

# The Aubieclave Report



AUBURN UNIVERSITY  
COLLEGE OF  
VETERINARY MEDICINE



## THE DISCOVERY SPOTLIGHT

### Dr. Maninder Sandey

Dr. Maninder Sandey, originally from Punjab, India, came to Auburn in 2007 to pursue his Ph.D. and has been part of the university ever since. Now an Associate Professor in the Department of Pathobiology, he says the most rewarding part of working in the department is the people. He appreciates the

strong sense of collegiality not only within the pathobiology group but also across the college. The collaborative, supportive environment—where colleagues readily share ideas and work together—makes Auburn a truly enjoyable place for him to work.

Dr. Sandey's team works to develop new immunotherapies by studying anti-tumor immune responses in both mouse models and naturally occurring cancers in dogs. This approach helps bridge basic research with real-world clinical applications, moving the field closer to new treatment possibilities.

Outside the lab, Dr. Sandey enjoys spending his free time playing tennis.

## THE DISCOVERY SPOTLIGHT

# Jennifer Fisher

Jennifer Fisher serves as an Administrative Support Associate II for the department and has been at Auburn for seven months. Originally from Columbus, Georgia, she also serves on both the University's and the College of Veterinary Medicine's Staff Council. Jennifer enjoys the strong teamwork within the department and takes pride in supporting the faculty and staff through accurate, efficient administrative processes.



Outside of work, she enjoys thrifting, volunteering at PAWS and her church, traveling (highlighting Russia, Paris, Ireland, England, and Scotland), live music, reading, and football. Jennifer is also a proud Auburn mom—her daughter graduated in 2019 and is now pursuing a PhD in Forensic Psychology at the University of North Texas. A fun fact she loves to share is that her daughter's original dream of becoming a veterinarian began after attending what is now known as Vet Fest— an event Jennifer highly recommends attending or volunteering for. After working seven years with Alabama Athletics in Tuscaloosa, Jennifer is happy to be back home and has thoroughly enjoyed her time in the Lovliest Village on The Plains!



## THE DISCOVERY SPOTLIGHT

# Dr. Mariana Andrioli Pinheiro

Dr. Mariana Andrioli Pinheiro, originally from Brazil, joined Auburn University in October 2023 and works as a Postdoctoral Researcher in Dr. Criado's Lab. She enjoys contributing to impactful research and appreciates the Pathobiology Department's welcoming,

collaborative atmosphere— one she describes as “cozy” and supportive, helping her grow both professionally and personally.

Her research examines how avian influenza viruses behave in different avian cell lines, providing insight into viral replication, host–virus interactions, and cross-species transmission risks. Outside the lab, she has always been energetic and creative—from childhood origami challenges with her dad to her current love of hiking, camping, traveling, cooking, crochet, and puzzles. She also enjoys movies, anime, and spending time with her husband, family, friends, and the many animals that have been part of her life.



## Global Impact: Dr. Koehler Directs Pathology Training in Argentina

Dr. Jey Koehler served as director and lecturer for the Davis-Thompson Foundation's Foundations of Pathology course in Argentina from March 2–6. This intensive 5-day program covered the recognition and interpretation of gross, microscopic, and ultrastructural lesions, as well as the use of immunohistochemistry, *in situ* hybridization, and PCR in diagnostic pathology.



Despite navigating the course with elementary Spanish plus AI and human translation support, the session was a great success—45 participants from Argentina, Uruguay, and Chile gave highly positive reviews. With 35 hours of lectures, mock exams, and active learning exercises, this course is one of a kind and especially impactful in regions without structured pathology residency programs.

For context, the Davis-Thompson Foundation—founded in 1973 and now led by Dr. Koehler—advances global education in veterinary and comparative pathology. The volunteer-driven nonprofit hosts ~70 courses, webinars, seminar series, workshops, and co-sponsored events each year, and provides extensive free educational resources, including a YouTube channel and large online image databases such as Noah's Arkive and Noah's Slidebox, used in over 120 countries.





