

2023 ACVO NEW DIPLOMATES' BIOS & THANK YOUS

Dr. Anna Catherine Bowden, Iowa State University

I earned my Bachelor of Science from Washington and Lee University in Virginia before earning my DVM at the University of Georgia College of Veterinary Medicine. I currently work at Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine.

Dr. Kim Furr, our family vet, started my path to veterinary medicine with his enormous kindness and patience with a little girl's interest in vet med. It was the wonderful UGA Ophtho team that helped spark and foster my interest in ophthalmology. I will always be grateful to Dr. Katie Diehl, Dr. Kate Myrna, and Dr. Sarah Czerwinski for answering my endless questions and supporting my start in ophthalmology. Dr. Dan Ward, Dr. Diane Hendrix, and Dr. Thomas Chen helped me improve my examination skills during my rotating internship at the University of Tennessee. I always remember and try to emulate their patience and kindness! Dr. Sebbag, Dr. Allbaugh, and Dr. Kubai at Iowa State took an enthusiastic resident and made me an efficient clinician. Dr. Lionel Sebbag taught me to relax when surgeries became tense and was a model for how to engage with trainees and owners. Dr. Rachel Allbaugh helped me take the basics of clinical and surgical skills and use them in complex ways. I am so grateful you encouraged me to pursue academia and encouraged me to think outside the box on so many issues! Our technicians, Chimene and Laura helped and guided me back from whatever rabbit trail I'd wandered down more times than I can count. My resident-mates; Braidee Foote, Louise O'Leary, Lauren Page (SPL), and Leila Bedos helped me survive and taught me such valuable lessons. I am so grateful for each of you. The faculty (Dr. Boveland, Dr. McMullen, and Dr. Moore), house officers (Dr. Howard, Dr. Lam, Dr. Ng, and Dr. Sanchez), and our technicians (Allison and Susan), at Auburn CVM, have been overwhelmingly kind and supportive. I am thankful for you every day!

Finally and most importantly, I would like to thank my husband, Zach, for supporting me with an incredible amount of empathy and understanding; and my family, who have been supporting me from the beginning. They are an enormous part of why I am here today. Thank you, Mom and Dad, for always answering my questions and offering advice. I am profoundly grateful for the passion and education of the clinicians who mentored me, the friends who helped me to laugh when I felt I couldn't, and my family who supported me when I needed it most.

Dr. Pilar Camacho-Luna, Louisiana State University

I was born and raised in southern Spain, where my family still lives. I graduated from the school of veterinary medicine in Cordoba, Spain and after that I completed a rotating internship in Equine Medicine and Surgery in "La Equina", a private practice in Manilva owned by Dr Miguel Valdés, DACVS whom had previously completed his residency at Louisiana State University. During my internship I discovered my two passions: equine medicine and veterinary ophthalmology and learned about the specialty opportunities at the USA. I then moved to Baton Rouge, to pursue my specialty carrier at Louisiana State University, where I was lucky to find what it would be my new home for years to come, (little I knew back then). After a specialty internship in ophthalmology with Drs Renee Carter, Dr Kenneth Pierce and Dr Eric Storey, I completed an equine research fellowship and an Equine Medicine residency mentored by Dr Frank Andrews, Dr Susan Eades, Dr Ann Chapman and Dr Rebecca McConnico I still felt like something was missing, so then I went on and completed a residency in Comparative Ophthalmology, mentored by Dr Renee Carter and Dr Andrew Lewin.

