

Speaker Bios

Kristen Antoon, CVT, VTS (Cardiology)

Ms. Antoon is a certified veterinary technician and a Veterinary Technician Specialist (VTS) in cardiology at the Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine at Tufts University. She began working as a veterinary technician in 2001 and subsequently obtained her veterinary technician certification in 2005. In 2007, she joined the intensive care unit of the Foster Hospital for Small Animals at the Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine. She has regularly participated in the annual Tufts Technician Symposium since 2010. She has presented case reports at ACVIM and VECCS. The case report presented at VECCS was published in the Veterinary Technician Magazine in 2011. In 2012, she joined the cardiology service. Since joining the cardiology team, she has been involved with several industry-lead and academic clinical trial studies, along with being a co-author on a couple of these clinical trial studies. In 2016, she became the 20th VTS in cardiology. She was co-presenter at ACVIM in 2017 on 'Introduction to Cardiac Catheters and Implants, Techniques for Cardiac and Non-cardiac Procedures'. She has also been involved with giving CE for 'Techs by Techs' at Tufts.

Outside of work, she is the clinic coordinator and clinic veterinary technician for a TNR feral cat clinic that is held monthly. At home, she enjoys the company of her cat, Rio, and her dog, DJ. She also enjoys good laughs with friends at their weekly cardiology dinner night.

Meghan Dakin, CVT, VTS (ECC)

Meghan studied pre-veterinary medicine at the University of New Hampshire and has worked in the veterinary medical field for the past 15 years. She has been a CVT in New Hampshire since 2008 and successfully completed the arduous process to become a Veterinary Technician Specialist in Emergency and Critical Care in 2017. Since then she has enjoyed speaking at symposia and conferences in New England and across the US. Her professional interests include cardiopulmonary resuscitation, acid-base and blood gas analysis, and she is partial to critical care anesthesia. Meghan serves as the New Hampshire Veterinary Technician Association CE Committee Chair and works with local Veterinary Technology programs to provide hands-on training during clinical rotations. In addition to working in the ER, ICU, and surgery, she is an adjunct instructor for the Veterinary Technology program at Great Bay Community College and is a certified instructor of basic and advanced life support through the RECOVER Initiative.

Gailyn Gaskell CVT, VTS (CP- Exotic Companion Animal)

Gailyn Gaskell graduated from Mt Ida College with a bachelors in veterinary technology in 2008. She honed her skills at VCA where she spent 5 years working in emergency and critical care, surgery and general medicine including exotics. This is also where she found her passion for exotic animals in veterinary medicine. With hopes of someday specializing she moved on to Angell Animal Medical Center in 2013 and became an important member of the avian and exotic animal team. After completing 5 years as an exotic animal technician Gailyn completed the application process to become veterinary technician specialist. In 2017 Gailyn passed her VTS exam and became the 8th technician to be given the title "VTS clinical practice exotic companion animal". When not at work she spends time with her husband and their small personal zoo which includes 2 dogs, a cat, Netherland dwarf rabbit, green cheek conure and a leopard gecko.

Tiffany Gendron CVT, VTS (ECC)

Tiffany Gendron CVT, VTS (ECC) attended Becker College where she successfully completed her studies in 2006 graduating with honors in Veterinary Technology. After completing her studies she passed the

national board exam becoming a certified veterinary technician. She began her career as an Emergency and Cardiology Veterinary Technician. Tiffany pursued her passion in emergency and critical care and was awarded board certification as a Specialty Technician in Emergency and Critical Care in 2011. Tiffany has always enjoyed teaching and is currently a professor for both a veterinary assistant and veterinary technology programs. She shares her life with her husband, two beautiful children and their animals.

