcate in their minds.

Through his commitment to his chosen field of study and his generous contribution to nurturing the education of budding scientists, Paque has created a legacy of supporting scientific discovery and exploration through critical thinking and questioning the status quo. His belief in - and support of - the education of young researchers will allow them to use their creativity and imagination, as he did, to make novel discoveries and propel the field of microbiology research into the future.

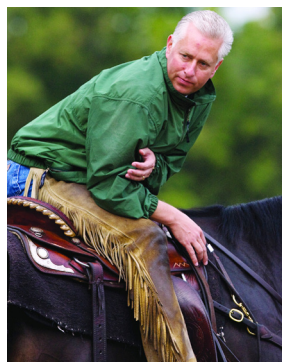
## Supporting the scientists of tomorrow

Paque's generous bequest has already begun to leave a lasting legacy on promising young scientists, including scholarship recipient Benjamin Wallace. "This scholarship will help me continue my higher education and support me in completing my

(Paque continued on 4)



# RTIP Alum Todd Pletcher Receives 2025 Alumni of the Year Award



While the Race Track Industry Program (RTIP) has no shortage of illustrious alumni, one in particular stands out as an example of the incredible caliber of program graduates we are proud to claim as Wildcats. Todd Pletcher (RTIP '89) is one of the winningest trainers in Thoroughbred racing history. His accolades are numerous, including eight Eclipse Awards for trainer of the year, all-time leading Thoroughbred trainer by money won amassing nearly

\$500 million in earnings, numerous winners of Triple Crown races and his own place as an inductee to the National Museum of Racing and Hall of Fame.

Each year, the University of Arizona Alumni Advisory Council has the privilege of conferring recognition upon individuals for outstanding achievement and contributions to their professions, their communities and the University of Arizona. Todd was honored along with alumni from other colleges at a ceremony in February.

## Todd Pletcher: A Legacy of Excellence in Thoroughbred Racing

Todd Pletcher's journey in the world of horse racing began early, as he was born into a racing family. His initial experience involved working for his father, Jake Pletcher, as a hot walker at Ruidoso Downs in New Mexico. Pletcher's passion for the sport deepened through formative experiences at various tracks, including Louisiana Downs, Hollywood Park, and Del Mar.

Pletcher's connection to the University of Arizona is significant, as he honed his skills at the university's Race Track Industry Program. In 1989, he earned a bachelor of animal science degree, marking a pivotal step in his career.

Pletcher's professional journey took a significant turn when he became an assistant trainer for Hall of Famer D. Wayne Lukas. During this time, he played a crucial role in the development of notable horses such as Thunder Gulch, Harlan, Serena's Song, and

Flanders. In 1995, Pletcher ventured out on his own, obtaining his trainer's license and quickly establishing himself as a prominent figure in the industry. His first victory as a trainer came in 1996, and he has since become a dominant force in the sport.

Pletcher's achievements have garnered significant recognition. He has received the prestigious Eclipse Award for Trainer of the Year eight times, including a remarkable streak of four consecutive years. In 2021, he was inducted into the National Horse Racing Hall of Fame, a testament to his lasting impact on the sport. His list of major victories includes two Kentucky Derby wins, four Belmont Stakes titles, and one Kentucky Oaks triumph.

Beyond his achievements in racing, Pletcher remains dedicated to the University of Arizona and its Race Track Industry Program. He actively engages with students, offering mentorship and sharing his expertise at industry events such as the RTIP's Global Symposium on Racing.

Todd Pletcher's story is one of passion, dedication, and achievement. From his early days in the industry to his current status as a Hall of Fame trainer, Pletcher has demonstrated a commitment to excellence that has earned him the respect and admiration of his peers and fans alike. His contributions to the sport of thoroughbred racing and his ongoing involvement with the University of Arizona make him a deserving recipient of the CALES Alumni of the Year Award.

Adapted from CALES News, Dec 3, 2024

<https://cales.arizona.edu/news/less-job-and-more-lifestyle-cales-alum-todd-pletcher-reflects-his-career-training-thoroughbred>

Adapted from University of Arizona Alumni

<https://alumni.arizona.edu/celebrate-arizona/awards/alumni-year/2025-winners/todd-pletcher>



Todd Pletcher (l) at the University of Arizona Alumni of the Year award ceremony with (l-r) CALES Director of Development, Alex Strong, wife, Tracy Pletcher, RTIP Director, Robert Hartman, and CALES Alumni Relations Manager, Kristen Fought.

(Paque continued from 3)

undergraduate degree in microbiology," he said. "It will help me as a laboratory assistant in the UA Genetics Core. I'm excited about my future career and incredibly grateful for his kindness and support in helping me reach my goals."

Alyson Placko, another scholarship recipient, conveyed similar sentiments. "I am sincerely grateful for the Ronald Paque Undergraduate Scholarship in Microbiology/Immunology," she said. "Being awarded this scholarship enables me to continue being a full-time student and focus entirely on my education and research. The teaching and experiences that I am gaining from my time at the U of A are invaluable to me and my future hope to continue my interest in virology. With the scholarship's support, I can complete my undergraduate degree, which I intend to use as a foundation to complete a master's degree or a Ph.D. and continue contributing to the scientific community."

If you'd like to support the Ronald Paque Undergraduate Scholarship in Microbiology/Immunology or the Ronald Paque Graduate Scholarship in Microbiology/Immunology, contributions can be made online to help continue Paque's legacy and impact future microbiology students.

If you're interested in establishing a more personal legacy, creating a named endowment is also an option, offering lasting support tailored to your own philanthropic vision.

To learn more, please contact Nick Pierson, College of Agriculture, Life and Environmental Sciences Director of Development at [npierson@arizona.edu](mailto:npierson@arizona.edu) or (520) 621-9018.