After such a long journey, it seems impossible to adequately name and thank all the people that has contributed to my success, but I will do my best. To my parents, Amaro and Emilia, for teaching me the value of education, for the love and support through the years no matter what. To my sister Ana and my dad again, for being the reason I wanted to become an ophthalmologist, although I knew that, unlike them, I would focus on non-human species. Thanks to my brother, Amaro, example of tenacity and my living reminder that I can achieve anything I set my mind to while also enjoying the ride. Thanks to my godparents, Palma and Fran for being a second set of parents and for the blind faith and love they've always had in me. Thanks to Dr Miguel Valdes, for believing in my and motivating me to move across the world to follow my dreams. To Dr Frank Andrews for always being there, looking out for me for the past 11 years, guiding me and helping me. To my dear mentor and colleague Dr Renee Carter, for being my inspiration and my role model from the beginning to the end of my learning journey at LSU. To my also mentor and colleague Dr Andrew Lewin, for the infinite help and patience during my residency training, for the trust in me and for adding an often much needed touch of realism to everything. To my friend and "little ophtho brother" Christopher Alling, I could not have asked for a better partner to go through this crazy ride with! To my ophthalmology family, Leigh Ann Burton, Marnie Harrison, together we make the best team! To my dear friends Karla Fraga and Francisco Morales for the support through the years, for becoming my family and my little piece of Spain and Puerto Rico in Louisiana. And to Dr Jamie Lembo, DVM, DACVO, who started being just my study partner and ended up being an awesome friend and colleague, thanks for making this journey tolerable and even fun at times!! So many more thanks to so many people, for each teaching me a lesson and helping me through this path: Dr Susan Eades, Dr Ann Chapman, Dr Eric Storey, Dr. Kenneth Pierce, Mike Keowen... Finally, thank you to my loving husband, Dr Jonuel Cruz, the pillar who has kept me straight and strong throughout the years and who always knows how to make me see the positive side of things and who has helped me make the right decisions. And my most special thanks to my three beautiful children, Armando, Amara and Manuel, all born during different stages of my two residencies, and who have taught me the most valuable lesson that I had almost forgotten since I started veterinary school: that family is the only thing that really matters, and no matter how bad or serious life gets, they will always be there to make it all better.

Dr. Lauren Charnock, Auburn University

Dr. Lauren Charnock grew up in Oakbank, Manitoba and attended the University of Winnipeg prior to attending the Western College of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Saskatchewan, earning her DVM in 2017. Following veterinary school, she completed a rotating small animal internship at the Atlantic Veterinary College at the University of Prince Edward Island, and a specialty internship at Auburn University. She completed her residency in comparative ophthalmology at Auburn University and has since joined the ophthalmology team at the University of California-Davis.

I am extraordinarily grateful to my mentors Drs. Anthony Moore, Richard McMullen, and Shannon Boveland for their guidance, patience, and support during my internship and residency at Auburn University. I am incredibly privileged to have been given the opportunity to work in ophthalmology with your leadership. During my time at Auburn, I was fortunate to cultivate valuable friendships with my resident mates Drs. Kimberly Lam, Alexandra Ng, Ethan Hefner, Britta Fischer, and Alessandra Keenan, as well as many technicians and veterinary assistants, who made my time at Auburn so enjoyable.

To the many mentors and friends from the Atlantic Veterinary College who encouraged me to apply to ophthalmology programs during my rotating internship, I would not be here without your support and cheerleading. Additionally, my sincere appreciation to those at WCVM during my final year of veterinary school, where my interest in ophthalmology started, following the exemplary teaching and meaningful engagements on clinical rotations.

To my current colleagues at UC Davis, thank you for welcoming me into your department, and I look forward to developing my career with our team.

Finally, I am extremely grateful to my family and friends for their support throughout these last several years. There are not enough words to express my gratitude to my parents for teaching me the value of education and what is truly important about the responsibility of being a veterinarian, and to my sister, Hannah for her editorial skills and tireless listening to my thoughts and ideas. I would also like to acknowledge the support and encouragement of my partner, David, throughout my residency and during our move to California.

Dr. Megan Cullen, Kansas State University

I grew up in North Carolina and completed my undergraduate degree at Wake Forest University and my DVM at NC State University. I originally planned to go into equine general practice and completed an internship at Tennessee Equine Hospital. We had a good ophthalmology caseload and I enjoyed being able to make a diagnosis with just an exam and watching the change in pathology with treatment. I decided to change course and completed a small animal rotating internship at the Veterinary Specialty Hospital of the Carolinas. I then did a year of research with the Gilger Lab, studying fungal keratitis in horses, before heading to Kansas State University to complete an ophthalmology internship and residency. I'm currently working at BluePearl at the Ann Arbor and Southfield, Michigan locations.

I would like to thank Dr. Amy Rankin and Dr. Jessica Meekins. You were amazing mentors and you made me a better veterinarian and person. To Brian Gilger, for your mentorship in a research setting, I wouldn't be where I am today without you. I would like to thank my resident mates for their support throughout my residency. You all are fantastic doctors and it was a privilege to work with you. To Jen Klingele and Jordyn Orrison, our technician team at KSU, you made residency so much more fun. To my study partners, Tuna and Zyrras, who understand phototransduction better than any other cats I know. To Taro, who cheered me on during my residency and is proud to tell everyone that steroids and ulcers don't mix. And to my mom, for the huge sacrifices she has made throughout my life to help me achieve my goals and her unwavering support.

