

The Aubieclave Report

AUBURN UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE



THE DISCOVERY SPOTLIGHT

Christie Young

Originally from Opp, Alabama, Christie Young has called Auburn home for the past four years and has worked at Auburn University for 2½ years as a Medical Technologist. She says her favorite part of working in the Clinical Pathology Laboratory is the people. After spending many years in human hospital laboratories, she has enjoyed the transition to veterinary laboratory medicine and appreciates working alongside talented coworkers, pathologists, and clinical pathology residents who are always willing to share their knowledge.

Christie wishes more people knew that, while the Clinical Pathology Laboratory uses some of the most advanced analyzers available, much of the work still relies on specialized manual techniques that require significant expertise and attention to detail. She and her team are committed to providing accurate results for every patient. Outside of work, Christie has a unique hidden talent—she can jump on a pogo stick for a surprisingly long time!

GIVE TO PATHOBIOLOGY



THE DISCOVERY SPOTLIGHT

Dr. Katie Horzmann

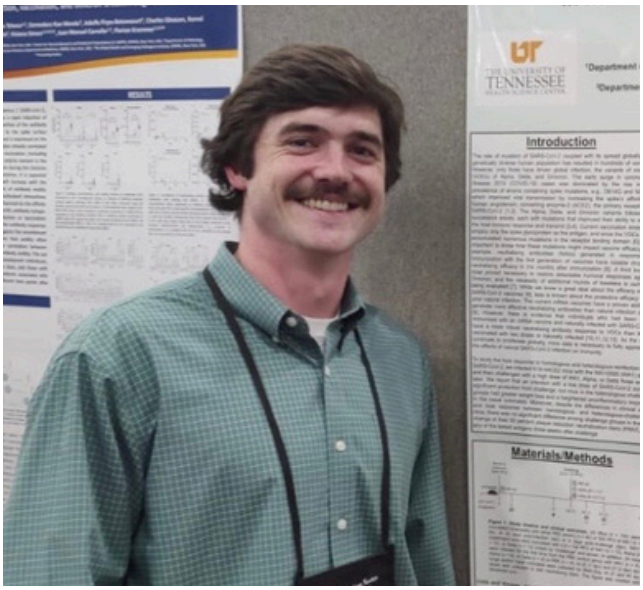
Dr. Katie Horzmann, an Associate Professor originally from St. Louis, Missouri, joined Auburn University eight years ago after completing her undergraduate and veterinary education at the University of Missouri and her residency and Ph.D. at Purdue University. She says her favorite part of working in the Department of Pathobiology is the people and the variety her role offers each day.

Dr. Horzmann's work spans research, teaching, and diagnostic service. She studies developmental toxicology using zebrafish models, a field she believes has tremendous potential for future research applications. She also teaches fish medicine to veterinary students, environmental health to undergraduates, and enjoys mentoring students through necropsy and clinical rotations. A fun fact about Dr. Horzmann: instead of a traditional first dance at her wedding, she and her husband performed a choreographed broadsword fight for their "first fight."

THE DISCOVERY SPOTLIGHT

Dr. Jacob Nichols

Dr. Jacob Nichols is a Postdoctoral Fellow in Dr. Maria Naskou's laboratory and has been with Auburn University for one year. Originally from Oxford, Mississippi, he says one of the things he appreciates most about the Department of Pathobiology is the supportive environment created by its faculty, staff, and students, who are always willing to help and encourage one another.



In his role, Dr. Nichols supports graduate student research while leading a project focused on developing an antiviral shRNA therapy for rabies virus infection—a disease for which there is currently no approved antiviral treatment. His work contributes to advancing potential new approaches for combating this deadly virus. Outside of the lab, Dr. Nichols enjoys gardening, a hobby that allows him to nurture growth both in his research and at home.



Welcome to The Jungle!



