

# SCHOOL OF VETERINARY MEDICINE WHITE COAT CEREMONY

SUNDAY, JANUARY 31, 2021



**St. George's University**

**SCHOOL OF VETERINARY MEDICINE**

Grenada, West Indies



# PROGRAM

- Master of Ceremonies ..... Carolina Medina, DVM CVA DACVSMR CVPP  
Board-Certified Specialist,  
Veterinary Sports Medicine and Rehabilitation,  
Coral Springs Animal Hospital
- Remarks..... Glen Jacobs, DEd  
Provost, St. George's University
- Remarks..... Charles R. Modica, JD DCL  
Chancellor, St. George's University
- Remarks..... G. Richard Olds, MD MACP  
President, St. George's University
- Remarks and Introduction of Keynote Speaker ..... Neil C. Olson, DVM PhD  
Dean, School of Veterinary Medicine,  
St. George's University
- Keynote Speaker ..... John A. Howe, DVM CertAqV  
AVMA Immediate Past President,  
American Veterinary Medical Association
- Presentation of White Coats ..... Portraits of individual students
- Professional Commitment..... Stacey Byers, DVM MS DACVIM  
Associate Professor,  
Large Animal Medicine and Surgery Department,  
School of Veterinary Medicine, St. George's University

# KEYNOTE SPEAKER

JOHN A. HOWE, DVM, CERTAQV



Dr. John Howe is the immediate past president of the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA), having served in the role of President for 2019-2020. His work with the association also included serving as vice chair of the AVMA Council on Veterinary Services and vice chair of the Governance Performance Review Committee, after which he was elected to the Board of Directors from 2012-2018.

A 1977 graduate from the University of Minnesota's College of Veterinary Medicine, Dr. Howe started a solo mixed-animal practice in North Branch, Minnesota, just after graduation. Seven years later, he joined a six-doctor animal practice where he treated a range of small animals as well as birds and exotics.

His accolades include having earned the Minnesota Veterinary Medical Association (MVMA) Veterinarian of the Year Award in 2011 and the MVMA Distinguished Veterinary Service Award in 2015. Dr. Howe also served two governor-appointed terms on the Minnesota Board of Animal Health, and he was also appointed executive board member and vice president of the MVMA, for which he served as president in 2007.

# MASTER OF CEREMONIES

CAROLINA MEDINA, DVM, CVA, DACVSMR, CVPP



A 2005 graduate of St. George's University, Dr. Carolina Medina works at Coral Springs Animal Hospital in Florida, focusing on pain management, acupuncture, rehabilitation, and sports medicine. She also lectures nationally and internationally about pain management, osteoarthritis, acupuncture, and rehabilitation therapy.

Shortly after graduating from SGU, Dr. Medina became certified in veterinary acupuncture, Chinese herbal medicine, Tui-na massage, and food therapy by the Chi Institute. Additionally, she completed an internship in acupuncture at the University of Florida. During that time, she became a founder of both the American Association of Traditional Chinese Veterinary Medicine, as well as the American Journal of Traditional Chinese Veterinary Medicine, where she has been an Associate Editor since its inception.

In 2010, Dr. Medina became certified in canine rehabilitation therapy through the Canine Rehabilitation Institute, and in 2013, she became a Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Sports Medicine and Rehabilitation. Dr. Medina held the position of clinical assistant professor and chief of integrative medicine at the University of Florida from 2008–2013.

She served on the Board of Directors for the International Veterinary Academy of Pain Management from 2011–2015 as well as the Board of the American Association of Rehabilitation Veterinarians from 2012–2017. She currently serves on the Board of St. George's University Florida Chapter Alumni Association as the Treasurer. Dr. Medina also became a certified veterinary pain practitioner through the International Veterinary Academy of Pain Management in 2019.