Dr. Crystal Eng, Veterinary Eye Institute

What started in college as cloning labs and embryo transfer, evolved into zoos and elephants, eventually leading me here to eyeballs and ophthalmology. It's been a wild road to get here and I can't wait to see what God's got for me around the next turn. Hopefully do a little good in this world during my lifetime of fun and adventure.

Cheers new dips! We deserve to celebrate!

Dr. Hannah Flanders, Colorado State University

Hannah Flanders (Terhaar) grew up in Andover, Minnesota. She received a bachelor's degree from University of Minnesota, Morris during which she also played NCAA women's volleyball. Hannah always sought to become a veterinarian but her interest in ophthalmology began during her undergraduate degree while working as an assistant at Animal Eye Specialty Center for Dr. Larocca. Hannah received her Doctorate in Veterinary Medicine from the University of Wisconsin, Madison in 2019. After which, she completed a small animal medicine and surgery internship at Iowa State University. At Colorado State University, she completed a three-year ophthalmology residency while earning a master's degree in 2023. After 8 years of being away from her family, she has returned to her home state and works as an associate at Animal Eye Specialty Center in Andover, MN.

It is incredibly humbling to look back on all the people who have supported my journey to become a veterinary ophthalmologist. Thank you to my family who has believed in me from day one and never wavered in their support. Specifically, my dad, who helped me believe I could follow my dreams by leading by example and following his own. There are not enough words to thank my husband, Matt for his unwavering support, patience, and kindness over the last 9 years. Thank you to Animal Eye Specialty Center and the staff, especially Bob and TJ Larocca for supporting my goals since high school, letting me shadow as much as I wanted, and taking me on as their new associate! I would like to thank the ophthalmology teams from University Wisconsin, Madison and Iowa State University including Dr. Paul Miller, Dr. Ellison Bently, Dr. Gillian McLellan, Dr. Kevin Snyder, Dr. Becky Telle, Dr. Rachel Allbaugh, and Dr. Lionel Sebbag. I am incredibly grateful for your support in my education, training, and research. Most importantly, I would like to thank the ophthalmology team from Colorado State University for their support and friendship over the last 3 years. To my advisor Dr. Michala Henrisken, thank you for your kindness, honesty, and unrelenting confidence in me. To my mentor, Dr. Kathryn Wotman, thank you for your compassion, collaboration, and irreplaceable expertise in equine ophthalmology and medicine. To all the locum faculty, including Dr. Kelly Sigle, Dr. Enry Garcia, Dr. Kathleen Barrie, Dr. Allison Cleymaet, Dr. Tara Czepiel, Dr. Georgina Newbold, Dr. Mary Lassaline, and Dr. Andrew Lewin - thank you for helping me expand my knowledge and skills and for having confidence in me. Thank you to our support and backbone at CSU including Caitlin Bradley, Lesa Wronski and Bailey Miers. Lastly, my resident-mates over the last 3 years – Dr. Brittany Martabano, Dr. Haley Jost, and Dr. Edward Flaherty. The friendships we created were truly unexpected and irreplaceable. Thank you for your support, for making every day enjoyable, and believing in me.

Dr. Mihal Kaminsky, Eye Care for Animals

Dr. Mihal Kaminsky grew up in Israel. She received her Doctorate in Veterinary Medicine from Western University of Health Sciences in 2019 and is a member of the Phi Zeta Veterinary honor society.

Following graduation, she completed her rotating internship in small animal medicine and surgery at VCA West Los Angeles Animal Hospital. She completed her residency with Eye Care for Animals from July 2020-2023.