Luana Macedo

OUR NEW RESIDENT

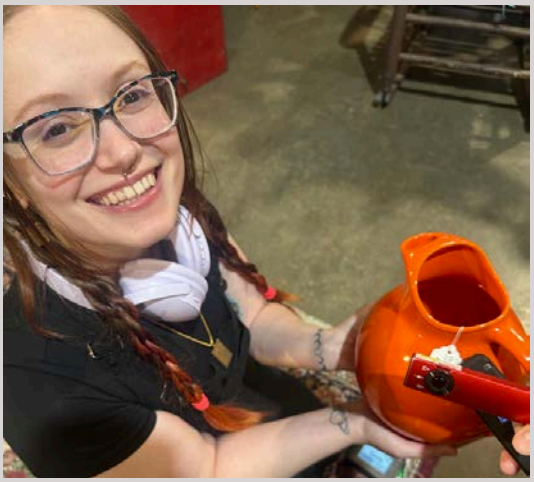
Luana is a new first-year resident in Anatomic Pathology. She is very excited to be part of the AU Family, and hopes everyone can share many great moments together during this journey. One of her hobbies is running, but also really enjoys being active and spending time outdoors.

A fun fact about Luana is that she has a cat named Mabu. His name sounds like “my boo,” so she jokingly always sings the song “My Boo” by Usher and Alicia Keys to him.

Guinevere Nease

OUR NEW RESIDENT

Guinevere is a new first-year resident in Clinical Pathology. She is from North Carolina and received her DVM from NC State. Currently, she lives with her partner in Georgia. Some of her hobbies include crocheting, video games, and antiquing!



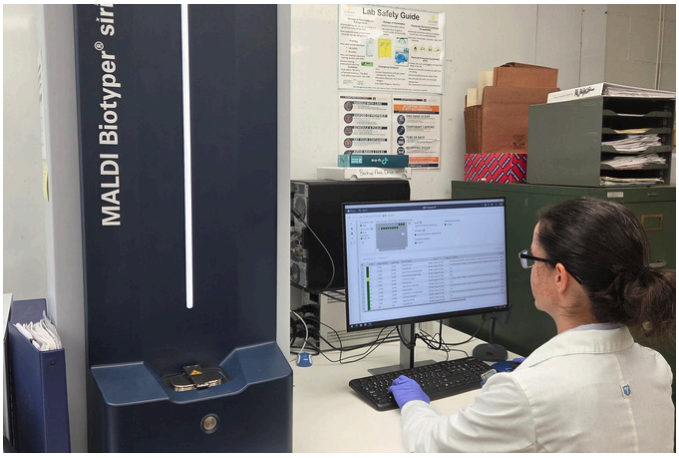
GIVE TO PATHOBIOLOGY



Pathobiology Represented at American Association of Veterinary Parasitologists Conference

Faculty, trainees, and collaborators from the Department of Pathobiology recently participated in the American Association of Veterinary Parasitologists (AAVP) Conference held in Puerto Rico. The annual meeting brought together researchers, educators, and veterinary professionals from across the country to share the latest advances in parasitology research, education, and clinical practice.

During the conference, research conducted through Auburn collaborations was showcased through poster presentations, including work presented by Miantrany Wills, a veterinary student from Tuskegee University who participated in a Pathobiology summer research experience. Her poster received third-place recognition, highlighting the impact of student research and the value of collaborative training opportunities within the field!



Bacteriology Laboratory Expands Diagnostic Capabilities with MALDI-ToF Technology

The Bacteriology (Bacti) Laboratory recently expanded its diagnostic services by beginning to offer MALDI-ToF microbial identification to clients, including researchers, on July 1. This exciting addition enhances the laboratory's ability to provide faster and more accurate identification of microorganisms, supporting both diagnostic and research efforts.

The implementation of MALDI-ToF technology represents a significant advancement in the laboratory's diagnostic capabilities, helping to improve efficiency while maintaining the high-quality results clients rely on from the Department of Pathobiology.



Congratulations to Chidinma Lucy Odili and Family

We are delighted to share the wonderful news that Chidinma Lucy Odili welcomed a healthy baby girl on July 3, 2026. Both mother and baby are doing well, and the family is grateful for a safe and successful delivery.

