



THE DISCOVERY SPOTLIGHT

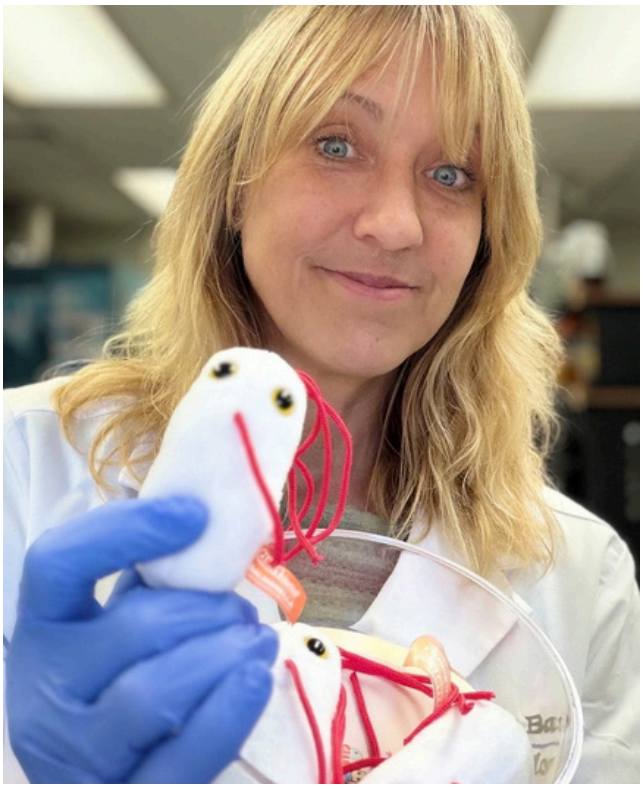
Mitch McKoy

For seven years, Mitch McKoy has been a valued member of Auburn's Clinical Pathology Laboratory team. Originally from Dothan, Alabama, Mitch spent several years in Atlanta before making the move to Auburn and joining the department as a Medical Technologist.

What Mitch enjoys most about working in Pathobiology is the variety of cases that come through the lab and the opportunity to collaborate with pathologists, residents, and fellow laboratory professionals. He appreciates the teaching atmosphere and the willingness of colleagues to share their knowledge and expertise. Mitch also highlights the diverse backgrounds of the Clinical Pathology laboratory staff, whose certifications and experience in human medical laboratory science bring valuable perspectives to veterinary diagnostics.

Outside of work, Mitch is passionate about music and has played in several bands over the years.

GIVE TO PATHOBIOLOGY



THE DISCOVERY SPOTLIGHT

Dr. Priscilla Barger

Dr. Priscilla Barger, Assistant Research Professor, is celebrating an impressive milestone this month: 21 years at Auburn University! Originally from Ranburne, Alabama, a small town along the Georgia state line, Dr. Barger has built a diverse research program that spans microbiology, infectious diseases, aquatic systems, and environmental health.

Much of Dr. Barger's research focuses on understanding how pathogens interact with their environments and how environmental changes can influence disease risk. Her team studies a wide range of topics, including fish pathogens, cyanobacteria, pond ecosystems, bioaerosols, and environmental microbial communities. More recently, they have been exploring innovative approaches that combine microbiology, environmental monitoring, hyperspectral imaging, and machine learning to identify early warning signs of disease.

Outside of work, Dr. Barger describes herself as "pretty unapologetically Gen X." She and her husband share a large vinyl record collection, and she firmly believes albums are meant to be enjoyed from beginning to end. When she's not in the lab, you'll often find her hiking or tending her flower beds.

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



Welcome to The Jungle!



Dr. Raimundo Espejo Marquinez

OUR NEW ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

Dr. Raimundo Espejo Marquinez is a poultry veterinarian from Chile whose professional background combines poultry medicine, virology, immunology, and genomics. His research interests center on understanding avian diseases and improving poultry health through advancements in diagnostics, disease prevention, and applied research.

Before transitioning to a stronger research focus, Dr. Marquinez spent several years working in commercial turkey production in Chile. That hands-on industry experience gave him valuable insight into the real-world challenges facing poultry producers and continues to influence the way he approaches disease control, bird health, and scientific problem-solving. By combining practical field experience with research expertise, he brings a well-rounded perspective to his work.

