2027 WCABP CONFERENCE

WCABP
Western Canadian Association of Bovine Practitioners

BRIDGING THE GAP

JANUARY 20-23 | SHERATON CAVALIER, SASKATOON



A MESSAGE FROM OUR CONFERENCE CHAIR



Welcome to the 2027 annual WCABP Conference! We look forward to welcoming our members to Saskatoon for three days of continuing education and networking.

Our 2027 conference theme, “Bridging the Gap – Stronger Together,” reflects the strength of collaboration with colleagues, practice team members, and clients. We are confident that our keynote speaker, Kristin Pronchinske, will do just that by sharing insights you can apply in your practice.

New for 2027, a wet lab will take place on Wednesday, before the conference’s scientific sessions. We are excited to welcome Dr. Theresa Ollivett, who will lead both parts of the day:

- Morning: lecture
- Afternoon: hands-on lab

Spaces for the wet lab are limited, so register early.

If you would like to get involved with the WCABP, please contact any of our board members.

As conference chair, I thank you for choosing to attend the WCABP conference and for your continued support of our organization. I look forward to reconnecting with colleagues and making new connections in Saskatoon.

Dr. Nadine Wohlgemuth
WCABP 2027 Conference Chair

Boehringer Ingelheim / WCABP

Veterinarian of the Year

Call for Nominations

It's time to start thinking about deserving recipients of the 2027 Award.

Criteria

The Boehringer Ingelheim WCABP Veterinarian of the Year Award nominee must be a member in good standing with their respective association or, if retired, have been a member in good standing at the time of retirement.

By this award, WCABP is attempting to honour, or recognize, a veterinarian who embodies some, but not necessarily all, of the following criteria:

- History of service and dedication to veterinary practice and the cattle industry.
- History of service to the veterinary profession, specifically to WCABP and other Western Canadian provincial veterinary associations.
- Reputation for clinical competency or for being a pioneer or leader in bovine medicine, surgery, or herd health.

The nominee should be a WCABP member; however, the board may choose to recognize a non-member who has made a significant contribution to bovine practice in Western Canada.

If the nominee is a non-member, this person must have a national or international reputation related to bovine medicine, surgery, and herd health, and their accomplishments must have had a positive influence on bovine practice in Western Canada.

Nomination Procedure

A call for nominations will be included in the two WCABP Newsletters prior to the deadline for nominations. A call for nominations will also be posted on the WCABP website for at least 90 days before the deadline for nominations. The secretary-treasurer may also elect to send an email to all members requesting nominations.

Each nomination must include the following:

- A brief biography of the nominee
- A rationale for why the nominee deserves the Veterinarian of the Year Award

The secretary-treasurer will collect all the nominations and present them to the board for review and selection.

The secretary-treasurer will contact the recipient at least two weeks in advance of the annual general meeting to advise them of the place and time of the award.

The letter of nomination will be printed in the WCABP Newsletter following the award presentation.

Deadline

The nomination deadline for the 2027 award is **December 1, 2026**. Nominations should be submitted by email to info@wcabp.com.

2027 WCABP CONFERENCE



Join us in-person at the Sheraton Cavalier in Saskatoon or participate virtually in this year's HYBRID conference. Whether you're attending live, via livestream, or catching up with the recordings afterward, you'll enjoy top-quality continuing education and engaging discussions on a wide range of topics relevant to bovine practitioners.

For those joining us in person, plan to arrive early—our hospitality room opens Wednesday, January 20, from 7:00-9:00 p.m. It's a great chance to reconnect, share stories, and kick off the conference in good company.

HOTEL

The Sheraton Cavalier Saskatoon Hotel offers modern comfort with a variety of amenities, including a fitness centre, indoor pool, and on-site dining options. Conveniently located in downtown Saskatoon, the hotel provides easy access to all city attractions and a beautiful view of the river.

Registered delegates enjoy a special room rate of $200 plus taxes per night when booked before January 5, 2026.