- Debbie Reed, ACBS

# University of Arizona's Race Track Industry Program's Golden 50th Anniversary Shines Bright in Another Successful Global Symposium on Racing



The 50th Global Symposium on Racing hosted by The University of Arizona's Race Track Industry Program (RTIP) proudly came to a close, after three days of panels and multiple pre-conference sessions. The event, held December 9 – 11, 2024, connected students with over 650 industry professionals from around the globe to engage in discussions of pressing issues and explore the many opportunities waiting to be taken by the horse racing community.



University of Arizona Men's Basketball Head Coach Tommy Lloyd welcomes attendees to the 50th Global Symposium on Racing.

This year's renewal began with a special welcome from University of Arizona Men's Basketball Head Coach Tommy Lloyd, followed by a strongly delivered keynote address from Oaklawn Park President Louis Cella, highlighting the importance of working together for the good of the sport and bringing everyone to the table. The first day of panels included a look at how advances

in artificial intelligence (AI) can and are being harnessed to protect equine welfare, improve wagering experiences, and offer new tools and insights that could change how the sport operates in a meaningful way. Ricardo Valerdi, the University of Arizona's Systems and Industrial Engineering Department Head, added valuable insight on how AI can revolutionize sports. In the afternoon, attendees had the opportunity to listen to a conversation between RTIP alumni (and Hall of Fame trainers) Bob Baffert and Todd Pletcher, as they explored the daily life challenges and commitment required to find success in racing and provided updates on their current and possibly future champions.

One of the panel highlights of this year's symposium was Fifty Ideas in 50 Minutes where panelists were put on the clock with a 60 second countdown to share their idea and sell it to the audience. The timer kept the ideas and energy flowing.



Oaklawn Park President Louis Cella delivers the keynote address.

Throughout the symposium, the Horseracing Integrity and Safety Authority (HISA)

and the Horseracing Integrity & Welfare Unit (HIWU) played a prominent role. Notable sessions included a pre-conference workshop on Monday, tailored for state regulators and stewards. On Tuesday, HISA CEO Lisa Lazarus took a moment to reflect on where HISA started, their 2024 accomplishments and their vision and goals moving forward as they seek to implement new technology to assist regulatory veterinarians and racing officials. In the afternoon, members of HISA's Next Generation Advisory Group, including two RTIP alumni in Alexa Ravit and Eric DeCoster, took to the stage with Donna Brothers to discuss the state of racing and the views of bringing horse racing to new, younger audiences. On the final day, HIWU took to the stage to share how their departments work together and with outside experts to implement effective testing and investigations strategies to achieve their mission of integrity, safety, and welfare.

Panels of diverse topics were found throughout the symposium including a look at racing from our international counterparts, racing success stories, an engaging presentation on sports marketing strategies, a conversation about securing the future of our retired racehorses, evolving wagering to stay competitive, and how to structure handicapping contests to enhance a bettors experience while producing bottom line results for racetracks. ACBS Extension Horse Specialist, Dr. Betsy Greene, added valuable insights on a panel focusing on biosecurity strategies for racetracks and farms.

Looking ahead, the 2025 Global Symposium on Racing is already



ACBS Extension Horse Specialist, Dr. Betsy Greene, participated in a panel on biosecurity strategies for racetracks and farms.

generating anticipation. Scheduled to take place at Loews Ventana Canyon from December 8–10, the event promises to build on the success of this year's symposium. Hotel and registration details for the 2025 symposium will be available in June on the official website, [www.racingsymposium.com](http://www.racingsymposium.com). As always, faculty, staff, and students receive complimentary admission to the Global Symposium on Racing.

- University of Arizona Race Track Industry Program



The University of Arizona Meat Judging Team at the Southwest Invitational competition hosted by Texas Tech University. (l-r) Kaitlyn Dawkins, Joslyn Chorley, Karlee Larzalere, Aislee Drake, and Emilee Bluhm.

The team carried their momentum into the Southwestern Invitational Contest at the Fort Worth Stock Show in Texas in February. Once again competing in the National Division, the UofA squad demonstrated their consistency and growth, achieving **4th Overall**. They further solidified their strengths by placing **2nd in Pork Judging, 2nd in Total Placing, 3rd in Lamb Judging, 4th in Total Questions, 5th in Beef Grading, and 5th in Beef Judging**. Individual accolades continued, with **Aislee Drake** earning **3rd in Pork Judging and 4th in Placings**, and **Joslyn Chorley** placing **5th in Lamb Judging**. **Katelyn Dawkins** also stood out with a **4th place finish in Lamb Judging**.

The Spring semester concluded with the South Plains contest in Hereford, Texas. The team continued to demonstrate their skills, placing **5th in Pork Judging and 5th in Questions**. Individually, **Aislee Drake** had another strong showing, placing **5th in Pork Judging, 8th in Overall Beef, 8th in Questions, and 9th Overall**. Emilee Bluhm, Joslyn Chorley, and Karlee Larzalere also contributed to the team's efforts.

Coach Megan Sorenson, an ACBS graduate student, has been instrumental in the team's rapid progress, alongside the guidance of faculty advisor Dr. Duane Wulf, professor and director of the Arid Lands Animal Production Center. Their commitment to training and mentorship has clearly paid off in the team's impressive results.

Looking ahead, the University of Arizona Meat Judging Team is already gearing up for the Fall 2025 semester, which will include three more contests. The season will culminate with the National Championship in Friona, Texas, in October. With the strong foundation built this spring, the Wildcats are poised to continue their exciting journey and further establish the University of Arizona as a force to be reckoned with in intercollegiate meat judging. The future looks bright for this talented and dedicated group of students!