In celebration, the Department sent the the family a bouquet of flowers to welcome the new baby girl. Thank you to all who helped contribute to this gift.

Please join us in congratulating Chidinma and her family on this joyous occasion. We wish them all the best as they begin this exciting new chapter together!

Help us make dreams a reality!

Your impact begins here – choose the Auburn causes that are important to you. Whether you give to empower students through scholarships, drive groundbreaking research and life-changing outreach, or enrich the Auburn Experience, you are shaping our future.

https://aub.ie/PathoGift



PUBLICATIONS

Brooks, J. D., **A. V. Belsare**, J. N. Caudell, and P. A. Zollner. 2026. Harvest increase and culling as tools for managing chronic wasting disease in white-tailed deer. *Journal of Wildlife Management,* e70211. **https://doi.org/10.1002/jwmg.70211**

Darzenta N, Davis E, **Watanabe R**, **Mollabashi M**, Fernando S, **Naskou MC**. Extracellular vesicles from inflammatory-primed stromal cells reduce *in vitro* inflammation in Sandhoff disease model. *Sci Rep.* 2026 Jul 11. doi: 10.1038/s41598-026-61695-0. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 42436308. **https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/42436308**

Diaz DM, Lee LM, Schemera B, Rynders PE, **Parrish C**, VandeBerg JL, **Neto R, Wang X.** Pyometra with Concurrent Endometrial Adenocarcinoma in Laboratory Opossums (*Monodelphis domestica*): A Case Series of Four Animals. *J Am Assoc Lab Anim Sci.* 2026 Jul 1:1-6. doi: 10.30802/AALAS-JAALAS-26-077. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 42457187. **https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/42457187**

Falkenberg S, Dassanayake RP, Putz EJ, Silvis S, Crawford LS, Boggiatto PM. Assessment of interferon-γ response profiles after vaccination against bovine viral diarrhea virus (BVDV) as correlates of protection. *Vet Immunol Immunopathol.* 2026 Jul 9;300:111166. doi: 10.1016/j.vetimm.2026.111166. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 42431124. **https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/42431124/**

Gibson RMB, **Camus M,** Delmain D, Klabnik J, Smith A, Yanke AB. Iterative Design and Mixed Methods Approach to Developing a Multi-Spectrum of Care Education Model. *J Vet Med Educ.* 2026 Jul 9:e20250161. doi: 10.3138/jvme-2025-0161. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 42424533. **https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/42424533**

PUBLICATIONS

Reif KE, Kollasch TM, Locklear CL, Eberts MD, Braswell KN, **Cooper AMW, Gillespie JW,** Herrin BH, McAbee JP, Morgan CM, Morrow AG, Sperling BJ, Sweeney DJ, Ryan WG. Comparative speed of kill of induced Ixodes scapularis infestations following treatment of dogs with endectocides containing either sarolaner (Simparica Trio™), afoxolaner (NexGard® PLUS), or lotilaner (Credelio Quattro™). *Parasit Vectors.* 2026 Jul 17. doi: 10.1186/s13071-026-07559-y. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 42469905.
https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/42469905

Rupprecht, C. E., **Belsare, A. V.** (2026). Rabies and Pinnipeds Reviewed: Premonitions, Perturbations, and Projections? *Veterinary Sciences*, 13(2), 200.
https://doi.org/10.3390/vetsci13020200

Sanchez-Garcia M, Chalder R, Blacklock B, Hartley C, Scurrell E, **Neto R,** Sutton D, McMullen RJ. Septic Endophthalmitis Following Suprachoroidal Cyclosporine Implant Placement in Two Horses With Equine Recurrent Uveitis. Case Rep Vet Med. 2026 Mar 27;2026:7378792. doi: 10.1155/crve/7378792. PMID: 42454166; PMCID: PMC13367127.
https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/42454166

T.R. Sheets, A.C. Ellis, C.L. Wickware, M. Gribskov, **D.K. Pillai,** M.S. Verma, T.A. Johnson, Genotypic-phenotypic concordance of Pasteurella multocida isolated from bovine respiratory disease cases. *Veterinary Microbiology,* Volume 320, 2026, 111136, ISSN 0378-1135.
https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0378113526002737