Scan the QR or Call 866-814-7927 to book a room at the Sheraton Cavalier Saskatoon

REGISTRATION

Registration	**Before** Jan 2	**After** Jan 2
WCABP or CABV/ACVB Active/Life MEMBER	$725.00	$825.00
WCABP or CABV/ACVB Student MEMBER	Registration is Complimentary for all Registered WCABP Student Members- MUST PRE-REGISTER	
RVT / AHT Member	$725.00	$825.00
NON-MEMBER (veterinarian, commercial representative)	$1015.00	$1100.00
Wet Lab- WCABP Active/Life Member (limited spots available)	$600.00	
Wet Lab- RVT/AHT Member (limited spots available)	$300.00	

Register before January 2nd to receive discounted rate

2027 Conference Sponsors

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NEW THIS YEAR! Lung Ultrasound Wet Lab

WCABP is thrilled to welcome Dr. Theresa Ollivet of the University of Wisconsin School of Veterinary Medicine as the instructor for this full-day wet lab.

Schedule and Activities

˜ Morning: A lecture and hands-on session with cadaver tissues in the WCVM necropsy/demonstration room.

˜ Lunch: Lunch will be provided, with a short presentation from Zoetis.

˜ Afternoon: Participants will practise thoracic ultrasound on dairy calves at the U of S Dairy facility.

The full-day wet lab has 12 seats available:

˜ 8 seats for veterinarians

˜ 4 seats for RVTs

Any unfilled RVT seats will be made available to veterinarians. The eight registered veterinarians will also have the option to bring one RVT each to the morning lecture.

WCABP would like to thank Zoetis Animal Health for sponsoring the Lung Ultrasound Wet Lab!

DINNER & SOCIAL EVENTS

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 20TH

7:00PM For those arriving early, stop by the Welcome Come & Go Reception to say hello. Watch for directions at check-in. Cash bar available. *sponsored by WDDC*

THURSDAY JANUARY 21st

5:30PM Attend this complimentary dinner at the Top of the Inn and hear Dr. Tim Dumonceaux speak. *sponsored by Prairie Diagnostic Services*

FRIDAY JANUARY 22nd

4:30PM Make your way to the Student Mixer and Practice Tips!
Student Mixer sponsored by Partnar Animal Health

6:00pm Attend this complimentary dinner and hear from the speaker TBA sponsored by Huvempharma

ATTENTION STUDENTS

Did you know WCABP student members can attend the conference for **free?** You must preregister at wcabp.com to qualify.

If you aren't a member yet, now is the time! Membership is just $15 plus GST. Thank you to our Student Sponsor Partnar Animal Health

ARE YOU A 2026 GRADUATE?

Do you know that you can join WCABP at student rates for the first year following graduation? That means you can attend the 2027 conference for free!

Join now and register for the conference at wcabp.com.

RVT'S WELCOME

We are very excited to have our RVTs and AHTs as WCABP members. We look forward to welcoming more RVT members each year to learn and grow with us!

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2027

The 2027 WCABP AGM will be held on Thursday, January 21st at 12:15 pm. The agenda will include executive reports, election of officers and award presentations. Watch for the AGM package via email in mid-December.

WCABP
Western Canadian Association of Bovine Practitioners

JANUARY 20-23, 2027

Sheraton Cavalier Saskatoon

2027 WCABP CONFERENCE

Conference Rundown

Wednesday- Wet Lab at WCVM

9:00 AM- 5:00 PM — **Theresa Ollivett - Lung Ultrasound in Dairy Calves**

7:00 PM — **Welcome Reception- Sponsored by WDDC**

Thursday

7:00 AM — **Registration Desk Opens- Sponsored by Solvet**

7:30 AM — **Breakfast Talk- Sponsored by Elanco**

OMR Sessions

8:20 AM — **Opening Remarks**

8:30 AM — **Keynote Speaker**
Kristin Pronchinske
Across Generations: Turning Communication Gaps Into Connection

10:30 AM — **Refreshment Break**

11:00 AM — **Keynote Speaker**
Kristin Pronchinske
The Conversation You're Avoiding: How to Navigate Difficult Conversations with Clarity and Confidence

12:00 PM — **Lunch**

1:00 PM — **WCABP AGM**

2:00 PM — **Nathan Erickson**
Stepping Toward Immunity: Considerations for building an Immunization Program