- Debbie Reed, ACBS

## Congratulations 2024 Summer and Fall ACBS Grads!

### Animal & Comparative Biomedical Sciences

#### Summer 2024

Rosa Icela Luna Ramirez, PhD  
Andrea Paola Rios Lugardo, PhD  
Sanya Kathuria, MS  
Daniela Rodriguez Rios, MS  
Ayna Raquel Tracy, MS  
Xinran Yang, MS

### Animal Sciences

#### Science and Pre-Professional

#### Summer 2024

Makiya Jolea McClellan, BS  
Isabelle Yell, BS  
Jimmy Yu, BS

#### Fall 2024

Ariana Marie Bootier, BS  
Emma Cynthia Pecqueur-Bell, BS

### Animal Industry

#### Fall 2024

Lauren Faith Wimberley, BS

### Equine

#### Fall 2024

Brynn Michelle Dombrowski, BS  
Veronica Kaye Mitchell, BS  
Savannah Jane Peterson, BS

### Race Track Industry

#### Summer 2024

Heather Lynne Haviland, BS

#### Fall 2024

Alicia Lynn Evans, BS  
Aldo Zamora Pedroza, BS

### Microbiology

#### Summer 2024

Urmi R Patel, MS  
Sri Harsha Vishwanath, MS

Lillie Grace Krasselt, BS  
Abigail Sondela Macdonald, BS  
Tiffany Nicole Meunier, BS

#### Fall 2024

Jenelle Rose Grech, BS  
Hailey Ann Hillsten, BS  
Peniella Irakoze, BS  
Shannon Johnson, BS  
Jarret Marquis Muirheid, BS  
Martha Gisselle Ocampo Rivera, BS  
Adithi Peedoly, BS  
Jackson Edmund Schwenn, BS  
Jessica Tozer, BS

### Veterinary Science

#### Summer 2024

Peyton Michelle Blair, BS

Nitza Chait Cortez, BS

Bianca Diana Concepcion, BS

Carlos Ernesto Delgado, BS

Venezia Galindo, BS

Rebecka Alyse Goldberg, BS

Congyuan Liu, BS

Erin Michelle Malone, BS

Hana Allisa Melgoza, BS

Ilyanna Ordaz, BS

Hannah Katheryn Paul, BS

Darren Paul Rangel, BS

Melanie Grace Richards, BS

Elysa Jordan Rochin, BS

#### Fall 2024

Trevor E Deffenbaugh, BS

Hayley Morganne Hannaman, BS

Macy Colette Holman, BS

Alana Ann Holyoak-Aguirre, BS

Sydney M Robbins, BS

Sabrina Mae Rogers, BS

Benjamin Stover, BS

Brianna Deianira Tamayo, BS

Jessica Gottesman Zuckerman, BS

#### Winter Fall 2024

Yazmin Rivas, BS



# ACBS Resource Fair

The School of Animal and Comparative Biomedical Sciences' Advising Center successfully hosted its inaugural Resource Fair on January 24, 2025, creating a valuable platform for students to connect with industry partners, ACBS-related clubs and organizations, and essential campus resources. Designed to support academic, career, and extracurricular growth, the event allowed students to engage directly with professionals and representatives from various fields.

Featuring a diverse range of tabling participants, including local and state businesses, student organizations, and campus resources, the fair encouraged networking and collaboration. Attendees explored potential career paths, gained industry insights, and discovered opportunities for campus involvement. By facilitating these meaningful connections, the event underscored the college's dedication to student success, providing essential resources to support academic achievement and future career aspirations.



## ACBS Staff Highlight

### *Christina Garcia - Assistant Director of Academic Advising*

Christina Garcia is the driving force behind the Academic Advising Center in the School of Animal and Comparative Biomedical Sciences. With over a decade of experience, she has guided countless students, first as the Veterinary Science/Pre-Vet Advisor and now as Assistant Director, all while continuing to serve as the Animal Science Academic Advisor.

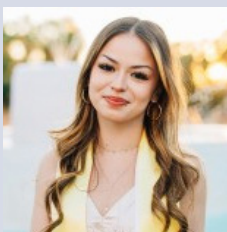


A proud ACBS alumna with both a B.S. and M.S. in Animal Science, Christina's deep institutional knowledge and dedication are unmatched. Beyond advising, she teaches a 300-level course and balances life as a devoted mother. Her leadership, tireless work ethic, and commitment to students and colleagues make her an invaluable part of our community. We are grateful for her inspiring contributions!

## Students in Craig Lab Recognized

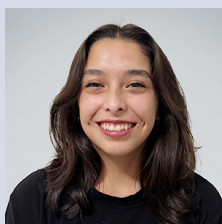
### Graduate Fellowship

Miely Suarez, a PhD Student in ACBS, was just awarded a highly competitive One Health Initiative Graduate Fellowship for the 2025-26 academic year. Miely is passionate about environmental health and will be researching the impacts of environmental contaminants on mouse and fish endocrine function. The fellowship provides an annual stipend, allowance for tuition and fees for fall and spring semesters, and health insurance. One Health is a collaborative, multisectoral, and transdisciplinary approach with the goal of achieving optimal health outcomes recognizing the interconnections among people, animals, and their shared environment (including ecosystems, and social and built environments).



### Student Travel Award

Viviana Romero, an undergraduate member of Zeliann Craig's lab, was awarded a Society of Toxicology (SOT) Undergraduate Diversity Program Student Travel Award. This award provides the opportunity for promising undergraduate science majors interested in research careers to attend the Undergraduate Diversity Program from March 15–17, 2025, at the SOT Annual Meeting in Orlando, Florida. The goal of the program is to recruit students from diverse backgrounds to graduate school in the biomedical sciences, especially toxicology.



## Animal Visits Provide Welcome Break for Students

What better way to combat stress between classes and finals than with some quality animal therapy! Several times a year ACBS arranges for some furry friends to be available in the ACBS building to visit with students.

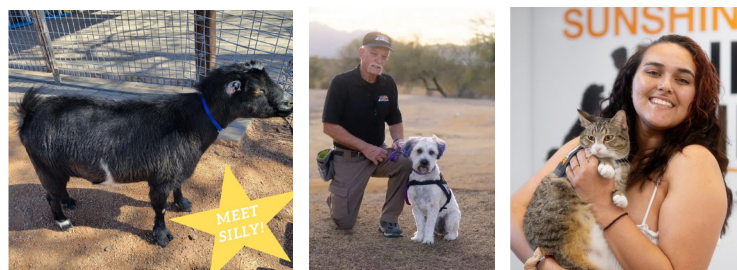
### Dogs and Donuts - December 5

Cooper, the Golden Retriever, and Nanook, the Welsh Corgi came by for some pets. Students also received a free doughnut with their visit.