Quintana TA, Aguinaga B, Mitchell J, Schieferecke G, Seetahal JFR, **Jesudoss Chelladurai JRJ.** Seroprevalence of Dirofilaria immitis in traveling dogs: implications for transboundary pathogen movement. *Parasit Vectors.* 2026 Jul 2. doi: 10.1186/s13071-026-07540-9. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 42393794.
https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/42393794

Quintana TA, Camp LE, Nadler SA, **Jesudoss Chelladurai JRJ.** Complete mitochondrial genome of *Baylisascaris* sp. from a striped skunk (*Mephitis mephitis*) in Kansas. *Parasitol Res.* 2026 Jul 21. doi: 10.1007/s00436-026-08732-z. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 42479222.
https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/42479222

Wakefield, L., Cain, A., Cerny, C., Reed, H., **Belsare, A. V.** (2026). A simulation-based approach to strengthen chronic wasting disease surveillance in captive cervid populations. *PLoS One,* 21(6): e0350825.
https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0350825

Wise AL, Beck BH, Bader TJ, LaFrentz BR, **Barger PC**, Shoemaker CA. Passive immunization with anti-virulent *Aeromonas hydrophila* whole serum protects Channel Catfish against motile *Aeromonas septicemia*. *J Aquat Anim Health.* 2026 Jul 10:vsag009. doi: 10.1093/jahafs/vsag009. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 42430519.
https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/42430519



Registration opens for 2026 Annual Conference

The 2026 Annual Conference will offer a variety of learning opportunities for Auburn alumni, faculty, students, veterinary technicians and veterinary professionals. The event will be held October 29-31 at The Hotel at Auburn University & Dixon Conference Center.

The conference will include sessions devoted to small animal, farm animal and equine medicine, as well as pharmacy contining education and a technician track.

Learn more and register here:
https://www.vetmed.auburn.edu/veterinarians/ce/annual-conference/

IMPORTANT DATES & EVENTS

Next Faculty Meeting:

Aug. 26 in GH 168 from 1-3 PM

Next Staff Meeting:

Sep. 17 in VEC 246 from 10:30-11:30 AM

A list of official holidays for Auburn employees, including schedules for 2026, is available on the University Human Resources website.

2026 HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

Holiday	Weekday(s) Observed	Date(s) Observed
New Year's Day	Thursday	Jan. 1, 2026
Martin Luther King Jr. Day (2026)	Monday	Jan. 19, 2026
Memorial Day	Monday	May 25, 2026
Juneteenth Day	Friday	June 19, 2026
Independence Day	Friday	July 3, 2026
Labor Day	Monday	Sept. 7, 2026
Thanksgiving	Wednesday-Friday	Nov. 25-27, 2026
Christmas*	Friday	Dec. 25, 2026

* In addition to the above dates for Christmas Day and New Year's Day, we will close campus on Friday, Dec. 18, 2026, at 4:45 p.m. and re-open on Monday, Jan. 4, 2027, at 7:45 a.m.

- Friday, Dec. 18, 2026: All offices will remain open and operating until 4:45 p.m.
- Monday, Jan. 4, 2027: All offices will re-open and resume operations at 7:45 a.m.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ALL AUGUST BIRTHDAYS!

Ahmed, Inass A.	**12-Aug**
Andrioli Pinheiro, Mariana	**25-Aug**
Barger, Priscilla C.	**9-Aug**
Bhimavarapu, Kiranmayee	**22-Aug**
Braswell, Kayla N.	**10-Aug**
Dougherty, Ian M.	**9-Aug**
Kong, Shun Yi	**23-Aug**
Kramer, Alana J.	**22-Aug**
Kyriakis, Konstantinos	**18-Aug**
Lee, Laura M.	**16-Aug**
Mattox, Camryn G.	**24-Aug**
Naskou, Maria	**10-Aug**
Wang, Xu	**28-Aug**



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