# PREVIOUS WHITE COAT SPEAKERS

**Sarah Ballie**, BSc, BVSc, MSc (IT), PhD, PFHEA, MRCVS (February 2020)  
Emeritus Professor of Veterinary Education, University of Bristol

**Willie M. Reed**, DVM, PhD, DACVP, DACPV (August 2019)  
Dean, College of Veterinary Medicine, Purdue University

**Janet D. Donlin**, DVM (February 2019)  
Executive Vice President and Chief Executive Officer, American Veterinary Medical Association

**Andrew T. Maccabe**, DVM, MPH, JD (September 2018)  
Chief Executive Officer, Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges

**Ronald K. Cott**, DVM (January 2018)  
Adjunct Clinical Assistant Professor, Advancement Consultant,  
College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Missouri

**Kent Hoblet**, DVM, MS, Dipl. ACVPM (September 2017)  
Professor and Dean, College of Veterinary Medicine, Mississippi State University

**Douglas A. Freeman**, DVM, PhD, Diplomate ACT (January 2017)  
Dean, Western College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Saskatchewan

**Sheila W. Allen**, DVM, MS (August 2016)  
Dean, College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Georgia

**Trevor Ames**, DVM, MS, DACVIM (January 2016)  
Professor and Dean, College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Minnesota

**Clark Fobian**, DVM (August 2015)  
Owner/Veterinarian, Companion Animal Practice, Thompson Hills Animal Clinic  
Past President, American Veterinary Medical Association

**Donald F. Smith**, DVM, Diplomate ACVS (January 2015)  
Professor of Surgery, Austin O. Hooey Dean Emeritus  
College of Veterinary Medicine, Cornell University

**Raymond F. Sis**, BS, DVM, MS, PhD (August 2014)  
Dean Emeritus, School of Veterinary Medicine, St. George's University

## PREVIOUS WHITE COAT SPEAKERS (cont.)

**Theodore J. Cohn, DVM** (January 2014)

President-Elect, American Veterinary Medical Association

**Lila T. Miller, BS, DVM** (August 2013)

Vice President, Veterinary Outreach, American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA)

**Rene A. Carlson, DVM** (January 2013)

Immediate Past President, American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA)

**Jan K. Strother, DVM** (August 2012)

Vice President, American Veterinary Association

**Tim Ogilvie, DVM, MS, Dipl. ACVIM** (January 2012)

Immediate Past Dean, Atlantic Veterinary College, University of Prince Edward Island

**Marguerite Pappaioanou, DVM, MPVM, PhD, DACVPM** (August 2011)

Executive Director, Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges (AAVMC)

**Gary Brown, BS, DVM** (January 2011)

Past Vice President, American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA)

**Bonnie Beaver, BS, DVM, MS** (August 2010)

Past President, American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA)

**James Cook, DVM** (January 2010)

Past President, American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA)

**Alan M. Kelly, BSc, BVSc, PhD** (August 2009)

The Gilbert S. Kahn Dean Emeritus and Professor, School of Veterinary Medicine, University of Pennsylvania

**Gregory S. Hammer, DVM** (January 2009)

Past President, American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA)

**Charles M. Hendrix, DVM, PhD** (August 2008)

Professor, Auburn University's College of Veterinary Medicine, Immediate Past Vice President, American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA)

## PREVIOUS WHITE COAT SPEAKERS (cont.)

**Larry R. Corry, DVM** (January 2008)

Chair, Executive Board, American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA)

**Roger K. Mahr, DVM** (August 2007)

Immediate Past President, American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA)

**Ralph C. Richardson, DVM** (January 2007)

Dean, College of Veterinary Medicine, Kansas State University

**Sam H. Ridgway, DVM, PhD** (August 2005)

Professor, Department of Pathology, School of Medicine, University of California

**Oscar J. Fletcher, DVM, MS, PhD** (February 2005)

Professor, College of Veterinary Medicine, North Carolina State University

**Samuel E. Strahm, DVM** (August 2004)

Past President, American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA)

**Richard M. Linnehan, DVM** (January 2004)

Astronaut, National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)

**Jack O. Walther, DVM** (August 2003)

President, American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA)

**J. Stephen Ware, BVM&S, MRCVS** (January 2003)

President, Royal College Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS)

**John A. Schmitz, DVM, PhD** (August 2002)

Head, Department of Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences, University of Nebraska, Lincoln

**Hugh Bilson Lewis, BVMS, MRCVS, Dipl. ACVP** (January 2002)

Senior Vice President, Practice Development, Medical Management International, Banfield – The Pet Hospital

**Michael J. Blackwell, DVM, MPH** (August 2001)

Dean, College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Tennessee, Knoxville

**Samuel M. Fassig, BSc, DVM, MA** (January 2001)

Field Manager, Veterinary Professional Services, U.S. Operations, Merial Limited



# MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

G. RICHARD OLDS, MD, MACP

It is a great honor to be a part of this University and to welcome you as you take your first step in this noble journey. Today should have special meaning to both the incoming class and your families, in that it symbolizes your entry into the veterinary profession.