Outside the lab, Dr. Marquinez enjoys staying active at the gym, spending quality time with his family, and exploring new places with his wife, daughter, and their loyal dog. He values opportunities to balance his professional interests with family adventures and discovering new experiences together.

GIVE TO PATHOBIOLOGY



Welcome to The Jungle!



Dr. Seung-Eun Son

OUR NEW POST-DOC

Dr. Seung-Eun Son is a Postdoctoral Scholar in Dr. Miria Criado's lab, where she contributes to research focused on viral infectious diseases. She earned both her D.V.M. and Ph.D. from Seoul National University in South Korea, where her research centered on the pathobiology of influenza viruses and the development of vaccines. At Auburn, she is excited to continue advancing research on viral diseases while collaborating on the lab's ongoing projects.

Since joining Auburn, Dr. Son has enjoyed applying her expertise in virology to new research challenges and being part of a collaborative scientific community. Outside of the lab, she loves discovering new music and films and is always excited to find a new favorite song or movie. Having recently moved to Auburn, she has also been enjoying exploring the area, trying new restaurants and local attractions, and settling into life in her new hometown.

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



100% Pass Rate on ACVP Phase II Board Examination

The Department of Pathobiology is proud to celebrate our residents' outstanding achievement: a 100% pass rate on the American College of Veterinary Pathologists (ACVP) Phase II Board Examination!

This remarkable accomplishment reflects the dedication, hard work, and perseverance of each resident, as well as the exceptional mentorship and support provided by our faculty. Success on the ACVP board examination represents years of rigorous training and is one of the most significant milestones in a veterinary pathologist's career.

Congratulations to all of the residents and faculty who contributed to this achievement! We are incredibly proud of this accomplishment and grateful for the commitment to excellence that continues to make our residency programs so successful. Passing the ACVP boards is a career-defining achievement, and this year's 100% pass rate is truly something to celebrate!

Clinical Pathology

- Dr. Satoshi Suzuki
- Dr. Erin Kilbane
- Dr. Thainá Lunardon (now a faculty member at Western University College of Veterinary Medicine)

Anatomic Pathology

- Dr. Carlos Eduardo Bastos Lopes
- Dr. Arthur Colombari Cheng





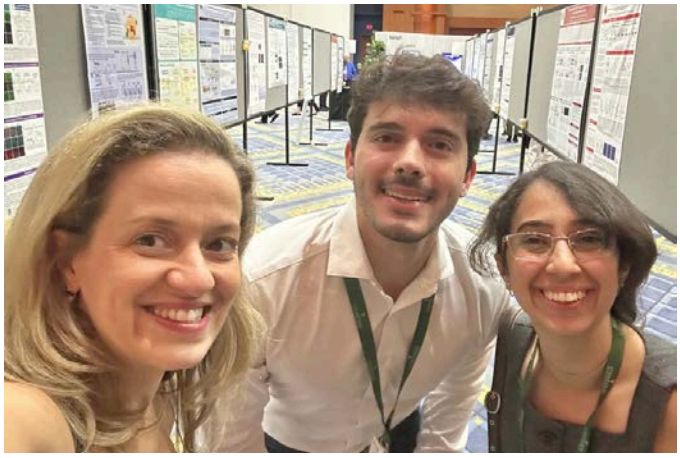
Global Impact: Dr. Neto Advances International Collaboration

Dr. Neto recently had the opportunity to represent Auburn University as part of an Auburn delegation visiting one of the university's partner institutions, the Federal University of Viçosa (UFV) in Brazil.

The visit provided a valuable opportunity to strengthen the relationship between the two institutions and explore current and future collaborations in research, education, and training. During their time at UFV, the delegation toured laboratories and research facilities, met with faculty and graduate students, and exchanged ideas on new opportunities for collaborative projects and visiting scholar programs.

The Department of Pathobiology looks forward to seeing these international partnerships continue to grow and create new opportunities for research, learning, and global engagement!





Patho Represented at Options for the Control of Influenza XIII Conference

Members of Dr. Neto's lab recently showcased their research at the Options for the Control of Influenza XIII Conference, held August 30 - September 2, 2026, at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center in Washington, DC.

Mariana A. Pinheiro, a postdoctoral researcher, delivered an oral presentation titled *"Interspecies Replication Kinetics of Avian Influenza Viruses in Chicken, Quail, and Duck Cell Lines."*

Vinicius B. Apolloni, a Ph.D. student, also presented his work in a poster presentation titled *"Early Differential Cellular Immune Responses to Avian Influenza Virus Subtypes in Chicken Embryos."*

Congratulations to Mariana and Vinicius on their outstanding presentations and contributions to avian influenza research!