Katenna Jones, ScM, ACAAB, CCBC, CDBC, CPDT-KA, Certified Fear Free

Through Jones Animal Behavior, Katenna Jones provides private behavior consulting services to cat and dog owners and also serves as a resource to animal professionals. She is a popular presenter at local, national, international as well as online events and is also an instructor and mentor for the International Association of Animal Behavior Consultants. She is the author of *Fetching the Perfect Dog Trainer: Getting the Best for You and Your Dog*, regularly contributes to publications such as Martha Stewart Living, Chewy.com, Dogster, and more. Katenna earned her Master's in Experimental Psychology from Brown University where she studied animal behavior, learning and cognition. She is an Associate Certified Applied Animal Behaviorist, Certified Cat and Dog Behavior Consultant, Certified Pet Dog Trainer, and Certified Fear Free Trainer. Katenna shares her Rhode Island home with her husband, adopted cat and dog, chickens, and honeybees.

Adrienne A. Kruzer, RVT, LVT

A Registered Veterinary Technician in both Ohio and North Carolina as well as a Licensed Veterinary Technician in South Carolina, Adrienne has been a credential vet tech since 2007 and has worked in various progressive exotic and small animal hospitals since 2004 prior to joining the veterinary industry world. In the hospitals, she worked in every role imaginable including management, anesthesia, the laboratory, employee training, and as an in-room technician with both board certified and general practice veterinarians. She developed an interest in educating, writing, and exploring complementary options for pets and their owners through her years in the hospitals and has focused her efforts on helping fellow technicians improve their own lives as well as the lives of the pets they care for. Adrienne has written for various online sources for almost a decade, has had articles published in the Finnish Herpetological Society and NAVTA Journals, and completed her level 2 Fear Free Certification. She regularly lectures to future technicians at vet tech colleges as well as current technicians around the country and is currently employed by Nutramax Laboratories where she can focus all her energy on helping pets get nutritional support and educating veterinary professionals. She also loves Pomeranians.

Heather D. Medeiros, BS, CVT, CCRP, VTS (Anesthesia and Analgesia)

Heather entered the veterinary field in 1993 and graduated from Mt. Ida College's Veterinary Technology Program in 2000. Heather has spent the past 19 years devoted to anesthesia with the last 5 years working at the VCA South Shore Animal Hospital in Weymouth, MA . Over her career, Heather has obtained both her CCRP (Certified Canine Rehabilitating Practitioner) from the University of Tennessee in 2005 and her VTS (Veterinary Technician Specialty) in anesthesia and analgesia in 2007. In 2010, Heather was a part of an elite group of VTS–AVTAA technicians that wrote and published the organizations first anesthesia book for the technician. Heather is heavily involved in lecturing and training of technicians, interns, and doctors throughout her referral community. Heather has most recently become part of the adjunct faculty at Massasoit Community College where she teaches anesthesia/surgery for the Veterinary Technician.

Tracey Nowers, CVT, VTS (CP-C/F and SAIM)

Tracey Nowers is a certified veterinary technician and is double boarded as a veterinary technician specialist in clinical practice and small animal internal medicine. She began her love of veterinary medicine working in a kennel outside of Washington D.C. 30 years ago. She was head technician for a general practice for 20 years in north central Massachusetts. She made the move into specialty medicine in 2009 and became passionate about endocrinology. She currently works at Cape Cod Veterinary Specialists. She lectures locally and nationally. In addition, she developed and teaches a NAVTA approved veterinary assistant program on Cape Cod. She is currently owned by 3 cats: Who, What and Why that she fostered as babies, and a geriatric greyhound mix that she rescued.

Heidi Reuss-Lamky, CVT, VTS (Anesthesia and Analgesia, Surgery)

Ms. Heidi Reuss-Lamky graduated from Michigan State University's Veterinary Technology Program in 1984. She has extensive experience in general practice, and since 1993 has devoted her technical expertise to the surgical department of specialty hospitals. She has been affiliated with Oakland Veterinary Referral Services in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, since 2006.