### GOAT Stress Break - March 20

Sunshine Therapy Animals, including Silly the goat, were available to provide a snuggle break.





# Horse Symposium Offers Expert Insights and Hands-On Learning

The ninth annual Informed Arizona Equestrian Horse Symposium, a premier regional educational event dedicated to equine health care and management, recently concluded with notable success. This year's one-day symposium, a collaborative effort between the University of Arizona Cooperative Extension and dedicated industry partners, saw exciting programmatic expansions and an increase in engaging live and hands-on demonstrations.

After eight successful years of partnership, the original members of the Southern Arizona Equine Health Council transitioned to focus on new ventures within their individual businesses. This shift paved the way for an exciting new collaboration with the Dale and Patti Shirley Equine Encore Foundation. This local non-profit organization, accredited by the Thoroughbred Aftercare Alliance, is committed to providing a retirement haven for racehorses who have faithfully served the industry. This fresh partnership allowed the symposium to broaden its scope beyond traditional equine healthcare topics.

Adding to the dynamic changes, the event found a new home this year at the University of Arizona Al-Marrah Equine Center, the very heart of the university's equine studies program. This relocation offered an invaluable opportunity for attendees to connect directly with University of Arizona students and faculty who actively participated as volunteers, presenters, riders, and informational booth representatives.

Over 100 participants benefited from the insights of equine experts and veterinarians who delivered more than 15 in-person lectures and demonstrations. The diverse range of topics, spanning from introductory to advanced levels, was carefully curated based on feedback from previous years' attendees, ensuring the content was highly relevant and sought-after.

A highlight of the day included a presentation by nationally recognized equine nutritionist, Dr. Masa Williams, who addressed the frequently requested topic of old horse nutrition. Dr. Williams

provided practical solutions for the feeding, management, and overall comfort of senior equine companions.

Attendees also gained valuable knowledge from Dr. Madelyn Melchiors, who discussed and demonstrated the benefits of equine chiropractic care through a live examination. In another insightful session, Dr. Melchiors emphasized the critical role of equine dental care, offering a unique perspective by sharing real-time views from an equine oral exam using a phone camera.

Dr. Angelo Telatin captivated the audience with his morning lecture on horse behavior and training theories, followed by practical demonstrations of in-hand work, trailer loading techniques, and an under-saddle session featuring University of Arizona student riders.

The Al-Marrah Equine Center's show barn transformed into an interactive learning environment, offering attendees opportunities to participate in small, focused learning rotations covering essential topics such as body condition scoring, basic conformation, taking vital signs, and selecting appropriate feeds. Informational tables showcasing various University of Arizona programs further enriched the learning experience.

The success of the 2025 Informed Arizona Equestrian Horse Symposium underscores the program's commitment to providing valuable and engaging educational opportunities for the Arizona equestrian community.



Photos clockwise from top left:

- Dr. Madelyn Melchiors (right) uses a camera phone to show attendees what she sees during a dental exam.
- Dr. Betsy Greene points out areas of the horse's mouth being displayed on a screen during Dr. Melchiors' presentation.
- Shakespeare stands patiently while attendees learn about conformation.
- Race Track Industry Program students were available to provide information about their program.
- Dr. Angelo Telatin demonstrates ground handling techniques with a horse and a brave human volunteer.
- Dr. Masa Williams speaks to a full house about the horse gut microbiome in one presentation and senior horse nutrition in another.



The University of Arizona Equine Extension Program extends its sincere gratitude to an anonymous donor whose generous support significantly enhanced the Horse Symposium through the donation of a new sound system, as well as new chairs and tables, which will also benefit future extension and ACBS events held at the Al-Marrah Equine Center.



# Tribal Livestock Management and Stewardship Workshops

The “Rez Roadshows” continue as tribal livestock ranchers across Arizona gain knowledge, resources, and hands-on skills related to livestock and horse care. Programming is provided by Arizona and New Mexico experts at the Tribal Livestock Management and Stewardship workshops organized by the U of A Cooperative Extension Tribal Livestock/Horse Extension Team. The most recent workshops were held for Hopi ranchers (Polacca, AZ, January 20), Hualapai ranchers (Peach Springs, AZ, March 1), San Carlos Apache ranchers (San Carlos, AZ, March 7), and the Colorado River Indian Tribes ranchers (Parker, AZ, March 14). These workshops bring together Tribal Extension Agents, the Extension Horse Specialist, the Arizona State Veterinarian, the New Mexico State University Extension Veterinarian, and other Arizona veterinarians to provide the latest and up to date livestock care information for ranchers and families. The workshops are funded by a grant from the Native American Agriculture Foundation.



## Awards and Recognitions

Dr. Betsy Greene (center), Kristy Kinlicheenie (right), and Alex Carlisle (left), were recognized for “Outstanding Work and Dedicated Service to the Southwest Indian Agriculture Association” at the 2025 Annual SWIAA Meeting in Laughlin, Nevada.



Photos from top row (l-r):

- (l-r) Presenters Arizona State Veterinarian, Dr. Ryan Wolker, Dr. Betsy Greene, and Dr. Madelyn Melchioris at the Hualapai workshop.
- Dr. Rainy Teegerstorm demonstrates how to castrate a calf (that’s disinfectant on her hands) to San Carlos Apache livestock producers.
- Dr. Betsy Greene capillary refill time on a horse to Hualapai tribal members.

Second row (l-r):

- Dr. Madelyn Melchioris (right) teaches a Hopi cattle producers vaccination techniques.
- Dr. John Wenzel (left), New Mexico State University extension veterinarian, uses a cow model to demonstrate how to assist during a dystocia birth to Colorado River Indian Tribe (CRIT) members.