Supporting the Next Generation of Veterinary Researchers

Dr. Miriã Ferreira Criado collaborated with the Veterinary Scholars National Symposium (VSNS) at North Carolina State University, where she represented Auburn University as coordinator of the 2026 CVM Summer Scholars Program. Held August 6 - 8, 2026, the symposium brought together veterinary students and faculty from across the country to highlight the important role of research in advancing veterinary medicine.

Organized by Boehringer Ingelheim, the annual symposium provides students who have participated in summer research programs with the opportunity to formally present their work in a professional setting, gain valuable experience, and connect with researchers from across the veterinary community. The event showcased the outstanding work of Auburn's student researchers and celebrated the future of veterinary science.



Dr. Camus Selected for SEC's 2026-2027 Academic Leadership Development Program Cohort

Dr. Melinda Camus, associate dean for academic affairs, is one of four Auburn University faculty members selected by the Southeastern Conference for its 2026-2027 Academic Leadership Development Program.

The cohort brings together SEC faculty members representing a range of academic backgrounds and leadership experiences.

Program participants will engage in a pair of three-day workshops scheduled for the fall and spring.



Keisha Snerling Selected for The Spirit of Excellence Award

Congratulations to Keisha Snerling, a Research Assistant in our Histopath Lab, for receiving the Spirit of Excellence Award!

This award recognizes employees who demonstrate exceptional dedication, service, and commitment to Auburn's values. Being highlighted on the university's website is a well-deserved recognition of the positive impact they have made on colleagues, students, and the Auburn community.

We are proud to celebrate this outstanding achievement and encourage everyone to join us in congratulating Keisha on this accomplishment!



PUBLICATIONS

Bauermann FV, Merchioratto I, Ma H, Peter CM, **Falkenberg S,** Rudd JM, da Fonseca RN, Gilliam J, Taylor J, Maggioli MF. Bovine viral diarrhea virus 2 infection induces antiviral and remodeling transcriptional programs in the calf thymus. *Vet Microbiol.* 2026 Oct;321:111201. doi: 10.1016/j.vetmic.2026.111201. Epub 2026 Aug 26. PMID: 42673633. **https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/42673633**

Castillo-Neyra, R., Julien, D., Ford, R., **Belsare, A.V.** (2026). Canine Rabies. In: Rupprecht, C.E. (eds) History of Rabies in the Americas: From the Pre-Columbian to the Present, Volume IV. Fascinating Life Sciences. *Springer, Cham.* **https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-032-22801-7_16**

Kariithi HM, Carabetta VJ, **Leyson CL,** Goraichuk IV. Editorial: Sequencing technologies in advancing veterinary and zoonotic infection research. *Front Cell Infect Microbiol.* 2026 Aug 25;16:1950388. doi: 10.3389/fcimb.2026.1950388. PMID: 42712403; PMCID: PMC13549814. **https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/42712403**

Kazemian S, Pedroza S, **Santana-Pereira ALR**, Neasham PJ, North JF, **Huber L, Criado MF, Kyriakis CS.** An enhanced multisegment RT-PCR method for influenza A virus sequencing: Improved performance and reduced preparation time over traditional methods. *J Virol Methods.* 2026 Sep 8;347:115453. doi: 10.1016/j.jviromet.2026.115453. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 42710746. **https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/42710746**

Maguire AS, Ta NL, Gross AL, Garrett CJ, Zimmerman AD, Diffie EB, Osterhoudt DE, Pacer SH, Mitchell ML, Cannon JS, Hall PI, **Sandey M,** Cole RC, Seyfried TN, Gray-Edwards HL, Sena-Esteves M, Martin DR. Intravenous gene therapy improves lifespan and clinical outcomes in a feline model of Sandhoff disease. *Sci Transl Med.* 2026 Sep 9;18(866):eadx2447. doi: 10.1126/scitranslmed.adx2447. Epub 2026 Sep 9. PMID: 42715347. **https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/42715347/**

PUBLICATIONS

Camus MS, Wilder C, Couvillion I, Johnson CM. Community of origin, preferred community or location of first employment, and food animal experiences are predictors for veterinary graduates choosing rural food animal employment. *J Am Vet Med Assoc.* 2026 Sep 2:1-7. doi: 10.2460/javma.26.01.0079. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 42685778. **https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/42685778**