## Donation Drive for New Hope

Thank you to everyone who helped stock the New Hope Rescue Food and Supply Drive bins. Because of your generous support, the Rescue is well-equipped with the food, treats, and essential supplies they need for the spring.

New Hope Rescue continues to be a lifeline for abandoned, neglected, and abused animals, and their work depends heavily on community support. Your contributions truly make a difference in helping them care for the animals who need it most!



## Dr. Neto Presented at Tuskegee University's 60th Annual Veterinary Medical Symposium

Dr. Neto presents ocular pathology concepts and clinical cases at the Tuskegee University 60th Annual Veterinary Medical Symposium (March 19th, 2026).

Dr. Neto and Dr. Sherein Salem (Associate Professor of Anatomic Pathology, Tuskegee University) are pictured here together to show the collaborative efforts of both colleges.





## Celebrating Excellence In Scholarship

We are pleased to share a summary of the College of Veterinary Medicine's 249 faculty publications from calendar year 2025, including 239 peer-reviewed journal articles, five book chapters, and five magazine articles. These publications reflect high-impact scholarship with national and international visibility, appearing in leading journals across veterinary medicine, biomedical sciences, and the life sciences.

Research and scholarship are central to the mission of the Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine. We extend our sincere thanks to the faculty, staff, and students whose efforts made this outstanding year possible.

A complete list of publications is available here:

<https://libguides.auburn.edu/c.php?g=518970&p=11374534>



## Mr. Samitha Liyanage Awarded Presidential Graduate Research Fellowship

Mr. Samitha Liyanage, a first-year PhD student in Dr. Xu Wang's lab, was awarded the Auburn University Presidential Graduate Research Fellowship. He received his M.S. in Fisheries at Auburn in May 2025 and joined Dr. Xu Wang's lab after graduation.

Presidential Graduate Research Fellowships are awarded to a select group of highly qualified incoming doctoral or professional degree students. Recipients demonstrate exemplary scholarship, innovation, and the potential to make significant contributions to their academic disciplines and the broader research community.



## Dr. Pankaj Gaonkar Presented at the Western Poultry Disease Conference

Dr. Pankaj Gaonkar, a resident under Dr. Joiner, attended the Western Poultry Disease Conference (WPDC) and the American College of Poultry Veterinarians (ACPV) Workshop titled “Optimizing Poultry Health from the Hatchery to the Field: A Holistic Approach” in San Diego, CA.

During the meeting, he engaged with current research and emerging challenges in the poultry industry. He also presented an overview of *avian metapneumovirus* in Alabama commercial poultry, highlighting Auburn’s diagnostic findings.



## Mr. Carter Hauge Awarded Undergraduate Research Fellowship

Mr. Carter Hauge, an undergraduate researcher in Dr. Xu Wang’s laboratory, has been awarded a year-long Auburn University Undergraduate Research Fellowship totaling \$8,000.

A sophomore double-majoring in Genetics and Public and One Health, Carter will focus on comparative genomics of microbial genomes under Dr. Wang’s mentorship. This fellowship supports his research efforts over the coming year and recognizes his strong academic promise and commitment to research excellence.



## Advancing Influenza Research: CEIRR Advisory Board Meeting

Dr. Constantinos Kyriakis and Dr. Miria Criado attended the CIDER (Center for Influenza Disease & Emergence Research) / CEIRR (Centers of Excellence for Influenza Research and Response) Annual Scientific Advisory Board Meeting held at NIAID in Rockville, MD, on March 19–20.

The meeting highlighted current research being conducted by CIDER, one of the centers within the CEIRR network. Their attendance was by invitation, as they are grant recipients and collaborators within this center.

## 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](https://aub.ie/PathoGift)



## PUBLICATIONS

**Espejo R, Toro H.** Mucosal immune responses elicited by wild-bird-origin avian paramyxovirus-type 1 isolates in chickens. *Avian Pathol.* 2026 Feb 25;1-9. doi: 10.1080/03079457.2026.2630676. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 41738387.