I wouldn't be here if it weren't for my amazing mentors and family. I am forever grateful to Dr. Allison Hoffman for believing in me and giving me the opportunity of a lifetime. Dr. Allison Hoffman has not only trained me to be an ophthalmologist, but she also inspired me in many

other ways and became like family to me. Thank you for all you have done for me and this journey wouldn't have been possible without you — I am forever grateful. Words cannot express my gratitude and appreciation for Dr. Cricket Konrade for challenging me and ensuring I will become a great ophthalmologist. Thank you, Dr. Konrade for always supporting, motivating and encouraging me to be the best clinician and surgeon possible. Love you both and I am so blessed to have had these two incredible and inspiring women in my life. I would also like to extend my sincere gratitude to Drs. Christin Fahrer and Julius Brinkis for their mentorship and support during my residency. I truly cannot express how lucky I feel to have had such amazing mentors. I am thankful to all my colleagues and supporting staff at Eye Care for Animals and everyone involved in our residency program. I couldn't have asked for better resident mates — I am extremely grateful to Drs. Anthony Lisankis and Alex Schenk!!! Finally, none of this would have been possible without my dear family who constantly motivated, uplifted, and supported me.

Dr. Soohyun Kim, University of California, Davis

My journey in veterinary ophthalmology began in 2011 at Seoul National University in South Korea, where I simultaneously completed a PhD and clinical training. I then completed a 1.5-year ophthalmology fellowship at the same university. After that, I served as an ophthalmologist at four local referral hospitals in South Korea for two years before coming to UC Davis for a postdoctoral fellowship. My three years of postdoctoral research at the Murphy-Russel-Thomasy laboratory at UC Davis allowed me to mature as a clinician-scientist. I completed my ABVO residency at UC Davis from 2019 to 2022. I am currently a faculty member at the comparative ophthalmology service at UC Davis.

I would like to express my gratitude to everyone who has been a part of my journey. I have been fortunate to have such great mentorship and resident mates at UC Davis. I would like to sincerely thank my mentors, Drs. Chris Murphy, Steven Hollingsworth, David Maggs, Kathy Good, Sara Thomasy, Bianca Martins, Brian Leonard, and Sydney Edwards. I would also like to give a special thanks to Drs. Kangmoon Seo and Youngwoo Park. Thank you to my resident mates, Drs. Bret Moore, Kelly Knickelbein, Andrea Minella, Elyse Salpeter, Sara Adelman, and Brett Story, and our ophthalmology technicians. Lastly, I would like to express my gratitude to my mom and sister for their unconditional support.

Dr. Irimi Lamkin, Cornell University

Originally from Crete, Greece, I grew up in Champaign, Illinois. I attended the University of Illinois where I graduated in 2010 with a Bachelor's of Science in Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences. I spent the following 5 years traveling the United States working for the National Park Service, Army Corps of Engineers, and US Geologic Survey as I tried to decide whether I would prefer to work with animals or plants. The animals won as I eventually returned to the University of Illinois for veterinary school. I then completed a rotating internship and residency training at Cornell University. I have since started the ophthalmology service at Bend Animal Emergency and Specialty Center in Bend, Oregon.

I am so thankful for the incredible mentorship I received from both the University of Illinois and Cornell ophthalmology teams. To Drs. Bianca Martins, Katie Fleming, Tatiane Villar, Sophie Rajotte and Kelli Zimmerman, you helped me to discover my passion for ophthalmology and provided me with the tools to excel. A special thank you to Drs. Eric Ledbetter, Nita Irby, Filipe Espinheira, Gil Ben-Shlomo, Kelly Knickelbein, and Erin Scott for putting up with my singing and

for all of your support and guidance along the way. I wouldn't have half the confidence or skill to be where I am today without you. Thank you to my resident-mates and the Cornell ophthalmology nursing team. Thank you to my family for their love and encouragement throughout these many years while I found my way - I wish you could have seen me, Dad. Lastly, a special thank you to my partner, Phil, for being my rock and lifting me up every day.

Dr. Jamie Lembo, Animal Eye Institute, Ohio

Dr. Jamie Lembo grew up in New Haven, Connecticut. She earned a Bachelor of Science from Cornell University in Biology and Animal Sciences in 2013, and her veterinary degree from Iowa State University in 2017. Dr. Lembo completed a small animal rotating internship at the Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine at Tufts University, followed by an ophthalmology specialty internship at Long Island Veterinary Specialists under the mentorship of Dr. John Sapienza and Dr. Kay Kim. Dr. Lembo then completed a comparative ophthalmology residency with the Animal Eye Institute, learning from Dr. DJ Haeussler Jr., Dr. Ron Spatola and Dr. Christina Korb. She continues to work at the Animal Eye Institute in Cincinnati.