Hopi tribal members gather around a livestock pen during a Tribal Livestock Management and Stewardship Workshop.

## 4-H State Judging Contest

For the first time, the State 4-H Horse Judging Contest was held at the annual 4-H Stock Show and Roundup at the Pima County Fairgrounds on February 15, 2025. Dr. Greene and Maricopa 4-H Extension Assistant, Caroline Werkhoven, recorded and tabulated all scoring and results.



Photos from left: 4-H Senior Horse Judging Contest Champion, Reserve, and 3 through 5 place winners.; 4-H Junior Horse Judging Champion and Reserve winners.

## 2025 State FFA Horse Judging Contest

Over 200 FFA members descended on the Al-Marah Equine Center on February 28th to participate in the State FFA Horse Judging Competition. Dr. Greene and her student superintendents wrangled the judging competitors while Dr. Haley Collins and her students (class, team, and club members) organized and provided the halter and under saddle horse classes, and judged the student reasons after. All in all, it was a great experience for the FFA youth, and they had a great look at opportunities for them if they want to attend the University of Arizona for a horse focused major.



Dr. Betsy Greene (left) with her two student FFA horse Judging Contest superintendents.

(below l-r): FFA members judge the horses in the halter class.





# Coach Lloyd's Legacy Takes Arizona Basketball to the Racetrack

*A weanling racehorse was recently named after Arizona men's basketball coach Tommy Lloyd, marking the second horse named in honor of an Arizona coach.*

In 2007, Midnight Lute – an American Sprint Horse Champion – became the first notable link between the University of Arizona men's basketball program and horse racing. The back-to-back winner of the Breeders' Cup Sprint was named in honor of Hall of Fame basketball coach Lute Olson, who left an indelible mark on Arizona basketball. During his 25-year tenure, Olson guided the Wildcats to remarkable success including a national title in 1997.

The horse Midnight Lute was owned by Paul Weitman, Karl Watson and Mike Pegram, and trained by Hall of Fame trainer Bob Baffert – a former student in the University of Arizona Race Track Industry Program.

Now, another horse has been named in honor of an Arizona basketball coach, dubbed Coach Lloyd's Legacy. As Lloyd enters his fourth season as Arizona's head coach, he has already achieved a historic milestone with 61 wins in his first two seasons – the most for any Division I head coach.

"It's an honor to have a racehorse named after me," Lloyd said. "Having 'legacy' in the name feels right, as one of my goals is to continue to build on the legacy of our basketball program here in the Tucson community."

Fittingly, Coach Lloyd's Legacy is sired by Arizona Moon and



Midnight Lute and jockey Garrett Gomez fly home to become repeat champions in the 2008 Grade I Breeders Cup Sprint at Santa Anita Park.

out of the Midnight Lute mare Miss Midnight Brew, forging yet another connection to Olson's legacy. Although still only a weanling, Coach Lloyd's Legacy carries the potential of both his namesake and his pedigree.

"I'm looking forward to following this horse and seeing what he can do on the track," Lloyd said.

Coach Lloyd's Legacy lives at the University of Arizona's Al-Marah Equine Center and helps Race Track Industry Program students learn about breeding, young horse development, as well as horse sales.

"As part of the program the horses are born here. We raise them and sell them at a yearling sale," said Robert Hartman, chair of the U of A Race Track Industry Program in the College of Agriculture, Life, and Environmental Sciences.

"Coach Lloyd's Legacy will be with us for about 18 months before he goes to his new home for training to become a race horse," he said.



Coach Lloyd posing with his daughter, Maria, next to Coach Lloyd's Legacy.

- CALES Communications

Originally published Nov 22, 2024

<https://cales.arizona.edu/news/coach-lloyds-legacy-takes-arizona-basketball-racetrack>

## 2024 University of Arizona Food Safety Conference

The 2024 Food Safety Conference, hosted by the Food Safety Consortium (FSC), provided attendees with an exciting virtual conference experience. The virtual meeting, held Oct 29th, included 125 attendees from across the country and internationally to participate in a wide variety of presentations covering topics relevant to food safety research and various food industry sectors. Speakers and topics included Dr. Ed Martin with Arizona Cooperative Extension, Jessica Badour with the Association of Food and Drug Officials (AFDOO) covering options for government careers and internships in food protection, Dr. Aerial Belk from Auburn University discussing her innovative research on meat microbiome and pathogen interactions, Brad Clawson speaking on food safety in the dairy industry from his perspective at Lactalis, and a timely presentation from Vicki Scott with Scott Resources on the food safety culture in the produce industry.

The 2024 conference was dedicated to Matt Cook, retired health inspector. Since 2019, the conference has been dedicated to an individual who has provided valuable service to the FSC. Matt has been a great resource and advocate for the FSC. He has

used his practical food safety knowledge to assist FSC in creating videos on several important food safety topics including proper hand washing and cross contamination. He always makes himself available for FSC invitations including speaking at conferences and seminars, serving as a judge for poster sessions, and conversing with students about research, education, and career opportunities. The conference dedication was announced virtually and the award was presented, with much appreciation, at an informal get together on December 6th including cake and a small group of faculty and students.

For recordings of the virtual presentations and/or more information on the Food Safety Consortium go to <https://safefood.arizona.edu/conference>.



Matt Cook, retired health inspector, with his wonderful service dog, Penny. The 2024 Food Safety Conference was dedicated to Matt for his service to the Food Safety Consortium.



# ACBS Post Doc Awarded BIO5 Fellowship

ACBS would like to congratulate Sarita Bugalia on receiving a BIO5 Postdoctoral Fellowship. Sarita works with BIO5 Member and Principal Mentor, Dr. Liliانا Salvador. Her research is focused on the evolutionary dynamics of the asymptomatic stage of an infectious disease with mutation and cross immunity.

The COVID-19 pandemic underscored the need to better understand how diseases spread and evolve, particularly when they have an asymptomatic phase and partial immunity against new variants. Bridging this knowledge gap is crucial for improving disease control and predicting how pathogens behave in populations.