Veterinarians in training are afforded very special privileges. Taking on the mantle of doctors also carries great responsibilities. Although you may not in the beginning know a great deal about veterinary medicine, you will be expected to hold yourselves to the very highest standards of integrity, honesty, and compassion. Today is but the first step in what I hope is a great career.

# MESSAGE FROM THE CHANCELLOR

CHARLES R. MODICA, JD, DCL (HONORARY)

I welcome all of you to St. George's University School of Veterinary Medicine. You have chosen a great and noble career. As you receive these white coats, you pledge an oath of professionalism and service. Professionalism is a commitment to integrity, altruism, competence, and ethics in the service of others.

As you begin your studies for this challenging career, you must weigh opportunity against responsibility. St. George's University will equip you with all the right tools for the job, but how much you take away with you will depend on how you approach the experience and how much effort you invest in it. I wish you every success.

# MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

NEIL C. OLSON, DVM, PHD

This White Coat Ceremony is a symbolic representation of your entry into the profession of veterinary medicine and a demonstration of your commitment to upholding the code of professional conduct expected of medical professionals.

It is my privilege to welcome you to St. George's University and your next step along the road to becoming a veterinarian. I request that you honor the sacred trust and privilege that society places in medical professionals, cognizant that the standard is an ideal we must continuously aim to achieve.

The experiences you will have at St. George's University will serve to enrich you personally and professionally. You have all worked diligently to become veterinary medical students, and I wish you every success as you strive to excel in your pursuit of the knowledge, skills, and attributes necessary for your career.

## THE WHITE COAT CEREMONY

More than 25 years since its inception at the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Columbia University in 1993, the White Coat Ceremony has become an important ritual symbolizing a student's induction into the veterinary medical profession. St. George's University embraced the White Coat Ceremony in 2001.

Affirming this oath of commitment to the veterinary medical profession at the beginning of their studies inducts our DVM students into the veterinary profession—and its highest ethical and professional standards—from the very beginning of their career.

The ceremony is significant not just to each incoming class, but for all who attend including: St. George's University faculty; its staff; students' families and friends; and the White Coat Ceremony keynote speakers who, twice a year, inspire first-term students with heartfelt words of wisdom and personal reflections. It is their spoken contributions that we treasure, and are honored to share with past, present, and future generations of St. George's University students.

# HONOR CODE

## ST. GEORGE'S UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

As a member of the student body of St. George's University School of Veterinary Medicine, an institution of higher learning dedicated to a high standard of ethics and academic achievement and recognizing that it is the duty of the University community to nurture responsible, competent, and safe professionals who exhibit maturity and sound moral character, I agree:

- To adhere to the University policy of maintaining a high standard of honor and academic integrity;
- To refrain from violation of these ideals by cheating, plagiarism, lying, and theft; and
- To accept the responsibility of reporting wrong doing upon witness.

It is understood that any breach of this code necessitates disciplinary action, subject to the discretion of University officials.

## PROFESSIONAL COMMITMENT

Being accepted into the profession of veterinary medicine, I solemnly swear to further my knowledge and skills for the benefit of society through the protection of animal health, the relief of animal suffering, the conservation of animal resources, the promotion of public health, and the advancement of medical knowledge.

I will conduct my studies conscientiously, with dignity and in keeping with the principles of veterinary medical ethics. I accept my responsibility to assist my colleagues to achieve our mutual goals.

I acknowledge my obligation to adhere to the University's Honor Code and to conduct myself with integrity and in an ethical manner at all times.

It is a privilege to have been given the opportunity to become a veterinarian. I will be ever conscious of that privilege and never abuse it.