3:00 PM — **Refreshment Break**

3:30 PM — **Fabienne Uehlinger**
The Thin Ewe/Doe

4:30 PM — **Closing**

5:30 PM — **Cocktails- Sponsored by True North Financial**

6:00 PM — **Dinner- Sponsored by Prairie Diagnostic Services**

Friday

7:00 AM — **Registration Desk Opens- Sponsored by Solvet**

7:30 AM — **Breakfast Talk- Sponsored by Ceva**

	Dairy Sessions	Beef Sessions
8:30 AM	**Andre Desrochers** Obstetrical Fractures in Calves: From Mandibular Fractures to Limb Injuries	**Brenna Grant** Market Update- Canfax
9:30 AM	**Rita Couto Serrenho** Low Calcium: Maladaptation or Normal Adaptation	**Cheryl Waldner** Disease, Data and Decisions: New Evidence on Disease Prevention, Control and Antimicrobial Use in Cow-Calf Herds
10:30 AM	**Refreshment Break**	
11:00 AM	**Rita Couto Serrenho** Preventing Hypocalcemia: What Works, When, and for Which Cows and Herds?	**Andre Desrochers** Umbilical Surgery: Beyond the Abscess
12:00 PM	**Lunch**	
1:00 PM	**Julie Berman** Use of Thoracic Ultrasonography at the Group Level to Guide Treatment of Bovine Respiratory Disease	**Cheryl Waldner** Cow, Calf and Context: Managing Trace Mineral and Vit A Status Across the Beef Production Cycle
2:00 PM	**Phil Meadows** Mastitis Mayhem in AMS Herds: What Would You Investigate First?	**Eduarda Mazzardo Bortoluzzi** Field Necropsy: Systematic Process and Common Findings in U.S. Feedyards
3:00 PM	**Refreshment Break**	
3:30 PM	**Theresa Ollivett** Lung Ultrasound in Dairy Calves: Technique and Implementation	**Luis Feitoza** Lung Ultrasound: Are Pneumonias Always Black and White?
4:30 PM	**Student/Practitioner Mixer- Sponsored by Partnar Animal Health**	
6:00 PM	**Dinner- Sponsored by Huvepharma**	

Saturday

7:30 AM — **Breakfast Talk- Sponsored by Vetoquinol**

Scientific Sessions

8:30 AM — **Eduarda Mazzardo Bortoluzzi**
Innovative Approaches to Assess and Manage Pain in Cattle

9:30 AM — **Yanyun Huang** Updates on Abortion Diagnostic Studies

10:30 AM — **Refreshment Break**

11:00 AM — **Kimberly Davenport**
From Genes to Pregnancy: Decoding Pregnancy Loss In Beef Cattle

12:00 PM — **Lunch**

1:00 PM — **Clinical Rounds**

3:00 PM — **Conference Concludes**

CONFERENCE SPEAKERS



Dr. Kristin Pronchinske

Kristin Pronschinske grew up on a dairy farm in Western Wisconsin, where she was heavily involved with the family business. She attended the University of Wisconsin – River Falls, graduating with a Bachelor of Science in Marketing Communications with an Agricultural Emphasis, a Master of Science in Agricultural Education with an Extension option, and an MBA. She also earned a Master of Science in Organizational Leadership, specializing in Training and Staff Development, from Colorado State University, where she was recognized as a Distinguished Scholar. Additionally, Kristin holds an International Advanced Leadership certification from the Stockholm School of Economics Executive Education. Currently, Kristin is working on her Doctor of Business Administration degree at Edgewood University.

With a passion for people, training, coaching, and strategic business growth, Kristin has spent 20 years in sales, developing new markets and managing sales teams. She has successfully executed corporate strategies and led international business initiatives, along with coaching and training sales teams and leaders across North America. Driven by her strong commitment to talent development, Kristin founded LookUp, LLC which whose core area of focus is on research driven and real-world applicable mid-level leadership development.

Now residing in River Falls, WI, Kristin is actively engaged in her community. She serves as Vice Chair of the UW – River Falls College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences Alumni Board, and Vice President of the UW – River Falls Advisory Alumni Board. In her free time, Kristin enjoys spending time with her family, traveling, skiing, snowshoeing, motorcycling, golfing, and staying active with her dairy genetics business.

Dr. Nathan Erickson



Nathan Erickson is an associate professor at the Western College of Veterinary Medicine (WCVM) where his teaching and research interests are focused on beef production medicine and bovine respiratory disease control. Recently his research has focused on the comparison of commercial vaccines and specifically the effectiveness of prime-boost vaccine protocols administered to young calves for the control of bovine respiratory disease in recently weaned beef calves. Nathan also works as the lead for Saskatchewan Agriculture's disease investigation unit.