Sarita Bugalia plans to apply her expertise in epidemiology and mathematical modeling to develop evolutionary dynamics models of infectious diseases, aiming to make a significant impact on public health outcomes.

The BIO5 Postdoctoral Fellowship is an annual program for exceptional postdoctoral researchers working with BIO5 members at the University of Arizona. The goal of the program is to make fellows competitive candidates for future awards and grants. The fellowship runs from January 1 – December 31. Applications occur on an annual basis, opening each fall with new cohorts announced in early January.

Bugalia will use the BIO5 Postdoctoral Fellowship to deepen her understanding of the early stages of disease infectiousness,

including asymptomatic or latent phases. She plans to use the funds to visit a collaborator at Princeton University to learn evolutionary game theory techniques that examine how trade-offs, such as the balance between latency and transmission, shape the evolutionary outcomes of pathogens.

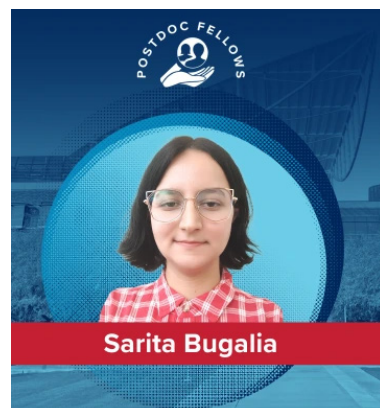
“In the future, I aspire to study the evolutionary dynamics of both animal and zoonotic tuberculosis, given that tuberculosis is a chronic disease with a prolonged latency period” said Bugalia.

The BIO5 Institute is focused on encouraging the next generation of innovators, including early-career scientists. They support University of Arizona postdoctoral fellows through both monetary awards and professional development opportunities to help them jump-start their scientific careers.

- Caroline Mosley Bartelme, BIO5 Institute

Originally published Feb. 12, 2025

<https://bio5.org/news/bio5-institute-welcomes-2025-cohort-postdoctoral-fellows>



## Aquaculture Path Lab Updates

### ISO Accreditation

The University of Arizona Aquaculture Pathology Laboratory successfully completed ISO accreditation (ISO 17025: 2023 and ISO 17043: 2017) in October, 2024. ISO accreditation is required to maintain Reference Laboratory status with the World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH, Paris, France).



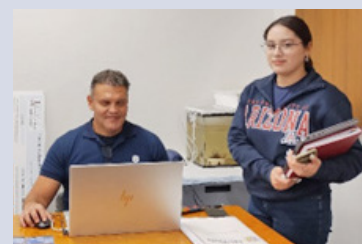
L to R: Dr. Arun K. Dhar, Mr. Itamar de Paiva Rocha, President-Association of Brazilian Shrimp Farming Industry, and Dr. Thales P. Andrade, Professor, Universidade Estadual do Maranhão – UEMA, São Luís, Maranhao, Brazil at FENECAM Brazil-2024.

### FENECAM Brazil - 2024

Dr. Arun K. Dhar was invited to give a talk in the XX International Shrimp Farming Symposium at FENECAM 2024, held November 19-22, in Natal, Brazil. The conference brought together expertise from academia and industry representatives from around the world. Brazil is one of the top five major producers of farmed shrimp in Latin America.

### Visiting Scholar

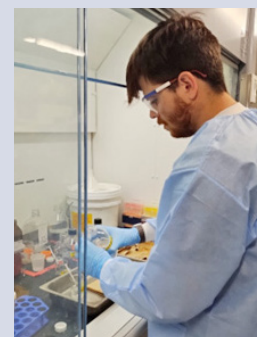
Dr. Thales P. Andrade visited the Aquaculture Pathology Laboratory as a part of an on-going collaboration with the University of Maranhao, San Luis, Brazil, in January and February, 2025. The collaboration involves developing diagnostic tools for emerging pathogen in shrimp farming in Brazil.



Dr. Thales P. Andrade, visiting scholar, discusses emerging diseases in farming shrimp aquaculture in Brazil with graduate student, Marian Guerrero Padilla.

### ReaP Student Grant

Adrian Moreno, an undergraduate student in the Department of Chemistry & Biochemistry, received a U of A Research and Project (ReaP) Grant for his current work on developing a modified fixative solution for fixing tissue samples of shrimp for histopathological analysis. ReaP Grants are awarded by the Graduate and Professional Student Council to fund graduate, professional, and undergraduate student research projects. Adrian's work has been accepted for an oral presentation at the World Aquaculture Society Meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana, held in March, 2025.



Adrian Moreno, an undergraduate student, performing research activities in the APL.

# Ravishankar Lab Activities

## Community Leader Award

The Tucson Tamil Sangam, a local community organization, recognized Dr. Ravishankar's professional excellence and technical innovations for the welfare of human society with a Community Leader Award in a ceremony held November 10, 2024.



## Industry Outreach

10-year review of the Yuma Center of Excellence for Desert Agriculture (YCEDA). Dec 9, 2024, Yuma, AZ.

- Dr. Ravishankar participated and provided feedback on research collaborations and the role of YCEDA in these collaborations, as well as their participation in the UA-Food Safety Consortium.

Duncan Family Farms visit. Jan 7, 2025, Goodyear, AZ.

- Drs. Ravishankar and Bibiana Law along with Alex Strong and Brenda Barry (CALES Development Office team) provided research updates, discussed internship opportunities for students, and potential research collaborations.

## Fogging Technology Demo

- Members of the Ravishankar lab, along with Matt Cook, a retired Health Inspector, created a video demonstrating the fogging technology developed by the lab.