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/41738387/>

Loyd A, **Neto R**, Caldwell F, Boone L, White A. Effect of Fluorescence Biomodulation on Dermal Healing in an Equine Experimental *In Vivo* Wound Model. *Vet Comp Orthop Traumatol.* 2026 Mar;39(2):117-125. doi: 10.1055/a-2655-9312. Epub 2025 Aug 26. PMID: 40858152.

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/40858152>

**Murphy BJ**, Smith AA, **Kilbane EM**, Conrado FO. Lymphocytosis and Mycobacteriosis in a 15-Year-Old Mixed-Breed Dog. *Case Rep Vet Med.* 2026 Feb 26;2026:5288911. doi: 10.1155/crve/5288911. PMID: 41768375; PMCID: PMC12940798.

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/41768375>

Nibbering B, Nooij S, Harmanus C, Sanders IMJG, Miedema IM, Ducarmon QR, Vossen RHAM, Kloet SL, Ardis CK, Britton RA, **Yousefi F**, Bayne J, Charavaryamath C, Law A, Murphy ML, Sponseller B, Burrough ER, Ramirez A, **Mooyottu S**, Opriessnig T, Kuijper EJ, Roostenberg M, Smits WK. Characterization of the clade 4 non-toxicogenic *C. difficile* isolate L-NTCD03 carrying the *cfr(B)* gene. *FEMS Microbes.* 2026 Feb 23;7:xtag010. doi: 10.1093/femsmc/xtag010. PMID: 41783251; PMCID: PMC12955701.

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/41783251/>

**Zuber E, Bastos Lopes CE**, Steinberg J, Bayne J, Cole R, **Towns TJ, Barrantes Murillo DF.** Tympany in a cow secondary to a follicular-compact thyroid carcinoma with metastases. *J Vet Diagn Invest.* 2026 Jan 29;10406387251411283. doi: 10.1177/10406387251411283. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 41612703; PMCID: PMC12858378.

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/41612703/>

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.



## JOB POSTINGS

### **Assistant/Associate Clinical Professor, Clinical Pathology**

Auburn University's Department of Pathobiology seeks an assistant or associate clinical professor of veterinary clinical pathology for a 12-month clinical-track position. The role includes providing high-quality diagnostic service in the Clinical Pathology Laboratory, training veterinary students, residents, and graduate students, and engaging in didactic teaching and collaborative research. Located in the Wilford & Kate Bailey Small Animal Teaching Hospital, the laboratory supports extensive interaction with clinicians. It also evaluates samples from university hospitals, outside veterinarians, the Raptor Center, and research groups, while working closely with related diagnostic services.

<https://jobs.auburn.edu/auburn-careers-home/jobs/7775?lang=en-us>

### **Assistant/Associate Professor, Immunology**

Auburn University's Department of Pathobiology in the College of Veterinary Medicine seeks a twelve-month, tenure-track Assistant or Associate Professor in Immunology, with priority given to applications received by February 1, 2026. The successful candidate will develop an extramurally funded research program aligned with departmental strengths, teach Advanced Immunology and foundational immunology, and mentor graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, and trainees. The department offers a strong research environment with extensive opportunities for collaboration, advanced diagnostic services, core facilities, including flow cytometry and imaging, access to HudsonAlpha's genomics resources, and participation in the NCATS-funded Center for Clinical and Translational Science.

<https://jobs.auburn.edu/auburn-careers-home/jobs/7780?lang=en-us>

# JOB POSTINGS

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## **Assistant/Associate Clinical Professor, Public and One Health**

Auburn University's Department of Pathobiology seeks an enthusiastic candidate who is committed to teaching excellence, actively engaging undergraduate and professional students, and collaboration within the University community to ensure a positive overall student experience. This veterinarian will have strong foundational knowledge and training in the public health discipline and will deliver One Health-themed educational content, consisting of coordinating up to four courses per semester. The successful candidate in this position will assume teaching responsibilities to include, but may not be limited to instruction of: 1) preventive medicine, food safety, zoonotic disease, disaster management and other aspects of public health to pre-clinical veterinary professional students; and 2) introductory and advanced undergraduate public health courses in chronic and infectious diseases, social and behavioral health, environmental health, epidemiology, policy, and health systems.