Dr. Fabienne Uehlinger

Dr. Fabienne Uehlinger graduated from the veterinary school of Bern, in Switzerland. She then lived on Prince Edward Island for 10 years getting her PhD in veterinary epidemiology and becoming board certified in large animal internal medicine. For the past 12 years, Fabienne has been at the WCVM where she teaches veterinary students primarily about diseases in ruminants, works as a clinician in the large animal hospital, and does research related to production-limiting and infectious diseases in cattle and sheep, among other things.



Dr. Andre Desrochers

Dr. André Desrochers graduated from the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine at the Université de Montréal in 1986, where he also completed an internship in farm animal medicine and surgery. After five years in dairy practice in Quebec, he pursued a residency and a Master's degree in Large Animal Surgery at Kansas State University (1992–1995). He then returned to the Université de Montréal, where he is currently a Professor of Farm Animal Surgery. He served as Chair of the Department of Clinical Sciences until June 2025. Dr. Desrochers is a Diplomate of both the American College of Veterinary Surgeons and the European College of Bovine Health Management. His clinical and research interests focus on general surgery, with a particular emphasis on lameness in cattle.

Brenna Grant



Brenna Grant is the Executive Director of Canfax, having been with the organization since 2007. Brenna grew up in SW Saskatchewan on a cow/calf, yearling grasser operation where her family still operates. She received a BA in Agricultural Economics from the University of Saskatchewan and a Masters in Applied Economics from Montana State University.



Dr. Rita Couto Serrenho

Dr. Couto Serrenho completed her DVM at the University of Lisbon in 2015, followed by clinical practice in farm animal medicine in Wales (UK) until 2017. She then moved to Canada to pursue her Doctor of Veterinary Science degree at the Ontario Veterinary College (OVC), which she completed in 2020, while also working as a veterinarian with the Ruminant Field Services at OVC. Following this, she worked as a dairy consultant and researcher with Dairy Health and Management Services (USA). She is currently an Assistant Professor at OVC. Her research focuses on applied dairy cattle health, with an emphasis on the transition period and metabolic diseases. Her work aims to develop and evaluate practical strategies and technologies that support dairy producers in optimizing herd performance, cow health, and management practices.



Dr. Cheryl Waldner

Dr. Cheryl Waldner is the Beef Cattle Research Council Research Chair at the Western College of Veterinary Medicine. She is actively involved in research examining factors affecting the productivity of cow-calf herds as the lead investigator for the Canadian Cow-Calf Health and Productivity Enhancement Network (C3H/PEN). Her current projects include diagnosis of organisms associated with respiratory disease, antimicrobial use and resistance. Dr. Waldner has examined the effects of nutrition on reproductive performance in cow-calf herds – with a particular focus on the copper and selenium deficiency. Dr. Waldner has more than 300 research publications and received the Canadian Beef Industry Award for Outstanding Research and Innovation in 2024. Cheryl and her husband own and operate a commercial cow-calf herd west of Saskatoon, SK Canada

Dr. Yanyun Huang



Dr. Huang earned his veterinary degree in China before relocating to Canada in 2005 to pursue advanced graduate studies in veterinary pathology and swine health. Following the completion of his PhD, he joined Prairie Diagnostic Services in 2013 as an anatomic pathologist. He is certified by the American College of Veterinary Pathology. In 2019, Dr. Huang was appointed Chief Executive Officer, where he now provides strategic leadership to ensure the delivery of client-focused and innovative diagnostic solutions for veterinarians, producers and animal owners.



Dr. Julie Berman

Dr. Berman graduated from the Veterinary School of Lyon (ENVL), France in 2013. She completed her internship in 2013 and residency program in large animal veterinary internal medicine in the veterinary faculty of the University of Montreal in Saint-Hyacinthe from 2014-2017. Dr. Berman is a Diplomat of the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine (ACVIM) in 2017. She also had realization of a Ph.D. in clinical science at the University of Montreal about the improvement of diagnostic tests to detect infectious bronchopneumonia in calves in 2023. She worked as a clinical instructor in internal medicine at the Veterinary Teaching Hospital and Ambulatory Service from 2017 to 2026. She has since been working as an Associate Professor of Ruminant Medicine at the Ambulatory Service, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Montreal.