Phillips R, Banerjee P, Diniz WJS, Dyce PW, Silvis S, Rodning SP, **Falkenberg SM**. Variation in immune responsiveness is associated with pregnancy status in beef heifers. *Vet Immunol Immunopathol.* 2026 Sep 15;301:111211. doi: 10.1016/j.vetimm.2026.111211. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 42759152. **https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/42759152/**

Poudel S, Zelaya FAC, Guzman EGG, Rahman FA, Naeem M, Adhikari Y, Manjankattil S, Pacheco W, **Hauck R,** Bourassa D, Macklin K. Machine learning identifies key microbial signatures for Salmonella enteritidis colonization and persistence in broiler ceca. *Poult Sci.* 2026 Sep 14;105(12):107753. doi: 10.1016/j.psj.2026.107753. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 42772141. **https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/42772141/**

Zuber E, **Neto R,** Cole R, **Naskou MC**. What Is Your Diagnosis? Subcutaneous Mass on the Chest of a Dog. *Vet Clin Pathol.* 2026 Sep 4. doi: 10.1111/vcp.70153. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 42695328. **https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/42695328**

Publication information is downloaded from PubMed. We recognize that not all publications may be found on that site. Please let Liz Nowling know if your publication did not make the list, and it will be included in the next issue.



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 continuing education in pharmacy and a technician track.

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



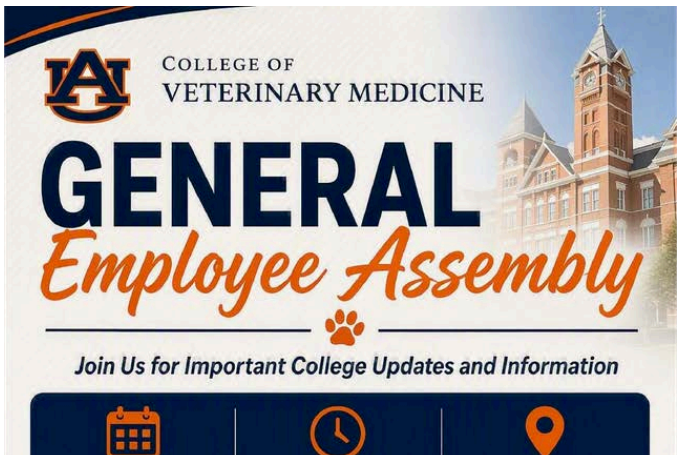
CVM Employee Tailgate Returns This October

Get ready for an afternoon of Auburn spirit, great food, and fellowship at the **CVM Employee Tailgate** on **October 16, 2026**! Hosted by the College of Veterinary Medicine Staff Advisory Committee, the event will take place from **11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Bartlett Lameness Arena.**

Faculty and staff are invited to come together to enjoy food, fun, and time with colleagues as we celebrate the fall season and Auburn tradition. Whether you're a football fan or simply looking for an opportunity to connect with coworkers, the Employee Tailgate promises to be a fun-filled event for everyone.

Be sure to register and join us for good food, great company, and tailgate fun for all!

https://auburn.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_2IcpRPy1QUHjHdY



CVM General Employee Assembly Scheduled for October 21

All College of Veterinary Medicine employees are encouraged to attend the upcoming **CVM General Employee Assembly** on **October 21, 2026,** from **8:00 to 9:00 a.m. in the Overton Auditorium.**

The assembly will provide important updates on the State of the College, including current initiatives, recent accomplishments, and strategic priorities. Attendees will also receive information about employee benefits and resources, as well as programs and wellness opportunities available through the AU Campus Recreation & Wellness Center.

This event is a great opportunity to stay informed, connect with colleagues, and learn more about the resources and initiatives shaping the CVM community. We hope to see you there as we come together to stay informed, engaged, and connected.

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

IMPORTANT DATES & EVENTS

Next Faculty Meeting:

Oct. 28th in GH 168 from 1-3 PM

Next Staff Meeting:

Nov. 19th 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 OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS!

Barua, Subarna	**1-Oct**
Kaur, Ramandeep	**25-Oct**
Mollabashi, Melikasadat	**25-Oct**
Salimiyan, Samira	**24-Oct**
Song, Jinha	**13-Oct**
Tarannum, Asfiha	**15-Oct**



GIVE TO PATHOBIOLOGY