**<https://jobs.auburn.edu/auburn/jobs/7992?lang=en-us>**



## Swimsuit & Towel Drive for Big House Foundation

The Staff Advisory Committee is kicking off a collection event for Big House Foundation. Each spring, Big House provides a uniquely embroidered beach towel and a new swimsuit for each of its Big House children. Each towel is embroidered with the child's name to make it extra special and uniquely theirs. For many of its kids, this may be the first or only thing they have had that was personalized with their name.

There will be boxes in the lobby of Greene Hall, the VEC, Bailey Small Animal Teaching Hospital, and the JT Vaughan Large Animal Teaching Hospital. **The drive will run until April 24th.**

Read more about the foundation on their webpage at [www.ourbighouse.org](http://www.ourbighouse.org)

# IMPORTANT DATES & EVENTS



## Vet Fest - April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2026

The AUCVM will be hosting its 3rd Annual Vet Fest on Saturday, **April 11, 2026, from 9 am - 1 pm CT**. Vet Fest is quite possibly the largest event that the AUCVM hosts, in that the entire community is invited to our campus and numerous activities are set up for the public to enjoy. Our student organizations are invited to develop and participate in an activity.

If you're passionate about inspiring young scientists, researchers, and veterinarians or are a member of a student organization, there are still opportunities to volunteer. Join us in creating an unforgettable experience for families, future students, and animal lovers.

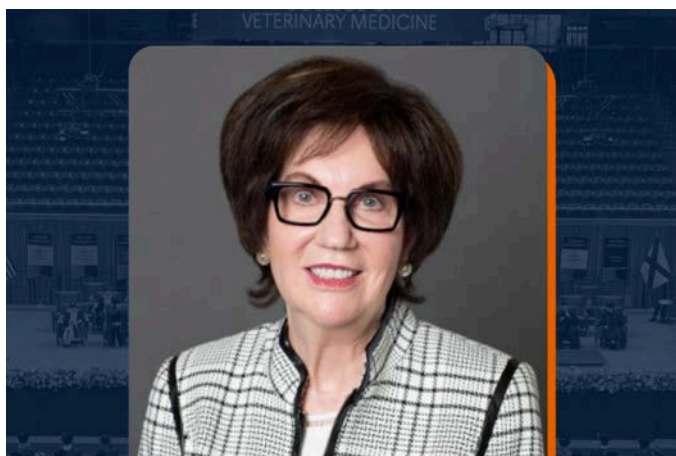


## “Psychological Safety at Work” HR Training

The CVM's Human Resources team will offer “Psychological Safety at Work” training on **Friday, April 3, at 10:00–11:00 a.m in Overton Auditorium**. The session is open to all employees (faculty, A&P staff, TES, student workers).

Psychological safety empowers individuals to “speak up,” ask questions, and admit mistakes without fear. Regardless of job title or role, this session will help learners understand how everyday reactions and decisions shape team trust and how small changes can improve communication, accountability, and performance.

# IMPORTANT DATES & EVENTS



## AVMA Executive to Address CVM Class of 2026

The CVM will welcome American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) Executive Vice President and Chief Executive Officer **Janet Donlin** as its Spring 2026 commencement speaker.

Dr. Donlin will address the CVM's 131-member graduating class during its **commencement ceremony on Monday, May 4, at 6 p.m. in Neville Arena.**

Since 2016, Donlin has led the AVMA as the first woman to hold the association's highest staff leadership role since its establishment in 1922. She works closely with veterinary leaders nationwide to advance the profession and support veterinarians as they navigate a rapidly changing professional landscape.



## Dr. Donita McElroy to Speak at Black Alumni Weekend

Dr. Donita McElroy (DVM Class of '85), the college's first black graduate, will speak to the CVM community on **Friday, April 10, at noon in VEC 101** to discuss her personal and professional journey.