Heidi became certified through the Academy of Veterinary Technicians in Anesthesia and Analgesia in 2003, and sat on the credentials committee from 2005 to 2009. She served in the president's role on the Executive Board of the Michigan Association of Veterinary Technicians from 2007 to 2009. She was a charter member of the Academy of Veterinary Surgical Technicians and currently sits on the executive board. She has a special interest in veterinary behavior medicine and earned her Fear Free Certification in November 2017.

Heidi is an ardent advocate for the veterinary technology profession, and serves as a consultant for many allied veterinary industries. She is on the National Association of Veterinary Technicians in America Committee on Veterinary Technician Specialties, and also serves on the editorial review board for Today's Veterinary Nurse Journal.

Heidi is a prolific author and lecturer, presenting anesthesia, surgical nursing, and Fear Free-related topics at veterinary meetings worldwide. She most recently published Chapter 8, "Waste Anesthetic Gas Collection and Consequences," in *Veterinary Anesthetic and Monitoring Equipment*, edited by Kristen Cooley and Rebecca Johnson. She was also honored to receive the 2013 NAVC Dr. Jack L. Mara Memorial Lecturer award.

Melissa J. Supernor, CVT, VTS (SAIM), CFE, CCFP

Melissa graduated from Becker College with an AS in Veterinary Technology in 1990 and in 2000, she earned her degree in Psychology from Worcester State University. In 1990, Melissa earned her CVT in Massachusetts. She is a charter member of the Academy of Internal Medicine Technician (AIMVT) and she earned her VTS in Small Animal Internal Medicine in 2008. Throughout her career, Melissa has been an active member and past board members for AIMVT, NAVTA, MVTA, and CTVTA, along with many other organizations. In 2009, Melissa started her own consultant company, Educational Advocates for the Veterinary Team (EdAVT), where she and her team brings awareness and education to the personal and professional development topics within the veterinary team. Her past work experiences include many different roles from specialty technician, clinical instructor and faculty in veterinary technician and veterinary assisting education, nutrition consultant and lecturer. Melissa has authored many articles and book chapters.

Lynda Vermillion, CVT, VTS (SAIM)

Lynda Vermillion has worked in the veterinary field for over 30 years. She started working in the kennels of a local animal hospital in Virginia and attended school at Northern Virginia Community College. Her experience includes companion animal medicine, some avian, exotics, and wildlife, mixed animal, emergency and specialty. When she discovered internal medicine, she found that she really enjoyed the more in-depth diagnostics and treatment as well as working with the clients to help them understand their pet's sometimes very complex issues. She currently works at a specialty hospital in Concord NH and an emergency facility in Manchester NH.

Kenichiro Yagi, MS, RVT, VTS (ECC, SAIM)

Over the 19 years in practice, Ken has discovered and refined his role as a veterinary technician by promoting compassionate and progressive care for the patients and their families. He obtained his VTS certification in emergency and critical care as well as small animal internal medicine and achieved his master's degree in Veterinary Science. He served as the ICU Manager and Blood Bank Manager at Adobe Animal Hospital until 2018, and now is the Program Director for the RECOVER CPR Initiative and the simulation lab manager of the Tetlow and Roy Park Veterinary Innovation Laboratory at the Cornell University. Ken has co-edited the Manual of Veterinary Transfusion Medicine and Blood Banking and has published over 30 text chapters and articles in various publications. He gives presentations internationally on topics in ECC, Transfusion Medicine, and the veterinary technician profession. Ken works to encourage further recognition of the vital role of the veterinary nurses and technicians through work with organizations such as the National Association of Veterinary Technicians in America co-chairing the Veterinary Nurse Initiative and serving as a board member of the Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care Society, the Academy of Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care Technicians, and the Veterinary Innovation Council. He pursues these goals by showing the value of the profession's perspective in veterinary medicine. Ken invites everyone to ask "Why?" to understand the "What" and "How" of our field, and to constantly pursue new limits as veterinary professionals and individuals.