# Salvador Lab Updates

## World Conference on Lung Health

Dr. Lili Salvador assisted with organizing this world conference, held in Bali, Indonesia, November 12-16, 2024. Her roles included:

- Program coordinator - Zoonotic tuberculosis sub-section
  - Oral Abstract Session: "Mycobacteria detection and control under the one health approach"
  - Meet the Expert Session: "The impact of BCG vaccination on the TB burden in livestock"
  - Special Session entitled: "Strengthening cross-sector collaboration to improve diagnostics of zoonotic TB"
- Chair
  - Meet the Expert Session - The impact of BCG vaccination on the TB burden in livestock"
  - Short Oral Abstract Session - "Novel Diagnostic Methods

## International Research Visit

Dr. Lili Salvador traveled to Bundung, Indonesia in November to conduct a research visit at Padjadjaran University. While there she gave three presentations lectures including:

- Guest lecturer on Strengthening One Health Approaches in the Fight Against Zoonotic Tuberculosis: Bridging Human, Animal, and Environmental Health to the faculty of Veterinary Medicine.
- Invited speaker on One Health Strategies for Zoonotic

Photos below: Dr. Lili Salvador (center, in blue jacket and pants) at Padjadjaran University in Bundung, Indonesia.



Tuberculosis Control: Using Molecular Epidemiology for Pathogen Tracking at the Multidisciplinary Synergy in TB Research; from Clinical to Community Applications for faculty of Medicine.

- Keynote speaker at the Indonesian National Webinar: Strengthening One Health Approaches in the Fight Against Zoonotic Tuberculosis: Bridging Human, Animal, and Environmental Health, for faculty of Medicine.

## Visiting Scholar

Anara Ryskeldina, a PhD graduate student from Kazakh Agro-Technical University in Astana, Kazakhstan, visited the Salvador lab for 6 weeks this fall. Anara's PhD research focuses on the development of serological test systems for detecting *Theileria annulata*. Her research interest lies in molecular biology and serology for the diagnosis of bacterial and parasitic infections, with a particular emphasis on recombinant protein expression and sequencing methods.



Anara also serves as a junior researcher in the Applied Genetics Laboratory at the National Center for Biotechnology in Kazakhstan. At the center she conducts analyses in applied genetics and molecular diagnostics of infectious diseases affecting both animals and humans. She is passionate about leveraging biotechnology to advance veterinary diagnostics in her home country.



## Grants

**Title:** Climate resilient high-quality tomato varieties for sustainable production

**Funding Agency:** sub-award funded by Texas A&M University through the USDA - Specialty Crops Research Initiative

**PI:** Sadhana Ravishankar

**Funding Amount:** \$262,594

## Patents

**Renquist, B.** 2025. US Patent #12210013. "Methods And Systems For Creating Groups of Aquatic Organisms Based on Predicted Growth Potential". <https://patents.justia.com/patent/12210013>.

Dev Kumar G, **Law B**, **Ravishankar S**, **Zhu L**. 2025. US Patent #12239134. "Plant Antimicrobial Compositions Including An Emulsifier And/Or Ozone And Methods Of Use". <https://patents.justia.com/patent/12239134>.

## Publications

Dinh-Hung N, Dong HT, Phiwsaiya K, Taengphu S, Linh NV, Chatchaiphan S, Rodkhum C, **Mai HN**, **Dhar AK**, and Senapin S. 2025. Natural Infection of Two Gourami Species (*Trichopodus* spp.) with Infectious Spleen and Kidney Necrosis Virus (ISKNV): Clinical, Molecular and Histopathological Findings. J. Fish Diseases. Feb 25, 2025. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jfd.14110>.

**Greene EA** and Melchior M. 2025. Chiropractic care for horses: facts and mythbusters. Cooperative Extension. University of Arizona. Az2110-2025. <https://extension.arizona.edu/publication/chiropractic-care-horses-facts-and-mythbusters>.

LaDouceur, EEB, Murray M, Argue A, **Dhar AK**. 2025. A Novel Virus Resembling White Spot Syndrome Virus in a Captive Colony of Pelagic Red Crabs (*Pleuroncodes planipe*) from California. J. Inv. Pathol. V209:Mar2025.

**Mai HN**, and **Dhar AK**. 2025. Complete genome sequence of *Penaeus vannamei* singly enveloped nuclear polyhedrosis virus (PvSNPV) reveals more similarity to nudiviruses than baculoviruses. Microb Genom. 2025 Feb;11(2). <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/40009527/>.

### 1st place in the Best Reproductive & Developmental Toxicology Paper in the Journal Toxicological Sciences



Miller KL, **Liu X**, McSwain MG, Jauregui EJ, Langlais PR, **Craig ZR**. Quantitative label-free proteomic analysis of mouse ovarian antral follicles following oral exposure to a human-relevant mixture of three phthalates. Toxicol Sci. 2024 Oct 1;201(2):226-239. <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/38995844/>.

## Presentations and Invited Lectures

Ampofo I, **Mai HN**, Grevers D, Luna M, Wright H, **Dhar AK**, and Fragomeni BO. Single-Step Genomic Evaluation Improves Accuracy of Predictions for Survival to Acute Hepatopancreatic Necrosis Disease in *Litopenaeus vannamei* (White Pacific Shrimp) Under Challenge Conditions. Plant & Animal Genome (PAG) Mapping Conference. January 10-15, 2025. San Diego, CA.

Blea J, Dix D, **Greene EA**, and Wolker R. Safeguarding Equine Health: Biosecurity Strategies for Disease Prevention and Control. (Moderator: Elizabeth Rogers). Panel Presentation at the 50th Annual Global Symposium on Racing. December 9-11, 2025. Tucson, AZ.

**Bugalia S** and **Salvador L**. A mathematical model at wildlife-livestock-human interface to predict the implications of animal and zoonotic tuberculosis control measures. Oral Abstract Session - Mycobacteria detection and control under the one health approach. World Conference on Lung Health. Nov 12-16, 2024. Bali, Indonesia.

**Dhar AK**. "Histopathology and molecular diagnosis are complementary in pathogen discovery and shrimp health assessment". Visiting Professor and Professional Lecturer. Fish Health and Environmental Management Course, part of 3IN1 Program - 2024 Aquaculture Study Program. Universitas Brawijaya, Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Science. Malang, Indonesia. October 01, 2024.