Dr. Lembo feels truly fortunate to have worked with and learned from so many excellent veterinary ophthalmologists, residents, interns, students, and staff over the last decade. Her interest in Veterinary Ophthalmology was fostered by the passionate team at ISU, including (but not limited to) Dr. Gil Ben-Shlomo, Dr. Rachel Allbaugh, Dr. Lionel Sebbag, Dr. Rachel Lisankis and Dr. Rita Wehrman. Her year of mentorship by Dr. Sapienza and Dr. Kim instilled a love for ophthalmic surgery and readied her for a busy (and oftentimes exciting) caseload. She could not have accomplished her goal without these fundamental individuals and experiences.

She is especially grateful to her residency mentors Dr. DJ Haeussler and Dr. Ron Spatola for their unwavering support, patience, trust, knowledge, advice, and all-around kindness. They demonstrated confidence in her, even at times when she did not. She would also like to acknowledge the encouragement and friendship of her resident mate, Dr. Christina Korb, and study partner, Dr. Pilar Camacho. Dr. Lembo has been privileged to work with especially supportive and talented veterinary technicians and receptionists, which she would also like to thank. Finally, Dr. Lembo would like to thank her significant-other, Phil Arceneaux, her closest friends, and her family for their unending support and love throughout it all.

Dr. Maggie Li Puma, University of Georgia

I am a Colorado native and pursued my undergraduate and veterinary degrees at Colorado State University. I then completed a rotating internship at the University of Georgia and stayed at UGA for the residency program (Go Dawgs!). I will now be starting my career as an ophthalmologist with Veterinary Vision in San Francisco.

I am indelibly grateful to my family and friends, of which there are too many individuals to name, and for the constant unwavering support from my husband, Lance, throughout this journey. I am grateful for my UGA faculty and their support and guidance throughout this journey. Dr. Czerwinski, your mentorship from the infancy of my residency has been invaluable in helping me develop the skill and knowledge needed to become a successful surgeon and clinician. Dr. Diehl, your expertise and guidance have been instrumental in shaping my knowledge and clinical practice... and I'll also miss our frequent walks and talks dearly. Dr. Myrna, thank you for teaching me, challenging me, and for always giving me the best hugs when I needed them. Dr.

Sheridan, you've been the best resident-mate, mentor, and friend I could have ever asked for. I'd like to thank my other resident-mates, Drs. Zimmerman, Bercovitz, Wright; and my boards study-mates, Drs. Lisankis, Kaminsky, Schenk, and Micceri. Your support was invaluable, and I couldn't have done it without you.

I'd like to thank my Colorado ophthalmology family, who supported me in this journey before even starting veterinary school. Thank you, Dr. Freeman, for getting me involved in incredible research projects, including me in the CSU ophthalmology community, and for your unwavering support throughout undergrad, vet school, residency, and now/in the future as work colleagues. Dr. Pederson, I'll always (try to) be your "mini-me" and am so lucky to have had you as my sister, research colleague, travel partner, and mentor. And to Dr. Dugan, Dr. Powell, Dr. Eichenbaum, Dr. Henriksen, Dr. Wotman, Dr. Dubin, Dr. Cleymaet, Dr. Martabano, Caitlin Cash, and Diana Moss, thank you for supporting me and allowing me to work with you, learn about ophthalmology, and for kindling my passion for this profession.

Dr. Anthony Lisankis, Eye Care for Animals, Annapolis, MD

I grew up in Southern California and spent five years in the US Army prior to becoming a veterinarian. I earned my undergraduate degree from Pepperdine University and DVM from Iowa State University. Following graduation, I reentered the US Army as a Veterinary Corps Officer where I completed a small animal medicine and surgery internship at Fort Bragg, NC. I spent the next three years as the Post Veterinarian for Naval Station Great Lakes outside of Chicago, IL providing care for working dogs and preventive medicine for the Post. I then completed a three-year residency in ophthalmology with Eye Care for Animals in Annapolis, MD and now practice in Cockeysville, MD.

