



2017 MVTA Conference Speaker Bios

Jeffery Backus, CVT, VTS (ECC)

Jeffrey started as a veterinary assistant in general practice in 1995 after completing an ROP program. He began working at an overnight ER in 2004 and has done emergency and critical care ever since. He became a RVT in 2009 and was an ER/ICU Supervisor at Animal Urgent Care for over 12 years. Jeffrey also now taught part time at his alma mater, Heritage College, for 7 years and is a Program Advisory Committee member for Platt College, Alhambra. In 2013, he passed the AVECCT exam and became credentialed as a VTS(ECC), sat on the AVECCT exam committee for 3 years, and now is on the credentialing committee. He has also been a subject matter expert for the CA VMB. He is also currently on the Board of Directors for the California RVT Association, CaRVTA. Most recently, he moved to Massachusetts to join academia, working as an ICU technician at the Tufts Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine. He is also a frequent lecturer and speaker on all topics related to emergency and critical care.

Lynda Vermillion, CVT, VTS (SAIM)

Lynda worked for several years as a veterinary assistant at a small animal hospital in Virginia in the late 1980's. After attending a veterinary conference in Baltimore, she learned about the technician career path and was accepted into Northern Virginia Community College's Vet Tech program where she graduated magna cum laude. After a move to Wisconsin and experience in a mixed animal practice, Lynda and her family moved to New Hampshire where she broadened her experience base as a supervisor and a hospital manager. In 2010 she decided to pursue a specialty in small animal internal medicine and received her VTS in 2016. Lynda currently works at VCA CAVES in the Internal Medicine department and also at the Veterinary Emergency Center of Manchester. She is a strong advocate for technician and assistant education and serves on the NHVTA board as the CE Committee Chair. She feels very strongly that one of the most important jobs a technician has is to help educate the client about their pet's medical condition. Understanding the "why" behind the treatment prescribed can go a long way towards encouraging client (and therefore, patient) compliance, helping to achieve a positive outcome.

Amy Newfield, CVT, VTS (ECC)

Amy is currently employed with BluePearl Veterinary Partners as the National Veterinary Technician Training Manager. In 2003 she became boarded as a Veterinary Technician Specialist in Emergency and Critical Care. She currently sits on the Academy of Veterinary Emergency & Critical Care Technicians board as the President. Amy is well published in over 15 subjects, is an international speaker, has received numerous awards and highly involved in her community. Most recently Amy was awarded the Speaker of the Year at the 2014 NAVC Conference as well as the 2015 Western Veterinary Conference Speaker of the Year. She lives in Massachusetts with her wonderful furry kids.



Heather Carter, LVT, VTS (Anes & Analgesia)

Heather Carter has been board certified in anesthesia since 2007. She has been the lead anesthesia nurse at Blue Pearl-Rockville in Maryland for the last three years. Heather manages and trains all staff members in anesthesia. Heather is a frequent speaker in the Washington DC area. One of her goals when speaking is to ensure that technicians are educated and empowered. She works to help her fellow technicians understand anesthesia and know how to provide the best patient care to anesthetized animals. Heather also works and travels for the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS), where she sets up and runs field clinics on Native American reservations. These clinics provide free veterinary care and spay/neuter services to impoverished areas. She strives to bring the same anesthetic standard that is achieved in Rockville to the reservations. Heather has been published in two different anesthesia and analgesia textbooks and she is currently pursuing a MBA. Her spare time is spent watching more hockey than is healthy and reading as many classic works as possible.

Samantha Kowalski, CVT, VTS (ECC, SAIM)

Samantha started her career in emergency medicine in 2005 after years in feline specialty medicine. Currently she is an overnight ICU technician in the Veterinary Emergency & Specialty Hospital in South Deerfield MA. She received her VTS in Emergency and Critical Care in 2011 and in 2016 obtained her VTS in Small Animal Internal Medicine. In her spare time Samantha enjoys traveling while utilizing her technician skills outside the hospital and has so far volunteered to work with large exotic cats, elephants and participates in the annual medical screening of dog sled teams for the Iditarod.

Emily Parker-Morse, CVT

Emily has been a veterinary technician for over 17 years, 8 of which have been spent exclusively in emergency/critical care medicine. She graduated from Becker College in 2004 with a Bachelor of Science, Veterinary Science with a concentration in clinical medicine. Emily joined the Tufts VETS emergency/critical care team in 2009 and quickly worked her way into an ECC department lead technician position. Emily manages our in house blood bank and acts as a mentor for veterinary technician students that complete their school externships with Tufts VETS. She is also the go-to technician for all newly hired ECC technicians. She has patience and expertise in all aspects of small animal emergency and critical care medicine. On her off time, Emily enjoys volunteering for her husband's animal rescue organization, Dog Orphans Inc.

Robyn Heater, CVT, VTS (ECC)

Robyn's career has focused on emergency and critical care medicine since she became a CVT 15 years ago. She has been an ICU technician at BluePearl Veterinary Partners in Waltham MA for the past 11 years, where she currently works on the overnights. She received her VTS in Emergency and Critical Care in 2010. Her interests include trauma, pain management, and physical therapy. When not



working, Robyn is an avid competitive roller skater, and was recently named the Northeast Region's Figure Skater of the Year. She is also a regional champion and has several national awards.

Jessica Boyle CVT VTS (SAIM)

Jessica has been a CVT in Massachusetts for the last 12 years. She has worked in many fields including diagnostic laboratory work at IDEXX as well as small animal private practice. For the last 9 years she has been working in specialty medicine at Tufts VETS in Walpole MA and for the last 7 years has been exclusively working in the field of internal medicine. She obtained her VTS in internal medicine in 2014. She enjoys teaching and speaking and hopes to continue to do more of this in the future.