McElroy, who established her solo practice in Atlanta in 1989, will earn the CVM's Black Alumni Award during the university's **Black Alumni Reunion April 17-18.**

Hosted by SAVMA, the event is open to all students and employees. **Taco Mama will be served for lunch. Submit your RSVP online:**

**<https://aub.ie/mcelroy>**

# IMPORTANT DATES & EVENTS



## Shop for the Food & Essentials Cabinets

We need your help throughout the year to turn alumni donations into essential items for those in need – and to help fight food insecurity.

If you're a CVM faculty or staff member and are willing to use donated gift cards during a trip to Walmart or Kroger to shop for the CVM Food & Non-Food Cabinets (located near 116 Greene Hall), your support would be greatly appreciated!

Sign up at the link below:

[https://auburn.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_bsKIRODcUws5lf8](https://auburn.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_bsKIRODcUws5lf8)



## Tiger Rescue- Motorist Assistance Services

Parking Services provides free on-campus motorist assistance services. These services include jump starts for vehicles with dead batteries, as well as assistance in opening a vehicle when the keys are locked inside, except for vehicles equipped with side airbags, on University property. Parking Services is not able to offer flat tire assistance.

These on-campus services are available Monday – Friday, 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. Motorist assistance services are not available on football game days, during other special events, or when the University is closed. Faculty, staff, students, and visitors needing assistance should call (334)-844-4143 between 7:15 a.m. and 4:15 p.m. and (334)-740-2077 outside of the main office hours.

More information here:

<https://auburn.edu/administration/parking/tiger-rescue/>

# IMPORTANT DATES & EVENTS



## Livestock Emergency Response Plan (LERP) Training Course

This training opportunity will be offered for faculty, technicians, AVERT leadership, and students on Tuesday, **April 14**. The workshop will equip agricultural and traditional responders with foundational knowledge and practical skills to address the unique challenges motor vehicle incidents with bovines can present for emergency personnel. The knowledge and skills gained will assist in the effective preparation and response to this type of emergency and the unique situations that are presented.

There is no charge for AU Vet Med employees for the April 14 workshop; however, pre-registration is required. The course is limited to 50 participants.

**Sign Up:** <https://aub.ie/LERP>

Please be sure you select AVERT Leadership (April 14) for the registration type. If you have additional questions, please reach out to Dr. Chance Armstrong ([armstcl@auburn.edu](mailto:armstcl@auburn.edu)).

## Help us make dreams a reality!

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[https://aub.ie/  
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# IMPORTANT DATES & EVENTS



**Next Faculty Meeting:**

Apr. 29 in GH 168 from 1-3 PM

**Next Staff Meeting:**

May. 16 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 APRIL BIRTHDAYS!

|                               |               |                            |               |
|-------------------------------|---------------|----------------------------|---------------|
| <b>Afroz, Hina</b>            | <b>13-Apr</b> | <b>Mooyottu, Shankumar</b> | <b>26-Apr</b> |
| <b>Brown, Maleeha U.</b>      | <b>16-Apr</b> | <b>Nguyen, Thu M.</b>      | <b>23-Apr</b> |
| <b>Cooper, Anastasia M.</b>   | <b>26-Apr</b> | <b>Petrenko, Valery A.</b> | <b>9-Apr</b>  |
| <b>DeLuca, Nickolas</b>       | <b>18-Apr</b> | <b>Pratt, Kyrie E.</b>     | <b>9-Apr</b>  |
| <b>Ferreira Criado, Miria</b> | <b>1-Apr</b>  | <b>Wood, Theresa M.</b>    | <b>17-Apr</b> |
| <b>Kitchens, Steven R.</b>    | <b>13-Apr</b> | <b>Yousefi, Farnaz</b>     | <b>16-Apr</b> |
| <b>Pereira, Alinne</b>        | <b>1-Apr</b>  |                            |               |
| <b>Lopes, Taina S.</b>        | <b>2-Apr</b>  |                            |               |
| <b>McKoy, Mitchell J.</b>     | <b>3-Apr</b>  |                            |               |
| <b>Merner, Nancy D.</b>       | <b>12-Apr</b> |                            |               |