It is an honor to become a diplomate of the ACVO, and I am thankful to everyone who has helped me along the way. I am especially thankful to my direct mentors during my residency – Drs. Jennifer Hyman, Anne Weigt, Rachel Lisankis, and Catherine Nunnery – among my other mentors in the Eye Care for Animals residency program. I am also thankful to my previous mentors, including Drs. Rachel Allbaugh and Gil Ben-Shlomo that started me on this path. I also wouldn't be here without guidance from Drs. John Sapienza and Brad Nadelstein. I owe another big thank you to my resident-mates that went through the Eye Care for Animals residency program with me and who helped me with their friendship and support. I am especially thankful to my resident-mates Drs. Mihal Kaminsky and Alex Schenk who studied for boards with me and my other study group partners Drs. Maggie Li Puma and Danielle Micceri. Finally, I must thank my family, and especially my wife Rachel, for her love and support throughout this journey and all the others.

Dr. Andréa Minella, University of California, Davis

I wanted to be a veterinarian since before I can remember and was 18 when I realized I wanted to specialize in ophthalmology. My nineteen-year journey to this point started at Michigan State University- A devoted Spartan (Go green!), I completed my BS, DVM, and PhD degrees at MSU. During that time, I had the privilege of fulfilling my dream of becoming a veterinarian and of performing cutting edge research. I then completed a small animal medicine and surgery internship at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, and completed my dream of training in ophthalmology via a comparative ophthalmology residency at the University of California, Davis.

A native of Long Island, New York, I am elated to be back home, having joined the Veterinary Eye Center of New York City team.

I would like to extend my infinite gratitude to the many people who have supported and mentored me throughout this journey:

To my parents and sister who have been my biggest cheerleaders from the time I was a child dressing up as a veterinarian for Halloween- I would never have thought myself capable of all of this without you.

To my fiancé Jake- you have always maintained enough faith in me for the two of us, which is what got me through the times of doubt. With you, I truly struck gold in California.

To my intern-mates and resident-mates, especially Drs. Elyse Salpeter and Soohyun Kim, I am forever thankful for having you by my side through some of the hardest years and to have earned your friendship.

To my mentors, turned friends, turned colleagues, Drs. Elizabeth Lutz and Sydney Edwards, ophthalmology brought me you and that is just as great a gift as this amazing career!

To Dr. Simon Petersen-Jones- I could not have asked for a better PhD mentor. Through you I not only learned about research and ophthalmology, I also learned the kind of scientist, clinician, and person I wanted to be. Thank you for leading through example, mentoring with kindness and patience, and helping me understand that through many little failures can come great success (it only took me about 1000 tries to get those cells to grow cilia!). I would like to also extend gratitude to my PhD committee members, in particular Drs. András Komáromy and Joshua Bartoe, for their enriching contributions to my learning and dissertation.

To the ophthalmology team at UW Madison- thank you for welcoming an overly excited general intern into your ophtho realm and for allowing me to continue to learn about eyes through you.

To the ophthalmology team at UC Davis- there are not enough words! I am forever grateful for the privilege of learning from such a brilliant team. To Drs. Sara Thomasy, Brian Leonard, Bianca Martins, Kathryn Good, Chris Murphy, Steve Hollingsworth, David Maggs, Mary Lassaline, and of course, Roy Bellhorn- "FWIW" you are all truly one of a kind and your wisdom will stay with me forever.

To my Veterinary Eye Center of NYC team- you have made every minute of all those years of training worth it. Thank you for welcoming me home and showing me how great life can be on the other side of training!

Dr. Christian Munévar, CAIA (Sacramento/Rocklin)

I attended UC Berkeley for my undergraduate work, majoring in integrative biology. After considering careers in ecology, marine biology, and veterinary medicine I decided on the latter and attended UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine. It was here in the first year of vet school that I developed an interest in ophthalmology. Following this, I went to University of Pennsylvania for a small animal rotating internship where my interest in ophthalmology was further developed. I was fortunate to have been selected for a private practice 3 year residency at Animal Eye Center in Rocklin, CA.

I am grateful to my mentors Dr. Lana Linton, Dr. Nick Faber, Dr. Kristina Gronkiewicz, Dr. Ann Gratzek, Dr. Kristina Burling for their patience, time, effort, knowledge, and encouragement. A special thanks to Dr. Lana Linton for helping me grow tremendously as a surgeon. I thank Dr. Sinisa Grozdanic for the many interesting case and topic rounds that he allowed me to participate in. I thank Dr. Sara Thomasy, Dr. Steven Hollingsworth, Dr. David Maggs, Dr. Kathryn Good, Dr. Brian Leonard, Dr. Bret Moore, Dr. Sydney Edwards, Dr. Elaine Holt, Dr. Vanessa Holly, and Dr. Sara Smith who developed and encouraged my interest in ophthalmology and inspired me with their passion for their career.