**Dhar AK**. Comprehensive health assessment in shrimp aquaculture by combining histopathology and molecular tools. The 1st Brawijaya International Conference on Shrimp (BICoS) 2024: "Promoting Sustainable Shrimp Aquaculture: Innovations, Challenges, and Opportunities". Universitas Brawijaya, Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Science. November 13, 2024. Malang, Indonesia.

**Dhar AK** and De Andrade TP. Current and Emerging Diseases in shrimp: Their Diagnosis and Prevention. XX International Shrimp Farming Symposium, FENECAM 2024. November 19-22, 2024. Natal, Brazil.

**Dhar AK**. Building a Career in Aquatic Animal Health. XI Semana Academica das Ciescias Agrarias: Inovacao tecnologica e inteligencia artificial: Desafios e oportunidades no campo. State University of Maranhão. November 25, 2024. San Luis, Maranhão, Brazil.

De Andrade TP and **Dhar AK**. The risks associated with TiLV in tilapia in Brazil (Os riscos associados ao TiLV em tilápia no Brasil). XX International Shrimp Farming Symposium, FENECAM 2024. November 19-22, 2024. Natal, Brazil.

Fragomeni BO, Ampofo I, **Mai HN**, Grevers D, Luna M, Wright H, and **Dhar AK**. Evaluation of Genomic Selection for Acute Hepatopancreatic Necrosis Disease Resistance in White Pacific Shrimp: Genomic Prediction. The Conference of Research Workers in Animal Diseases. January 17-22, 2025. Chicago, Illinois.

**Greene EA**. NAAF/Public Health/ALIRT/Extension Programs. 2025 Southwest Indian Agriculture Association Annual Conference. January 22, 2025. Laughlin, Nevada.

**Greene EA**. AAEA Professional Development: Preparing for Awards and Abstracts for NACAA. Arizona Agriculture Extension Association Virtual Meeting. February 10, 2025.

**Greene EA**. AAEA Professional Improvement: Introduction to Generative AI Use in Extension. Arizona Agriculture Extension Association Meeting, August, 2024. Tucson, Arizona.

**Greene EA** and Wright A. Parasites and Your Horse: Evidence-Based Strategies for Arizona Horse Owners. Informed Arizona Equestrian Horse Symposium. January 25, 2025. Tucson, AZ.

Martinson K, **Greene EA**, and Thompson A. Plants Toxic to Horses in the North and South US. 2025 Horse Management Seminar - Webinar Series hosted by Rutgers University. February 10, 2025.

## Poster Presentations

Fast C, and **Ravishankar S**. Efficacy of Plant-based Antimicrobials against *Listeria monocytogenes* in Ready-To-Eat Ham. GDP Research Showcase. Dec 12, 2024. Tucson, AZ.

(Pubs continued on 14)

## Second Place Western Alliance to Expand Student Opportunities (WAESO) Poster Presentation - Amanda Adams

**Adams A**, Han W, **Liu X**, Burgess J, Ding X, Furlong M, Ledford J, **Craig Z**. Effect of Wood Fire Smoke Exposure Duration on Histological and Serum Markers of Ovarian Reserve. 18th Annual WAESO Undergraduate Research Conference. Arizona State University. February 24-25, 2025. Tempe, Arizona.

Shaikh H, **Zhu L**, and **Ravishankar S**. A comparison of the Microbial Quality of Organic and Conventional Strawberries. GIDP Research Showcase. Dec 12, 2024. Tucson, AZ.

**Park R**. Prevalence of Foodborne Pathogens and Indicator Microorganisms on Arizona Grown Cantaloupe Melons and Field Environmental Samples. Seminar presentation. 2024 ACBS Fall Seminar Series. Nov 25, 2024. Tucson, AZ.

Patil BS, Dadwal V, Jha DK, Singh J, Metrani R, Crosby K, Jifon J, and **Ravishankar S**. Exploration of Sensory and Health-Promoting Bioactive Attributes of Different Hybrid Melon Varieties by Improving the Quality Traits Cultivated at Various Locations. Keynote presentation. 13th Eucarpia Meeting on Cucurbit Genetics. Nov 3-6, 2024. Federico II, Italy.

**Ravishankar S**. Safer Salads and Grilled Meats: Clean and Green Approaches to Food Safety. HORT 641- Science of Foods for Health. Texas A&M University. November 14, 2024. College Station, TX.

### Podcasts

**Greene EA**, Hayes S, and Hiney K. Spanish Mustangs: The story of a rare breed doing big things. Tack Box Talks. December 16, 2024. <https://www.buzzsprout.com/242373/episodes/16172984-spanish-mustangs-the-story-of-a-rare-breed-doing-big-things>.

**Greene EA**, Melchior M, and Hiney K. Chiropractors: The story of pushing and pulling to make your horse feel great. Tack Box Talks. December 2, 2024. <https://www.buzzsprout.com/242373/episodes/16127808-chiropractors-the-story-of-pushing-and-pulling-to-make-your-horse-feel-great>.

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Page 9 - All photos - Betsy Greene

Page 10 - Midnight Lute - Rick Samuals;

Coach Lloyd's Legacy - Alejandro Davalos;

FSC - Matt Cook

Page 11 - Postdoc - BIO5; APL - Arun K. Dhar

Page 12 - Award - Sadhana Ravishankar;

Salvador Lab - Liliana Salvador

Page 13 - Zelleann Craig

## ACBS Newsletter

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Stories in this print edition have been edited for length.

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*We respectfully acknowledge the University of Arizona is on the land and territories of Indigenous peoples. Today, Arizona is home to 22 federally recognized tribes, with Tucson being home to the O'odham and the Yaqui. Committed to diversity and inclusion, the University strives to build sustainable relationships with sovereign Native Nations and Indigenous communities through education offerings, partnerships, and community service.*

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