Dr. Phil Meadows



Dr. Phil Meadows is a Technical Services Veterinarian with Boehringer Ingelheim Animal Health Canada. He grew up on his family's dairy farm and eventually became a partner before the difficult decision was made to sell the herd in 1994. Inspired to continue contributing to the dairy industry, he returned to school and later graduated from the Ontario Veterinary College in 2001 with his DVM. Dr. Meadows spent more than 20 years practicing in Mitchell, Ontario, in a mixed-animal clinic where he focused primarily on dairy herd health management. Dr. Meadows joined Boehringer Ingelheim in September 2022. He has a strong passion for calf health, milk quality, and flying single-engine airplanes.



Dr. Eduarda Mazzardo Bortoluzzi

Dr. Eduarda Bortoluzzi is an Assistant Professor of Animal Welfare in the Department of Anatomy and Physiology at Kansas State University. She holds a Veterinary Medicine degree from the Federal University of Pampa, Brazil. She completed her master's and Ph.D. at the Department of Animal Sciences and Industry and was a postdoctoral fellow for the Beef Cattle Institute at Kansas State University. Her research focuses on animal welfare and applied ethology of domestic animals. Her previous research aimed to demonstrate the relationship between neonatal behaviors and the health of piglets and calves. Dr. Bortoluzzi also researched novel technologies to identify pulmonary pathologies in necropsied feedlot cattle.

Dr. Theresa Ollivett



Dr. Ollivett is trained as a veterinary epidemiologist and board-certified large animal internist. After graduating from the College of Veterinary Medicine at Cornell University in 2004, Dr. Ollivett practiced in a predominantly mixed large animal clinic in northern NY. She returned to Cornell University in 2007 and completed a residency in Large Animal Medicine between 2008-2011. In 2014, she completed her doctoral studies at the University of Guelph by validating lung ultrasonography as a means of diagnosing respiratory disease in dairy calves. As an associate professor in the Food Animal Production Medicine section at the School of Veterinary Medicine at UW-Madison, Dr. Ollivett continues to advance the academic, veterinary and professional dairy industry's awareness and understanding of lung ultrasonography as a means of diagnosing and monitoring cattle health and the varied impacts of interventions on dairy farms.

Dr. Luis Feitoza



Dr. Luis Feitoza, DVM, PhD, is the Director of Animal Health and Research at Innovative Livestock Services, LLC (Feedlot Corporate with 10 locations soon to be 320,000 head capacity), and an Adjunct Faculty member in the Department of Clinical Sciences at Kansas State University College of Veterinary Medicine. Originally from Brazil, he earned his veterinary degree from a multi-centre program where he attended to the Federal Rural University of Rio de Janeiro + University of Wisconsin + University of California, Davis and his PhD from Kansas State University, along with a graduate certificate in Applied Statistics. His work focuses on applied beef cattle health research, with particular emphasis on bovine respiratory disease, chute-side diagnostics, and the use of point-of-care ultrasonography (POCUS) to support clinical decision-making in feedlot cattle. His research aims to translate practical diagnostic technologies and data-driven approaches into tools that improve cattle health, welfare, and production outcomes.



Dr. Kimberly Davenport

Dr. Kimberly Davenport grew up in Idaho and earned her PhD in livestock genetics from the University of Idaho. She subsequently completed a postdoctoral fellowship in reproductive and developmental biology at the University of Missouri before joining Washington State University as an Assistant Professor. Her research focuses on applying genomics, epigenetics, and bioinformatics to better understand the biological mechanisms underlying pregnancy and production traits in livestock.

Dr. Davenport integrates genomic and epigenomic technologies, including DNA methylation and single-cell sequencing, to investigate how genetic and epigenetic factors influence livestock health and productivity. Her research has particular focus in understanding pregnancy establishment and loss in cattle and translating advances in genomic technologies into tools that can ultimately benefit livestock producers and veterinarians. In addition to her research program, Dr. Davenport is actively involved in Extension and teaching, including an undergraduate research program that engages the next generation of scientists in genetics and genomics projects addressing industry-relevant questions.

Dr. Chris Clark



Dr. Clark grew up in the southern UK and attended vet school at the University of Cambridge. He completed an internship at WCVM, then spend some time in mixed animal practice in the far north of England before returning to do a residency at WCVM. He has been on faculty in Large Animal Medicine at WCVM for the last 20+ years and spent the last 9 years as the Associate Dean Academic. His main interests are cattle lameness, neonatal health, pharmacology and veterinary education. He also has an interest in the history of veterinary medicine!