Dr. Katelin Quantz, Michigan State University

Bio/thank you not available at the time of publishing.

Dr. Roxanne Ratner, Animal Ophthalmology Clinic

Dr. Roxanne Ratner grew up in Cincinnati, OH, and earned her DVM from Ohio State University. After spending a year in Pittsburgh, PA for her rotating internship in small animal medicine and surgery, she moved to Dallas, TX for residency at Animal Ophthalmology Clinic. Roxanne will stay in Dallas with AOC now that she has earned her diplomate status.

I would like to send a sincere thank you to all of the amazing ophthalmologists that inspired and helped me along the way. It was the captivating instruction of Drs. Eric Miller, Anne Metzler, and Dave Wilkie at OSU that really set me on this path. My internship mentor Dr Kara Gornik helped me bridge the gap to residency, and I was fortunate to study under Drs. Rachel Ring, Bob Munger, and Chris Nettune as a resident. Each one of these mentors left me with knowledge, skills, and varied perspectives that enrich my practice every day. Lastly, I can't imagine having accomplished this goal without the unwavering support of my husband Seth, and especially for his help in caring for our new baby Daphne while I was studying! It's good to finally be in the club.

Dr. Simone Schechtmann, BluePearl Veterinary Partners

I grew up in Melbourne, Florida. I attended undergraduate university at Boston College, Pompeu Fabra University in Barcelona, Spain and Sciences Po in Paris, France. I graduated with a bachelor's degree in international relations, linguistics and Latin. Following undergraduate studies, I went to University College Dublin in Ireland for veterinary school. I then completed both a one-year small animal rotating and specialty ophthalmology internship in addition to a 3-year ophthalmology residency all at BluePearl Veterinary Partners in Florida. Currently, I am working in private practice in West Palm Beach, Florida.

I would like to express my deepest gratitude to my extraordinary mentors who had unwavering belief in me. These magnificent women include Drs. Terri Baldwin, Jessica Stine and Anja Welihozkiy. They not only incited so much passion and curiosity in me, but also were exemplary role models of meticulous and compassionate clinicians. I would also like to thank Drs. Susan Carastro and Keith Collins who also supported me during residency and that I now have the tremendous honor to work alongside daily. Finally, I would like to thank my beautiful parents, Dr.

Norberto and Fe Schechtmann. Without their consistent love and encouragement, my dream of becoming a veterinary ophthalmologist would have never been possible.

Dr. Lindsay Seyer, Mississippi State University

I am a South Florida native. I attended veterinary school at St. George's University where I met my husband. I completed my clinical year at Auburn University where I discovered my passion for veterinary ophthalmology. Post veterinary school, my training consisted of specialty internship in Franklin, Tennessee at Bluepearl Veterinary Partners. Followed by a specialty internship and then residency in comparative ophthalmology at Mississippi State University.

As I look back on my career journey, I can truly say that I have encounter so many amazing people and veterinarians that have molded me to be the veterinarian I am today. The fundamentals of my practice as a veterinarian are due to the amazing mentors I have had along the way. The list of mentors is lengthy, but people I will never forget and could never thank enough include Dr. Anthony Moore, Dr. Becky Telle, Dr. Laurence Galle, and Dr. Caroline Betbeze.

Dr. Anthony Moore, thank you for always believing in me and for your mentorship throughout the years. You are truly an amazing mentor and have provided so much support in the toughest of times.

Dr. Becky Telle, there is so much to thank you for and I am so grateful our paths crossed. Your mentorship and your friendship are two of the most important things I have gained from my training.

Dr. Laurence Galle, thank you for everything you have done for me, the supportive you have given me and the things you have taught me. You will always be one of my first calls for advice and I will always be thankful for your mentorship.

Dr. Caroline Betbeze, thank you for believing in me and providing me with the opportunities you have. You were instrumental in my path towards becoming a veterinary ophthalmologist and for that I want to sincerely thank you.

Dr. Staci Spears, South Atlanta Veterinary Emergency and Specialty Center

Despite spending so much of my adult life in Florida, I am a born and raised Michigander. I graduated from Hillsdale College in 2013 with a bachelor's in biology. Originally planning on a career in aquatic animal medicine, I moved to Gainesville, Florida for veterinary school. I graduated with my DVM and a certificate in aquatic animal health from the University of Florida in 2017. From there I traveled back to Southfield, Michigan where I completed a small animal rotating internship with BluePearl Veterinary Partners. In 2019 I completed an ophthalmology internship at South Atlanta Veterinary Emergency and Specialty, and then went on to complete a residency in veterinary ophthalmology at Animal Eye Clinic of Pensacola, where I remain employed as an ophthalmologist. Outside of work I enjoy tabletop gaming, music, and training my border collie, Pixel, in canine agility.

I don't know where to begin thanking people, but for starters my family, especially my mom, without whom I wouldn't have even dipped my toes in these waters. Thank you to my best friend

and now coworker Hannah Eberle, for her endless support and optimism. There are so many wonderful veterinarians and mentors that deserve recognition, and I fear not being able to do them all justice. I must credit and thank Dr. Matthew Monica for being the first person to introduce me to veterinary medicine when I was just a teenager. From there Dr. Jeffrey Van Zant served as my mentor at Hillsdale College, and was instrumental in helping me get into vet school. At UF I have the entire ophthalmology department to be thankful to, including the faculty (Dr. Ralph Hamor, Dr. David Whitley, and Dr. Caryn Plummer), then-residents Dr. Laura Proietto and Dr. William Berkowski, and especially Holly Kitchen, who was one of the most encouraging voices I heard during veterinary school. I also want to thank Dr. Gwen Sila, Dr. Suzette Aquino, and Dr. Michael West, who taught me ophthalmology at Blue Pearl and prepared me for a life in this career. Thank you to Dr. Catherine Nunnery and Dr. Enry Garcia da Silva for their participation in my residency education.

I feel an overwhelming amount of gratitude and appreciation for my mentors during my residency. Dr. Dan Brogdon, Dr. Audrey Pierson, and Dr. Eric Storey, you have shaped me into not just the ophthalmologist, but the person I am today. You have taught me, sacrificed for me, fought for me, built me up, and brought me down to earth. You have shown me not only what it means to be an ophthalmologist, but what it means to respond to a calling. Dr. Storey, it is a privilege to continue to work with you and for you, and I look forward to an exciting career ahead.

Dr. Corbin Telford, Veterinary Eye Institute

Corbin was born a Texan but grew up a North Carolinian. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology at Elon University in 2010. Shortly after, he ventured into veterinary medicine as an assistant at Preston Animal Hospital near Raleigh, NC. Two years later, he began his veterinary studies at North Carolina State University. Following graduation from NC State, he migrated to Stillwater, OK to complete a small animal rotating internship at Oklahoma State University. Ultimately, he returned to his birthplace of Dallas, TX, to complete his ophthalmology residency at Veterinary Eye Institute.

He would like to express his sincerest gratitude to everyone who has encouraged, guided, and championed him in his journey to becoming a veterinary ophthalmologist...

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He could not have achieved anything without you all. He hopes he made you proud.

Dr. Elodie VerHulst, Virginia-Maryland COVM

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Dr. Savanna Vig, Animal Eye Specialists

I attended undergraduate school in my hometown of Tucson, Arizona in the Sonoran desert. I then moved to California to attend veterinary school at UC Davis, enjoying lunchtime strolls through the Arboretum with my dog between classes. I completed a rotating small animal internship at Loomis Basin Veterinary Clinic, where I made sure that uveal cysts or asteroid hyalosis made the diagnosis list (even if the presenting complaint was hemorrhage). I completed my residency at Animal Eye Specialists in Campbell, CA with the best mentor ever, Dr. Tina Burling. Tina, I am endlessly inspired by your kindness, skill, and passion for the field.

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Dr. Parker Wilcox, The Ohio State University

Dr. Parker Wilcox is originally from Avon, Connecticut. He received his DVM from Iowa State University College of Veterinary Medicine in 2018. Thereafter, he completed a small animal rotating internship at VCA West Los Angeles Animal Hospital and continued on to a specialty internship in ophthalmology at the University of Saskatchewan Western College of Veterinary Medicine. He then obtained and completed an ophthalmology residency at the Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine.

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